



VUSC News Issue Three

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of Term 1, we sincerely hope that everyone in our school community is coping with the circumstances we find ourselves in. It is a very different world at the moment. In particular I am thinking of our Year 12 students who have had their final year interrupted by this crisis. Keep focusing on your work and do the best that you can. To all of our staff, students and families, please take care of yourselves and each other. We hope to get back to normality as soon as possible!

Students' Term 1 Progress Reports and VET Reports are now available on Compass. To access reports:

1. Parent or student logs into Compass
2. Click on Profile (Attendance, Schedule, Reports) under the student name.
3. Click on the Reports menu tab.
4. The Term 1 Progress Report should appear halfway down the page.
5. Click on 'Export as PDF' on the right if you wish to print the report.

Students are still expected to complete and submit work that was due this week. At this stage the school will be open in Term 2. We will advise you if we are required to close. To prepare for this, teachers are posting work on Compass and setting up virtual classrooms on Microsoft Teams.

In the event that our school will have to close in Term 2, parents/carers should prepare for this now by ensuring that their child has a suitable device and internet access at home. Click [here](#) for information about where to purchase a laptop for your child.

We will give families further updates via Compass and on the Home page of our website during the holidays. Parents can also email their child's Home Group Teacher via Compass with any queries and the school office can also be emailed via the [Contact Us](#) page on our website. Teachers will begin Term 2 on Tuesday 14th April. **Students will begin Term 2 on Wednesday 15th April.**

For some good news, I am pleased to report that last year's College Captains have been successful in being offered their preferred courses at university. Benjamin Mariano is studying a Bachelor of Computer Science (Professional), majoring in Cybersecurity at Swinburne University. Akon Chol is studying a Bachelor of Science on a Trinity Scholarship at the University of Melbourne, with the aim to study medicine down the track. This is an amazing achievement for Akon, who only arrived in Australia in 2017 from Sudan. Akon's dream has always been to become a doctor. In his own words: "I work hard and achieve the unexpected and that is life trying to do your best in every situation. I am grateful." Well done Ben and Akon! The college is very proud of you.

Also Mr Dan Sullivan, our previous Later Years Engagement Leader, was successful in obtaining a Campus Principal position at Copperfield College recently. We congratulate Mr Sullivan and wish him all the best in his new role.

School Breakfast Club Program

Our school has partnered with Foodbank Victoria to deliver the School Breakfast Club Program at both campuses beginning in Week 2 of Term 2 (at this stage). The program is fully funded by the Dept of Education and will comprise fresh applies and non-perishable foods such as cereal, muesli, baked beans, fruit cups and long life milk. The breakfast will be available every Friday morning in the campus Food Tech rooms from 8.15 - 8.40am and will be run by staff volunteers and the Wellbeing team.

New School

Our new school building plans are complete for Stage 1 and the tender process will now begin. Currently construction is due to commence in June. Below you will see the architect's sketch of what the new buildings will look like. Each building will have a unique colour identifier. For detailed plans, please go to our website [here](#).





Ballarat Schools Visit

The Senior Campus hosted a visit on Wednesday 4th March from staff from various Ballarat secondary schools and DET regional staff. The visitors were interested and curious to learn how our Professional Learning Teams (PLTs) operate and were excited to conduct some learning walks.

The visiting leading teachers and principals were glowing in their praise of what they saw and all of them returned with ideas for their school. We noticed once again how far ahead VUSC is in terms of its teaching and learning as well as the PLT work. The visitors singled out our student leaders, the classroom environment, Cornell notes, uniform, and our consistent and clear approach to teaching and learning as being exemplary. The word 'consistency' popped up time and time again.

Below are a few comments from the visitors:

- Writer's workshop and PQP (Praise, Question, Polish) and using this in Science to gain peer feedback on written responses
- Using exit slips to create differentiated next steps for student learning
- Great strategies that are consistently in use to get students to lift weights
- Use of exemplars to model to students what good quality writing looks like
- Conversations in classrooms and in PLTS consistent around vocab and student improvement
- Cornell notes implemented consistently and students use them effectively without teacher prompts
- Students clearly engaged in tasks
- Great questioning techniques used by teachers
- Caring school – 'I'd send my kids here - the teachers clearly care about students' progress and outcomes'
- PLT discussions clearly student based
- Teachers engaged in teaching – not trapped at the front of the room - moving around engaging in formatively assessing student learning
- What was spoken about by the school principals and leaders we saw clearly evident in classrooms
- Loved the idea of having own classroom and the effectiveness of the '3rd teacher'
- Consistent language used by teachers and students
- Teachers consistently talking about 'interventions' and 'extending' student learners
- Anchor charts and student work in rooms to assist learning
- Consistent displays in all rooms – Expected behaviours, values etc.

Having a leader from a different school say, "I'd send my kid here", says it all for me!!

It's always pleasing to have Department heads and other school leaders see what great work staff at VUSC are doing. I was proud to see how confident our students were when speaking to our visitors and the feedback from the leaders was extremely positive and encouraging.

Select Entry Accelerated Learning (SEAL) Program

In 2021 VUSC will be introducing an accredited SEAL (Select Entry Accelerated Learning) Program for high achieving Year 7 students. The SEAL Program is a Department of Education program that recognises outstanding, high achieving students, and provides them with opportunities to accelerate their academic studies, leadership skills, and creative talents from Year 7 through to Year 12.

At Victoria University Secondary College our Select Entry Accelerated Learning (SEAL) Program will cater for the special educational needs of high ability students. It will operate on the principles of acceleration, extension and enrichment. SEAL offers high achieving students the opportunity to extend and enrich their learning with like-minded peers, and provides participants with challenging and engaging course material in all core subjects.

Parents who have children starting Year 7 next year and who are interested in this program can obtain more information about registration and selection [here](#).

Open House and other events

During the term, we were regrettably forced to cancel our Open House evening and other events such as the Swimming Carnival, Athletics Carnival, Senior Music Soiree, Parent Teacher Interviews and *Felicity* Magazine Launch . We hope to reschedule as many of these events as possible.

Our Open House information pack has been published on our website [here](#) for parents to view and download.

PSW Stores

Our College uniform supplier, PSW has temporarily closed its stores. Families can still order uniform online and have it delivered to their door. Please visit the PSW shop at www.psw.com.au.

Finally, if you have children who are struggling to comprehend the concepts of coronavirus and self-isolation, I invite you to read the article on Parenting Ideas in this newsletter.

We wish you all a restful and safe break, and we look forward to seeing you all next term.

Elaine Hazim

College Principal

Child Safety at VUSC

Victoria University Secondary College is a child safe organisation committed to protecting students from all forms of abuse.

Our College has stringent protocols in place and endeavours at all times to be fully compliant with the Child Safe Standards set out under Ministerial Order 870.

Our College has the following documents and policies in place to achieve compliance with the Standards. All of these documents are available for downloading on our website or contact the school for a copy.

1. Commitment to Child Safety
2. Child Safety Policy
3. Child Safety Code of Conduct
4. Child Protection Policy and Procedures



Important Dates

First day of Term 2

Students commence Wednesday 15th April.

To view a full calendar, please click [here](#).



VCE Season of Excellence

Extended Investigations Excursion

On Friday 14th February, VCE Extended Investigation students attended the 'VCE Season of Excellence: Top Talks' event at the State Library of Victoria. In the morning, students were given a guided tour of the library following its latest renovation and were taught how to access archival information for research.

Following this, they attended the main event where four of the highest scoring speakers across the state shared their 2019 Extended Investigation oral presentations. The presentations included ten minutes to succinctly describe their research project, including context, research question, methodology, data, discussion, findings and limitations, followed by questions from the event's host, Maxine McKew. This was an excellent opportunity for our VUSC Extended Investigation students to witness exemplary presentations and to become inspired about the possibilities available to them in their own research this year.

After lunch, students attended a research skills session run by library staff, refining their ability to think critically about research processes and developing skills in locating sources

pertinent to their various topics of interest.

Altogether, it was a successful outing from which students learner a great deal to aid them in their studies.

Mr Chris Troy





Bullying. No Way! Day

Bullying. No Way! Day - Friday 13 March

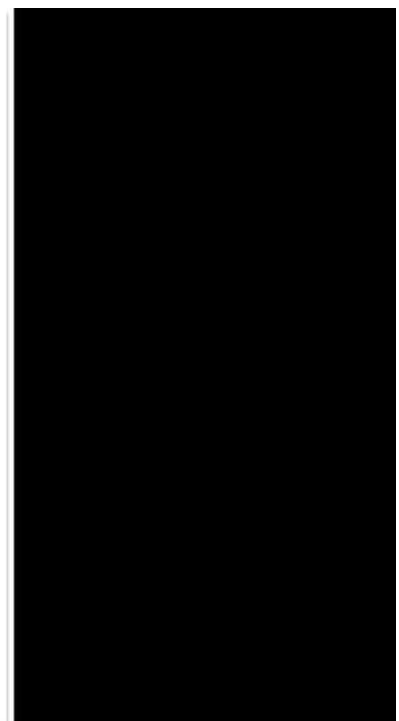
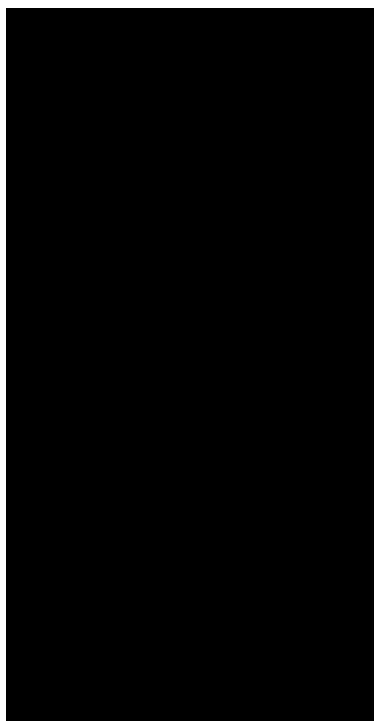
On Friday 13th March the College participated in the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. This important day is a time in our school calendar where we make a stand to say no to all forms of bullying and violence in our community.

The VCAL students hosted a BBQ lunch with activities to support and deliver positive messages at each campus. The Wellbeing Team also lead activities and shared information with students regarding what to do and who to approach if they experience bullying. SRC students at both campuses delivered anti-bullying lessons in Home groups for all year levels, Year 7 to 12.

Eradicating bullying is important to our College not just on this day, but every day. Students spent time in the lead up to the day learning about the impact of bullying and the role we all

play in getting it out of our community. If students need support regarding bullying they should speak with their Coordinator or a member of the Wellbeing Team.





Felicity

Felicity Issue 1

We are excited to introduce the first release of Victoria University Secondary College's new **student-run literary magazine, *Felicity***. The magazine is a compilation of outstanding student writing across varying year levels from 7 to 12. *Felicity* showcases some of our students' best writing from 2019, including short-form fiction, poetry, as well as a diverse range of academic writing, such as essays and reports. By grabbing a copy of the magazine, students within the VUSC community have the chance to be inspired in their own writing.

Print copies will be available and can be ordered through the office. Copies are limited so orders must be placed. Copies are priced at \$2 to contribute to printing costs.

The students have also created the *Felicity* website, which they will continue to update with school work throughout the year. The website is designed, run, edited, and produced entirely by students, featuring students' work. Check it out at: <https://vuscfelicity.com/>

Stay tuned for further information about the launch event which will be announced next term.

Positions available

Students in years 9-12 are able to apply to join the editorial team of *Felicity* magazine. Students must have be able to demonstrate high-level literacy skills to join the editorial team, a strong commitment to the team, and a willingness to attend after school meetings at the senior campus as they arise throughout the year. Applications should include the reasons why the student wishes to join the team and a description of the skills the student has to contribute. Applications can be emailed to: felicity.vusc@gmail.com

Mr Troy



Premier's Reading Challenge

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

— Dr. Seuss

All students from Years 7-9 have been enrolled in the **Premiers' Reading Challenge** which runs until early September. To successfully complete the challenge students must read 15 books in total, at least 10 Challenge sanctioned books plus Choice books.

Apart from the intrinsic benefits from reading, the practical byproduct is that students increase their vocabulary appreciably and thus can navigate other subjects and outside communications more easily. Additionally, there is the satisfaction and sense of achievement which comes from completing the Challenge. This successful completion can be listed on resumes and CVs demonstrating to future employers that the student is persistent and hard working.

We are asking that parents/guardians please ensure that students are reading for at least 20 minutes a night as a ritual, and to discuss with their child about how they are going with the Premiers' Reading Challenge and recording the books they have read.

Thank you for your support.

Kelvin Gallagher

Junior Campus Teacher/Librarian



Parenting Ideas

Our school is a Parenting Ideas School

Parenting Ideas was founded by Michael Grose, author of nine parenting books and parenting educator to over 1500 Australian schools.

Parenting Ideas features up-to-date research, timely advice and inspiration, providing parenting strategies on everything from sibling rivalry, teen health and creating resilience in kids, for children of all ages.

Parents and guardians can view articles published regularly in our newsletter and access free webinar vouchers valued at \$37.



Community News

Maths Tutoring Available

Tommy Le , who was a student at our school last year and is now at Melbourne University is available as a Math Methods and Physics tutor after hours and can be contacted on 0414051716 or on email TommyLe48@hotmail.com.