



# VUSC News

Issue 7 · 07 Sep 2021

*Create the Future*

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# Principal's Message

Dear Families,

Based on advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer, all schools in metropolitan Melbourne will continue with remote and flexible learning until the end of Term 3. The one important change to the current setting is that all Year 11 & 12 VCE/VCAL students and staff are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated and will be given priority appointments. More details on how to book are available in this newsletter.

We recognise what a significant disruption this is for all of us as students, parents, family members and workers; and the impact it can have on learning and wellbeing in our work and personal lives. Our staff are doing everything they can to ensure that our students are prepared for and supported during online learning, including in relation to their wellbeing.

Students are encouraged to reach out to their teachers, coordinators or the Student Wellbeing team if they need support or just a chat about how they're feeling.

## **Great work, VUSC!**

VUSC and students have cause for celebration this term. In the face of the considerable disruptions of the past year, we have recorded our school's highest NAPLAN results in Writing and Spelling which were both above the State Mean. We also made considerable

improvement in Reading and Numeracy over the past three years and we are bridging the gap with the State Mean in these factors as well. This news reinforces the crucial role of high-quality teaching and learning – whether it be remote or face-to-face – in attaining positive student outcomes. Our staff at the Junior Campus along with the Campus Principal Mr Leyland, have been tracking and monitoring the progress of our students for some time. Knowing our students and where their point of need is at, has played a significant role in the impressive improvements we have made despite the challenges staff and students have had to face.

### **R U OK? DAY**

Our Year 12 VCAL students undertook peer education of all Year 7 classes on Monday 30th August and Monday 6th September. They taught students strategies on how to recognise if someone is not okay and the importance of asking R U OK and helping someone seek help.

This year like last year the lessons were conducted online via MS Teams. R U OK national day is on Thursday 9th September.

Our VCAL students taught our younger students the need for asking R U OK. They explored and discussed topics such as:

- Why do we need to ask someone if they are OK and listen to their answer?
- Asking someone if they're OK can help them cope with stressful times, such as exam periods or when schoolwork is building up.
- Asking people around you if they're OK and demonstrating effective listening skills can help friends feel valued, supported, and connected.
- Why do we need to encourage action and check in our mates?
- When you need information to support someone, there are people and places in your community that you can turn to for assistance. Encouraging friends to seek help early will enable them to manage the situation and potentially stop the problem growing bigger.
- Checking in on our mates assists in letting them know we have been thinking about them, wanting to know how they are and encouraging them to seek support.

Every year our VCAL students do an amazing job teaching our Year 7's face to face but this year they again took on the challenge and taught the lessons online, and all I can say is that when I attended the classes to watch they did us proud. Well done to all the VCAL students and their teachers.

### **Year 7 Enrolment 2022**

I am pleased to announce that our Year 7 enrolment for 2022 has increased to 230 students which is our highest enrolment ever for Year 7.

Our Year 7 Information Night was held on Monday 6th September online via Microsoft Teams and was well attended by the Grade 6 students who will be joining us next year and their parents/carers. I would especially like to acknowledge and congratulate the campus captains for hosting the evening and doing such a great job.

### **Essential Assessment for VCE/VCAL**

VCAA has confirmed that the Stay-at-Home Directions across Victoria will now enable school based essential assessments and examination preparation, where they cannot be conducted remotely, to be conducted on site from 30 August 2021.

Course Content will not be altered this year, but the Consideration of Educational Disadvantage (CED) process will be employed again this year for all students undertaking a VCE Unit 3/4 Study.

Examinations will run as normal this year – Performance Examinations begin Monday 4th October 2021, and written examinations will run until Wednesday 17th November 2021. The General Achievement Test (GAT) will now take place on Tuesday 5th October 2021 from 10:00am – 1:15pm.

### **Year 12 VTAC Online Student Interviews**

Students currently in Year 12 are undertaking an extensive selection process in choosing their tertiary courses for 2022 through the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC). VTAC is the central office that administers the application processes for places in tertiary courses, scholarships and special entry access schemes at university, TAFE and independent tertiary colleges in Victoria (and a few outside Victoria).

As we continue with our remote learning program for all our Year 12 students, it is critical that students are further supported with their VTAC selection process and meeting their career aspirations remains a fundamental focus.

In Term 2 Year 12 students had a career appointment with a career advisor to discuss their Career Action Plan and complete the draft VTAC Course Selection spreadsheet. The Careers team then organised a VTAC Online Interview Session for all students with a Careers Advisor. This commenced on Monday 2nd August 2021. This provides students with a great

opportunity to talk to the careers team about courses for next year, applying for SEAS and/or scholarships and receiving any additional assistance for the application process. Parents, where possible, were strongly encouraged to attend this online interview session with their child. VTAC submissions close on 30th September.

### **Progress Reports/Parent Teacher Interviews**

Parent Teacher Interviews for Term 3 will be held on Thursday 16th September via telephone. Interviews will take place between 1pm to 7pm, with a dinner break between 4.30pm to 5.30pm.

Parents and carers are encouraged to book appointments via Compass with their child/ren's teachers to discuss their progress. The teacher will telephone you at your appointed time. Interpreters are also available for these interviews. There will be no online classes on this day so that students can participate in the interviews as well. Term 3 Progress Reports will be published on Compass on Tuesday 14th September.

### **Annual Concert**

The Annual Concert scheduled for 1st of September was unfortunately cancelled. This will now take place as a recorded performance, on Thursday 21st October. A You Tube link for the performance will be available on 22nd October.

Please continue to take care of yourselves and each other. As always parents and carers are welcome to contact the school if they need anything. I look forward to seeing you all when we return on site.

*Elaine Hazim*

*College Principal*

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## **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

## **Parent Teacher Interviews via telephone 1pm - 7pm**

Thursday 16th September

*Booking instructions have been published on Compass. There are no online classes on this day.*

## **Last day of Term 3**

Friday 17th September

*Students will be dismissed at 1.30pm.*

## **Term 4 begins**

Monday 4th October

## **Year 10 Immunisations**

Tuesday 5th October

## **General Achievement Test (GAT)**

Tuesday 5th October

## **Last day of Year 2 VET classes**

Tuesday 12th October

## **Last day of Year 12 VCE classes**

Tuesday 19th October

## **Year 12 Formal - to be rescheduled**

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



# Felicity Issue 2



## Hot off the press!

Issue 2 of Felicity, VUSC's student-run literary journal, has arrived and will be launched publicly to students soon.

This volume contains more engaging creative writing, interesting poetry, and exemplary essays and reports on a range of topics, all written by VUSC students. The journal will be available for a gold coin donation, which goes towards publication costs.

Thank you to all the students who contributed to this issue!

### **Submissions are now open for Issue 3 of Felicity.**

Students from years 7 to 12 at the college are encouraged to submit written pieces to [felicity.vusc@gmail.com](mailto:felicity.vusc@gmail.com) or send them directly to Editor in Chief, Brooke Moncur, via a message in Teams.

# A message from the Student Wellbeing Team



## ***Keep on Learning and Loving to Learn***

***Don't study/learn because you need to. Study because knowledge is power. Study because they can never take it away from you. Study because it enhances you. Study because it grows you - Anon***

Continuous learning has been shown to help improve and maintain wellbeing. It can:

- boost self-confidence and self-esteem
- help build a sense of purpose, and
- foster connection with others.

People who engage in learning report feeling better about themselves and have greater ability to cope with stress, and to have an increased sense of hope and purpose.

During lockdown periods and the necessity of remote learning, there have been both new opportunities and challenges for us all to keep on learning (perhaps even having to learn new skills) and for some, a sense of *loving to learn* has perhaps required making adjustments, developing new, positive learning mindsets to succeed in online learning settings.

Learning in any context, often requires an initial purpose, then a process, followed by reflection, to celebrate new learning that occurs, and then identifying how the knowledge can be transferred to new learning opportunities.

As we approach the school holidays, you might want to start a conversation with the young people in your lives about how you have adopted this process in your own life, and then ask them to share one of their own experiences with you... and then, share the benefits of ***keeping on learning and loving to learn*** in your own lives.

*Gail Inniss*

*Student Wellbeing Manager*

**Loving to  
learn is part  
of creating  
your best life**

**- Cheri Fogarty**



# Year 8 Literature

**This term, VUSC's two Year 8 Literature classes (8B and 8E) have been studying the 19th Century novella, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*.**

It was an interesting but difficult read for many students, mainly because it is written in formal 19th Century English. However, both classes have successfully navigated this text and picked up some interesting 19th Century vocabulary along the way!

The below task is a small sample of what 8B and E achieved this term. The aim of this task was to create a 'Wanted' poster, reminiscent of the type posted throughout Victorian London, which described one or two of the crimes committed by the book's villain, Mr Edward Hyde. The students also had to include an eyewitness account of the crime/s (which they either directly quoted from the book or created themselves) and a description of Mr Hyde (who is notoriously difficult to describe).

Using a conversion of £1 (Victorian Pound) = \$150 (modern Australian Dollars), I also asked them to set a reward in Victorian British Pounds that (in their opinion) matched the gravity of the crime (i.e. it was not too high or too low) and they had to write their descriptions in the style of Victorian middle-class English. Pictures of the assailant (Mr Hyde) were optional.

Please take some time to read through just a small number of the posters submitted. I hope you enjoy reading them as much as I did.

*Mr Jon Worthen*

*Year 8 Literature Teacher*

### *Edward Hyde wanted poster*

**Crime:** "Mr. Hyde clubbed him to the earth. And next moment, he was trampling his victim under foot and hailing down a storm of blows, under which the bones were audibly shattered and the body jumped upon the roadway." – pg 27

Edward Hyde, a gentleman, who is wanted apprehension for the murder of government official, Sir Danvers Carew.

**Description:** Hard to describe, but has a sense of deformity; short; has evil aura

**Statement from eye witness:** "I watched as the horrendous man, clubbed Sir Danvers Carew. After that, he was trampling the poor man with his foot. I was at a discomfit. I heard the shattering of bones, which the man was causing. Then after that, Sir Danvers Carew's body was on the roadway!" – pg 27 from maid

**Reward:** 60 pounds



# 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

## **Premiers' Reading Challenge Ends Soon - Wednesday 15th September**

All students from Years 7-9 are currently enrolled in the Premiers' Reading Challenge. To successfully complete the challenge students must read 15 books in total - at least 10 Challenge sanctioned books plus Choice books.

VUSC has reading time allocated for each period of the day, so students have an excellent opportunity to complete the required amount of books. It is also a great habit to set aside 20 minutes per evening just for reading, with no screen distractions, which will boost student vocabulary and fluency to the next level.

The Certificate not only gives recognition for the reading, it shows staff and prospective employers that the student has the ability to see a task through. I have previously been able to obtain a Western Chances Scholarship for a student through her dedication to her reading, she otherwise would not have qualified.

Would all parents/guardians please:

- 1/ Talk to your child about the book they are reading
- 2/ Ensure that students are recording their completed books on the PRC website for verification
- 3/ Help your child establish their 20min (or more) reading habit each evening.

Thank you for your support.

***Kelvin Gallagher***

*Junior Campus Teacher/Librarian*





# Respectful Relationships

**Victoria University Secondary College is implementing the Rights, Resilience and Respectful Relationships (RRRR) Program.**

**Over the next few months, information will be provided on how to create respect and equality through social emotional learning.**

## **Personal Strengths**

Personal Strengths are positive personality traits, knowledge and abilities. It is important that children and young people have a vocabulary to help them recognise and understand strengths and positive qualities in themselves and others. Through identifying and using individual strengths, student wellbeing can be promoted through strength-based approaches which highlight positive behaviour and achievement.

There are many ways you can help recognise and understand personal strengths at home:

- Praise your child or other members of your household by identifying their personal strengths:

*'Wow, that work you did was really creative. That is a quality that I really admire in you.'*

- Discuss people that you admire and identify character strengths:

*'I really like [person]. They appear honest and fair, and they are characteristics that I admire.'*

**For support in having these conversations please contact:**

Parentline 13 22 89

Lifeline 13 11 14

Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800

Headspace 1800 650 890



# COVID-19 Vaccine Information

## A message from the Victorian Government

**As part of the COVID-19 vaccination roll out, all Victorians aged 16 years and above are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.**

Getting vaccinated is important for your own safety, as well as the safety of our school communities. That's why the Victorian Government encourages all education staff and students aged 16 and over to make an appointment and to get vaccinated as soon as possible. It's so important.

VCE teachers and students are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated as soon as possible as this will support the safe conduct of the VCE examinations this year. From Tuesday 7 September until Friday 17 September, final year students, their teachers and VCE exam supervisors and assessors will have access to priority time-slots to attend their vaccination appointment at a vaccination centre.

### **Dedicated appointment booking hotline**

The hotline number is [1800 434 144](tel:1800434144). The hotline will operate from 8am to 8pm.

- Year 12 students will be able to book from 8am Monday 6 September.
- Other Unit 3/4 students can book from 8am Wednesday 8 September.

### **How to book an appointment online**

You can now book or change a vaccination appointment at a vaccination centre through the Victorian Government's [COVID-19 vaccine online booking system](#). The booking system is

free and easy to use to help you book at a convenient vaccination centre.

### **Helpful resources**

For more information, refer to:

- the Victorian Government COVID-19 vaccine website
- the Commonwealth COVID-19 vaccine website.

Thank you again for your hard work in keeping our school staff and communities safe.



# Community News

## Do you love to swim? Join a Swim Club!

Swimland Swim Club is a swim squad that caters to children and young adults who are ready to start transitioning out of a learn to swim program.

They are one of the only local swim clubs in the area, with training sites at Parkwood Green and Braybrook Paul Sadler.

Download the attached flyer for more information or go to:

W: <https://swimland.swimming.org.au/>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/SwimlandSwimClub/>



Swimland Swim Club flyer.pdf

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## PSW Click and Collect for online orders



# Online orders and contactless Click & Collect information

All online orders placed by **11pm on Monday evenings** will be processed and ready for despatch and/or Click & Collect from our stores **between 1pm and 5pm on Tuesdays only**.  
Delivery delays should be expected.

If you miss your collection time, the next availability will be the following Tuesday.

**Please wait for email or SMS confirmation before heading to your store for collection of goods.**

\*Ballarat & Geelong stores are open for regular trade.

\*\*Kingsford (NSW) remains closed for all trade.

[www.psw.com.au](http://www.psw.com.au)

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Young Koorie Women's Online Program - Starts 9th  
September



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Do you want to make a difference in your community?

**The Young Innovators Program is an initiative run by Equal Ed, in partnership with the Brimbank City Council and Wyndham City Council.**

Over the course of 6 months, 24 young innovators will participate in a wide range of workshops and experiences with organisations, businesses and institutions to foster their skills and capacities in creating positive change in their communities. They will also be mentored by council staff and have an opportunity to design and pitch a project or innovation and receive funding to address a particular need in their community.

#### **Who should apply?**

If you are between the ages of 18 - 35, and you live, work or play in Melbourne's West, you can apply to be part of this great initiative!



Participants will demonstrate strong motivation and capacity to:

1. Learn more about effectively creating an impact in their communities
2. Bring an idea for change and innovation to life
3. Gain new skills and experiences to further their potential

**Download the booklet below for more information!** Applications are now open at <https://www.innovators.equaled.org/>



The Young Innovators Program booklet.pdf

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## VCE Tutoring Available

Tommy Le is a past VUSC student who is available to tutor VCE students in Mathematical Methods and Physics. Tommy can be contacted on mobile 0414 051 716 or via email at [tommyle48@hotmail.com](mailto:tommyle48@hotmail.com).

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## Studiosity - Free Online Tutoring

Did you know that Brimbank Library members have free access to Studiosity for online, after-hours, one-to-one help with homework and study questions?

Studiosity is a free online tutoring program, which provides study help to all students and community members.

Studiosity employs subject matter experts who are available 24/7 to provide quick one on one tutoring support to students of all ages from grade 3 to postgraduate level.

Students can also upload their essay and written work and receive feedback within 24 hours.

From primary school to university students, Studiosity is able to help across a wide range of subjects and questions through [Brimbank Libraries' website](#). Call 9249 4000 for more details.

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# 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 on this page and access free webinar vouchers valued at \$39.



In praise of fathers - the place of the modern dad.pdf



Building resilience during the covid pandemic.pdf



Prioritising mental health in the digital world.pdf



Webinar Voucher 8th September - Taming Digital Distractions.pdf



Webinar Voucher 10th November - Using birth order knowledge for a parenting edge.pdf