



# VUSC News

Issue 5 · 19 Jul 2021

*Create the Future*

## In this issue



Principal's Message



Senior secondary certificate reform



Important Dates



Respectful Relationships



Legal Studies Incursion



Community News



Year 9 Deep Learning Excursion



Parenting Ideas



A message from the Student Wellbei...



# Principal's Message

Dear Families,

It is a pleasure to welcome you back to Term 3. I hope you all had a relaxing break with your loved ones.

## **Remote Learning**

We have yet again been forced to implement remote learning due to the snap lockdown. We hope to be back on site on Wednesday 21st July but I will provide an update on Compass if the lockdown is to be extended.

The college received very positive feedback about remote learning from parents during previous lockdowns. An overwhelming majority of parents/carers told us that they were satisfied with the remote and flexible online learning, that sufficient work had been provided and that it was pitched at the right level for students. Most parents also told us that they were happy with the way the college supported their child/ren's wellbeing during this time as well.

## **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Year 8 student **Arsemma Tigistu** for participating in the Rotary Wynspeak competition in May 2021.

Arsemma delivered a persuasive speech about Public Education at Lakeview SC, and competed with students from Staughton College, Bacchus Marsh Grammar, Footscray College and Altona College. Unfortunately, she didn't make it to the finals in the competition, but she learnt a lot about public speaking and how to engage an audience. Well done Arsemma, a great ambassador for our college and modelling our school values of *Aspire to Achieve and Strengthen the Community!*

In addition to this event, Arsemma also responded to an email sent in 2020 whilst we were in lockdown inviting students in the Western Region to write a reflection about how CoVid has changed our lives. Arsemma entered the competition responding to the following prompt: *What have you learned about yourself and about those around you from experiencing the COVID-19 Pandemic? How do you hope the Pandemic will enable us to build a better world?*

Arsemma won an award for her year level, and here's an image of her accepting the award at the Rotary event which was attended by Ms Vass, Mr Leyland and I as well as Arsemma's family.



**Congratulations also to Year 8 students Deon Azzopardi and Dean Nuttall** (pictured right) who made the A side of the under 13's junior Interleague football squad for the WRFL. This photo was taken at their jumper presentation night, wearing their Bulldogs representative football tops. *Well done boys for modelling our school values of Aspire to Achieve and Strengthen the Community!*

## **Semester Reports**

A reminder to all families that Compass is our primary method of communicating with parents and carers. All student reports are available on Compass. The end of semester marked a key point in student's learning. It is an important opportunity for parents/carers and students to reflect on progress made in every subject.

It is important that parents/carers and students take the time to read the Semester Reports carefully to celebrate successes and note where further effort needs to be made. If you would like further information about your child's learning in any of their classes, or support with a plan for further improvement this term, please contact your child's Year Level Co-ordinator or your child's subject teacher.



## **High Levels of Expectation and High Levels of Support**

Every day of school is precious, and the college continues to have high expectations of student behaviour and effort so that learning and progress can be maximized and to provide students with strategies and resources to achieve their very best.

We feel strong and capable when we take the time to prepare and be ready to succeed in our learning. Coming to school in full uniform, with all necessary equipment (Binders, Cornell Notes, Student Planner and pens) and a fully charged device is the first part of every school day. This is preparation for success in work and life after school.

We keep up with our learning when we complete homework.

We can overcome challenges when we choose to be kind to others and choose a positive attitude.

We stay in control when we moderate our use of social media, mind our own business, and do not bring conflict or drama to school.

We stay safe when we seek help from parents/carers or staff instead of using aggression to solve our problems.

I expect students to have returned from the Term 2 holiday break refreshed, ready to follow all expectations and with everything they need as a successful Victoria University Secondary College Student.

### **Course Counselling for 2021**

Over the next few weeks students in Years 8 to 11 will participate in a comprehensive career program, culminating in the choice of subjects for next year. It is important that much care and thought is given to this process so that students are completing the correct prerequisites for future tertiary courses. This information also informs our timetabling and staffing for 2022. Parents are able to support their children by using the school's Careers website.

The link for this website is <https://www.vusecondarycollegecareers.com/>

If you have any questions about our Course Counselling process, or Careers information in general, please do not hesitate to contact our Careers Coordinator Ms. Kristy Muratore.

### **Senior secondary certificate reform**

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) has commenced consultation with schools regarding the move to a new integrated senior secondary certificate that will bring together the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL).

The goal is to give students greater choice and flexibility to pursue their strengths and aspirations and develop the skills and capabilities needed to succeed in further education, work and life.

The move to a single certificate will occur in stages. The first stage is the introduction of a new **vocational specialisation pathway within the VCE** commencing in 2023. This will replace the existing VCAL at the Intermediate and Senior levels.

More information is available on the Senior secondary certificate reform page in this newsletter.

### **Year 12 Mid-Year Examinations and Reports**

In the last week of Term 2 the Year 12 VCE students sat mid-year practice examinations for each of their subjects. This was organized to assist students to prepare for final VCE exams by providing practice in similar conditions experienced at the end of the year.

The purpose of practice exams is to enhance the development of the most effective exam techniques, assist students to refine summaries and to identify areas requiring further

consolidation. Research suggests that lots of practice by students will ensure they are better prepared when the time comes to sit the actual final examinations.

We wish all our Year 12 students well in this final semester of their Secondary School journey.

### **Tutor Learning Initiative update**

The State Government has provided the school with over \$350,000 this year to implement a Literacy and Numeracy tutoring program for students affected by the lockdown in 2020. Our focus has been students in Years 7 to 10 who could benefit from support in Literacy or Numeracy, as well as VCE students in Maths and English. Participating students have found the program very useful, and early indications are that it is making a difference. Students for semester 2 have been selected based on learning data. New students to the program will be given a letter to give to their parents/guardians explaining the process.

### **New School**

We are excited to see further progress of our new school buildings and sporting facilities at Cairnlea. View the progress photos below or feel free to drive past 43 Ken Jordan Rd, Cairnlea and take a look!



Please take care of yourselves and each other. I look forward to seeing you all when we return on site.

*Elaine Hazim*

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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

## **Later Years Expo**

Monday 26 July

*Learn about VCE, VCAL, VET options, traineeships, apprenticeships, tertiary education, ATAR scores and more.*

**Year 9 Information Session: 5.00pm**

**Year 10 Information Session: 6.00pm**

*A light supper will be provided.*

*Adults must pre-book at: <https://compasstix.com/e/pmvcftqmqp>*

*You also must check in via our QR code upon arrival. Masks will be required by all attendees.*

## **Year 10 Immunisations**

Wednesday 28 July

## **Junior Music Soiree 6.00pm**

Wednesday 28 July

Junior Campus C Block

*The college warmly invites our school community to support our junior music students and enjoy some spectacular music performances at this year's Junior Soiree.*

## **Year 10 Course Counselling for Year 11**

Thursday 29 July

## **Year 12 GAT - no Year 12 classes**

Thursday 29 July

**Year 9 Course Counselling for Year 10**

Thursday 5 August

**Year 8 & 9 Camp**

Monday 16 - Wednesday 18 August

*Parents must consent and make payment online through Compass.*

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



# Legal Studies Incursion

On Thursday 17 June almost 100 students from across Years 10, 11 and 12 attended an in-school presentation from a panel of legal professionals about careers in the law.

The panel consisted of Justice Pamela Tate (Victorian Court of Appeal), Ms Julie Freeman (Assistant Victorian Government Solicitor), Ms Ingrid Giles and Ms Katrina Sonneveld (Legal Counsel, Victorian Coroners Court), Sergeant Eva Semertzidis (Prosecutor, Victoria Police) and Muhamed Bektic (2019



Victoria University Secondary College student and Hall & Wilcox scholarship recipient who is currently studying law at Victoria University).

Following presentations from the legal panel, students were given an opportunity to ask questions and then to talk more informally with the presenters over afternoon tea.

The purpose of the panel event was to open students' eyes to the wide range of career options available in the field of law, as well as to share with them the stories of how the panel members made their educational and career choices. The students really enjoyed and benefited from this experience.

Typical of the feedback was this comment from one Year 11 Legal Studies student:



*"I really enjoyed hearing everyone's experiences and stories and it was really comforting and helpful knowing that many members of the panel changed their mind about what career they wanted to pursue. Everyone was very well-spoken and engaging. Thank you for sharing your experiences."*

The panel members were very complimentary about our students, with Justice Tate sending an email after the event in which she congratulated the students as being "remarkably well behaved and keen to listen". Sergeant Semertzidis has also expressed an interest in coming to talk to our Legal Studies students about prosecutions and sentencing in the Magistrates' Court, so we look forward to welcoming her back to the school in Term 3.

*Mr Anderson*

*Legal Studies Teacher*



# Year 9 Deep Learning Excursion



**In Week 10 of Term 2, Year 9 Deep Learning students went on an excursion to the University of Melbourne.**

There, VUSC alumni Steven Ho who currently attends the university gave the students a guided tour of the campus. Students attended a lecture for their studies in Literatures, given by Dr Sarah Balkin on issues around the semiotics of representation.

The experience not only supported students academically through the lecture, but also gave them a snapshot of uni life and the possibilities that await them for their studies in further education after they finish VCE.

*Mr Troy*

*Year 9 Literature Teacher*



# A message from the Student Wellbeing Team 2



## Let's Be Happy

Being happy is something we all want, something that we all have personal definitions for and most likely experience in our own different ways.

The focus for this newsletter came from conversations with some students during the first week back this term. When asked what they did during the holidays that *made them happy*, whilst some said “nothing”, others mentioned that spending time with their family and friends, sleeping in and *chillaxing* made them feel happy.

Some online research that our team did, identified the following things that we as adults can do to “be happy”. You might want to reflect on these, share what makes you happy with your kids and whilst we can't all be happy all the time, research suggest that if we schedule time to make some of these practices part of our daily/weekly routines, over time they become part of our everyday way of thinking and living.

- **Smile** – smiling causes the brain to release dopamine, which makes us happier and apparently, even practicing real smiles is a good thing to do. Smiling can reportedly improve our attention and help us perform better on cognitive tasks.
- **Get plenty of sleep** – vital to our good health, brain function and emotional wellbeing.



- ***Eat well*** – food choices can, as we know, impact our overall physical health and wellbeing – commit to making one better food choice each day.
- ***Give a compliment*** - performing acts of kindness can help us feel more satisfied.
- ***Help others*** – 100 hours per year (or two hours per week) is reportedly the magic number to make ourselves feel happier.
- ***Declutter*** – even setting aside 20 minutes a day to tackle a seemingly overwhelming task can help.
- ***Connect with friends*** – no man is an island as the poet John Donne famously wrote.
- ***Plan our week*** – blocking out time for the must, should and could do tasks.
- ***Take care of our bodies*** – exercise and maintain regular health check ups.

*Gail Inniss*

*Student Wellbeing Manager*



# Senior secondary certificate reform

A message from the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA)

**Victoria is transforming the delivery of senior secondary education with the introduction of a single senior secondary certificate that will offer greater access to quality vocational and applied learning pathways for all students.**

The senior secondary education reforms aim to provide access to education and training that is relevant, engaging and that delivers in-demand skills for the future world of work, ensuring that students can access education that leads to employment.

Next year students will still be able to enrol in either the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) or the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE). The following year, in 2023, VCAL students will be enrolled in the new VCE Vocational Specialisation or the new foundation pathways certificate which will be introduced to replace Foundation VCAL.

The VCE Vocational Specialisation will be recognised internationally, be valued by employers and will build on the strengths of VCAL including providing:

- flexible timetables that allow students to study at school, TAFE and work
- opportunities to experience real-life workplaces
- subjects that will build students skills and prepare them for life after school
- greater access to high quality VET learning, either in school, a neighbouring school or a local TAFE.

The new certificates are part of a suite of 38 reforms recommended in the *Review into Vocational and Applied Learning Pathways in Senior Secondary Schooling* (the Firth Review) to lift the quality and perception of vocational education and help more students access high-quality applied learning programs.

**Course selection in 2022**

We are supporting all students in their course selections for 2022 and are providing the following advice and information to students considering a VCAL pathway.

If students are studying VCAL in 2022 they will transfer into the VCE Vocational Specialisation with credit for completed VCAL subjects in 2023. In 2023, students will continue to study Senior VCAL subjects in the new certificate as part of the implementation process. At the end of 2023, these students will be awarded the VCE Vocational Specialisation if they meet the requirements.

Students who are studying Foundation VCAL over multiple years, including in 2022, will transfer into a new foundation pathways certificate in 2023 with credit for completed subjects. These students will study the new foundation subjects and graduate with the foundation pathways certificate.

This approach provides assurance and clarity to current Year 10 students some of whom will be among the first cohort to receive a VCE Vocational Specialisation certificate in 2023.

The following diagram sets out the senior secondary pathways for students commencing the VCE or VCAL in 2022.

**Enrolment options**



\* Note: Students can also move between certificates.

To learn more about Victoria's senior secondary certificate reform, you can email the **Senior Secondary Reform team**.

**Victoria University Secondary College will provide more information to students and parents/carers as the reforms are implemented.**



# Respectful Relationships

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

RRRR was created from the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Family Violence in 2015, which found that schools have a critical role in creating a culture of respect. This change in culture challenges the narrative of Family Violence now, and in the future.

RRRR is a program which will be embedded in the school community and culture, and is a core component in the curriculum. This approach leads to positive outcomes for students' academic outcomes, mental health, classroom behaviours and relationships between teachers and students.

The RRRR learning materials cover 8 topics of Social Emotional Learning including:

- Emotional Literacy
- Personal Strengths
- Positive Coping
- Problem Solving
- Stress Management
- Help-Seeking
- Gender and Identity

- Positive Gender Relations

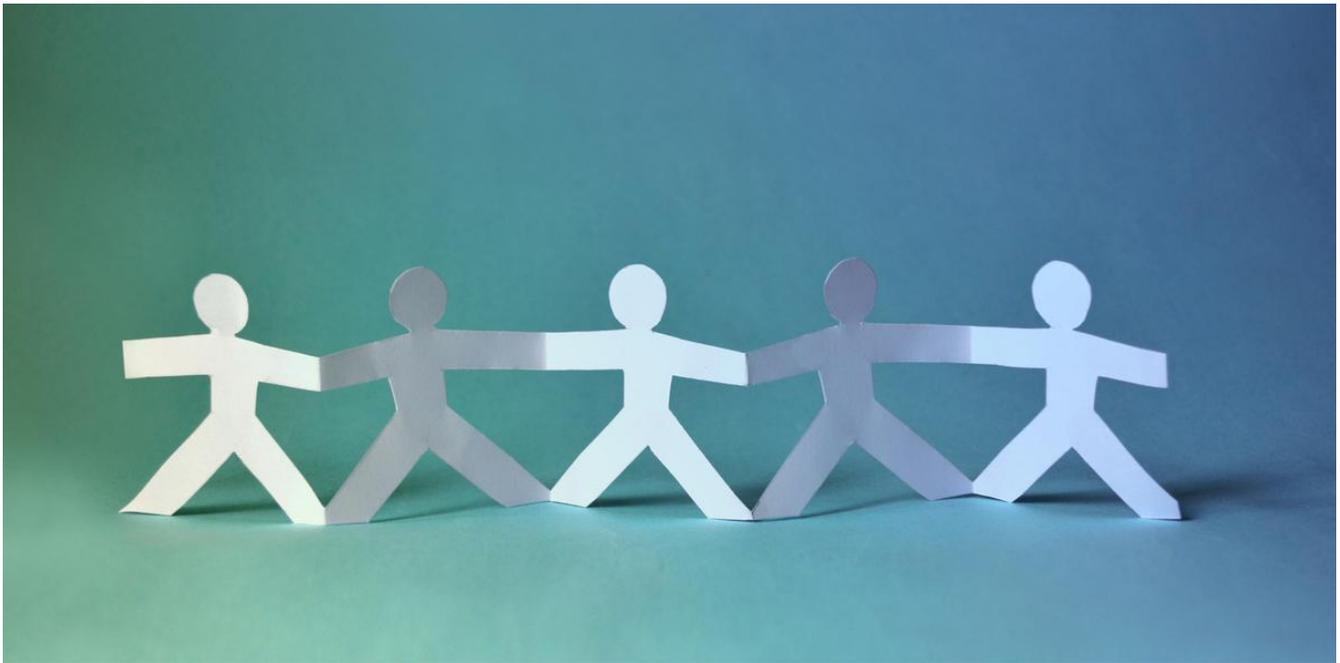
Over the next few months, you will be receiving information about the 8 topics along with services that can support families experiencing family violence and conflict. If you have any questions about RRRR, please email [Bronwyn.Anderson@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Bronwyn.Anderson@education.vic.gov.au).

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### **Family Violence Support Services**

- The National Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence hotline 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732)
- Safe Steps' 24/7 family violence response line 1800 015 188
- Centres Against Sexual Assault [www.casa.org.au](http://www.casa.org.au)
- Sexual Assault Crisis Line 1800 806 292
- No To Violence Men's Referral Service 1300 766 491
- Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria <https://www.dvrcv.org.au>

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# Community News

## 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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## Winter Lights Event

Brimbank Council is hosting a Winter Lights event on Saturday 31 July 2021 from 5pm to 9pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend this family friendly FREE event. Please see the flyer below for more details.

 [Winter Lights Event.pdf](#)

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## For Parents/Carers - Raising Learners podcast

The Raising Children's Network has created a Podcast with Department of Education and Training called **Raising Learners**.

This podcast covers many topics including:

- Helping children and teenagers reconnect with school
- Teen learners: independence, connection and the teenage brain
- Supporting social emotional development
- VCE and VCAL: what do you need to know to help your child thrive

Each episode features advice and ideas from experts about supporting children's health, wellbeing and engagement in life and learning.

To learn more please visit their website <https://raisingchildren.net.au/guides/podcasts-and-webinars/podcasts>

This podcast can be accessed on Apple, Google Podcasts, Android, Spotify and many other platforms.

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**Winter campaign | Get Active Victoria** – online workouts, just the thing for winter. Choose workouts that suit you – Pilates, low impact, dance, yoga, cardio, strength and more. They're free!

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**The Get Active Kids Voucher Program** helps eligible families get their children involved in organised sport and active recreation activities by reimbursing the cost of membership and registration fees, uniforms, and equipment.

Eligible children may be able to receive up to \$200 each. Children must be aged 4 to 18 and named on a valid Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card and Medicare card to be eligible. Find out if you can apply, what costs are covered and how much can be reimbursed.

More info here: [www.getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers](http://www.getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers)

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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.

 [Establishing digital boundaries for a good nights sleep.pdf](#)

 [Use your words dad.pdf](#)

 [Common sense strategies for raising girls.pdf](#)

 [Anxiety requires understanding.pdf](#)



Webinar Voucher 8th September - Taming Digital Distractions.pdf



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