



College Principal's Report

WELCOME BACK! TERM 4 IS HERE

This is a very busy term where achievements are celebrated, and numerous events are planned. Attached to this newsletter is a parent planner to put on your fridge so you don't miss any important dates. Next week the Year 12 students finish their formal classes and a celebration is planned for Wednesday. The formal will be held on Friday 22 November after their final exams. I wish them all success in the final stage of their education at Mill Park Secondary College. All students will be doing either exams or tests in the coming weeks so I have included some tips for study in this newsletter.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RECRUITMENT

The International Division has invited me to go to China for a Victorian Government Schools Roadshow from Wednesday 23 October to Wednesday 6 November. The itinerary is full with long days meeting with agents and prospective parents. This roadshow takes in 7 cities, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Changsha, Wuhan, Nanchang, Fuzhou and Xiamen. I am travelling with representatives from Heathmont College, Mordialloc College, Kew High, McClelland College, Highvale Secondary, Brighton Secondary, Essendon Keilor College, Carwatha College and Wantirna College. We currently have 50 international students, with the majority in years 10-12, it is vitally important we maintain our international student numbers and these roadshows give us a presence in these countries.

I will be leaving the College in the capable hands of the Principal and Leadership Teams. Karen Eastlake will be officer in charge during my absence.

SONG AND DANCE 2019

Last night I attended another extraordinary production from Mill Park Secondary College Song & Dance 2019, packed with variety and talent, showcasing our amazing students.

The team make it look easy but I know that pulling it all together takes both talent and thorough preparation and most importantly teamwork.

It was so rewarding to sit in a packed house and feel the support of the audience, particularly the students. I experienced goose bumps so many times as the performances were engaging. I beamed with pride to be a part of this community.

Thank you to the many staff who gave up their own time to prepare the students and put on a top show!



College Principal's Report

PREPARING FOR EXAMS

The best help you can give your child is by being encouraging, providing healthy refreshments and keeping the house quiet and peaceful. Well before exams, it is useful to sit down and agree on some ground-rules and strategies.

Be organised. Have a revision timetable. Write down the dates and times of the exams. With your child, work out what needs to be done and by when, and draw up a timetable. Don't let them leave the difficult subjects until the last minute.

Target specific topics in the revision timetable, not whole subjects.

There is no correct revision method. Find the way to revise that works best.

Make sure your child has a quiet space for revision.

Help your children work out when they are at their brightest and most alert - morning or evening – and adapt the revision timetable to suit them by placing their most challenging topics at their optimum times for study.

Most people have an energy low after lunch, so suggest that they go for a walk then or relax away from their books. The optimum time to revise is after a break.

Forty minutes is about as long as a child can concentrate in one stretch. The brain's ability to concentrate drops after 35 to 40 minutes so it's best to take a break at that point for five or ten minutes. The brain maximises beginnings and endings but not the middle, so this method effectively minimises that period. They can take break for a drink and a snack like fruit or nuts. Be warned that if the break involves television or computer games, it can be hard to get started again.

Remind them that just staring at notes doesn't mean anything is going in. They need to use strategies to ensure the material is being absorbed – writing it down, repeating it aloud, testing themselves.

Revise exam technique, using past papers. Every question should be attempted and the answer planned out before starting to write. Keep jotted notes to hand as a crib sheet.

Don't interrupt revision if it is going well, even for a family outing. If there is an important event coming up, factor it into the revision timetable but even teenagers have to accept that sometimes they must miss out.

Accept that children who are worried about exams will tend to be grumpy. Remind them about stress-reduction techniques like exercise and calm breathing and make sure they are eating nutritious meals and drinking enough water. Reassure them that you value their efforts more than perfect results.

On the morning of an exam, avoid wishing them "good luck". Talk of luck can raise anxiety levels. School exams are not a lottery; they are an appraisal of information already learned. Instead, say: "I hope everything goes well."

TAKING CARE OF OURSELVES

UV radiation is at its highest in Victoria from mid-August to April, peaking during school hours. Schools are required to provide sun and UV protection, and create environments that minimise the risk of skin cancer. Sun screen is available at each General Office. Please encourage your children to develop independent sun protection skills to help them to be responsible for their own protection.

Every year between October and December there is an increase in asthma and hay fever symptoms. During grass pollen season there is also the chance of an epidemic thunderstorm asthma event.

Those at increased risk of epidemic thunderstorm asthma include people with asthma, people with a past history of asthma, people with undiagnosed asthma (those who have asthma symptoms but have not yet been diagnosed with asthma), and people with hay fever who may or may not have asthma. Having both asthma and hay fever, as well as poor control and self-management of asthma, increases the risk. Parents need to ensure students have an Asthma Action Plan (developed with the treating medical team), and an Allergy Plan if required and keep asthma medication readily accessible. Avoid being outside during thunderstorms that occur between October and December, especially the wind gusts that come before the storm.

MELBOURNE CUP PUBLIC HOLIDAY

A reminder that **Tuesday 5 November** is Melbourne Cup Day. The College will be closed; students are not required at school.



Trish Horner



Song and Dance Concert 2019

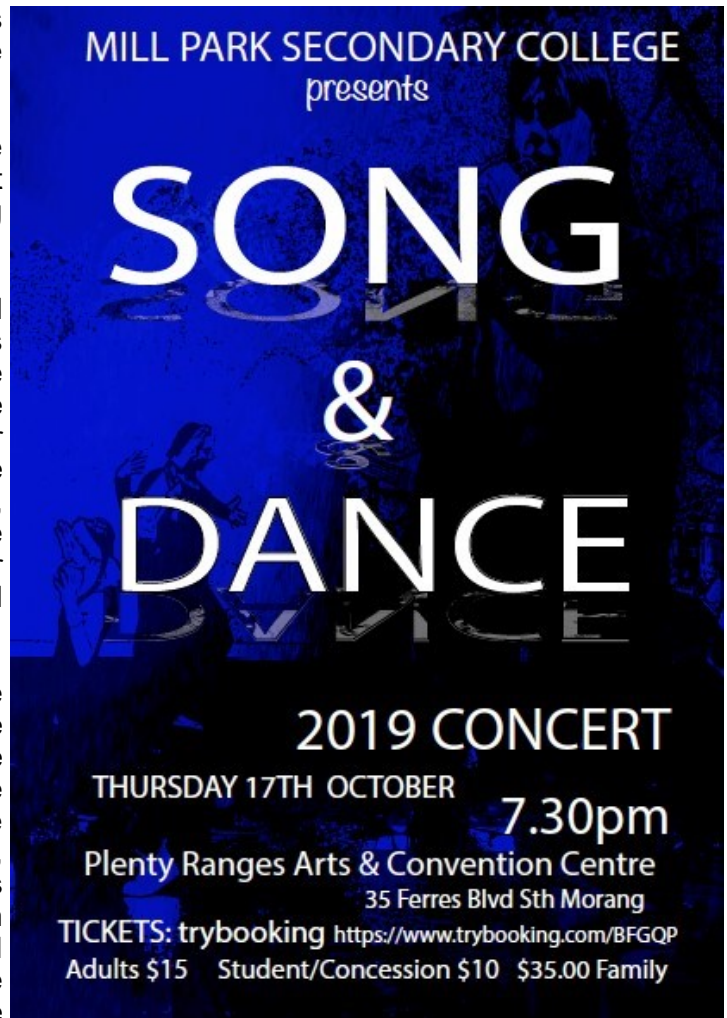
This year's concert was held on Thursday 17 October at the Plenty Ranges Arts & Convention Centre and was another outstanding arts event, which showcased the talents of students at Mill Park Secondary College, who have studied Music and Dance from Year 7 to 12. It was a majestic concert, which included solo, group and dance performances from a range of styles and genres in music through highly emotive performances.

Their interpretations of the work studied was transformed into highly imaginative and unique music and dance performances.

Some of the musical items performed were original compositions and lyrics which are part of the MPSC KOOL SKOOLS CD recording titled 'Moments In Time'.

The VCE music items showcased the end product and the use of creative processes used to compose, improvise and arrange music. As part of their study, they compose and perform their music ideas based on their intentions and performance context. The Dance items represent students from Year 7, 9, 10 and VCE and VET. Dance students have created or learnt choreography as part of their studies to produce highly imaginative and unique dance works.

Teamwork, collaboration and knowledge sharing were important aspects of the performances, which contributed to the success of the concert and its cooperative spirit felt by the audience. These collaborative accomplishments were due to the inspiration, dedication and commitment of Music teachers Wendy Nagel, Emily Beck, Peny Bohan, John Milton, Brett Gaskett, Serge De Leucio and Radha Claridge, Dance teachers Shaylee Ashby, Vivienne Morton and pre-service teacher Elodie Lee.



Thank you to Matt Howden for assisting with the transportation of equipment and to administrative staff Bev Charles, Natasha Gorsevski and Carissa Strangis, who have also assisted with the event. Congratulations to all students and staff, who have contributed to the outstanding success of this concert. It was an absolutely beautiful concert.

Thankyou to all staff parents, families and friends for being a part of the audience and supporting the concert.

Gina Palamara
College Arts/Events Coordinator



Middle Years Campus Report

Peta's Canberra Visit

At the end of last term, Peta Johnstone visited Parliament House in Canberra on September 18-19 as a member of a Teach For Australia (TFA) delegation.

The group held a series of round tables and meetings with representatives from across the political spectrum including Minister for Education Dan Tehan and Shadow Minister for Education Tanya Plibsek, as well as Celia Hammond, Member for Curtin in WA, Shadow Assistant Minister for Education and Training Graham Perrett and Dr Andrew Leigh, Member for Fenner in the ACT as well as staff and representatives from other Members' offices.

Access to Parliament was facilitated through Julian Leaser MP, Member for Berowra, who met the delegation for lunch Wednesday and also attended the bi-partisan round table in the afternoon.

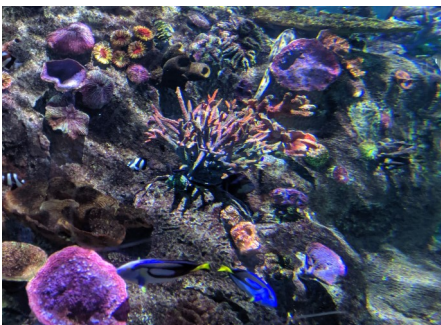
"I'd like to thank their schools for supporting the visit to Canberra, where they were represented so well by teachers who were able to share their lived experiences of Australia's education system." TFA CEO Melodie Potts said.

The TFA Associates and Alumni from around Australia spoke to the nation's political leaders about education inequity, their journeys into teaching, and the impact of their work.



Year 9 Aquarium Excursion

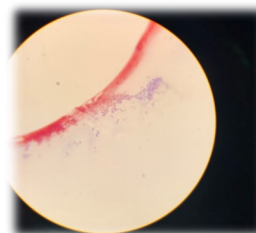
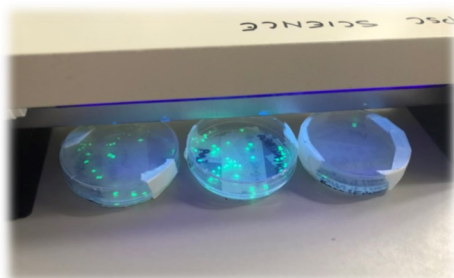
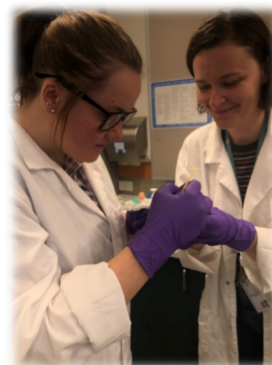
Our Year 9 Biology students travelled to Melbourne Aquarium for the day to check out some marine animals! The students had a guided tour with an education officer, who also lead discussions on adaptations that the various marine animals have to survive in the ocean.



Senior Campus Report

What are our Year 12 Students up to?

Our Year 12 Biology students recently participated in a practical investigation where they genetically modified bacteria to make them glow! This investigation formed part of their final assessment for VCE Biology, and gave students first-hand experience of how genetic modification is used in science.



Congratulations to Josiah V for his nomination for the 2019 VCE Leadership Awards.

Josiah attended the awards ceremony held at Parliament House where he was acknowledged for his outstanding work in the community, along with other nominees from around Victoria.



Wishing our Year 12 students all the best as they head into exams this term. We are certain they will do an amazing job, especially after such a great turn out at the revision classes over the holidays!!

Senior Campus Report

YEAR 10 HUMANITIES - INDIGENOUS LIAISON OFFICER VISIT

On Wednesday 9 October we had a visit from Donna Wright, the Indigenous Liaison Officer for Whittlesea Council who came to speak with the Year 10 Humanities and International students. They have been studying Indigenous issues and culture as part of their classwork this Semester.

It was a fascinating afternoon learning about important topics relating to Indigenous peoples in Whittlesea and Victoria. Donna enjoyed talking with our students and commended them on their enthusiasm and commitment to creating a better future. Thank you Donna for sharing your time and knowledge with our students.

Ms Gillard



LIKE US at <https://www.facebook.com/millparksc/>

This screenshot shows you where to find SEE FIRST when you are liking the page.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. 'Like' Mill Park Secondary College.
2. To the right of the 'Like' button you will see 'Following' with a drop down arrow.
3. Please select 'See First in Newsfeed' and 'Notifications On (Events)'.



M.P.S.C. INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM LOCAL HOMESTAY FAMILIES WANTED

Host families are a very important factor in the success of our International Student Program and are greatly valued by the College.

Our program is growing, so we are looking for more families interested in providing a warm and supportive environment for an international student who has chosen to study at Mill Park Secondary College. Families receive payment to cover expenses for full board and our International Student Coordinator is available at all times, to provide ongoing support to host families.

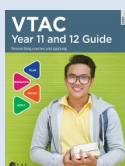
For more information, please contact **Marilyn Pridmore** on 9409 8222 / 0438 681 125 or Email: pridmore.marilyn.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

Friday 18 October

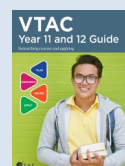


Dates to Diarise in Term 4

- **Year 12 VTAC late applications** – October and early November

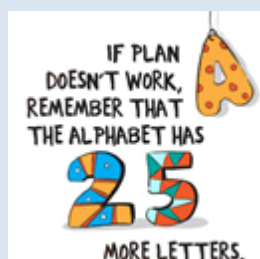


Reminder: VTAC 2020 Key Dates



VTAC Personal Statement	Friday 6 December 2019
ATARs Released	Thursday 12 December 2019
CoP for December Round Offers closes	Saturday 14 December 2019
December Round Offers	Wednesday 18 December 2019
Change of Preference (COP) closes	Friday 20 December 2019
January Round International Offers	Tuesday 7 January 2020
January Round Domestic Offers	Wednesday 15 January 2020
February Offer Rounds	Monday 3 February 2020 onwards

For a full list of cancelled, amended, and new courses, visit [VTAC Course Updates](https://www.vtac.edu.au)
www.vtac.edu.au





Tax File Number

Year 12 students are reminded yet again that they cannot enrol in a CSP (Commonwealth Supported Place) university course next year without a Tax File Number (TFN).

Students who do not have one are reminded to apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office.

To apply and also to find out about participating Post Offices, visit [TFN Application](#)



Low Income Healthcare Card for Australian Students

Once you have finished school you are no longer a student and you may be eligible for a **Low Income Health Care Card**.

This card gives access to a range of concessions, not only on some health care items and possible concession fares on Victorian public transport services, but also on a range of other goods and services if you are on a low income.

In particular, some TAFE and other short courses offer discounts for cardholders.

You may also be eligible for public transport concessions (note that if you are studying interstate you are not eligible for public transport concessions in Victoria).

Eligibility for a Low Income Health Care Card is based on YOUR income over the previous 8 weeks. As long as your income is less than \$4488 over that period (or \$561 per week) you should qualify. You will maintain the Low Income Health Care Card as long as your income does not exceed \$5,610.00 (or \$701.25 per week) in any 8 week period.

It is highly recommended that all graduating Year 12 students consider applying for this card once the exams are over.

Visit [Low Income Healthcare Card](#) and find out more.

⇒ **Monash Maths Bridging**

Monash Maths Bridging is available for students who narrowly miss the required study score in the mathematics prerequisite subjects for a Monash **Engineering, Science, Business and Economics, Information Technology, or Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science** undergraduate degree.

Students who receive a study score of 20-24 in VCE Mathematical Methods Units 3 and 4 are eligible to apply. Students must meet all other entry requirements for their preferred course.

Students will study face-to-face for 16 days, five hours a day. Expert tutors will be there to guide them along their learning journey.

Background knowledge and skills in algebra, graph sketching, elementary functions such as polynomial and trigonometric functions, and introductory calculus are essential. Time will not be spent introducing background knowledge and skills. The course will focus on immediate application and development.

Monash Maths Bridging is only accepted by Monash University. It does not provide credit for other institutions. Once students have successfully passed the Monash Maths Bridging course, they will be considered to have met the mathematics prerequisite for the selected courses listed above.

Should students receive a main round offer prior to completion of the Monash Maths Bridging course, they are encouraged to accept that offer to ensure they do not lose their place. Should a further round offer be made, students can choose to withdraw from their earlier offer and take this offer.

For more information visit [Monash Maths Bridging](#)

⇒ **Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Science Bridging**

What options do students have if they don't meet the maths or chemistry VCE prerequisites to get into pharmacy or pharmaceutical science?

Mathematical Methods VCE prerequisite

- Applicants could study maths higher level units over their first year in a tertiary course. They can then apply to transfer into pharmacy or pharmaceutical science if they have achieved a minimum 70% average in the first year of the tertiary degree. Please note that credit is not currently given for transfers into pharmacy.

The Open Universities Australia offers math units that may prove acceptable. Students are encouraged to visit [Open Universities](#) directly for advice.

Overall, the maths must meet higher level maths equivalencies which applicants must investigate, and faculty course advisers should be able to assist here.

Chemistry VCE prerequisite

For students who have not met the chemistry prerequisite, Monash recommends they study two VCE equivalent chemistry units over their first year in a tertiary course to be considered as meeting the prerequisite. They can then apply to transfer into pharmacy or pharmaceutical science. They would also have to achieve a minimum 70% average in the first year of the tertiary degree. Please note that credit is not currently given for transfers into pharmacy.

In summary, students really wanting to study pharmacy or pharmaceutical science at Monash University but do not meet the maths or chemistry VCE prerequisites, are encouraged to enrol in a tertiary course that gives them access to higher levels of maths and/or chemistry, with the aim of transferring across after one year. Students can also consider Graduate Entry Pharmacy (3 years) after completion of a Biomedical, Science or Pharmaceutical Science undergraduate degree.

Find out more about pharmacy and pharmacology at [Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Science at Monash](#)



Australian Government

Study Assist

Students are encouraged to browse the following link as the website provides information to students about Australian Government assistance for financing of tertiary study.

There is very useful information on study loans, how one pays back those loans, scholarship opportunities, etc. A useful PDF titled *Beyond School Study Guide* published in September last year can also be found at - [Beyond School Study Guide](#)

Visit [Study Assist](#)

Useful links to Victorian University Support Services

Australian Catholic University –
[ACU Student Support Services](#)

Deakin University -
[Deakin Student Support Services](#)

Federation University of Australia -
[Federation Student Support Services](#)

La Trobe University -
[La Trobe Student Support Services](#)

Monash University -
[Monash Student Support Services](#)

RMIT University -
[RMIT Student Support Services](#)

Swinburne University -
[Swinburne Student Support Services](#)

University of Melbourne -
[Melbourne Student Support Services](#)

Victoria University -
[Victoria Student Support Services](#)



Swinburne University offers a maths bridging program called **MathsLink**.

MathsLink: Methods is a bridging program for students needing VCE Units 3 and 4 of Mathematical Methods to study at Swinburne.

Mathematical Methods is a prerequisite for many bachelor degrees in **aviation, engineering, and information and communication technology**. This bridging program is designed to help students who have not studied Mathematical Methods as part of their VCE to meet the prerequisite for entry into their chosen course.

MathsLink: Methods is taught predominantly online, however there are three day sessions that students must attend during Summer Term, plus a Test Session:

- ◆ Tuesday, 7 January 2020, 9:30am - 3:30pm
- ◆ Tuesday, 21 January 2020, 9:30am - 3:30pm
- ◆ Tuesday, 11 February 2020, 9:30am - 3:30pm
- ◆ Monday, 17 February 2020, 9:30am - 12:30pm (test session)

MathsLink: Methods incurs a one-off \$400 fee**, payable within the time frame as specified in the Swinburne University of Technology Academic Dates.

** refunded as a credit to a course at

Swinburne

On successful completion of this course, students will be eligible to make a direct application to Swinburne University for entry in 2020.

Applications for **MathsLink: Methods** close Friday 20 December 2019.

Find out more at [Maths Link Bridging Program: Methods](#)



VCE Extension Studies in 2020

Deakin University – Deakin Accelerate

Deakin Accelerate is a distinctive VCE higher education program that allows students to study two first-year university subjects during Year 12. Studying one subject per trimester, this selective program gives students a head-start into university studies and also provides a potential boost to their all-important ATAR score.

Besides the challenge of taking on a university subject, this subject will also count as part of the VCE and contribute towards the ATAR as the fifth or sixth subject. There are no tuition fees for Deakin Accelerate.

Find out more, including the subjects on offer, at [Deakin Accelerate](#)

La Trobe University - VCE Plus Program

VCE Plus is an opportunity for high achieving Year 11 VCE students to complete a pair of first-year university subjects in their Year 12 and have them recognised as part of their VCE. Students enrolled in VCE Plus choose one subject per semester. **VCE Plus** is offered at all La Trobe campuses and subjects are delivered online, face-to-face, or a combination of both. There are fees associated with the VCE Plus Program.

Find out more, including the subjects on offer at [VCE Plus Program](#)

RMIT University – VCE Extension

RMIT's VCE Extension allows Year 12 students to undertake university subjects while completing their VCE. These courses are VCAA-accredited towards VCE results and students may be eligible for credit in a related RMIT program.

Students will get a taste of university life, they attend lectures and study on campus with full access to all the services and facilities enjoyed by RMIT students. **VCE Extension** subjects are taught at the City campus and are counted towards students VCE and provide a boost to their ATAR. RMIT charges no fees for RMIT Extension courses.

Find out more, including the subjects on offer, at [VCE Extension](#)

University of Melbourne – Extension Program

The **Extension Program** is an opportunity for high achieving Year 12 students to study a university subject whilst at school which counts towards their ATAR, as well as experience university life. The University of Melbourne does not charge any fees for participation in the Extension Program. However, some School Centres where an Extension subject is taught may charge a reasonable fee to cover teaching and administrative costs.

Find out more, including the subjects on offer, at [Extension Program](#)



BASELINE PRESENTS

Creative Youth @ Mill Park Library

A social art group for young artists



Baseline



Manga • Pop Art • Craft



When: Wednesdays 16 October 2019 – 4 December 2019

Time: 4pm – 6pm

Where: Mill Park Library, 394 Plenty Road, Mill Park

Age: 12 – 18 years

Cost: Free

Contact: Baseline for Young People on 9404 8800 or email baseline@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

All activities are supervised by Council's Youth Services staff



YARRA PLENTY
REGIONAL LIBRARY



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TERM 4		PARENT PLANNER					2019
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT	SUN
1	7-Oct	8-Oct Yr 9 Assembly	9-Oct	10-Oct G5 Taster Day (Morang Stn) City School (Group 1)	11-Oct Yr 9 Scholarships Close City School (Group 1)	12-Oct	13-Oct
			VET Information Night (8-10pm)				
2	14-Oct Yr 7 Assembly City School (Group 1)	15-Oct G5 Taster Day (MPPS) City School (Group 1)	16-Oct Yr 8 Assembly City School (Group 1)	17-Oct Yr 7 / 8 Girls Cricket (Super 8's) City School (Group 2)	18-Oct Yr 12 Assembly City School (Group 2)	19-Oct	20-Oct
		STANDING COMMITTEES		SONG & DANCE CONCERT	NEWSLETTER		
3	21-Oct City School (Group 2)	22-Oct G5 Taster Day (Findon PS) City School (Group 2)	23-Oct HPV2 (Yr 7) Last Day of Year 12 City School (Group 2)	24-Oct	25-Oct World Teachers's Day Yr 11 Assembly	26-Oct	27-Oct
		FINANCE COMMITTEE					
4	28-Oct	29-Oct	30-Oct Year 12 Exams Commence	31-Oct Yr 10 OES Cycle Camp	1-Nov Yr 10 Assembly Yr 10 OES Cycle Camp	2-Nov	3-Nov
		SCHOOL COUNCIL			NEWSLETTER		
5	4-Nov	5-Nov MELBOURNE CUP	6-Nov	7-Nov	8-Nov Last Day of Year 11	9-Nov	10-Nov
6	11-Nov Yr 7 Assembly Yr 11 Exams	12-Nov Yr 9 Assembly Yr 11 Exams	13-Nov Yr 8 Assembly Yr 11 Exams	14-Nov Yr 11 Exams	15-Nov Yr 11 Exams	16-Nov	17-Nov
		STANDING COMMITTEES	ART & DESIGN EXHIBITION (Open Mkt)	ART & DESIGN EXHIBITION	ART & DESIGN EXHIBITION	NEWSLETTER	
7	18-Nov Yr 11 Exams	19-Nov Yr 11 Exams	20-Nov Yr 11 Exams	21-Nov Yr 12 Step Up	22-Nov Yr 12 Step Up Yr 9 Exams - PE / English	23-Nov Italy Trip Departs	24-Nov
		FINANCE COMMITTEE			Yr 12 Formal		
8	25-Nov Yr 12 Step Up Camp Yr 9 Exams - Hums / Science	26-Nov Yr 12 Step Up Camp Yr 9 Exams - Maths Last Day of Year 10 MYC CAREERS DAY	27-Nov Yr 12 Step Up Yr 10 exams	28-Nov Yr 12 Step Up Yr 10 exams	29-Nov	30-Nov	1-Dec
		SCHOOL COUNCIL			NEWSLETTER		
9	2-Dec Yr 11 Step Up	3-Dec Yr 11 Step Up	4-Dec Yr 11 Step Up	5-Dec Yr 11 Step Up	6-Dec Yr 9 AWARD (s 3-4) Yr 8 AWARDS (s 3-4)	7-Dec	8-Dec
		Yr 11 2020 VCAL Info Night					
10	9-Dec Yr 10 Step Up Yr 8 Camp Yr 7 AWARDS (s 3-4) 2020 Yr 7 Parent Info Night	10-Dec Yr 10 Step Up Yr 8 Camp Grade 6 Orientation Day SCHOOL COUNCIL DINNER	11-Dec Yr 10 Step Up G5 Taster Day - TBC Yr 8 Camp MYC Activities	12-Dec Yr 10 Step Up G5 Taster Day - TBC Yr 12 Results MYC Activities	13-Dec Italy Trip Returns MYC Activities NEWSLETTER	14-Dec	15-Dec
11	16-Dec MYC PICNIC DAY	17-Dec	18-Dec	19-Dec	20-Dec	21-Dec	22-Dec
		SC AWARDS					