



# College Principal's Report

## Year 12 2021

The first few weeks of Term Four are typically a time where a number of important milestones are occurring for our Year 12 students: Finalising assessments and exam preparation, last day of classes, final assemblies and of course Celebration Day. If we think about our own schooling, these are often the things that we remember, and the sense of comradery and excitement that goes along with these important moments in young peoples' lives.

Unfortunately for our current cohort of Year 12s, their experience of these moments will be impacted to a significant degree as health and safety is prioritised. When COVID-19 hit last year our concern was understandably for the class of 2020. At the time it seemed that they 'had it the worst', and of course this was a very challenging time for many of those students. What is clear to me, however, as we move to the close of 2021 our current class of Year 12 students have had to overcome significant challenges. Not only have they been through the 2020 experience, but they have also had to manage to constant uncertainty which has been prevailing right throughout this year.

I would like to congratulate our current class of Year 12 students. Whether they are undertaking VCAL or VCE, they have shown strength and resilience in the way they have negotiated every hurdle which has been placed in front of them. We are moving into the final stage of their journey through the College and I know that they have what it takes to finish this off and do their very best. Hang in there!

## COVID-19

I can confirm to the school community that the recent confirmed case of COVID-19 at Senior Campus has now been managed and all close contacts have been contacted directly via text message and email. These messages are individual and indicate the relevant students' names. If you have not received one of these messages, your child is not required to remain at home any further.

Managing these incidents is challenging in a large school such as ours and I thank families for their patience. I can assure you that the school is doing everything it can to ensure the health and safety of the school community. From Monday 18th October any staff member, including teachers and support staff, are required to be either partially or fully vaccinated. This recognises the importance of vaccination for the health and safety of our community.

All students aged 12 and over are eligible to receive a free and safe vaccination against COVID-19 and I urge you to take this step if you haven't already. In speaking with our Year 12 students over recent days almost all that I have spoken to are either fully or partially vaccinated which is great news.

Mask wearing and social distancing will continue to be important as students return and I encourage you to start planning and ensure that students have reusable masks ready to go. While the school will have masks to distribute where needed, we believe that there are a number of advantages to students bringing their own and Mr Mcrae has outlined this in his bulletin in this newsletter.

## Return to school

As our Year 12 students finish up it will be great to see other year levels begin the transition back to on-site learning. Much planning has been given to how best to support our students given the impact that remote learning may have had. This includes a slight adjustment to the initial dates that our Middle Years students will return on in order to provide them with the best possible transition back to the campus.

There are also major changes to the plans for supporting our 2022 Year 12 students through a Headstart program and I encourage you to see both the Middle and Senior Campus Principals' bulletins for some of these details. One important change is that the scheduled Curriculum Day for the 1st of November has moved back to Monday 25 October. This will have less impact on students' programs as they return to on-site learning and will ensure that teachers can use time to plan to make this return as positive and productive as possible.

## So to summarise;

Well done and good luck to our Year 12s. They still have some way to go, but are doing so well. Stay safe. And get ready and excited for a return to schooling on-site.

**Tim Natoli**  
Acting College Principal





# MY Campus Principal's Report

## Character Strengths

Our first two weeks of term have been dedicated to looking at **perseverance**. We know for many students, having to continue on with remote learning to begin the term has been challenging and equally so for families who are doing their best to support learning at home. For those who have persevered and continued to try, I commend your efforts. Ongoing perseverance will be important to bouncing back, even if it takes some time.

Our character strength focus for the next two weeks is **perspective**, which gives me a chance to highlight some things it is important for us to retain perspective about, while returning to school:

- Acknowledging achievements in remote learning is more important than focussing on what wasn't done.
- Returning to school will raise anxiety on some fronts (COVID-19 safety, work completion, social interaction, getting back into routine). We need to respect this, be kind and support individuals through it.
- Wearing masks, physically distancing where possible and maintaining good hygiene practices is a responsibility we can all meet, in order to limit anxiety around COVID-19 safety.
- While it has been another challenging year for learning we are in all likelihood leaving remote learning behind (for the last time) and can have some hope about getting back to "school as normal". I trust we won't be embodying this humorous quote I heard on a podcast recently:

"It's not the **despair**. I **can take** the **despair**. **It's the hope** I **can't stand**." ~ Brian Stimpson, Clockwise.

## MYC Return to onsite learning plan

In line with government announcements Year 7 will return full time from Tuesday 26 October and Year 8 & 9 will have four days onsite during the first two weeks of onsite learning (between 26/10 & 5/11). The days onsite for each year level are highlighted in green.

Monday 1/11 will be a normal school day for Year 7 students

### Week of 25 Oct

YEAR	Mon 25/10	Tues 26/10	Wed 27/10	Thur 28/10	Fri 29/10
7	CURRIC DAY				
8					
9					

### Week of 1 Nov

YEAR	Mon 1/11	Tues 2/11	Wed 3/11	Thur 4/11	Fri 5/11
7		CUP DAY			
8					
9					



# MY Campus Principal's Report

The plan of staggered days for Year 8 and 9 is to help support transition of all students back to onsite learning, based on the following thinking and logistics:

## Rationale:

- Maximise the opportunity to create a clear plan with students about how we continue to support bouncing back, after further disruptions (and subsequent regression).
- Stagger attendance days at two year-levels to minimise impacts of reduced stamina or heightened anxiety.
- Create opportunities for collegiate support in classrooms
- Create opportunities for reflection which focusses on school, class & individual plans to support bouncing back.

## Implementation:

- Our student leaders have been working with the Student Engagement Teams to incorporate student voice and engender further student buy-in. These plans will link to:
  - ⇒ Student voice activities in term 2 & 3
  - ⇒ College values and SWPBS matrix
  - ⇒ Student Engagement Model
- Remote learning will be self-directed learning/catch-up, in order to facilitate availability of additional staff to support on-site transition. A limited number of teachers may be able to make themselves available, but where this is the case, it will be communicated in instructions to students.
- Staff have agreed to be flexible in terms of working time and expectation in order to support this approach and I acknowledge this flexibility among so many other pressures.
- Significant input has come through student leaders and the student engagement leaders and I thank them for their ideas and support.
- While there will be some designated transition activities, the focus is on getting back into the normal routines of working in the classroom setting.
- This plan was presented to the Student Engagement and Wellbeing sub-committee of School Council for feedback and endorsement.

## Student reflection:

Classes will spend time reflecting on our school values, positive behaviours and their actions in line with our Student Engagement Model, with a focus on how they support each other to bounce-back. These class plans are designed to guide actions and progress throughout the remainder of the term.

Individual students will have reflection tasks to complete. These will be posted on the Pastoral -Google Classroom. It would be helpful where families can, to engage in conversations about the student's reflections, or at least check in to see students have completed these tasks.

Previous returns from remote learning have shown students can struggle to settle back into the work routines and social dynamics of the classroom. These class and individual reflections are important for maximising purposeful action and a sense of teamwork, in helping everyone get the best from the return to school.

I am really looking forward to seeing students and staff, back at school and working together to make the rest of the year enjoyable and productive.



# Senior Campus Principal's Report

Due to the ongoing level of community transmission of COVID-19, the Victorian Government has announced that only students studying a Year 12 subject can return to school and all other year levels will continue with remote learning. This has been good news for Year 12 students, and it has been great to see the school yard full of life again. This is an essential time of year for Year 12 students as they complete any unfinished work and prepare for their final assessments. The last day for Year 12 classes is next Tuesday 19 October. Year 12 students then have some study days before beginning their first exam on Wednesday 27 October. Unfortunately for students in other year levels, the return to on site learning will not be for a few more weeks and will be a staggered return. Please see information about this below. The Year 12 Celebration day has been rescheduled to Thursday 18 November 2021.

## General Achievement Test (GAT)

The GAT finally took place on Tuesday, 5 October 2021. This was very successful, and I thank all of the students for their compliance to wearing a mask and maintaining social distancing. A number of students were not able to sit the GAT as they were in isolation after attending a Tier 1 site. This has continued to be a pattern over the last two weeks with a number of students not able to attend school for this reason. With exams approaching, it is important that all students, whether on site or in isolation, prepare for these exams and practice past exam papers. This is the final few weeks of their secondary schooling so it's important to maintain focus.

## Celebration Day

As we now have over 100 year 12 students and a number of staff isolating it has been decided to postpone the Celebration Day, the date has been changed to Thursday 18 November. This is not a decision that has been taken lightly as we are aware of how much these year 12 students have missed but the risk of infection to the year 12 students a week before their first exam is very high. Tuesday 19 October will be their last day at school. I imagine a lot of students will be wearing their white shirts to get signed as a final goodbye.

## Year 10 and 11 students

For students in year 10 and 11, they can look forward to returning to school, at least for some days, in week 4. It is important for these students to complete as much of the set work as they can before they return and then staff will look at how best to support students that have had difficulty.

## Return to school

According to the *road map* out of lock down, students will have a staggered return to school. Year 12 students are currently on site with their last day of classes on Tuesday 19 October.

On Tuesday 26 October, all Year 7 and Year 11 students are expected to return on site and their will be no more remote learning for these groups of students. Year 8, 9 and 10 students will have a staggered return during the following two weeks (see the table below) with all students expected to be back on site on Friday 5 November.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
18 <sup>th</sup> October Only Yr 12 students on site for this week.	19 <sup>th</sup> October Last day of Year 12 classes	20 <sup>th</sup> October Year 12 Celebration Day	21 <sup>st</sup> October	22 <sup>nd</sup> October
25 <sup>th</sup> October Curriculum Day No classes	26 <sup>th</sup> October Yr 7 & 11 Students return full time Yr 8 students return for the day	27 <sup>th</sup> October Yr 12 Exams begin Yr 9 students return for the day	28 <sup>th</sup> October Yr 8 & 10 students return for the day	29 <sup>th</sup> October Yr 9 & 10 students return for the day
1 <sup>st</sup> November Yr 7 & 11 students only	2 <sup>nd</sup> November Melbourne Cup Public Holiday	3 <sup>rd</sup> November Yr 8 students return for the day	4 <sup>th</sup> November Yr 9 & 10 students return for the day	5 <sup>th</sup> November All students back full time

# College Report

## ALUMNI STORY: Vera Gore

*I am Vera, originally from Iraq. I migrated to Australia with my family late January in 2018. I enrolled in year 12 only two weeks after arriving in the country. I was a mature age student with limited English skills.*

*Moving to a new country, learning a new language, and enrolling in year 12 in the middle of February was extremely challenging to me. I wasn't familiar with the education system in Australia and had to teach myself everything to be on the same level as my cohort. I had to teach myself almost everything and that meant always putting in extra effort than anyone else to make sure I wasn't falling behind.*



*However, I was very lucky to enrol in Mill Park Secondary College. My teachers were very supportive and understanding of my situation. They were always ready to go the extra mile and helped bring me up to speed. My career advisors were equally supportive and helped me massively with my VTAC application. Through the support of my teachers and career advisors, I was offered two scholarships, one from Monash University and the other one from La Trobe University. In addition to supporting me with my education, my teachers and career advisors helped me overcome the adversity and challenges I was facing as a new migrant to the country.*

*I enrolled in a Bachelor of Accounting degree, minoring in Management and Forensic Accounting at La Trobe University. Today, I am in my final year out of a three-year degree. During the summer of 2019, I was lucky enough to secure an internship at UniSuper. I was offered a second internship in the summer of 2020 and in February 2021, I was offered a permanent role as an assistant accountant. I am currently working at UniSuper on a part-time basis as I finish my university degree and transition to a full-time role.*

*Reflecting back over the past almost four years, I am very grateful for every person that crossed my path and supported me through my journey. My journey at Mill Park Secondary College was short but full of beautiful memories. I am forever grateful for all the support I received from my teachers and career advisors. I am grateful for their faith in me as that was enough to get me not only up to speed but ahead of students at my level.*

## Mill Park Secondary College Alumni

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE OR ARE YOU A PREVIOUS MILL PARK  
SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN DOING SINCE  
LEAVING MPSC?

We would love to hear from you and share your story with our school community.  
Please contact Renee at [mill.park.sc@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:mill.park.sc@education.vic.gov.au)



# College Report



## Our stores are still open for Online orders and Click & Collect

If you place your online order by 11pm on Monday evenings we will have it prepared for despatch or contactless Click & Collect from our stores between 1pm and 5pm every Tuesday only. Delivery delays should be expected.

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

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

### **ENROLMENTS FOR 2022** **NOW OPEN!**

If you are interested in a position at our College in 2022 please head to our website via the following link to fill out our Enrolment Enquiry form: <https://www.millparksc.vic.edu.au/enrolment/>

Once we receive this we will contact you with further information.

Alternatively you can give us a call at the Middle Years Campus (Years 7-9) on 9407 9700 or Senior Campus (Years 10-12) on 9409 8222, or you can also email us at [mill.park.sc@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:mill.park.sc@education.vic.gov.au)

# 2022

## Enrolments

### Now Open

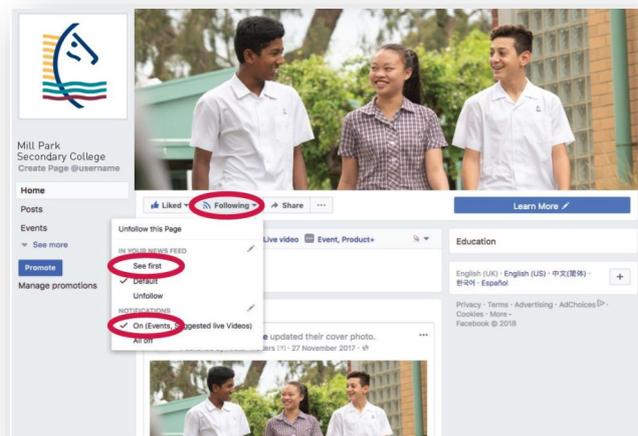


LIKE US at <https://www.facebook.com/millparksc/>

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)'.



## STUDENT WELLBEING



**National Mental Health Month** is an initiative of the Mental Health Foundation to advocate for and raise awareness of Australian mental health. The **2021 campaign theme is Post Pandemic Recovery Challenges and Resilience**. MHFA have various events occurring this month and can be found [here](#) – For convenience, here are the events calendar and wellbeing tips for the months



MHFA Event  
Calendar 2021.pdf



MHFA Wellbeing  
Calendar.pdf



Downloadable-Menta  
l-Health-Month-Calen

The **Blackdog Institute** are hosting several webinars relevant to professionals, parents, and students that you can register [here](#):

- **Insights:** 30 min presentation for students to increase mental health literacy, reduce stigma, and promote help seeking for young people
- **Mental Fitness:** 30 min presentation for students to learn practical positive psychology strategies to help build mental strength, resilience, and endurance.
- **Navigating your teen's mental health:** 45 min presentation for parents and/or carers of young people to learn how to spot early warning signs of mental health issues, when, and where to seek help, and how to support a young person they care about.

**Wellbeing Australia** promote the power of Random Acts of Kindness. You can watch this YouTube clip as well - <https://youtu.be/O9UByLyOjBM>

## STUDENT WELLBEING



As we commence Term 4, we also begin to prepare for the reopening of Victorian schools and staggered return onsite for students as per the [Victoria's Roadmap - School](#).

The Australian Psychological Society have some advice for parents and carers to support this which can be found [here](#). There are also a couple of other useful tips to help respond to your child's return to school stress.



Supporting-Children-Returning-to-School-



Return to School Stress.pdf

A summary of above information includes:

- **Normalise anxiety** including changes and uncertainty
- **Don't assume** how your child has been/is feeling as everyone has different experience during lockdown
- **Model calmness**
- **Listen and validate** concerns
- **We don't have all the answers** and better not to pretend that we do
- **Limit news** and address misinformation
- **Limit reassurance giving** and replace with listening and asking what they think and what they think will help – encourage your child to ask questions, support problem solving skills to build tolerance to uncertainty and develop growth mindset
- **Focus on possible strategies** – what helps, what might help transition back, what can be immediately done
- **Defer worries** – set a 'worry time' vs worrying all day
- **Re-establish normal routines in the lead up to school** - encourage return to a routine including sleep, study, leisure routines. Make any new routines at school clear and fun
- **Contact the school** with any worries or concerns before return to school
- **Prepare your child** for changes to usual school processes e.g., covid safe protocols/system, stick with small groups of friends, etc
- **Use rewards** (age appropriate and inexpensive) in and out of school to manage your child's anxiety about getting to and managing school
- **Self-care:** encourage healthy nutrition, exercising, do things they enjoy, spend time with others.
- **Self-compassion:** It takes time to adapt to lockdown and it will take time to adapt back – encourage to **GO EASY ON ONESELF**