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## 2021 Term Dates

Term 1: 1 Feb to 1 Apr

Term 2: 19 Apr to 25 Jun

Term 3: 12 Jul to 17 Sep

Term 4: 4 Oct to 3 Dec

## Campus Contacts

Rosebud 5986 4623

Mornington 5977 2976

Hastings 5979 1398

## Absentee Reporting

Rosebud 0439 554 119

Mornington 0439 014 666

Hastings 0437 125 858

## Links

[Advance College Web Site](#)

[VCAL FAQ's](#)

[Youth Central](#)

## Message from the Principal

This is the fourth and final Principal's Message for 2020. The year has been a huge challenge for all and especially our school community. The challenges of a changing workplace, preparation and implementation of the two periods of on line delivery, return to on-site learning, working from home, heightened hygiene/infection risk control have all been met admirably by all staff. The upcoming Christmas break will be well-earned by all.

Student graduation celebrations are planned for the end of the year but unfortunately without parents or other guests. Events will be low key and campus based rather than having our usual graduation event.

An agreement has been struck with Chisholm to enable our students to access the Caroline Chisholm Foundation scholarship fund to pay the tuition fees for their Vocational Education and Training (VET) in School program for 2021 and beyond. This will benefit students next year as it will greatly increase their VET options. I would like to convey my gratitude to the Chisholm Foundation for their support.

It is pleasing to see we now have a full complement of teaching staff with two VIT registered teachers at each site. This is something we have aimed for but only achieved since the start of Term 4 this year. All of our staff have indicated their long term commitment to Advance College which will facilitate a strong team strength and consistency.

Referrals for enrolments continue and, projecting student numbers for next year, we may start the year at full capacity with a significant waiting list. Next year will also see our Senior VCAL have the highest student enrolments ever. This, I believe, is an indication of two things:

- 1 - students want to stay at our school; and
- 2 - options for school leavers are limited, possibly due to the pandemic.

A major development that has occurred this year has been the purchase of a block of land opposite TAFE (6 Henry Wilson Drive) for a new Rosebud campus. As has been the trend for the last few years, the demand on our current Rosebud campus has been significant with an extensive waiting list. This year we have been preparing to build a new, purpose-built, state-of-the-art, facility with plans and permits now all in place. I am delighted to announce that construction will commence in January next year with a scheduled completion by September. At this stage, it looks like we could be relocating before Term 4, 2021. Plans are now on display at the Rosebud campus.

The last day of school for our Foundation and Intermediate students will be November 3 with staff finishing the year on December 16.

All students will return for Term One on Monday, February 1, 2021.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of our school community – students and their families, our staff and Board members and all those who have supported Advance College throughout 2020. Have a great Christmas/New Year and stay safe and well. I look forward to, what promises to be, a very exciting and, hopefully Covid-free 2021.

Steve Wright (Principal)

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# Students reflect on the year 2020

## **2020 reflection, Life as a graduating year 12 student in the midst of a pandemic!**

After finishing up at a mainstream school in 2019, I was beyond excited to start my next chapter as a Senior VCAL student at Advance College. I started in late December 2019 in the kick-start program, where I got a taste of what school life was going to be like at Advance.

I can tell you that I loved it from my first impression and made me glad I chose this pathway. I felt like I belonged somewhere at a place where people cared about your health and wellbeing.

Not long into the start of 2020 the world had changed. This saw a change in the way school would be delivered, and let me tell you I was not a fan of it....

That change was online learning from home. A lot of challenges and emotions came from this change as it was hard to adapt to school life at home. I found it hard to focus and get work done as I needed to be in a school environment.

We finally got to go back mid-year, but it didn't last long which saw us go back to online learning. I told myself I would try to attempt and do online learning, which I did and it made me proud of how hard I worked and the effort I put in.

As time went on, lockdown was taking its toll, I started losing all motivation and hope of passing and achieving anything. But something changed and from all the hard work of Victorians, COVID19 eased in Victoria. I finally got my license, which took a lot of time and effort, I finally got back to work and making money again and being around people that made me happy.

Going back to school and being in a classroom felt like winning the lottery. I told myself I would put 110% effort in finishing all my work so I could pass and feel like I had accomplished something. I set out to achieve that goal, and now, I write this letter today, as a graduating year 12 student, class of 2020.

It is crazy to think 13 years of schooling is done, and I am so grateful for all the support I have received from teachers, peers and family to get me to where I am today.

At times I questioned why a virus and why 2020? But I learnt along the way, that you can't change things that're out of your hands, sometimes you just have to accept a situation and make the best out of it. I learnt to be patient, because good things comes to those who wait. It made me realise how important people are and you can't take them for granted.

Although 2020 wasn't the year I planned, it definitely was a year of change, acceptance and patience. Which has made me see life differently. I move on now, to go and complete my Diploma in Early Childhood and continue my part time job at the carwash.

Thank you to everyone at Advance who made the year fun and a year never to forget.

**LILY MERCURI**

My first impression of Advance, was like wow this seems like a breeze!

Everyone was so nice and welcoming. My first year at Advance was at the Mornington campus and we played lots of games and activities to keep our motivation up. With the Mornington campus being so open, we got to read outside or kick the footy when we needed to relax.

I finished the year well and completed all my projects. I then completed year 12 at the Rosebud campus as it was closer to home. The year was very crazy with the whole COVID stuff and the hiccups with internet and computers, but we managed to get through it. Year 12 was a good year as I finished all my work so at the end I wasn't stressed and am looking forward to what's next.

**HANAH O'CONNELL**

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## Message from the Psychologist

Advance is committed to the wellbeing of our students, and encourages all to look after their mental health and safety over the end of year break.

E-safety: If you are a parent interested in information about helping keep your child safe online, please check out webinars on the website of the e-safety commissioner. You can also register there for a webinar on Feb 9 2021 – 'Safer Internet Day' - <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars>.

Headspace Hastings is now co-located with Atticus Health Medical Clinic Hastings. You can contact them through Hastings-Dandenong team on 1800 367 968. Headspace Rosebud is contactable on 5925 9464.

Please feel free to contact me before December 16 if you would like to discuss further.

Julia,  
School Psychologist

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## Parents' Guide to Social Media

Social media and the many apps that fill the internet have become a minefield. No longer are growing kids just using Facebook and YouTube in their spare time, the rise of apps such as TikTok, Snapchat and Instagram has meant young Australians are now using many different sources to communicate with the world.

We've compiled a summary of what the most popular social media apps are in Australia currently and how they can become dangerous for unaware users. We've chosen to omit Facebook and Facebook Messenger because they are already widely known and used by people of all ages.

### **What should parents be wary of with Instagram?**

As a whole, Instagram can be a safe app to use if privacy settings are implemented — you can keep your account on private so that people have to request to follow you and see your posts. Certain profiles remain public, meaning anyone can follow them and interact. Due to Instagram coming under Facebook's ownership, similar privacy issues regarding data usage plague the app, but not to the same extent as Facebook. Other potential issues include inappropriate posts or behaviour between users, but this problem exists across all the main social networking apps around the world.

### **What should parents be wary of with Snapchat?**

The main issue surrounding Snapchat is the way it is used. For the majority of users, Snapchat is a safe and fun way of talking to friends, but unsuitable practice means sexting is an issue. Users are known to send inappropriate content thinking it will disappear, despite data privacy being a massive problem and recipients being able to screenshot and distribute images received. The 'Snap Maps' feature requires users to allow location services, meaning the app shows exactly where you are at any given time.

### **What should parents be wary of with TikTok?**

TikTok is all public and doesn't offer the privacy of other apps. If a video is out published, many people may see it — it's the goal of most creators to reach as many people as possible. This can open users up to stranger-danger and privacy violation if inappropriate content is produced. Some challenges posted by users are also dangerous, meaning teenagers should be wary of what they try to recreate. Security concerns regarding how the data is used by the corporation is rife at the moment — at the time of writing, many countries (such as the US) are considering banning the app, and Australia has cited fears about where the app's data goes.

Lastly, there have been discrimination issues for the company, who have reportedly taken down content from disabled users or others posting about political situations. Users can be opened up to bullying, and may develop an unhealthy view of beauty norms when becoming addicted to the app.

### **What should parents be wary of with YouTube?**

Although there is a lot of explicit content on YouTube, the company has done a great job in instilling privacy filters that require users to prove their age in order to watch certain videos. The main issue is that YouTube is addictive, really addictive (not unlike TikTok)!

Make sure your kid isn't trapped watching videos late into the night, as it can become unhealthy. Much like TikTok, creators also open themselves up to nasty cyber bullying, as videos are usually made public.

### **What should parents be wary of with Houseparty?**

Usage of app has dropped since reports came out about hacking problems resulting in bank accounts and other social media accounts being infiltrated. This app is probably a no-go for teen users, unless they know how to block these attacks.

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## Important Dates

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November – Last day for Senior students

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Last day for Foundation and Intermediate students


Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 – Term 1 commences

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 The Newsletter is one of the methods of communication with our school community – but don't forget to check out our school website - [www.advancecollege.vic.edu.au](http://www.advancecollege.vic.edu.au)

and Facebook page –

<https://www.facebook.com/AdvanceVCAL/>

 Advance College can facilitate accredited training in short courses such as Food Handling. It also runs beginner computer classes and career guidance programs. Please check [www.advance.vic.edu.au](http://www.advance.vic.edu.au) or call your local campus for further details.

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