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2021 Term Dates

- Term 1: 28 Jan to 1 Apr
- Term 2: 19 Apr to 25 Jun
- Term 3: 12 Jul to 17 Sep
- Term 4: 4 Oct to 17 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
- Mornington Peninsula Youth Directory

Message from the Principal

Welcome to our Term 3 Newsletter.

It never ceases to amaze me how resilient our students and staff are. Going through six lockdowns of more than 200 days in total has been challenging to say the least. The feedback I am getting from both students and staff has been surprisingly positive with steady progress in all teaching and learning areas being made. Staff have supported all students with their learning and, more importantly at this stage, with their wellbeing.

As part of the College's vaccination program, both the Meningococcal and Covid-19 vaccines will be available this Term. I strongly encourage all those who are eligible to get vaccinated as soon as possible. The College will be offering the opportunity for students, their families and all staff to receive the Pfizer vaccination, at each campus, as soon as it becomes available. You are welcome to take up this opportunity, especially if you are having difficulty accessing it through other means. If you would like further information or would like to register for either or both, please email ace@advance.vic.edu.au or call the College.

Over the last 12 months there has been a major review of the VCAL program culminating in the release of the Firth Review. It will see the introduction of two new certificates – one at the Year 10 level and one at the Year 11/12 level. The VCAL qualification will be phased out over the next two years. We are hopeful that the new qualifications are a significant improvement to student outcomes and their overall educational experiences. More information is included later in this Newsletter.

As remote learning continues, a wide range of extra support resources are available to help parents and carers support their students with home schooling. The Independent Schools of Victoria (ISV) Parent Support web site is a popular resource, with an extensive list of fun and educational activities for kids at home, drawing on resources from around the world. It also provides an expertly-selected, range of news, features and resources for parents on raising and educating children.

Items on the site specifically related to the impact of COVID include an article with advice for parents on supporting their children when they're learning from home; another has practical tips on dealing with the family struggles in stay-at-home lives. The Parents Website maintains a broad focus, well beyond the pandemic. Recent topics include a discussion on the expectations of manhood placed on boys and their fathers, and academic research on the impact of screen time on the mental health of children.

To access the Website, click theparentswebsite.com.au
For the Facebook Page click [theparentswebsite](https://www.facebook.com/theparentswebsite)

The new Rosebud Campus building is well underway and is on track to be ready for the start of the 2022 school year. It will allow for an increase in enrolments and provide state-of-the-art educational facilities. Progress photos can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Again, a big commendation must go out to all our staff, students, parents and carers for their endurance through the pandemic.

Steve Wright (Principal)

VETiS

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is that time of year where we need to gather students' Expressions of Interest for their VETiS preferences for 2022.

What is VETiS?

Vocational Education and Training in Schools (VETiS) focuses on delivering qualifications to provide students with the skills and knowledge required for specific industries. Students must undertake VETiS as part of their school studies when enrolled in a VCAL qualification. VETiS may be delivered by a school registered training organisation (RTO) or by an external RTO. Alternatively, students can undertake a qualification through a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship (SBAT).

We are currently speaking with students about their preferences for 2022 and will email out relevant VETiS and SBAT course information to students, parents and carers. If you have any questions regarding VETiS please contact Rachel on 0439 997 889 or email : rachel.d@advance.vic.edu.au or visit the GET VET website:

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Documents/vet/GetVET/GETVET.pdf>

Senior Secondary Certificate Reform

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 neighboring 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

If you would like to talk further about these changes please contact the College Principal.

Mental Health Support

It can feel like groundhog day in Victoria at the moment, in the midst of lockdown number 6. You may have heard of the idea of 'lockdown fatigue' and experienced this sense of being tired of being restricted from the normal freedoms of seeing loved ones and going to your favourite places. What I am finding anecdotally and speaking to colleagues in mental health, is that young people seem to be experiencing more distress and negative mental health impacts than adults in the current lockdown. Young people crave time with peers, and time to explore their independence and freedom - and this is key to their development. Unfortunately, our young people are missing out on this at the moment. Adults may be better equipped with the reassuring knowledge that 'this will pass' whereas our children may find this perspective harder to see.

As we are all getting more screen time than ever, consider talking with your young person about putting their phone out of sight while studying, switching off the notification tones, and listening to music to help focus. Perhaps the whole family could consider allocating some phone-free time? Here is an article on you might find helpful about stopping 'digital distractions'.

<https://drkristygoodwin.com/stop-digital-distractions-diverting-your-screenagers-focus/>

I am aware many psychiatrists, psychologists and counsellors are busy at the moment and may have long waiting times for appointments. However, there are also some great online options for mental health support available.

One example is the **Brave Program** for the treatment of anxiety. There is a program for 8-12 year olds, 12-17 year olds, and an option for parents to sign in and collaborate with their young person.

- <https://brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au/>

e-Headspace offers free online and phone counselling to young people aged 12-25. There is 'Group Chat' or 1 on 1 confidential counselling options.

<https://headspace.org.au/eheadspace/>

Please reach out to the school to speak to me if you would like further guidance on supporting you and your family.

Julia McLeish
Psychologist

Protecting Children

Roles and Responsibilities

Protecting children is everyone's responsibility; parents, communities, governments and businesses all have a role to play.

Most children are protected and cared for within their own families. However, there are times when parents, carers or guardians may have difficulty providing care for, or are unwilling or unable to protect their children from harm. In these circumstances, it becomes the responsibility of the wider community to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the child.

Role of School Staff

As professionals who work with children, teachers and other school staff play a vital role in protecting children from harm. They are well placed to observe signs or behaviours that may indicate risks of child abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Although some school staff are mandatory reporters and must report risks of physical or sexual abuse of children, all staff are expected to make a report about any type of child abuse to the relevant authorities as part of their legal duty of care.

In fulfilling their duty of care, they must take reasonable steps to protect all students from risks of reasonably foreseeable harm.

They also have obligations under the new criminal offences of 'Failure to Protect' and 'Failure to Disclose'.

 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

Facebook - www.facebook.com/Advance.CollegeVIC

Instagram – www.instagram.com/advance.college

 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 or call your local campus for further details.

 Youth Directory - <https://www.mpchildandyouthdirectory.com.au/news>

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