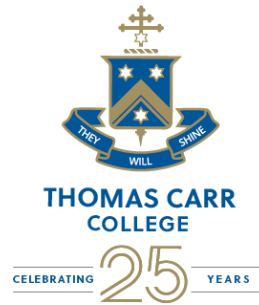


Volume 25 Issue 11: July 23, 2021

From the Principal

Mr Holmes

“They Will Shine”



Dear Families

I thank you the families of our College for your resilience and support in this online learning environment that we continue to embrace during periods of lockdown. We are closely monitoring current learning as students are undertaking LEARNING@HOME. Our Year 12 students remain a particular focus and all students accelerating this year undertaking a Unit 3 / 4 subject in Year 11.

We received the following advice today from the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority:

General Achievement Test (GAT)

The General Achievement Test (GAT) has been rescheduled to **Thursday 12 August 2021**.

The rescheduling of the GAT allows schools time to organise logistics and put COVIDSafe protocols in place so the GAT can be delivered in line with relevant health and safety requirements.

It's important that as many students as possible have the opportunity to sit the GAT. The new date will allow students who are currently impacted by school closures, quarantine and the need to self-isolate to participate in the test.

The health, wellbeing and safety of students and staff is our top priority during this time. We are working closely with the Department of Education and Training, the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria, Independent Schools Victoria and the Department of Health to make sure schools are provided with clear and up-to-date advice about arrangements for conducting and administering the GAT.

We will provide specific operational and administration advice on running the GAT, including COVID-19 related health and safety advice as soon as possible.

As a College we continue to plan towards the future and have concluded some garden and pathway refurbishment to the front of the College Library, increasing green spaces, better traffic flow and passive recreational seating. This is a taste of what is to come with our new College building master plan that will see the construction of a new senior building in 2022. We are positive about our future and excited about what we can do for our students as a learning organisation.

Stay strong, stay safe and remember we are people of faith enriched by membership to a Catholic school.

COMING EVENTS	
Monday 26 to Tuesday 27 July	LEARNING@HOME Continues. Moving forward: Pending Government Announcements re: Victorian Lockdown
Wednesday 28 July	Learning Pathways Expo - Online Year 9 Families @ 6.30pm
Wednesday 28 July	Learning Pathways Expo - Online Year 10 Families @ 7.30pm
Wednesday 4 August	Subject Selection PIN (Middle School) <i>Time and venue to be confirmed via Operoo & social media</i>
Thursday 12 August 2021	GAT (General Achievement Test) 10am to 1.15pm
Friday 5 August (PM)	Vinnies Community & School Sleepout – Online



College Theme for 2021
“We have this HOPE as an anchor for the soul firm and secure”

Hebrews 6:19

College Vision

Thomas Carr College is a dynamic Catholic learning community, guided by the Gospel. Excellence and opportunities to develop are pursued. Through our hope and service to others we shine our light into the world.

Prayer

Merciful God,
Open my heart and mind to be fully present to those I interact with throughout the day.
Allow me to listen to others without passing judgement or haste to solve what I cannot change.
Give me patience and understanding and grant me grace in my shortcomings.
Be with me in times of fatigue and lift me up with the strength to carry out your compassionate love to all those I meet.

Amen.

From the Deputy Principal of Organisation & Wellbeing

Ms Angelico

The Assumption Term

I trust that our students had a refreshing break and that some time was spent reflecting on semester one as well as preparing for semester two.

We find ourselves LEARNING@HOME again, nevertheless, we have well established processes and routines to support our students and ensure that their learning experiences are uninterrupted. We rely on students maintaining their focus and ensuring that they keep up their routines, as though they are still attending face to face classes. If you have any concerns, please reach out to the relevant teachers or Year Level Co-ordinators.

The Assumption Term requires us to continue our focus on the learning opportunities and events planned for this year, while also planning for 2022. Over the next few weeks, there is a major emphasis on the subject selection process for Year 7-11 and preparation for university or other pathways for our Year 12 students.

As we continue to work together in our three-way partnership, we can support our students to succeed despite the challenges we face. It is essential that students and parents keep a keen eye on the various forms of communication from the College so that important information is not missed.

Unfortunately, some events may not be able to take place. We will endeavour to move as much as possible to online platforms. We have learnt over the past 18 months that we need to be agile and respond to our changing circumstances as best we can, while remaining positive and optimistic.

See below two important sources of support for families from Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) and from the eSafety Commissioner.

Free Webinar: Supporting your child's learning and help to get their spark back!

MACS is pleased to present Andrew Fuller - Clinical Psychologist, Author and Family Therapist

Monday 26 @ 1-2pm or Tuesday 27 July @ 5.30 - 6.30pm

Each webinar is capped at 500 participants and are not able to be recorded.

The uncertainty of 2020/21 have left families feeling anxious and perhaps a little overwhelmed. Andrew Fuller is holding a webinar which is applicable to every family and empowers parents to guide their children (and themselves) towards success.

Details:

Monday 26 July 26 @ 1 - 2pm

Register for tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/support-your-childs-learning-and-help-get-their-spark-back-3-tickets-163955391991>

OR

Tuesday 27 July 27 @ 5.30 - 6.30pm

Register for tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/support-your-childs-learning-and-help-get-their-spark-back-2-tickets-163954894503>

Andrew's webinar will help parents with practical tips and show them how to get their kids find their particular learning strengths and identifying 10 things highly successful students do to study. He will also help parents to deal with the after-effects of 20/21 with tips and information on how to overcome anxiety in children. Andrew Fuller combines the latest research from brain science, positive education and resilience to create strength-based education. There will be a presentation and then the opportunity for parents to ask questions directly.

Online Safety

The eSafety Commissioner provides opportunities for parents to be more engaged in their children's safety online through a series of webinars on specific topics that are challenging for parents to monitor and manage. The following information has been



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CELEBRATING **25** YEARS



Year 7 White Prayer Mandalas



provided to support parents and caregivers in their efforts to keep their children safe online.

eSafety's parent guide to online sexual harassment and image-based abuse

Free webinar for parents and carers of secondary school students. 1 in 3 young women and 1 in 5 young men have experienced online sexual harassment. When young people experience this type of online harassment and abuse it can have serious impacts. This webinar is designed for parents and young people to attend together to learn how to report and where to go for support.

eSafety's parent guide to popular apps

Free webinar for parents and carers of primary and secondary school students. Understand the risks when using apps like Tik Tok, Snap Chat, YouTube and Instagram. This webinar also covers strategies for staying safer on social media and how to report if something goes wrong.

Visit esafety.gov.au for more information on parent webinars and to register.



From the Deputy Principal of Learning and Teaching

Mr Bryson

In response to COVID-19, we have been impressed by the tireless action (of schools and their teachers) to address the emergency needs of students and families. We are deeply encouraged by the growing desire to seize the opportunity to focus on the deep purpose of education through the twin pillars of wellbeing and learning.

Source: Adapted from Education Reimagined (Fullan, 2020)

As we begin the Assumption Term and continue through another period of remote and flexible learning, I would take this opportunity to acknowledge the way all members of our community have responded to the continuing impact of COVID-19. I share the above quote written by a key figure in education across the world, Michael Fullan, as our commitment and ability to have students engage and remain connected with their learning continues to define our approach to supporting the learning and wellbeing needs of our students throughout this time.

Drawing upon our College theme for this year, we also we also acknowledge the challenges faced by all members of our community during this time, and I encourage all of us to continue to look forward with a strong sense of hope and I wish all our students the best for the term ahead.

LEARNING@HOME

In response to the announcement that the current lockdown restrictions would continue for another seven days, please note the following information relating to the changes for schools:

Remote and flexible learning will continue through the College's LEARNING@HOME program for students with the return of onsite classes planned for Wednesday 28 July. Students are encouraged to check their timetable on SIMON and Class Pages for lesson details.

Updated information has been posted on the Daily Messages section on SIMON including a checklist that students may use to ensure that they are fully prepared to ENGAGE and CONNECT with their learning throughout LEARNING@HOME.

We appreciate your understanding throughout this time, and we will continue to keep you updated on all relevant information.

In the meantime, please check Operoo and PAM for regular updates.

Tutor Learning Program

The College's Tutor Learning Program will continue during this period of remote learning. Tutors will contact teachers to access their classes via MS TEAMS and create a



VCE Religion & Society visit Australian Catholic University



channel to continue to provide targeted literacy and numeracy to students support during scheduled classes.

Students will also be contacted informing them that additional support will also be available during scheduled times outside of timetabled classes. This will continue as per the current after-school arrangements on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. If you have any questions about the online support these students will receive as part of the College's Tutor Learning Program, please contact Mr. Timothy Ong (Literacy) and Ms. Claire Warner (Numeracy).

All other questions relating to this program can be directed to Mr. Nick Ambrozy (Director of Learning and Teaching – Middle School), Ms. Geraldine McIntyre (Director of Learning and Teaching – Senior School) or Mr. Andrew Bryson (Deputy Principal – Learning and Teaching).

2022 Subject Selection

Students across all year levels are in the process of working through the discernment phase of selecting subjects for next year. Unfortunately, due to the recent changes to the start of this term and the return to remote learning this process has been adapted with several key events including assemblies and parent information evenings required to be held online using MS TEAMS.

Please note the following changes to the Learning Pathways Expo (Parent Information Night). This event has been rescheduled to Wednesday 28 July and will now be held online as an information session for students and parents to view.

Year 10 2022 subject information for current Year 9 students (6.30pm to 7.15pm).
Year 11 2022 subject information for current Year 10 students (7.30pm to 8.15pm).

A number of universities and other tertiary providers will also be available online during the above times to provide key information to students and families. Further information will be made available to students and families outlining these changes and how to access this information.

At this stage, the Parent Information Night for current Year 8 students and families will held onsite at the College on Wednesday 4 August (7pm). If there are any changes to this, we will keep you updated and ask that you please check Operoo and PAM for any changes to this event.

Learning Areas are also in the process of providing additional information and subject-specific presentations to further showcase the subjects offered at each year level. This information will be shared with students as they continue to explore possible subjects and future pathway options for next year.

In the meantime, students may wish to access the current 2021 Subject Handbooks available on the College website under Learning and Teaching. Students are also encouraged to see their subject teacher or Homeroom Teachers with any questions and to begin discussing possible subjects and future pathways for 2022.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)

Every year, all schools in Australia participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). The NCCD process requires schools to identify information already available in the school about supports provided to students with disability. These relate to legislative requirements under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005*, in line with the *NCCD guidelines* (2019). The NCCD will have no direct impact on your child and your child will not be involved in any testing process. The school will provide data to the Australian Government in such a way that no individual student will be able to be identified – the privacy and confidentiality of all students is ensured. For more information, please refer to the attached letter.

If you have any questions about the NCCD, please contact Jeanette Shine, Learning Diversity Leader.



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Applications are available from the Fr Ray Administration Centre or by email: registrar@thomascarr.vic.edu.au or phone: (03) 8734 2444. **Applications close August 20, 2021.**



Stay home if sick and get tested



Even if you have mild cold or flu-like symptoms

From the Head of Senior School

Mrs Sheridan

Learning is a lifelong journey. Last weekend I learnt my oven door's glass panel could actually be removed for cleaning. I have had this oven for more than a few years and the effort to clean this glass panel has become bigger in my mind than it ought to be. My husband saw my struggle when he came in from doing a bit of work up the side of the house. He asked me why I didn't just take the panel out and clean it on the bench to make it easier? Such are the joys of learning during lockdown weekends.

Over the past holiday period I travelled with my youngest 2 children (18 and 16 years old) and husband to Lake Mungo National Park in NSW. It has been on my bucket list for more than 2 decades so a little Covid-19 test upon return from a remote Orange Zone for us all, was not going to deter me. What a personal learning journey. This is the place where the oldest human remains [called "Mungo Man"] in Australia and the earliest evidence of ritual burial ceremonies ["Mungo Woman"] have been found. To stand on the same ground that the earliest of our First Nation's people inhabited was a moment of awe for me. Humans have done so much to each other and our planet over those intervening millennia but in this place, there had been another human standing exactly where I was today. He was about my age when he died riddled with arthritis nearly 45,000 years ago. Such a power of the human journey over time. What was once a thriving lake is now a desert. How much we have lost – environmentally and culturally in those years too.

My youngest son learnt that mum's music taste is not all bad and my 18-year-old got lots of extra driving hours for his Ls. Not learning needs to be profound. Not all learning comes from books. What are our senior students learning inside and outside their classroom?



From the Head of Middle School

Mr Rowe

I am once again going to avoid the temptation to write about Covid-19, lockdowns and other current events that seem like a bad aftertaste of 2020. Instead, I am going to share something positive that came out of 2020 and is still here in 2021, the Olympic Games.

I can still remember the first time I became invested in the Olympics, it was the Atlanta '96 games and I was in Grade 3 in primary school. I was amazed at the spectacle and how the games just engulfed the attention of everyone and everything for the time it was on. I can still vividly remember some of the highlights from those games. Kieran Perkins, an underdog given no chance to medal by the international media won Gold from lane 8 by body lengths. I vividly remember the lows, like Shane Kelly, a reigning world champion cyclist who was the hot favourite to win the gold medal in the time trial. In the event, his foot slipped from the bike's pedal whilst starting and his race was ruined, the devastation and disappointment was clearly visible to me, even as a 9-year-old.

This is what I love about sports and the Olympics, they provide us moments that are bigger than just sporting triumphs or disappointments, they are lessons that shape us, and who we want to be. Watching Muhammed Ali light the flame inside the stadium has stuck with me forever, watching the greatest who had been fighting his biggest battle ever, show his strength of will to stand in front of the world and struggle to light the flame. It is easy for someone who lives and loves sport to find meaning in events like this, to look at the hard work and perseverance of Kieran Perkins as inspiration to work hard for your goals. I can look at Shane Kelly and think about the resilience and self-motivation to comeback from such disappointment. I am sure we can all see the look back at Muhammed Ali as the incredible boxer who stood for what he believed in and fought many battles in and out of the ring, the image of him lighting the flame with his arm shaking uncontrollably from Parkinson's disease showing his mental strength that has gone hand in hand with his physical throughout his career. These easily found messages are not the reason I am writing about the Olympics though.

I believe the Olympics Games, much like music, theatre, art, poetry and other cultural pursuits are essential, because they are absolutely not essential. It is a choice that indi-



Mungo Man was first discovered in 1974 by Geologist Dr Jim Bowler at the banks of Lake Mungo within the Bairnald Shire. The discovery and subsequent research conducted by world renowned archaeologist Dr Alan Thorne changed our understanding of the antiquity of human occupation in Australia setting it back beyond 40,000 years.

After spending more than 40 years in Canberra, Mungo Man's long awaited Return to Country acknowledges the Aboriginal Australians as the oldest living culture on Earth and the oldest modern humans outside of Africa and one of the first expressions of spiritual consciousness in humankind. The ancestral spirit of Mungo Man is about the soul of a culture, and reminder that the spirituality & essence of a culture goes far beyond skeletal remains.



viduals make to dedicate and commit themselves so entirely that produces these globally shared positive experiences in a truly inclusive and international way. What I am trying to articulate is that when we marvel at the spectacle that is the Olympics, or other cultural pursuits, we do so in admiration of the choices that others have made. My hope is that this inspires those in our community to do the same, whatever their pursuit is.

From St James The Apostle Parish

Father Jude Pirotta MSSP

Dear Craig, Parents, Guardians, Teachers, Students and Support Staff,
This Sunday we celebrate the feast St James the Apostle, patron saint of our parish. This provides us with an opportunity to look back and give thanks for the vision and loving service of our pioneers and welcome those who have recently joined our parish community. It is also a time for us to pause and give thanks, for the struggles and joys of the past and to look forward in hope to our future.

We remember those who for some time were part of the journey with us and have now either died or now form part of other parishes. We remember those who are struggling under the weight of isolation that these COVID lockdowns are imposing on us.

Our patron St James had to learn the importance of servant leadership; Jesus reminded him that he ought not get caught in the trappings of the earthly understanding of rankings, but that serving others is how we are called to love our neighbours. As missionary disciples may we find strength in the zeal James showed in following Christ, and imitate his courage as we continue to spread the faith in these present times.

Please join us for our Feast Day Mass online, which will be live streamed on Sat 24 July at 6pm. Link will be on the front page of the Parish website (<https://www.stjamesapostlehcn.com.au>) to either YouTube or Facebook.

On behalf of Fr Silvio and the parish council may I take this opportunity to thank you all for your hard work in passing on the faith to our children and parish families.

I wish you all a very happy and blessed feast of St James.

Fr Jude Pirotta mssp - Parish Priest

From the Director of International Programs

Mr Bridges

We believe that international connections are of great importance so that our students develop a global outlook!

That's why this year for the 10th straight year, Thomas Carr Co-hosted the 2021 VCE Transnational Conference with Firkbank Grammar and Caroline Chisholm College. The conference was the initiative of Thomas Carr College 10 years ago and has grown in stature; this year bringing together 150 educators across two venues in Shanghai and Melbourne along with a further 850 participants online.

With the theme 'Reimagine, Reposition and Reengage,' the conference was opened by the Hon. James Merlino, Deputy Premier and Minister for Education and supported by a range of other educators including the CEO of the VCAA, Mr Stephen Gniel.

[Click here to watch James Merlino's Welcome video](#)

Congratulations to our Senior VCE Teacher Mentors who delivered a fantastic series of sessions covering the ins and outs of their VCE studies! The College is one of 7 Victorian schools working in collaboration with offshore schools, providing the opportunity for our staff to collaborate and become experts in their field.



Minister Merlino VCE Transnational Conference

From the Year 9 Indonesian Teacher

Ms Shaw

Making Batik. Reflection by Mia Whitfield

During class, we were given time to design our batik, which we then traced onto our cloth. We were encouraged to create a design that was appealing to us, some components of our designs include flowers, leaves, line art and shape patterns.

To make the batik, we used a canting tool to draw our pattern onto the cloth using melted wax. After we had finished applying all of the wax, we then had the opportunity to dye some parts of our batik design using a brush. We were able to use a wide variety of colours and also had the option to blend colours, which allowed us to be creative with our designs. After we dyed the entire batik cloth, we ironed off the wax and we were left with our finished batik!

I loved this experience of making batik, it was challenging at first, but we ended up with amazing designs!



From the Religious Education & Communications Teacher

Ms Trotman

2021 Australian Catholics Young Journalist Award

During the beginning of the Pentecost Term, Religious Education students from years 7-9 were asked to reflect on an issue that sparks passion and intrigue in them. The theme for this year's Young Journalist Award was 'Your chance to be heard', providing students with a platform to use their voice to make a difference in the world. Our students took this opportunity to investigate many important issues that will resonate with their peers and community, including Climate Change, Equality, Immigration and Homelessness. A selection of these stories was entered into the Young Voice Awards. This competition is highly competitive, with hundreds of Catholic schools across Australia also submitting entries.

Our students did exceptionally well this year, with seven of our students at Thomas Carr College being recognised for their outstanding contributions in the Intermediate Section of this Award. Including one student selected with an Honourable Mention in the Intermediate Section.

We congratulate the following students:

- Honourable Mention - Kayllen Bala 8 White
- Highly commended - Thaila Smith 8 White
- Highly commended - Rhys Are 7 White
- Highly commended - Aiden D'Souza 9 Silver
- Highly commended - Cyrus Morales 9 Silver
- Highly commended - Jessica Connor 9 White
- Highly commended - Mia Whitefield 9 White

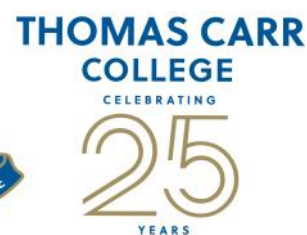


From the College Board

Mr Gilbert Menezes, St James Parish Representative

The College Board met online, Tuesday May 25th 2021. Mr. Holmes delivered the Principal's report and listed the 2021 College Priorities being POL Review, Master Plan, School (SIF/VRQA) Review, Tutoring Program / Data and Literacy Initiative, Model of Instructional Practice and VCE Results. Mr. Holmes acknowledged the celebration of 25th Anniversary Mass with Archbishop Comensoli, past Priests and current Parish Priests associated with the College, past Principals, staff and board members to this great event. The 25th Anniversary is an important milestone for the College to forge a successful path to maturity as a Catholic School.

Mr Knaggs presented the Board with the College finance and draft audit reports indicating that the School's management & accounting systems are robust & effective. The Board recognised and thanked Mr Holmes and the entire College team for their vision and contribution to the continuous development of the College.



SOCIAL DISTANCING

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers

Re: Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)

Every year, all schools in Australia participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). The NCCD process requires schools to identify information already available in the school about supports provided to students with disability. These relate to legislative requirements under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005*, in line with the *NCCD guidelines (2019)*.

Information provided about students to the Australian Government for the NCCD includes:

- year of schooling
- category of disability: physical, cognitive, sensory or social/emotional
- level of adjustment provided: support provided within quality differentiated teaching practice, supplementary, substantial or extensive.

This information assists schools to:

- formally recognise the supports and adjustments provided to students with disability in schools
- consider how they can strengthen the support of students with disability in schools
- develop shared practices so that they can review their learning programs in order to improve educational outcomes for students with disability.

The NCCD provides state and federal governments with the information they need to plan more broadly for the support of students with disability.

The NCCD will have no direct impact on your child and your child will not be involved in any testing process. The school will provide data to the Australian Government in such a way that no individual student will be able to be identified – the privacy and confidentiality of all students is ensured. All information is protected by privacy laws that regulate the collection, storage and disclosure of personal information. To find out more about these matters, please refer to the [Australian Government's Privacy Policy](https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy) (<https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy>).

Further information about the NCCD can be found on the [NCCD Portal](https://www.nccd.edu.au) (<https://www.nccd.edu.au>).

If you have any questions about the NCCD, please contact Jeanette Shine, Learning Diversity Leader.

Kind regards



Mr. Craig Holmes

Principal