



THOMAS CARR
COLLEGE

The SPOTLIGHT

Issue 8
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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Mr Jamie Madigan



WELCOME TO THE 2023 ACADEMIC YEAR AT THOMAS CARR COLLEGE

It is with great pride and excitement that I write this article as Principal at Thomas Carr College for Semester 1. I am both honoured and privileged to have been given the opportunity to serve and lead such a wonderful school community. I would like to acknowledge the outstanding leadership that previous Principal, Mr Craig Holmes, provided over his four-year tenure. I wish him all the best as he begins his new journey as Regional Leadership Consultant for the Northern Region of the Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools (MACS). We embrace the exciting challenges of the future, while we continue to cherish and celebrate the traditions of the past.

Welcome to the 2023 academic year at Thomas Carr College. We look to a positive future as a school seeking to provide excellent educational opportunities for all our current and future students. A very warm welcome back to all students and families. We particularly welcome those who are joining the Thomas Carr College community for the first time. We have a total of 264 Year 7 students beginning their journey with us this year, as well as 38 students joining us in Years 8 -12. We warmly welcome you all. I also extend a warm welcome to those families that are also joining our community for the first time. I hope that your time with our College Thomas Carr College community is both enriching and rewarding.

“Your light must shine in the sight of people so that seeing your good works they may give praise to your Father in heaven.”

MATTHEW 5:16

The College master plan has recently been updated and will deliver stunning, state of the art new buildings and facilities for our students. The commencement of the new senior school building which will house our vertical House structure, and senior classrooms, will commence later this year.

As a college for 2023 and beyond, we are committed to our mission of nurturing faith and fostering positive, life-giving relationships with others, as well as providing an engaging and innovative learning environment. We aim to develop in our students the capacity for independent thought and informed decision making, whilst recognising the goodness of all members of the Thomas Carr College community and treating all with respect. We aim to equip all students with knowledge, skills and attributes to take their place optimistically, in a globalised world.

Our Year 12 students from the Class of 2022 have accessed wonderful universities that offer courses in Science, Law, Engineering, Nursing, the Arts, Business and Commerce, as well as Education, Psychology, and Information Technology. RMIT, Victoria University, Deakin University and Australian Catholic University have been very popular destinations with our students.

We hope to see our extensive sporting program and extra curricula offerings delivered this year to assist us in building our College spirit and pride. These sporting and cultural programs represents a great opportunity for students to develop important interpersonal skills which can be developed further by our rich student leadership opportunities.

I strongly encourage all our students to challenge themselves to participate in the vast array of co-curricular activities available and to embrace and contribute to the numerous, leadership, faith and social justice opportunities available at the College.

May all members of the college community truly live, breathe and enact our College motto of ‘They Will Shine’.

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT & CURRICULUM

Ms Lucy Angelico

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE AT THOMAS CARR COLLEGE

We were delighted in 2022 to have experienced an uninterrupted year of learning and teaching and to fully engage our students in liturgies, assemblies and the rich co-curricular opportunities on offer at our College. The final stage of 2022 was filled with celebrations of success and excellence. The *Gala Night of Excellence*, Year 12 Graduation celebrations, Alumni Reunion and the annual academic awards evening, and *A Night to Shine*, were all exceptional community celebrations.

In the third week of Term Four, the focus was on the Graduating Class of 2022, which began with their final assembly, a fun breakfast hosted by the staff, a guard of honour by the whole school, a beautiful mass with their families and staff at St. James' the Apostle church, and finally a night of joy and dancing at the Graduation Dinner which concluded the week before their final examinations began.

On Friday 25 November we were able to host the first alumni reunion since 2019. The evening brought together staff and students from seven graduating classes including the first group to be marking 20 years since graduating from Thomas Carr College, the Class of 2002.

At *A Night to Shine* over 200 students, their families and staff participated in a wonderful celebration of the academic achievements of our students as well as of leadership, social justice, sporting, musical and artistic achievements. We are very proud of all that we offer to support students in their learning and for them to excel in all aspects of College life, from Years 7-12. The opening address was delivered by one of our graduate teachers, Lauren Camilleri, who delivered a motivating and inspirational opening speech as she reflected on her journey as a Thomas Carr College student. Lauren shared her challenges as a student and as an elite sports person at national and international levels.

Numerous scholarships were awarded by the College, and some were sponsored by various organisations who have supported the College over many years. The most prestigious award, the Thomas Carr Prize 2022, was awarded to **Brianna Lapina** for her contributions, over the six years as a student, in every sphere of life at Thomas Carr College. The 2022 College Captains, as the Masters of Ceremonies, concluded their responsibilities for the year and handed over the responsibility for leading the student body to the new team of Captains for 2023. It was a special treat for the audience to have seen a few items from the College Musical for 2022, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.



On Tuesday 7 February 2023, we launched into the new academic year with a great sense of enthusiasm and optimism at our College Opening Mass and Assembly. We were inspired by our Dux, Alex Wang and the highest achievers from the Class of 2022. The Year 7 cohort, new students and new staff were warmly welcomed to the College and all our College Captains with various portfolios were officially inducted. We also thanked Mr. Craig Holmes for his four years of dedicated service to the College and the vision and energy he brought to us. We wish Craig well in his new role in the Northern Office of Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools.

The vibrant energy of Ms Bonde and Mrs Spiteri have continued to encourage our students to strive for leadership roles.

On Thursday 23 February, the members of the Student Representative Council, together with the College Captains, the Liturgy, Social Justice, House, and Music Captains participated in the Student Servant Leadership Day. At the next College Assembly, College Ambassadors, Peer Support Leaders, and the newly elected Student Representative Council will be inducted and presented with their badges.

We look forward to this semester being very focused on academic excellence, as we continue to focus on wellbeing and learning as well as many events planned, such as Year 12 Retreats, House Swimming and Athletics Carnival, camps, excursions, incursions, International Women's Day Breakfast, Malay Borneo Memorial Service, Mother's Day Mass and Thomas Carr Day.

Enjoy this first issue of **The Spotlight** for 2023 which captures the essence of our College Motto: **They Will Shine**.

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND WELLBEING

Ms Ivanka Spiteri

TOGETHER WE CAN ACHIEVE ANYTHING...

A warm welcome to our new students, staff and families at Thomas Carr College, and welcome back to our pre-loved students, staff and families!

I love the start of the year – it is brimming with possibility and optimism. We start the new year looking forward, dreaming, planning, and feeling refreshed. It is this optimism and positivity that fuels us in the days, weeks and months ahead. Our College continues to dream big and continues to grow towards being the rich, diverse, beautiful community we are called to be.

This year we have been blessed with a number of new people joining our community to support the wellbeing and engagement of our young people. These new roles will continue to enhance the learning journey of our young people. Our Wellbeing Team, our Counselling Team, our Youth Liaison Officer, our Student Agency Leader and our Learning Diversity Team all come together to bring positivity, optimism, and support to the social, emotional and mental wellbeing of our young people.

Every staff member has been trained in the Berry Street Education Model, a trauma-informed pedagogical approach implemented in our classroom practice, our policies, our procedures, our everyday interactions with our young people. Along with this, we are working to create stronger partnerships with our families so that every young person in our care is known, cared for and loved in their wholeness. This is the foundation we have to ensure every young person in our care will flourish and grow as learners and as human beings.



Together we can achieve anything. All of us are heavily invested in our young people and they themselves are growing into who they are. We continue to develop within them the attributes and the strengths that will give them greater agency in their learning and in their life. We are all Team Thomas Carr – a community that collaborates, communicates, cares for every single young person here at our College, giving them all they need to become their authentic selves. It is this beautiful truth that shapes us – that we are made to live in relationship with our God, with ourselves, with our world and with each other. And that together, we continue God's creative process. Together we can achieve anything.



FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL LEARNING AND OPERATIONS

Mr Andrew Bryson



At Thomas Carr College we are committed to fostering a culture of excellence and creating opportunities for all members of our community to shine their light into the world.

As a College, this extends to creating a narrative that inspires learning and reflects our aspirations by providing opportunities for all students to excel based on their individual learning pathway.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

At the start of this year, we gathered as a community to celebrate the academic achievements of the Class of 2022. At this assembly, we also acknowledged the students who undertook VCAL during their senior years at Thomas Carr College, as they too were able to excel in pursuing a pathway that allowed them to shine and pursue their dreams.

During this assembly, we formally recognised the efforts of our high performing students with all the below listed students receiving 85% or above for their ATAR. Many of these students also received Study Scores of 40 or above for one or more subjects and have been awarded university scholarships.

To further recognise the commitment to excellence that is required to achieve these results, The College Dux Proximus is awarded to the student with the highest ATAR Score in their year and the student with the second highest ATAR Score is awarded College Dux Proximus.

COLLEGE DUX

Xingqi (Alex) Wang 97.25

COLLEGE DUX PROXIMUS

Sandali Girish 95.2

Kisanet Berhane 94.5

Brianna Mary-Rose Lapina 92.6

Khushi Patel 90.55

Anina Britta Latu 90.4

Aidan Josh Dizon 87.9

Namsiga Sireskumar 86.95

Fiona Bosilkovski 86.75

Kacey Nguyen 85.45

We congratulate all these students and wish the Class of 2022 every success in the future.

We are proud of their achievements, and when receiving his award, Alex shared with us a Chinese proverb, “constant dripping water wears through the rock.” He continued by explaining that it means large, seemingly impossible tasks can be accomplished through small steady efforts and that persistence is the key to achieving your goals.

With the start of the school year upon us, I thank Alex for sharing his story and for the powerful message that we can all be inspired by. I encourage all members of our College community to be aspirational in committing to excellence and may we all have the courage and strength to persevere as we shine our light into the world.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FAITH & MISSION

Mrs Alexandra Higham

OUR COLLEGE THEME FOR 2023 IS JUSTICE

“Act with Justice, love kindly, and walk humbly with God.”

DERIVED FROM MICAH 6:8

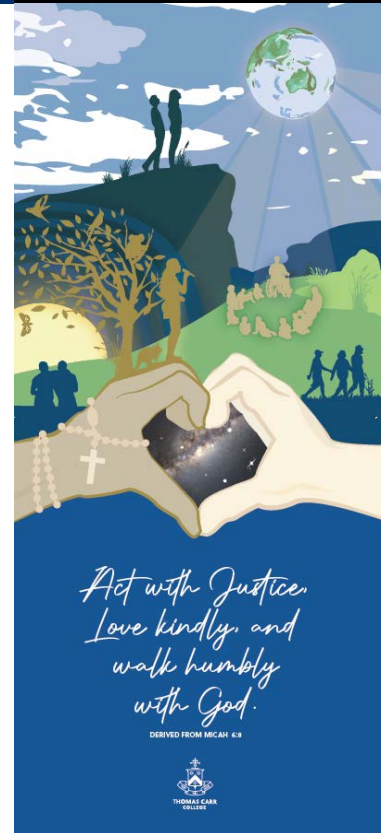
Our College patron and namesake, Archbishop Thomas Carr, lived his faith impassioned by Jesus’ teachings which call us to treat others with dignity as we wish to be treated.

While Thomas Carr was the Archbishop of Melbourne, Pope Leo XIII released an encyclical titled *Rerum Novarum* – *On the condition of the working class*, that called for all people to work together to end injustice and have fair rights for everyone. Archbishop Thomas Carr was already living that call. He asked Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart to come to Melbourne and work with the vulnerable.

Over one hundred and thirty years later, Pope Francis continues the call us to act justly in his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*. Inspired by an African ethic ‘Ubuntu’ meaning *I am because we are*, Pope Francis calls us to act justly as ‘each of us is fully a person when we are part of a people.’ We believe that the Creator who makes all people, are all members of the one human family built on justice, and the respect for fundamental human rights, will build a world where all feel valued, loved and dignified.

Justice is achieved by living a culture of encounter, where dignity is recognised as being inherent in all and valued through every interaction.

We welcome you as part of the Thomas Carr College community to let your light shine for justice by getting involved in our Faith and Mission and Social Justice awareness activities throughout the year.



FROM THE SPORT & CO-CURRICULAR LEADER

Ms Margie White

Late in 2022, the College’s Art, Music, Technology and Sports Departments came together to celebrate our diverse student cohorts’ achievements in these areas. On the night the Sports Department formally recognised the Best and Fairest players for SACCSS Senior Weekly Sport, One Day Competitions and Premier League Seasons.

We also introduced a new award to recognise the TCC SACCSS Team of the Year. Congratulations to our Senior Boys Basketball Team on being named the Inaugural 2022 TCC Team of the Year. A much-deserved award.

The last two awards of the night recognised both a male and female student who have represented the College in various SACCSS carnivals and weekly SACCSS Sport with great pride and sportspersonship. The Male and Female winner of the annual TCC SACCSS Award for 2022 were Brad Ganley and Rhiana Gibson of Year 12. We thank them for all they have contributed to our wonderful Sports Program.

SACCSS SPORTS AWARD LUNCHEON

On Thursday November 24 Thomas Carr hosted the first face to face SACCSS Awards luncheon since 2019. It was a wonderful celebration of individual and team performances across senior sport, major carnivals and one day competitions.

The day started with around 300 students across the fifteen member schools gathering to share lunch together and concluded with an awards ceremony to recognise high achievers from each of the sports.

Thomas Carr had four students recognised for their achievements in the following categories:

David Afoa - Senior Volleyball Player of Series
Emmanwiel Deng - Senior Basketball Player of Series
Brad Ganley - John Landy Award Recipient
Rhiana Gibson - John Landy Award Recipient

We look forward to a massive year in SACCSS Sport at TCC. Go TCC Titans!

FROM THE YEAR 7 YEAR LEVEL LEADERS

Ms Georgie Weir & Ms Jennifer Trodden

YEAR 7 OFF TO A GREAT START

Tuesday 31 January was a significant day as we welcomed 264 new Year 7 students to the College, our largest cohort to date. We started with a morning assembly to welcome students, introduce school leaders and share a few 'knock knock' jokes. We continued to laugh together as we talked about favourite sporting teams, funny pet names and identified ways that the students could shine at the College. They all looked so proud to be wearing the school uniform and the excitement in the room was palpable.

After the assembly we gathered the students into PaLM (Pastoral and Learning Mentor) groups and moved to our modern, purpose-built facility. Students met their classmates and were allocated lockers with combination locks. They spent the morning learning how to successfully use their unique combination with lots of trial and error as many students managed to place their lock on backwards! Fortunately, we were able to come to the rescue with our special key - the students were particularly relieved.

At recess to help the Year 7s settle in the Year 12s delivered special handwritten notes with a refreshing Zooper Dooper for each student. This was a lovely way to help everyone feel welcome. Friendships formed quickly throughout the day and the students smiled and chatted as they became more comfortable in their environment. At the end of the day, they left exhausted but happy. The entire staff were impressed by their behaviour, positive attitude, and overall willingness to embrace new challenges, we couldn't have hoped for a better first day.

To ensure that all family members felt welcome the College held a Year 7 Parent Welcome Evening, this occurred on Thursday 2 February. This was a great opportunity for parents to experience the beautiful facilities, see their child's locker and meet their Mentors. Despite inclement weather, attendance was high and parents and teachers discussed matters such as uniform, homework expectations, special dates and Year 7 Camp. We are grateful for the many families who joined us on this evening.

We wish all of our Year 7s the very best and pray they have a truly exceptional educational experience.





**THOMAS CARR
COLLEGE**



OPEN DAY

They will shine

Sunday 19 March 2023

10.30am – 2.00pm

Come along to our Open Day to meet our friendly staff and students here at Thomas Carr College.

Register today
thomascarr.vic.edu.au

35 Thomas Carr Drive, Tarneit VIC 3029

