



THOMAS CARR
COLLEGE

CELEBRATING **25** YEARS

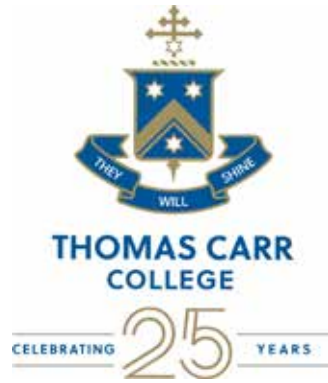


The SPOTLIGHT

ISSUE 04
MARCH 2021

From the Principal Mr Craig Holmes

Welcome to the 2021 academic year at Thomas Carr College, as we celebrate our **25th Anniversary**. The College is proud to arrive at this milestone as we now look to a positive future as a school that has grown in maturity seeking to provide excellent educational opportunities for all our current and future students.



While we have learnt tremendous resilience from all the challenges COVID-19 has brought, we look to the future with great hope as we increase enrolments and develop a College master plan that will deliver wonderful buildings and facilities for our students.

Our aim for 2021 is to foster a culture of excellence in a nurturing environment where the students have a sense of pride as a member of our learning community. The Class of 2020 Year 12 students have accessed wonderful destinations to Universities in courses including the Sciences, Legal fields, Education, Nursing, IT and Design. RMIT, VU and Deakin University have been very popular. Many of our highest performing students are pursuing a Science degree at The University of Melbourne.

At the other end of schooling, we have our new Year 7 students - the Class of 2026, the year they will graduate from Thomas Carr College. I have been delighted to meet our new families and those returning. Parents have been extremely complimentary as to the orientation and transition program from Grade 6 into Year 7.



We hope to see our extensive sporting program and extra curricula offerings in full swing this year. This represents a great opportunity for students to develop valuable interpersonal skills which can be developed further by our rich student leadership opportunities and programs.

As a Catholic school we have selected the value of HOPE:

**“We have this HOPE as an anchor
for the soul, firm and secure”**

Hebrews 6:19

As such we will strive to be the best we can be as individuals and as a College growing towards our preferred future.

I wish all our current and future families all the best as we strive out in 2021.



Welcome 2021!

We were most proud to have concluded what was a challenging year of lockdowns and restrictions with our ongoing ambition for 2020: *to do what we normally do, differently*. We concluded last year with the Year 12 Final Assembly and Graduation Mass, and the annual academic awards evening, *A Night to Shine*, showcasing student achievements as online events. We were delighted to have been able to postpone the Year 12 Graduation Dinner which was held on January 29, as a fitting opportunity for the Graduating Class of 2020 to celebrate six years of secondary education with their peers, parents and teachers.

Thomas Carr College launched into 2021 with joy, hope and optimism at our College Opening Assembly on February 2. This was the first opportunity to gather physically as a community since March 2020. We were inspired by our Dux, Sinit Berhane and the highest achievers from the Class of 2020. The Year 7 cohort, new and returning students and new staff were all warmly welcomed to the College and our College Captains with various portfolios were officially inducted. We also unveiled the logo for the 25th Anniversary celebrations and our theme for 2021: **Hope**.

The interest in student leadership continues to grow at the

College. On Thursday February 25, 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 the newly elected Student Representative Council will be inducted and presented with their badges.

Among the many highlights so far this year was the inaugural 25th Anniversary event. On February 26, we hosted a special alumni event for the past College Captains and major award winners since 1997. There was a wonderful buzz among those who attended as they reconnected and enjoyed the *Historical Walk* exhibition in the Library. In our next edition of *The Spotlight*, we will showcase this, and the other 25th Anniversary celebrations to come.

We look forward to the many events this semester, such as the House Athletics Carnival, camps, excursions, incursions, International Women's Day Breakfast, Malay Borneo Memorial Service, Mother's Day Mass and Thomas Carr Day. Be sure to join us on Open Day on Sunday March 21.

Enjoy this first issue of *The Spotlight* for 2021 which captures the essence of our College Motto: **They Will Shine**.



At Thomas Carr College we are committed to fostering a culture of excellence. Shaped by our Catholic identity, we create an environment that supports the learning needs of all our students and where their wellbeing is nurtured. We provide opportunities for our students to develop the knowledge, skills, and attributes to take their place in a globalised world and to shine in all that they do.

Our Vision for Learning and Teaching



With reference to the above statement and drawing upon the College's theme of 'Hope' for this year, there is a strong sense of hope in what students can achieve at Thomas Carr College. As a College community we have embraced this vision and begin the year with high expectations in our approach to student learning and how we support the learning needs of all our students.

Academic Excellence

At the start of this year, we gathered as a community to celebrate the academic achievements of the Class of 2020. 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.

In 2020, three students achieved over 90 for their ATAR 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. This includes Atieng Maker who will be studying a Bachelor of Science at the University of Melbourne. At the end of last year, she was awarded the prestigious University of Melbourne Hansen Scholarship which is offered to only 20 recipients across Australia.

This year we were very proud to award the Thomas Carr College Dux to Sinit Berhane who received an ATAR of 98.2. Highlighting her commitment to excellence across all her subjects, Sinit received a Study Score of 40 or above in five subjects including Psychology which she completed in 2019 as a Year 11 student.

College Dux	
Sinit Berhane	98.2
College Dux Proximus	
Amy Virgona	97.15
Khiana Valencia	90
Atieng Maker	89.3
Arshia Arora	88.85
Daniela Abrego	88.8
Nicholas Marakovic	87.2
Drushya Tadepu	86.85
Selena Luu	85.35
Vanessa Okorom	84.65

We congratulate all these students and wish the Class of 2020 every success in the future. We are proud of their achievements and we are inspired by the courage, strength, determination and resilience they showed in being able to navigate throughout the challenges of last year.

The legacy of the Class of 2020 is a powerful lesson for all of us. As we begin the new school year, I encourage all members of our College community to be aspirational in committing to excellence. Like many of the students from the Class of 2020, chase your greatness and I wish each of you every success in 2021 and beyond.

“We have this hope as
an anchor for the soul,
firm and secure.”

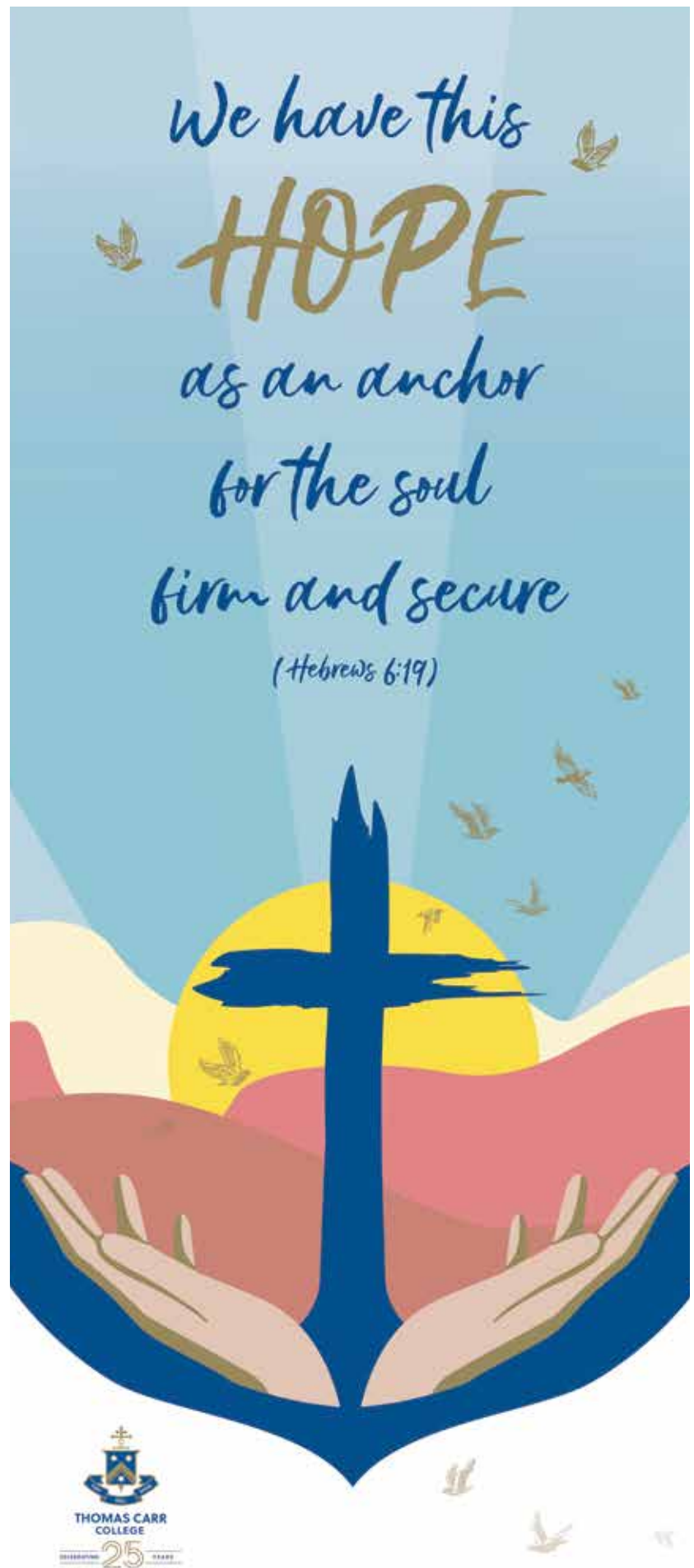
We have highlighted in this publication that our College theme is “Hope.” Our 2021 banner captures the importance of Hope for us all, especially during this time of pandemic. The theme is taken from this short passage from the Letter to the Hebrews:

So when God wanted to prove for certain that his promise to his people could not be broken, he made a vow. God cannot tell lies! And so, his promises and vows are two things that can never be changed. We have run to God for safety. Now his promises should greatly encourage us to take hold of the hope that is right in front of us. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.

(Hebrews 6:19)

At Thomas Carr College, we invite all our students and staff to embrace the contemporary world with a hope-filled view of life. The mission to which our College is entrusted is to open spaces where the hope-filled message and mission of Jesus thrives and where our young people can live life to the full. This is so important in our world today.

As Pope Francis writes in his apostolic exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, “the biggest threat of all ... is a tomb psychology [that] develops and slowly transforms Christians into mummies in a museum.” Within our Religious Education classes, our rich liturgical and prayer life, and our Social Justice and outreach activities, at Thomas Carr College we aim to provide opportunities where faith, life and culture can find a meeting place so that we can represent Jesus and his gospel in new and hope filled ways.



From the Deputy Principal, St Marys College

Mrs Melissa Lucy

St Mary's College in partnership with Thomas Carr College provides a complete, inclusive education for students who are deaf or hearing impaired.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing students who attend our Tarnet campus within Thomas Carr College are supported by qualified Teachers of the Deaf and a part-time Speech Pathologist with their subject work and extra-curricular activities such as camps and excursions. Our staff work with individuals and small groups in enhancing literacy, building communication and language, career experience and maintaining strong friendships.

Additional supports provided in class to enhance educational success include notetaking and captioning as needed, and classrooms are fitted with the latest Roger FM Soundfield systems.

Our program is flexible with students receiving as much or as little support as they need across various subjects and year levels. We aim to ensure that each student completes their education as empowered, resilient young people with the skills they need to lead fulfilling lives as successful adults.



From the Head of Sport

Ms Margie White



House Swimming Carnival

After the year that was 2020, it was great to see our traditional House competitions back in full swing at the College. The House Swimming Carnival was held at Werribee Outdoor Pool on Friday February 12. After a night of dreaded rain, we woke to a cloud filled morning that quickly turned to brilliant sunshine. The air was filled with much anticipation, house spirit and a great sense of community. There was lots of fun in the small pool novelty events and some great performances in the pool. Overall House Champions and individual champions will be announced shortly, along with our exciting SACCSS team selection.

A massive thank you to all staff who made this day possible and of course our Heads of House and House Captains for their tremendous efforts on the day. Our attention now turns to our House Cross Country and House Athletics Carnivals that will take place later in Term 1.

May the best House win!



The transition to Thomas Carr College was easy. I expected it to be very scary and I thought I would get lost, but all the staff and students are really nice and helpful. The Parent Information Night was helpful for parents because they got to know what we do at school.

Alizeh Amjad, Year 7 White

So far, my experience at Thomas Carr College has been interesting to say the least. Transition day in my opinion was successful as I got a clear understanding of what to expect for the following years. By the time the first day of school came around I was really excited! We did a tour of the school and we had a couple of lessons, like music and science. Overall, I am still settling into the new experience, but I cannot wait for what the next day will bring!



Mahesha Fonseka, Year 7 White

The thought of high school can loom in and frighten anyone who hasn't experienced it, but I assure you that the transition into high school here has been smooth, calm, and reassuring. Everyone has been kind, I've created new bonds and friendships, and I'm now excited instead of anxious.

My experience at Thomas Carr College has so far gone well. I'm still transitioning into high school, but I believe by next week I'll get the hang of it. I've realised how independent you must be, and I quite like that.
William Horvatic, Year 7 White

My first day was exceptional. I had a blast of a day. The best thing was meeting old friends that used to come to my primary school. Something that really inspired me was a speech by Sinit, I really wish I become Dux of the College like she did. When I'm older I want to become a neurosurgeon!
Swasthika Rithik, Year 7 White

In the first few days, we have done so many subjects and met many of our teachers. I have enjoyed each and every one of my subjects so far and want to continue trying new things.
Sarah Sy, Year 7 White

Rhys Are, Year 7 White

The first days at Thomas Carr College have been delightfully interesting, with lots of new subjects, teachers, environments and most of all, the people! The orientation was a good insight into the Year 7 experience, with our time being spent being shown our new classrooms and teachers. I was worried that making new friends would be hard as I came from Bellbridge Primary. Only two people came from my school and in my fourth day, I made four friends! The teachers are wonderful and encourage people to be friends and are clear with the tasks.

Ted Matthews, Year 7 White





OPEN DAY

SUNDAY MARCH 21 | 10AM – 2PM

35 THOMAS CARR DRIVE, TARNEIT

To register your interest, please email registrar@thomascarr.vic.edu.au or phone (03) 8734 2444



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