



18 November 2021

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends of our Marymede Community,

The VCE Unit 3/4 Exams finished yesterday. I congratulate many of our students for the level of commitment that they have shown to their studies over the last few trying weeks. A big thank you to our VCE Coordinator, Mr. Vincenzo Rovetto, for his efforts in ensuring that the examinations have run so smoothly. The students now anxiously await their results which will be released in mid-December.

Years 10 & 11 Exams

The Years 10 & 11 Exams have been taking place this week. I have said to our students on a number of occasions, those students who have made a strong commitment to their studies throughout the year can approach their exams with confidence.

The 2022 Commencement Program for our senior students will start on Monday for those returning to Marymede in 2022.

Year 12 Graduation: 18 November

The Year 12 Class of 2021 will have their Graduation Liturgy in the Chapel starting at 4.00pm today. We will then move to the area under the 'Big Top' for the Graduation Ceremony. I am delighted that our Year 12 parents will be able to be in attendance to see their son/daughter receive their Graduation Certificate. After the ceremony, a number of students and their parents will celebrate this most significant occasion at one of the many restaurants in the area.

Year 5 Camp: 24-26 November

We wish our Year 5 students and the staff who are joining them at the Lady Northcote Recreation Centre an enjoyable time away together as they tackle the challenging outdoor activities on offer at the camp site.

Secondary Awards & Primary Celebrations of Learning

We look forward to these celebrations which will take place over the next fortnight during the school day. The events will be live streamed to enable parents the opportunity to be involved.

The Secondary Awards acknowledge students in Years 7-11 who have excelled through their academic achievements, commitment to their studies or their participation in the co-curricular life of the College. The Primary Celebrations of Learning celebrate the talents and achievements of all our students in 2021.

Hume Whittlesea LLEN Vocational Education Awards 2021

The Hume Whittlesea LLEN is honoured to be able to continue to recognise and award students excelling in vocational education in our local schools. The HWLLEN Vocational Education Awards are proudly supported by Hume City Council, the City of Whittlesea, and the Hume and Whittlesea Youth Commitments - and celebrate student achievements in VCAL, VET and SBAT. I am pleased to announce the following 2021 Award recipients are:

Jasmine Vinci: VCAL Achievement
Loriana Chiodo: VCAL Achievement
Rocky Gentile: VCAL Encouragement
Mohammed Al Noobi: VCAL Encouragement
Taylor Sinni: VCAL Encouragement

I congratulate all recipients, and hope that the skills acquired through their studies in VET, VCAL and SBATs enables and empowers them to embark on exciting new endeavours.

Next Newsletter

Our final Newsletter will be emailed home on Friday 3 December. Staff members who will be leaving the College will be acknowledged and key dates for the start of the 2022 school year will again be published.

Mr. Michael Kenny
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL STAFF AND OPERATIONS PREP – YEAR 12

COVIDsafe measures & thanks

Last Monday, we again had to enact isolation procedures for Primary Close Contacts (Tier 1) within our community upon being informed of COVID-positive cases who had been on-campus and are grateful to the many staff who assisted students and parents in this smooth process and to the parents who then had to collect their children at short notice.

There have been media reports about the introduction of new quarantine procedures for returning unvaccinated students to school after 7 days through the use of Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT). Details of the process will be communicated to parents to whom this option will apply should a future case affect students at school. Importantly, the government and MACS have confirmed that this process only applies when the COVID exposure is at school: if the exposure is from a case in the home or the community, then the RAT procedures do not apply. Parents should also note that PCR testing is still required on Days 2, 6 & 13 for students eligible for Rapid Antigen Testing; the RAT testing enables unvaccinated and partially vaccinated students to be safely monitored to attend school from Day 8. The test kits will be supplied to the College to distribute to parents of affected students only when a new case is present at school. While we hope to not have to use any quarantine procedures, we look forward to this new ability to limit the impact on schooling of future possible COVID cases.

Parents can continue to support the health of our community through supporting the COVIDsafe measures the school has in place, and by ensuring that if your child has any of the symptoms below, that they stay home and receive a PCR COVID test:

- loss or change in sense of smell or taste
- fever
- chills or sweats
- cough
- sore throat
- shortness of breath
- runny nose

The results of the PCR COVID test should be sent to nurse@marymede.vic.edu.au prior to your child returning to school. Parents / carers of any students isolating as Primary Close Contact / Tier 1 exposure should also email their Day 13 negative PCR test result (or Day 6, if fully vaccinated) prior to your child returning to school. Please note that Rapid Antigen Test are not valid for release from quarantine.

Parents are also reminded that if entering a school building, all parents and visitors are required to use the QR code and to show their vaccination status to the relevant staff (only vaccinated adults are permitted to enter school buildings).



A COVID-normal return to school activities

The School Operations Guide (9 November) now permits resumption of year level assemblies, liturgies, incursions, excursions, camps, co-curricular activities and more – such as the Book Week Parade on 23 November – all with COVIDsafe measures in place. Many of these activities have already resumed, to the delight of students and staff. This will include an abridged performance of our middle-years production of Moana Jr that will have a live student-only audience on 9 December. Parents and carers will receive communications about these events in coming weeks, including plans for making available a video of the Moana Jr performance for families.

Due to the density requirements, the traditional Celebrations of Learning and Secondary Awards evenings will be in-school events only, to be streamed for families at home (as occurred in 2020). At present, these are planned for:

- Years 8 & 9 Thursday 2 December, 9.00 – 11.00am
- Year 7 Thursday 2 December, 12.30 – 1.30pm
- Year 10 & 11 Friday 3 December, 9.00 – 11.00am
- Year 5 & 6 Monday 6 December, 11.30am – 1.30pm
- Prep – Year 4 Streaming from 6pm Thursday 9 December

Mr David Broadbent
Deputy Principal Staff & Operations P-12

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL LEARNING AND TEACHING PREP – YEAR 12

NAPLAN School Readiness Test

Some students in Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 will be participating in the NAPLAN School readiness test next Tuesday. Next year the College is required to conduct NAPLAN online and this readiness test is a requirement from VCAA to ensure our systems and computer infrastructure are effective. There are no results shared with the school or parents, it is purely for systems testing.

Book Week Parade

A reminder that the Book Week parade will be occurring on Tuesday, 23 November with all students from Prep – Year 6 participating. I know teachers and students alike are excited

to show off their costumes and share some of their favourite books.

Examinations

Our Year 12 students completed their VCAA written examinations this week and Year 10 and 11 examinations have commenced. I commend all students on their punctuality and conduct in presenting for exams and wish them every success throughout this important assessment period. Their consistency and dedication throughout the year (even through the most trying of circumstances) and most recently shown during the revision period has been very impressive.

2022 Commencement Classes

Following the confirmation of 2022 Academic Programs, students in Years 10 and 11 will commence the VCE Orientation program from Monday 22 November through to Friday 3 December. Students in Year 9 who will be studying a VCE subject as part of their 2022 Year 10 program will fully participate in the program this year.

All students are expected to attend the entire VCE commencement program as it will help students to start 2022 on the right foot. Critical VCE/Careers information and wellbeing sessions will also be included as part of the program, as well as the Year 10 City excursion and Year 11 Retreat Day. Teachers will communicate holiday homework to students throughout the program. Parents are encouraged to discuss the Commencement Program with your son or daughter to ensure they are feeling supported in a key transition within their secondary education journey.

Mrs Jessica Hall
Deputy Principal Learning & Teaching P-12

CO-CURRICULUM

Welcome Back to Co-Curricular!

It has been wonderful to see so many students excited to return to their co-curricular activities. I recently surveyed some students about their experience of co-curricular involvement and the responses were overwhelmingly positive, as you can see from a selection of responses below.

Please see attached co-curricular timetable for details of and times for activities. It is recommended to contact the activity leader beforehand via email to make sure there is a spot available and so students can be informed of any room changes. If you have any questions about any activities on offer, please contact Melanie.Wason@marymede.vic.edu.au

Moana Jr.

Our Moana Jr. cast have been working hard rehearsing for their upcoming performance in December. It has been a huge learning curve for all cast members, and they have shown such resilience and dedication in their rehearsals, during remote learning and also face to face. Our wonderful crew have also been working hard on preparing the sets and costumes. I have no doubt the lucky students and staff who will be watching will be impressed with their performance!

GREASE! (is the word...)

Earlier this week we announced our 2022 senior musical which will be Grease. It has been so exciting to hear students already buzzing about getting involved, so I'm sure it will be a wonderful experience for all! Auditions will be open to students in Year 7-12 in 2022. Information will be available during week 9 so students will have time to book their audition and prepare over the summer holidays.

Melanie Wason
Co-Curricular Assistant

PERFORMING ARTS

Instrumental Music Semester 1 2022

New enrolments for **Instrumental Music Semester 1 2022** are **now open** and will close on **Wednesday 8 December**. If your child is interested in learning a musical instrument either privately or in a shared lesson, please contact Performing Arts Assistant Ellen Lane at ellen.lane@marymede.vic.edu.au for more information and the enrolment procedure. Please note there is currently a wait list for some instruments as teachers may be at full capacity with numbers.

Current students enrolled in Instrumental Music this year who no longer wish to continue please submit this request in writing to ellen.lane@marymede.vic.edu.au or simply click **decline** on the Operoo (CareMonkey) online enrolment form. The deadline was **5 November** so if you wish to withdraw please do so ASAP. Current students not confirmed will unfortunately forfeit their place in the program so please **accept** the Operoo enrolment form as soon as possible.

Sessional Dance Semester 1, 2022

New enrolments for **Sessional Dance Semester 1, 2022** are now open and will close on **Wednesday 8 December**. If your child is in Years 5 - 12 and is interested in developing their dance talents, please contact Performing Arts Assistant Ellen Lane via ellen.lane@marymede.vic.edu.au for more information and enrolment procedure.

Those students already enrolled in Sessional Dance who no longer wish to continue please submit this request in writing to ellen.lane@marymede.vic.edu.au or simply click **decline** on the Operoo online enrolment form by no later than **Wednesday 8 December**, otherwise the College assumes students will be participating under the same agreement for a full year and Semester 1 fees will be payable. The information sheet outlining costs, terms and conditions can be accessed for those already enrolled via Operoo for reference.

Ellen Lane
Performing Arts Assistant



HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

1 and 3 day programs available.

If you're looking for school holiday programs that will educate, engage and excite your children these school holidays, look no further than Sporting Minds. Improve your skills, have fun, make new friends whilst learning from qualified teachers and expert coaches. Get your kids moving and making memories these school holidays. Book now!

Program details:

WHERE:
Epping Secondary College

WHEN:
Mon 20 - Wed 22 December
8:30 am - 4:00 pm

December Program Highlights:

Monday 20th
Ice Breakers
Minor Games
Soccer World Cup

Tuesday 21st
Dodgeball Battle
Basketball All Stars
Capture the Flag

Wednesday 22nd
Sport Escape Rooms
Volleyball Blast
T20 Cricket

For more information and to book, visit our website and social media pages.

SPORTINGMINDSPROGRAMS.COM.AU  