Schools are very different places at this time of the year compared with ten years ago. Back then we would be winding up our activities, running a series of excursions and moving into the holiday mode. Most secondary schools like ours now use this time to begin the work for the next academic year. All our students, including our new Yr. 7 students and those coming from other colleges have been allocated to their new classes and new home group. For the past two weeks students have been introduced to the work that they will continue in 2017. By the time they break for the year they will be well aware of upcoming assignments and are encouraged to read their novels over the vacation. Moving forward at this time of year is vitally important for all students but particularly for those who are still working to perfect their language both in writing and in reading. It is by strengthening language skills they will be enabled to better access and perform in all other subject areas including math and the sciences.

Last week we had the pleasure of welcoming our new students for 2017. Although this can be quite a daunting experience students came with confidence and enthusiasm. This reflects the support of parents and preparation done by primary school teachers for this important day.

Two of our current Yr. 7 students shared their own experiences of Year 7 at Thomastown and I have included one of these stories as I’m sure you are interested in a student’s perspective.

Good afternoon students, teachers and new Yr. 7s. I know you have had a busy Orientation Day with different classes and teachers, trying food from the canteen and so much more. You might think next year is going to be hard and difficult. You might also be nervous and scared seeing so many older students.

I also started secondary school with heaps of mixed emotions. Although I had butterflies I was still excited. It was sad leaving my primary school but I was eager to start at a new school and make heaps of new friends.

There was a lot of preparation involved in coming into high school such as new uniforms, books, shoes as well as forms to fill in.

My first day was amazing. I entered the school with a big smile on my face. I met heaps of new teachers, created a bond with my Home Group teacher and made plenty of friends.

Having lots of different classes and subjects made the day heaps of fun. I also loved moving around the school with my friends. It was comfortable because the school doesn’t have Yr. 8-10 students on that first day. It’s just Yr. 7s getting to know the new school environment.

My classes are amazing. I love each and every one of my subjects. I entered with heaps of enthusiasm. I now know most of the teachers and my timetable off by heart.

I couldn’t wait to see the new opportunities that were here for me as I was welcomed with open arms.

Solai joined us from Saint Clare’s at the beginning of 2016. Our new Yr. 7 students will start their journey on Tuesday the 31st January 2017.

In closing can I thank you for your ongoing support of your children’s education and the College. It is so important to us but much more so for your children. I hope that you are all able to find some special time to spend with your children over the holiday period. It will only be a moment and they will be young adults.

Leonie White
Principal
IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER ..........

Tuesday 20th December
Last day of term 4
students will be dismissed at 1.15p.m.

2017

Friday 27th January 2017
Office Staff return to school
Uniform Sales 10.00am to 3.00 pm
Book Collection 10.00am to 3.00 pm

Monday 30th January 2017
Teaching staff return to school

Tuesday 31st January 2017
First day of school for Year 7 and VCE students.

Wednesday 1st February 2017
First day of school for students in Years 8, 9 and 10.
On Friday 25th November, VCE Unit had the pleasure of hosting the Graduation ceremony for the current group of year 12 students. It was wonderful to have so many family and friends present to celebrate with our year 12’s and recognise their achievements after what has been a long, yet rewarding year.

This group of students has been characterised by their closeness and willingness to support each other throughout the year. They should all be proud of the contribution they have made to the school and wider community.

Special mention should be made of the following award recipients;

- **Caltex All Rounder – Angela Tasevska**
- **Australian Defence Force – Natasha Petkopoulos**
- **Whittlesea Student Recognition Award – Katerina Koteska**
- **Alumni Inspiration Award – Mary Stoicevska and Luke Todaro**

*We congratulate all our graduates on reaching this milestone and wish you every success in the future.*

Kim Johnston - Year 12 Coordinator
On Thursday the 6th of October, we held our annual EAL evening. We, the EAL students and our families, were invited by our lovely teachers. The intention of the evening is to have fun together and enjoy food from different cultures.

The event started at 4:00 and finished between 6:30-7:00pm and took place in our school library. Before going to the library, most of us went at the back of the school to play some games. There were two groups, one group played basketball with Emily and the other played soccer with Jack. I chose soccer and we had so much fun.

The students who didn’t want to play a sport joined Lena and Jan in the library to learn how to do origami. By the time we got back inside they had a table full of folded paper animals and other interesting things.
Later, we enjoyed some performances and watched the gifts being given out to the Year 12 students. There was plenty of food from different cultures and they were just delicious! Thank you to the students who brought food to share with us. We played some board games while we waited for our pizza to arrive. When it arrived everyone was excited and hungry of course, so we all chose our favourite type of pizza and sat down with our friends to enjoy it.

Our happy Yr12 EAL students: Malak, Mealad and Ahmed with Ron Brown Yr12 EAL teacher.

There was plenty of food from different cultures and they were just delicious! Thank you to the students who brought food to share with us. We played some board games while we waited for our pizza to arrive. When it arrived everyone was excited and hungry of course, so we all chose our favourite type of pizza and sat down with our friends to enjoy it.

From left to right: Anastasios, Misroub, Moutasem and Hadi.
TWILIGHT, once again presented the high standard of art making amongst Year 12 Studio, Visual Communication and Media students. The exhibition attracts a large number of visitors each year. This event is highly anticipated and enjoyed by all students, staff and parents.

The works of art on display was the culmination of a long and demanding year in each student’s life. Students work on their folios, well into the night on week days and weekends exploring their creative techniques and extending their chosen themes. The works present the ideas and experiences of today’s youth, offering us all a means to connect with young people in our visual world. They also provides unique insights into their aspirations and the questions raised by our rapidly changing world.

TWILIGHT presents a diverse selection of mediums including painting, drawing, construction, digital media and Printmaking. Amongst the many themes addressed in the exhibition are explorations of the self, concerns for our environment and the transition from life as a teenage student to life as a young adult.

Thank you to all our students and the Arts staff for working together as a great team in the creation of some very unique perspectives of the world we all live in. This thought provoking artwork is a credit to our highly creative and ambitious Arts students and Thomastown Secondary College.

Lena Torikov, Creative Arts Coordinator
The spectacular creations of the 7 to 10 art students of 2016 was showcased in this year's art exhibition held in the Language Centre of Thomastown Secondary College.

Our students have become renowned for their experimental and creative works, which included their media based animations created by the 9/10 Art students involved in the Creative Arts Grant, ‘Tributes’ with artist Robert John Sedky. This year’s Art Exhibition includes their still shots from ‘Tributes’, a visual response to original music scores.

The 2016 Art Exhibition features some of the most colourful and innovative works. These include over 35 photography montages, presented alongside detailed studies of the great masters of the Pointillist and Impressionist era. Also on display is a selection of pottery creations from our newly serviced kiln.

The exhibition was developed in close collaboration with the school’s art department, Nicole Mitchell, Janine Doyle, Mykel Mifsud, Samia Zaibak and Lena Torikov.

We look forward to inviting you all to our 2017 Art Show!

Lena Torikov Creative Arts Coordinator.
Thomastown Secondary College is known for its innovation. The Arts Faculty have once again been invited to install a student art exhibition within the walls of the Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority building in Coburg. This year’s students representing the Arts from our school are Katerina Koteska and Chloe Elazar. Responses from staff, VCE
What an exciting experience to see Visions WorldWide featuring ‘Tributes,’ come to life. One never knows what you imagine and put down on paper, will look like until Opening Night. I can’t tell you how pleased the audiences and VIP guests were with the production. It was much more than we ever expected. It was not only unusually dynamic and varied, but the music, dancing and the magic of the lighting, made it the show that will live on for many years in the hearts and minds of all who saw it.

Creative Arts Victoria presented us with the opportunity for musician Robert John Sedky to work with our students on ‘Tributes’, a tribute to twentieth century composers. Students gained an insight into a new skills of Logicpro to write their own music scores. The music scores were played to animations while students danced to the choreography inspired by the visuals and sound. Jimi and I do not take the joy of working with a professional musician for granted. You just never know where this experience and memory may take the talents of our students in the future. You are all to be congratulated for an outstanding job!
The Crew demonstrated outstanding skill in the smooth transition between acts. The costumes were wonderful and creative. Who knew the humble doily could make a magnificent Cambodian crown. The opening number featuring three dancers invited the audience’s attention from the moment the curtain opened. With elegance and great poise, our special guest Linda Yan graced the stage with her powerful bilingual tunes in English and then Cambodian. Our X-Factor guest Chris Tamroy performed for us, receiving a standing ovation.
Performers were enthusiastic and displayed a wonderful stage presence. All cast and crew were professional and supportive of each other. Thank you to all for supporting each other throughout the show.
We will miss you Jimi, greatly, for your ‘vision’ and professionalism. You are a great mentor for many students. We will continue to build on this foundation and produce performances that showcase our student and staff talents in music and dance. Our student audiences will now only continue to grow. I am sure that I am not alone in thanking all staff for their support. Many of the students who have had the privilege to work with you in these special circumstances, appreciate your selfless time and artistic creativity, resulting in a great experience both on stage and behind the scenes.

Hope to see you all, in future productions at Thomastown Secondary College.

Lena Torikov Creative Arts Coordinator
Secondary Schools Parliamentary Convention

On Monday 17th October 2016, we went to the Secondary Schools Parliamentary Convention.

There were 2 students who were chosen to represent our school; Suhaib Abdi and Tavita Fujava.

We had a great time and students contributed by debating changes to our laws and constitution. We listened to other schools give their point of views on various topics.

Tavita now has an opportunity to compete in the Australia’s National Convention. I wish him luck with his involvements.

Imiya Asanova
Yr 11 Legal Studies teacher

---

Interview 2 Impress

On the 11th of November, 2016, nineteen students from across the school went to TAL and participated in a program called Interview 2 Impress, hosted by Louise from ABCN. At this event, we were given advice on how to perfect a job interview. We received many different pieces of advice, which really helped us enhance our skills and made as feel much more prepared for the practise interviews which they also hosted. They gave us feedback on the interviews, which was very beneficial, and we had a second interview to improve on our skills for future interviews. All of us did noticeably better, and felt very confident with the mentors’ encouragement. Overall, the excursion was a big helping hand in developing our confidence to do well in future job interviews. We were very grateful to be part of this program, and thank all mentors and teachers involved. We would also like to thank Deanna especially, for organising this excursion.
State Athletics 2016

On Monday the 17th of October three VCE students; Ayana Taula, Rene Fonoti and Joey Vuwai competed in the state athletics held at Albert Park Lakeside Stadium.

Joey competed in the 17-year-old boys Triple Jump, managing to get second place and a Silver Medal in the State against an outstanding field of competitors with a very impressive jump of 11.88m. The first place competitor broke a 12-year-old record with a huge jump of 14.62m.

Rene competed in the 18-20-year-old boys Javelin, also against a very strong field of 8 other competitors coming an impressive fourth place with a throw of 39.25m.

Ayana competed in the 18-20 year old girls Discus and came fifth with a great throw of 27.54m.

A fantastic effort from all 3 students who should be very proud of their efforts.

Abby Browning
Sports Coordinator
From the 7th until the 11th of November, a group of year 7 to 10 students, along with a small group of teachers attended this year’s College camp at The Summit Adventure Park in Trafalgar. The Summit provided these students with some inspiring and life changing experiences through a combination of activities and programs aimed at building self-worth, resilience and team work. The students faced many fears and completed a number of challenges they initially thought were impossible. During the week at The Summit the students participated in many activities such as; the giant swing, rock climbing, abseiling, the flying fox, leap of faith and a number of both mentally and physically demanding obstacle courses. They also faced a number of unique challenges such as holding a snake and walking barefoot across a bed of nails. Overall the students came back as a closer, more resilient team.

A great time was had by all.

Patrick Mooney - Camp Coordinator

Blue Unit News

Over Semester two has been an exciting time in Blue Unit. Blue students participated in College debates and applied themselves well. Student have also participated in College forums and organized many fund raising and other activities for the Unit. Of particular note this semester has been the increase in the number of students receiving awards both for outstanding academic achievement and improvement in Academic achievement.

The Unit said farewell to our year 10 who are now progressing to VCE.

We wish them the good fortune in their VCE studies.
Celebration Day 2016

On the 13th of October TSC combined their previous Non-stop Fun Day with Celebration Day. For Gold Unit celebrations Gold Forum students organised various cool activities and provided pizza for lunch. The aim of the exercises was to push students out of their comfort-zones and get them to participate in events which they would normally not be able to do. Some of the activities were: cooking, archery, self-defence, drama, craft, K-pop and table tennis. From the feedback that we were given, Gold Unit students enjoyed the archery the most as it was something they had never done before. As part of the Celebration Day celebrations, we were also given free popcorn, drinks, and a jumping castle in the Gold Unit courtyard. We enjoyed these activities during lunchtime alongside our talented TSC band which provided us with entertainment.

To finish off the day, we gathered as a whole school and released our personalised balloons together. These balloons represented our hopes and dreams for the future. It was great to see them all in the air at once to highlight that we are all here at the school working together.

Ayse, Fatima, Natasha (Year 10 Gold Unit Forum)

On Friday the 28th of October, a group of Gold unit's Year 10s and staff dined at Berth in Docklands. At 5, we gathered at the Thomastown train station and made our way down to Southern Cross Station where we continued on foot to arrive at Berth. Our delicious variety of main meals consisted of eye fillet steak, homemade gnocchi, Atlantic salmon fillet, Harissa spiced chicken and lamb shanks. Our main meal was followed by a variety delectable dessert including sticky date pudding, white chocolate brulee, cookies n cream, lemon tart and hot chocolate cake.

Situated on Victoria Harbour, Berth offered spectacular panoramic views from Melbourne's CBD, past Etihad Stadium & beyond the Bolte Bridge. After our main meal and dessert we departed Berth and made our way back to Southern Cross station. On the way we bought gelato, took memorable photos and had a laugh with one another. It was truly a memorable and great night.
Red Unit has had a busy term with lots of activities and events happening throughout the last term of this year. Red Unit forum students put together and hosted Red Review. This is where the unit is able to look back on all that has happened throughout the year. Awards are given out, Home Groups put together presentations and we farewell our Year 10 students and wish them all the best in VCE. The students enjoyed Red Review and look forward to a bigger and better 2017.

- Merit and Achievement Awards
- Perfect Attendance Awards
- Language Support Program Awards

RED UNIT
Year 10's Class of 2016

We will all miss you!!!