



# Thomastown secondary college

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021

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- National Constitutional Convention
- English News
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## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

**Multicultural Day** May 17

**NAPLAN Testing** May 11-21

**Year 12 GAT** Jun 9

**Year 7-10 Reports** Jun 21

**Last Day of Term** Jun 25

## College Principal's Report



Reading the many stories in our May newsletter describing what our staff and students are achieving through cooperative learning reminds us why last year was so difficult for some students. Young people thrive working in teams that are focused on achieving positive outcomes for everyone. Even though this only covers a few weeks I hope that you too are delighted to see our young people, not only participating but excelling in so many fields.

The trip to Cape Schanck for all students in Years 7 and 8 was designed to bring to life the novel they are currently reading. Some of our students had never seen the sea outside beyond our city beaches and many had no

idea about the purpose of a light house. This excursion helped bring the book alive and further develop their English language placing them in a much stronger position to express their understandings. Avoiding learning in such an immersive experience is impossible, even for the most reluctant reader.

For those who have had time to visit the MY SCHOOL website you would be aware that our college outperforms the State every year in the percentage of students who move into meaningful pathways when they leave us. The majority of Year 12 students move on to university and TAFE while a small number enter apprenticeships. Our focus on connecting our student learning with the real world at every possibility is a contributing factor. From working with executives from the Australian Business Community Network to succeeding through to the finals of competitive interschool volleyball and many others in between you will see great examples of this together with reviews by students

who participated. And this has resulted in continual improvement in our reading outcomes. The work behind the scenes by teachers and our Library Coordinator has illustrated the level of commitment we all know is required to make such a big change. We can see these skills being applied by the increasing number of students joining interschool debating and the participation at the National Constitution Convention. We all know these written and oral skills are not just skills for school, but critical in every aspect of life beyond school.

Naplan assessment for Years 7 and 9 students has begun. This is the same program that your child participated in during Grade 3 and Grade 5 if they attended an Australian school. Some students can get quite anxious about these tests and it is important to assure them that these are a snapshot in time. While they should do their very best they should not be worried about the process. The same approach should apply to our exams later in the term.

## Principal's report continued.....

The point of these exams for junior students is actually to teach them how to prepare, manage time, look for critical information, answer questions succinctly, and, time permitting, check over their work before submitting. If they can master these skills in the early years, they will find VCE far less challenging.

However, you know your children better than anyone so if you think there are any indications that cause you concern please

do not hesitate to contact their Home Group teacher who can organise support if required.

In closing, I draw your attention to the celebration plans for our 50th anniversary. Deliberately scheduled to fall after the VCE exams, we intend to celebrate this important event with as many of our current and ex-students as we can. There will be a formal dinner on Thursday 25th November and a gathering at school the following Sunday at the

College where the celebrations will continue. Please put the dates in your diary and help us spread the news. If you have any great ideas re the planning, please contact Carol Picciani through the main office. We are always looking for great ideas.

I thank each and every family for your ongoing support. We are very lucky to have such a supportive community.

**Leonie White**  
*Principal*

## College Debating



On Monday March 22nd, I attended my first debate at Loyola College. It was such a great experience. I learnt a lot from this including confidence, teamwork, debating and listening skills.

We did a lot of preparation for the debate. We met up every Thursday, at Homework Club, after school, to gather our information together. We organised evidence and proof read and finalised our speeches, to the best of our ability.

Before the debate I was so nervous and scared that I would stutter or mess up but as I went up I felt great and I debated well.

After the debate I felt so accomplished and I had learnt so much. I had the opportunity to learn and meet so many

people and it was my first time seeing and being part of a real debate. After the debate I saw a lot of room for improvement for myself after seeing how the other team read, spoke and argued.

I learnt new debating skills and how to rebut the other person's argument. Thank you Frances and Sue for giving up your time to help us. We really appreciate your support. Great job Debaters!

**Tamara El Hallab**



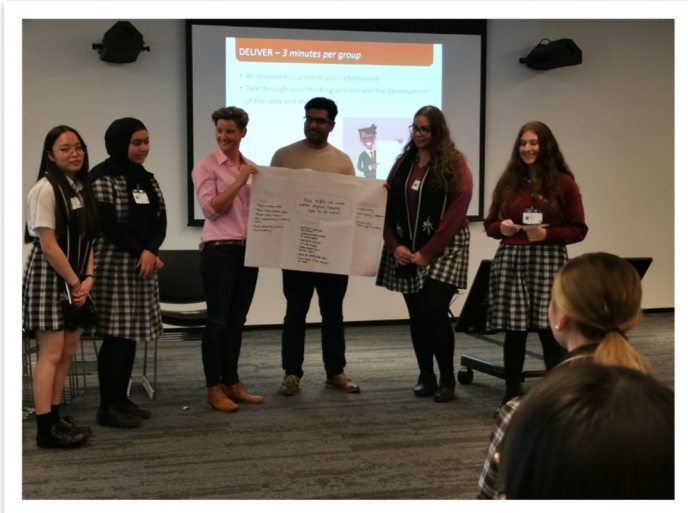
# Future Thinkers

On Wednesday 28th April, a group of selected forum members participated in the Future Thinkers program, run by ABCN and hosted by Microsoft. Students were paired with mentors from Microsoft, all of whom engaged in a range of activities focusing on teamwork, problem solving and communication. They were required to use design thinking skills to solve student-based

problems such as attendance, homework and engaging physical spaces in the classroom. Students then needed to get up in front of the group and present their design. All students did a fantastic job, participating in all activities. Both mentors and students were able to give each other feedback and students gained a lot of knowledge about potential career opportunities in the business world. At the end of

the session all students were taken on a tour of Microsoft to see what life is like working in an office.

**Deanna Tornatorra**  
**ABCN Coordinator**



# Junior English Program



**“ The highlight for me was the lighthouse as it was tall and the stairs inside were very steep and spiralled, and we learnt how the light works.”**

The Year 7 and 8 English excursion to the Cape Schanck Lighthouse during Term 1 brought the study of Dianne Wolfers’s *Lighthouse Girl* to life. The view from the top of the lighthouse to the wild ocean below allowed the students to envisage Fay’s experience living in Breaksea Island’s lighthouse and communicating with departing Australian soldiers during WWI.

Despite a lengthy journey to and from the seaside, the students returned with an appreciation for the important role of Australia’s lighthouses and their keepers throughout the nation’s history.

Students and teachers shared their experience of the day in the following:

## ***Cape Schanck Lighthouse student reviews***

Cape Schanck Lighthouse is located on the southern tip of Mornington Peninsula. The year 7 and 8 students travelled approximately 2 hours from Thomastown Secondary Collage. The experience was new as we were exposed to how the Cape Schanck Lighthouse works and the surroundings around the lighthouse. It was beautiful to see the environment and the ocean waves crashing against the rocks. We learnt that Cape Schanck Lighthouse was constructed using limestone blocks, rock face base course, tapered window and door openings and a rare stone spiral staircase (one of only three pre-1863 surviving Lighthouses to have a stone spiral staircase) and how the lighthouse functions in the night. Our time at the lighthouse offered a tranquil, soothing and peaceful experience, in addition to broadening our understanding of how Fay from ‘The Lighthouse Girl’ communicated with the soldiers back in WW1.

***Christina Tran***  
***(Red Unit, Year 7)***

In term 1, our English classes went to Cape Schanck Lighthouse. It was fun to be with my class while learning new things about the book we were reading! The bus drive took forever, but my friends and I didn’t waste a minute as we talked all the way there and back. When we arrived, the students were divided into three groups, and we rotated our visit to three different locations. My favourite one was looking from the top of the lighthouse despite it being a daringly steep climb!

***Jasmine San***  
***(Red Unit, Year 7)***

We visited a little museum and learnt a lot about the light house which reflected Fay’s experience in the book we read for English. The highlight for me was the lighthouse as it was tall and the stairs inside were very steep and spiralled, and we learnt how the light works.

***Mia Ronaldson***  
***(Red Unit, Year 8)***

On Thursday 18th March, 50 students and 4 teachers from Blue Unit travelled almost 2-hours to Cape Schanck lighthouse. We enjoyed three experiences including a tour of the mini museum, a view from the top of the lighthouse and a small hike to a hill for a fabulous view. The Museum had preserved artifacts from the late 1800s. We climbed 39 steps to the top of the lighthouse, the last steps were notably slim and tall. Once at the top we were engaged in an informative talk about the history of the lighthouse and its surrounds before stepping out onto the viewing deck to absorb the view. Overall, it was a day thoroughly enjoyed by Blue Unit students and teachers.

**Robert Nguyen**  
(Blue Unit, Year 7)

Our trip to Cape Schanck Lighthouse was an experience of a lifetime. The drive was long and exhausting however, we had fun talking with friends on

the bus journey. On arrival, we breathed in the fresh sea air and let the wind fill our ears. The highlight of the excursion was the incredible view from the top of the lighthouse. We took some amazing photos to remember the breathtakingly vast ocean view.

**Summer Al Qaisy**  
(Red Unit, Year 7)

On the day of our trip to Cape Schanck lighthouse, the weather was beautiful as the breeze was cool despite the sun beaming down. I was fascinated by the environment because the ocean was majestic and the buildings were unique. The tour guides were friendly and informative and the experience was amazing. I will look forward to visiting Cape Schanck again in the future.

**Aliriza Sawari**  
(Red Unit, Year 8)

**Kylie Villella**  
English Faculty Coordinator



**“ Despite a lengthy journey to and from the seaside, the students returned with an appreciation for the important role of Australia’s lighthouses and their keepers throughout the nation’s history.”**



# National Constitutional Convention



Congratulations goes to Angela Mladenovski who was selected to attend this years National Constitutional Convention. The 26th annual convention was held on the 24th and 25th of March this year and traditionally would have been

hosted in Canberra. However, due to COVID restrictions it was held in Melbourne at the prestigious Windsor Hotel just outside of Parliament house. Angela was chosen from around 300 other applicants from private, Catholic and government schools to participate in this program.

The topic of discussion this year was whether or not the preamble of the Commonwealth Constitution should be altered to represent a modern Australia.

So, what is a preamble? A preamble to a constitution

is a short piece of text designed to introduce the constitution.

So, what is the Australian constitution? The Constitution establishes the composition of the Australian Parliament, it basically describes how Parliament works and what powers it has. It took effect on 1 January 1901.

However, Australia does not have a preamble to the Constitution itself. The text commonly referred to as the preamble to the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1900 currently reads as follows;

## **COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA CONSTITUTION ACT - PREAMBLE**

***WHEREAS the people of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania, humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God, have agreed to unite in one indissoluble Federal Commonwealth under the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and under the Constitution hereby established:***

***And whereas it is expedient to provide for the admission into the Commonwealth of other Australasian Colonies and possessions of the Queen:***

***Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:***

It has been argued by various groups within our society that this piece of writing is outdated, boring and describes nothing about Australia or its inhabitants past, present and future. The students were asked to examine preambles from other countries and decide whether or not to delete

the existing one in our constitution or re-write it to reflect modern Australia. The following is the transcript of the 2 days work that the students undertook. A most impressive effort from a group of 25 exceptionally talented young Victorians.



***As the people of Australia we are united across States and Territories to serve the common good. Interconnected through culture and heritage, we recognise the First Nations peoples, whose sovereignty was never ceded, and on whose land we reside and swear to protect. Through these aspects we strengthen our Australian identity. We shall live our lives under the rule of law, in respect to our democratic values set out by the Commonwealth.***

***We acknowledge the ever changing nature of Australian identity, recognising that time will bring new peoples, cultures and ideals.***

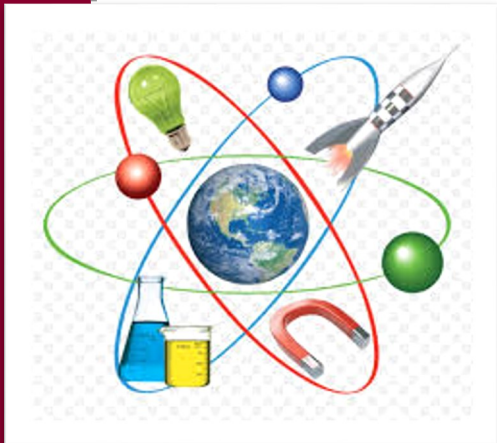
***We pay our respects to those who have served and continue to serve our nation in times of peace and conflict.***

***We pledge to be people who strive for equality, regardless of gender, race, faith, or culture while swearing to protect the honourable Constitution of Australia.***

This communiqué will be forwarded to the Australian government with its recommendations.  
Well done Angela et al.



# Primary Science Week



## FORENSICS

This year, between the 22nd and 26th of April, our school held the Primary School Science Week. A handful of year 9/10 students gathered to help our school's science teachers to run this fun-filled program for primary students. Schools that were invited to participate included Thomastown West, Thomastown Primary, Thomastown Meadows, Thomastown East and St. Catherine's. Activities for the Forensics activity consisted of finger print matching, microscopy, facial reconstruction, chromatography, soil testing, footprint matching, the blood line analysis and a range of other exciting activities.

Overall, the experience was insightful and fun to partake in and I would highly recommend that people considering signing up for Science Week 2022.

**Zainab Azizi**

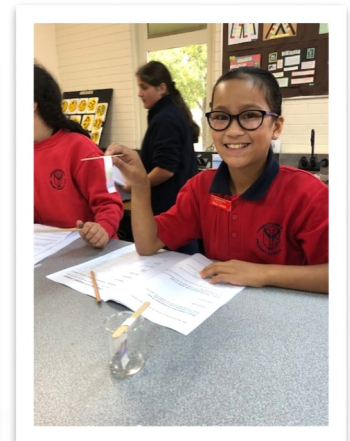


## STEAM

During primary science week, all the volunteers and myself had lots of fun working with the children from different primary schools. We solved many cases and achieved lots of goals. The kids faced a challenge and thought of many different ways to build a course for the SLOWEST possible marble.

**Eisa Anwari**

*“Activities for the Forensics activity consisted of finger print matching, microscopy, facial reconstruction, chromatography, soil testing, footprint matching, the blood line analysis and a range of other exciting activities.”*





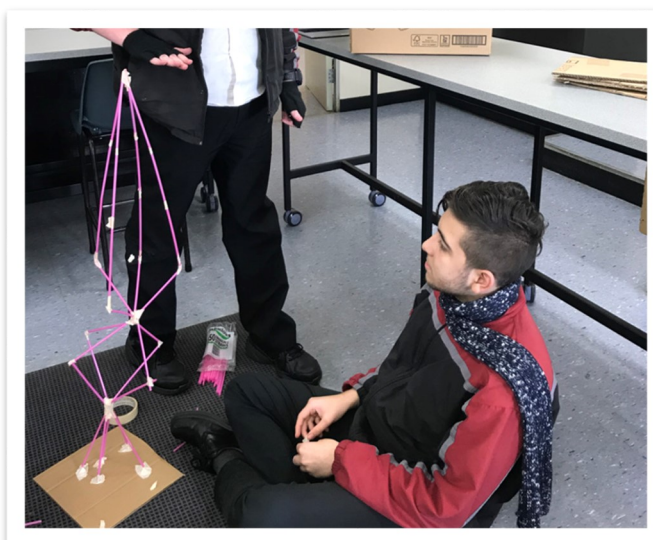
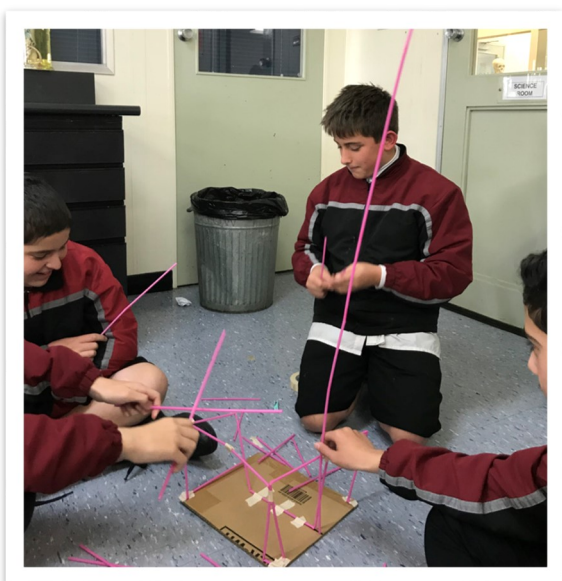
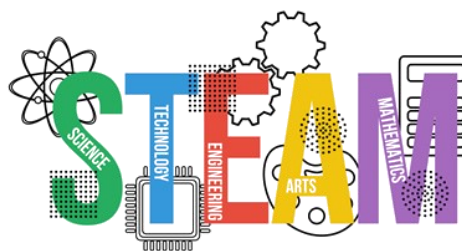
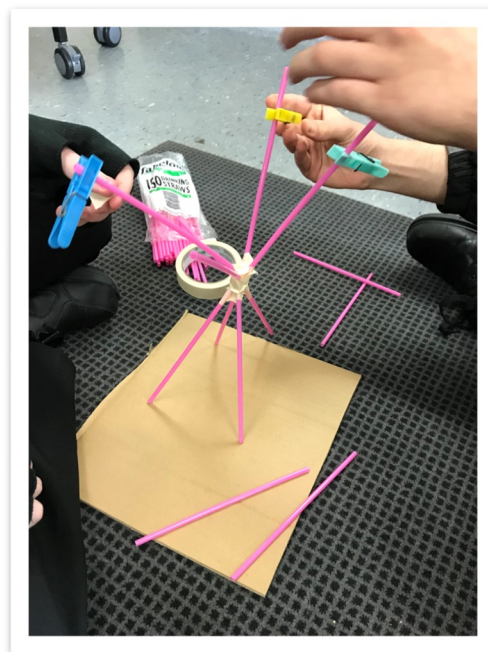
# STEAM Club

STEAM Club launched at lunchtime on Thursday 29th April in the science room. 12 students representing all units and year levels were given a challenge to build a tower out of straws and masking tape that could stand up as tall as a student. Students were given the choice to work alone or in groups; and every student contributed design and engineering ideas to their team. Students built about half of their towers and voted to finish the project in the next club meeting so that they could recruit more friends to help their build.

Many of the most vital projects and careers happening across the globe involve using STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Maths –

to design new materials and overcome challenges. The STEAM club hopes to help Thomastown Secondary students enjoy STEAM and develop their teamwork, design, engineering, reflection, problem solving and communication skills. In future meetings, club members will be supported by teachers from various learning areas to solve problems in project based learning tasks. STEAM club participants will help design projects for home groups to work on later this year. Students who are interested in STEAM are encouraged to attend a club meeting any Thursday at lunchtime in the science room.

**Emma Fitzpatrick**  
**STEAM Coordinator**



## The Arts

On Thursday 18th March artist Chiara Zeta ran a print-making workshop with 9/10 students at Thomastown Secondary College.

Chiara led students through a presentation that showed how she'd used ongoing education and art to aid her growth as a person, a carer, a community worker and a survivor of trauma.

Students learnt how art can be made anywhere, they were able to use hand printing techniques, a craft press, a miniature press which was made on TSC's 3D printer and the school's professional printing press.

Students were given the opportunity to make two artworks using drypoint

technique on aluminium plates and lino cut. They responded to a theme of nature and their extraordinary work can be seen below and in the library foyer display.

The drypoint task was so enjoyable it has now been rolled into year 9/10 art classes for all students.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of all opportunities for extension and immersion in the arts.



Many thanks to Samia for her hard work in printing the 3D presses and to Julia Musgrove and Chiara Zeta for facilitating the workshop.



**Amelia Ducker**

## Artist in Residence

Amelia Ducker is a film maker and theatre director based in Melbourne. She has been working with young people for over 10 years, working with companies including Back to Back theatre, St Martins Youth Arts Centre, ACMI, and Polyglot theatre.

This year Regional Arts Victoria has placed 150 artists into schools to lead arts workshops for 2 terms, and

Thomastown Secondary College has been selected as one of the participating schools, in what was a very competitive grant round.

Over Terms 2 and 3, Amelia will lead Year 9 and 10 students through a Drama and Film making residency program.

Facilitating students through a program of creative activities, leading

towards the creation of short films during Term 3.

This one off program will be on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the VCE taster block. For more information, Amelia will be talking to students and teachers on Monday May 10th in the Red Open Classroom at lunchtime.

**Emma Fitzpatrick**  
**ARTS Coordinator**

# In the Library

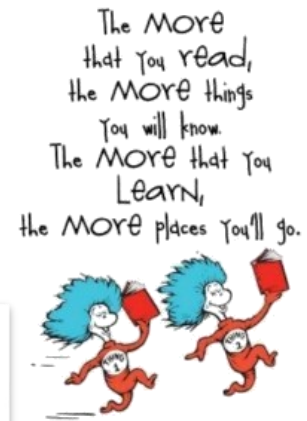
Renaissance Reading Program has commenced this term and the library is buzzing with activity. This learning platform has helped develop a school-wide reading culture that is vital to a student's success. The reading program enables students to read at a level that maximises and strengthens their literacy skills.

The library collaborates with the students Homegroup teacher to provide time and direction to build lifelong learning behaviours.

For more information visit:

<https://www.renaissance.com.au/>

**Nicole Djirkalli**  
**Librarian**



## Volleyball Regional Finals

On Friday the 23rd of April Mamele Faatele, Sapa Isaako, Peka Ah San, Luka Faatele, Mia Bilbilov, and Lagi Faale competed in the Northern Metro Regional Intermediate Girls Volleyball finals. They competed in 3 matches within their pool and played extraordinarily well with great skills and team work. Their first match was up against Macleod Secondary College where they won two sets to love (20/9 & 20/10). Their second game against Lalor Secondary College was a little bit tougher winning two sets to one (20/13, 11/20, 15/8). Their third match against Pascoe Vale girls was a very competitive and close match winning two sets to love (20/18, 20/17).

Going through to the final match against Eltham High undefeated in their pool, our girls were in great spirits and were feeling positive they would give it their best shot at making it to state. Unfortunately Eltham High were just too good and won in straight sets.

Our girls should be congratulated on their amazing efforts, sportsmanship, and hard work; coming home with a very pleasing result of second in the region. All girls did an amazing job training hard and representing our college with pride. Well done.

**Abby Watts**  
**Coach**



# O'Brien Icehouse - Docklands

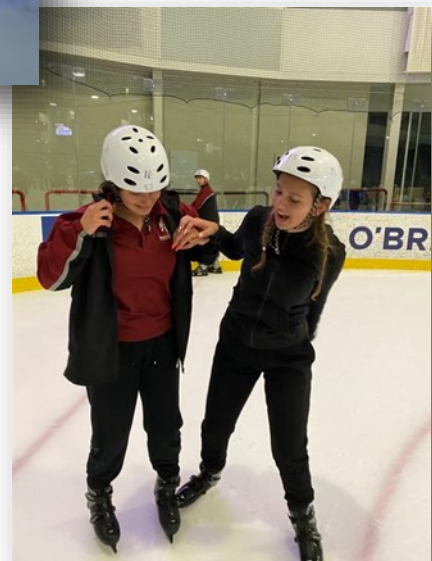
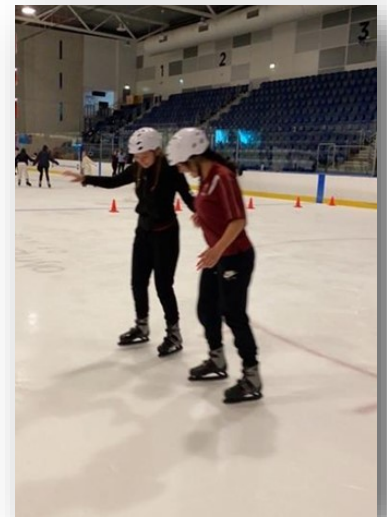
In Term 1, Blue unit had their very first excursion this year to ice skating in Docklands. This was a super fun excursion and all of blue unit seemed to enjoy themselves by spending time with their friends and even with their teachers. It has been over a year since all 130 students and 11 staff members could go out in an event together. Not only was this a fun time for Blue unit, it was also beneficial for the forum members as they got to work together in a team to make

this excursion happen. We learnt valuable skills in organising such events and learnt how to balance costs for the bus fees and the venue. It allowed us to show leadership and encourage blue unit peers to attend and bring permission slips. It was a team building exercise which really allowed us to get to know each other better. In this excursion we spent time at the ice-skating rink and later on visited the Melbourne star for some lunch. It was a very challenging experience for many and

there were lots of stumbles, but seeing everyone improve their ice-skating skills by the end of the day was very rewarding. We look forward to our next excursion in term 2.

## Blue unit forum students

*“It was a team building exercise which really allowed us to get to know each other better.”*



# Multicultural Day

On the 17th of May, we as a school have the privilege to celebrate and commemorate the different cultures which reside within. Multicultural day is an annual celebration which our school takes part in, as it educates both students and teachers about the importance of culture within our society.

Parents, teachers, families and friends have the opportunity to come and view a variety of different dances and performances. I am honoured to have participated in this annual celebration ever since I was in year 7. At first, I was very reluctant to participate, however, the experience renders me speechless every time.

What amazes me the most is the dedication and persistence the students have when practicing. Students practice in the early mornings, during the day at lunch and recess times and after school. As a performer, we are ready to dedicate all our time to practicing. The whole purpose of multicultural day is to spread the celebration of diversity.

**Hao Thai**  
**VCE - Year 12**

**“The whole purpose of multicultural day is to spread the celebration of diversity.”**



# Breakfast Club



*“Breakfast Club will operate each morning starting at 8am. All Students Welcome.”*

Breakfast Club has been an integral part of Thomastown Secondary College. Breakfast is undeniably the most important meal of the day, to provide energy throughout the morning.

However, it is not always easy to have the nutritious meal we need before starting a school day. Breakfast Club provides an opportunity to provide a meal for stu-

dents, such as a sandwich, cereal, drinks and fruit.

Due to COVID, breakfast club could not run as planned. We hope to commence the breakfast club mid term and this will run again before school from 8am.

It will be run in a COVID safe environment where a variety of breakfast foods will be provided. Keep an eye out for more details.

This year, SRC and Forum will make breakfast club extra special. Once a week a special breakfast item will be provided. Specialty items may in-

clude things like pancakes, waffles, bagels, smoothies etc.

All foods are halal. Students are encouraged to attend breakfast club for a bite before the beginning of the school day.



**SAVE the DATE**

THOMASTOWN SECONDARY COLLEGE

**50**

YEARS

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**1971-2021**

**THU 25TH NOVEMBER OFF-CAMPUS**

**SUN 28TH NOVEMBER ON-CAMPUS**

**THE CELEBRATION**

DETAILS COMING SOON