



# Thomastown Secondary College

NEWSLETTER

TERM 2 2021

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## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

**Term 3 Begins** Jul 12

**Uniform Shop Open** Jul 13

**Year 7-12 Report Day** Jul 15

**Year 12 GAT** Jul 29

## College Principal's Report



Students may not have been back in class for many days, but they are certainly looking forward to a period at home when, they can relax without needing to tune in to online learning. As you will see through this newsletter there is no lack of enthusiasm to become involved in the many additional opportunities offered by staff. I am continually impressed by their preparedness to put in extra hours at the college supporting each other. Examples of this have been the hundreds of hours at lunchtime, after-school and even during the holidays preparing for multicultural day, the early-morning rising (with a huge thank you to parents who also leave home early to deliver them)

to ensure breakfast is ready for those keen to come together for the first meal of the day, and late, very, very late at night they were still here studying the skies, waiting to see that special pink moon.

In this final week exams will run on Wednesday and Thursday and this year teachers have been asked to give all Year 7 and Year 8 students their exam ahead of time. This is because we are teaching them how to prepare for and attack a formal exam. At these year levels teachers will go through the paper with students seeking suggestions as to how each question would best be answered. If your child gets an excellent outcome be very proud because it means he or she has listened carefully, learnt the strategies to conquer the exam challenge and studied hard. In Year 9 and Year 10 exams will be unseen as it is expected that students will already have mastered the skill of preparing and completing an exam. The aim is

that by the time students are tackling VCE exams, on which so much is still dependent, all that will be required of students is that they study the new knowledge and skills as exam strategies will already be embedded.

Sometimes I hear this approach referred to as cheating and I find this quite interesting. We all know how much stress the VCE exams can cause and how much pressure students come under at this time. Let's compare that challenge to how we approach another vital exam most young people sit. When we decide it's time to teach them how to drive, we don't throw them the keys, wave them off and wish them good luck. Instead, we spent many hours modelling, coaching and helping them learn from mistakes under our supportive but ever watchful eyes. We never let them sit their Learner's test until they know the answers to all questions.

## Principal's report continued....

The answers that have been given to them to learn.

We don't think of this as cheating. We are proud when they go off to their exam having learnt all the answers. We never let them go for their driving exam until they have developed the correct attitude, we have taught them all the necessary skills, and they have practised these until we're sure that they are ready.

Term 3 is the most stressful for our Year 12 students because they are preparing for those exams. This tension is felt in every school across

Australia. To further support these students our four Learning Specialist Teachers are each providing additional hours to work with small groups of students during their study sessions. They will be shown how the study group can support them in revising, clarify areas not fully understood, advising on resources and how this group can support them right up till the exam day. These study groups will start the first week of Term 3. All Year 12 students have had the opportunity to complete a preliminary survey to document their specific needs.

Let's indeed hope our upcoming vacation is an uneventful period where you are able to find some stress-free time with your whole family. We are very aware of the impact the last 18 months has had on our families and I encourage you, if you have any concerns about your child, feel that we could help you further or if you just simply have some unanswered questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

**Regards**  
**Leonie White**  
**Principal**

## Key Dates for VCE Students

**Thursday**  
**29 July**

**10.00am–1.15pm**

**General Achievement Test (GAT)**

2021 VCE examination timetable has been published. Students can log onto the VCAA website <https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/administration/Key-dates> to find out more details.

All students must read the VCAA examination rules for VCE and the GAT. It is also their responsibility to be familiar with materials and equipment authorised for use in the GAT and VCE written examinations.

# STEAM Club

STEAM Club has been looking at bio-mimicry, bio mechanics and physics.

Our teams recently built grasshoppers using balsa wood, rubber bands, gaffa tape and pipe cleaners. This week we tested them in leaping competitions.

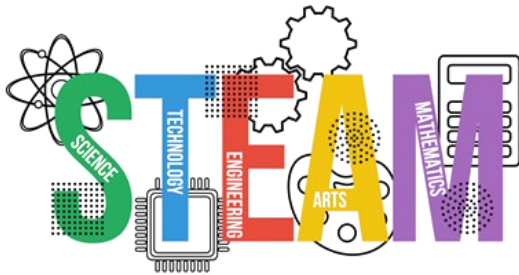
The winning grasshopper was able to jump 2 metres into the

air. Students were tasked with adapting their design to perform a sideways jump by altering the grasshoppers centre of gravity.

After the fierce competition was judged, students evaluated the suitability of this project rolling into Home Groups and provided feedback.

STEAM CLUB runs every Thursday at lunchtime in the Science Room. Students can join at any time!

For more information please talk to Mara or Emma in Red Unit.



# Astronomy Night

*“The Super  
Return  
of  
Astronomy  
Night”*



The first Astronomy Night of 2021 took place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May. Although the day was rainy and cold, the sky cleared up just in time to provide an amazing view of the large golden full moon at its closest point to Earth. Students arrived at 6 PM to

enjoy pizza and use sky mapping applications on their smartphones to find various stars and constellations. They were then able to get a closer view of the moon using the large telescope on loan to Thomastown Secondary College from the University of Melbourne. Science and Math teacher Sebastian Hammond brought his own telescope for another angle. Attendees took fantastic photos showing Tycho Crater and other major moon landmarks.

over the moon, the students left before 8 PM to enjoy the rest of the eclipse from home. Future Astronomy Nights are planned for Term 3, COVID permitting, and will focus on planets, asteroids, and other stars of interest. A visit from a volunteer astronomer is also in the planning.

To everyone’s delight the lunar eclipse began just before the end of the event. After taking final pictures of the shadow

***Mara Rozenkrantz***  
***Astronomy Coordinator***





# Multicultural Day Exhibition

Our Gallery displayed and promoted the beautiful and culturally diverse show of costumes, artefacts and curiosities from over 18 different cultures. In addition to promoting cultural diversity to our students and staff, we also had a very striking entry from one of our parent's treasured collection. The 'Termah' is an ornate and very beautiful woven cloth from Isfahan which is hung majestically in the lavish display. Thank you Ms Diba.

Many of the items represent nationalities from other parts of the world: Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Persia, Greece, Italy, India, Germany, New Zealand, Australia and many more.

Perhaps the most curious work on display belongs to one of our staff members currently teaching Japanese to our very own students. Her contribution includes excerpts from her workbook, displaying the beautifully striking black brushstrokes of Japanese calligraphy nestled amongst her strict Japanese teacher's dramatic vermilion correction lines.

This display is more than just an exhibition. In fact, it is the endpoint in the celebration of Multicultural Day, where our students celebrate their cultural diversity through voice, movement and choreography of dance and music.

The Multicultural Exhibition concludes at the end of this term. We continue to extend our warm invitation to all our community members to include a sample of your own culture for display at this important and joyous event in 2022.

**Lena Torikov**  
**Gallery and Production**  
**Coordinator**



# Multicultural Day









# Multicultural Day Lunch



*“Our cultural diversity is one of our greatest assets, and it is vital to who we are.”*

Australia is a lively and multicultural country, with cultures ranging from the oldest continuous culture of our earliest Australians to the cultures of our most recent arrivals from around the world. Our cultural diversity is one of our greatest assets, and it is vital to who we are. A multicultural Australia is an essential component of our national identity.

All migrants to Australia bring with them some of their own cultural and religious traditions, as well as many new ones. These traditions have improved our country as a whole. This was shown through the Multicultural Day recently held on Thursday the 20th of May.

VCE forum held an amazing multicultural lunch to raise money for charity. The Year 11 and 12 students who participated each brought dishes from their culture, and a range of delicious foods were bought! This included falafels and kanafeh from Lebanon to Samosas from India and a range of amazing desserts,

each with their own colours and smells derived from its country of origin.

VCE students who did not bring food but still wanted to indulge in the goodies bought a five-dollar donation and were able to have a plate of wonderful food.

Over-all there was a great turn out of food and participation from all the VCE students, and the event was enjoyed by all students and teachers. A very big thank you to all the students, parents and teachers who spent time making amazing food for us to enjoy, as well as to Forum students and teachers for helping organise the lunch event.

## VCE Student Forum





# GOALS Program

Next term Thomastown Secondary College will be running the ABCN GOALS program. GOALS is designed to encourage the completion of Secondary College and widen the aspirations of students in their middle years. Students are matched with a corporate mentor who they will work with on activities that include goal-setting, communication, personal strengths, building

interview skills and preparation for the workforce.

Mentors sharing their own career journeys and challenges can make an enormous impact as students consider their options for the future, including decisions as to whether or not they should leave school early. GOALS focuses on building confidence, the importance of setting goals and on continuing

education to Year 12 and beyond. Typically, students who take part in the program are drawn from Year 9 and have been identified as students who would benefit from a mentor. The program will be delivered fully digitally throughout Term 3 and will run for 5 sessions, each of 1.5 hours.

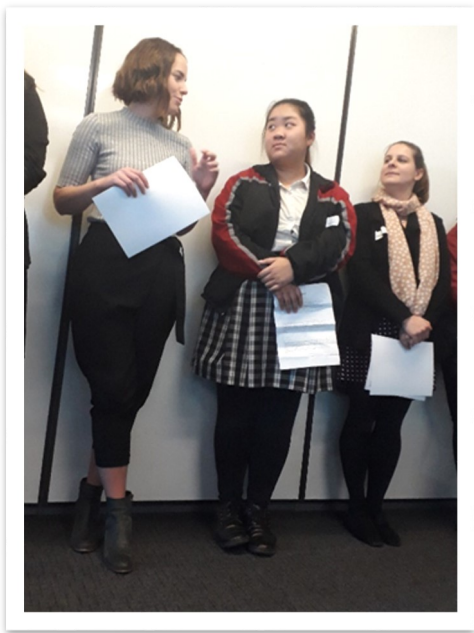
**Deanna Tornatora**  
**ABCN Coordinator**



**GOALS** An initiative of ABCN

FACE-TO-FACE AND DIGITAL DELIVERY

Goal-setting and preparation for the world of work



## The Arts

*“The Triennial, an enormous show featuring the work of over 100 artists, designers and architects from 32 countries, filled all four floors of the gallery “*

On a freezing and grey Thursday morning, in the last week of Term 1, our Year 12 Studio Art students gathered at Thomastown Station, armed with masks and hand sanitiser! However, the especially chilly morning did not deter the student’s excitement of a creative adventure.

Within an hour, all were standing in the vast foyer of the National Gallery of Victoria before the NGV’s monumental commissioned artwork, ‘Quantum Memories’ by Refik Anadol. It’s his most technically and conceptually ambitious work to date. ‘The work explores the

opportunities presented by artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning and quantum computing to visualise an everchanging large-scale immersive multimedia artwork.’

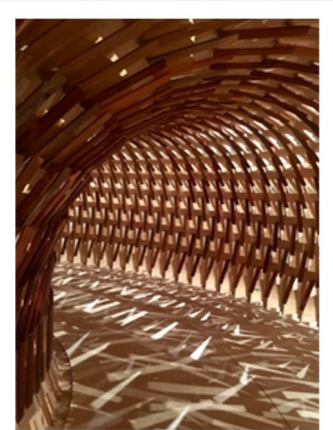
Far from being a passive experience, students engaged with BTVV’s, ‘Walls 4 Sale: near new and supersized’. Here students experienced an ‘Alice in Wonderland’ adventure, as they approached each room with complete excitement, not knowing if the designer bedroom ceiling was too low for entry or the bathroom toilet was so tall, its purpose was obsolete.

The smell of freshly shaved wood in the collaborative work by the world-renowned Japanese architect Kengo Kuma collaborates with local artist Geoff Nees. ‘Botanical pavilion 2020’ engaged the senses within a sublime tessellated interior lined with timber collected from trees felled or removed over several years at Melbourne’s Royal Botanic Gardens.

Along the way, students critiqued and evaluated work and voiced their firm opinions over lunch before the afternoon train home.

**Lena Torikov**

**Year 12 Studio Arts Teacher**



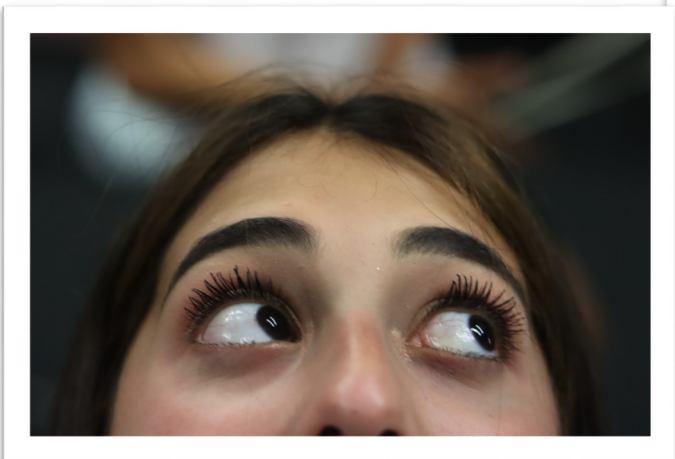
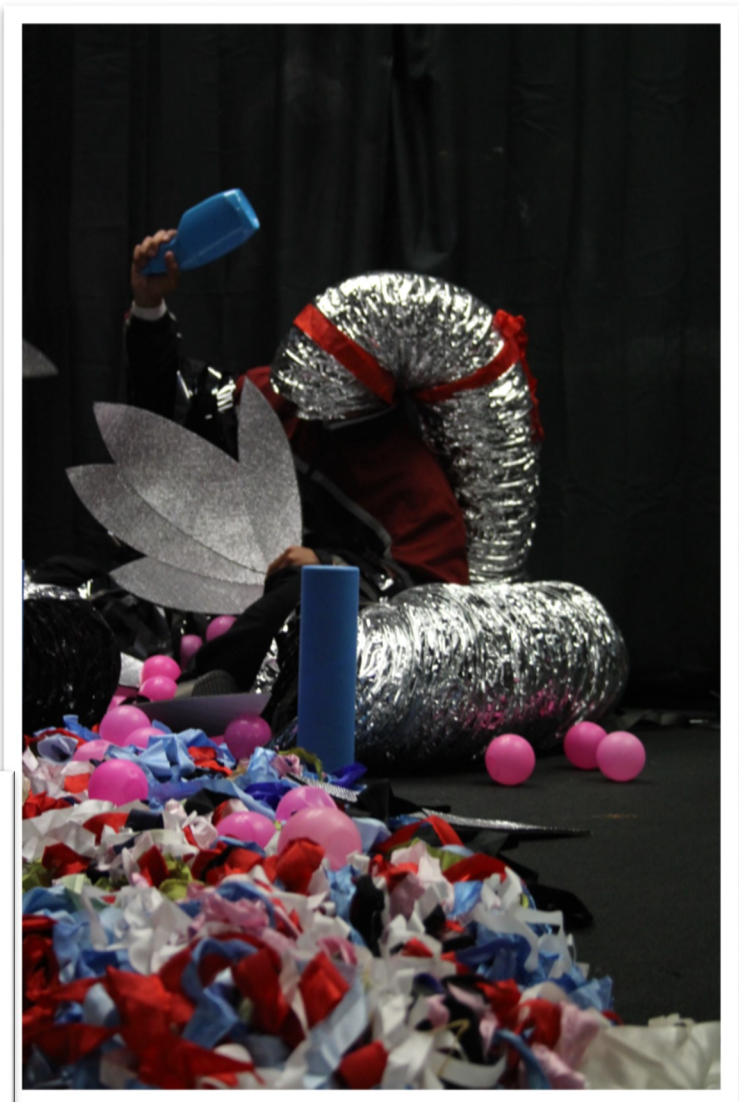
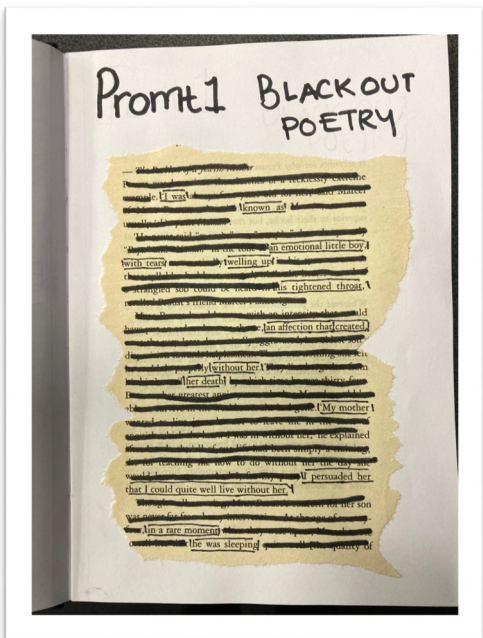
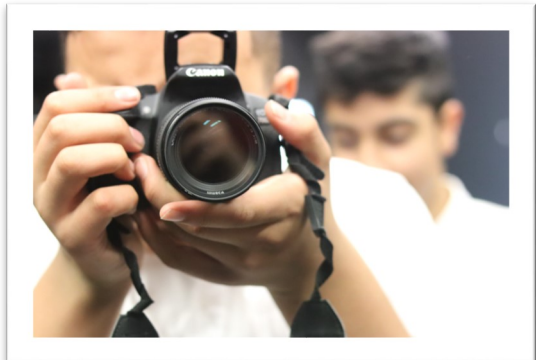


# Film and Drama

**FILM AND DRAMA CLUB with artist in residence Amelia Ducker.**

The Film and Drama Club for Year 9 and Year 10 students continues to go from strength to strength with students exploring creative processes developing ideas for their film projects in Term 3.

For three periods a week, Artist Amelia Ducker provides the students with play based activities that build their confidence in working with groups. Students are active, curious and fully engaged with this project which aims to amplify their voices and give them the tools to tell their stories their way.



# MID ENGLISH POEMS WRITTEN BY YEAR 9 & 10 STUDENTS



## **Lies**

*The sorrow in her eyes  
Told a million stories  
But the smile  
Told a million lies.*

## **Love**

*I used to think love was beautiful  
So simple  
So innocent  
Now I know what it really is  
A death sentence.*

## **Liberty**

*As she lay in her bed  
The voices got louder  
And louder  
Until her thoughts turned into ghosts  
And she was finally free  
She flew far, far away  
And never came back.*



*Into the winter sea she goes  
Surrounded by waves  
And a cold starry night  
Her love for the ocean  
Could only run so deep  
As she dove off the cliff  
Into sweet eternity.*



## **The concrete beneath my feet**

**No control**

**As I stroll through life**

**Unaware**

**And scared**

**What must I do**

**To feel safe?**



*Her deepest sin was not believing  
in herself*

*Not believing in her beauty*

*And in her intelligence*

*She hid behind a mask*

*A mask full of sadness and regret*

*A childhood so troubling*

*With a family to match*

*She was true*

*And she was kind*

*She was beauty*

*And she was light*

*Why couldn't she see it?*

*For her friends could for sure*

*She was not perfect*

*But she was loved forevermore.*



*Her love was indescribable  
Her quiver underneath my touch  
Was enough to make anyone melt  
Her rosy cheeks filled my mind  
Her strawberry scent ensnared my senses  
Peace  
And utter bliss  
Entered my heart*