



Thomastown Secondary College

NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 2022

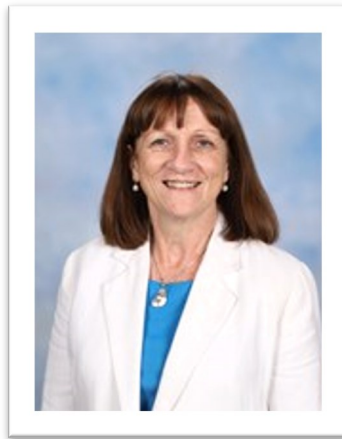
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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Term 2 Begins	Apr 26
NAPLAN Testing	May 10-13
Multicultural Day	May 16
VCE Exams	May/ Jun 30-3
VCE Units 2 and 4 Begin	Jun 6
Public Holiday	Jun 13

College Principal's Report



We finish the term by celebrating the fact that all our students are back at school and we have been able to return to a reasonably normal programme. Students are very excited to be back on campus but of course there is an increased sense of anxiety about work missed, about new friends that need to be made and old friendships which need to be renewed. It is obvious that being away for a significant part of 2020 and 2021 has added additional challenges to the normal school routine. We are looking forward to returning to full school assemblies and full Unit assemblies to build those essential social interactions, sense of belonging as well as provide students

with a greater opportunity to have a voice in decisions made in 2022 and beyond. In this way we know we will be able to ensure the best possible experience for everyone at the college.

Although we haven't been able to fully restart all our normal programmes such as school assemblies and a range of excursions we certainly have not been slow to create a whole range of opportunities for students at all levels and this newsletter is full of visual stories of all the things that we have achieved so far. Our athletics days were a fantastic opportunity to come together, to support each other, to welcome some parents to join us and to celebrate all the positive that we have to offer each other and the broader community.

We have also been busy planning opportunities for students to explore their career options and to give them some further opportunity to work with business people from a wide range of careers both here and

through virtual interviews and follow up discussions. Our sporting coaches have also been extremely busy preparing our teams for competition with other schools across the area and this is a great way for students to build their self-confidence while sharing with students from other schools how they are managing their return to school.

Despite these difficult times of last year our Year 12 graduates achieved some extraordinary results, some of the highest we have seen in some time. This provides a strong example to our current students on what can be done when students are determined to achieve their goals and willing to work closely with parents and teachers to seek out the support they need. We will report on these students and their achievements right across the board from university places to wonderful job opportunities. One of our students even managed to achieve a perfect score for one of her VCE classes,

Principal's report continued....

something experienced by only a tiny percentage of students in Victoria sitting the VCE exams. Many students have volunteered to return and share their experiences and strategies with our current Year 12 students.

You will know from my recent updates that we are continuing to have a slow stream of positive COVID cases reported at the College and although a number of these have come from close contacts in the home while our students were already isolating, recently we have seen more students who have become positive while at school. While this is only a small number, I can't stress enough the importance of regularly using the COVID testing kits that are sent home fortnightly with your child. Another set of RATS are being sent out today. By testing regularly and staying home when you have symptoms you help to keep everybody safer. There is no doubt that the number of cases will grow through the winter as we are seeing this happening in the northern hemisphere and the numbers in every other state are already on the increase. We must try everything we can to keep our children safe and to keep our schools open.

There has never been a time that more clearly demonstrates the need for students to be at school and the disconnections which happens when schools are not available. We have experienced a small number of students who have found the transition back to school difficult and there is some unsettled behaviour amongst some of our students. We have immediately started to work with families to ensure that this does not continue but we are extremely mindful that this is something that is happening in our neighbouring schools, across the State and across the world. We are confident that with the correct strategies and support this will only last for a short time.

I will include a separate notice, but I'd like to finish by sending out a request for your help. Over the last couple of COVID years we have struggled to engage parents on School Council mostly because we're not having the same degree of face-to-face contact with you but we are in desperate need to have parent representation on School Council. It is a vital part of the school's management system and provides an opportunity for parents to have input. It does not require a heavy commitment on

members as we meet at Full Council Meetings only eight times a year and then there are subcommittees which can be facilitated online. If you are interested, I would love to hear from you and I have included the appropriate nomination forms for you to fill out and send back to me. The meetings are relaxed, informative and inclusive. Our students actively participate in all these meetings so you will also be able to listen to student opinion as well as staff and parent opinions. Of course, there is plenty of opportunity to look at new initiatives and ideas and we welcome all suggestions to maintain the College as a warm and thriving environment.

I wish you the very best for the upcoming break. Please don't hesitate to contact myself or your child's Home Group teacher if you are concerned in any way or, as I said, have some great suggestions. You can do this through a phone call, note sent with your child or by emailing the school on Thomastown.sc@education.vic.gov.au

Warm Regards

Leonie White
Principal

Year 9 & 10 History - World War 1

The Year 9 and 10 students are currently completing their World War 1 Unit of work and have been fortunate enough to receive a resource box from the Australian War Memorial to assist with their studies. The resource box contains numerous items and objects which range from postcards, uniforms, letters and photographs which have proven to be a valuable

resource when analysing these items.

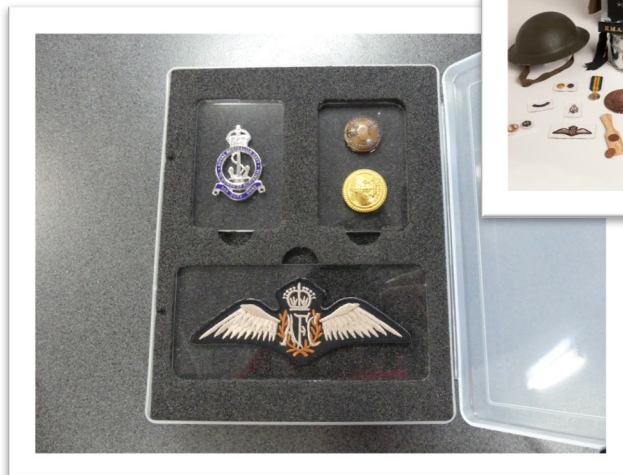
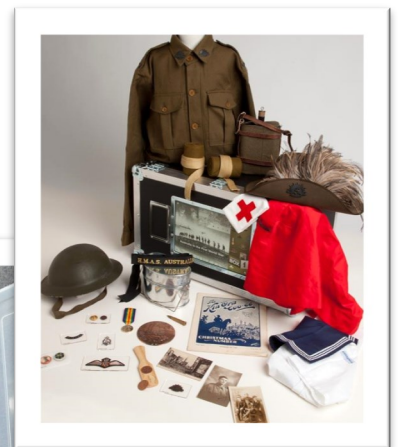
Students were provided with worksheets to document, record and explain their findings as well as the handling of actual objects which the Australian armed forces used during various campaigns.

This has proven to be a valuable experience for our students who were able to

also demonstrate their usage and permitted to wear some of the items provided.

We thank the Australian War Memorial in allowing the students to share in this experience and gain valuable knowledge through analysing these resources.

Vince Fontana
History Teacher



Marrung Education Scholarship



Marrung Education Scholarships are for students who:

- are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- complete Year 10 at a Victorian government school in 2021
- are planning on completing Years 11 and 12 at a Victorian government school commencing in 2022.

A selection panel made up of representatives of the Department of Education and Training and the Victorian Aboriginal Education

Association Incorporated (VAEI) reviews applications and selects the 20 successful applicants.

Selection is based on the following criteria:

- Involvement in the Aboriginal community
- 2020 Year 10 results
- school reports
- potential to succeed in a chosen pathway
- references from school and community representatives.

Thomastown Secondary College is pleased to announce that Year 11 student Noah Tei Ona was one of the successful applicants to receive this scholarship.

Noah has demonstrated through his academic achievements, and his involvement with the Aboriginal Community to be a most deserving recipient and we wish him all the very best in his future aspirations.

Congratulations Noah!

Renaissance Reading Program

Regular weekly reading in Year 7-10 Home Group is well under way as we see students settle into a regular school routine once again.

Under the guidance of their Home Group teacher and library manager, students utilise the Renaissance Reading Program to inform their book choices at library borrowing times.

The program identifies the range of texts on our college library shelves that best suits each student's reading ability and interests. Students are able to monitor their understanding of the books they are reading through the program's book-

quiz feature. Over the course of their schooling, students, along with their parents and Home Group teachers, are able to track their reading achievements and progress.

Students are encouraged to read for pleasure at home as well as at school. They may wish to borrow a book for Home Group reading and a book for reading at home.

For more information on your child's college enrolment to the Renaissance Reading Program, and how you can best support your child's reading journey, contact your child's Home Group teacher.

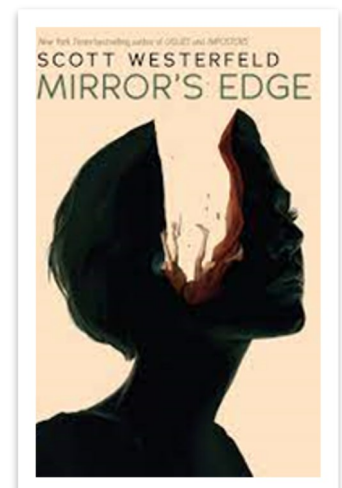
Come and Explore our Exciting New Titles!

Students are welcome to browse the shelves and borrow books during recess and lunchtimes. Students visit the College library during Home Group sessions to select, borrow and exchange books.

Kylie Villella

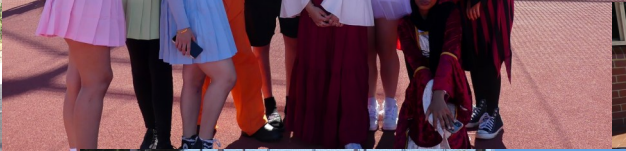
English Faculty Leader

Titles recently added to the College library collection



Athletics Carnival 2022





ABCN My Career Rules Program

On the 10th of March a group of Year 10,11 and 12 female students participated in the ABCN My Career Rules program. Student's spoke with three women in different fields from the company Accenture. Students had the opportunity to ask them multiple questions about their job, life and career choices.

They learnt how they got to that point in their career and the struggles and challenges they went through to end up where they were. The students found the program really empowering as it showed them that so many different things can happen during your career path and you can never know what to expect, as well as the range of career opportunities there are.

Some advice they gathered from Alejandra, Caroline and Cindy was "follow your passion rather than money", "don't give up" and "you can do it".

Overall it was a great session and they highly recommend it to future students.

Deanna Tornatora
ABCN Coordinator



MY CAREER RULES



Interview 2 Impress

Interview 2 impress is a program for year 10s where mentors come from different companies, such as Optus, TAL and ABCN to help students find the qualities needed to engage in employment options and to improve their interview preparation skills.

My first time in this program was on the 23rd of March with the company Hewison Private Wealth and ABCN. It was a Zoom meeting. They put us in groups of 2 and we played some cool games and riddles before

the mentors joined in the meetings.

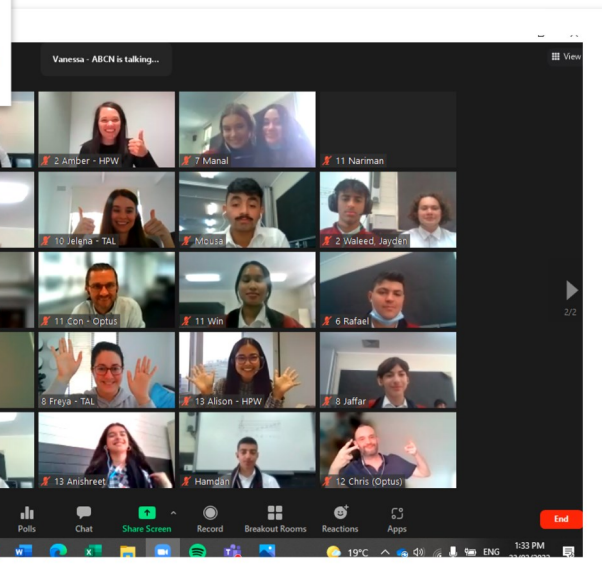
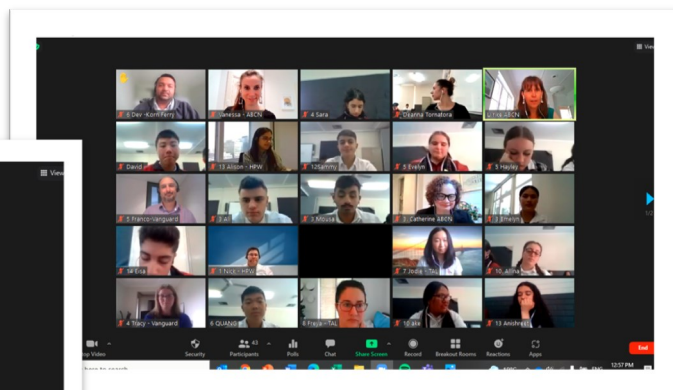
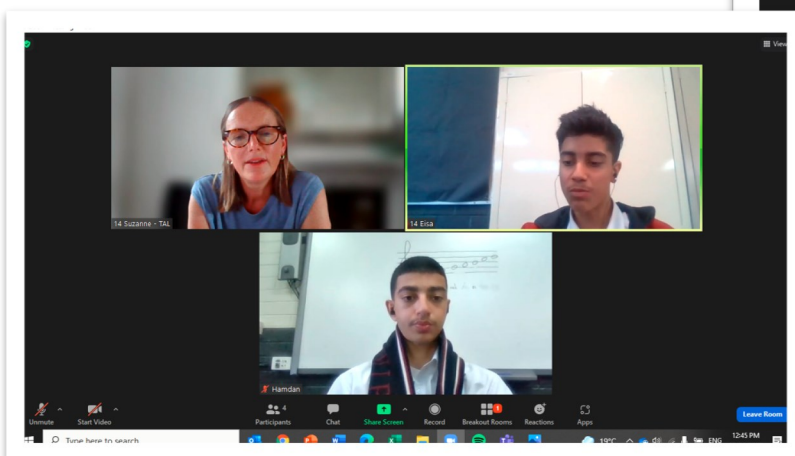
Each group had a mentor. We got to learn a lot about how to do an interview the best way possible, what we needed and what should be avoided, what to do when we get nervous, and how to stand out or be present in an interview.

We learnt about our mentors and how they went with their first interviews and it turned out that most of them stuffed up their

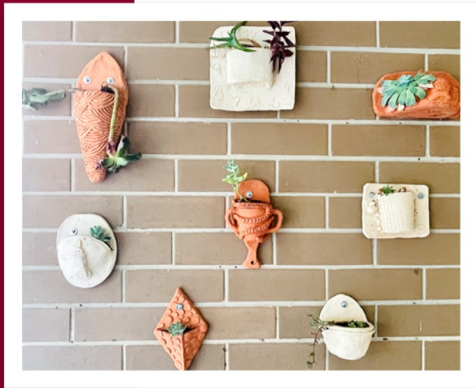
first interviews. So, this shows us that it is OK to mess up an interview as long as we don't give up.

The meeting lasted for 2 hours. I honestly think it is a really good opportunity for students to join in the future because it can help you when doing work experience or even just getting a casual job in the future.

By Nariman Younis

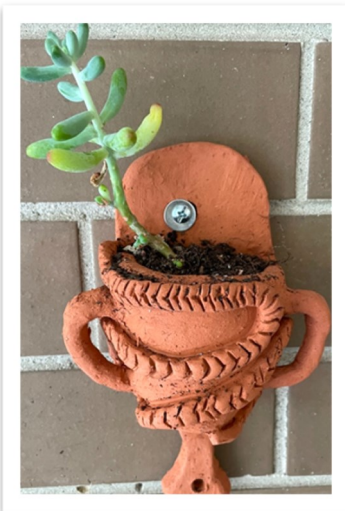


The Arts - Product Design



Product design for this task was about students designing a product to address a specific need. In this case the material was ceramics, and the need was a vertical garden outside their unit.

To be successful students needed to research and understand how to work with clay and develop and refine ideas, given set restraints, then create a functional clay planter.



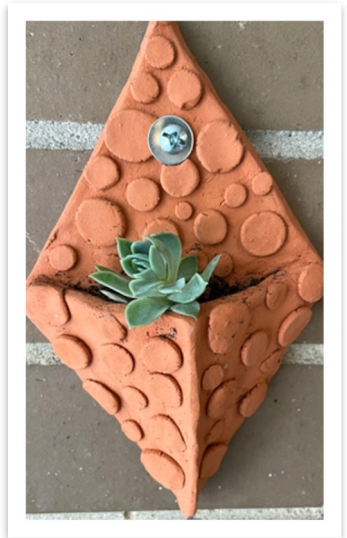
Considerations included:

- How much soil is needed to grow plants?
- Holes for hanging or wall mounting.
- What size and shape will it be?
- What subject matter will your artwork/design illustrate.
- Should we consider drainage?
- Where will it be hung?
- Shrinkage, will your clay shrink/smaller when it dries or become 5-10% bigger?
- How will you create texture?

We would also like to acknowledge Ibrahim for helping with the hanging and installation of these works.

Below are some examples of students work and given time the plants will flourish.

Samia Townsend
Art Teacher



Mathematics Club

Maths Club aims to support students independent learning across Year 7-12.

Julie George and Kevin Mach will be present to help all students with their maths problems in a fun way.

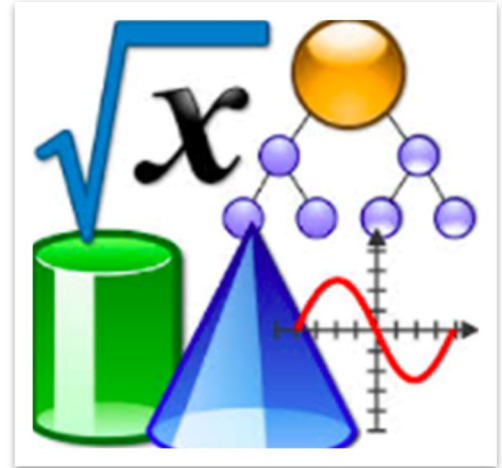
Maths Club runs every Thursday after school

Time: 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Parent consent is required at the first session.

Consent forms are available through the Homework Club co-ordinators Susan Gray and Sandra Gacovski.

Julie George
Learning Specialist
Teacher



after-school
homework **CLUB**
@your library

Need some help with
Your homework?

- ⇒ Ideas for a project?
- ⇒ A book you need to read?
- ⇒ Maybe you just need a quiet space and the internet to get Your school work done.

Talk to your Home Group teacher
For more information

Come along to the Library

WEDNESDAYS

&

THURSDAYS

3:30pm - 4:30pm

Looking forward to seeing
you there!



BLUE UNIT FORUM

*is seeking donations for the local RSPCA
centre:*

ITEMS TO DONATE

***polyester doonas, sheets, towels, blankets pillow sheets,
blanket sheets tennis balls, litter trays
lots of toys!***

ITEMS WE CANNOT ACCEPT

feather doonas

**Donated items are used in the Shelter to make animals
comfortable and to provide supplies for foster carers in
their home.**



***Please leave your donations on
Ivana's desk in Blue Unit***