

Thomastown Secondary College

Principal's Report

by Leonie White

Term 3 is usually one of our busiest terms especially for students in our senior years and this year has been no exception. You will see from the articles in this newsletter that there is a great deal happening for all year levels. I hope you enjoy the contribution by staff and students.

I hope our VCE students who are sitting VCAA exams next term are concentrating on revision during the break but are also being mindful of balancing this with family time, relaxation, and exercise. There are revision sessions being offered at the college during this time and your child will know if this applies to their class. A schedule has been posted on TEAMS with dates and places identified. In Term 4 Year 12 students will attend Week 1 and Week 2 celebrating Friday October 13, their last day in fancy dress. They will then either start revision for exams or start their Structured Work Placement to complete their VET subject. All students preparing for the VCAA exams are welcome to study at the college.

Year 10 and Year 11 students have now chosen their subjects for 2024 and their timetable is near completion. I'd like to thank all parents who attended the VCE Information Night earlier this year. Almost every parent was able to attend on the night and while that allows us to feel confident that you have received all the necessary information on programs and courses, more importantly it helps students feel greater confidence in their choices and their transition to VCE.



This issue:

- Our students representing Australia
- Year 12 Formal
- VCAA Exam dates
- Interschool Sports
- School Fundraisers
- STEAM club Print-A-Car Challenge
- Pathways and Careers Programs and Excursions
- The Arts
- Breakfast Club
- Navigating COMPASS

Announcements, Events,
and Updates

Principal's Report Continued...

Every four years all government schools undergo a review process. This is to provide the opportunity to reflect on the growth achieved over the past four years and to plan for the next four years. The review runs over three days through October and November but should not create too many interruptions to the normal running of the school. There may be visitors to classrooms during this time but always in the company of a school leader. Certainly, parents are welcome to contribute to the process. Parent members on school council will obviously be involved. The final report will be tabled at school council.

I'm sure you haven't been able to escape the constant news coverage on teacher shortage. For Australia this was no surprise as we have been aware that many teachers were reaching retirement age. However, the shortage is not only being experienced in Australia but across the world with UNESCO predicting the world will need 69 million teachers by 2030. The Victorian State Government is looking at a number of ways to address the problem but currently a number of schools are needing to combine classes, send senior students home if they have no classes and principals are going back to the classroom. So far Thomastown has been very fortunate in that we have had very little staff movement and very few staff away sick. We have also retained a number of our staff currently on leave or retired, as relieving teachers. They nominate days when they are available to cover classes. Having professionals who already know our students and how the school operates means disruptions are minimised.

COVID followed by inflation means I am acutely aware that many families, not only locally but across the country, are struggling to meet the ever-increasing home payments, rent increases, transport, food and other essential costs. We want school to be a place that provides support for families and allows students to learn having all their requirements, not to be an additional strain on family life. Please don't hesitate to contact your home group teacher or myself should you need any assistance meeting the cost of excursions or even uniform.

I hope you enjoy reading the articles written by our staff and students. It will give you a glimpse of the many opportunities available and I hope you will encourage your children to contribute to the next newsletter.



Our Students Representing Australia

The World Kick-boxing Championships

The World Kickboxing Championships is the pinnacle of the sport of Kickboxing and will take place in Portugal in November. Elizabeth El-Jarid will start in Italy where she will settle in before traveling to Venice to participate in training camps for 8 days. She then travels to Portugal where she will compete over 6 days for the world title. The competition has around 20 competitors per division. They will fight in light contact kickboxing that is regulated by a referee to ensure that there are no significant or damaging contacts from both kicks or punches that can be directed at the face and the body. Libby has been training tirelessly for 6 years for her opportunity to represent Australia on the world stage. She has finally reached her goal.

Miss World Australia

Melani reached the Preliminary Final in August 2022 and made it through the State Final in April 2023. On the 18th of August, Melani Murdjevska competed in the Miss World Australia 2023 National Final representing her state Victoria along with 32 other Finalists. She participated in a week-long competition from the 14th – 18th of August for Miss World Australia, during which she got the opportunity to stay at Mercure Gold Coast Resort alongside other national finalists. Throughout the week, she engaged in various events which included sports challenges, interviews with the judge’s panel, an international model runway challenge and several social media challenges. These activities were designed to assess skills and qualities of the contestants, ultimately lead to the selection of the finalists on the MWA final night. Melani explains that, Miss World Australia goes beyond mere aesthetics but emphasises on the concept of Beauty With A Purpose. Melani was recognised as the recipient of the ‘Beauty with A Purpose’ award on the final night, as a result of her dedicated efforts in raising over \$26,000 for Variety, The Children’s Charity and the 3rd highest fundraiser in Australia.

On the evening of the Miss World Australia Final, Melani achieved an astounding accomplishment by securing a place within the Top 12 finalists Nationally. This achievement holds immense significance, as she was the Youngest Contestant competing Australia wide.



Year 12 Formal

by Noura Osman

Thanks to the extensive and dedicated work of VCE Forum and their teacher, Emily, the Year 12 students of 2023 were able to enjoy an exceptional Formal. On July 21st, the Year 12 students got themselves glammed up in their best dresses and suits and gathered together at the Lakeside Banquet & Convention Centre to commemorate the significant milestone of reaching the midpoint of the academic year! Thanks to the meticulous planning of VCE forum, the students were provided with delicious meals, a dance floor, a photobooth and a professional DJ.

During the night, the students gathered together in high spirits. The atmosphere was one of happiness as they danced and swayed to the rhythm of the music. Laughter and chatter filled the air as they mingled, forging new connections, and strengthening existing friendships. It was a night to remember, a break from the ever-present thoughts of assignments and SACs, and an opportunity for students to let their hair down and have some fun. The energy of the night left an unforgettable mark on the hearts of the students, creating cherished memories that they will carry with them for years to come.



VCE NEWS

YEAR 12 FANCY DRESS DAY

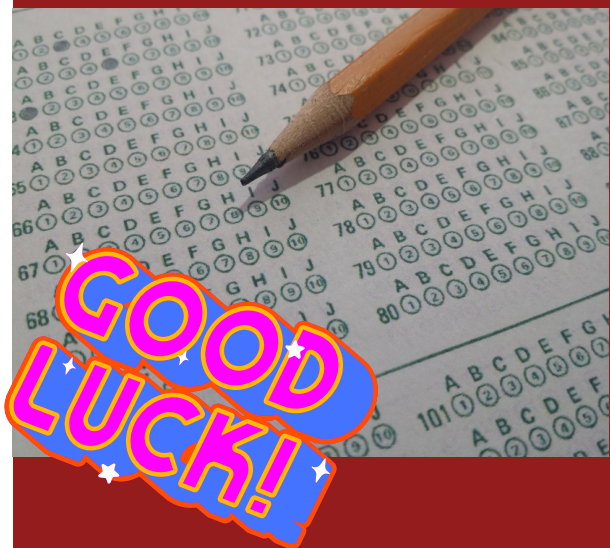
The Year 12 students are nearing the completion of their secondary schooling. This time marks a turning point as they leave behind a journey of childhood education and embark on their future as adults. The Year 12 students will return to school for the first two weeks of Term 4 and will mark their final day of formal classes with a celebration in fancy dress, a lunch gathering and an opportunity to farewell their school during the lunch break.

VCE VCAA EXAMS

Year 12 students and students studying Units 3 and 4 are in the process of preparing for the final VCAA exams. The written examinations begin on Tuesday 24 October and end on Wednesday 15 November. Examinations are held in the college Language Centre at the scheduled times. For further information on VCAA examinations and download a timetable of exam dates, visit the VCAA website: <https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/administration/Key-dates/Pages/VCE-exam-timetable.aspx>

SEPTEMBER TERM BREAK REVISION CLASSES

To assist student with their preparation for the final exams, Year 12 teachers will be holding classes during the September school term break, beginning Monday 18th September. Students will be notified via Teams of the sessions relevant to their subjects.



Term 3 Interschool Sports Report

by Clint Youlden

Term 3 is Spring sport in the Whittlesea Division and we had the VCE Basketball team venture to Diamond Valley stadium to take on the rest of the District. Being the second smallest school in numbers and without a heavy basketball culture, it was always going to be a tough battle, especially against the big schools like Hazel Glen and Epping. Our star player could not play due to injury, so our focus was to compete hard and fight for a win or two. We kept a few games tight until half time, but the older, stronger and taller opponents pulled away down the stretch in all the games. Whetu Bartlett was a standout player and is only year 9 so we'll be looking forward to him representing the school in the years to come. The Junior table tennis did not fair as well who fought it out with a very strong Gilson team and have already began practicing in the ECA morning and afternoon for next years showdown.

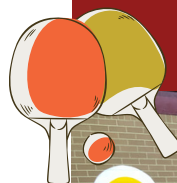
The Regional Track and Field Championships was held on the 30th of August at Epping Athletics track and despite some difficult conditions, two of our students came away with a bronze medal in the javelin. Emelyn Utumapu and Tiara Siaosi both took 3rds in their events with the other students just missing medals. A big congratulations to our competing district champions, Elies Belhaj, Ratana Hok Phealy, Aggelos Patrikakos, Sariah Raeina, Tiara Siaosi and Emelyn Utumapu.

Interschool sports - Table Tennis

by Michael Lane

The 9/10 boys table tennis team competed in August against local schools Epping Secondary and also Gilson College. The boys played extremely well throughout the entire day and ended up coming up against Epping Secondary College in the final. They won the final against Epping with a final score of 5-1. The players on the day included: Ali AlMastour, Ali Youssef, Mohammed Daghashani, Hussein Youssef and also Yahye Ahmed. Special mention goes to Hussein Youssef who is in year 8 but played up an age group classification.

Congratulations and well done on our win!

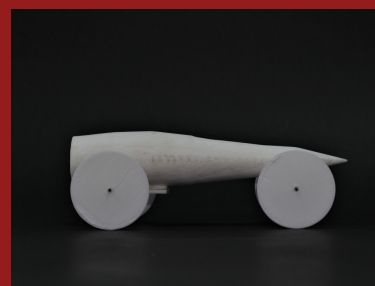
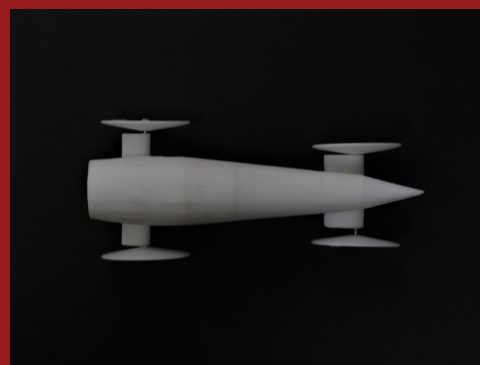
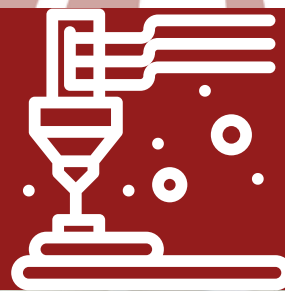


STEAM CLUB 3D PrintACar Challenge

by Mara Rosenkrantz

Thomastown Secondary College participated in this year's 3D PrintACar Challenge, an annual competition run by the Quantum Victoria Maths and Science Specialty Centre. Teams of 2 to 4 students from primary and secondary schools around the state design and build a miniature race car, using a 3D printer to produce all of the major parts. The teams document their learning in a digital portfolio as they research the physics of car design and test their materials. The cars are then raced on a miniature race track using a wire for guidance and compressed gas cylinders for power.

This was TSC's second year of competing, and we had two teams participate. Team.zip was comprised of students from Blue and Gold Units, with Dong Quach and Ezekiel Milczarek working on car design and Tina Bui and Irhanna Muhd Irwan making the portfolio. The other team, Spanish Inquisition, includes two Year 11 students: car designer Flynn Rogan and photographer and graphic designer Minas Pazinas. Sienna Ristevski from Red Unit took over portfolio duties from a third VCE student who was unable to continue. Both teams worked hard through lunchtimes and even home group sessions to complete and assemble their cars, finish their beautiful and informative portfolios. They all gathered in the Science Office on Friday 18th August to celebrate and watch the qualifying race. Team Zip's car was sadly unable to race due to a technical flaw, but Spanish Inquisition earned a spot in the finals as the third fastest car out of 19 competing teams. They received near-perfect marks on both car design and portfolio and are eager to revise their work ahead of the Finals Day race at Quantum Victoria on 17th November. We wish them good luck and great reaction times. Any students interested in improving their research and portfolio skills or learning more about physics through an interesting project are encouraged to join the STEAM Lab on Monday lunchtimes to start practicing their 3D printing skills.



Pathways & Careers Programs

The Innovate Program

by Deanna Tornatora

Over 4 weeks a group of year 7/8 students had the opportunity to participate in the ABCN Innovate program help at Vanguard. Innovate is designed to inspire young people to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematic job opportunities by encouraging the uptake of STEM subjects. Innovate aims to address this issue by targeting students in Years 7 and 8 to build their confidence in these areas and increase their understanding and awareness of STEM careers.

The program involves small groups of students working with mentors over four, fully facilitated sessions to apply skills such as creativity, innovation and problem-solving. Mentors sharing their own career journeys and challenges can make an enormous impact as students consider their options for the future.



Interview 2 Impress

In Term 2, two groups of year 10 students participated in an Interview 2 Impress workshop run by ABCN. They were held at Fuji Film and KPMG. Interview 2 Impress is a half-day program designed to equip students with the practical skills needed to engage in employment options beyond school.

Interview skills are an essential tool in successfully pursuing post-school employment options and careers. While most students are taught about interview preparation at school, the opportunity to explore this topic and learn from a corporate employee adds considerable value. Mentors sharing their own career journeys and challenges can make an enormous impact as students consider their options for the future.

It enables students to test and practise the theory they learn at school by working with a mentor who is able to provide direct and relevant feedback and advice based on their own job interview experiences.

Future Thinkers

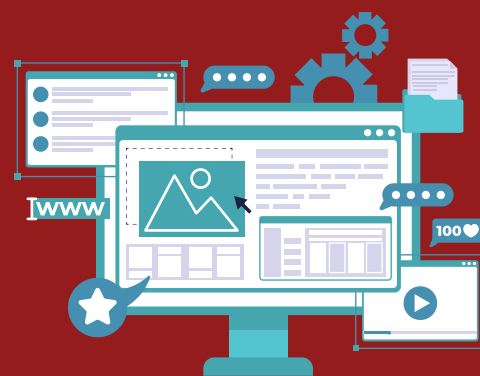
by Summer, Sarah & Rosanna

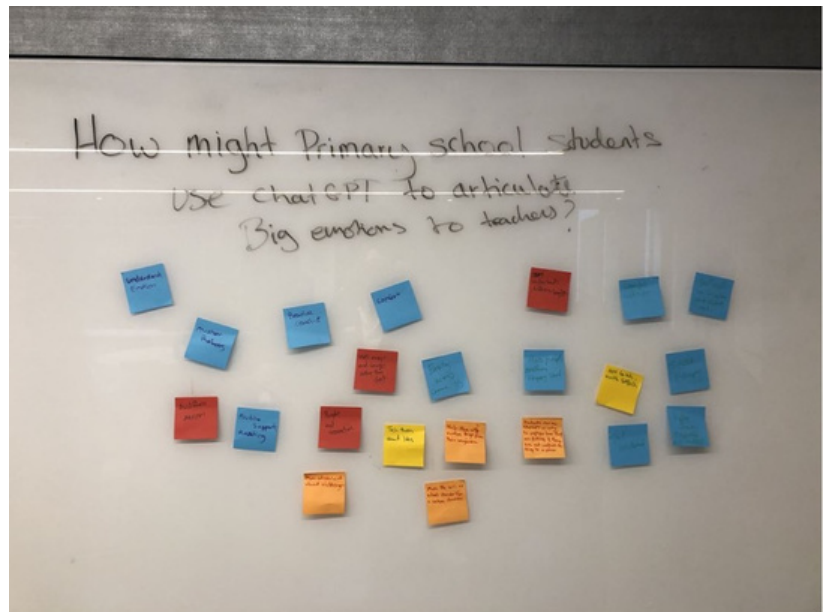
On Monday, the 8th of May, a group from years 9 and 10 chose to go on an excursion to the Future Thinkers Program run by ABCN at Microsoft.

It was a face to face program where we were assigned a group and each group had 2-3 mentors. We introduced ourselves and had a few conversations at first but then we talked about what design thinking was. Some mentors had used those skills in their jobs and these examples were used to teach us. We then talked about the program ChatGPT and the different problems involved in the program.

Each of the five groups had different ideas and worked together to come up with a question and a solution. Some of the skills we learnt included teamwork, communication, improved public speaking, problem solving, etc.

We all had a great time!



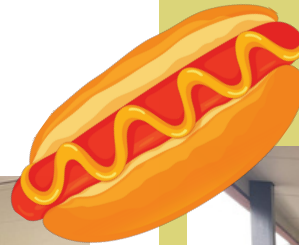


GOLD UNIT FUNDRAISER

by Yi wen Zhang

This semester Gold Unit hosted a fundraiser to raise money for the “Save The Children Australia” organisation. Forum students worked incredibly hard to put this day together and we raised a total of \$180. Students also dressed up in sports jerseys or tops and donated a gold coin which also contributed to the charity.

A great day overall and fantastic work from the kids. Thank you to everyone who made donations and contributed.



School
FUNDRAISING

BLUE UNIT FUNDRAISERS

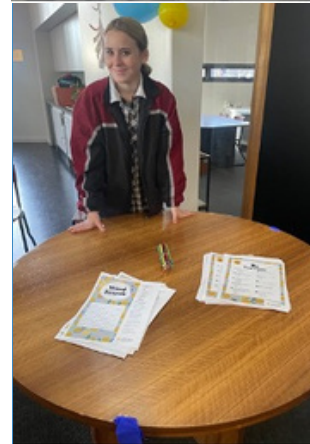
by Ivana Jovanovski

This semester Blue Unit hosted The Biggest Morning Tea to raise funds for the Cancer Council. We raised \$270.

In addition to that, we also hosted Jeans for Genes day where we raised \$95.

The forum students worked incredibly hard to propose this fundraiser, plan and execute all the finer details of event planning.

Thank you to everyone for the generous donations.



Upcoming Events:

08/09/2023- Archie Brothers
Excursion

Term 4
Funfields
Year 10 Celebration day

Breakfast Club

by Connie Mihalas

Every morning students are invited to start their day with a healthy breakfast. Breakfast club runs daily from 8.15 am to 8.45 am in the theatre foyer. Come and make a toasted sandwich, have some cereal, or make yourself a hot chocolate. You can also make a sandwich for lunch and take some snacks too. Everyone is welcome.

Come and say hi!



The Arts

by April Choi

9/10 ART

Year 9 & 10 students designed and created spooky sculptures that are inspired by traditional gargoyles. They practiced basic ceramic techniques and applied them into their own sculptures. Students enjoyed getting messy and experimenting with terracotta clay. The sculptures are displayed in the Art area. Please come and check them out!



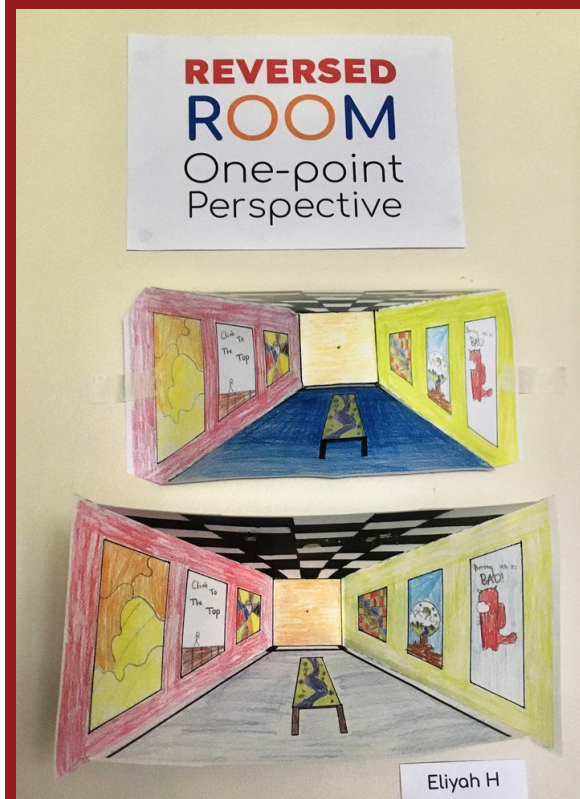
7/8 ART

7/8 students have familiarised themselves with art elements while creating a brochure. They have worked ardently on their Op Art cubes, practising and precisely measuring and drawing geometric shapes. They realised how their mathematical knowledge and skills can be utilised in the art making process.



7/8 Design

In Design, it was all about 'one-point perspective' in Term 3. Students designed their name and a 3D room using perspective lines that are derived from, and converged into a vanishing point. They understood the importance of precision and presentation in the production process. Great work all!



Artworks being displayed at Thomastown Library

Our students' creativity certainly deserves a public recognition! Not to mention they would benefit our community's cultural and artistic growth to some extent. Thomastown municipal library is generously providing students with the opportunity to share their wonderful artworks with our community. Our students are excited and proud that their artwork is being valued and shared with a wider audience and acknowledge their strengthening cultural understandings and artistic ability. The artworks will be displayed for four weeks from 11/09/23. Please visit and check out before, during and after the term break.

The Arts

We are so proud of our talented students, check out their amazing artworks!



Art Gallery

Microscopic Art Exhibition
9/10 Microscopic Painting exhibition in the gallery space is coming soon (Term 4).



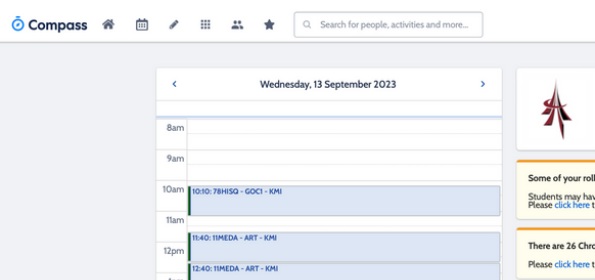
Navigating Compass

What is Compass?

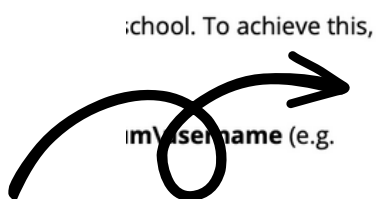
Compass is a school management solution that allows parents and carers to access up-to-date and meaningful information about your school and your child's progress. Compass includes many different features, including the ability to:

- Monitor your child's attendance, and enter an explanation for absence or lateness
- Communicate with your child's teachers, and update your family contact details
- View your child's timetable and the school calendar
- Monitor your child's homework and assessment tasks

[Click on this Link for a guide to using and navigating Compass](#)



[Login to Compass from the Thomastown Secondary College Website](#)



school. To achieve this,
myusername (e.g.



Login



Login



Login

General Announcements



Library Opened

In addition to normal hours the library will be opened as follows:

Recess Tues - Fri
All of Lunch Mon - Fri

Come in and take a brain break. Try some mindful colouring, a game of chess or grab a book and be inspired.

Restricted Areas

Units please remind your students that they are not to be in the following areas at any time during the school day:

Staff car park

The side of the ECA next to the staff car park, including the concrete steps that lead up to the back doors of the ECA.

Behind the ECA next to the primary school fence.
Behind the Language Centre next to the primary school fence.
Anywhere along the primary school fence.

No phones in canteen

Students are reminded that phones may not be used to pay for food at the canteen.
Phones must be stored in lockers at all times.

Homework club

Homework Club runs from 3.30pm to 4.30pm every Wednesday and Thursday. Consent forms can be picked up from Sue in Gold Unit and Sandra in VCE Unit.

ECA open after school for all Juniors and Mids

The ECA is open to play whatever activity you want on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays after school for Junior and Mid students only. Please see Unit Leaders or Clint in Red Unit for a permission form.

VCE English tutoring with Lynette

English tutoring will be available in the library on Tuesday afternoons 2.30- 4.30pm.
Just drop in or make a booking with Lynette if you would like an individual or a small group tutorial session.



KEY DATES FOR TERM 4

Year 11 exams

October 30th to November 3rd

Celebration Day

Thursday 12th of October

Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

Tuesday 7th of November

Year 7 Information Night

Thursday 9th of November

Year 8 to 12 Commencement Begins

Monday 13th November to Friday 1st of December

Year 7 to 9 Reports

Wednesday 13th of December

Last Day of School

Wednesday 20th of December





THOMASTOWN ON-CAMPUS UNIFORM STORE

BELEZA TRADING HOURS 2023

TERM 1

JANUARY	Tues 24th 10am - 3pm	Wed 25th 10am - 3pm	Fri 27th 10am - 3pm	Tues 31st 10am - 3pm
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FEBRUARY	Tues 7th 1pm - 4pm	Tues 14th 1pm - 4pm	Tues 21st 1pm - 4pm	Tues 28th 1pm - 4pm
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MARCH	Tues 7th 1pm - 4pm	Tues 14th 1pm - 4pm	Tues 21st 1pm - 4pm	Tues 28th 1pm - 4pm
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APRIL	Tues 4th 1pm - 4pm
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TERM 2

MAY	Tues 2nd 1pm - 4pm	Tues 16th 1pm - 4pm	Tues 30th 1pm - 4pm	
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JUNE	Tues 13th 1pm - 4pm
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TERM 3

JULY	Tues 11th 1pm - 4pm	Tues 25th 1pm - 4pm		
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AUGUST	Tues 8th 1pm - 4pm	Tues 22nd 1pm - 4pm		
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SEPTEMBER	Tues 5th 1pm - 4pm			
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TERM 4

OCTOBER	Tues 3rd 1pm - 4pm	Tues 10th 1pm - 4pm	Tues 17th 1pm - 4pm	Tues 24th 1pm - 4pm
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OCTOBER	Tues 31st 1pm - 4pm
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NOVEMBER	Tues 14th 1pm - 4pm	Tues 21st 1pm - 4pm	Tues 28th 1pm - 4pm	
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DECEMBER	Tues 5th 1pm - 4pm	Tues 12th 8.30am - 10.00 am 2.30pm -	Tues 19th 1pm - 4pm	
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False Eyelashes and Acrylic Nail Ban

It is becoming prevalent that students are attending school with excessively long false eyelashes and dangerously long acrylic nail extensions. These are raising concerns around safety and are obstructing positive learning in the classroom. Going into Term 4 students will not be permitted to wear false lashes and overly long acrylic nails. There will be consequences for students that break this updated school uniform policy.



THESE LASHES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE



NAILS LENGTH/STYLE THAT ARE ACCEPTABLE:



NAILS LENGTH/STYLE THAT ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE:



Baseline

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

SEPTEMBER 2023

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS



Join the fun!

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Resume

Workshop

Monday 25 September
Mill Park

Get job-ready
and develop your
resume with a
professional

FREE!

For ages
15-25
years

Baseline FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Crafternoon

FREE!

Tuesday 26 September
South Morang

For ages
10-18
years



Baseline FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Fantastic Beasts™

COST \$10

The Wonder of Nature at Melbourne Museum

Tuesday 19 September
Mill Park / Melbourne

For ages
10-18
years

FANTASTIC BEASTS.
THE
WONDER
OF NATURE



Baseline FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

MELBOURNE MUSEUM

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Basketball
Program

For ages
12-18
years

FREE!

Thursday 28 September
Epping



Baseline FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

relink australia

Website:

pythonsbasketballclub.com

Email:

pythonsbasketball@yahoo.com

0423 442 342

Website:

pythonsbasketballclub.com

Email:

pythonsbasketball@yahoo.com



Pythons Basketball Club



The Pythons Basketball Club is a local basketball club who play in the Whittlesea City Junior Domestic competition. We are approaching the 2023/2024 summer season.

We are currently seeking expressions of interest from players who would like to join us in this new , exciting club

Currently we are looking fielding team in the following sections

Under 12 Girls

Under 14 girls

Under 12 Boys

Under 20 Boys

Other Age Groups *

Whether we can field other teams will depend on the interest we get from players. If we have the numbers, we will enter the team.

Contact the club to find out more

Go Pythons