



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### STUDENT FREE DAY

**REPORT WRITING DAY—Friday 26th June, 2020**

### LAST DAY OF TERM 2

**Thursday 25th June, 2020**

**TERM 3 COMMENCES MONDAY 13TH JULY, 2020**

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

As I wrote in our last newsletter, Term 2, 2020 has been like no other period of schooling that we have ever experienced in Victoria. The flexible and remote teaching and learning model of curriculum delivery has now come to an end for the time being, with the government easing of coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions. This model of teaching and learning from home began on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April and remained in place until Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May. This is when our Year 11 and 12 students, and Year 10 accelerant students, came back to the College to resume their normal timetable with their teachers in their usual classrooms. The only exception to this is that the classes of two of our teachers, who are exempt from face to face teaching duties under government guidelines, have a teacher supervising in their room while they deliver their lessons online and remotely from home. On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June, our Year 7 to 10 students also resumed their face-to-face teaching and learning at the College.

For thirty-seven days, from the 15<sup>th</sup> April until the 5<sup>th</sup> June, we had between 6 and 12 Year 7 to 9 students attend the College each day supervised for their flexible and remote learning and teaching. We only had a small number of staff present each day at the College and the supervision of the students was expertly undertaken by Ivanka Sapina, Louisa Valentini, Sandy Doull and Marie Riley. These four members of staff have done an incredible job with students who, for valid reasons, could not be supervised or cared for at home during this unusual time.

This model of flexible and remote learning that did take place for 28 teaching days is the most profound change to teaching in the past 148 years in Victoria since the Education Act of 1872. This law, set up in Victoria the basis for a uniquely centralised model of school education, based on the principles of free, secular and compulsory education. For students and teachers our 28 days in 2020 has been one of the most exciting and unusual times ever. Our teachers have been positive and collaborative, creative and inclusive in their remote teaching and have delivered to their students in a totally different way. I am very proud of our staff and in all of this I am sure we have learnt some very important lessons for the future. I have also been incredibly proud of the Monty students, parents and guardians and how they have embraced this approach to schooling. The Montmorency Secondary College community is both unique and highly supportive.

We are all very excited about the return of our students and staff to the College and it was a very emotional experience when our gates re-opened to all students. Schools are wonderful places for learning to take place and the personal contact with others in the process certainly enriches life. Our College was a bit like a 'ghost town' for at least 28 days and I hope we do not experience this any time again in the near future.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

On Friday 18th May, we received some great news with the State Government announcement of funding approval for some major capital works programs. The Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, James Merlino, announced the rest of the funding for the Montmorency Secondary College Basketball Stadium Redevelopment. This is \$16.99 million and we have been fully funded for three new courts, a show court with retractable seating and also underground car parking. He also announced that we would be digging holes within six months and we will have an \$18.5 million Olympic standard five-court basketball stadium complex which will be the best of any government school in Victoria. This will be an amazing facility for our students and our community. The architectural design and drawings are approaching completion and we will be going out to tender in the near future.

Regards

Allan Robinson  
Principal

### MONITORING OF UNIFORM FOR SEMESTER 2

It has been pleasing to see the number of students who have been wearing items of their uniform with pride. All items of uniform are distinctively Montmorency Secondary College, and all carry a school logo. These are the only items of uniform that are acceptable.

Students are expected to be in full College uniform during school hours and when travelling to and from school.

There will be close monitoring of uniform by all staff and Year Level teams in Semester 2. Uniform requirements are clearly displayed in the study planner and on the Montmorency Secondary College website.

To avoid any undue disappointment by students, we encourage all parents/guardians to become familiar with the uniform requirements that are printed in the College study planner and the school website. If parents have any questions, they are encouraged to contact one of our Year Level Leaders and Coordinators or alternatively, they can contact me on 9422 1500.

#### New Black MSC Scarf

After feedback from a number of our students and coupled with the cooler weather, we have now introduced a black scarf with the MSC logo. If students are wanting to wear a scarf to school, this is the only scarf that may be worn. It is available from Academy Uniforms who have them in stock ready for the start of Semester 2.

#### Hoodies

Students are not permitted to wear 'hoodies' under their spray jacket or MSC woollen jumper. Only "natural" colour undergarments can be worn under the MSC short and long sleeve shirt. Hoodies are definitely not to be worn at the College.

#### Girls Pants

Now that the weather has cooled down considerably, girls wanting to wear black pants need to note that only the Montmorency Secondary College girls' black pants, sold at the uniform shop through Academy uniforms can be worn. Girls choosing not to wear the Montmorency Secondary College black pants should either be in the MSC winter skirt or summer dress.

Your support in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Clara Di Biase—Assistant Principal

### YEAR 9 CAMP

28– 30 OCTOBER, 2020

School camps are returning for terms 3 and 4.

The Year 9 Camp to The Summit Outdoor Adventure Park is scheduled to go ahead at the end of October.

The camp operation will meet the strict COVID SAFETY regulations as set by the Department of Health and Human Services, and will include:

- COVID CLEAN Business Training
- Safety Assessments
- Recording Procedures
- Cleaning & Hygiene Procedures
- Dining Procedures
- Amenities Procedures
- Physical Distancing
- Staff Training

For more information regarding The Summit visit the website—

[www.thesummit.net.au](http://www.thesummit.net.au)



## International Women's Day Breakfast

Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of March a select group of young women attended the International Women's Day breakfast at Eltham High School.

This experience was enlightening as there were many influential women from the community who shared their stories with us. They act as role models to future generations of women who wish to empower and inspire others. We were also treated to a delightful breakfast.

We were fortunate to hear from the guest speaker Aunty Pam Pedersen who is a Yorta Yorta Elder. She is an advocate in the Koorie court system, an Indigenous community leader and an accomplished sports person. Aunty Pam was awarded the Australia Day Federal Award in 2005 as well as the 'Koorie Women Mean Business' award. It was inspiring to hear her story as it promotes kindness and acceptance to all.

The morning concluded with the Pauline Toner prize which celebrates the achievements of young women in the local community and honors Pauline Toner, the first female minister in Victoria, who led the way for other women in politics. It was a reminder that many women have fought for our equal place in society.

Overall, the morning was inspiring and memorable, an event we were pleased to attend.

Laura Adcock and Kiara Zammit





Instrumental Music lessons are back running at the school. So exciting to hear music floating through the department again.

Lessons are being held in larger spaces to assist with the social distancing measures required. Timetables are up on the Music notice board, so lesson schedules can be checked anytime.

Rehearsals for all ensembles will be commencing at the start of Term 3, with the appropriate measures in place for everyone's health and safety. Students are encouraged to check the timetables on the Music notice board for any clarifications of group or time.

Year 7 students will be starting band for the first time. A reminder that if they do not have your lesson on band day, you will need to remember to bring your instrument to school.



- Intermediate Band - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July
- Junior Band - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July
- Senior Band - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July – 3.20-4.20pm
- Vocal group - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July – lunch
- Senior Guitar ensemble – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July – lunch



**BANYULE COUNCIL  
IMMUNISATION SERVICE FOR YEAR 10  
27 August, 2020**

Banyule City Council's Immunisation Service visits all secondary schools within Banyule and Nillumbik Municipality to administer the Victorian Immunisation Schedule.

The immunisation schedule for Year 10 students in 2020 is:

- Meningococcal ACWY

The Year 10 cards were distributed to students at the beginning of 2020. If you have not already returned a card for your student/s can you please return to the General Office by Thursday 25 June, 2020.



### Australian Defence Force (ADF)

Defence Force Recruiting has begun recording a variety of information sessions that are able to be watched on demand virtually. These information sessions are almost identical to the presentations that would have been given face-to-face by military members.

They can be found under the Events page on the Defence Jobs website, or via the link below:

<https://www.defencejobs.gov.au/events>

Please check this URL regularly as there will be more information sessions recorded and released very soon.

Two of the information sessions are also uploaded on our YouTube channel as an unlisted video. This means that they can be accessed from the link however they will not show up from the search bar. We are more than happy for them to be shared however, to any contact, student, parent or more that you may wish to send them too.

Please see the links below:

**ADF Careers Information Session** (This is our generic presentation): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Okuy-qmFPX4>

**RMC (Royal Military College) Careers Information Session:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRV2jmvITIE&feature=emb_title)

[v=RRV2jmvITIE&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRV2jmvITIE&feature=emb_title)



To help future science students, parents and teachers explore everything Monash Science - we have compiled **Your Essential Guide**.

[Find out more](#)

This all-inclusive platform provides information on every course, including special consideration programs, the subject adjustment 'bonus', pathways, future events, our amazing facilities and one-on-one direct access to course advice with Science VTAC selection officers. There are interactive tools and opportunities to meet some of our current students as well!

**Your Essential Guide** sheds light on the many career-building opportunities - including internships, industry placements and study abroad experiences.

We are in the process of developing a series of VCE curriculum-based online lessons. We've started with VCE Geography and Environmental Science and hope these can be utilised in the classroom or as an additional teaching resource. These will be uploaded periodically.

Science is the ultimate career for those who want to unlock the secrets of the universe... and have a lot of fun in the process. Scientists dissect and discover, explode and explore, investigate and invent – and their work can genuinely change the world.

Many thanks for your continued support and we would greatly appreciate you sharing this information with your senior school students and your school community.

Actual link: <https://www.monash.edu/science/future-students/your-essential-guide-to-monash-science-online>

## CAREERS NEWS



Discover What's Next Series We're excited to introduce a series of webinars that provide students and parents information on our wide range of study areas. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions to RMIT staff and students about the courses they're interested in.

Dates and links for the sessions are available below:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/discover-whats-next-with-rmit-30276182054>

- All you need to know about RMIT – 9 June, 6pm
- Communications, Journalism & Media - 18 June, 6pm
- Engineering - 25 June, 6pm
- Science - 2 July, 6pm
- Fashion - 16 July, 6pm
- Education & Social Sciences - 28 July, 6pm
- Art, Design & Architecture - 11 June, 6pm
- Business & Law - 23 June, 6pm
- Flight Training & Aviation - 30 June, 6pm
- Computer Science & Information Technology - 9 July, 6pm
- Health & Biomedical Sciences - 23 July, 6pm
- Property, Building & Construction - 30 July, 6pm

### University & TAFE Course Guides

2021 course guides on the careers website under 'Important Information'. You are able to download the guides you need. I have placed the main guides there, if you need any others, just let me know. Don't forget to all Year 12 students need to make an appointment to see me regarding courses and pathways under the student toolbar in the careers website; [www.montmorency careers.com](http://www.montmorency careers.com)

Regards

Michael Weeding  
Careers & Pathways



**Am I eligible?**

A positive contribution can look like many different things.

We consider all types of community engagement, for example:

- leadership in clubs, sport, performing arts or fundraising
- participation in social justice groups, or school leadership
- involvement in community groups, religious or cultural events and activities
- family support that goes above and beyond
- involvement with our partners, like the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award or St John Ambulance.

And you don't need to be volunteering now. We know Year 12 is busy and the world looks a little different this year. So, past experience counts too.

Tell us what you've done and how you've helped. If you're unsure, attend a webinar or talk to our staff about your application.

[latrobe.edu.au/aspire-eligibility](http://latrobe.edu.au/aspire-eligibility)

**Giving you a head start**



Early conditional offer to La Trobe



Free tickets and discounts to our partner events



Up to \$20K scholarships



VCE revision lectures to prepare for exams



Aspire ATAR



A student community of leaders, innovators and trailblazers

Score one of...

**40**

Aspire scholarships

**\$20,000**

for duration of study

**\$800,000**

to give away

**Important dates**

Applications open 1 May 2020

Applications close 31 August 2020

Outcomes by mid-September 2020

For full eligibility requirements and details on how to apply, head to:

[latrobe.edu.au/aspire](http://latrobe.edu.au/aspire)



*Tertiary  
Information  
Service*

The Tertiary Information Service team has been studiously working behind the scenes to prepare online content for students. We would like to inform you of the resources you should expect, and how you can access these materials. We recognise that the TIS presentation is an extremely important resource in preparing students for future study. Therefore, we have developed a recorded version which is now available via the TIS website <https://www.tis.org.au/videos/>. This updated presentation will provide students with the usual information you have come to expect from TIS, albeit within an altered format. While you may commence exploring the TIS website for information, many resources are already available on the TIS Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/tertiaryinformationserviceincorporated/>. We would encourage both your students to follow us for up to date information and content. You will find student videos relatable to your Year 11 and 12 cohort and links to relevant material. More information will be uploaded over the coming months as students approach timely application periods.

Regards,  
Michael Weeding Careers & Pathways

### What is UCAT Verbal Reasoning Subtest?

The UCAT (University Clinical Aptitude Test) for Australia and New Zealand is an admissions test used by the UCAT ANZ consortium of universities in Australia and New Zealand for their medical, dental and clinical science degree programs. The UCAT ANZ replaced the UMAT from 2019 for university entry in 2020.

Of the five subtests of the UCAT, there is one that stands out as the more difficult to master. The UCAT Verbal Reasoning section has a few unique characteristics, which are unlike anything candidates may have encountered in other areas of their studies. The UCAT Verbal Reasoning section requires the candidate to scan a stimulus very quickly and identify the answers to the questions within a limited time allowance. While this may seem easy enough to some, the speed at which students need to be performing while dealing with fairly complex and tricky passages is very fast, to say the least.

The UCAT Verbal Reasoning passages are usually 250-300 words in length broken into paragraphs on topics that might not be familiar to the candidate at all. There is also no set topic for the passages, and they can be absolutely anything, from science to politics, to history, fiction, and so on. Each passage has a series of four questions that require the candidate to answer in roughly 30 seconds or less. Candidates will intuitively want to read the passages in detail to gain a better understanding and knowledge. However, this is not possible or even necessary at times in the UCAT Verbal Reasoning section and is therefore often where the candidates lose time and their focus. Instead, UCAT candidates need to improve their skills of speed reading, while looking for answers as well as other time saving and test-taking strategies.

[Verbal Reasoning \(VR\) - Advanced Skills Crash Course](#)

[NIE Book Shop](#)

### Why is UCAT Verbal Reasoning so speed-driven?

The UCAT Verbal Reasoning construct assesses the candidate's ability to analyse, identify, and comprehend information quickly from passages where much of the information may be irrelevant to the question. As is in the medical field, doctors often have to deal with a great deal of data in client files where they need the capacity to identify important and relevant information quickly, come to correct conclusions or to critique information where required. For a medical professional, a decision must be reached logically while assessing the information given without adding previous knowledge to the situation or case. The same prompt, accurate, and decisive action is the assessable component of this section. While the VR section looks like a written comprehension task, it is easy to become distracted and waste time reading the lengthy passages which make this construct deceptively difficult. The UCAT Verbal Reasoning questions assess the candidate's aptitude for drawing conclusions, finding facts, and assessing information that is relevant to the question while under pressure and time limits.

The idea of reading 11 passages and answering 44 questions in 21 minutes can easily cause concern and angst in most candidates, but with some practice and development of key strategies, considerable improvement can be achieved in a reasonably short amount of time. Nothing is impossible with a little hard work and commitment. This is where some targeted UCAT Verbal Reasoning tuition can be helpful.

The key here is practice and pace. UCAT Verbal Reasoning practice questions are a great starting point for development and understanding of the construct. The different types of questions can be identified as:

UCAT Verbal Reasoning questions

- True / False/ Can't tell
- Inference questions
- Multiple choice = most likely, least likely, agree, disagree, author questions, and must be true statements.

All the above UCAT Verbal Reasoning question types require some understanding of the skills required to find the information quickly from unseen texts without using any prior knowledge. Advantages of a crash course in Verbal Reasoning Skills which targets areas of reading for responses, identifying keywords, difficult language, and loaded questioning can be beneficial in using your time effectively and therefore optimising your results.

### Other NIE Resources and Services

[UCAT and Interview Preparation Books](#)  
[Complete UCAT Preparation Courses](#)

[Comprehensive UCAT Online Preparation Platform](#)  
[Medical Interview Training](#)

[Preparing for the UCAT & Interviews](#)