

VCE Parent Information Evening

VCE / VCE VM / VET

Thursday 13th July, 2023
7pm - 8.30pm



ST MARY'S COLLEGE
Seymour

Acknowledgement of Country

Mrs Genevieve Gordon

We would like to pay our respects to the Taungurung People, who are the traditional owners of this land.

We pay respect to the Elders past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here with us tonight.



Opening Prayer

Mrs Allison Moore

A beginning always draws us into the unknown.

We don't know what will challenge us, delight, sadden or surprise us.

What we do know however, is that we can walk in the confidence and knowledge of our God.

So, as we gather together as a Catholic Community, in faith we pray:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

ALL: Amen



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Opening Prayer

Mrs Julia Wood

Together we pray:

For our children, as they begin their VCE journey

ALL: Lord, for this we pray

For those who have walked before us to build this Catholic Community

ALL: Lord, for this we pray

For those who have supported our children until now

ALL: Lord, for this we pray



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Opening Prayer

Mrs Tanya Oakley

For those in our school Community. May we be thankful for each person's unique talents and gifts

ALL: Lord for this we pray

For all our families who give us their love, support, and understanding

ALL: Lord for this we pray

For all the parents and students with whom we will share the years ahead

ALL: Lord for this we pray



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Opening Prayer

Mrs Amanda Hard

Lord,

May we be inspired and open to all opportunities.

Help us to be conscious of your constant presence
and let us go forward with great hope that all things are possible with
you.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen



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Outline of tonight's program:

- Acknowledgement & Prayer
- Welcome and Introduction - Simone McLaughlin VCE Coordinator
- The VCE story at St Mary's & the benefits of a VCE Pathway at St Mary's Gen Gordon
- What is the VCE / VCE VM and what will it look like for our students?
Julia Wood & Amanda Hard
- VCE Pathways and Options - Tanya Oakley
- Wellbeing and Support in the VCE - Allison Moore
- Next Steps & Subject Selections- Simone McLaughlin
- Q&A



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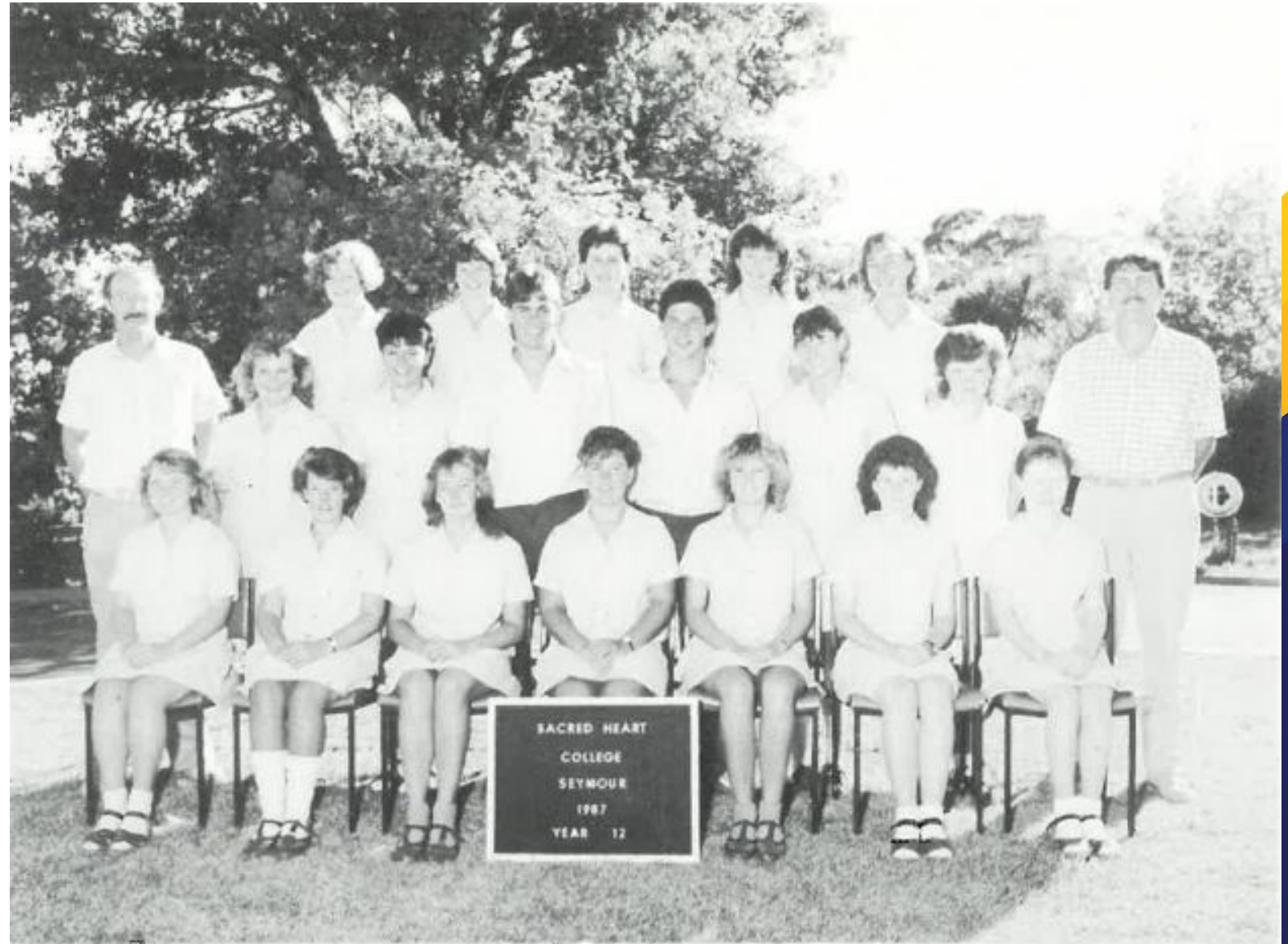
The Story of VCE at St Mary's

Sacred Heart College
Seymour
1987
Year 12

“When is St Mary's going to
have Year 11 & 12?”



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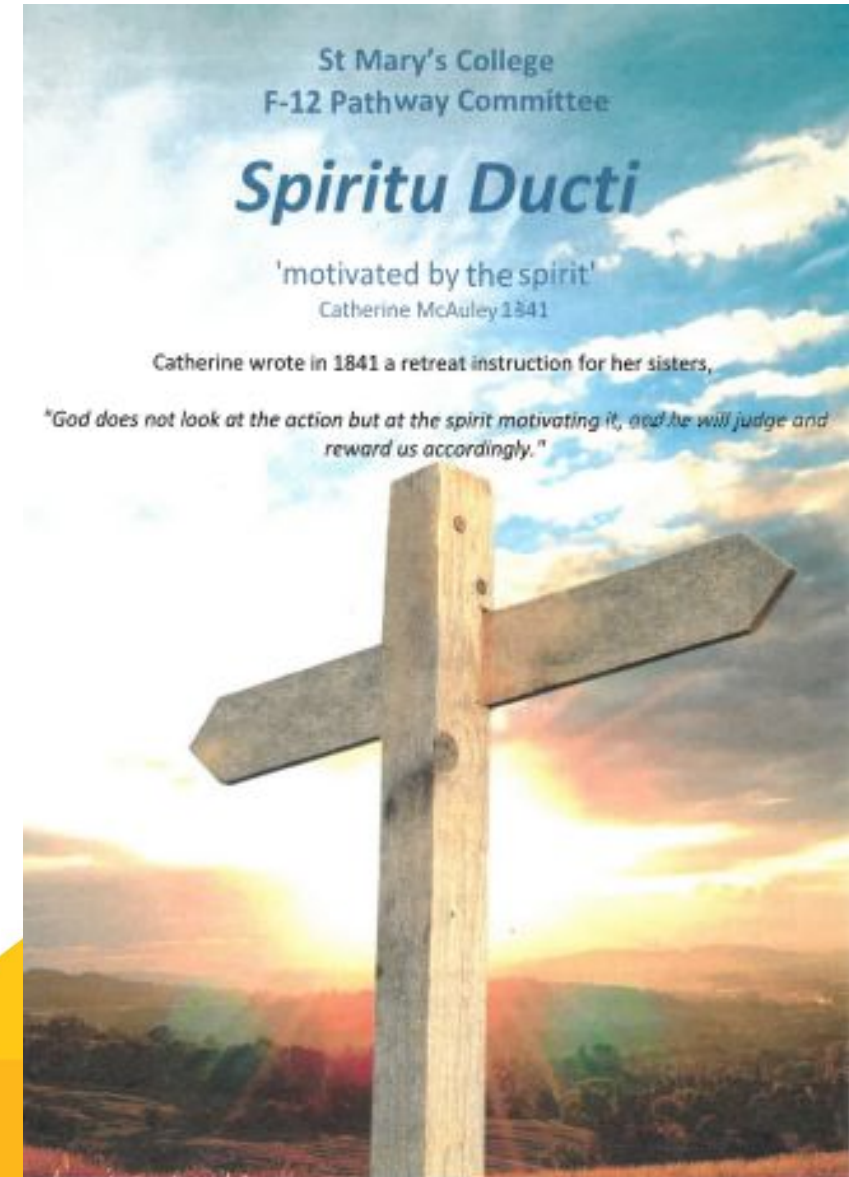


The Story of VCE at St Mary's

- 1987 one of the last HSC, Year 12 classes at the then Sacred Heart College Seymour.
- Term 4 2020 a letter sent to MACS outlining the intention to form a committee to investigate feasibility of returning SMC to Year 11 & 12.
- First F-12 Pathway Committee Meeting 11th May 2021. Consultant Tony O'Byrne, former Principal Aquinas College Ringwood commissioned to project manage the SMC F-12 Pathway Submission.



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The Story of VCE at St Mary's

- Term 1 2022 the St Mary's College Seymour F-12 Pathway Committee provided a comprehensive submission to the new MACS Board titled, **Spiritu Ducti 'motivated by the spirit'**
- Master Plan ROAM Architects.
- 29th April 2022 the St Mary's College Staff and Community informed that Year 11 to return in 2024 and Year 12 2025.
- May 2022 College F-12 Pathway Planning Day



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Media Release

29 April 2022

MELBOURNE
ARCHDIOCESE
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



New educational opportunities for senior secondary students in Seymour and surrounding areas

In an exciting development for Seymour and surrounding communities, St Mary's College, Seymour will soon be enrolling senior secondary students, with Year 11 commencing in 2024 and Year 12 in 2025, subject to approval from the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA).

Principal Wayne Smith said 'Catholic education is flourishing in the fast growing areas of Seymour and Mitchell Shire and we're delighted to have senior secondary education returning after a 34-year absence.

'Our whole College community is excited that the high-quality, faith-based, and affordable secondary co-education option we offer families from Foundation to Year 10 will soon be available to students in Year 11 and Year 12.'

'Integral to the mission of St Mary's College, Seymour is for our students to experience the wholeness of a Catholic education through all their compulsory years of education.'

'St Mary's College welcomes students from all faith and cultural backgrounds who are supportive of the ethos of the College.'

'The College will strive to keep school fees as affordable as possible to remain accessible to local families because we believe that no child should miss out on a Catholic education because of their family's financial circumstances,' he said.

In supporting the announcement, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) Executive Director Mr Jim Miles said that MACS was pleased to offer the choice of a Catholic senior secondary education to families in the Seymour area and looks forward to working closely with the College, St Mary's Catholic Parish, and the wider community to deliver these new educational pathways for students.

The College is grateful for the support it has received from Mitchell Shire Council, College Advisory Council and parents and the Melbourne Archdiocese.

Mitchell Shire is the fastest growing local government area in Victoria.

Parents wishing to discuss enrolling their child in Year 11 for 2024 at St Mary's College, Seymour, should contact the school on (03) 5792 2611.

Media contact: Scott Creswell 0433 099 044.

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd ABN 16 412 071 478 412 071
James Gould House, 228 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne VIC 3002. Correspondence: PO Box 3, East Melbourne VIC 3002
T: +61 3 9267 8228 E: execdirector@macs.vic.edu.au www.macs.vic.edu.au

The Story of VCE at St Mary's

- July 2022 employment of a VCE Coordinator.
- VCE working parties formed.
- 10th June 2023 Deadline for VCE Subject Templates submission to VCAA for compliance sign off.
- April 2023 Capital grant application submitted to MACS to build a VCE and Senior Learning Centre.
- September 2023 Three modular classrooms for VCE students to be installed at SMC



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The Story of VCE at St Mary's



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Why stay at St Mary's for VCE? The Benefits!

- Students continue to be exposed to a faith based Catholic Educational Pathway to Year 12.
- Students remain in an environment where they feel comfortable and connected with peers and teachers.
- At SMC students are taught by teachers who prioritise getting to know their students and how they learn.
- No school can or does offer every VCE subject. St Mary's will offer a variety of VCE subjects.



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Why stay at St Mary's for VCE? The Benefits!

- Having undergone compliance audits by Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) Curriculum Managers, subjects are current and have been thoroughly planned. Our teachers are prepared to deliver rigorous curriculum content.
- Small class sizes, increased opportunity for individual support.
- An affordable secondary co-educational option.
- The necessity for travel will be reduced or eliminated for some students.
- Benchmarking Quality Practice in Career Development Programs
- Learning Diversity Support



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What is the VCE and what will it look like for us?

- The Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) is Victoria's senior secondary qualification leading to a variety of pathways.
- VCE requires students to complete a series of studies (subjects), most of which cover both Year 11 and Year 12 (units 1-4).
- To be awarded the VCE students MUST satisfactorily complete 20-24 units, with 3 units from the English group including a unit 3 and 4 sequence.
- In Year 11 students are assessed Unit 1 and 2 OAT's to achieve an S in the area of study.
- In Year 12 students are assessed via Unit 3 and 4 SACS, receiving a numerical score contributing to their ATAR.



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What is the VCE and what will it look like for us?

- GAT and Year 12 exams - moderates the initial raw score against all students in Victoria to achieve an ATAR
- Edrolo - an additional study resource
- Book lists - will be published at the end of Term 3
- VCE subject offering - p33 *VCE 2024/25 Senior Student Handbook*
- Experienced VCE teaching team
- Smaller classes - this is a huge benefit to young people moving into VCE
- Focused support - we know our student's strengths and areas of challenge
- Attendance is key



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What is the VCE VM and what will it look like for us?

The VCE **Vocational Major (VM)** is a flexible learning program that can be completed in a minimum of two years. It equips Victorian students with the skills needed for various pathways, such as apprenticeships, further TAFE courses, or entering the workforce directly and completing traineeships.

The VCE VM provides students greater choice and flexibility to pursue their own personal strengths, interests and develop the skills and capabilities needed to succeed in further education, work and life.

The VCE Vocational Major (VM) prepares students empowering them to be able to make informed decisions about the next stages of their lives through real-life workplace experiences.



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What is the VCE VM and what will it look like for us?

By completing the VCE VM course, students fulfill the requirements of the VCE. They are recognised with the title of 'Vocational Major' on their Victorian Certificate of Education and **do receive** a Statement of Results.

Successful completion of VET units leads to additional statement of attainment or certificate from the Registered Training Organisation. ie. GoTafe

Unlike other VCE studies, VCE VM Unit 3-4 sequences do not have external assessments or study scores.

Note here: *VCE VM studies do not contribute to the ATAR.*



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What is the VCE VM and what will it look like for us?

To receive the VCE **Vocational Major** (VM) students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 16 units, over two years including:

- 3 VCE VM Literacy units (including a Unit 3–4 sequence)
- 2 VCE VM Numeracy units
- 2 VCE VM Work Related Skills units
- 2 VCE VM Personal Development Skills units
- 2 VET credits at **Certificate II** level or above (180 nominal hours)
- Students complete a work experience program related to their VET, for Structured Workplace Learning credit
- Students attend school 3 **or** 4 days per week
- Students **must** attend VET 1 day per week



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VCE Pathways and Options - VET

VET - Vocational Education and Training

VET courses can be completed as part of a student's school studies.

VCE VET courses are nationally recognised certificates that contribute to the completion of the VCE and the VCE VM. These are offered at other schools in the surrounding community and Tafe providers both locally, in Shepparton, Melbourne and surrounding suburbs.

GET VET Useful information

<https://vcaa.vic.edu.au/studentguides/getvet/Pages/Index.aspx>



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VCE Pathways and Options - SBAT

SBAT - School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships.

A School-based Apprenticeship arrangement combines paid employment, one day per week as an apprentice or trainee, **plus** off-the-job vocational training (trade school or TAFE) and secondary school studies. Students must be very organised and will have a large workload both on and off the job.

It is the student's responsibility to find a suitable employer.



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VCE Pathways and Options - VET & SBAT

There are a wide variety of VET and SBAT courses available.

If a student chooses a VET or a SBAT they will be off campus every Wednesday. Therefore, students will be responsible for catching up on any missed school curriculum on that day.

If a student is interested in one of these pathways, they will be interviewed for suitability. These options require a high level of organisation and dedication. Students that don't demonstrate these skills may not be accepted to participate.



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Wellbeing and Student Support for the VCE

VCE can be the most stressful period of school that your child will undertake. Even the most capable student can feel overwhelmed from time-to-time.

At St Mary's College, positive relationships and open communication between students, teachers and parents are valued. This is even more important for the young people in our care, as they navigate the demands of VCE.



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Wellbeing and Student Support for the VCE

The College's concern for the wellbeing of our students is also reflected through our Pastoral Care Program, House Mentor System, and the appointment of a school counsellor and two nurses who are available to students and, where appropriate, to parents.

All Teachers in the College will continue to:

- form positive relationships with VCE students
- promote student voice and agency
- hold high expectations for all students
- create a safe, welcoming and inclusive classroom



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Wellbeing and Student Support for the VCE

It takes a village to raise a child and it takes a whole learning community approach to see positive results in the wellbeing of children and young people. In addition to school and homework, it is important to remember that young people still need to have a life outside of school that is balanced. Balancing studies with dedicated rest time, connecting socially with peers, exercise and getting enough sleep, can mean the difference between having a healthy, positive year, and burning out early.



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Wellbeing and Student Support for the VCE

Despite the growing influence on teenagers of social media, friends and celebrities, research continues to show that the best predictor of a young person's wellbeing is their relationship with their parents. So, as your young person navigates the demands of VCE remember that as parents or carers, you provide a model for how your children deals with difficult situations.

Ask yourself, how do you cope with stress? What you are teaching your teenager?



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Wellbeing and Student Support for the VCE

The VCE uniform plays an important role in creating a sense of identity amongst VCE students and the community.

The uniform has been designed by students and offers a range of options to ensure comfort in all conditions, inclusivity, choice, durability and value for money.

All students attending St Mary's College are expected to wear the uniform. All items, with the exception of shoes, must be purchased from Outback, the official uniform supplier for the school.



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Next Steps?

So, where to from here?

- All Year 10 students received a VCE Handbook at the end of Term 2.
- The handbook contains course and subject information for VCE, VCE VM, VET and SBAT, frequently asked questions and a subject planner sheet.
- Students are in the process of deciding on their pathways (VCE / VM/ VET) and should be having discussions with parents / carers, myself, subject teachers, HMG teachers and Mrs Oakley about possible (realistic) selections and possible pathways.
- Students had the opportunity to ask questions in an information session earlier today with teachers.



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Next Steps?

So, where to from here?

- Subject Selections will take place on Monday 24th July from 2pm - 6pm.
- Year 10 classes will finish at lunchtime (1.25pm)
- Students may leave or a supervised study room will be open for those students who travel home via bus or cannot get picked up early
- All Year 10 students and a parent / carer will be required to attend an appointment at school to complete the Subject Selection process with an allocated member of staff.
- Families will be able to book their appointment via SIMON as of tomorrow (Friday)



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Next Steps?

So, where to from here?

- Students who do not attend on the 24th may not get their first preferences
- Following subject selections, subject offerings, class sizes etc will be determined
- If there are any clashes or subjects unable to run, students may be asked to select an alternative and this is why they select an 8th Study Option as their back up
- Students will have until early Term One, 2024 to change a subject or program but strict cut off dates apply for subject selections and changes
- **HEADSTART** program will run in the final week of November



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Over to you!

Questions to staff

Tea and Coffee available



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