

VCE Parent Information Evening

VCE / VCE VM / VET

**Thursday 25th July, 2025
7pm - 8.30pm**

MC for the Evening: College VCE Coordinator Simone McLaughlin



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Outline of our program:

- Introduction - Simone McLaughlin
- Acknowledgement & Prayer
- Principal's Welcome - Wayne Smith
- School Captains - Genevieve Gordon, Sophie Munro & Cooper Shearer
- What are the VCE & VCE VM and what will they look like for our students?
Julia Wood & Mel Wood / Amanda Hard
- VCE VET Pathways and Options - Taryn Kneebone
- Wellbeing and Support in the VCE - Allison Moore
- Next Steps & Subject Selections- Simone McLaughlin

Q&A.



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Acknowledgement of Country

Mr Wayne Smith

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.



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Opening Prayer

Mrs Gen Gordon

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 Melissa Wood

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 Allison Moore

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 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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Principal's Welcome

Mr Wayne Smith



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School Captains

What has the VCE been like for our students?

Miss Sophie Munro

Mr Cooper Shearer

& Mrs Genevieve Gordon



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VCE for St Mary's Year 11 and 12 students

Director of Learning and Teaching: Mrs Julia Wood

A brief summary of the options in VCE:

<https://youtu.be/xuij5nWN3V4?feature=shared>



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What is the VCE?

- 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 up to 24 units, with 3 units from the English group including a Unit 3 and 4 sequence.
- Year 11 students are assessed in Unit 1 and 2 OAT's to achieve an S in the area of study.
- Year 12 students are assessed via Unit 3 and 4 SACS and receive a numerical score contributing to their ATAR.



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VCE for St Mary's Year 11 and 12 students

- 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 offerings - found in *VCE 2026/27 Senior Student Handbook*.
- Experienced VCE teaching team.
- Smaller classes - a 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 VCE VM and what will it look like for our students?

Mrs Melissa Wood / Mrs Amanda Hard

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.
- 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.
- prepares students and empowers them to make informed decisions about the next stages of their lives through real-life workplace experiences.



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What is VCE VM and what will it look like for our students?

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 **will receive** a Statement of Results.

Successful completion of VET units leads to additional statement of attainment or certificate from the RTO. ie. GoTafe - Building & Construction

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. But students are required to do the GAT.*



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What is VCE VM and what will it look like for our students?

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).
- 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 Vocational Major

Don't just take the teachers' word for it!

Please enjoy this short VM promotional film from our Yr 12 students!



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VCE pathways and options - VET

Careers and VET Pathways Practitioner: Mrs Taryn Kneebone

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.
- **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. VCE VM students don't have timetabled classes on Wednesdays. However, VCE students will be responsible for catching up on any missed school curriculum on that day.

Students interested in one of these pathways 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.

They must also act quickly as the Expressions of Interest open in early August and some courses fill up very quickly.



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Wellbeing and student support for the VCE year

Director Wellbeing: Mrs Allison Moore

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 is 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 year

In addition to school and homework, it is important for VCE students to have a life outside of the College 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.

The Wellbeing team and all staff members at St Mary's College look forward to supporting students through their VCE journey.



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Next steps and where to from here?

VCE Coordinator: Ms Simone McLaughlin

- All Year 10 students received a VCE Handbook and attended the Subject Expo today.
- 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 Taryn Kneebone (Careers) about possible (realistic) selections and possible pathways.
- Students have had the opportunity to ask questions in information sessions with teachers but should keep asking!



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Next steps and where to from here?

- Subject Selections will take place on **Thursday 7th August from 2pm - 5.30pm**
- 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 picked up later.
- 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 are able to book their appointment via PAM



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Next Steps and where to from here?

- Students who do not attend on the 7th August 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 end Week 4, Term One, 2026 to change a subject or program but strict cut off dates apply for subject selections and changes.
- The **HEADSTART** program will run in the final week of November 2025.



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Conclusion of the Information Session.

Over to you for any Questions/Comments.



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