

VCAL HAPPENINGS

@SKILLINVEST

HALFWAY THERE!

Term two has been an interesting one to say the least!

We were suddenly plunged into unprecedented times with education facilities closing and remote learning taking the place of what students had always known. Our VCAL staff did an amazing job, working long hours and creating resources needed to assist students with the transition. Some students excelled during remote learning, whilst others found the changes more challenging. We conducted Parent/Teacher interviews via Zoom, which was another first. The parents and guardians who attended interviews coped well with the technology... and having teachers 'in their homes.' But just when we all started to get into a routine with this flexible learning, times turned quickly again and we were back in classrooms (much to the relief of many parents I'm sure 😊) Once again the VCAL staff did an incredible job of readying the facilities for the students return. This involved numerous tasks, including creating new time tables to lessen the number of students in one room together, altering classrooms and moving furniture around, ensuring hygiene products were available, creating posters to help students understand all the new measures in place and adapting curriculum and changing lessons to adjust to the new restrictions.

Whilst, in order to follow guidelines, the return to face to face teaching looks a little different now, students have once again shown their resilience and ability to adapt to change and settled into the 'new norm' well.

As part of the VCAL, students learn Personal Development Skills and now more than ever, we have all learnt the importance of these. Our students, staff and community (both local and wider) have all been a part of a history making time, we've all had to learn new ways of being in the world. But like all challenges, this time also provides an opportunity for learning and growth. It is recorded that when Isaac Newton was quarantined because of the plague, he identified the nature of gravity. There has also been many examples of amazing works of art and music being created during these times and the positive impact this has had on nature and the environment in many areas. Whilst we acknowledge the difficulties these times have brought for many; we also want our students to see the positives where possible too and to continue to remember that changes and challenges can provide opportunities for learning and growth.



I thank all our families for their continued assistance during what has been difficult and uncertain times for many in their own lives. Please know that our students are our number one priority and we look forward to continuing to work with you to support them through these times together.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish farewell and a HUGE thank you to Ginny Craig for her outstanding contribution to our VCAL program. Her dedication to her students was ever evident and her bright smile and Irish humor will be greatly missed (although we may be able to entice her back for the occasional day or two) we wish her all the best with her studies.

Wishing all of our students a safe and enjoyable break and we are looking forward to their return in Term 3.

Lissa

VCAL Coordinator

NEWS! NEWS! NEWS! NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!

Congratulations to **Sabour Khajehzadeh** who is the first student for 2020 who has finished his senior VCAL. From all of us at Skillinvest we wish you all the best with your future endeavours.



TERM 3 TIMETABLE

*please note only students who have signed and returned the radius form are permitted to leave premises at Thomas St or Cheltenham Rd during break times

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| Community VCAL 9am- 3pm Recess 11am-11:30am Lunch 1pm- 1:30pm | Community VCAL 9am- 3pm Recess 11am-11:30am Lunch 1pm- 1:30pm | VET Hairdressing Automotive Building and Construction Have classes VET Taster (No classes students are expected to use this time for) *Independent Study *Catch-up on Missed Work or Casual Employment *Volunteering | Community VCAL 9am- 3pm Recess 11am- 11:30am) Lunch 1pm-1:30pm | VET Taster Program Have classes VET Hairdressing Automotive Building and Construction (No classes students are expected to use this time for) *Independent Study *Catch-up on Missed Work *Part-time or Casual Employment *Volunteering |

| VET PROGRAM | DAY | START AND FINISH TIME | RECESS | LUNCH |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Hairdressing | Wednesday | 9pm-3.30pm | 10.30am-11pm | 12.30pm-1.30pm |
| Building and Construction | Wednesday | 9pm-3.30pm | 10.30am-11pm | 12.30-1pm |
| Automotive | Wednesday | 9pm-3.30pm | 10.30am-11pm | 12.30-1pm |
| Taster Program | Friday | 9pm-3.30pm | 11.-11.30am | 1pm-1.30pm |

UPCOMING EVENTS-

Term 3

- Student presentations
- Scott Harris resilience workshop
- Careers Guest Speakers/ Panel
- Mock Employment Interviews
- The Unveiling of the Games/Lunch room
- SYN FM Radio Program

PLEASE NOTE

Mid Year reports will be emailed out during the Term break so could you please ensure that you have informed us of any changes to your contact details.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?



REMOTE LEARNING

Learning from home was different. I didn't have to go anywhere, and I got to stay home and do my schoolwork. At the start I did find it hard because I didn't have a computer and I had to do my classes on my phone, but the teachers helped me out and I got to borrow a laptop from school. I liked doing my schoolwork on Zoom. I enjoyed all the subjects and being able to work in smaller groups with the teachers. I was able to complete Unit 1 of Numeracy during remote learning which was great. – D'Angelo

LEARNING AT SCHOOL IS DIFFERENT IN TERM 2

Coming to school is a bit different at the moment. We aren't all in one room. You can only have 20 students in one classroom, so we are split into two groups. When we come in in the morning, we have to sign in and write the time we arrive. We get our temperature taken and we have to sanitise our hands before we get to go to the classroom. The tables in the classrooms are different too. We are all separated from one another and have to sit a distance of 1.5 metres apart. At the end of the day when it is time to go home, we must clean down our desks with disinfecting wipes. Even though it is different I am glad to be back at school because remote learning was hard for me to understand and the lack of equipment was difficult, and I am glad to see my friends again. - Felipe



FROM THE TEACHERS

Term Two continued to be very productive for the VCAL Students, even though it began very differently for both teachers and students. The first five weeks or so lessons were conducted via Zoom Meetings. COVID- 19 presented many challenges and opportunities as students and teachers negotiated remote learning. Many students were able to thrive under these new circumstances, with some suggesting they would rather work from home. We, however, were more than happy to welcome everyone back into the classroom!

During term 2, students have continued to complete assessments across Literacy, Numeracy, Work-Related Skills and Personal Development. Students have also finished their resume and cover letters and have completed a job application. We are looking forward to Term 3 and are excited to have Scott Harris (author of Crashing into Potential) back at Skillinvest as he undertakes a Resilience Workshop with our students. - Michael

I would just like to acknowledge that it has been a pleasure and joy working at Skillinvest within the VCAL program. The students have grown in maturity and developed responsibility toward their learning and become more goal orientated in their work ethic. My time at Skillinvest may have come to an end but I believe each student, as they continue in their approach to their learning have the potential to successfully complete their VCAL and reach their dreams for the future. Thank you, and I will still drop in from time to time. - Ginny

WELLBEING

Our students have managed to overcome not only the restrictions from Covid 19 but also navigating an online student portal, zoom classes and remote learning for the first time. Isolation tested all of our mental health in some capacity, as we were thrown into a 'new normal' of lifestyle that was far from normal! Our students proved that not only are they resilient young people, but they were very rarely negative about the situation and most dealt with it with maturity way beyond their years. As we now get back to our 'new normal' of restrictions and the return to face to face classes, students wellbeing is still on the forefront of our priorities and we encourage any student who is feeling uncertain or is struggling with their mental health during this time to contact Wellbeing on 0427 959 498 Monday – Thursday 8.30am- 4.30pm.

- Anita



YOUTH PATHWAYS

Throughout Term 2, students worked through their Careers Pathways Portfolio's and in addition attended scheduled one on one meetings to work through career goals. We all understand that sometimes motivation can be low and doing a career plan is a great way of helping to have meaning and purpose to studying to look beyond this time here at Skillinvest. I look forward to catching up with all students in this space!

- Anita