

The Heartbeat of Mountain District Christian School



Over the past few weeks, VCE students have critiqued their management of study time, with the support of parents. It has been a privilege for me to spend time with the VCE students, developing and modifying their study timetables. This is a necessary part of student planning and preparing for their VCE year, and ensuring they can finish the year saying, 'I achieved my best outcome'.

Preparing well for VCE starts before Year 11 & 12 and is a culmination of many years of schooling. In Year 9 & 10, students with their parents undertake Careers Guidance interviews and think about possible directions after VCE and what subjects may assist them in getting there. Transition week and work experience in Year 10 is another pivotal activity students undertake. This includes visiting universities, undertaking Career Voyager to investigate career options, and participating in work experience.

Additionally, planning also happens every year with students setting goals for themselves. This year we are teaching all secondary students how to set SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Timely). To ensure course material is up to date and relevant, teachers critique their programs using data from the previous year. Teachers also attend seminars run by examiners on how students could best answer each question from the exam set last year.

This year, a number of new initiatives have begun. These include:

To support the learning in class, VCE study guides have been supplemented with **EDROLO** study guides. This is online, allowing students to listen to explanations with annotations appearing on their screen. It provides opportunity for them to attempt past VCE exam questions and listen to an explanation of the answers for each question.

SEQTA, which teachers started using for roll marking last year, is being implemented for VCE students to review class material and utilise resources online, as well as provide students with feedback as teachers mark each assessment task.

VCE students are looking at their leadership in our school community as an opportunity to serve, looking at Jesus as a model for their leadership. They regularly meet to discuss how they can be involved and assist other students within the school.

All of this allows our students completing their VCE to be proud of their results and ATAR (see VCE column for more information on the ATAR). We encourage all of our students to

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work hard so that the celebration at the end will be full of satisfaction for the journey they have undertaken and knowing that the result they achieved was their best outcome. It is important that we don't downplay the end results,

as this downplays the work the students are putting in and have already put in.

Last year, all of our students who applied for university received an offer in the first round of university offers. The courses they were accepted into included Commerce, Creative Arts, Justice, Sports Science, Law, Science, Teaching, and Veterinary and Wildlife Science.

And why do we do all of this and celebrate at the end? To honour the gifts and the position God has placed us in. The work the students and teachers put into VCE here at MDCS, bears witness to God's glory.

Corinthians 10:31 says: "Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God".

Paul Lock
Head of Senior Secondary & Head of VCE

Forms and letters sent home this week:

- Yr 1-3 Monbulk Walking Tour
- Yr 5/6 Camp To Bring List
- Yr 7/8 Wilsons Prom Camp
- Yr 9/10 Work Experience Information
- Yr 9/10 Gulf Station Excursion
- Yr 10 English Excursion
- Yr 10/11 girls, Hidden Figures Excursion
- VCE Studio Arts Excursion
- VCE O&ES camp
- Govt Student Residential Information Collection notification

- Run Melbourne Challenge

REMINDERS

- Photo Orders (online or by envelope to the office)
- School Banking tomorrow

325 Macclesfield Road
Monbulk Victoria 3793
P: 9756 7244
mdcs.vic.edu.au

Open Evening
Tour our campus and...
join us for a BBQ!
Friday 17th March | 4-7pm

Two weeks to go before our Open Evening is upon us! If you would like to lend a hand please speak to Mel in admin or email Mel at mashton@mdcs.vic.edu.au; Hands (and bodies) are needed setting up/serving in the kitchen and setting up grounds on the day. This could be another option in regards to Community Levy as well. Come and join in!

The ATAR is the AUSTRALIAN TERTIARY ADMISSION RANK, which is an overall ranking on a scale of <30 - 99.95, and is used by universities and TAFE institutes to select students for admission into their courses. This is determined based on students study score for English and their next three best subjects (studies), as well as 10% of the 5th and 6th subjects (the 5th & 6th subject will be their lowest scoring subjects). Each study score is a score from zero to 50 which shows how students performed in a study, relative to all other students doing that same study.



A study score of 30 is considered the mean (average). If you received the average study score for every subject you would have received an ATAR between 60 and 70 in 2016. Each VCE student is encouraged to look at the ATAR calculator to gain an understanding of what different study scores may be given them as an ATAR. An ATAR calculator can be found at vce.atarcalc.com.

Whilst this is informative, at the end of the day what really counts is the amount of work and effort students put into their subjects from the very beginning. They shouldn't just do the homework. They will need to revise, talk to their teachers, revise, do chapter summaries for each of their text books, revise, explain what they are learning about to someone else (a parent cooking dinner is a captive audience), revise, complete many practice exams and revise some more.

It is important to add that VCE is hard work over a long period of time, and it is imperative to continue a healthy lifestyle with eating well, taking breaks, and getting enough sleep.

Here are some helpful links relating to the ATAR and VCE studies:

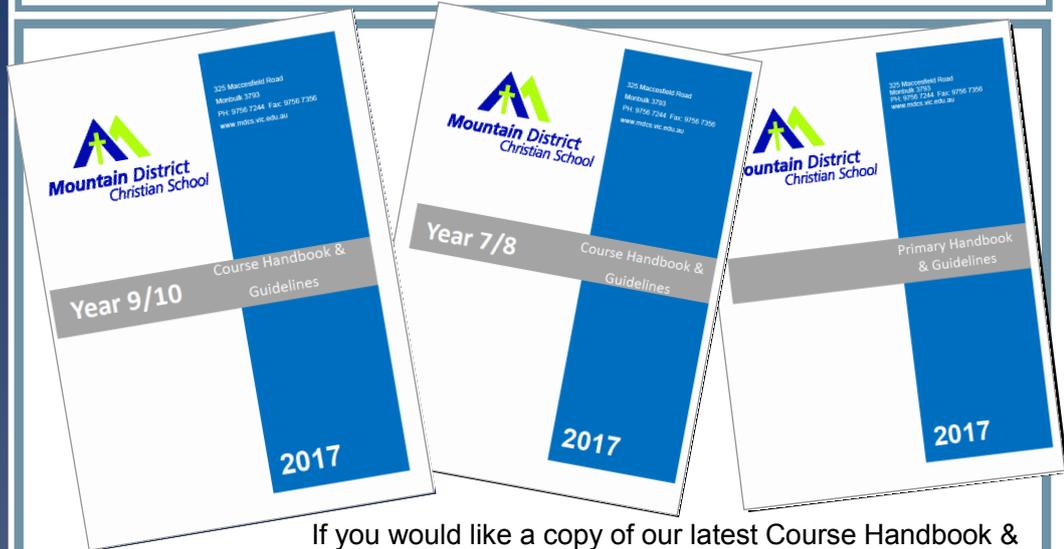
2016 Aggregate to ATAR table - <http://www.vtac.edu.au/files/pdf/Aggregate-ATAR-2016.pdf> These are the actual ATAR's based on the aggregate score students achieved last year.

The ABC's of scaling - <http://www.vtac.edu.au/pdf/publications/abcscaling.pdf>. A helpful breakdown of the ATAR and scaling within VCE studies.

If you have any further questions on the ATAR or other aspects of VCE, please contact Mr Lock.



Friendship Place is being run by some of our amazing parent volunteers, Jennie Greenfield, Alex McMaster and Deb Tunne. At Friendship Place activities such as Lego, Craft, Dress ups and Board Games are available to primary students who need an alternative play space. It is held on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes in the Prep-2 wet area.



If you would like a copy of our latest Course Handbook & Guidelines booklets, either via email or hard copy, please let the office know. These booklets contain up-to-date information on subjects, reporting and assessment, school life and student welfare.

They will also be loaded onto the Skoolbag app.



Photo Day

Whole School Photos tomorrow!

Family Photo online orders close 11:59pm TONIGHT (2nd March)

Get your orders in now!

University Information:



MONASH
University

For those students considering a course at Monash University, there is an "Inside Monash Seminar Series". This is an opportunity to hear from current students, past student and academics in specific faculties. These are held from March – September, with Arts, Business, Science and Pharmacy in March. Specific dates are posted in the VCE common room, and can also be found at www.monash.edu/inside-monash. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend these seminars as well.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

MARCH

- 3rd - WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTO DAY
- 6th - Primary Assembly
- 6th - 10th Primary Swimming Program
- 10th - Yr 7/8 1000 Steps Training
- 13th - LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY
- 15th - 17th Yr 5/6 Camp

- 15th - Yr 8 Basketball
- 16th - Yr 7 Immunisations - 1st round
- 17th - **OPEN EVENING**
- 20th - Primary Assembly
- 21st - Yr 7 Basketball
- 23rd - 24th Parent Teacher Meetings
- 24th - STUDENT FREE DAY