



UPPER YARRA SECONDARY COLLEGE uysc.vic.edu.au

From the Principal's Desk



Welcome Back to the 2024 School Year!

This year we welcome more than 130 Year 7 students which brings our total student population to more than 700 students. We also welcomed 5 new teachers and 10 support staff to our school community this year. By now, you should have received a phone call or email from your child's support teacher. They will be checking in with your child regularly, offering support, and are the best person for you to make contact with. Your child's Team Leader is next best placed to assist you, should you require.

Very Positive Start!

The start to the 2024 school year has been very positive! I am impressed with the attitude, effort and behaviour of our students. They are to be commended, and I hope they are able to sustain it over the course of the entire school year. As a school we have increased recognition of good behaviours, ranging from Student of the Week at each year level, Good Work certificates, rewards for demonstrating school values, and new for this year, a secret sound plays sporadically throughout the week to prompt staff to nominate students showing great school values.

As well as all of the great classroom based activities, the College continues to provide amazing extra-curricular opportunities too. We have already had Senior Interschool sports, the whole school Swimming Carnival (which was fantastic!), the Vineyard Harvest for 2024, Instrumental trials, Production rehearsals, and incursions and excursions at most year levels.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our College Captains for 2024, Talei Whiteside and Kasie Pitts College Captains, and Kailan O'Connor and Emily Tanner Vice Captains. We look forward to seeing their input in the school and our community over the coming year.

Have a great year connected with the College, we look forward to another collaborative and positive approach together.

Scott Tully | Principal



Key Dates

Tuesday 27th February
Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
9am - 7.30pm
Student Free Day

Monday 11th March
Labour Day Public Holiday

**Tuesday 12th March to
Thursday 14th March**
Year 12 Orientation Camp

Friday 15th March
Athletics Carnival
Whole School

**Tuesday 26th March to
Thursday 28th March**
Year 7 Camp
Phillip Island

Thursday 28th March
Last Day Term One
2.30pm Finish

Monday 15th April
First Day Term Two

**Monday 15th April to
Sunday 21st April**
Central Australia Camp

Tuesday 23rd April
Open Evening
6.30pm Brian Way Theatre

SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



For a great start to Year 7 and working well in all classes.

KALEB VAN MEEUWEN

7



For responsibility in the Art classroom and an excellent start to 2024 in all classes.

BLAZE HAGEN

8



For showing excellence in his work, and asking insightful questions in Science lessons.

LUKE MORRIS

9



For showing responsibility, working diligently, and seeking to challenge herself.

ISABELLE CROSS

10



For his commitment, excellence, and dedication to all his subjects.

WILL REYNOLDS

11



For completing all tasks to a high standard. He is engaged in all aspects of school life and a positive role model.

CARTER MORRISSEY

12



Building Report



The Stage 3 Capital Works are complete!

Works on the new Toilets, Year 10 Locker Area, Breakfast Club and Indigenous Garden were finished just in time for the start of school. Students are enjoying the new facilities.

Other works were also undertaken over the summer holidays, with new carpet in a number of areas, the north courtyard rejuvenated, the Food Technology and Senior School exteriors repainted, and a number of spaces receiving fresh paint internally.

Building Fund Voluntary Contributions - Thank you!

Each year families are provided with the opportunity to make a voluntary donation to the College Building Fund. We are grateful to have these donations, and have previously accumulated them over a few years in order to purchase large outdoor furniture items such as the café furniture in the canteen area. The intention for this year is to purchase additional outdoor furniture for the newly landscaped courtyard and the area near the recently completed capital works.

Michael Schultz Assistant Principal



Year 12 Outdoor Education - Wilsons Promontory Camp



Our Outdoor and Environmental Education class were lucky enough to have some amazing weather as we explored Wilson Prom.

On Day 1 we drove to Tidal River, stopping at Darby River to have a talk with the ranger. We spent the night there, seeing lots of wombats and wallabies, and having fun at the beach, swimming and playing cricket.

Day 2 was an early start at 6:45am to get packed and ready to start our hike. We were pleasantly surprised by last year's OES trainee Aiden, who just happened to be at the Prom as well. The weather was by far the best on this day, with the sun out all day and not a cloud in the sky (so lots of sunscreen for Mr Blattman). We made our way to Little Waterloo Bay, walking along the beaches and passing a couple of water crossings (that many of us tried our best to avoid). We set up camp, and then headed straight to the beach for a swim, some beach cricket and a round of soccer. That night the stars were shining like we had never seen before. We spent a long time at the beach appreciating the area and having a look at the bioluminescence that was washing up on the beach.

The next day we were up early again ready to go to Refuge Cove. On our journey we saw so many snakes, which was a little scary. We stopped off at Kersops Peak, where there was a lookout to see the South East side of Wilsons Prom. Mr Blattman warned us to make sure our bags were upside down so the cheeky birds couldn't get in. However, when we made it back two bags had been broken into, which was hilarious for the people whose bags they weren't. Refuge Cove was like nothing we had seen before... STUNNING! The day finished with a swim in the ocean, finishing our camp booklets and sharing our favourite memories of the trip so far.

Our final day started at 4:30am, so we could make our way to Waterloo Bay for the sunrise, which was the best decision we made. We enjoyed breakfast on the beach before we started our hike to Telegraph Saddle. We played games as we walked and had some really good chats with each other, and before we knew it we were heading home. Big thank you to Miss Hall and Angus for coming along with us and to Mr Blattman for organising the camp!

Hannah Darwall Year 12

AURA



Hi, my name is Aura. I'm the UYSC community's first school dog!

My birthday is September 1 and I'm almost 5 ½ years old. I'm an English Staffordshire Terrier X American Staffordshire Terrier and came to Mr Schultz and his family as a rescue puppy.

I love having my tummy rubbed when there are only a couple of people around and things are quiet. When I get excited, I sometimes howl and the only time I ever bark is if I get suuuuper excited and think we're playing a game (or if I see a possum!)

I work Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. I look forward to getting to know everyone across the year in 2024!

The Wellbeing Team 2024



Tracey Smedley
Coordinator



Emma Mills
Youth Counsellor



Charlotte Pingalo
Youth Counsellor



Romy Schauble
Nurse



Joel Taylor
Mental Health Practitioner



Steve Listopad
Chaplain



Puffs! Production



Rehearsals are underway for Upper Yarra's 2024 school production - Puffs!.



With one of the largest casts we have ever had we are excited to bring you a new, high energy show that may or may not be set in a certain well known fictional school of magic and wizards. Our first rehearsal was fantastic with our cast well prepared from learning lines over the holidays.

Brett Jenkins & Tessa Kinsella 2024 Production Directors





Media Excursion - Tipping Point



A handful of Media students attended an exciting excursion to a studio recording of the TV show, Tipping Point. Students had the opportunity to participate as audience members, receive a studio tour and also have a Q&A with TV producer veteran, Michael Pope, and TV host, Todd Woodbridge. An exciting and insightful experience!

Brett Jenkins Media



I loved the excursion to Tipping Point, I had a great time! I loved having a different perspective of watching a game show and seeing all the behind the scenes you wouldn't normally see. All of the crew were so nice and overall a really great experience.

Taleisha Boomsma Year 11



I found the Media excursion to be really fun and informative on the industry, we got to meet lots of industry veterans who have been working for a long time, and had good fun being in the audience of a game show.

Jake Pike Year 11



This excursion was one of the most incredible experiences I've ever had. I'm so grateful that we got the opportunity to do it, being able to see how things are truly done was really interesting.

Charlotte Arnold-Brewin Year 11



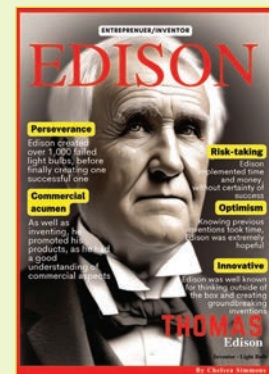
The Tipping Point excursion was incredible, the workers there were so bubbly and kind. Being a part of the audience was amazing, chanting the contestants name was a great experience. After the episode we got to see the control room which was really cool.

Zandra Robins Year 11



The Tipping Point excursion was an amazing experience. I learned about how not all television is real and you can rewind to get the perfect shot. There was a guy helping us and even doing signs to tell us when to clap and make noise. It was a real eye opener.

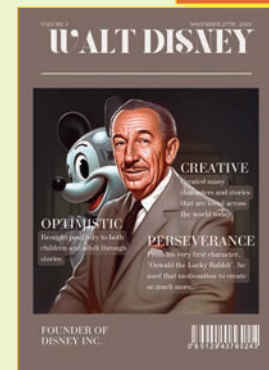
Kade Partel Year 11



Chelsea Simmons Year 11



Lincoln Love Year 11



Elizabeth McIntosh Year 11



Tessa Simpson Year 11

Famous Entrepreneurs Magazine Covers



As part of their introduction to Year 11 Business Management, students were required to create a magazine cover about a famous entrepreneur of their choice, that highlighted their entrepreneurial traits and showed the personality traits required by that individual to found and successfully run their business.

Using Canva, students then created their magazine cover with amazing results!

**Karla Owen
Business Management**

Class of 2023

Congratulations to Cooper Allum (Class of 2023) who received an audition for Top Acts, a concert of high scoring Drama and Theatre Studies performances. Whilst Cooper's performance was not selected, it is an amazing opportunity and recognition of results to receive an audition! Brett Jenkins Drama

Receiving the invite to audition for the 2023 VCE Drama Top Class series topped off my results for the year. At the beginning of my Drama solo examination process, my goal was to earn an audition, so receiving one felt like a major accomplishment.

From July, every Monday after school I would stay until 5pm to work on my solo. I would rehearse, change aspects or implement new ideas into my performance, and work on my costume and prop. I used this time to my advantage out of class, so that I could use the time I had in class effectively and receive feedback from Drama teachers.

Mr Jenkins couldn't have been a better help! Whenever I asked, he spent time with me on a Monday evening to assist me with feedback on my performance, or help me work on my costume and prop, when he could have gone home. I ensured that I was receiving a variety of feedback, performing to other Drama teachers such as Miss Kinsella, Miss Driberg and even reaching out to Ms Louis at Lilydale High School who I had undertaken an acting course with. I could not thank all these people enough for their guidance and assistance during my creative process.

I am so grateful for all the opportunities I had over my solo experience, particularly getting to keep one of Mr Tully's ties that I used for my costume. I might even wear it for a job interview after I receive my Education degree.

I wish a massive amount of luck to the current Year 12 Drama students, and advise them to understand that you need to put time in out of class if you want to succeed.

Thank you UYSC!

Cooper Allum Year 12 2023



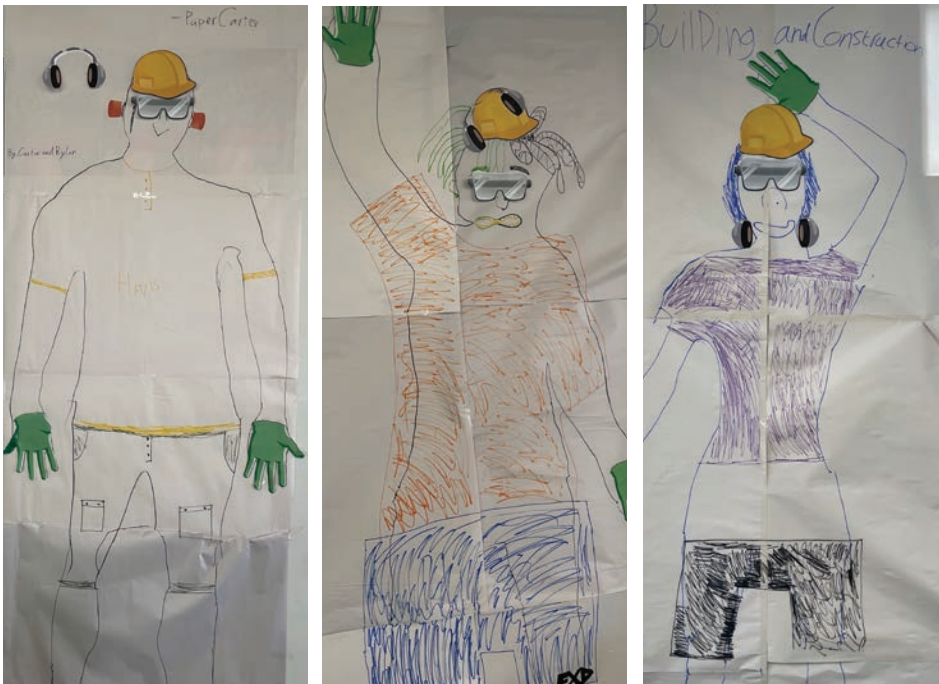
VCE Art Making and Exhibiting



Year 11 students spent some time in the ceramics art room. This was a chance for them to explore clay and see if this is a material that they would like to choose for their selected art medium for the rest of the year.

Grace Bariola Art





Work Related Skills - PPE



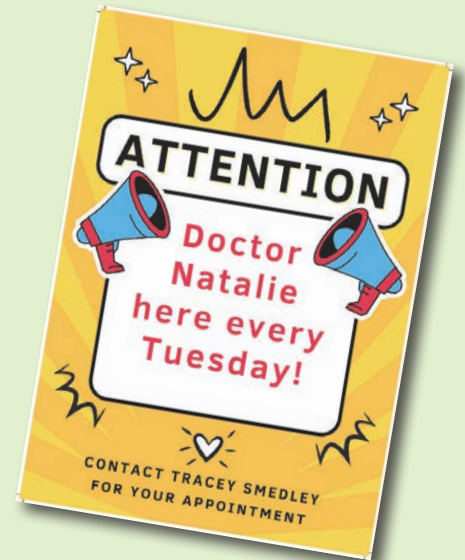
In Work Related Skills students were given the task of creating life sized posters showcasing items of PPE used in their chosen industry. Students were able to identify and explain the purpose and correct use of the PPE. Students then discussed the hazards and risks associated with specific industries.

Bronwen Foley VCE VM Leader



Valentine's Day Craft

In the Library at lunchtime students got creative making Valentine's snails! Their heart-shaped shells and funky faces made them too cute to give away.





Year 7 Instrumental Trial Day



All Year 7s had the opportunity to try out some concert band instruments. They were all engaged and had a great day! Students received a sign up sheet that can be returned to the office. Parents will be contacted in the next two weeks to get students started! We can't wait!

Kellie Woollard Instrumental Music Coordinator



We got to try out some of the musical instruments the school offers in programs, where you get to learn the instrument. Over the block my group had, we got to check out percussion, woodwind and brass. My favourite was percussion, as I'm going to be learning the drums soon. I can't wait to start learning!

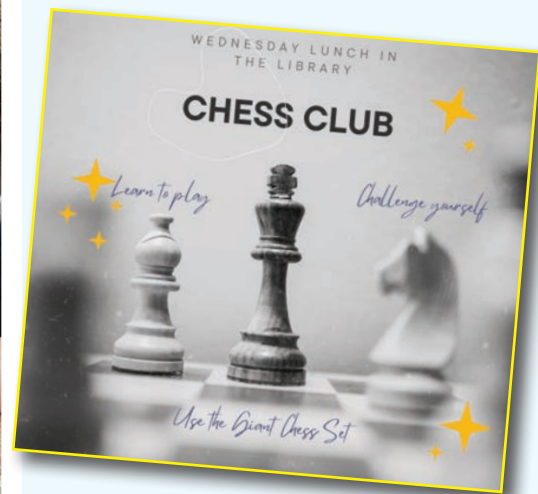
Hamish McKibben Year 7



We got to try out all these cool instruments, the trumpet, drums/ percussion, tuba, flute and much more. It was so fun watching the teachers give us a little show and then after we got to try.

Shayla Sykes Year 7





After School English Class



After-school English class is each **Tuesday 3.15 - 4.15pm** in the Library.

We encourage you to attend if you would like a quiet place to complete your English work or need some additional support from an English teacher. Students from all year levels are welcome!

Lisa Vanderkolk
English Domain Leader



3D Art

Students in Year 8 3D Art were introduced to ceramics through a clay speed challenge in class today. Their task was to create different objects, each within the time frame of 10 minutes. They created a statue, an animal and a house.

All of the students were superstars and very keen to get creative.

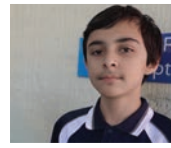
Grace Bariola Art



After School Maths Class

Come along to 7 Blue from **3:15pm to 4:00pm on Thursdays** if you want a bit of help with your maths work. One of our maths teachers will be there every week to help you get through homework, tasks you haven't finished, or if you want help to understand a topic you're finding difficult.

Travis Robinson
Mathematics Domain Leader



Our First Day!



I've found the transition from Primary school good so far. Everyone has been welcoming. I've found meeting and getting to know my classmates fun! The canteen is awesome and in my opinion the best things there are the potato cakes. Doing things like pracs in Science has been great and fun while helping us learn! Overall I've been finding high school fun so far and hope as I get more used to it I'll find it even better.

Bailey Franklin Year 7 Captain 2024



So many kids have seen their friends from Primary School and many have made more. All my subjects have been amazing, I've loved meeting all the teachers and seeing how amazing they are with each student. I think all the students have loved UYSC so far. I love that they offer a Year 7 area just for us, it's an amazing idea.

Amy McGregor Year 7 Captain 2024





Nurturing Our Writers - The Empublishment Project



We have some amazing writers at the College! A number of them are participating in a program called the Empublishment Project, which aims to encourage and empower young writers through workshops in creative writing and publishing.

Originally planned as a twelve week course, the group's engagement has been so wonderful and their writing outcomes so fantastic, that the program has continued this year and expanded into a six month journey. Facilitated by Phoebe Lines, a local author, and funded by our local council, the experience has nurtured intergenerational relationships with professional mentors for the purpose of building the students' creative capacity and sense of community.

This project will result in a professionally published book available for purchase and borrowing at the State and local libraries. We are so excited to read the amazing works of this group and to celebrate this awesome achievement by some of our talented writers.

Well done to Alice Berry, Minna Anderson, Joe Archer, Steven Berry, Maddie Denny, Anika Johnston, Margherita Mason, Jack Polisen, Ariel Rowe, Hayley Simmons and Minka Strbac.

Joanne Cogan English



Year 7 Art



Year 7 students are learning that Art can be quirky and fun, and have been applying this in their collage activity this week.

They have been finding images of people and faces to cut out and arrange in surreal and abstract ways. Some artists we have focused on are Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dali.

Casey De Silva Art



PAT CRONIN FOUNDATION

Coward's Punch Presentation - Pat Cronin Foundation



Today there was a presentation from the Pat Cronin Foundation about violence. It was about a man who got punched in the head and died a couple weeks later due to the trauma.

They talked about how even though anger isn't a bad thing, too much may lead to aggression and aggression can build up and lead to violence.

Sam Coupar Year 9



I think that it was scary and worrying that the injury happened that quickly. I also feel bad for his family and friends for having to deal with it.

Reece Irvine Year 9



I think the presentation was interesting, they want us to be aware and not to punch people. We need to stop fighting and help people who are struggling.

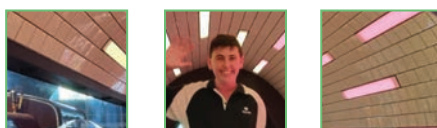
Chase Pelling Year 9



I learned about what a coward punch is and how a quick punch to the back of the head can be fatal. A boy had this happen to him and it ended his life. It was sad and I thought about what would happen to my family if this occurred to one of us.

It was good to be educated about because it can really change someone's view and prevent it from happening in the future.

Lucy Pritchard Year 9



Year 9 Humanities - Melbourne Museum



On Tuesday 13th February, Year 9 Humanities students visited Melbourne Museum as part of our unit on the European settlement of Australia.

We caught the train into the city, which for some was their first experience catching a train and using a Myki card. Students explored the history of Melbourne, did the Dinosaur Walk and wandered through the Forest Gallery, showcasing plants and wildlife native to Australia's mountain landscapes.

We also visited the Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre within the museum, where students got to see first-hand the impacts of colonisation on First Australian peoples. They learned about Bunjil the wedge-tailed eagle, and how he created the Country, Law and people of the Kulin nation. They also got to hear the 38 different languages of Victoria and saw over 600 historic and contemporary artworks.

All of the students were excellent and had a wonderful day!

Amy Robinson Humanities



IMPACT
nutrition
& PILATES

Year 8 Wellness Day and Man Cave



Man Cave Year 8 boys had the opportunity to participate in Man Cave. The day was led by fantastic facilitators, it was fun, full of energy, and forged deeper connections between students. We are hoping that this will bring the cohort together for the year, and for the remainder of their schooling.

Wellness Day Wellness Day was an internal program focused on empowering students to take control of their own narratives and foster a sense of agency.

Joel, our school Mental Health Practitioner, led a session to break down the stigma surrounding mental health, providing a safe space for students to open up and connect with one another.

Students then enjoyed some Zen time with Carly from Impact Pilates, who conducted a 55-minute session, promoting relaxation and mindfulness.

Additionally, students engaged in various 'Minute to Win It' games, fostering communication, teamwork, and cooperation among peers, including those they may not typically collaborate with.

Wrapping up the day, students got hands-on in the kitchen, creating delicious and nutritious smoothies, fruit kebabs, and bliss balls, promoting healthy eating habits and culinary skills.

Chloe Mays Year 8 Leader



Careers News



Simon Tacey



Angela Brewer



Keri Morris

It's been a busy start to the year in the Careers Office.

Year 12 interviews have been scheduled into student timetables and are now well underway, with Year 11's to follow.

Year 9 Morrisby

Planning has begun for Year 9 Morrisby Careers, with student questionnaire sessions starting in May and interviews commencing 29th of July. Information will be posted on Compass in coming weeks.

Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 Work Experience is scheduled for the 24th-28th June. Students should be looking for opportunities and approaching employers now. Last year we had students working across many industries including education, trades, allied health, hospitality and retail. Forms are available from the Careers Office.

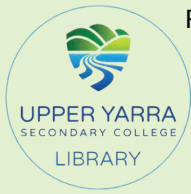
Career Action Plans

Year 7 and 8 students will begin working on their Career Action Plans soon.

All year levels are welcome in the Careers Office. Feel free to drop in and say hi.

Careers Team





February has been a busy month in the Library at UYSC. We started off the new year in our freshly renovated space for the first time in 3 years! We have been so excited to greet students, and have been encouraged by their eagerness to read. After welcoming our Year 7s with device set up, they then had the opportunity to borrow and read books both in and out of class, with the most enthusiasm for graphic novels, fantasy and sports stories.

Teachers have been utilising the Library class space each day, newly refurbished with sound-absorbing panels. At lunchtimes, we have been at full capacity, with students participating in 3D printing, Minecraft Education, Dungeons & Dragons, Virtual Reality, Switch, Chess Club, Craft Club and board games.

We are looking forward to a fabulous year in Your Library!!

The Library Team

