

From the Principal



Working at the head office and dealing with accountability reports, new policies, lots of emails and other correspondence, you can sometimes lose sight of what is really important.

That is why I like nothing better than to visit one or more Centres each week to see the classes in action.

There is always a buzz and a sense of enthusiasm. We are fortunate that we have a committed group of teachers with a strong sense of commitment who, as well as teaching, organise activities such as concerts, displays, excursions and graduation dinners. There is always something happening.

Our priority this year has been to implement the new Victorian Curriculum and our senior staff have worked closely with officers of the VCAA to ensure that we meet all of the requirements.

We continue to refine our programs to improve the quality of our teaching through the continued professional development of our staff. We have also established closer relationships with the Modern Language Teachers Association of Victoria and have hosted several of their valuable TeachMeets.

We continue to work on a number of areas:

- We are in the fourth year of auspicing vocational education Certificate courses for languages (VETinSchools).
- We continue to assist new languages to attain VCE accreditation and to teach them (see page 2).
- We are in the second year of teaching EAL (English as an Additional Language) to newly arrived students in country Victoria and there are 27 schools participating.
- We continue to review our processes to implement the Government's Child Safe Standards.
- Our online development team is about to release new online VCE courses for Indonesian, Italian, German and Spanish and is about to start work on Chinese and Japanese.
- A serious challenge that we are facing is trying to meet new demands for new classes and new Centres within our current budget.
- VCE Results are very important to us and this Bulletin highlights our success.

Finally, as we come to the winter months, it is essential that students are reminded to attend regularly (unless they are sick) – missing out on one session means missing out on one week's work.

Frank Merlino
Principal

Singapore Delegation visits VSL

Last year we introduced the Bahasa Malay language at three of our Centres, namely Suzanne Cory (Werribee), Roxburgh Park and Dandenong. Subsequently we received a request from the Ministry of Education in Singapore for four of their Officers to visit the Centres to observe Malay and Indonesian classes.

This was a high-powered curriculum delegation led by Mr Mohamed Noh Daipi, the Director of the Malay Language Centre of Singapore.

We also provided a briefing at our head office on the services of the VSL and discussed how the Singapore Ministry of Education could assist our fledgeling Malay classes by providing Malay language materials and



Swapping ideas on co-operation



Briefing on online development

ICT support. The Malay Language Centre provides professional development opportunities for teacher leaders through its Overseas Learning Journey Program. The program aims to broaden leading teacher leaders' perspectives and gain insights on curriculum innovation, pedagogical leadership and professional development in other countries.

One of our Area Managers, Khalaf Gries, who happened to travel to Singapore during the holidays was invited to visit the Language Centre of Singapore and was given a guided tour by Director Daipi. We look forward to developing closer links between our two organisations.

Thank you to Mr Raihan Mohamed Nawawi for co-ordinating the visits to the VSL.

What's happening at the Victorian School of Languages? – VCE Developments

Over the past eight decades the VSL has assisted our education system by teaching new languages and by working to have them accredited at the VCE level. Accreditation is important for the status of any language and for encouraging the students to continue to study it at the senior secondary level. The following are the latest developments in the VCE area. It would be appreciated if school Principals, Language Co-ordinators and VCE Co-ordinators could bring to the attention of their senior students the fact that the VSL is offering the following new VCE languages level and if they could promote the Languages in their school bulletins and websites.

- **VCE Chinese Language, Culture and Society – Year 11 (Units 1 & 2)**

The VCAA has introduced the new VCE subject Chinese Language, Culture and Society in order to encourage non-native speakers of the language to study it at the senior secondary level. The VSL is offering the new course at its Box Hill Centre. Contact Kerry Law on 9840 0082 or visit the VSL website. Next year the course will be taught at the Year 12 VCE level.

- **VCE Karen (language of Myanmar) – Years 11 & 12**

Last year the school introduced Karen at the Year 11 level. This year it is being taught for the first time at the year 12 VCE level. The language is available at the Suzanne Cory SC Centre (Werribee) (tel:5277 9833); Melba (Croydon) Centre (tel:9474 0562) and at the North Geelong SC Centre (tel:5277 9833). For further details visit the VSL website.

- **VCE Chin Hakha (language of Myanmar) – Years 11 & 12**

Last year for the first time in an official Education department school anywhere in the world the VSL taught Chin Hakha at VCE Units 3&4 level and a number of students received a VCE top score. The language is taught at the VSL Melba (Croydon) Centre (tel:9474 0562) and the Sunshine Centre (tel:9689 1166). For further details visit the VSL website. The Year 11 and 12 VCE courses are again being taught this year.

- **VCE Vietnamese First Language – Years 11 & 12 (Units 1-4)**

The VCAA accredited VCE Vietnamese First Language last year at the Year 11 level and this year it is being taught at the Year 12 level at the following Centres: Footscray City, Haileybury (Keysborough), Westall, Sunshine, Blackburn, Collingwood and Lalor. For further details contact the VSL head Office on 9474 0500.

- **Year 12 VCE Classical Greek in Distance Education**

This year Classical Greek is being taught by distance education at the Year 12 VCE level (and all secondary levels below Year 12). Students need to enrol via their base school. For the enrolment process please contact Sophie at the VSL Head Office on (03) 9474 0500 or visit the VSL website.

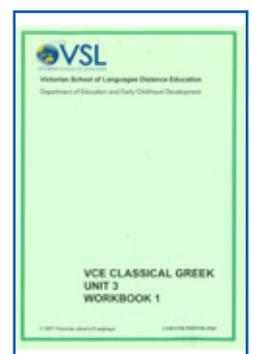
- **VETinSchools classes – (Vocational education Languages)**

The VSL auspices schools that wish to teach a language as a vocational or VET subject. These courses are principally aimed at non-background students who wish to study a language but do not want to sit the VCE exam. The result however can count towards a student's ATAR score as part of the fifth subject. Schools who are interested in being auspiced should contact Pandora at vetinschools@vsl.vic.edu.au

- **Hindi Year 12 VCE in Distance Education in 2018**

Given the importance of the rapidly growing relationship between India and Australia, the VSL is developing the first-ever VCE Hindi Distance Education course in Australia at the Year 12 level. The new course will be accessible at the start of the 2018 school year.

Victoria has a fine record in promoting the language and culture of people from around the world and the Victorian School of Languages is proud to make a valuable contribution.



Top Scorers profiles

The following students either received the top mark in the State in their respective language or a Premier's Award or both



Alessia Hysa - Italian

My school did not teach Italian but I'd heard from others that VSL was a great place to learn at, especially since they had fully qualified teachers. What I found most enjoyable and surprising were the friendships I made as I never imagined I'd meet so many people from different schools. Italian is not easy, not even for those who are

fluent and you do need to master the two parts to the written exam, one in English and one in Italian. There will also be moments where you get a disappointing SAC mark back even though you worked so hard. I had moments where I was ready to give up but I persevered. My advice is to focus on the areas where you are weaker at. It's not over until it's over - even if you have a week left until the exam keep revising.



Alicja Orłowska - Polish

Studying Polish at the Dandenong Centre gave me an incredible opportunity to not only improve my language skills and boost my ATAR score, but also to gain many new and lasting friendships. I always enjoyed going to school on Saturdays because it was always filled with enthusiasm and we studied in a positive atmosphere. Learning another language is not easy, but is very satisfying and also improves memory, increases your career options and makes a person more open to other cultures. Studying medicine and becoming a surgeon was always my biggest dream. When I completed my VCE Polish studies my dream became achievable. I would like to thank all VSL teachers and coordinators for their support, motivation and establishing a positive school atmosphere.

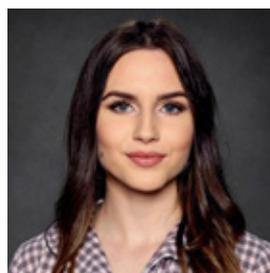
er language is not easy, but is very satisfying and also improves memory, increases your career options and makes a person more open to other cultures. Studying medicine and becoming a surgeon was always my biggest dream. When I completed my VCE Polish studies my dream became achievable. I would like to thank all VSL teachers and coordinators for their support, motivation and establishing a positive school atmosphere.



Noa van der Meché - Dutch

When I discovered that Dutch was available at the VSL I leapt at the chance. My first challenge was to complete the work on time and to lose some of my bad linguistic habits such as throwing in English words here and there. The most enjoyable moments were interacting with the group and making friends with other Dutch speakers. I would

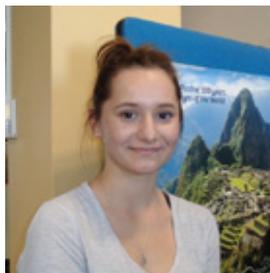
advise younger students to speak the language as often as possible and to find enjoyment in what you're doing. My dream is to work in the area of Human Rights in the United Nations or in The Hague, hence speaking another language will definitely be useful. I'd also use my language skills to keep learning new languages as, once you speak one language, it's easier to learn the next, so Spanish here I come! Dankjewel! Gracias!



Marija Korunovska - Macedonian

I initially thought that studying Macedonian would be an easy task. However I quickly learned that completing the course work and the exam preparation were challenging. It was a pleasure to spend Saturday mornings in a friendly environment and to explore how language and culture brings us together. Language studies assist greatly when meeting new

people and you learning about their traditions and customs. My advice to younger students is to keep practising. Never miss an opportunity to speak the language, watch a movie, or even listen to songs - it's amazing how many new words our brains can pick up from interacting with people or simply by listening. In the future, I am planning to study politics at university where the language will be essential to completing my studies.



Jennifer Bozhinova - Spanish

I studied Spanish because I love speaking foreign languages and travelling. I was born in Bulgaria, and when I was three years old, my parents decided to move to Spain. I completed Year 7 there and, in addition to speaking Bulgarian, I had to learn Spanish, English and French. I initially thought it was going to be difficult studying via Distance and with-

out seeing the teacher but I found the course well organized and interesting. If you speak the local language you can travel anywhere and you feel like you belong. If you find the study difficult imagine yourself visiting the country whose language you're learning. I can see a lot of travelling in my future, mostly in Europe and in the Spanish-speaking world. It also makes it easier for me to learn languages like Portuguese and Italian.



Mizuki Rena Ueda - Japanese 2nd Language

I chose to study Japanese SL with VSL as my school did not offer the language. The challenges I faced included SAC preparation and grasping practical exam techniques but, with the guidance of my experienced teacher, I was able to overcome these difficulties. I really enjoyed getting to know classmates

with different backgrounds who shared a common interest in the Japanese language. Learning Japanese gave me further insight into the unique and fascinating culture of Japan. My advice for students studying a language is to consistently practise the language and to prepare early for the oral SACs/exam by improvising responses in order to handle unexpected questions that inevitably come up during these assessments.



Borna Bosnjak - Croatian

My Croatian studies also encouraged me to work harder in my other subjects. Making new friends has also been an enjoyable experience, and we've shared many funny moments. Being able to use more than one language is a skill appreciated by any employer, but it is not only the pursuit of a career that should tempt you to study a

language. For myself, having the opportunity to study my mother tongue Croatian was a unique opportunity. Hopefully, I'll go on to study computer science. Whereas my Croatian skills might not be vital in the day-to-day use in my field of choice, VCE Croatian has helped me to come closer to achieving the ATAR score I desired in order to have a better shot at going to a renowned university.



Ayah Khalid Abdelwahab - Arabic

I initially studied Arabic so it would contribute to my ATAR score. I subsequently realised that it is a privilege to be able to speak, read and write another language. Such studies increase your career prospects, allow you to be exposed to different cultures and help to preserve your heritage. I encountered some

challenges in managing my time because I had to study Arabic on an additional day of the week, yet I have no regrets at all. Moreover, I was able to meet other Arabic-speaking students from different parts of the world and I made new lifelong friends. The laughs we had in class are cherished moments that I will never forget. My Arabic score did contribute to my ATAR score, which was over 90, and this made it possible to enrol in my dream course which is Aerospace Engineering.



Diana Avel - Romanian

The challenge I faced in going to the Romanian class was to wake up at 6.00am every Saturday and this was not easy for me as I had to complete six days of school a week. But it was worth it - everyone was so welcoming and kind and I made lots of new friends. I would advise younger students studying the language not to miss any classes and

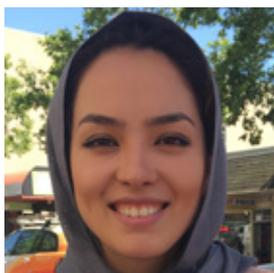
to study hard and consistently. The satisfaction you feel and the look on your parents' faces when you get a top score is really worth it. In the future I'm planning to be a psychology teacher or a psychologist, and now that I can speak Romanian fluently I can also help Romanians who have just arrived in Australia and I can enjoy more my travels to Romania.



Fanni Krajko - Hungarian

I started studying Hungarian at the VSL because I had heard of the excellent reputation of the school and was very impressed by the fact that so many different cultures come together to study in the one location. It was also a great opportunity to meet a diversity of people. Obviously learning a language is never an easy thing. One of the biggest challenges

I had to face was the fact that you have to start thinking in a foreign language. With each challenge you face and each task you solve you also continue to grow. After a time you can feel yourself becoming more confident and this is one of the best learning experience you can have. At the end, all I can say is that I am very happy to speak another language and that I am definitely going to use it in the future.



Tayebah Ahmadi - Persian

Studying Persian as a VCE subject was just a fantastic opportunity to improve my ATAR score and to compensate whatever difficulties I faced in other subjects due to not being a native English speaker. It was fun and it was good to meet many friends who were going through the same experience as me. The most challengeable part was choosing the

topic and preparing for the oral exam, which I enjoyed the most. Knowing Persian is a key to my future career as I am planning to study psychology and it will help me a lot to communicate and work with people from a Persian-speaking background.



Maria Isabel Hincapie - Spanish

Studying Spanish was an eyeopening experience that allowed me to further value the opportunity of speaking another language.

It gave me a wider view of my future and assisted me to expand my dream of becoming a doctor, not only to the Spanish speaking community in

Australia, but to other parts of the world. It was an enriching path which brought its challenges yet also many benefits. It showed that hard work always pays off, specially when you have an amazing teacher, classmates and a supporting family - all of which helped to make my dream come true.



Saad Alkassab - Arabic

I graduated this year as the dux of CRC Sydenham, with an ATAR score of 96.65. Studying Arabic at the Victorian School of Languages while I was in Year 11 gave me a taste of what Year 12 was going to look like. Achieving a top score in Arabic made me go to Year 12 with less stress and a much better understanding of the system. Being awarded for my

achievement in Arabic by the Minister for Education, Hon James Merlino, made me determined to do my best to achieve my goals. Arabic ended up as one of my best four subjects in contributing to my aggregate and it just made me feel so good to have received a certificate. This encouraged me to work harder in the rest of my VCE subjects.



Pawandeep Mann - Punjabi

I started studying Punjabi at the VSL. I always enjoyed studying language as I speak Punjabi at home and it always connects me with my community and heritage. In class I made so many friends. My teacher always encouraged me to do well and he always tried to improve my language skills and get a good study score. As a result it boosted my ATAR

and assisted to enter my preferred biomedicine course. I will undoubtedly Punjabi in my career. I would recommend future students to practice for their exams as much as possible and to concentrate on improving any weak points. A special thank you my teacher.



Annabelle Lim - Indonesian (Second Language)

Balancing my VSL Indonesian study and my other Year 12 subjects was difficult so I had to spend my time wisely. I personally find Bahasa Indonesian such an open and friendly language, backed by a rich culture and intriguing historical heritage. In our ever-increasingly globalised world

communicating in more than one language is becoming a requirement. A student should appreciate that a language is the bread and butter of human culture, used by real people in real life! So, invest yourself in the experience of knowing and using the language. My plan is to enter university next year to study Biomedical Science and then Medicine - and I also hope to be able to do a Diploma of Languages in Indonesian or French.



Gillian Darcy - Maltese

I was born in Malta and after migrating to Australia I was determined to continue speaking, reading and writing the Maltese language. I love languages (I also speak Spanish), but Maltese was always my special language, and I always wanted to study it formally. When I became aware of the VSL's Maltese VCE Program early last year, I jumped at

the opportunity - and I'm so glad I did. I met and studied with the nicest people, all of whom had a passion for the language which was as strong as (or stronger!) than mine. I would like to thank the VSL for its continuing support for the Maltese language program. The language is an important part of our heritage and our identity as Maltese people. I hope that other students take advantage of the opportunity to study it.



Jesse Bawi Thihlum – Chin Hakha

I appreciated the opportunity to study the language at the VSL, the only school in the world that officially teaches the language. One of the challenges I faced was having to get up early on a Saturday. However, by the end of the year I realised that it was totally worth the effort. I really

enjoyed hanging out with friends I would not normally see during the week and, of course, having a great teacher helped. A language study also helps you understand the culture and history of the people and the country, and this helped to broaden the way I see things. As a person aspiring to be a doctor, the language skills I have acquired will allow me to better communicate and to understand and celebrate cultural diversity.



Tien Phan - Vietnamese

As the Holmesglen College of TAFE did not teach Vietnamese I was delighted to find out that the Victorian School of Languages offered it as a VCE subject. As I lived in Wantirna South the closest VSL Centre was at Westall Secondary College. I would like to thank my teacher, Mr Si Van Nguyen, and indeed the whole Vietnamese Faculty, for the exciting courses they provide. I was

delighted to hear that I would be receiving the Premier's Award for Vietnamese but unfortunately I could not attend the Awards function as I am now pursuing my studies overseas.



Ayse Sevde Bozdog – Turkish

Attending the Turkish class every weekend was never a burden for me. The inviting atmosphere, the encouragement from fellow classmates, the teachers and my family made it an enjoyable experience. Prior to my studies at VSL I hadn't received formal education in Turkish, not even at home, which made it quite difficult to meet

the written requirements, especially the grammar. Despite this I found learning from my mistakes and participating in class discussions most enjoyable. Studying the language strengthened my passion for learning and enabled me to form strong friendships with people who also shared a love for the Turkish language and culture. I hope to use the skills I obtained to pursue a career in international education.



Ines Bacalhau – Portuguese

Languages have always been crucial to me and I have studied French, Italian, English, Spanish and Portuguese. Since Portuguese was not offered at my school, I looked online and found out that it was offered at the VSL. It is so important in today's world to be able to speak and understand more than one language. By knowing several languages, a potential employee already stands out

from the crowd. I would like to pursue a career in the pharmaceutical sciences, an area which will involve working in pharmaceutical laboratories in countries like France, Germany and England. The language skills that I have acquired will greatly help me if I decide to move to one of these countries and my Portuguese language skills will assist me to learn their relevant language and make it easier and faster for me to fit in that country.



Gracia Arwi – Indonesian 2nd Language

Indonesian wasn't offered at my school. At the VSL I was also able to meet people from different schools who had the same interest as I had in the language. I faced a few challenges such as getting up early on those cold Saturday mornings, and having to balance the workload between all my subjects. I found coming to the

VSL class to be enjoyable as I was able to treat it as a break from my day school as the class environment was very laid back and friendly. I think pursuing the language really helped me connect with my relatives from Indonesia as I am now better acquainted with the Indonesian culture and language. I would advise students to read novels and magazines in the language that you are studying. In the future I plan to study additional languages such as French, Italian, and Chinese.



Sandeli Narangoda – Sinhala

I was seven years old when I migrated to Australia, and in the next couple of years I completely forgot how to read or write in Sinhala.

However, because the VSL offers Sinhala as a subject, I enrolled in Year 7 and relearned the language, and relearned to love my culture. Choosing to study Sinhala to a VCE standard was definitely one of the

best decisions I've ever made. During VCE I learnt so much, not only about Sinhala as a language, but the country Sri Lanka as well, in terms of its culture, its history, and its identity. Now that I have studied Sinhala as a VCE subject, I have promised myself to never forget the language like I did before. To anyone considering studying Sinhala, I recommend it from the bottom of my heart - it is a very rewarding cultural experience.



Neathnalinna Sochara - Khmer

I attended the VSL Westall Centre and I am very proud of the fact that I received a high score and acutely aware of the importance of studying the language with other Cambodian students. Studying the Khmer language also involved studying the culture. The teacher helped me to understand the importance of maintaining our language

and cultural identity. I enjoyed the opportunity of coming to Westall every Saturday to study Khmer with friends who shared the same culture and traditions. My teacher, Mr Nath In, extended my knowledge of Khmer and challenged me to reach the highest standard of the language. I am thrilled with the fact that studying Khmer has been a crucial part of my education.



Patricia Sumargo – Indonesian 2nd Language

I found out about the VSL classes from my older sister, who studied Indonesian in 2011. I enrolled in the VSL distance education because the closest VSL Centre was two hours away. Not having 'face to face' classes with the teacher was a bit daunting, however my teacher always gladly

received phone calls and immediately replied to my emails. Attending Indonesian seminars in the city was quite memorable. I made new friends and we helped each other. While studying Indonesian, I learnt things that I didn't know about Indonesia and it expanded my views of different cultures. I plan to become a nurse in developing countries and use my language skills to connect with people from different backgrounds and cultures.



Victor Dobre - Romanian

Studying Romanian at VSL was a very rich experience and studying the subject not only helped me in my studies but also helped me to stay connected with my culture and language. Attending class every weekend was never a burden for me. In fact the class was great and the bond between classmates and teachers made it even more

enjoyable. Studying Romanian made me realise the beauty of my country of origin and made me feel proud of it. Speaking a second language is a fantastic skill to have and as I am travelling overseas at the moment I live and realise the potential of language learning every day. The VSL helped me to master these challenges and I am glad I was able to join its Romanian class.



Seo Yeon Sohn -

Korean Second Language

I selected the VSL because I wished to study Korean at an advanced level. It was somewhat exhausting to go to school six days in a week and studying seven subjects. However, I enjoyed the class time and being part of a delightful cohort. Being bilingual has given me many benefits in my

studies as I am capable of understanding various concepts from different perspectives. The advice that I would give to younger language students is to never give up and to be confident because it is worth it and you will be able to achieve much more than you think. The self-assurance that I gained from my Korean studies will help me to enrol in a Medicine course.



Elsin Tchaba - Arabic

I studied Arabic at the Roxburgh Centre of the Victorian School of Languages. As my RMIT TAFE College in Carlton did not offer the language, I attended the Roxburgh VSL Centre, as this was the closest to my home. My other VCE subjects were Biology, Further Mathematics, EAL and Health and Human Development. I wish to thank my teacher, Mr Youssef Tadros

for the assistance he provided during the year. I found my Arabic class challenging and enjoyable and it gave me a good preparation to pursue Arabic Studies at a university level.



2017 Premiers VCE Awards - More details in the next issue

VCE Teachers Workshop - 13 May 2017

On 13 May some 180 VCE teachers from all over Victoria, had the opportunity to come together for a valuable professional development and networking session pertinent to their VCE teaching. It was an opportunity to gain information about how the sometimes complicated VCAA statistical moderation process is carried out.

The main lecture was delivered by Barbara Elvin, the VCAA Manager for Statistical Moderation and Assessment Reporting. She demonstrated how VCE Moderation and Assessment works in a very practical way. Her examples were comprehensive and the teachers acknowledged her expertise and discussion of realistic examples.

Angela Natoli then spoke about the importance of regularly informing parents and home schools about their students' progress. She then referred to the important documents in the Staff Handbook and how teachers should use them, especially to access the Annual Administrative Advice and SAC planning guidelines and procedures so as to meet VCAA guidelines. Examples were also given of VCE yearly planning calendars and weekly homework tasks.



VCAA's Barbara Elvin presenting



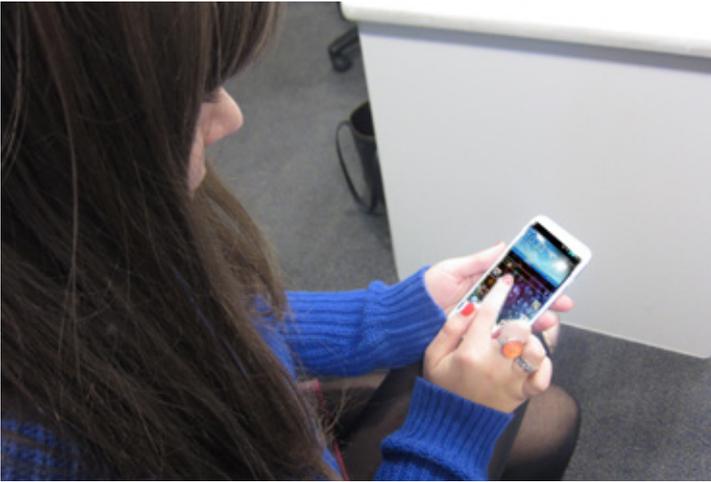
AP Angela Natoli presenting



Networking during morning tea!

Staff used the morning break to catch up with colleagues and peers and to organise cross-marking sessions across the State. The workshop was one of a series to assist teachers to update and refine their VCE expertise.

Mobile Phone Safety



Mobile phones are a great way for children to stay in touch with their parents, family and friends. Mobiles allow users to make calls, take photos, play games, send texts (SMS) and images (MMS), and access the internet. Mobiles are a regular feature in teenagers' lives and increasingly used by younger children.

While mobiles provide immediate contact and can be fun to use, the fact that they can be on 24/7 and parents can't always be there to supervise, means there are potential risks. These include:

- High bills – children and young people may not consider the impact of their mobile phone use, or the cost of premium services, like ringtones or games, which are more expensive than a standard SMS.
- Scams – young users may also be more susceptible to mobile phone scams that are designed to steal personal details or money. Children may not know they've been scammed unless invoices or online statements are checked carefully for unusual charges.
- Cyberbullying and unwelcome mobile calls – Mobile phones are often used for cyberbullying, as they are easy tools for bullies to use. Mobiles can also be used to make calls that are threatening, offensive or harassing in nature.
- Sexting – a growing issue is young people's use of mobile phones to send sexual images to one another. This can have social and legal consequences.
- Access to inappropriate material – internet-enabled mobiles allow children and young people ready access to a range of material that their parents may consider inappropriate for them.

There are a number of ways that parents can increase their child's phone safety. These include helping them to block unwanted calls from specific numbers or disabling internet access. Contact your mobile phone provider to find out how to do this.

Most phones can also be manually locked with a password or PIN number so no-one, except you or your child, can make calls or access details. This is especially helpful if your child's phone is lost or stolen.

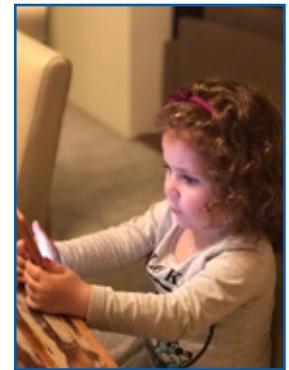
Some mobile phones can enable children to access the internet. As parents can't always be there to supervise, it's more important than ever to teach children and teens how to protect themselves. Not sharing too much personal information online is an important first step.

Tips for Parents

- Stay involved with your child's use of new technologies. Ask your child to show you how their phone works and what they are using it for.
- Find out how access to the internet and other services can be managed. This information is usually available on the carrier's website.
- Help your child to understand that their phone is like a wallet and every text message, phone call or download service costs money.
- Remind your child that they shouldn't let anyone borrow their phone.
- Talk with your child about their experiences with their mobile phone. Let them know it's okay to tell you if they come across something that worries them.
- Teach your child that there are ways they can deal with disturbing material they should not respond if they receive something inappropriate, and they should immediately hang up if they feel uncomfortable or worried.

Tips for Students

- Never post your number or other personal details on the internet or share it with anybody you don't know. The more private your number is, the less likely you are to be contacted by strangers.
- Be wary of anyone who asks to borrow your phone in public – even if it's for a supposed emergency. If it is a genuine emergency, dial Triple Zero (000) for them and pass on the phone. Do not leave a stranger alone with your phone.
- If you receive a text message from an unknown source, don't reply. It could contain a virus or be an attempt to sign you up to an expensive subscription or premium service.
- Say no! Don't accept any offers that seem too good to be true, like a free mobile phone. Check with your parents or guardian first.
- Stay aware of what's going on around you and guard your privacy. Remember, if you can take pictures of everything and everyone with your phone, so can others...and you may not want to be the subject of their photos!
- Be considerate – only send the kinds of messages and photos you would be happy to receive.
- Tell your parents or another trusted adult if someone sends you unkind or bullying messages, or asks you to do something that makes you feel uncomfortable. Make a note of the number it came from, the date and time of the call, or save the message. It may need to be followed up by your school, Internet Service Provider (ISP), mobile phone carrier or the police.



For more information contact:

Australian Communications and Media Authority
 Cybersmart Contact Centre
 Telephone: 1800 880 176
 Email: cybersafety@acma.gov.au
 Website: www.cybersmart.gov.au
 Source: Australian Communications and Media Authority.

School Updates

www.vsl.vic.edu.au

Key 2017 Term 2 Dates

22 April	Centre classes resume. VCE Interim Reports distribution
27 April	Premiers Awards, Melbourne Convention Centre
13 May	Staff PD (No Centre classes)
10 June	Queen's Birthday Long Weekend (No Centre classes)
14 June	VCAA VCE GAT (General Achievement Test) Exam
1 July	Centres Semester 1 Report Distribution (F-10) VCE only language classes. Please check at your Centre
17 July	Term 3 Resumes
22 July	First day of Centre classes (Saturday) for term 3

New VSL Publications/Materials 2017 Centre Publications

- Persian Primary Textbook
- Sinhala VCE Units 3 & 4 Textbook
- Bosnian VCE Units 3 & 4 Textbook
- Hindi Primary 3 Textbook
- Turkish Primary 3 Textbook
- Turkish Primary 4 Textbook
- Turkish Lower Primary - Stories
- Urdu Primary Textbook 1
- Urdu Primary Textbook 2
- Urdu Lower Primary – Stories
- Arabic VCE – Guide to Text Types

Term 2 Professional Development

18 March	Portuguese Teachers Workshop, Collingwood College
5 May	MLTAV Conference, East Melbourne
13 May	VSL Centre staff Professional Development – Assessment & reporting
31st May	Centre Co-ordinators Meeting, Thornbury, 5.00pm-7.30pm
7-9 June	Area Manager Conference

New VSL Publications/Materials 2017 Distance Education

- Italian VCE Units 3 & 4 Online course
- French VCE Units 3 & 4 Online course
- Spanish VCE Units 1 & 2 Online course
- Spanish VCE Units 3 & 4 Online course
- Japanese VCE Units 1 & 2 D.Ed course
- Hindi VCE Units 3 & 4 D.Ed course
- Chinese SL VCE Units 1 & 2 D.Ed course

Languages and careers - Alex Perry



Alex Perry at work in the kitchen



Alex Perry presenting

In Term 1 the VSL hosted an induction day for teachers of schools that offer the vocational education language Certificates known as *VET in Schools*. These language Certificate courses are an alternative pathway to VCE, and they mainly cater for students who are non-native speakers but who want to study the language at the senior level but not to compete with native speakers.

The workshop included a presentation on ASQA requirements, the *VETiS* curriculum, requirements for validation and training and assessment strategies. In addition there were some interesting speakers linking language courses to industry.

One of the presenters was Alex Perry a former VSL Italian student who spoke about using languages in the hospitality industry. Alex learnt Italian through the VSL first at the Bendigo Centre then through the VSL Distance Education section. The main reason he wanted to study Italian was for his Chef apprenticeship. Even in Year 10 he knew he wanted to learn as much 'culinary' Italian as he could.

After studying senior Italian with the VSL he worked in Lygon Street, then he went to Italy for several years, returning to work at the Royal Mail restaurant in Dunkeld, the only 3 star Michelin restaurant in Victoria at the time. He later started his own restaurant, 'The Good Table', in his hometown of Castlemaine, and he now works in a leading restaurant in the city centre.

You can be sure you'll hear more about Alex in the future.