



Tuesday 24 August

Dear parents and carers,

After another day of lockdown, I hope you and your family take an opportunity to have some time away from your screens. I have been enjoying playing a board game with my family each night as a great way to unwind and relax, I encourage you all to find something that helps you do the same.

Today's update will provide some information about some recent student achievements of note and details about the current vaccine rollout.

Student achievements

I am proud to be able to announce our own Steven Hull has been nominated as one of three finalists of the Victorian Training Awards in the category of 'School Based Apprentice or Trainee of the year'. The winner will be announced on the 16th October and I am sure you will join me in congratulating Steven on this amazing achievement.

I have also included an article at the end of this update which details the work some of our students are doing at Eddy Street with our Artist in Residence to complete a community art installation. I encourage you to have a read about this inspiring project.

COVID Vaccination Information

As part of the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out, all Victorian school students aged 16 years and above are now [eligible to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine](#).

The Victorian Government aims to vaccinate all final year students by the time they sit their end-of-year exams. Final year students are therefore urged to immediately make an appointment to receive a vaccine by following the instructions under the heading 'How to book an appointment' below.

The state vaccination centres have recently had their capacity increased to support Victoria's drive to administer 1 million doses of the vaccine by 19 September.

Students completing their final year are particularly asked to book an appointment as soon as possible to support the safe conduct of examinations. As their parent/carer, I encourage you to help them to book and if needed, support them to attend their appointment.

Final year students are asked to consider getting their first vaccine before the GAT on 9 September. In addition, it's recommended not to get the vaccine on the day of an exam, or the day before an exam - to avoid feeling common but mild side effects such as tiredness, headache, muscle pain, fever and chills and/or joint pain during your exam.

Consent

Students can book their own appointment and consent to vaccination themselves if the health professional assesses them to be a mature minor.

How to book an appointment

To book an appointment, visit the coronavirus.vic.gov.au website or contact the Coronavirus hotline by phoning 1800 675 398.

To find a vaccination centre and opening times, visit the coronavirus.vic.gov.au website.

From 30 August, people aged 16-39 can get their COVID-19 vaccine at a doctor's clinic, pharmacy or community health service through the [Australian Government Eligibility Checker](#). You can book your appointment online or by calling the vaccine provider nearest to you.

More information

Translated advice about the vaccines is available on the coronavirus.vic.gov.au website.

For more information about eligibility, visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au or use the Australian Government's [COVID-19 vaccine eligibility checker](#).

For further assistance, contact:

- the Department of Health Coronavirus hotline: 1800 675 398
- the National coronavirus and COVID-19 vaccine helpline: 1800 020 080

Eligible students and their parents or carers should speak to their doctor or pharmacist if they have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine and their health.

Keeping in touch

Please let us know if you our child requires any extra support during remote learning. A member of our wellbeing team is on-call each day to provide remote support for students who need it.

I also encourage you to contact teachers via email or XUNO messaging. If you can't make contact with a teacher, or if you're not sure who you should speak to regarding an inquiry, then please contact Reception via telephone (5479 1111) or email (castlemaine.sc@education.vic.gov.au).

Stay home, stay safe and we look forward to welcoming all students back on-site as soon as it is safe to do so.

My next update to parents and carers will be on Thursday 26 August.

Regards,



Simon Wood
Acting Principal – Castlemaine Secondary College



CSC students work on their art project.

Adolescence explored

Students at Castlemaine Secondary College's Etty Street Campus are exploring the shift from youth to adulthood in an art installation that will be presented to the community in October.

Thanks to the Regional Arts Victoria - Creative Workers in Schools program, a local multi-disciplinary artist and teacher has been employed to work at the campus for six months to develop the arts project in conjunction with their FLO and VCAL students.

All of the classes at Etty Street have been spending time each week with artist Hermione Merry working on their group piece.

Merry said she was enjoying the opportunity to work with CSC's young artists.

"My experience of working at Castlemaine Secondary College Etty Street campus has been overwhelmingly positive.

The students at Etty Street are inquisitive, creative thinkers and the project has been able to engage them in many different ways as we are working with a multi-disciplinary approach," she said.

"The championing of students voices, ideas and wisdom has remained at the forefront and my own practice has been deeply enriched by collaborating with them. I have been so very grateful for this opportunity from Castlemaine Secondary and Regional Arts Victoria.

"The Etty Street staff and I are currently looking at ways to extend the relationship by running a similar program next year, which is really exciting," the artist said.

Shera Blaise, who is overseeing the project at CSC, said the piece told a story of adolescence.



A sneak peek at a completed section of the work.

"It tells the story of our students, the places they go, the way they move through our community and their adolescence, making that shift from youth to adulthood in small-town Castlemaine," she said.

The community can follow the progress of this work on Instagram @Theartfoc and will be invited in to experience installation when it opens to the public on Friday October 8 from 5.30-8pm.

The CWS program is delivered by Regional Arts Victoria through the support of the Victorian Government's Working for Victoria initiative and in partnership with the Department of Education and Training and Creative Victoria.