

ROXBURGH COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

TERM 1, 2024

A note from your Principal :

I hope that you had a great festive season and a safe summer.

Students appear well-rested and geared to engage in their studies. I have been very impressed with the new Year 7s, and our Year 12 students have had a great start to the year. All students participated in school photo day, and we have also hosted year level assemblies to welcome everyone back to school.

Staffing

As you may have heard through the media, there is currently a shortage of teachers and we have been fortunate to engage some fantastic, fresh staff members to cover retirements and leave, as well as



engaging additional staff to enhance support in key areas. This includes our Student Services Team.

I would like to introduce to you the following new staff:

- Murat Saylak - Humanities & Health
- Ibrahim Moustafa - Humanities & Health
- Liang Xue - Humanities
- Charlotte Davey - English
- Steven Christofis - English & Media
- Dilara Gucler - English & Media
- Aylin Shilling - Mental Health Clinician
- Lael Hillier - Youth Worker
- Oliver Fennell - Mathematics
- Luke Burgess - English & Humanities
- Damien Sutton - English, Humanities & Music
- Julie-Anne Crain - First Nations Mentor
- Laura Popescu - Youth Worker
- Yunus-Serhan Sezen - Education Support & Humanities



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2024

This year brings some changes. We believe these changes will be exciting and valuable to our student's learning.

Last year, we introduced significant changes in relation to our timetable structure; altering our period time from 50 minutes to 60 minutes; the inclusion of the Pastoral Care program, which we call CONNECT, in order to support our students development and learning; and the removal of the split lunchtimes to align with our timetable blocks.

The Mini School Structure remains, with the intent of providing our Year 9 students the scope to be more responsible by being at the head of the Middle School, and the Year 10 students the opportunity to consider programs offered in the Senior School to assist them in beginning to focus on a future pathway.

Our expectation this year will continue to be that all students make the appropriate progress in relation to learning; becoming more mature and willing to be responsible when it comes to tackling their schooling.



The School Improvement Team will continue to oversee our new Strategic Plan, and dovetail attention to our agreed upon goals. The School Improvement Team aim to continue to improve by investigating theories of practice that assist us to improve the literacy and numeracy levels of our students.

We are also helped by the continuation of the Tutor-Teacher Program, which in the first stage of the year will focus on supporting students at the years 7 and 9 levels to prepare for their NAPLAN testing coming up in March. All our changes are geared towards moving us closer to our goal of having all students be literate, numerate, and curious.

Those who have had the opportunity to either visit us or drive past will have noticed how our grounds continue to improve. The maintenance team, led by Mr Arturo Rigoli, has done a wonderful job in getting the school ready for the start of the year. Painting

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rooms and continuing to landscape areas around the school has been our focus. We have now completed the refurbishment project in regard to all student bathrooms, including the remodel of the gymnasium changerooms.

School News publication dates

We plan to publish a newsletter each Term, which will include, not only key information, but also a pictorial of the events that occur during the Term.

The newsletter will be distributed on COMPASS. If you need assistance accessing COMPASS, please contact our ICT Team on 99308100.

School Council Elections

The School Council election process and timeline is as follows (this will be displayed in the General Office):

Tuesday February 19: call for nominations.

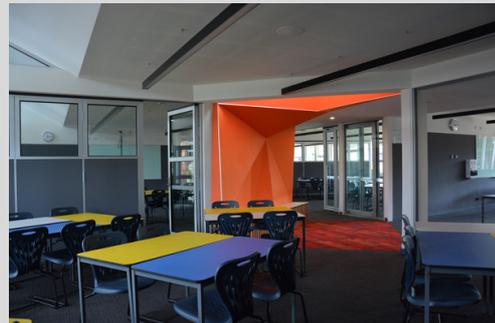
Friday March 1: Nominations close. Display list of candidates, Nominator, and Secunder.

Monday, March 4: Distribute ballot papers by this date (if election is required).

Friday, March 15: Count votes & declare the poll.

Monday, March 18: Declaration of ballot.

Monday, March 25: Annual General Meeting & meeting of the New School Council.



There are two parent vacancies for the 2024 elections

Note that there are also co-opted members on School Council and once the new Council is formed, these positions will be finalised.

There are two staff vacancies for the 2024 elections

Nomination forms for both parent & staff representatives are available for collection from Nicole Hart.

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Success for our Year 12 Students - Tertiary Places

98% of our Year 12 Students received first-round VTAC offers. This is an outstanding result.

Thanks to the Senior School Team led by Helen Roumelioris and Margaret Burns, as well as Katrina Cikes (retired), and Rebekah Evans, our Careers Coordinators, for their efforts with our Year 12 students in terms of their tertiary applications.

Commencement of the Academic Year

We have had a great start to the year. The new start of the year arrangement was effective and provided a good opportunity for our new Year 7 students to settle into secondary school.

Again, to have been privileged to have had the time to organise and debrief have proven valuable at the commencement of our teaching. Staff participated well, and made good use of the time provided to prepare for the new academic year.

Domain Coordinators, Mini School Teams, the Student Services Team, the Principle Team and the Curriculum and key program leaders have provided great direction to students and staff. These teams have played a critical role in shaping our AiP 2024 goals. Also, it is necessary to highlight the good work of Helen, Erica, Liz, Damien, Bill, Nicole, Rod, and Karen, as well as the general office staff, who returned to work in order to get things ready. Special mention of the hard work put in by Arturo in preparing the School to re-open.

Every year is eventful with a sprinkle of critical events. However, last year, whilst the start was slightly challenging, things did settle and students worked reasonably hard to achieve positive outcomes. Staff also worked hard to accept new goals and challenges. Our clear communication and commitment to improvement by all will allow us to build capacity, to jolt the system, and to implement the change this year that will result in further academic improvements.



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Key to school improvement is staff collective efficacy, as well as needing to resolve issues together. We have again branded this year as *“A Year of Working Together” - Learning Together to Achieve Growth for Every Student.*

Everyone expects much more from today’s school compared to 100 years ago, or even 10 years ago.

This shift is important to keep in mind when you hear people claim that schools are “getting worse.”

Our schools in many cases are functioning even better; but the challenges and expectations have changed dramatically.

100 years ago, things such as writing focused on the mechanics of making notation as dictated by the teacher; oral message into writing. It wasn’t until the early ‘40s that children were able to express themselves in writing and it was again, only relatively recently that analysis and interpretation of what is read that became an expectation of skilled reading by all school children.

The definition of ‘functional literacy’

changed from being, to sign one’s name to word, to decoding, to reading new information. Today’s students need to understand the current state of their knowledge and to build on it, improve it, and make decisions in the face of uncertainty.

We must pay careful attention to the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and beliefs the learners bring with them. We must deliver information and activities that help the student understand the subject and reach expected standards.

Provide opportunities for feedback and revision within assessment. Feedback is congruent with one’s learning goals.



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Please note the following Key Responsibilities:

- College Principal, Fernando Ianni
- Business Manager, Erica Waldron
- Executive Assistant, Nicole Hart

Middle Mini School

- Middle Mini-School Principal: Rod Ebbage
- Middle Mini-School Assistant Principal: Bill Van Driel
- Year Level Manager, Year 7: James Butler (Leading Teacher)
- Year Level Coordination, Year 7: Fiona Sheehan
- Year Level Manager, Year 8: Nick Valenta
- Year Level Coordination, Year 8: Laura Dodds
- Year Level Manager, Year 9: John Dodsworth
- Year Level Coordination, Year 9: Touka Shoukor

Senior Mini-School

- Senior Mini-School Principal: Helen Roumeliotis
- Senior Mini-School Assistant Principal: Bill Van Driel

- Year Level Manager, Year 10: Adam Ruggiero (Leading Teacher)
- Year Level Coordination, Year 10: Zoe Koutkos
- Year Level Manager, Year 11: Jess Finger
- Year Level Coordination, Year 11: Sunita Badhwar
- Year Level Manager, Year 12: Margaret Burns
- Year Level Coordination, Year 12: Elisha Wain
- Student Attendance & VASS Support: Kim Bouboulis

Administrative Specialists

- Teaching & Learning Programs: Liz Stayner & Lisa Shortis (Co-Assistant Principals)
- Timetable: Alistair Chapman (Leading Teacher)
- Professional Development: Karan Kanwal (Leading Teacher)
- Literacy Coach: Ann Dalmau (Learning Specialist)
- Numeracy Coach: Le Nha Phuong (Learning Specialist)
- Careers Manager: Rebekah Evans (Leading Teacher)
- Student Voice & Agency: Chris Bottriell
- Student Services Manager: Sarah Shoukor
- Youth Worker: Sophie Hart
- Youth Worker: Djbril Biallo
- Speech Pathologist: Aimee Harrison
- Speech Pathologist: Helen Rigney

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- Speech Pathologist: Teagan Dwyer
- School Nurse: Natalie Di Giorgio
- Canteen Manager: Laura Sleigh

Domain Coordinators

- **Science:** Ritu Tyagi (Learning Specialist)
- **Art:** Craig Carmichael
- **Health & PE:** Stan Roumpos
- **Humanities:** Fionnula Sharkey
- **Mathematics:** Nameer Hana (Learning Specialist)
- **English:** Phoebe-Mae Edwards (Learning Specialist)
- **Technology:** John Noonan (Learning Specialist)
- **RTO Coach:** Allan Barnes (Learning Specialist)
- **Disability Inclusion:** Karen Ring & Nina Cavalieri (Co-Learning Specialists)
- **Library Manager:** Karen Barker
- **EAL Coordinator:** Jagdish Mahinder Singh
- **Sport Coordination:** Christine Nedas
- **School Organiser:** Scott McPhail
- **Breakfast Club Manager:** Lisa Franz
- **Integration:** Silvana Prossimo-Ratskos

We continue to maintain a large leadership profile. This allows staff across all classifications to make significant contributions to the life of our School in and or outside of the classroom.

I believe that our Staff is skilled and able to cater for each and every student in our care, and that together we can achieve more.

Our students can develop and gain the attitude, skills and knowledge that allows them to obtain outstanding results and access to both TAFE and University places, as proven by our 2023 Year 12 cohort.

Our staff is skilled and able to care for your child.

We believe that together, we can achieve more.

We have important work to do and working together is working smarter.

We always appreciate your support and always welcome your involvement.

Welcome, and welcome back.

Fernando Ianni,
Principal

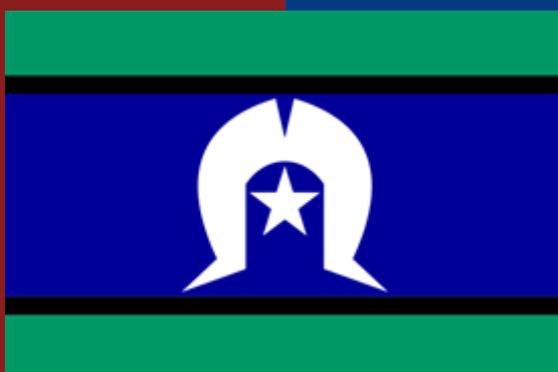
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We respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation, who are the Traditional Owners of the land on which the Roxburgh College campus is located. As a school community, we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



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STUDENT SERVICES

OVERVIEW

Roxburgh College Student Services is a multidisciplinary team, complete with Counsellors, Youth Workers, Mentors, Speech Pathologists, Mental Health Practitioners and Doctors.

At Roxburgh College, we pride ourselves on working with young people and their families and caregivers through a person-centered and holistic lens.

THE STUDENT SERVICES TEAM

Our Student Services team consists of our Wellbeing team, the Speech Pathology team, and Doctors in Schools. Wellbeing is located in L3.

Sarah Shoukor, Student Services Manager.

Prior to joining our Roxburgh College community, Sarah working in community mental health supporting Asylum Seekers and refugees. Sarah brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the table.

Mariam Sharobeem, Mental Health Practitioner.

Mariam has worked extensively in community mental health, most recently in family violence support services. Mariam is our Mental Health Practitioner, providing students and families with intervention.



Sophie Hart, Youth Worker.

Sophie is one of our College Youth Worker. Having completed a Bachelor of Youth Work and Youth Studies, Sophie provides individual, group and family supports. Sophie is currently completing her Master of Counselling.

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STUDENT SERVICES

THE STUDENT SERVICES TEAM

Djibril Diallo, Youth Worker.

Djibril Diallo is a mentor for our Roxburgh College students. Djibril has previously worked with the Brotherhood of St. Laurence and the Asylum Seeker Refugee Centre. Djibril provides group mentoring and has a special interest in soccer and sports.

Julie -Anne Crain, Indigenous Mentor.

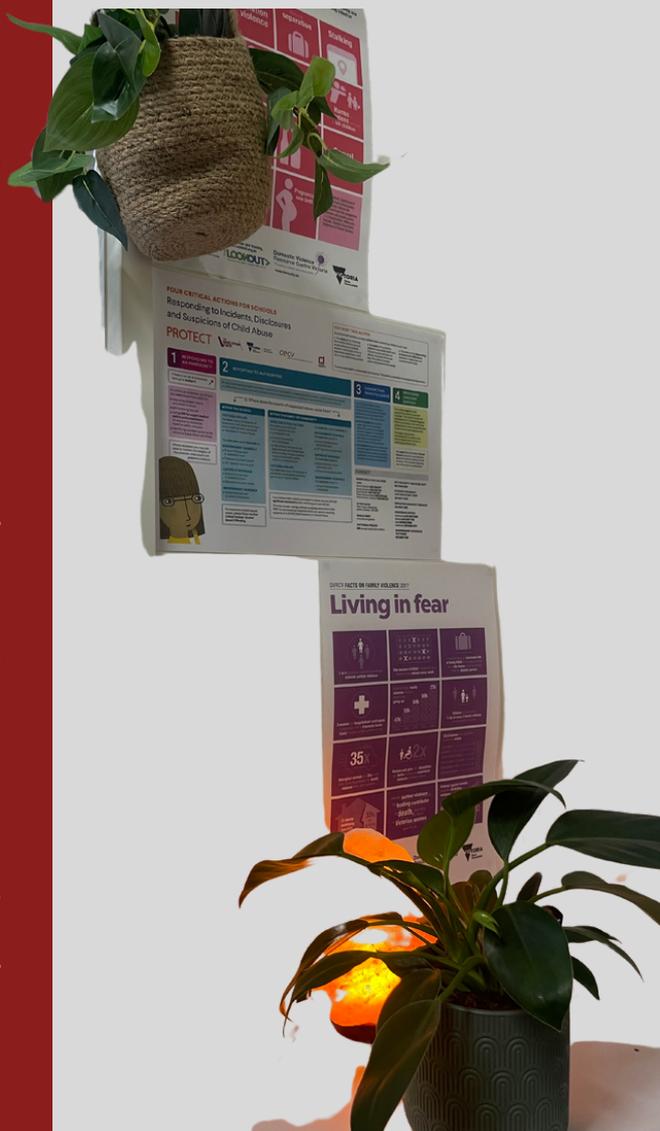
Julie is Roxburgh College's Indigenous Mentor. Julie works to represent and advocate for Roxburgh College's Indigenous community. Julie has volunteered in primary schools, and has been a classroom helper intermittently for the last 20 years.

Laura Popescu Teacher & Counsellor.

Laura is new to our Wellbeing Team and is in a dual role of teacher & counsellor. Laura works mainly with the ACE program, offering her support in-class and on an individual basis.

Lael Hillier, Youth Worker.

Lael is another one of our Roxburgh College Youth Workers. Lael comes from a design construction background, and as such, brings a wealth of creativity and passion to the role. She provides students with both individual and group supports, and has a special interest in basketball; Lael has been coaching a junior basketball team for over five years.



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An update from Phoebe-Mae Edwards, English Coordinator

This term, students in English have been learning about different genres and reading strategies. Every week, students spend one class in the Library getting to choose a book of their choice to build their reading skills. For our 7-9 students, they are preparing for their first Portfolio Task and in 10-12, the students are studying for their first SAC.



VCE ENGLISH

Year 12 VCE English students attended an after school viewing of their studied text, 'Sunset Boulevard'. Year 12 teacher, Ms Bice provided expert commentary throughout the viewing while students took notes diligently.



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IS A VAPE-FREE SPACE

Vapes are not permitted on the
Roxburgh College School grounds.

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Library update



The Roxburgh College Library Staff are excited to welcome all students back into the space - including all new students!

Tisha the Therapy Dog

Tisha the Therapy Dog is back and ready to work! Drop by the Library during lunchtime or after school to say hello and have a chat with Tish!



Homework Club

Homework Club is back for Term 2. The Library will be stocked with tutors after school from Monday - Thursday, 2.15pm - 5pm. Look out for updates on the Library Instagram for further information.



[RC_LIBRARY](#)



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Library update



Borrowing Textbooks from the Library

Students in years 7 - 10 will generally not need to borrow their textbooks through the Library. This is because your library staff have stocked the class rooms with class sets of textbooks!

Only students doing VCE subjects, so students in years 11 & 12 will be able to take out longterm textbook loans, and only with a valid Centrelink Healthcare Card.

Games Club 2024

Games Club will be up and running again from the beginning of Term Two!

Students are invited to join Library Staff members in the fishbowl to play the Nintendo Switch, have a chat and relax!

Chess Tournament in Term Two

The Library's annual Chess Tournament will be held in Term 2. Interested students will be asked to sign up in order to participate in qualifying matches and climb the ranks. The top two students will face off for a prize of epic proportions!!!



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On Discriminatory Conduct

From Principal Fernando
Ianni

Dear Parents & Carers,

The horrific conflict in Ukraine; Gaza; and Israel very sadly continues to unfold. Repercussions have reached far, locally amongst our own community, given the associations some families have with people in the aforementioned regions of the world.

As a school community, we are not immune to the currents of hatred, intolerance, and harassment that are occurring elsewhere.

There have been unacceptable incidents at school, both amongst students and towards staff. Some of these incidents have occurred on social media. Some of these incidents have included acts of antisemitism.

Thankfully, though, these are isolated incidents, and we are determined that our school is a neutral zone that is safe for all students and staff alike; that these

issues are always addressed with the student who has demonstrated disrespect, including with their parents or carers.

At Roxburgh College, we are committed to providing an inclusive, respectful, and supportive learning and working environment for every member of our diverse community.

We strive to ensure that diversity of belief and opinion can be expressed and heard safely and legally; and we seek to facilitate a dialogue between those differing views by accepting only respectful discussion. Our commitments of inclusion and care supports our fundamental responsibility to unconditional respect, which in turn creates the conditions for safe teaching and learning to occur.

We have recently welcomed students from Gaza. They have relocated to Australia, and it is imperative that everyone welcome them into our Roxy family, putting aside any differences of opinion about the ongoing conflict.

As noted above, there have been unacceptable acts committed on social media by a few students, as well as some slander from students towards staff.

On Discriminatory Conduct

**From Principal Fernando
Ianni**

Students whose conduct displayed disrespect have forgotten that all Roxburgh College staff care about the turmoil of war, and work in a multicultural school.

We remind our students that we will not tolerate racism or harassment of any kind. We will be communicating with parents/carers when this occurs in school and/or on social media.

We stress that the implications and potential impact of this behaviour has a destructive capacity, harming people immensely.

If a restorative approach cannot curb such inappropriate behaviours; the responsible students will incur exclusions, and in extreme cases, a referral will be made to the Victoria Police.

I ask you to continue to support our students and one another to work towards mutual understanding as we seek to positively embrace diversity of background and belief at Roxburgh College.

Above all, I hope that we can all demonstrate empathy and kindness towards all members of our community.

Students, staff, parents and carers are encouraged to report incidents of hate, harassment, or discrimination, either directly witnessed or experienced so that we can stop these incidents from hurting others and provide the correct supports.

With my best wishes,

Fernando Ianni PSM

Principal

Roxburgh College

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Swimming Carnival



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Swimming Carnival

The Roxburgh College Sport

Team

Roxburgh College's annual Swimming Carnival was held at Oak Park Aquatic & Leisure Centre on the 7th of February for all Years 7 - 10 students.



The sun was out for our swimming sports and many students contested with the 25m events and the braver and stronger swimmers amongst our students went for glory in the 50m events.

Pool volleyball and the water slides were a big hit once again with many more students deciding to get wet and give these events a go.

Well done to all students who participated on the day and we look forward to hearing all about how our interschool sport swimming team goes later on this term. Also, thank you to all our wonderful teachers and senior students who helped out on the day to run a successful event!



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IS A PHONE-FREE SPACE

Students must keep their phones in their locker. Phones are not permitted to be used during school hours.

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Volleyball

The Roxburgh College Sport

Team

Volleyball has been in full swing this term with Roxburgh College sending out both boys and girls teams at every possible year level for interschool sports.



Even though many teams didn't get training time, they were competitive against other schools!

A special congratulations to the Year 8 boys volleyball team who won the division round and are off to play in the Northern Region Competition in October!

Thank you to the following staff members for taking out teams: Mr Cavus, Mr Frost, Miss Sheehan, Ms Savic, Mr Christofis and Miss Nedas.

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Beach Volleyball

*Congratulations
Edward & Jaydan!*

Best wishes to Edward and Jaydan Webb who will be representing Victoria in the Australian Beach Volleyball Schools Cup in Queensland later this month.

Congratulations on your selection in the team, we hope you have a very successful tournament.



Congratulations on your selection in the team, we hope you have a very successful tournament!

Year 9

Coordination

Touka Shoukor

We started the year strong and full of energy. So much has already happened in the span of 5 weeks. The Year 9 cohort has settled into the school year nicely, and have been patient and understanding during the big locker fiasco.

They have embarked on new timetables that have seen them choosing a wider range of electives, which has already helped them broaden their horizons for senior school.

Many attended the school's Swimming Carnival and enjoyed their time either under the sun or in the water.

While some days have been extremely hot and have made maintaining motivation to learn a little difficult, it hasn't interfered with progress.

The Year 9's also sat their final PAT testing, having completed both a literacy and numeracy test. However, it's not over yet as they prepare for their final years of NAPLAN in the coming weeks.

On behalf of the Coordination Team, thank you to the Year 9 cohort for being a great group of students who have already come so far in such a short amount of time. It's been a pleasure to coordinate them for the last two years and we're looking forward to seeing them through their final years of junior school.

Year 10

Coordination

Adam Ruggiero

We have had a successful start to Term 1 as Year 10 students have entered the Senior School.

Our first assembly was focused on highlighting some of the positive achievements and the continued recognition of ongoing effort that Year 10 students have made as they have entered the Senior School.

We are moving towards work experience, which is taking place at the end of next term. Students are currently looking for placements.

Roxy Positives and Form Groups continue to be awarded on a daily basis, with an increased focus on class expectations being demonstrated and recognised amongst the year level.

On the 23rd of March, we have an excursion, the ABCN Interview 2 Impress Program. This excursion will support our Year 10 students as they develop their practical interview skills needed to engage in employment opportunities beyond school.

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Year 12 RMIT visit



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Important dates

Term 1

Monday 11 March: Public holiday,
Labour Day.

Wednesday 13 - Tuesday 26 March:
NAPLAN.

Wednesday 27 March: Parent
Teacher Interviews, 1:00 - 6:30pm.

Thursday 28 March: Last day of term
& Parent Teacher Interviews, 9:00 -
12:00pm

Term 2

**Wednesday 17 April - Friday 19
April:** Middle School Camp.

Thursday 25 April: Public holiday,
Anzac Day.

Monday 6 May: Athletics Carnival.

Thursday 9 May: Senior/Inter Sport.

Tuesday 14 May: Senior Sport.

Friday 17 May: Year 12 Engagement
Evening.

Tuesday 21 May: Year 7 Sport.

Monday 27 May: Year 8 Sport.

Friday 29 May: Junior & Inter Sport.

Monday 10 June: Public holiday,
King's Birthday.

Friday 7 - Friday 21 June: Senior
School Examination Period.

Monday 24 June - Friday 28 June:
Year 10 Work Experience.

28 June: Last day of Term 2.