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## ST THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE

PO Box 500  
1 Tynong Road,  
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# COLLEGE CHRONICLE

Tuesday 8th February 2022

## Word from the Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of the College,

Our college is very focused on being true to its mission of forming in every youth the true and perfect Catholic. Since Jesus Christ, Our Lord and God, is perfect and since "the goal of a virtuous life is to become like God", (St Gregory of Nyssa) then it follows that perfection lies in virtuous living. Therefore, growth in virtue is a central part of a Catholic's formation. But how can we grow in virtue unless we know what it is? How can our students practice it unless they know what it looks like and how to practice it?

The answer to these questions lies in the choice that our school has made to adopting the Virtues Program: [Education in Virtue » Learn more about Education in Virtue \(openlightmedia.com\)](http://Education in Virtue » Learn more about Education in Virtue (openlightmedia.com))

How does the Virtues Program work in practice? Every week we introduce the students to a new Christian virtue. We do this on Monday in Homeroom. At this key moment in the day, the Homeroom teachers and House Mentors present and discuss the virtue of the week with their students. On Tuesday, I the Principal give some motivational words about the virtue of the week and what it looks like in practice. Across the week students strive to practice the virtue and the staff identify students who have been noted for their virtuous actions; their names appear in the Chronicle and points are awarded to their House. Through this program repeated annually we hope that, as they progress through the year levels, our students will become more and more familiar with the world of Christian virtue. By the time they reach VCE the hope is that they will be very comfortable with all the virtues, and will strive to live more virtuously as a consequence.

This program of teaching, promoting, recognising and rewarding virtuous conduct is central to the character formation of our students as shown by our school values which are the 3 Theological and 4 Cardinal virtues upon which all other virtues depend. Since our College moto is *Honor excellentiae debetur* (Honour is due to excellence.) We want our students to strive for excellence not only in

their studies but also in their behaviour. In other words, we want them to become virtuous.

Next week I will write about how parents can become actively involved in the Virtues Program; how they can introduce it into their home, and how they may benefit from it themselves.

Sincerely yours in the Two Hearts,

Father Cranshaw  
(Principal)



## VIRTUE THIS WEEK

### AFFABILITY

Being easy to approach and easy  
to talk to - friendly

## COLLECT - 5th Sunday after Epiphany

In Thine infinite goodness, we beseech Thee, O Lord, to watch over Thy household, that even as it relies solely upon the hope of Thy heavenly grace, so it may ever be defended by Thy protection. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.



Instaurare  
omnia in  
Christo  
To restore all  
things in  
Christ

## From the Deputy Principal

St Thomas Aquinas College is committed to maintaining and continuously improving the safety of every child and young adult in our care. Everyone has the right to feel safe at school. This safety has multiple facets, which over the course of the year we will look to inform the broader College community with the aim of ensuring that families and broader communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.

The staff at the College are committed to working to make the College not just child safe, but to move in a positive trajectory toward the culture of child safety over time. Everyone has an obligation to contribute to being a child safe organisation. This includes the College leadership, staff, parents, volunteers and anyone else who may come into contact with the children and young adults in our care. Practices and policies within the College have child safety as an integral component in all that we do. Over the course of the year, Students will be empowered to have a regular voice, not just about their safety, but as part of normal practice, so that they develop the skills and confidence to advocate for themselves or others. This is consistent with the vision and mission of the College, to form in each youth, the true and perfect Catholic.

If you have any concerns about the safety of any child at the College, please do not hesitate to get in contact with me through the office.

Over the course of the first week and a half, I have enjoyed seeing the sense of wonder and look of fortitude in the children as we have returned to face-to-face learning. While there was a sprinkling of nervous faces across the first few days, these have evaporated, and the students are moving back to the safety of routine which the College offers.

It is important that we monitor students over these coming days and weeks as they acclimatise back to negotiating within the educational landscape. This may take some time and we are aware that each child and young adult (and staff member) will experience a kaleidoscope of emotions across the first phase of term one. For some students, this will be a challenging experience, while others will relish the opportunity. It is important that we work in partnership to ensure that each child and young adult are provided with the right

level of support.

When families enter into a learning partnership they continue their primary role in guiding their child's formation. They have high expectations; they are in conversation with their child, and open them to experiences beyond school that enrich their formal learning.

A few key points to consider:

### **Expectations matter**

One of the largest studies on parental behaviours and how they affect their children's academic achievement found that placing a high value on education and having high academic expectations had the most positive impact. Other tips from this research included regular communication with children about their homework and having clear study and leisure time guidelines.

### **Communication is imperative**

When parents, teachers and children communicate together and form a three-way learning partnership, the unique knowledge that each partner possesses is brought together. This ensures opportunities for the full flourishing of the child. Parents have an intimate and embodied knowledge of their child. Children and young people have emerging knowledge of themselves and how they learn. Teachers have a deep knowledge of pedagogy and curriculum.

### **Setbacks are opportunities for learning**

The academic year is an emotional rollercoaster, with a series of highs and lows. How well parents react to their child's lows may well determine how many highs they have. A recent study found that children are very adept at identifying how their parents view failure. Those who see mistakes as opportunities to learn, instead of as personal judgements, are more likely to develop a growth mindset.

If you have any concerns about your child's academic, social and/or emotional development, please don't hesitate to make contact with their classroom teacher (primary) or house mentor (secondary) in order to commence the conversation around how the College can best support their needs.

[Kieran O'Dwyer](#) - Deputy Principal.

## **WOODWIND AND STRING MUSIC LESSONS At ST THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE**

**Flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, Violin, and cello, lessons are available at STAC.**

**There are group lessons or private lessons available.  
Group lessons are \$10 a week.**

**Private lessons of 20min are \$18,  
and 30min are \$27 per week.**



**Please call Sarah Considine if interested on  
Mob:0427885306.**



## **PIANO TUITION**

For piano tuition, please  
contact the Office on  
56292500.





## GENERAL NOTICES

**FOUND:** These glasses have been at the school for some time and we are eager to get them back to the owner. Please enquire at the office if they belong to you.

Thanks.



## PRESENTATION DAY (2021 STUDENT AWARDS)

All current students will be attending this Friday afternoon The Presentation Day. This will be live-streamed for parents as only students can attend.

Here is the link:

<https://youtu.be/GSOjZJMgEts>

**LATE PASS/ABSENT REMINDERS:** If a student arrives at school after homeroom commences (8:30am) they must first report to the office to collect a late pass. If your child/ren will not be attending school on any given day please let us know, preferably through the Parent Lounge. You may also phone the office at any time and leave a message prior to 8am otherwise call us before 8:30am. Thanks.

## STAC SECONDHAND UNIFORM SHOP:

New operating times. Monday mornings 8.30am - 9.30am & Monday afternoons 2.45pm - 3.30 pm. Good quantity and quality of stock is currently available to choose from at very affordable prices. Bring in your uniform items to sell for yourself or to donate to the P&F. All P&F sales go directly back into the school to benefit the students. Repairs and alterations are available.

Contact Michelle for enquiries 0468438404

## ATHLETICS DAY

**Date:** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2022

**Location:** Casey Fields Athletics Track - 160 Berwick-Cranbourne Rd, Cranbourne East VIC 3977

Students are required to wear their College Sports Uniform. We encourage students to dress up in their House Colours. Students can wear House Colour ribbons, face paint, outerwear. We emphasise however, that students are NOT permitted to dye their hair. Students should bring lunch and snack food as well as plenty of water and sun protection (hat, sunscreen).

On the day, parents are more than welcome to attend. In fact, this year we want to increase the number of parent volunteers significantly. In order to be eligible to volunteer on the day, parents must have valid WWC Cards. If you wish to volunteer please let Reception know and we will allocate you a role for the day. Your help would be greatly appreciated and very beneficial to making sure the day runs smoothly. On the day, we ask parents who aren't volunteers to stay behind the track's perimeter fence. There is an undercover grand stand with ample seating, however if parents wish to gain different views around the field they are encouraged to bring chairs to set up on the grassed area behind the perimeter fence. Please also be aware that students will be required to stay seated in their House Areas when not participating in their events on the day and that they are not to leave the supervision area without teacher permission.

Buses will be provided on the day. Please don't feel obligated to drive your children to the event, it will actually be a bonding experience for the children to be on the buses to and from the event. We are trying to build team spirit on the day. Parents can drive their children to and/or from the venue but we ask that arrangements are not made between parents to take other children home without the acknowledged acceptance of our Reception staff prior to the day of the event, as this has led to significant issues for the College in the past.

Please let us know your plans no later than Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022 so we can finalise our bus order.

Further information will come regarding the Athletics carnival however the College wanted to get information out early regarding student transport and parent volunteers. It is sure to be a great day for all.

## OPENING MASS FOR 2022

A beautiful Mass took place at Corpus Christi Church to celebrate the start of the school year for 2022. Thank you to the many parents for having the children at the church on time and for then taking them to school after the Mass had finished. We also thank the choir members for the beautiful singing at this Mass.



**Secondary Girls****Respect**

Judy Abraham, Emily Houston, Emily Morgan,  
Marie-Estelle Hanney, Marina Maltby,  
Lauren Elliott, Joanna Verleg,  
Mia Beckenham, Lilian de Castella

**Perseverance**

Mia Beckenham

**Secondary Boys****Respect**

Santino Tommasi, Gabriel Upston, Andrew  
Higgins, Ignatius Attard, Daniel de Castella,  
Joseph Hardiman, Orlando de Castella,  
William Fahey, Anthony Tadros, Daniel  
Freriks, Ethan Ward, Isaac Braaksma

**Primary****Justice**

Adrian Soefling, Francis Reagan,  
Vito Tommasi, Daniel Hanney, Helena Hicks,  
Katrina Maltby

**Respect**

Rachael Morgan

**Perseverance**

Verity Gallagher

*Virtues are awarded to those in Secondary who obtain three votes for the week from the teachers and in Primary two votes are required. Well done to all our students who have featured this week.*

**SECONDARY HOUSE CAPTAINS****VCE GIRLS****VCE BOYS****HOUSE CAPTAINS - Girls**

Bosco: Anna Hardiman - C, Lilian de Castella - VC  
Kolbe: Rebecca Fitzpatrick - C, Josephine MacDonald - VC  
MacKillop: Claire Sprowell - C, Victoria Stevenage - VC  
Mannix - Holly Phillips - C, Christiane Ryan - VC

**HOUSE CAPTAINS - Boys**

Bosco: Charles Upston - C, Raymond Borgonovo - VC  
Kolbe: Raphael Hayward - C, Andre Elliott - VC  
MacKillop: Daniel Freriks - C, Benjamin Nivet - VC  
Mannix - Immanuel Saldanha - C, Cameron Armstrong - VC



# APPARITION OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES .. 1858

11th February

The first of the eighteen apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to the humble Bernadette Soubirous took place at Lourdes on February 11, 1858. On March 25<sup>th</sup>, when Bernadette asked the *beautiful Lady* Her name, She replied: "*I am the Immaculate Conception.*" The Church for long centuries had believed in Her Immaculate Conception, Her exemption from every trace of the original sin which through Adam, our first and common father, separated man from his God. It was never proclaimed a dogma, however, until 1854. Mary Herself, in 1830, had asked of a Vincentian Sister at the Rue du Bac in Paris, that a medal be struck bearing Her likeness and the inscription: "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee." Our Lady by Her apparitions at Lourdes in 1858 seems to convey Her appreciation for the formal proclamation of Her great privilege, by Pius IX, in 1854. Countless and magnificent miracles of healing have occurred at Lourdes, confirmed by physicians and recorded in the Lourdes shrine "Book of Life." To name but



one: a doctor wrote a book describing the great miracle he had witnessed for a dying girl, whom he had observed on the train that was carrying handicapped persons from Paris to Lourdes. He had not expected her to survive and return home from the sanctuary.

Through the Lourdes Apparitions, the devotion of persons in all parts of the world to the Immaculate Mother of God has been wonderfully spread, and countless miracles have been wrought everywhere through Her intercession. The Virgin Mother of God is truly the chosen Messenger of God to these latter times, which are entrusted to Her, the chosen vessel of the unique privilege of exemption from original sin. Only with Her assistance will the dangers of the present world situation be averted. As She has done since 1858 in many places, at Lourdes, too, She gave us Her peace plan for the world, through Saint Bernadette: *Prayer and Penance*, to save souls.

## 2022 CALENDAR

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
<b>Mon 31st Jan</b> SCHOOL RESUMES	<b>1 Feb</b>	<b>2 Feb</b> School Mass	<b>3 Feb</b>	<b>4 Feb</b>
<b>7 Feb</b>	<b>8 Feb</b> LUNCH ORDERS	<b>9 Feb</b>	<b>10 Feb</b>	<b>11 Feb</b> 1:30pm: Presentation Ceremony (Students only)
<b>14 Feb</b>	<b>15 Feb</b> LUNCH ORDERS	<b>16 Feb</b>	<b>17 Feb</b>	<b>18 Feb</b>
<b>21 Feb</b>	<b>22 Feb</b> LUNCH ORDERS	<b>23 Feb</b>	<b>24 Feb</b>	<b>25 Feb</b>
<b>28 Feb</b>	<b>1 Mar</b> ATHLETICS DAY	<b>2 Mar</b> ASH WEDNESDAY	<b>3 Mar</b>	<b>4 Mar</b>

### OFFICE HOURS

8:15am - 3:30pm  
MONDAY - FRIDAY

### TERM DATES

1st Term: Monday 31st January - Wednesday 13th April  
2nd Term: Tuesday 3rd May - Friday 24th June