

PRINCIPAL COLIN SIMPSON
HEAD OF DANCE TIM STOREY
HEAD OF MUSIC MICHAEL SARGEANT
HEAD OF VISUAL ARTS ANDREW LANDRIGAN
HEAD OF THEATRE ARTS CHRIS BUTTON

1 January, 2016

Dear Applicant

Thank you for expressing interest in our school. We expect that you are a student who shows potential in music, dance, theatre or visual arts and one who is interested in working towards entering a career or training in your chosen area. Please read this letter and the enclosed information carefully before making your decision to audition for our school.

Here at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School (VCASS) we provide a training program supported by a general education to prepare talented young people for professional careers. We are a high achieving and high expectation environment balanced with excellent welfare and care.

By ensuring that a high quality core academic program is integrated with the specialist studies, the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School aims to produce well educated performers and visual artists who will also be highly trained and therefore have a great deal to contribute in their chosen field and find multiple pathways.

Many of the students who attend our school are from the regional areas, interstate and overseas. In order to accommodate these students the school is supported by a homestay program.

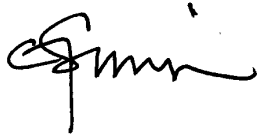
Parents/Guardians please note that if your child is accepted into the school it will be necessary for you to sign a declaration in which you agree to abide by the counselling of the school should it be considered inadvisable for your student to continue the training that we offer. Further, it should be clearly understood that each year is a probationary year. We also expect students to leave their current dance or music training and undertake their journey with us exclusively.

Students must submit a copy of semester 2 (December), 2015 and semester 1 (June), 2016 school reports as this is an important indicator to us as to your suitability for our school.

The online audition application form is available online on our Entry page. Information about our school is enclosed for you. Audition applications for entry in 2017 close on 18 July, 2016. Please note that it is not our policy to refund the audition application fee.

I would like to assure you that every attempt will be made to make your audition a positive experience and we look forward to seeing you there. If you require any further information regarding the school or the audition process please visit www.vcass.vic.edu.au

Yours sincerely



Colin Simpson
Principal

MISSION

The Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School provides a nationally and internationally recognised specialist program for the training of talented young dancers, musicians, theatre and visual artists.

Integral to this program is the provision of a high quality academic education that is also offered to other elite training organisations. Within our school community, students will be encouraged to develop a passion for learning and a sense of respect for themselves and others.

The school is committed to providing a safe and nurturing learning environment that recognises and caters for the different academic, artistic, cultural, health and pastoral needs of students.

The school is also committed to providing state of the art facilities and resources designed to meet its specific responsibilities as a significant institution for the education and training of young dancers and musicians.

VISION

The Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School aspires to be one of the finest schools for talented young dancers, musicians, theatre and visual artists internationally, through the provision of innovative, creative and excellent programs.

Students from the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School will be resilient, self confident, creative, passionate and compassionate individuals, who will have developed beyond their expectations. They will be significant contributors to the artistic and cultural life of Australia, as well as at an international level.

For more information, including program specific Guiding Principles visit
<http://www.vcass.vic.edu.au/ethos/>

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Opportunities are available for talented young dancers, musicians, theatre and visual artists to gain entry to the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School (VCASS).

Audition Entry – Dance and Music

Entry to the school is by competitive audition, which is held in August/September each year. Positions are open to **years 7 to 12** students throughout Victoria, Australia and the International community. During audition a student's potential is taken into account as well as his or her talent.

Visual Arts Entry - Entry to the school is by competitive interview, which is held in August/September each year. Positions are open to **year 11** students throughout Victoria, Australia and the International community. During the selection process a student's potential is taken into account as well as his or her talent. An art folio, written work and ideas should be presented. **Limited opportunities may be available for year 12 entry.**

Theatre Arts Entry - Entry to the school is by competitive audition and interview, which is held in August/September each year. Positions are open to **year 11** students. During audition a student's potential is taken into account as well as his or her talent.

International students are welcome to audition and apply for interview, they should visit www.study.vic.gov.au Our cricos number is 00861K

Education and Training:

The Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School provides a training program supported by a high quality general education, to prepare talented young people for professional careers in the arts. By ensuring that a high quality core academic program is integrated with the specialist studies VCASS aims to produce well educated, young artists who will be highly trained and therefore have a great deal to contribute in their chosen field.

Students at VCASS spend approximately half of their day in their academic studies and half of their day in their specialist area. This means that all students entering the school have to be highly motivated in order to manage the heavy workload.

Alumni Success:

Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School students have achieved success in Australia and overseas. Students can be found in the best universities as well as in orchestras, ensembles and dance companies all over the world. Their creative contribution is significant in many areas.

Performance Program – Dance and Music

A full performance program is a significant aspect of life as a dance or music student at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School and students perform at a number of professional venues throughout the year. This includes amongst others the Melbourne Recital Centre and the Playhouse or Malthouse Theatre. We also use our own beautiful Studio Theatre, Recital Room and The Pitt Recital Room. Visual Arts students exhibit at the Victorian College of the Arts and Monash University.

Academic Studies:

As well as music, dance, theatre and visual arts the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School offers a full course of study. This includes; English, Mathematics, Science, Art, Information Technology, Languages other than English, Drama and Humanities among others. Our curriculum is based on the Victorian Curriculum. In Years 11 and 12 students undertake the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and also have a choice of other VCE subjects to complete a full VCE. Dancers also study VET subjects.

VCE results in both the specialist and academic areas of the VCASS are outstanding and show that our students are consistently able to achieve outstanding results in their education and training.

Teachers in Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts

Instruction at VCASS includes teaching by highly skilled academic, dance, music and visual arts teachers. These teachers are very highly regarded artists in their field and ensure that the quality of training offered is of the highest standard possible.

Accommodation:

In order to accommodate overseas, interstate and country students Homestay possibilities are available, speak to us for further advice. All students living away from home will come under the care of our Student Services Team who will work with parents to ensure that students are given as high a level of care as possible.

Enquiries:

www.vcass.vic.edu.au

Principal	Colin Simpson
Head of Academic	Donatella Mannolini
Head of Dance	Tim Storey
Head of Music	Michael Sargeant
Head of Visual Arts	Andrew Landrigan
Head of Theatre Arts	Chris Button

57 Miles Street
Southbank 3006
Victoria Australia

Telephone: +61 3 8644 8644 Fax: +61 3 8644 8699

Website: www.vcass.vic.edu.au

Email: victorianarts.ss@edumail.vic.gov.au

OVERVIEW OF VCASS PROGRAMS

JUNIOR ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Years 7 & 8 students go beyond the foundations set in primary school. There is a strong focus on literacy and numeracy across all curriculum areas. An expanded academic curriculum program provides the basis for in-depth learning within AusVELS Levels 6, 7, 8 & 9

Year 9 students seek deeper connections between their learning and the world around them. A project-based curriculum is the basis for learning within AusVELS Levels 8, 9 & 10

AusVELS

Learning Area:		YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	
Levels 8-9-10	<i>The Arts</i> <i>English</i> <i>Health & PE</i> <i>Humanities</i> <i>LOTE</i> <i>Mathematics</i> <i>Science</i>			ART (Semester) DRAMA (Semester) ENGLISH <i>(Incorporated in IP)</i> HUMANITIES FRENCH MATHS SCIENCE	INTEGRATED PROGRAM (IP)
	<i>The Arts</i> <i>English</i> <i>Health & PE</i> <i>Humanities</i> <i>LOTE</i> <i>Mathematics</i> <i>Science</i>	ART (Semester) DRAMA (Semester) ENGLISH HEALTH HUMANITIES FRENCH MATHS SCIENCE	LITERACY & NUMERACY	ART (Semester) DRAMA (Semester) ENGLISH HEALTH HUMANITIES FRENCH MATHS SCIENCE	LITERACY & NUMERACY

SENIOR ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Years 10, 11 & 12 students develop greater independence of mind and interests.

		YEAR 10		VCE	
VCE	Units 1, 2 3 & 4			Art Units 1, 2, 3 & 4	Drama Units 1 & 2
	Learning Area: <i>The Arts</i>			Media Units 1, 2, 3 & 4	Studio Arts Units 1,2,3 & 4
AusVELS	Levels 9-10-10+			Theatre Studies / Drama Units 3 & 4	Literature Units 1, 2, 3 & 4
	Learning Area: <i>The Arts</i>			English Units 1, 2, 3 & 4	Literature Units 1, 2, 3 & 4
	<i>English</i>			Health & HD Units 1, 2, 3 & 4	
	<i>Health & PE</i>			History (20 th C) Units 1 & 2	History (Rev.) Units 3 & 4
	<i>Humanities</i>			French Units 1, 2, 3 & 4	
	<i>Language</i>			General Maths Units 1 & 2	Further Maths Units 3 & 4
	<i>Mathematics</i>			Maths Meth. Units 1, 2, 3 & 4	
	<i>Science</i>			Biology Units 1, 2, 3 & 4	Chemistry Units 1, 2, 3 & 4
	<i>VCE Studies for Year 10</i> <i>(Not recommended for Music students)</i>	Biology Units 1 & 2	Chemistry Units 1 & 2	Physics Units 1, 2, 3 & 4	Psychology Units 1, 2, 3 & 4
		Drama Units 1 & 2	Health & HD Units 1 & 2		
		Media Units 1 & 2	Psychology Units 1 & 2		
		Studio Arts Units 1 & 2	History (20 th C) Units 1 & 2		
	<i>The Arts</i>	10 Alter Egos	10 Art, So Real & Unreal		
	<i>English</i>	10 Behind the Lens	10 Art on the Street		
	<i>Humanities</i>	10 Lovers & Adspeak	10 Echoes From the South		
	<i>Language</i>	10 Monsters & Madness	10 Mystery & Suspense		
	<i>Mathematics</i>	10 Modern World & Aust.	10 War & Peace		
	<i>Health & Technology</i>	10 French 1	10 French 2		
	<i>Science</i>	10 Core Mathematics	10 Algebra & Trigonometry		
		10 Business Mathematics			
		10 Healthy Cooking			
		10 CSI/DNA	10 Phenomenal Physics		
		10 Practical Magic & Chemistry			

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Rationale:

School Profile Statement: The Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School provides a nationally and internationally recognised specialist program for the training of talented young dancers, musicians, theatre and visual artists. The school community has high expectations of students and they are encouraged to develop a passion for learning and a sense of respect for themselves and others.

Whole School Prevention Statement: The school is committed to providing a safe and nurturing learning environment that recognises and caters for the different academic, artistic, cultural, health and pastoral needs of students. Our aim is that students from the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School will behave appropriately at all times and be self disciplined, resilient, self confident, creative, passionate and compassionate individuals, who will have developed beyond their expectations and care for each other.

Guidelines:

Rights and Responsibilities:

Students have the right to:

1. Be treated with fairness and respect.
2. Be provided with the opportunity to express their views through appropriate channels such as student leadership structures and the school council.
3. Effective communication between school and home.
4. Receive appropriate assistance to resolve school related problems wherever possible.
5. Receive ongoing communications, assessments and reports about their progress.

Students have the responsibility to:

1. Attend school regularly and punctually.
2. Remain within the school throughout the school day.
3. Participate positively and cooperatively in the educational opportunities presented by the school in both academic and specialist areas.
4. Respect the rights of others to learn.
5. Respect the individuality of others regardless of race, religion or gender.
6. Behave at all times in a manner which shows regard for their own and others safety.
7. Respect their personal health and comply with the legal prohibitions associated with the use of cigarettes, alcohol and other drugs.
8. Care for their own property and respect the property of fellow students and of the school.
9. Hand in work on time.
10. Inform teachers of subject related difficulties.
11. Care for their environment and assist in keeping the school clean and tidy.
12. Place the highest value on honesty in their dealings with teachers and with each other.
13. Follow appearance, dress and uniform requirements in all parts of the program.

Shared Expectations: The whole school community has been involved in developing shared expectations for the participation and behaviour of staff, students and their parents. The purpose of these shared expectations is to promote the following values in and out of the school.

1. **Belonging and high expectations:** We will work to ensure that our school is a comfortable, safe place for everyone to work and learn together, where all staff and students show consideration for others and treat others with dignity and fairness.
2. **Learning and Training:** To support learning and training:
 - 2.1. Students must attend school regularly and punctually.
 - 2.2. They should arrive prepared to do their best where they are actively involved in learning and cooperating in shared activities.
 - 2.3. Student illness should be communicated to the school by 9.00am each day by parents to assist the school in effectively managing absences.
 - 2.4. Students should take responsibility for their work request and assistance when necessary.

3. **Respect:** Students should:
 - 3.1. Treat others fairly and encourage others to do their best.
 - 3.2. Be courteous and safe while contributing to a clean and healthy environment.
4. **Responsibility:** VCASS is committed to the development of personal, social and community responsibility with students:
 - 4.1. Taking responsibility for their actions and decisions
 - 4.2. Being honest and fair in their dealings with others.
 - 4.3. Developing their strengths and interests to benefit from educational opportunities.

School Action and Consequences

The school has well defined approaches to assisting in student engagement centred on cooperative working and living and self discipline, with a zero tolerance approach to bullying.

1. Strategies for self discipline

- 1.1. All strategies used will aim to encourage the development of personal responsibility and self discipline.
- 1.2. Students will be made aware of their inappropriate behaviour and then helped to understand clearly the kind of behaviour that is expected of them.
- 1.3. Classroom teachers will attempt to resolve problems with students.
- 1.4. Student may be sent to withdrawal a space to consider behaviour and to give a written account of an incident.
- 1.5. Discussion with a student manager should occur if problem still not resolved.
- 1.6. Coordinator will interview student and attempt to resolve problem and a parent interview may be sought. Sanctions that may be imposed could include:
 - 1.6.1. Time out from class and conduct contract
 - 1.6.2. Detention (24 hours notice will be given in the work planner)
 - 1.6.3. Suspension
- 1.7. If the problem is still not resolved, the principal will become involved. Official sanctions may be implemented according to DEECD guidelines.
- 1.8. If immediate intervention is warranted, the principal can bypass the above strategies.
- 1.9. The above procedures will also be applied to students who are responsible for harassing or bullying other students.

2. *Bullying - we do not and will not ever tolerate bullying in our school*

- 2.1. All students have the right to be themselves and be the people they are. This right goes to the very heart of being a dancer, musician or specialist student.
- 2.2. Every student will feel safe and secure.
- 2.3. Every student will be supported by teachers in the face of bullying from others.

3. *Exclusion from school:*

- 3.1. Students will be excluded from school where all other strategies have been implemented or where immediate suspension is the only course of action.
- 3.2. The purpose of exclusion is intended to be positive and used to define and modify inappropriate behaviour.
- 3.3. It will not be undertaken lightly and can only be decided by a principal class officer.
- 3.4. In extreme circumstance, where strategies cannot be enacted, exclusion will be at the principal's discretion in consultation with the school council president.

Staged response

1. The Student Services Team is an important part of prevention and early intervention strategies for students with learning and behaviour issues and will initiate a staged response.
2. It will involve a shared and collaborative approach and include parents, the student, the school principal (or their delegate) and the relevant head of dance or music, year level coordinators, classroom teacher or any professionals who have been supporting the child.

Status: **Ratified by Council**
Responsibility: **The Principal**

AUDITION INFORMATION FOR DANCE APPLICANTS

- ❖ Applicants should arrive **at least** 30 minutes before scheduled audition time.
- ❖ Students applying for entry are auditioned in a classical ballet class. This may be followed by other dance activities. Applicants may be required to attend a second audition - this will probably be the following day.
- ❖ All auditionees are required to have some knowledge of classical ballet, however, students considering entry into years 7 and 8 with limited classical ballet skills are still encouraged to audition – the audition is structured to accommodate differing levels of training. Auditions include alternative movement style for juniors and contemporary dance for seniors.
- ❖ All applicants must wear soft ballet shoes and girls in Years 8-12 should also bring pointe shoes if they have previously done pointe work.
- ❖ All applicants should wear normal training clothes. Girls should wear pink tights and pale coloured leotards. Boys should wear tights and a white leotard or T/shirt. All applicants should bring a tracksuit for walking around the building, and may need a tracksuit for contemporary or creative work. Girls should wear 'split sole' pink tights in order to work barefoot when required.
- ❖ No set dance or syllabus work will be required.
- ❖ Applicants may be asked on the day of audition, to undergo a physical examination by a qualified physiotherapist appointed by the school. A charge of **\$70.00 (cash)** will be payable at the time of consultation. Results of the physiotherapist examination will be provided to the audition panel.
- ❖ The applicants may also be required to undertake physique testing conducted by dance staff.
- ❖ School reports **MUST** be included with the Audition Application. **NB All applications and their contents remain the property of VCASS and will not be returned to applicants.**
- ❖ Applicants should note that it is **not** the policy of the school to give feedback on auditions. A letter will be sent at the end of term 3 advising you of your audition result.
- ❖ Please note that car parking facilities are **NOT** available on the school campus. Parking is available at the National Gallery of Victoria carpark, at the Australian Ballet Centre or on the street.

KEY DATES

PERFORMANCES

It is strongly recommended that prospective students and their parents attend the following public performance which clearly demonstrates the focus of this school:

- **Thursday 8 September, Friday 9 September and Saturday 10 September, 2016** - Malthouse Theatre, Sturt Street, Southbank at **7.30 pm** each evening and also **2.00 pm** on **Saturday 10 September**. For booking information visit the Malthouse Theatre Website at <http://malthousetheatre.com.au/tickets/buy-tickets>

SCHOOL TOURS

- **Booking essential – 03 8644 8644**
- **Wednesday morning tours** at 9.00am
- **School Open Day: Wednesday, 18 May, 2016** – Times to be advised on our web page.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS

- **Monday 18 July, 2016**

AUDITION DATES

- **Years 11/12 Thursday 28 July, 2016**
- **Year 7 Friday 29 July, 2016**
- **Year 7 Saturday 30 July, 2016 (Call back)**
- **Year 8 Monday 1 August, 2016**
- **Year 9 Tuesday 2 August, 2016**
- **Year 10 Wednesday 3 August, 2016**

At the time of the audition applicants will be informed of the process and timeline that will occur from that date.

(Please Note: Audition date/time will be emailed after closing date of applications)