

# VCAA Bulletin

Official publication for Early Years, F–10, VCE, VCAL and VET

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## New certificates recognise NAPLAN achievement

For the first time the learning growth of Victorian students in Year 9 and their success in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) were recognised with new Certificates of Achievement.

The cancellation of NAPLAN in 2020 due to COVID-19 safety measures delayed the introduction of the certificates.

The certificates were awarded to almost 19,000 Year 9 students across Victoria for two categories of achievement:

- Category one – the achievement of excellence through attaining a result in the top band for reading or numeracy, or both.
- Category two – the achievement of outstanding learning growth through improvement by two or more bands between the NAPLAN Year 7 and Year 9 tests for reading or numeracy, or both.

The introduction of these certificates gives equal importance to student learning gain, as well as the level of learning achieved.

They provide an opportunity to talk about personal excellence with students and how this means a high level of improvement, not just top of the class.

NAPLAN 2021 preliminary results were released on 25 August, and Victorian Year 9 students topped the nation in spelling.

Year 3 students were top of the class in reading, numeracy, and grammar and punctuation. Year 5 students led the nation in reading, numeracy, writing, and grammar and punctuation. Year 7 students improved in reading, writing and spelling compared to 2019 – achieving the highest scores of any jurisdiction for the skills of reading and numeracy.

This year's NAPLAN assessment data is particularly important as we further examine the impact of COVID, including the effectiveness of the teaching and learning strategies and supports that were put in place.

NAPLAN is an annual national assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9, and is made up of tests in four areas: reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy.

The NAPLAN paper tests were conducted from 11–13 May and NAPLAN Online from 11–21 May 2021.

Share your thoughts about the VCAA Bulletin by completing [our survey](#)

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## Message from our CEO

As Term 3 comes to an end, I'd like to thank all principals, school leaders, teachers and educators for your untiring efforts in keeping our students engaged and motivated this term. Your outstanding support to our community in these changing and challenging circumstances is noticed and appreciated.



### General Achievement Test

The General Achievement Test (GAT) has been rescheduled to Tuesday 5 October.

We are continuing to work with the Department of Education and Training and the Department of Health to provide you with the most up-to-date health and safety requirements for conducting the GAT.

Again, I encourage you to please regularly check our [Notices to Schools](#) and the website for further updates as they become available.

### Senior Secondary Certificate Reform

I am delighted to share that the names of the new senior secondary pathways have been announced. The vocational specialisation in the VCE will be named the VCE Vocational Major and the foundation pathways certificate will be named the Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC).

The names reflect the aspirations and perspectives of students and the community for quality and excellence in all senior secondary pathways.

Draft study designs and curriculum documents for both pathways are open for consultation. As educators your feedback is extraordinarily valuable and will play a crucial role in making sure the senior secondary curriculum meets its primary objective: to deliver strengthened vocational and applied learning pathways for our most important stakeholders – our students.

The [consultation](#) is open until Wednesday 6 October.

### NAPLAN

As you would have seen, the Victorian NAPLAN results this year were encouraging, and I extend my congratulations to the 19,000 Year 9 students who were awarded certificates of achievement.

### Consideration of Educational Disadvantage

We increased our engagement with principals this month, providing briefings on the Consideration of Educational Disadvantage process, VCE, VCAL and VET delivery. We were fortunate to have the Deputy Premier join us for one of the priority briefings and I thank everyone who attended at such short notice for your participation and engagement.

### F–10 curriculum survey

Thank you to those who participated in the F–10 curriculum survey. We received over 700 responses about your experience with implementing the Victorian Curriculum F–10.

I wish you all a safe and restful term break in the coming weeks.

Stephen Gniel  
Chief Executive Officer

### VCE Season of Excellence 2022 applications now open

We are excited to announce that applications are now open for the [2022 VCE Season of Excellence](#).

Please apply by the closing dates through the following links:

- [Top Arts](#), [Top Designs](#) (for VCE studies) and [Top Screen](#) – applications close 11.59pm Wednesday 20 October
- [Top Designs](#) (for VCE VET studies) and [Top Class Sound](#) – applications close 11.59pm Wednesday 3 November.

The Season is a five-month annual festival showcasing outstanding senior secondary student work from Victorian schools.

It presents work created by VCE students in design, technology, research, multimedia and the cinematic, visual and performing arts through exhibitions, screenings and performances supported by education talks, forums and panel discussions, catalogues, programs and online material.

### Margaret Schofield Memorial Scholarships

Applications for the [Margaret Schofield Memorial Scholarships](#) are also open.

Please apply by 11.59pm Sunday 12 December.

The scholarships are open to students who have completed their VCE at a government secondary school and are planning to pursue further studies in music performance and composition.

### VCE Season of Excellence 2021 recordings available

Recordings of Top Class Drama and Theatre Studies, Top Class Dance, Top Class Sound, Top Talks and Top Acts are now available.

#### Drama and Theatre Studies

Top Class Drama and Theatre Studies 2021 on-demand video streams are available to purchase from [Arts Centre Melbourne](#).

#### Dance, Sound and Music, and Top Acts

Top Class Dance, Sound and Music 2021 and Top Acts 2021 downloadable concerts are available to purchase online, using the [order form](#).

#### Top Talks 2021

Recordings of the [four Top Talks from 2021](#) can be viewed online.

Hear from the four exceptional speakers of 2021:

- Amy Ferguson, 'Connected communities: What we can learn', Virtual School Victoria/Castlemaine Secondary College, Castlemaine
- Zachary Bushby, 'Comparing vibration reduction methods in skyscrapers', John Monash Science School, Clayton
- Eliza O'Sullivan, 'Exploring rural VCE students' interest in a medical career', Girton Grammar School, Bendigo
- Callum Pritchard, 'Japanese cultural identity in film', Beaconhills College, Berwick.



Alice Mountfort Hurwood and Noah Lawrence from Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School performing Alice's original composition 'Dance novamente' at Top Class Sound 2021, streamed live from the Athenaeum Theatre



Olivia Jones, Zachary Bushby, Amy Ferguson, Eliza O'Sullivan and Callum Pritchard in conversation at Top Talks 2021, streamed live from the Village Roadshow Theatre, State Library Victoria

### Twilight webinars

You can now watch edited vignettes from our pre-recorded May webinar [Planning for under 3s using the VCAA Early Years Planning Cycle Resource](#). The videos feature discussion about how the Early Years Planning Cycle Resource can be applied to observe, assess and respond to evidence of children's learning from birth to three years of age.

Our [fact sheet](#) supports the video vignettes and references content from the previous 2021 Twilight Webinars:

- 'But do they do anything?' Documentation and infant pedagogy
- The challenges and opportunities of digital technologies for very young children
- Infant thinking and theory-making: connections to frameworks and documentation.

Edited vignettes from all [2021 Twilight Webinars](#) are available.

Subscribe to the [Early Years Alert](#) to find out about upcoming webinars and professional learning resources.

For further queries, please email the [Early Years Unit](#) or call (03) 9032 1684.

## Foundation to 10

### Curriculum

#### Thank you

A big thank you to the 700+ teachers, curriculum leaders and principals who completed the short survey about their experience in implementing the Victorian Curriculum F–10. Given the pressures and demands you are collectively facing, we are incredibly grateful for this strong response.

What we learn from these responses will help us identify which aspects of curriculum implementation are working well, and how we can provide additional support to schools. The information collected through the 2021 Monitoring Framework, alongside data collected in previous years, will also help inform our review of the Victorian Curriculum F–10, which we anticipate will start in 2022.

#### Unpack the content descriptions in Ethical Capability, Levels 7–10

You can now access a [new teaching resource](#) that provides guidance on how curriculum content from the Ethical Capability can be unpacked for students. This resource is in addition to a previously published resource for Foundation to Level 6.

The new resource for Levels 7–10 contains sample key ideas and concepts related to each content description, the identified link to the achievement standard and sample learning activities. Teachers can use the sample learning activities to support explicit teaching or help consolidate student learning.

#### Access annotated lists of classroom resources for Ethical Capability, Levels 7–10

We have published [two annotated lists](#) that feature example resources to be used when designing teaching and learning activities for Ethical Capability Levels 7–10. These lists are in addition to the published lists for Ethical Capability Foundation to Level 6.

The resources in the new Levels 7–10 list range from artworks to short TED-Ed videos, from recent news articles to fictional short stories. Teachers can use these as stimulus for discussion or as models for making decisions or reasoning in response to ethical problems. Each resource is aligned to one or more Ethical Capability content descriptions.

#### New resources for Earth and space sciences

We have just published [new resources](#) using contemporary socio-scientific issues and contexts to engage students and develop their science knowledge and scientific thinking skills. The resources feature issues and contexts that range from how humans respond to changing seasons to whether fracking should be allowed.

## More new resources coming soon

Look out for more new resources to support teachers implementing the Victorian Curriculum F–10, including Bioethics and Ethical Capability resources for Science and geospatial technologies for Geography.

## Stay up to date

For advice about implementing the F–10 curriculum in Victoria, including developments and resources, [subscribe](#) to the F–10 Update.

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## Assessment

### Professional development webinars for the reporting of NAPLAN 2021

In early Term 4, we will offer professional development webinars to help schools use and interpret the NAPLAN reports on the VCAA Data Service.

The webinars will cover NAPLAN Online tests and how to interpret data from a range of new reports designed for NAPLAN Online test results. Sessions will provide schools transitioning to online testing an understanding of the branched test structure and the expanded reporting suite.

To register, please follow the instructions sent to schools after the results release.

### NAPLAN Writing test markers required for 2022

We are seeking applications from current and retired teachers to mark the NAPLAN 2022 Writing test.

NAPLAN Writing test markers gain rich and rewarding experience from reading and assessing a range of writing from Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students. Markers who complete the training sessions and mark satisfactorily gain recognition from the Victorian Institute of Teaching for professional practice.

NAPLAN Writing test markers mark online using a dedicated secure marking platform.

New markers are appointed on the basis of teaching (English) and other relevant experience. Experienced markers are reappointed on the basis of marking accuracy and time commitment to the NAPLAN marking project.

You may apply for day or evening marking shifts, although current full-time teachers are expected to apply for the evening shift only.

All markers are required to attend a full-day training session. New markers must also attend an additional introductory training session. Training attendees are paid CRT rates for attending training. We will advise dates for training sessions once they are finalised.

Marking the NAPLAN Writing test takes around 30 days and includes weekend work. Day markers need to commit to an average of at least four hours marking each day over the project. Evening markers commit to an average marking time of at least three hours per day.

Find out [more about the NAPLAN Writing test](#).

Applications on the Sessional Staff Management System will open from October 2021 to early February 2022, or earlier if the required number of suitable applicants have been selected.

## Curriculum

### Review of VCE studies in 2022

VCE studies are reviewed on a cyclical basis, according to their accreditation period, to ensure that the VCE continues to meet Victorian community expectations for high-quality curriculum and assessment.

The following VCE studies will be reviewed in 2022:

- Australian and Global Politics
- English Language
- Legal Studies
- Media
- Outdoor and Environmental Studies
- Product Design and Technology
- Sociology
- Visual Communication Design.

To help guide the review process, panels are formed to advise the VCAA.

Studies under a major review will have a Review Panel convened, whereas studies under a minor review will have a Writing Panel convened. The following VCE studies will undergo a minor review in 2022:

- Legal Studies
- Media
- Sociology.

[VCE General Policy and Advice](#) includes further information about the review of VCE studies.

### Expressions of interest: VCE study review panels in 2022

We are seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified people to participate in the curriculum review process for the following VCE studies:

- Australian and Global Politics
- English Language
- Product Design and Technology
- Visual Communication Design
- Outdoor and Environmental Studies.

Please apply through the [Sessional Staff Management System](#) by Monday 11 October.

### 2022 VCE Dance prescribed list

The 2022 prescribed list of Dance works is now available on the [VCE Dance](#) study page.

For enquiries regarding this list, please email the [Curriculum Manager of Performing Arts](#).

## Apply to be a member of the VCE Chinese Language, Culture and Society Text Selection Panel

We are now accepting applications for membership of the VCE Chinese Language, Culture and Society Text Selection Panel.

The panel of teachers, academics and industry representatives will develop a proposed list of prescribed texts for VCE Chinese Language, Culture and Society for 2023. VCE teachers of Units 3 and 4 of the study may apply to become panel members.

Please apply through the [Sessional Staff Management System](#) by Friday 24 September.

For more information, please email the [Curriculum Manager](#) or call (03) 9059 5117.

## VCE Product Design and Technology and Systems Engineering moderation process videos

Refer to [Notice to Schools 121/2021](#).

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## Assessment

### General Achievement Test

The 2021 General Achievement Test will be held 10am–1.15pm on Tuesday 5 October.

For more information, please refer to the [Advice for schools and educators](#) page.

### Additional resources for VCE written examinations

To support schools delivering remotely, we have developed a new set of resources to assist teachers to prepare their students for external assessment.

The [Insight Assessment platform](#) is a web-based application that allows assessments to be delivered to students online.

The 2019 VCE written examinations across 74 studies will be made available again on the Insight Assessment platform in 2021, with the addition of the 2019 and 2020 General Achievement Test. Written examinations from 2020 will not be made available on the Insight Assessment platform due to the changes to study designs in 2020.

The Insight Assessment platform will support teacher access to the 2019 VCE written examinations through:

- a clear and accessible registration process
- automated assessment of multiple-choice sections of examination papers, providing immediate feedback
- immediate access to student short- and extended-answer questions to provide timely, informed feedback
- provision of the 2019 aural component for a defined set of languages
- the experience of answering short and extended responses that can be marked by the classroom teacher.

For more information, refer to [Notice to Schools 113/2021](#).

For queries, please email the [Insight Assessment Platform](#) team.

## Senior Secondary Certificate Reform

### Announcement on new pathway names

Following extensive consultation with students, educators and the broader community, the names of the new senior secondary pathways have been announced.

The vocational specialisation in the VCE will be named the VCE Vocational Major.

The foundation pathways certificate will be named the Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC).

The names reflect the aspirations and perspectives of students and the community for quality and excellence in all senior secondary pathways.

### Consultation on the draft curriculum

Consultation is currently underway on the new draft curriculum proposed for 2023 as part of the introduction of the Vocational Specialisation stream within the VCE and the Foundation Pathways Certificate. For each certificate, four draft curriculum documents with accompanying questionnaires are available for Literacy, Numeracy, Personal Development Skills and Work Related Skills. You can find the documents and questionnaires on our [Victorian Senior Secondary Certificate Reform](#) page.

In support of this consultation, we held webinars in late August and early September to provide an overview of the curriculum and answer some of your questions. The [recorded sessions](#) are now available to watch.

The consultation closes on Wednesday 6 October.

If you have any questions about the draft designs or consultation, please email the [Senior Secondary Certificate Reform](#) team.

## Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning

### 2022 Lynne Kosky Memorial VCAL Grants applications open

Refer to [Notice to Schools 127/2021](#).

## Vocational Education and Training

### Advice on the impact of COVID-19

Please regularly check the [Advice for Schools and Educators](#) page for updates about:

- adjustments to VCE VET Scored assessment, where the third and final task requiring practical assessment is unable to be completed
- the provision of VET Unspecified Credit where VCE or VCAL students in their final year are unable to complete the required hours of units of competency to satisfy the VCE or VCAL
- Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) recognition.

### VCE VET Coursework Audits

We will send School Coursework Audit Notification emails to Assessing Groups for the 2021 audit of their scored VCE VET programs. It is important to follow the instructions included with the email. The school/RTO identified as the Assessing Group is responsible for providing the audit material to the VCAA.

Questions regarding the audit can be directed to the VET Unit on (03) 9059 5195.

We will provide further details of how to submit tasks for review in the next Bulletin.

### VCE VET Program updates

There is a large number of VCE VET program reviews currently under way to update qualifications available for 2022. The [qualifications](#) that have been approved by the VCAA Board are now available, including programs currently under review. Of particular interest is the structure of the VCE VET Business and ICT scored Unit 3–4 sequences to be implemented from 2022. This document will be updated on our website following the VCAA Board approval of revised certificates.

## Top Designs

The VCE Season of Excellence provides a great opportunity to recognise outstanding work in a significant public setting. [Top Designs](#) (as part of the Season) presents works from the following VCE VET Programs:

- Furnishing
- Engineering
- Integrated Technologies
- Music Industry (Sound Production)
- Creative and Digital Media.

If you have a student who achieves an A or A+ for a Product Task, please encourage them to apply for Top Designs.

Applications close Wednesday 3 November.

## Eligibility reports

Schools are encouraged to run eligibility reports to make sure students receive the expected VET contribution into their VCE or VCAL.

## Administrative advice

### 2021 Validation of student postal addresses

Refer to [Notice to Schools 122/2021](#).

### 2021 VCE Examination Centres, Special Examination Arrangements, Derived Examination Score and Irregularity application closing dates

Refer to [Notice to Schools 124/2021](#).

### Training for conducting and administering the 2021 VCE written examinations

Refer to [Notice to Schools 126/2021](#).

### 2021 Collection of student email addresses

Refer to [Notice to Schools 128/2021](#).

### Onsite attendance for VCE school-based assessments for students who live in metropolitan Melbourne but attend school in regional Victoria

Refer to [Notice to Schools 130/2021](#).

## Bulletin board

### Apply for a Creative Learning Partnerships grant

Creative Learning Partnerships provides grants to Victorian schools to engage a creative professional or organisation to undertake a creative partnership project at the school. The residency program encourages schools to explore how creativity can enhance and advance education outcomes across the curriculum from Foundation to Year 10, including VET and VCAL.

Schools can apply for a grant of \$10,000 for projects involving an individual creative professional or \$35,000 for projects with a creative organisation.

Applications close 3pm Thursday 30 September.

For more information, go to Creative Victoria's [Creative Learning Partnerships](#) page.