Greetings from Nello Carbone and Geoff Block. It is the first week of Headstart and our first week as the principal team at the Precinct Campus. We look forward to working with you and with your students over the coming year. If you have any issues or concerns that you would like to discuss with us please don’t hesitate to contact us to arrange a meeting.

COURSE CHANGES FOR 2013
During Headstart students will have had the opportunity to find out more about the subjects they have selected. I expect that given the amount of time that has gone into course counselling and selection, most students should be happy with the subjects they have chosen. However, if there is a need to change a subject it is important that this be done as quickly as possible so the amount of work that needs to be done is not excessive. Course changes for semester 1 need to be done no later than February 15th, but the sooner the better.

STUDENTS DRIVING CARS TO THE PRECINCT
We understand that some students will be driving their cars to school each day and that some of these students may also be bringing passengers with them. While this is allowed there are forms that have to be completed by the driver, the passenger/s and the parents.
If you are in this situation can you please see the advocates as soon as possible to collect the forms and have them completed.

REPORTS
Year 11 students (2012 & 2013) reports will be available for pick up on Wednesday 19th of December from 8am to 4pm and Thursday 20th December from 8am to 12pm. Year 12 students can pick up their reports from the Graduation Dinner or the following morning from 8am to 12pm at the general office. School magazines if purchased with be in student’s reports.
Reports (only) that are not collected during this time will be posted during February.
CLOTHING EXPECTATIONS
As the weather continues to improve, parents, carers, and students are reminded that whilst we do not have a specific uniform at the senior campus, students are expected to wear clothing appropriate to our work environment. Please ensure that clothing is not too revealing; for example males are not to wear singlets as the outer garment and females should consider the suitability of tops and shorts.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND STUDENTS WHO ARE STUDYING A VCE UNITS 3&4 SEQUENCE SUBJECT IN 2013

Students studying a VCE Units 3&4 sequence subject are required to undertake three Graded Assessments. At least one is a written examination.

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) recognises that some students with an illness or disability may require Special Examination Arrangements to enable them to access the examination questions and communicate their responses in a timed examination.

The Special Examination Arrangements are available for eligible students under the following categories:
- Severe Health Impairment
- Significant Physical Disability
- Learning Disability
- Severe Language Disorder
- Hearing Impairment
- Vision Impairment

To find out more about eligibility contact a Student Advocate or the VCE coordinator:

- VCE coordinator: Ms Cropper
- Advocates: Ms Burney, Ms Melling, Ms Bannister & Mr Miller

The closing date for applications is March 1st. Please do not wait until the last day as it will take at least 5 working days to arrange for the compilation of evidence required by the VCAA.

Please note that applying for Special Examination Arrangements does not automatically qualify a student for these arrangements. The College will submit an application to the VCAA who will make the decision based on the evidence provided.

Ms Cropper
VCE coordinator

CALCULATORS
Calculators and accessories can now be purchased on-line directly by students and delivered to the school. Calculators bought on-line through Haines are the Tn-Spire CAS CX colour ($185), Texas Multiview scientific calculator ($20) and a plug in recharge adaptor and cord for $9.90.

A three year warranty is automatically included.

For more information collect an information flyer from the General Office.

These prices are significantly less than retailers. Students can also purchase calculators through the booklist suppliers advertised price instead.
As we approach the end of year and the upcoming Change of Preference Period, Monash University Gippsland Campus will be offering a range of information services for students who would like assistance with their tertiary study options in 2013.

The campus has launched a new site at [www.monash.edu/gippsland/2013](http://www.monash.edu/gippsland/2013). It includes a range of useful information and links, including:

- A link to a SEAS calculator which can be used to estimate bonus points for students
- A schedule of Change of Preference Information sessions taking place at various secondary schools across the region on 18 - 19 December
- Information about the Diploma of Tertiary Studies -- an excellent option for students who would like an alternative pathway into Monash University
- Contact details for the campus and useful links to the VTAC website

Students, parents/guardians and school staff who wish to receive advice during Change of Preference Period can contact Monash Future Students office on (03) 5122 6987 or email gippsland.campus@monash.edu, where they will be able to assist or direct you to the appropriate department on campus. This phone line will also be available during weekends in December.
WHERE CAN I GET HELP AT CHANGE OF PREFERENCE (COP) TIME?

Universities and TAFEs will have staff available to assist you till at least Fri 21 Dec (some till Mon 24th). They have provided the following information about assistance on offer (check websites for more information):

- **Australian Catholic Uni**: Call 1300 ASK ACU; **COP Expo**: 10am-3pm, Wed 19 Dec in Daniel Mannix Building
- **Box Hill Institute**: COP information session, ...call 1300 BOX HILL or Andrea on 9286 9553
- **Charles Sturt Uni**: Call 1800 334 733
- **Chisholm TAFE**: Call 1300 CHISHOLM
- **Deakin Uni**: Call 1300 DEGREE; COP 3pm-7pm, Tues 18 Dec (Burwood); See: [www.deakin.edu.au/cop](http://www.deakin.edu.au/cop).
- **East Gippsland TAFE**: Call 1300 133 717
- **Holmesglen Institute**: Call 1300 693 888
- **Kangan TAFE**: Call 13 TAFE
- **Monash Uni**: Call 1800 MONASH; COP Expo, 3-7pm, Wed 19 Dec, Building H, Caulfield campus, 900 Dandenong Road; [www.monash.edu/monash2012](http://www.monash.edu/monash2012); flyers in Careers Room.
- **NMIT**: Call 9269 1200
- **RMIT Uni & TAFE**: Call 1800 11 RMIT (8.30am-5.30pm weekdays); Info Corner, 330 Swanston St, Melbourne [www.rmit.edu.au/cop](http://www.rmit.edu.au/cop).
- **Swinburne UNI & TAFE**: 1:1 appointments 9am-5pm, 17-18 & 20-21 Dec; online chat, 9am-5pm, 17-18, 20-21 Dec & 9-12noon, 24 Dec; COP Expo, 11am-3pm, Wed 19 Dec (Hawthorn); [www.swinburne.edu.au/rightchoice](http://www.swinburne.edu.au/rightchoice); Call 1300 275 794;
- **University of Ballarat**: Call 1800 811 711; COP Information Day 11am-2pm, Wed 19 Dec (Mt Helen)
- **University of Melbourne**: COP Hotline: 13 MELB (13 6352); website: [www.cop.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.cop.unimelb.edu.au); speak with staff one-on-one at the University Information Centre, Gate 3, Swanston St; attend Course Information Day, 10am-2.30pm, Wed 19 Dec, Parkville campus; register on-line to win: [www.cop.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.cop.unimelb.edu.au).
- **Victoria University & TAFE**: Call COP hotline, 17-21 December on 1300 VIC UNI; Info Sessions, 19 & 20 Dec; drop-in at City Flinders St campus, 11am-4pm, 17 & 18 Dec.
Some Year 12’s are concerned that they will not access the university course of their choice due to their inability to achieve the required ATAR. This is NOT the finish. What should you do?

Firstly, DON’T think that you must remove courses from your VTAC application just because your ATAR doesn’t seem high enough. ATAR’s sometimes come down and it is not necessary to remove courses unless you have more than 12 courses for which you wish to apply.

If you want to go to university but your ATAR concerns you, there are courses and pathways to consider, including the following (many have lower ATAR requirements):

- Complete the Diploma of Tertiary Studies at Monash University in arts, business, education, health promotion, nursing, science or social welfare. See: page 282 VTAC Guide (VTAC codes 26291, 30751 and 29391)
- Complete a course at Monash College; see page 269 of the VTAC Guide (VTAC Codes – various)
- Complete a course at MIBT (Deakin Uni link); see page 265 of the VTAC Guide
- Swinburne University (Hawthorn) has an access scheme applying to some schools; this involves a 5-point bonus applied to former Lilydale degrees
- Complete a Foundation Studies one year pathways course at Victoria Uni; application form at www.vu.edu.au/courses/applying
- Consider studying a related university course with a lower ATAR; if you do well you MAY be able to transfer to your desired course later
- Start with a TAFE course in a related field; two years at TAFE often equals one year at university
- Complete a TAFE Diploma of Liberal Arts – a pathway into arts, social science and humanities. Kangan (VTAC Code 53311), Swinburne (70091) and VU (79131, 80531) have this Diploma, some with guarantees and points towards a degree
- Consider a country/rural campus. ATAR’s are often lower due to lower demand; most have accommodation (apply ASAP)
- For nursing consider first completing Division 2 at TAFE or a private provider; apply early and complete the VETASSESS Test if required (eg RMIT requires this by 19 Oct, Holmesglen by end November, while VU requires it 31 October). It is not required by all TAFE’s, for example, Swinburne, where you have to apply direct to Swinburne – on-line.