

Skyline Connect

A newsletter for the Skyline community



Term 3 Edition

It's the end of Term 3, and plenty is happening across Skyline as our students work towards important milestones. In this edition, we're sharing practical ways you can support your young person with VTAC and SEAS applications and exam preparation, along with important information about our upcoming September Masterclass at Deakin University.

You'll also find updates on the latest ForHealth Observership placements and Career Conversations, information about free counselling through Cairnmillar and free clothing through Thread Together, and some fantastic stories celebrating our students and alumni. For our Year 12 families, we're also looking ahead to the Class of 2026 Graduation at Trinity College and reminding students to submit their Yearbook Bios.

We hope this newsletter gives you a useful snapshot of what's happening at Skyline and some simple ways you can support your young person as they navigate this busy part of the year.



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RMIT Masterclass

Wrap Up

On 1 July, 120 Skyliners from across Victoria came together at RMIT University for our annual VCE Summit, a full day designed to complement students' school learning with targeted academic support, practical life skills and preparation for life beyond VCE.

Students had the opportunity to learn from experienced VCE educators, assessors, Skyline alumni, university staff and industry professionals, while also experiencing university life firsthand on RMIT's City campus.

A major focus of the Summit was subject-specific VCE support. Students selected sessions across English, English Language, General Mathematics, Mathematical Methods, Biology, Chemistry and Psychology, where they worked with experienced educators and subject specialists to strengthen challenging concepts, develop exam strategies and better understand what assessors are looking for in high-quality responses.

The day also recognised that succeeding through VCE is about more than academic knowledge. Edrolo helped students explore evidence-based study techniques and sustainable study habits, while Westpac's Dollars & Sense workshop covered practical financial skills including budgeting, saving, everyday banking and making informed financial decisions. Students also participated in a Skyline university pathways and SEAS workshop, helping them understand how educational disadvantage can be recognised through tertiary admissions, and an interactive RMIT marketing workshop exploring branding, consumer behaviour and creative problem-solving.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

84% gained practical skills & strategies for study and life.

85% built connections with like minded peers.

80% felt more positive about their future.

"A true highlight was talking to fellow like minded rural students from my region, expanding my network."



VTAC and SEAS *preparation*

This is an important time for our Year 12 students as they make decisions about university and life beyond school. If your young person is considering tertiary study in 2027, please check that they have completed their **VTAC course application, SEAS and scholarship applications**.

Timely VTAC applications close at 5 pm on 28 September and cost \$83. After this, fees increase to \$166 for late applications and \$208 for very late applications. Students can select up to eight courses and rank their preferred course first. Students can change their preferences later, including after ATARs are released.

SEAS recognises financial hardship, difficult circumstances, disability or medical conditions and other educational disadvantage. It does not change a student's ATAR, but it can increase the selection rank universities use when deciding who receives a course offer. For example, an ATAR of 70.00 with five adjustment points could result in a selection rank of 73.40.

Students should also **select scholarships** as part of their VTAC application to be automatically considered for hundreds of scholarships offered through participating institutions.

We have created a VTAC & SEAS booklet, available on the Skyline Student Hub, which walks students through the process. Students can also reach out to their Program Manager at any time if they need support.

[Click here to access the VTAC and SEAS booklet](#)



Upcoming *Masterclass*

Our next Skyline Masterclass is on **Tuesday 29 September at Deakin University**, and we're looking forward to bringing our students together for another fantastic day of learning, connection, and personal development.

If you haven't already, please complete and submit your young person's **Parent/Guardian Permission Form** as soon as possible. Masterclasses are an important part of the Skyline Program, and returning permission forms promptly helps us finalise attendance, transport, and planning for the day.

We've also improved how we manage permission forms this term, including better communication with parents and guardians so you're kept in the loop about upcoming Skyline events, opportunities, and any actions required.

We encourage families to have a quick conversation at home about who will submit Skyline permission forms. A clear plan will help ensure important forms and opportunities don't get missed.

Thank you for helping us get everyone organised and ready for another great Masterclass!



The Importance of Exam Preparation for

ATAR

Support your young person to start exam prep now — not when SACs finish

One of the biggest mistakes VCE students make is waiting until all content and SACs are finished before starting exam preparation.

For your young person, they don't need to be ready to complete full practice exams yet. The aim now is to start getting familiar with how VCAA asks questions, where they're losing marks, and what they need to work on before exams.

Your young person can start with these four things:

- Use past VCAA exams to practise questions on topics they've already covered.
- Read the Assessment Reports to see common mistakes and what assessors were looking for.
- When they mark their work, don't just check their score; work out why they lost marks.
- They can keep a short list of the skills, topics or question types they need to revisit.



Tip: Save one or two recent VCAA exams for closer to their exam so they can use them as realistic timed practice.

Your young person's Skyline PM can help them find the right resources and work out a simple plan of attack.

Want more guidance? 🙌 **Check out our step-by-step guide to using VCAA past exams and Assessment Reports.**

Visit the VCAA website



HATCH

July 30 Hatch presented live online
The Mid-Year Motivator: Procrastination Buster

The Hatch Team Provided Skyliners and other government school student attendees tips and tricks to identify + overcome Procrastination. The presenters went over what procrastination really is, why we procrastinate, as well as various strategies to overcome it, including Temporal Motivation Theory, Goal reviewing + resetting, time management + scheduling, and mindset + self-regulation strategies.

“ It was really great to hear the opinions of people that have been through the same things we are going through

“ There were lots of study tips were provided and how to stop procrastination

100% found the session useful

80% felt it was different to a typical school class

October 7 is our Next Senior School Hack

It is on Exam Success Strategies!

Procrastination - what is it?

Procrastination is the bane of existence for almost all Year 11 + 12 students - but that doesn't mean we just have to suffer! There are many different reasons that cause us to procrastinate, from overwhelm to basic human nature, and for all of them, there are several strategies that we can use to help manage + even overcome our procrastination!

FOR QUESTIONS OR FURTHER INFORMATION

CONTACT:
HATCH@SKYLINEFOUNDATION.ORG.AU



Link to watch the recording of the
Mid-Year Motivator Session

Link to Register for the **OCTOBER EXAM SUCCESS** Session

Thread *Together*

Did you know that as part of the Skyline Program, your young person can access brand-new clothing at no cost through our partnership with Thread Together?

Thread Together works with fashion brands to redirect brand-new clothing to people who need it. Through Skyline, your young person can browse available items online and order clothing they need — whether that's everyday clothes, activewear, something suitable for work experience or professional opportunities, or simply some new additions to their wardrobe.

The logo for Thread Together, featuring a large white 'T' on a teal circular background, with the words 'THREAD TOGETHER' in white capital letters to its right.

We know that clothing can be a significant expense for families, so we encourage students to make use of this opportunity. There is no cost to your young person or family.

If your young person would like to place an order, encourage them to reach out to their Skyline Program Manager, who can help them access Thread Together and organise their order.



"My experience with ThreadTogether was fantastic. Before placing the order, I was a little unsure, I wasn't aware of what ThreadTogether was about and whether it was truly free because that sounded a bit too good to be true!"

Turns out, it wasn't! I placed an order for about 20 items which I'd previously thought would be way too much and unrealistic; the items came out to be even better than I'd expected.

The clothes were brand new, incredibly high quality, and fashionable. Not to mention, the clothes were packed beautifully, neatly folded, and were easy to remove.

It turns out that the only hurdle was related to how vast my options were in terms of clothing and size (which is a good thing!)

Ultimately, my expectations were exceeded by a long shot. I am super grateful that I was allowed the opportunity to make an order!"

ForHealth

Work Experience

Another group of Skyliners has successfully completed the ForHealth Observership Program, with placements at Moonee Ponds Medical & Dental Centre, Werribee Medical & Dental Centre and Narregrate Medical & Dental Centre.

Students had the opportunity to experience the day-to-day environment of a busy medical clinic, observe healthcare professionals and gain a much better understanding of the different careers, responsibilities and skills involved in working in healthcare.

The feedback from both sides was fantastic! Students valued being able to see healthcare careers in action and gain real-world experience that simply can't be replicated in the classroom.

The clinics were equally impressed, recognising our Skyliners for their professionalism, communication, initiative, reliability, positive attitudes and willingness to learn.

A huge congratulations to everyone who took part and represented Skyline so brilliantly!



What our students had to say...

"It's opened up my eyes to the broader picture... I'm not restricted to only 'known' careers."

"I learnt a lot about patient-doctor relationships and the importance of listening to patients, not just hearing them."

"It's a great way to get more insight into the industry... You're able to build connections and understand more than just surface level."



Wellbeing Support with Cairnmillar

We know this can be a particularly busy and stressful time of year for students, as they balance school, assessments, exams and decisions about what comes next. While their studies are important, their wellbeing is always a priority.

If your young person is feeling overwhelmed, anxious, unmotivated or could simply benefit from having someone to talk to, Skyline provides free access to counselling through the Cairnmillar Institute.



Cairnmillar provides unlimited one-hour counselling sessions online via video, giving your young person flexible access to support with whatever they may be navigating.

If you think your young person could benefit from this service, please encourage them to reach out to their Skyline Program Manager, or feel free to contact us to learn more.

Here is what one Skyline student had to say about their experience:

“Cairnmillar has been a really positive and supportive experience for me. The regular check-ins have helped me feel heard and supported, and it has been comforting to know that I have someone I can talk to when things feel difficult. The organisation and structure of the check-ins have helped me feel less overwhelmed and more organised, allowing me to identify what I need support with and stay on top of my work. I’m really grateful for the support I’ve received and would definitely encourage others who may be struggling to reach out and access the support available through Cairnmillar.”

Save the Date for *Graduation!*

Our Class of 2026 Graduation Ceremony is happening at 2 pm on Saturday 14 November at Trinity College!

This special celebration is for our **Year 12 students and up to two guests**, recognising everything your young person has achieved and celebrating the end of their Skyline school journey.

On the day, your young person will receive their very own Class of 2026 Yearbook, packed with photos, memories, reflections and messages of support from across the Skyline community.

We're asking all Year 12 students to **submit their Yearbook Bio** so their story, favourite memories and hopes for the future can be captured alongside their fellow graduates.

Please give your young person a quick reminder to **complete their Yearbook Bio** if they haven't already- we want every member of the Class of 2026 to be included in this special keepsake!





Career Conversations

This term, our Skyliners had the opportunity to hear from **Skyline Board Directors Amanda Derham** and **Clare Harper**, who shared two very different career journeys and plenty of valuable advice about navigating life beyond Year 12.

Amanda Derham shared her varied career across mining, manufacturing, politics, finance, company leadership and board directorships. She encouraged students to stay curious, develop both technical and transferable skills, seek out mentors and embrace opportunities- reinforcing that careers rarely follow one straight path. Amanda also shared insights into leadership, resilience, financial literacy, networking and adapting to a changing world of work.



Clare Harper



Amanda Derham

Clare Harper drew on more than 20 years of experience across universities, international education and the Victorian Government to help students think about the transition from school to further study and work. Clare encouraged students to look beyond university rankings and find the course and campus that suits them, build independence and organisational skills, and make the most of work experience, volunteering, internships and extracurricular opportunities. Importantly, she reminded students that a lower-than-expected ATAR doesn't close the door on their goals, with many alternative and flexible pathways available.

Across both conversations, a clear message emerged: you don't need to have your whole future figured out in Year 12. Staying curious, building your skills, taking opportunities and being open to unexpected pathways can take you in directions you may never have imagined.

Student *Spotlight*

Zahra Rajabi



My name is Zahra. I'm 18 years old and in Year 12. Currently, I am doing legal studies, biology, psychology, sociology and literature. I like cats, video games, writing stories and listening to music. I also love shopping, eating food and sleeping. My favourite movie would have to be the how to train your dragon franchise and my favourite song is Pretty Girl by Jon B.

My goals and aspirations for the future have been and always will be studying a double degree in law + criminology at Monash. I want to become either a homicide/major crimes prosecutor or a special victims/family violence prosecutor as that's always been my passion and I believe in helping those who are vulnerable. After 8-10 years of serving as a prosecutor, I would like to meet the Governor-General, and hopefully preside over courtrooms as a Supreme Court Justice.

My favourite Skyline experience this year has been the Residential Masterclass. As a person who loves meeting new people and making new friends, Resi has always been one of my highlights at Skyline. The free food we get, the somewhat comfy bed and just the general vibe of navigating potential campuses with friends, emulating life at uni, it gives this kind of buzz and thrill that you just can't fake. I love the community that forms whenever Resi rolls around and the socialising that occurs.

Skyline has supported me a lot this year. All the masterclasses that we attend and meet new people, has increased my confidence a lot and enhanced my socialisation skills. Furthermore, they provide such useful resources such as their presentations on information about VTAC applications, and Skyline Hatch, alongside their partners that provide Skyliners with so many benefits.

Alumni *Spotlight*

Toby Kingston-Brown

Class of 2024

Toby Kingston-Brown, the Proxime Accessit of the Class of 2024 at Surf Coast Secondary College, almost left school after Year 10. Everything changed when a teacher handed him the Skyline application form, and his mum encouraged him to apply. Toby never imagined finishing high school, much less pursuing tertiary education, but now credits Skyline with giving him a future. Toby hopes to complete a PhD in mycology focused on treating neurodegenerative diseases. With an impressive ATAR of 92.3, Toby has earned a full residential scholarship at Janet Clarke Hall, University of Melbourne. He is studying for a Bachelor of Science and is well on his way to achieving his dreams.



Watch Toby's interview here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aeOgvBTGHZl>

"Skyline is responsible for the big turnaround my life has had. Getting averages of 90-plus across my subjects is such a drastic change from how I was living, and how I thought I would live the rest of my life. I wasn't even planning on finishing high school, let alone going to university. I owe Skyline my future."



Parent & Carers *Toolbox*

The VCE journey can be intense, but with structure and support, students can thrive. As a parent, your role is powerful- encouraging healthy routines, independent learning, and wellbeing habits helps your teen build confidence, resilience, and stay motivated without burning out.

Celebrating Milestones

🏆 **Create a VCE Win Wall** – Celebrate progress by displaying SAC results, positive feedback, or study breakthroughs. A daily reminder that their effort matters.

🎉 **Make VCE Milestones Special** – Turn small wins into family moments: their choice of dinner, a movie night, or a walk to reflect on the week.

💬 **Talk Through the Journey** – Ask: What was challenging? What did you learn? What are you proud of? These chats build confidence and perspective.



Time Management

🏆 **Encourage planning ahead** - Help your young person map out SACs, exams and other commitments so busy periods don't come as a surprise.

🎯 **Break big tasks into smaller steps** – When workloads feel overwhelming, focusing on one manageable task at a time can make it easier to get started and build momentum.

💬 **Protect time for rest too**– Good time management isn't about studying every available minute. Sleep, exercise, downtime and seeing friends are important for maintaining wellbeing and focus.

Healthy Study Habits

 Encourage the **use of a study and/or visual timetable** to block in time for subjects, rest, meals, and SAC preparation.

 Encourage **short, focused study sessions** (25–50 minutes) with regular breaks.

 Promote **active evidence based strategies** like self-quizzing, explaining concepts aloud, and creating diagrams.

 Ensure your child has **access to a quiet, well-resourced study space** in the home, free of distractions (such as TV, their phone and/or social media).

 Recommend **spaced revision** (over time) rather than cramming the night or week of a SAC, and suggest starting with the hardest tasks first.



Wellbeing

Be Their Anchor

VCE can be tough. Stay calm and supportive—your steady presence helps more than you know.

Support Routine, Not Control

Help them plan study time and breaks, but let them take the lead.

Prioritise Sleep & Healthy Habits

Good sleep, food, and movement = better focus and wellbeing.

Keep Talking

Check in often. Listen more than you fix.

Reach out for Support

Parents and guardians are encouraged to connect with the school's wellbeing team and/or the Skyline team if they notice their child is struggling, feeling overwhelmed, or in need of additional support.