Timeline

2015 Senior School Course Selection

Year 11s 2015

Thursday 26th June  Careers Orientation Session
Friday 18th July  Year 10 and VCE Career Expo
Wednesday 23rd July  Senior School Information Evening
Tuesday 29th July  Senior School Subject Expo
Wednesday 30th July  Intermediate VCAL Information Evening
Monday 18th August  Year 10 into Year 11 counselling – appointments to be made
Monday 25th August  2015 Year 11 Subject Selection forms due
Friday 24th October  All VCE & VCAL courses finalised
1st – 5th December  Year 11 2015 VCE / VCAL Orientation Program
Monday 15th December  Subject change day for Semester 1 2015
                      Appointment must be made prior to the day

Year 12s 2015

Friday 18th July  Year 10 and VCE Career Expo
11th – 15th August  Year 11 into Year 12 counselling
Monday 18th August  2015 Year 12 Subject Selection forms due
Friday 24th October  All VCE & VCAL courses finalised
24th Nov – 28th Nov  Year 12 2015 VCE / VCAL Orientation Program
Monday 15th December  Subject change day for Semester 1 2015
                      Appointment must be made prior to the day
A message from the Senior School Team

Welcome to the Senior School. This is an exciting time of your education as you start to focus your studies on your anticipated career. Entering Year 11 you are faced with some big decisions regarding your Senior School course selection.

At school there are a number of people who can assist you with your course selection. Our Post School Transition Coordinator, Ms Alexander, has a wealth of knowledge about tertiary subject requirements. Your teachers who know you and your strengths and weaknesses will help guide you and Mr Russo is available to discuss VCAL with you. And of course the adults at home and those you know in areas of work in which you are interested in will also help.

Whether you know exactly where you are headed or whether you are keeping your options open, your subject selections as you move through Senior School will be assisting in setting you on your chosen pathway.

The final years of secondary school can be the most exciting and rewarding years of secondary school and a course that suits your learning needs only adds to this experience. We wish you well in making your choices and in your learning through your Senior years at Buckley Park College.

Ms McGarrity
Later Years Coordinator
Year 12 Coordinator

Ms Alexander
Post School Transition Officer

Mr Fidler
Year 11 Coordinator

Mr Russo
VCAL Coordinator
Pathways

In 2015 Buckley Park College will offer two certificates for Year 11 students to choose from – the traditional VCE and the applied learning based VCAL. The VCE is widely used by students as a pathway to university whereas students who do VCAL are more likely to be interested in going on to training at TAFE, doing an apprenticeship or going straight into the workplace after completing year 11 and/or 12.
Planning your course and subject selection

For most students, especially those unsure of their career direction, a good guide for subject selection is to choose subjects you enjoy and are successful in. A good course will embrace a wide range of subject areas, while being mindful of tertiary prerequisites.

1. What career(s) do you have in mind? Leading up to and during your time in Senior School you should take advantage of opportunities available to you to consider your future. Attend Open Days at tertiary institutions and take full advantage of the Careers Expo organised at the College so that your choices will be well reasoned ones.

   If you have no ideas for career direction you are advised to see the College’s Post School Transition Coordinator, Ms Alexander.

2. Investigate the tertiary courses and / or pathways that might lead to your chosen career.

3. Establish whether any studies are required for entries into such tertiary programs:

   For university requirements you should consult the Victorian Tertiary Entrance Requirements (VICTER), available on the Victorian Tertiary Admission Centre (VTAC) website www.vtac.edu.au/publications#year10and11

   For TAFE requirements and apprenticeships you need to consult Ms Alexander.

4. Decide whether you wish to enrol in VCE or VCAL.

   VCE

   5. If a Unit 3 / 4 sequence has a prerequisite Unit 1 / 2 sequence, ensure you include this in your subject planning.

   6. Complete the remaining choices with studies that are of interest, those in which you would expect to do well.

   7. Check to ensure you meet the sequences required of VCE.

   8. On completion of your selections, have the sheet signed by a parent and then return it to Ms McGarrity.

   VCAL

   5. Consider your VET selection.


   7. On completion of your selections, have the sheet signed by a parent and then return it to Ms McGarrity.

After all courses have been submitted the Later Years Coordinator will produce a grid that gives meaningful courses to the students and caters to the greatest number of student selections.

The Years 11 and 12 program is determined on the basis of student choices. The program is constructed in order to maximise the ability of students to get their subject choices, within the resource available to the College. During this process some students will require re-counselling, for example where subjects are in the same block of the grid.

Once the timetable grid has been established students will receive a confirmed course for the year 2015.
Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)

Satisfactory Completion of the VCE

To attain the Victorian Certificate of Education, students must, over a minimum of two years, satisfactorily complete at least 16 units of which at least 3 must be English and must include at least three Unit 3 & 4 sequences other than English.

Year 11

At Buckley Park College Year 11 students will study:
• English Units 1 & 2 and;
• Five other Units 1 & 2
OR
• English Units 1 & 2 and;
• Four other Units 1 & 2 and;
• One Unit 3 & 4 sequence
This option is only available to students who are accepted into the VCE Acceleration Program

Year 12

At Buckley Park College Year 12 students will study:
• One of English Units 3 & 4 and;
• Four other Units 3 & 4

Study Scores

In order to qualify for a Study Score, a student must have satisfactorily completed Units 3 and 4 in that study. Students’ overall achievements for each study will be calculated by the VCAA and reported as a study score (relative position) on a scale of 0 to 50.

ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank)

The ATAR is determined at the end of Year 12 to assist tertiary institutions to select students. An aggregate is calculated by taking the English study score, the next 3 best study scores and 10% of the next 2 study scores. The aggregates are ranked and the ranking from 99.95 down is the ATAR. More detailed information can be obtained by contacting Ms McGarrity or Ms Alexander.
Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)

General Achievement Test (GAT)

All students enrolled in Unit 3 / 4 subjects sit the GAT in June. The test is set and marked by the VCAA. The General Achievement Test is a test of general knowledge and skills in:

- written communication
- mathematics, science and technology
- humanities, the arts and social sciences.

Because it is a general test, no special study is required for the GAT.

The VCAA will use students’ GAT scores as a basis for:

- contributing to statistical moderation of School-assessed Coursework
- reviewing school assessments in School-assessed Tasks
- checking the accuracy of examination marking
- calculating Derived Examination Scores.

Subject Changes

Semester 1 2015

Subject Change Day for Semester 1 2015

- Monday 15th December 2014

If after the Orientation Program you wish to make a subject change you need to contact Ms McGarrity to book an appointment time for Monday 15th December. On that day you will have counselling with Ms Alexander regarding the impact of your subject change on your anticipated career as well as a meeting with Ms McGarrity about your requested change.

Note: Subject changes can only be granted if there is room in the grid and the granting of subject changes are prioritised by the Later Years Coordinator.

No subject changes for Semester 1 2015 will be made after Monday 15th December.

Semester 2 2015

Units 3 & 4 are taken as a sequence and students are not able to change subjects after Unit 3.

Year 11s have the option to request a subject change for Semester 2. You can change into most subjects, but the College recommends that unit 2 Chemistry and Physics are not studied without studying unit 1.

If you wish to request a subject change please pick up a Subject Change Form from the Senior School Office and submit it by 15/05/15. Before submitting the form check the grid to ensure your subject change is possible. You will need to attend career counselling with Ms Alexander before submitting your form.

Note: Subject changes can only be granted if there is room in the grid and the granting of subject changes are prioritised by the Later Years Coordinator.

No subject changes for Semester 2 2015 will be made for forms submitted after 15/05/15.
# VCE Subjects at Buckley Park

The following table lists the units that will be offered at Buckley Park College in **2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDY</th>
<th>UNIT 1</th>
<th>UNIT 2</th>
<th>UNIT 3</th>
<th>UNIT 4</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please refer to the **VCE Unit Descriptions** booklet on the Parent Portal and Buckley Park College internet page for detailed information on each of the units studied at school as part of the VCE program.

Generally students would choose subjects as a sequence of Units 1, 2, 3 and 4

However students may move into most subjects at Units 2 or 3.

All students will study English Units 1, 2, 3 and 4

It is highly recommended that students study Chemistry and Physics units 1 before attempting unit 2.
**Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)**

The Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) is broadening the educational, training and employment opportunities for students who are more suited to learning in an applied, practical environment. VCAL gives students practical work-related experience, literacy and numeracy skills and the chance to build personal skills that are key to life and work.

Students who study VCAL are likely to be interested in going on to training at TAFE, undertaking a Certificate IV or Diploma course, doing an apprenticeship, or getting a job after completing Year 12.

VCAL is underpinned by the following curriculum principles:

- Student-centred approaches and decision-making regarding program design, delivery and evaluation
- Opportunities for experiential learning and skill development through activities that are structured and sequential in their learning outcomes
- Programs that are relevant to personal strengths and experiences, and that are responsive to the diverse needs of students
- Programs that build resilience, confidence and a sense of self-worth
- Learning environments that strengthen connections with the community
- Programs that allow students to enter and exit at each level to pursue a range of pathway options.

VCAL is designed to develop and extend pathways for young people. On completion of VCAL, students will be able to make informed choices about employment or education pathways.

Students who successfully complete the two year VCAL learning program at Buckley Park College will acquire the following certificates:

- Intermediate VCAL certificate
- Senior VCAL certificate
- VET certificate

**Entry Requirements**

- In order to study the Intermediate level of VCAL you are required to have completed Year 10 at Buckley Park College
- In order to study the Senior level of VCAL you are required to have completed Year 11 (VCAL or VCE) at Buckley Park College.
Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)

VCAL students at Buckley Park College will attend the College for 3 days, attend a TAFE for 1 day and attend a structured work placement for 1 day per week. These arrangements will apply for the duration of the school year.

3 days per week at school

All Buckley Park College VCAL students study the following course at school:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intermediate (Year 11)</th>
<th>Senior (Year 12)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VCAL Literacy Skills Intermediate Reading and Writing</td>
<td>VCAL Literacy Skills Senior Reading and Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCAL Literacy Skills Intermediate Oral Communication</td>
<td>VCAL Literacy Skills Senior Oral Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCE Foundation Maths – Units 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>VCAL Senior Numeracy – Unit 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCAL Personal Development Skills – Units 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>VCAL Personal Development Skills – Units 3 &amp; 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCAL Work Related Skills – Units 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>VCAL Work Related Skills – Units 3 &amp; 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCE Industry &amp; Enterprise – Unit 1</td>
<td>VCE Industry &amp; Enterprise – Unit 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please refer to the VCAL Unit Descriptions booklet available on the Parent Portal and Buckley Park College internet site for detailed information on each of the units studied at school as part of the VCAL program.

1 day per week at TAFE

Substantial course costs are associated with VET programs. The government and the school provide a subsidy towards these costs and parents of VCAL students are required to contribute $250 towards the VCAL VET costs which is paid as $150 deposit in December 2014 and a $100 balance in February 2015.

Students are required to have finalised their VET placement by Friday 28/11/14

Please refer to the VCAL Unit Descriptions booklet available on the Parent Portal for detailed information on VET

1 day per week at work

Students are required to have organised their Work Placement by the final day of the Orientation Program:
- Year 12 2015: Friday 28/11/14
- Year 11 2015: Friday 05/12/14

If students have not finalised their placement by the above date they are required to attend school until a placement has been secured.