



ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE  
BALLARAT

St. Patrick's College - Middle School  
2025 – Year 9 Information Evening

# Year 9 Coordinators

Mrs Jacinta Burge  
and  
Mrs Kathryn Ward

# Year 9 Homeroom Teachers & Rite Journey Leaders

- 9A - Rylee Booth
- 9B - Jarrod Fryar
- 9C - Jed Millard
- 9D - Joe Black
- 9E - Kirsten Rice
- 9F - Natalie Love
- 9G - Ryan Williams
- 9H - Shane Hayes
- 9I - Leigh McKee
- 9J - Joshua Morris

# Communication throughout the year

- At times throughout the year, the use of email and school newsletter will be used to make contact regarding significant events happening in Year 9.
- Under more serious circumstances, you will be contacted via phone.

# Diaries

- Teachers will ensure your son is using their diary to write in homework/assessment due dates.
- This will also be used as another form of communication.
- We encourage parents to please look through the diary as often as possible.
- Homeroom Teachers will be checking diaries once a week to ensure that students are using them effectively.

# Uniform

- Uniform guidelines can be found on the website or in the student diary
- Out of uniform? If boys have a note from yourself, they are to present this to their Homeroom Teacher and they will be issued a uniform pass.
- If they do not have a note, they will be given a uniform detention, to be completed that lunchtime.
- We want students to wear the uniform correctly and with pride, so hence why we are putting a real focus on this.

# Homework

- This will be set tasks, revision activities, research or preparation for assessment tasks. In addition, the boys should be reading for 20 mins each day.
- Students (and families) should spend at least one hour each night completing homework.
- If there is no set homework, your son should use the time to revise what they learned in class that day. Ideally, they would do this in a visible place, such as on a kitchen table.

# The Rite Journey

- The Pastoral Care program for Middle School.
- At various points through the year, your son will be approaching you for help with certain requirements of this program.
- The purpose is to explore what values, beliefs and attitudes that they should carry into their lives as young men.







# Team Building Day

- An opportunity to start fresh and build positive relationships with both peers and Rite Journey Leaders as well as Coordinators.
- Create opportunities for discussions and allow students to challenge themselves with some of the team-building activities.



# Activities throughout Year 9



- Calling and Departure Evening- Tuesday March 4<sup>th</sup>, 5 – 7PM.
- The 'Calling' is a ceremony where the students are called on their journey to young adulthood. The journey involves acknowledging the end of childhood and a show of gratitude to those people who influenced the students through their childhood.
- The 'Departure' ceremony is celebrated at the same time as 'The Calling'. The essence of this ceremony is to receive the parents' blessing and support to work with their child during The Rite Journey year.
- A time to reflect on your relationship with your son and vice versa, your childhoods and your journey into adulthood.

- Leading up to the ceremony, students will be contemplating a list of their unique memories and thoughts of their childhood and relationship with you as their significant adult.
- The outcome of these sessions will take place on the 'Calling' and 'Departure' evening with yourselves as parents and witnesses.



# Year 9 Social with Loreto College

- Dance lesson dates/sessions to be finalised together with Loreto College.
- Date of the social: **Term 2 TBC**



# Camp- Grampians

- Takes place in Week 5 of Term 4, 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of November.
- Activities may include:
  - Bushwalk (various difficulty levels);
  - Abseiling;
  - Rock Climbing;
  - High ropes;
  - Bike riding
  - Canoeing
  - Camp out

# Melbourne Experience

- Melbourne Experience occurs in the last week of Term 2 Week 11 (June 30<sup>th</sup> – July 4<sup>th</sup>)
- Ideally, the boys will stay with friends or family in Melbourne this week.
- However, staff will commute daily, so students are free to do this.

# Objectives of Melbourne Experience

- Learn about different aspects of Melbourne
- History, Culture, Arts, Sport, Design and Innovation
- Learn how to use public transport
- How to navigate around the Melbourne CBD
- Develop teamwork and independence skills
- Experience a range of activities across the CBD



## The aims of the Melbourne Experience are to promote:

### **1. Life skills**

- To navigate around Melbourne independently
- To work as a team to plan their journeys, overcome unexpected problems and take responsibility for each other.

### **2. Academic extensions:**

- To visit and investigate unique cultural and scientific sites in Melbourne

**Students will complete academic work to support these visits, either prior to the Melbourne Experience or when they return.**

# A reminder

**The Melbourne Experience is school in  
Melbourne.**

**It is not a camp.**

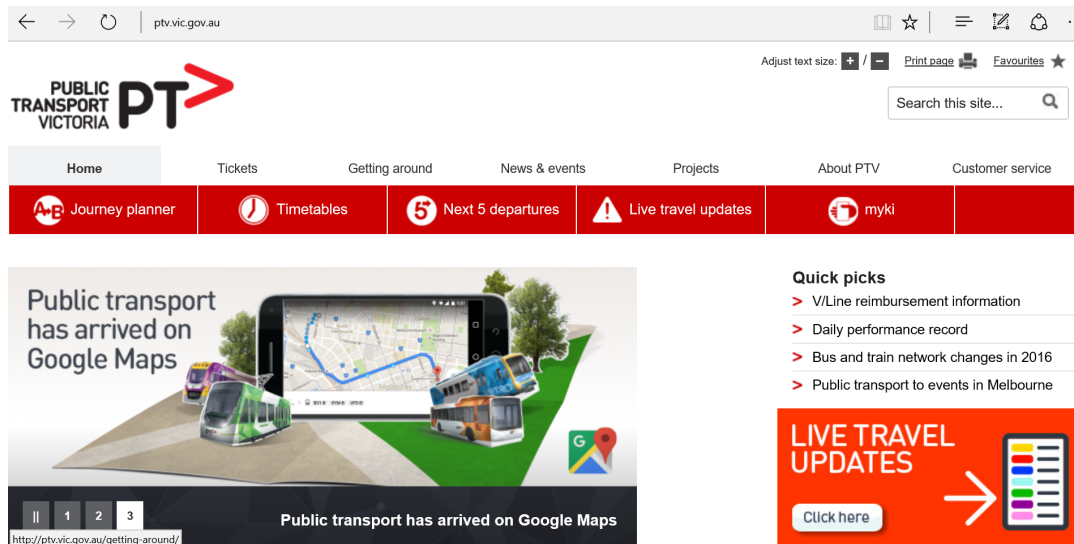
# As with school....

## The same rules apply:

- Students must always wear the correct **full winter uniform** unless stated on their timetable for a particular activity where they may be required to wear the correct full sports uniform.
- Students are to **follow set instructions** given to them by their carer/supervisor each day.
- Students must **arrive at meeting points early** and be prepared for the activity.
- We expect the students to be **polite, listen, and ask questions** while at the activities.

# Before we take the students to Melbourne, we will:

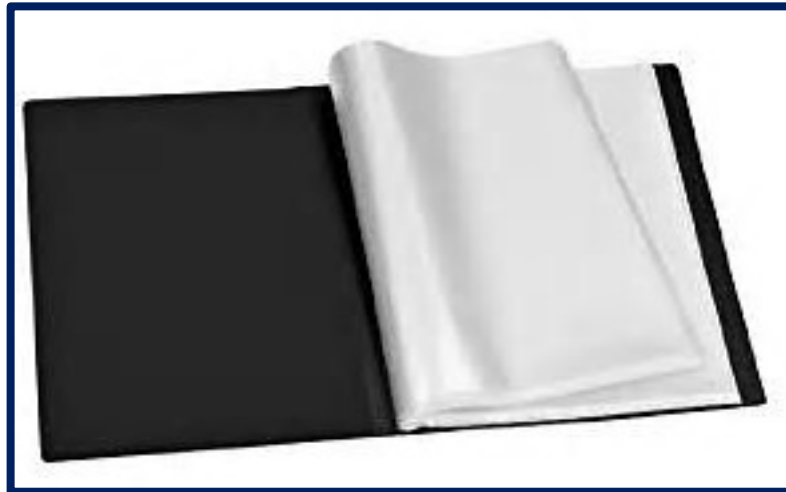
- Guide them through lessons on how to use public transport with a specific focus on planning their journey to and from their accommodation each day;
- Help them develop basic navigation skills through Melbourne's CBD;



# Before we take the students to Melbourne, we will:

- Ensure they have appropriate maps of the Melbourne CBD, the Melbourne train system and the Melbourne tram system.
- Provide a schedule for their class activities and meeting points, as well as teachers' contact details, etc.
- Discuss what to do if something goes wrong... ie missed the train, the wrong tram or negative encounters with other people.

Each student will have copies of this information (hard copies) which they will need to place in a display folder and always carry with them on the Melbourne Experience.



# A typical day on the Melbourne Experience

1. Meet their Pastoral Care Tutor in the CBD at 9.00 am; unless Pastoral Care Tutor says otherwise. Together as a Homeroom, they will arrange morning meeting locations.
2. Travel either as a class or in small groups to an activity, then participate in the activity.
3. Students may then be assigned an activity to complete in their small groups (no less than four students) before meeting with their teacher again at a specific time and location.

# A typical day on the Melbourne Experience

- Students will then meet up again and have lunch.
- After lunch, students will either attend another activity or undertake another task, staying in contact with their Pastoral Care Tutors via face-to-face contact or using technology (pictures of the group or phone calls).





# Melbourne Experience

## A typical day on the Melbourne Experience –

- At the end of the day, classes will gather and de-brief before pre-viewing the activities of the next day. Location of de-brief meeting to be arranged by the Pastoral Care Teacher.
- Students are then directed to the nearest tram stop or train station to return to their accommodation.

# What students should bring with them

- Myki card to move around Melbourne. Some trams within the central district of Melbourne are located in the free tram zones. Please ensure that there is enough funds in student's card.
- Enough money for snacks/lunch but not compulsory. We advise students to pack a lunch as food can be quite expensive in Melbourne for an entire week.
- Water Bottle.
- Students who have required medication, must take this with them. E.g. Anaphylaxis EpiPen and/or asthma pumps.
- Mobile phones are a must and students are asked to use these appropriately at all times.
- Student information booklets (created prior to Experience) and pens to write down information.

## Some common questions from parents:

**Q.** My son is unable to find accommodation in Melbourne and will need to travel to-and-from Ballarat each day. Will he be excluded from the Melbourne Experience?

**A.** No. A number of students will commute from Ballarat, Ballan, Bacchus Marsh or Melton each day, including, at times, staff will also be commuting by train to and from Ballarat, but this cannot be guaranteed. Please note, the excursion commences from the first meeting point in Melbourne.

## **Some common questions from parents:**

**Q. How much money will my son need?**

**A. The only money your son needs is credit on their MYKI card.**

You may wish to give your son some money to buy food, especially from one of the cultural precincts the class will visit, but students really should bring lunch from home most days.

**Please remember that giving your son excessive amounts can encourage poor spending decisions and can warrant unnecessary attention.**

## Some common questions from parents:

**Q. Will there be any additional costs for Melbourne Experience?**

**A. No. The cost of the Melbourne Experience is incorporated into your school fees. The only additional costs is for Myki credit and spending money for personal purchases.**

## Some common questions from parents:

**Q.** What if my son is sick and unable to attend on a particular day?

**A.** We understand that students get sick and may not be able to attend. If this occurs, we ask that you phone your son's Pastoral Care Tutor and inform him or her personally. This phone number will be provided with your son's booklet.

# Question time

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- Any other questions?



# Thank you.

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