



CHOOSING VCE SUBJECTS THAT CATER TO YOUR INTEREST

Calling all year 9s, 10s and 11s, this message is for you! Now, you're nearing the beginning of choosing the path of your VCE journey at Kilbreda, and there's one looming question that I'm sure has crossed your mind at one point or another: what subjects am I going to do? There are many aspects that will contribute to your decision, but I want to make it clear that your interest and enjoyment towards a subject should be one of your top priorities.

People will begin to tell you that factors such as scaling and prerequisites are of utmost importance in choosing your subjects. Prerequisites are important to consider when choosing your subjects for your acceptance into University/TAFE courses, however, the emphasis placed on scaling is misleading. While specific subjects, such as languages, do scale your scores up substan-

tially, this is only beneficial if you are genuinely interested and willing to put the time and effort into the subject. Other subjects that may not scale up as much, however, do not decrease your ability to achieve just as well.



For those feeling like decision time is fast approaching, I want to reassure you that

there is still time for you to swap around subjects, as long as you do so prior to entering Units 3 and 4. For example, I was not enjoying Maths, and the tertiary courses that I'm interested in do not require Maths as a prerequisite; instead, I have replaced it with Year 12 Media. Although it's initially a challenge to adjust to a new subject, I'm so glad I made the swap to a subject that relates to my interests and passions.

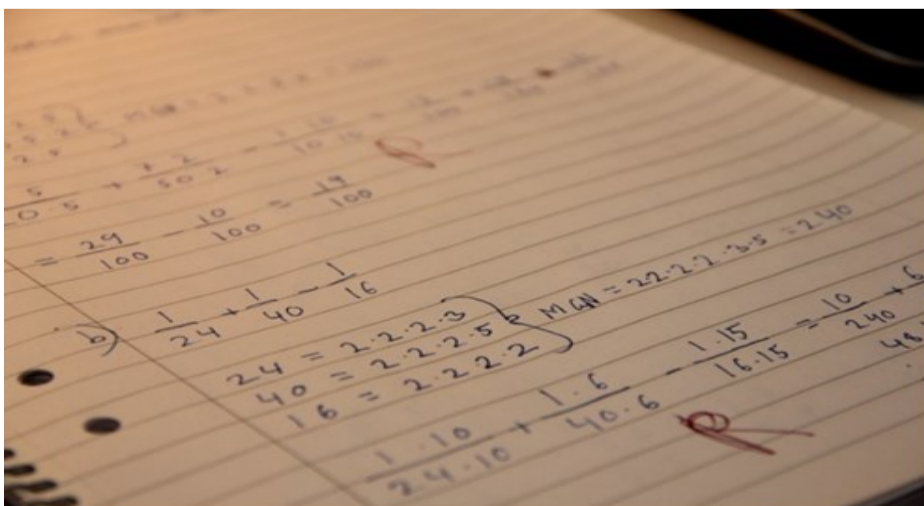
If something makes you excited to go to class and passionate about learning, do it. Don't fall into the trap of thinking it's not 'academic enough' or 'it's too hard,' or simply believing that you don't have the capability to succeed in a specific subject. If you remain dedicated to whatever it is you're studying, utilise all the resources available and keep interested, you will not regret it!

By Charlotte Pulbrook

HOW TO HANDLE HOMEWORK

All of us have trouble with keeping on top of our homework sometimes. It can be hard to manage when there's so much. Here are some tips that can be helpful:

- Don't jump straight into it. When you get home from school, make sure that you take 30 - 45 minutes to wind down from the day that you just had. You can relax by reading, watching something, sleeping, meditating, playing with your pet, going on a walk, and more. This will increase your focus.
- Keep everything tidy. It can be hard to concentrate when you're distracted by your messy desk.
- Put yourself in a comfortable environment. This might mean opening the windows to get some fresh air or playing music in the background to help you focus.
- Plan out your tasks. You can check your planner for homework you need to complete.
- Take breaks in between tasks. Give yourself at least 10 minutes between tasks to help you refocus.



Doing other things that can help you complete homework are:

- Staying hydrated. Make sure that you have a glass of water next to you while you're working.
- Try to minimize distractions. Stay in a quiet room without distractions around you.
- Write notes. Writing notes helps you remember things better. Taking notes will (especially if you are studying for an exam or test) help you remember the things that you are learning.
- Keep off your phone. You can download apps on your phone to help you stay off them while you study. One of my favourite apps is Flora. It is a free app that helps you keep off social media while you need to stay concentrated.
- Always remember that not all these tips will work for you because everyone has different ways of learning and studying.

Inspirational quotes, said by inspirational women:

"How wonderful is it that nobody needs to wait a single moment before starting to improve the world" - Anne Frank, German diarist

I learn something new about love every day. For example, loving yourself is just as important as loving other people" - Phillipa Soo, Actress

"There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish" - Michelle Obama, Former First Lady

By Grace Robins



Kilbreda Chronicle

CREATING MATILDA THE MUSICAL



The Interns' reflect on their experiences of creating Matilda the Musical

Matilda The Musical is fast approaching and we couldn't be more excited to get our extremely talented cast out on the big stage. Everything from the set, lighting, sound, props, choreography and acting is phenomenal and we can't wait to showcase the incredible work that has been put into the show so far.

My name is Charlotte Thomas and my experience as the Production Manager has given me a unique perspective into the crazy world of theatre and the talent our school community has to showcase. Our school's dedication to the musical is unlike any other with the teachers promising the show will go on and putting their all into this miracle of a show. With the talents of our own Maya and Evie who play Matilda and the lovely Jaz and Ande playing Mrs Wormwood, the show is looking incredible, even with the lost rehearsal time due to Covid lockdowns. Watching the show be created into an artistic masterpiece in front of my very eyes has been surreal to say the least and gives me an understanding for those who dedicate their life to this art form with many hours going into all the small details that make a show great.

My name is Charlotte Pulbrook and my experience as the Creative Consultant has been extremely exciting and invaluable. The knowledge and connections I have gained from working with others is something that I hope to hold onto for many years to come. Working with multimedia platforms and choreography as I assisted in creating and directing the Acrobat and Escapologist scenes has exposed me to the endless possibilities of creativity within theatre, and working with such talented, enthusiastic and open-minded actors has really made this experience one of enjoyment.

We had a chat with a few of our talented interns working with us behind the scenes of the show to give you further insight into their work:

What is your internship role?

Alex Comey and Mia Layne: We are the Lighting interns.

Liv West: I am the Choreography intern.

Emily Venditti and Sarah Donlon: We are the Costuming interns; in partnership with Ms Hulme, we have designed, made and put together the costumes for the cast.

Natasha Wain: I am the Props intern.

Roisin Tobin: I am the Backstage intern and, through this, I'm the Stage Manager for Matilda- something I am really excited about!

What has the process been like so far?

Mia: It has involved a lot of learning along the way. There have been lots of new and exciting things to take away from the experience.

Liv: It's been absolutely incredible. I have not only been able to be creatively free and do what I love most (choreograph) but I have been able to make incredible bonds with so many other cast members and interns. I couldn't have asked for a more loving and supportive cast and crew.

Emily: The process so far has been a fantastic opportunity, I have learnt so much so far from Ms Hulme about the process of measuring, curating and fitting costumes.

Natasha: It was a very formal process starting with interviews and lots of meetings, and as time has gone on we have been learning the show numbers and all the key things of a Broadway production.

Roisin: Overall, I have found the process really interesting and exciting. There have been challenges along the way like any show, but it has been incredible to watch the Matilda team-cast, crew, interns and staff-work hard and support each other. Because of this, it has been amazing to see the show take shape and I can't wait for people to see it. This is an industry I would love to work in when I finish school, and the experience I have gained by being involved in Matilda has been invaluable.





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CREATING MATILDA THE MUSICAL

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What has been the biggest challenge in your role?

Liv: In periods of lockdown trying to teach choreography through videos. Not being able to physically be in the same room as everyone can be difficult as you can't feel everyone's energy and you have no idea if what you are saying actually makes sense to the kids. Lucky the cast are all so clever and never failed to come back to rehearsals with the choreography down packed.

Emily: The biggest challenge in my role is sewing things that are out of my comfort zone or new to me.

Natasha: The biggest challenge I have found while being in props is to come up with original and creative ways to make fake things, such as fake cupcakes, a fake phone, and LOTS of fake money!

Roisin: As a year 12, there have been times where I have found it challenging to balance the many challenges that come with a final year of school and the work of the stage manager. The lockdowns have also challenged us to become adaptable and to work with what we are presented with. However, whenever I come to rehearsals and see what all our hard work has gone to, it has been incredibly rewarding.

What has been the highlight of working as an intern?

Mia: Working with the interns from all teams and building a strong bond with everyone in the intern team. As well as working alongside the junior kids and seeing them grow as actors and themselves throughout the last couple of months

Liv: Being able to see the cast blossom into their characters and have their confidence in themselves grow. So many kids have surprised themselves with their abilities and worked so hard and I couldn't be more proud of everything they have achieved.

Emily: The highlight of working as an intern is the family that Matilda has created and all the new friendships I have created spreading across all year levels.

Natasha: I have enjoyed working with all of the cast and other members behind the scenes, it has been great to meet so many new people

from many year levels! It has also been a great experience to think about what my future may look like in theatre productions.

Roisin: Where to begin! The amazing moments have been seeing the whole team coming together and creating something incredible. I've loved working with the cast, crew, interns and staff. I have made many friends and have gotten to know so many people and I'll have these memories forever. What I think makes this production so special is that, after a year of not being able to do this thing we love and are passionate about, we have given it all for this show and have made it amazing.

What are you most excited about for the show?

Mia: Seeing all the hard work that has been put

all of the cast are so authentically replicated into their characters. It is a high energy show that is guaranteed to make you smile!

Emily: People can expect some seriously great talent all around, with amazing sets, costumes and lighting.

Natasha: Be prepared to be blown away! The actors, the set, costumes, sound, lighting and the props. You will be amazed at Matilda the production! Matilda will have you giggle and also shed a tear, it is set to be a fun night for every family!

Roisin: The people who see the show will be immersed in the world created by the Roald Dahl classic. From the incredible, much-loved characters coming to life with our incredible cast and dancers to the atmosphere created by



in on stage and behind the scenes all working together.

Liv: I'm so excited to see the students out on stage displaying their shared passion. I can't wait to see them be proud of their hard work.

Emily: I am so excited to see for everyone to see how much hard work and effort everyone has put into the show.

Natasha: I'm super excited for all the shows and weeks leading up to the show with all the hype and adrenaline of opening night and seeing all the rewards of our hard work!

Roisin: I'm really excited to be able to stage manage this show and for people to see it. After 8 months of hard work, determination and fun, I can't wait for people to see this!

What should people coming to see the show expect?

Liv: A heartwarming show where the bonds of

the lighting, sound, set design, props, production, creative consultant, acting, singing and dance interns and backstage crew, the audience should be prepared for a magical show that will inspire, captivate and excite!

By Charlotte Pulbrook and Charlotte Thomas



THE FINANCIAL COST OF STUDYING HUMANITIES

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By Charlotte Thomas

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Humanities the basis for how our society operates, the politics that decide the future, the history that we learn from so we don't repeat it, the books and literature that comment on social views and values, these subjects are a key element to modern day western society so why do universities believe students wishing to study this key areas have to pay so much more than anyone else.

The recent law passed by Australian parliament means “under the changes, the cost of a social sciences degree will more than double, while nursing, mathematics and teaching degrees will become cheaper.” (ABC) Although these other subjects are still important and useful in our advancing society, why does valuing science and technology take away from the importance of studying the classic building blocks for society. Senator Lambie states "I refuse to be the vote that tells poor kids out there ... no matter how gifted, no matter how determined you are, might as well dream a little cheaper, because you're never going to make it, because you can't afford it." and i believe that this should be a view shared by all people who value the education of future generations. Some students are naturally gifted in the areas of science and mathematics and should be supported and encouraged to go into those fields, but likewise other students excel in the field of humanities and why should those kids be penalised for the rest of their lives, paying off debts for following their passions and skills.

ABC news released an article with the expected price students in different fields are paying and the division is obvious.

How much students can expect to pay:

Band	Discipline	Annual cost
1	Teaching, clinical psychology, English, maths, nursing, languages, agriculture	\$3,700
2	Allied health, other health, architecture, IT, creative arts, engineering, environmental studies, science	\$7,700
3	Medical, dental, veterinary science	\$11,300
4	Law & economics, management & commerce, society & culture, humanities, communications, behavioural science	\$14,500

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-10-08/university-changes-pass-parliament-for-more-expensive-degrees/12743916>

These prices vary based on university and particular subject but the point stands that the difference between the price of the subjects in the first band compared to the second band is large and unacceptable.

Why should there be this financial division between university courses? I believe that we should put value on both of these subjects and not force kids into pathways they do not enjoy because of financial situations because parliament decided they value particular subjects over others, shaping thousands of kids lives for the foreseeable future.





THE RISE AND POWER OF FEMINISTS



By Grace Myles

In 2006, Australia was ranked 15th in the world for gender equality; however, we've shamefully slipped down to number 44 in 2019. Australia isn't even in the top 10 for the Asian Pacific region.

'But how?' is the question you are probably asking yourself. Although we are a modernised country (we were the first in the world to give women the right to vote in 1902 and to allow them to stand for parliament) we currently rank 44th. How can we explain this?

Here's a quick history of gender equality issues that Australian feminists have tried to address:

- *Suffrage*: after a couple decades of protests and petitions, women finally

gained the right to vote and stand for parliament, 1902.

- *Women's rights (1960s and 1970s)*: Women protested around issues surrounding access to the pill, legalising abortion, objectification of woman, sexual assault and violence against women.
- *Systemic injustice*: In 2021, women are fighting to end systemic injustice. Women are paid 17.5% less than men for doing the same work. Women are also fighting to end sexual assault and to have more education about consent in school.

It may seem that the fight for change is never ending and when one issue is resolved, another one comes to the surface, but change for a better future for women is on the hori-

zon. Inspiring Australian women such as Brittany Higgins, Grace Tame and Tanya Hosch have been creating change through working towards changing sexist policies, speaking up and creating a voice for sexual assault victims, and leading a movement for change for the benefit of all women.

However, we can't rely on only a few women to create change — we need everyone to be involved.

Here's what **you** can do to fight for gender equality:

- Support one another: never judge anyone for going against gender norms and expressing their true identity
- Raise your voice: don't sit silent in conversation, especially if they are belittling women, people of colour, or LGBTQ+ people.
- Educate yourself: make sure to share your wisdom with those around you whether that's older or younger family members, or even friends.
- Join the online conversation: post about it on social media and share posts.
- Listen to victims: make sure to listen, support and never blame a victim.

The media may portray feminists as 'crazy radicals' who want women to be above men. This is not true. Feminists are fighting to be EQUAL with men by standing up with every girl to fight for a better future for all.



MEAN GIRL IN MY HEAD

By Charlotte Maclean

Logical thinker but my thoughts are illogical; the mean girl claws at my mind.

83%? Not good enough, be better. You're dumb, so stupid. Work harder. Why not 100%? Brainless fool, no future. Do better. Where's the A+? Simple-minded, unintelligent.

So much stomach, eww fat rolls. Why aren't you thin? Not pretty. So ugly. Don't wear a bikini, gross. You eat too much, record those calories. Fat, overweight, chubby. Hide your stomach.

Double chin, turkey neck. Stand straighter, gross jawline, no neck. Puppy fat, flabby skin. Big cheeks, round face. So ugly. They'll hate you

You talk too much. Too chatty. They won't like you, you scared them off. What will they think? Weirdo, freak. Everyone will hate you. They'll whisper about you, they already hate you.

Gross pimples, bad skin. Eww. Ugly, bumpy face. Too many freckles, why so many pimples? Go away. Disgusting. They don't want you in the photo.

Long nose, droopy. Squidward. Bad side profile. Ugly. Bent nose. Talk front on. Bumpy. Sit in the back. Stay in the dark. Big nose. Hide your face.

The mean girl in my head, forever breaking me down. Insecurities and anxieties scratch at my brain; whispering in my ear, "Not good enough, not worthy." The struggle I face daily, a constant reminder of my never ending list of flaws.

But the mean girl lies and I cannot let her win.



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THE NOTEBOOK: A REVIEW

If you enjoy classic love stories, then 'The Notebook' is for you.

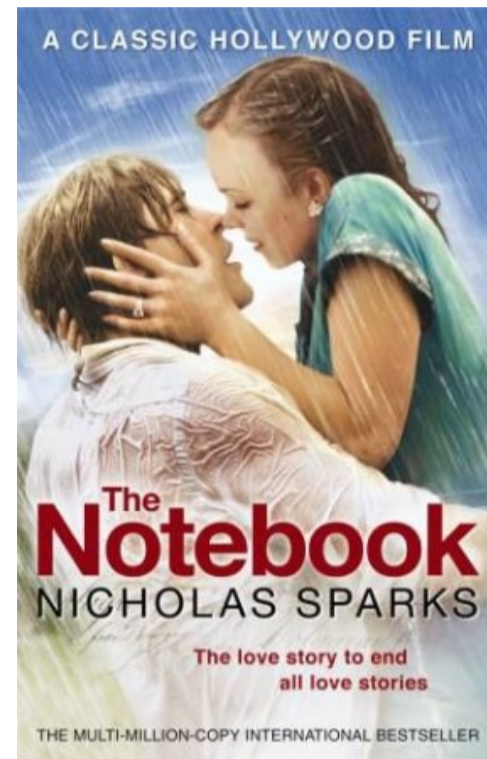
'The Notebook' was written by Nicholas Sparks and published in 1996. It is set in the 1940's and it is about the story of two former lovers, Noah Calhoun and Allie Hamilton, and their journey and relationship. Noah never forgot his summer with Allie, and when she shows up on his doorstep, he knows he has to win her back. There is only one problem... she is engaged. You may have watched the 2004 movie of the book starring Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams, but the actual novel, for me, was even better. It even has a bit of an unexpected ending that is different to the movie.

'The Notebook' is one of the most beautifully written books that I have ever read. Nicholas Sparks crams so much detail into every single space- you can visualise what is happening. It

has quickly become one of my favourite books. Before I read 'The Notebook', I had never really been interested in anything romantic, but this novel opened my eyes to a whole new side of reading. After reading 'The Notebook' I went on to read another Nicholas Sparks book, 'Dear John', which was also great. However, it couldn't top the wonderful story that is 'The Notebook'. I couldn't find many faults in this book. It isn't a long story- almost 200 pages. I would say it is suitable for 13 and up because of a couple of scenes included in the novel.

Overall, I definitely recommend this book. It's a quick read, it's very detailed and it is a feel good book. Even if you have never read a romance, or aren't really interested, I encourage you to give 'The Notebook' a shot anyway because it is definitely worth it.

By Gabrielle Smyth



The Creative Corner



Train stations

By Lucinda McLachlan

Acrylic paint, 60cm x 75cm canvas.

This painting's name comes from the setting of the piece, a station, one of which most high-school children take to and from school.

This is a representation of all the different people you can see on the train.

The man in the painting was someone I had seen at a train station; he was wearing dark clothes and a black hat. He appeared mysterious, which made him a great character for an art piece.

The scene takes place around afternoon to late evening, at dusk.



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THE CREATIVE CORNER

A Thousand Times

I've been told a thousand times that life is short, but I've always begged to differ. Life itself isn't short, but our youth is. The carefree days of playful fun and freedom are decaying and we are forever a blink away from adulthood. With a new generation plagued by technology, the already tragically short days are decaying. Days that were previously filled with adventure and sunshine are now spent in solitude, with only the artificial glow of technology as company. The pure essence of childhood is fading over every year. I will yearn for the dream of childhood for the rest of my existence, perhaps I may never be as truly happy as the days of youth, but I can only hope that I will find a fraction of that joy in the remaining years of my life.

I've been told a thousand times that my teenage years are the best years of my existence. That my teenage years are to triumph over all others and are the highlight of my life. Yet as I grow into them and wait for the joy of these highly expected years, I feel only stress and anxiety; pressure from school, family and the unrealistic expectations of an overthinking mind. Sadness has become an ever present burden and the feeling of loneliness consumes all else. Homework adds up and late night studies are never a surprise. Social media is everywhere, an endless dark hole of self hate. Now if these are the best years of my life, then I fear for what is to come.

I've been told a thousand times that life is unpredictable but is it really? In this incredibly large and wide world, our lives are but a whisper of atoms. Our small mortal lives pale in comparison to the universe; and when I look upon my life and my future I can already see its failure and typicalness. Our life as humans are so utterly ordinary, our lives don't last long enough for us to make a real difference, so life after life, day after day, generation after generation; our earth and planet decays because one person doesn't have enough time to accomplish anything? Or is it that one person doesn't believe they can change anything? Human lives may be doomed for eternity and our species may go extinct by the destruction of our planet but at least for now our lives are predictable, and for now I'm glad.

I've been told a thousand things by a thousand people with a thousand different opinions, and through it all I've discovered that in this wondrous, gigantic and dreadful world, every single thing matters. I may be naive but I truly believe that every person, animal and faith matters, because somehow it came to exist in this crazy world. In this society where destruction and hate overrules the joy, anything and everything that manages to survive is worthy of respect.

By Charlotte Maclean

Desperation

He landed swiftly on his two feet. Around him were tall stone pillars, half of them crumbling with age. The moon, a bright white orb, shone down on him, casting a weak shadow onto the smooth ground.

Ahead of him, the stone pillars folded into a long, dark tunnel. He squinted, and he could see her. The flash of her white-blonde hair in the dull moonlight reflected who she was.

He started to move toward her, running almost. Her head whipped around, and she saw him. Probably heard his hurrying footsteps. She giggled daintily and start moving away from him, deeper into the tunnel.

His breath quickened, became shallower, as his desperation to reach her became greater. The tunnel seemed to stretch on forever, but he did not care, didn't even notice the suffocating darkness. All he cared about was her, the wave of her tresses shining unusually brighter. This shine became the new sun, this new, literal, light in the darkness.

She stopped in her tracks suddenly, and he walked up to her, completely out of breath. Her hand covered her mouth, but couldn't contain another giggle escaping from her rosy lips.

He looked into her deep, aquamarine irises, eyes that could trap you inside them. "How do I find you?"

Her smile turned nasty, yet it didn't quite reach her eyes.



"You may never, but you can certainly try."

A wave of darkness swept over her, and just like that, she was gone.

Vanished.

Taking his final ounce of hope with her.

By Annabelle Chapman