



**Step-Up to VCE
Year 12, 2020
Parent Information Night**



Year 12 starts today

- Start strong
- Coursework has started today.
- Three terms of course work next year.

Key dates:

General Achievement Test (GAT)

Wednesday 10 June 2020, 10.00am – 1.15pm

Written examinations

Wednesday 28 October 2020 – Wednesday 18 November 2020



How to successfully complete VCE?



Satisfactory completion of VCE

To be awarded the VCE Certificate students must **satisfactorily complete:**

- at least 16 Semester units
- this must include **3 units from the English group.**
- **three pairs of units at the 3/4 level** other than English.
- So a minimum of **4 Year 12 subjects must be passed.**



Satisfactory completion of Units

- **Must** demonstrate achievement of **each** of the outcomes for a Unit in the study design.
- Decision is based on **teacher's professional judgment** of the student's performance over the unit.
- If all Outcomes are achieved the **Unit result is S**



Not Satisfactory completion of Units

- The work is not of the required standard.
- The student has not met the school deadline for the assessed task
- The work cannot be authenticated.
- There has been a breach of rules, including attendance.
- Insufficient coursework completed leading into assessment tasks.
- If any of the Outcomes are not achieved the **Unit result is N**



School Assessed Coursework (SACs) & School Assessed Tasks (SATs)

- Assess student's overall level of achievement on the assessment tasks designated in each study.
- SATs are extended tasks or projects developed over a longer period of time.
 - Eg. Development of a folio in Studio Art
- SACs are set by the teacher and based on assessment advice provided by VCAA.
- Marks allocated to each task are reported to VCAA.
- These marks undergo significant moderation against the GAT and the external exam.

Graded assessment for SAC's & SAT's

Grades	A+ represents the highest standard E represents the lowest standard.
NY (Ungraded)	The score was too low to assign a grade. Students will be given the opportunity to redeem this. If a satisfactory result is achieved the initial assessment of NY cannot be altered
NA (Not assessed)	The assessment task was not undertaken or submitted. OR The task was submitted late without legitimate excuse. The teacher will only judge if the work is satisfactory or not. This means a zero is awarded.

Rescheduling or seeking extension

***Upholding validity and ensuring tasks are equitable -
Answerable to VCAA***

- Students are able to seek rescheduling or extra time in circumstances where they have legitimate grounds through illness or special circumstances.
- Acceptable grounds such as illness require medical certificate or statutory declaration.
- Family holidays or events such as music concerts are not acceptable grounds for seeking an extension.


Application for rescheduling or seeking extension

Students must complete the form *Application for Rescheduling a VCE Assessment Task* prior to the original date or within 3 days of returning to school.

Student will receive an email from Senior School leader to inform whether reschedule/extension has been approved.


SAC catch up sessions are run three times a fortnight .

Appendix 1 (Blue form)



ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE
A KILDARE EDUCATION MINISTRIES CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL
 IN THE BRIGIDINE TRADITION

21 Dickson Street, Eochuca 2054 Phone: (02) 5482 2577 Web: www.sjc.vic.edu.au



Application for Rescheduling a VCE Assessment Task

This application must be approved BEFORE the task can be completed at the proposed new time.
 An email will be sent to the student, class teacher and House Leader to advise the outcome of this application.

Student's name:	Year Level:	House Leader:
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Details of the task/s:

Class Code i.e. EN0132	Teacher	Title of Assessment Task (e.g. Unit 1 Mod1 SAC 1: Test)	Original Date for completion	To be discussed with your teacher			Teacher's signature to acknowledge change
				New Date	Next Wed 3.30pm Library Or: Friday Wk. 2, P3	Or Alternative catch up location & time (provide details)	

Reason for reschedule application: (please tick one)

<input type="checkbox"/> Unwell at time of task. Attach the Medical Certificate or Statutory Declaration	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: Personal/Family issue (provide official documentation or supporting evidence i.e. a signed letter from your House Leader explaining the absence)	<input type="checkbox"/> Assessment task was not completed to a satisfactory standard. This is my second attempt at the assessment task.
<input type="checkbox"/> Attending a school based activity. i.e. school excursion, sporting event, extra-curricular act. (provide details below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Applying for special provision: 4 or more SACs in a week (negotiable)	<input type="checkbox"/> Assessment task was not completed to a satisfactory standard. This is my third and final attempt at the assessment task

Link to Statutory Declaration:
<http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/home/justice+system/legal+assistance/statutory+declarations/index.html>

Explanation as to why rescheduling is being applied for:

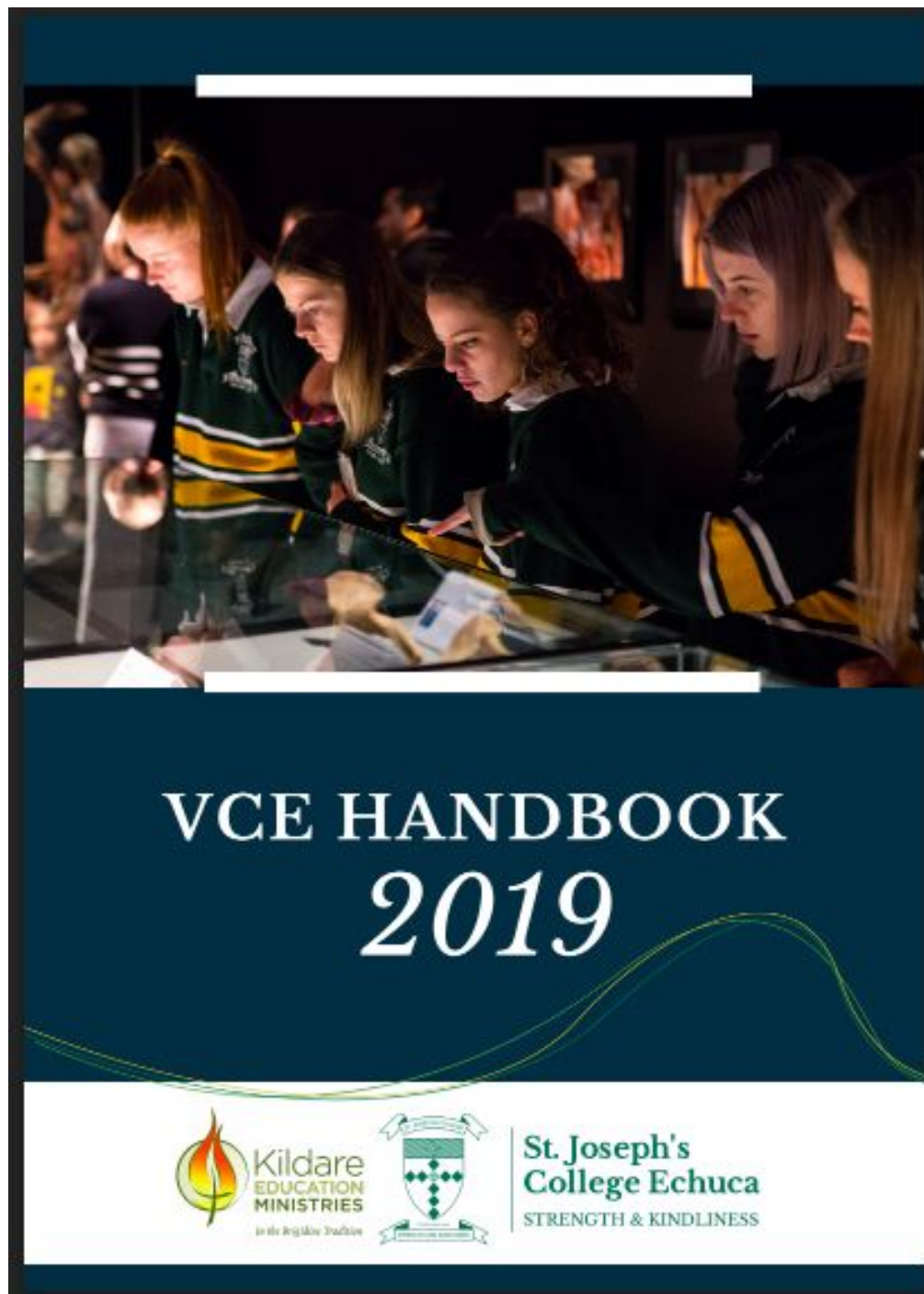
Student signature: _____ Date of application: _____

Submit the COMPLETED form and supporting evidence (if required) to Senior School Coordinator for approval.
 Do not undertake the task until you receive an email stating that this application has been approved.

Senior School Office Use only			
Approved by Senior School Leader: _____	Date: ____/____/20__		
Email sent to: Student _____ Class Teacher _____ House Leader _____	Date SAC reschedule: ____/____/20__		

VCE Handbook

- Is available on SIMON and PAM
- Will be updated for 2020.
- Invaluable resource and reference.

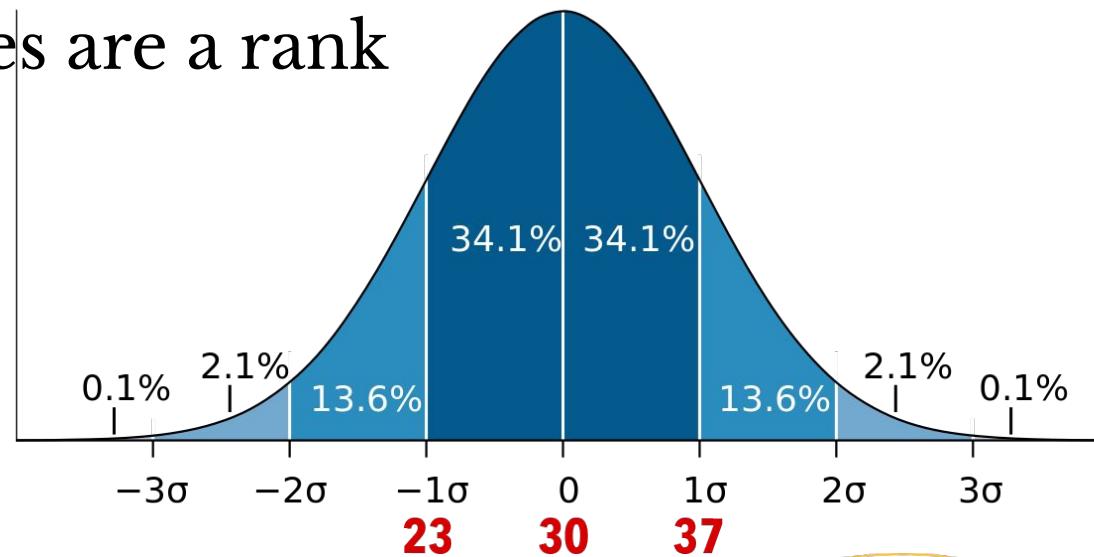


Understanding Study Scores

Rhys Leslie

What are study scores?

- SACs + exam score = subject score
- Subject scores are places on bell curve.
- Percentile determines study score
- Study scores are a rank



Study Score	20+	25+	30+	35+	40+	45+
Students	93%	78%	53%	26%	9%	2%

What is the ATAR and how is it calculated?

English
Top 3 subjects
10% subject 5
10% subject 6

+

Aggregate

Subject	Scaled Score	Aggregate	Used As
ENGLISH	28	28.00	Top 4
H&HD	49	49.00	Top 4
Biology	46	46.00	Top 4
Spesh Maths	42	42.00	Top 4
PE	33	3.30	10% Increment
Studio Art	30	3.00	10% Increment
Chemistry	25	-	N/A
	Total	171.30	

ATAR Calc - popular subjects

ESTIMATE YOUR VCE ATAR

Your Subjects

Extension study increment (?)

0

English

Score: 30

Further Mathematics

Score: 30

Psychology

Score: 30

Legal Studies

Score: 30

Revolutions

Score: 30

Health and Human Development

Score: 30

Add a subject - Start typing here!

Your results for 2018

f share

share

Estimated ATAR: 63.40

Subject	Desc.	Raw	Scaled
English	English req.	30	28
Revolutions	Primary 4	30	29
Psychology	Primary 4	30	28
Legal Studies	Primary 4	30	28
Further Mathematics	10% inc.	30	27
Health and Human Development	10% inc.	30	26

Report any bugs to calc@atarnotes.com

ATAR Calc - scaled subjects

ESTIMATE YOUR VCE ATAR

Your Subjects

Extension study increment (?)

0

English

Score: 30

Mathematical Methods

Score: 30

Chemistry

Score: 30

Physics

Score: 30

Biology

Score: 30

Health and Human Development

Score: 30

Add a subject - Start typing here!

Your results for 2018

share

share

Estimated ATAR: 76.00

Subject	Desc.	Raw	Scaled
English	English req.	30	28
Mathematical Methods	Primary 4	30	35
Chemistry	Primary 4	30	34
Physics	Primary 4	30	32
Biology	10% inc.	30	30
Health and Human Development	10% inc.	30	26

ATAR Calc - popular subjects

Your Subjects

Extension study increment (?)

0

English

Score: 35

Further Mathematics

Score: 35

Psychology

Score: 35

Legal Studies

Score: 35

Revolutions

Score: 35

Health and Human Development

Score: 35

Add a subject - Start typing here!

Your results for 2018

share

share

Estimated ATAR: 80.55

Subject	Desc.	Raw	Scaled
English	English req.	35	33
Revolutions	Primary 4	35	35
Legal Studies	Primary 4	35	34
Psychology	Primary 4	35	33
Further Mathematics	10% inc.	35	32
Health and Human Development	10% inc.	35	31

Report any bugs to calc@atarnotes.com

ATAR Calc - scaled subjects

Your Subjects

Extension study increment (?)

English Score:

Mathematical Methods Score:

Chemistry Score:

Physics Score:

Biology Score:

Health and Human Development Score:

Your results for

[f share](#) [share](#)

Estimated ATAR: **89.10**

Subject	Desc.	Raw	Scaled
English	English req.	35	33
Mathematical Methods	Primary 4	35	40
Chemistry	Primary 4	35	39
Physics	Primary 4	35	38
Biology	10% inc.	35	36
Health and Human Development	10% inc.	35	31

Setting an ATAR Goal

ATAR Goal setting template

To be returned to the VCE coordinators

Name: _____

University Course	
Minimum ATAR required	
Prerequisites	
My ATAR Goal	

Goals:


Use <https://vce.atarcalc.com/> to have a play with study scores and then set a goal

Subject	RAW study score goal	Teachers Signature

Work Habits I need to improve (tick)

<input type="checkbox"/> Asking questions in class	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly exam questions
<input type="checkbox"/> Completing set homework on time	<input type="checkbox"/> No social media (and music) when studying
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-reading	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare earlier for SACs
<input type="checkbox"/> Making my own notes after class	<input type="checkbox"/> Compare notes to textbook
<input type="checkbox"/> Seeking extra feedback	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete practice SACs/Exams

Student Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____

A photograph of two young women standing on a hillside, seen from behind, with their arms raised in celebration. They are silhouetted against a bright, golden sunset over a cityscape. The woman on the left has a long braid and is wearing a striped shirt and jeans. The woman on the right has long hair and is wearing a light blue button-down shirt and dark pants. The overall mood is one of joy and achievement.

How to be a successful VCE student: Advice & Strategies

1. Be organised:

Add key dates to diary to keep you on track



2. Healthy student = Healthy Grades

Stay active, eat well and catch those zzzs.



3. Plan for life after school

Speak to your careers advisor – there are loads of options out there



4. Don't leave things until the last minute!
Do some prep. During the summer holidays
get familiar with every subject.



5. Follow your passion, not the points.
Students reach their full potential by doing well at something they love.



6. Have a Plan B and Plan C

There is more than one pathway to their ultimate career.



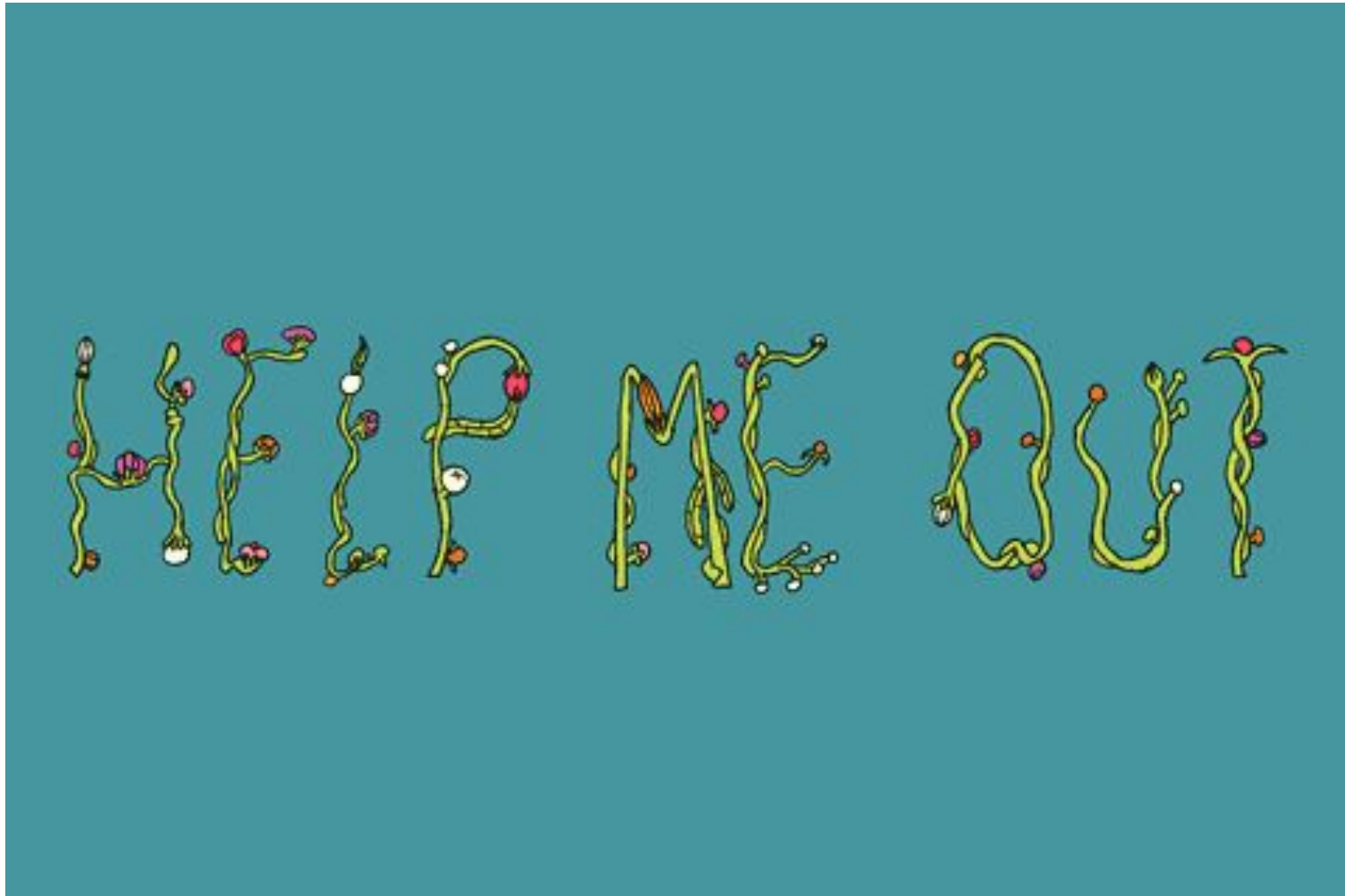
7. A great way to learn is to teach

Create a school study group.



8. You are not alone

Ask for help. Teachers, senior school leaders, house leaders & wellbeing staff are here for you.



9. Have an outlet

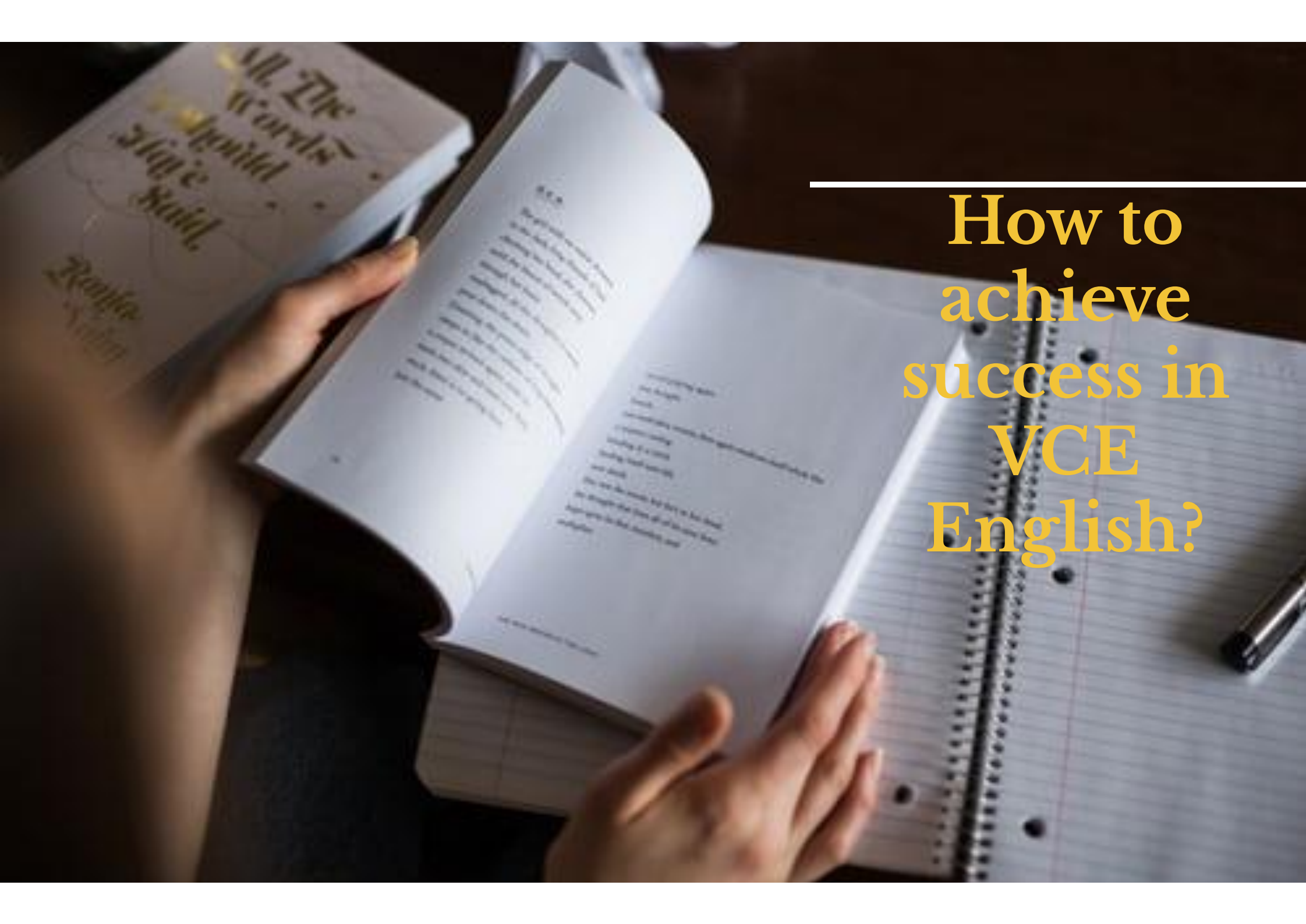
Play sport, music etc. Year 12 is important but so is balance



10. Speak to others who have completed VCE
Former students are a great resource for study tips and advice.



Reflections of a Maggie. 2018 Year 12 Student

A top-down view of a person's hands reading an open book. The book is held open, showing text on both pages. To the right, a spiral-bound notebook with lined pages and a pen lies on a dark surface. The text 'How to achieve success in VCE English?' is overlaid in yellow on the right side of the image.

How to achieve success in VCE English?

Year 12 Course Structure

- Unit 3- Reading and Creating- Creative writing SAC (“Like a House on Fire”)
- Unit 3 - Reading and Creating- Text Analysis Essay (“Much Ado About Nothing”)
- Unit 3- Analysing Argument SAC
- Unit 4- Persuasive Language- Oral Presentation SAC
- Unit 4- Comparing Texts- Comparative Essay SAC (“The Crucible” and “The Dressmaker”)

Summer Holiday Homework

- Read **all** texts **actively**

What does active reading involve?

- It is the kind of reading that enables you to remember what you have read.
- It takes place in relatively short, focused blocks of time(20-30 minutes)- all distractions are removed for that period of time and focus is given to the text
- It concludes with some form of writing- summaries in dot point form, highlighting, other forms of commentary
- Notes made with a view to remembering the text in 4 weeks & ultimately 8 months later

Summer Holiday Homework

- Audiobooks can be helpful, but are best used in combination with the written text, and with active reading strategies- you still need to create written notes if you use audiobooks
- Likewise with film versions of the texts: in the first place, you need to know the text well enough to tell whether the film is faithful to the text. Secondly, you still need to produce your own notes.
- During their first reading of the text, a student needs to focus their note taking on plot and character. Other elements of the text will be covered in class.

Summer Holiday Homework- Part 2

- Prepare for the creative writing SAC, based on “Like a House on Fire”
- Students will be given instructions by their Step-Up VCE teacher about how best to prepare for the SAC, using creative writing exercises and techniques. Students should be ready with written work for feedback and discussion at the start of term 1.

Study Strategies and Techniques

- English is not like other subjects where you learn material and then repeat it in a SAC or an exam. While you do need knowledge of the texts, and ideas of your own, you need to practise the technique of writing essays in the specific style required by the SAC or the exam.
- The most powerful way to improve English grades is through writing practise.
- There are students in the state who write a practise essay each week of the year; this has been the approach of students who have achieved study scores of 49 and 50.
- Even if you don't have time to do this, writing paragraphs on a regular basis is enormously helpful.

Study Strategies and Techniques

- Each unit will begin with a look at the syllabus requirements, outcomes and marking criteria for the SAC and, where relevant, exam
- Students should, at the earliest opportunity, get hold of the marking criteria for the SAC and the exam.
- They should use the criteria to look critically at their practise writing, assessing where they are meeting or not yet meeting the requirements.
- A powerful technique for improvement is to work with another student, writing practise paragraphs and essays, swapping and assessing the other student's work. In this way students gain a familiarity with how their work will be marked and develop the capacity to write to the criteria.

Study Strategies and Techniques

- Further ideas for study strategies are given on the handout

Goal Setting

- Another powerful tool for success is setting study score goals as early as possible.
- In expressing goals in terms of study score consider the following:
 - a) English is the only subject that is guaranteed to be part of your ATAR score.
 - b) Some university courses stipulated required scores in English for admission
 - c) A goal should stretch a student, but also be realistic. Use average grades from previous years to shape thinking. In many cases, an increase of a letter grade or a half from year 11 grades is demanding but realistic.
- Students will be engaged in goal setting conversations with their English teachers. These goals will be discussed throughout the year.

Goal Setting

- Once a goal has been set, students need to identify how they will reach the goal
- This will involve reflection on their current abilities in English, and the areas in which they need to improve. Read back over feedback received in year 11, identify areas for improvement.
- Develop a study timetable and a strategy for overcoming these weaker areas.
- Use the handout (VCE Study Score) as a guide to how much time per week is estimated to be needed for particular study scores.
- Discuss with your teacher- they are here to help.

What do we offer?

- Year 12 teachers maintain a high level of availability. Students can access them in class, at recess, lunch, after school and at weekends. Year 12 teachers give of their time and make their students a priority.
- We will be offering two after school sessions per week in 2020. Typically these are run on a drop-in basis; teachers will make themselves available in a specific location and students can come along for one-on-one assistance with English.

A note on Tutors

- Some students find it helpful to have a tutor. There are sometimes genuine benefits to working with a tutor one-on-one on a regular basis
- However, this can present a psychological problem. Some students with tutors “disengage” from class in the belief that they will be able to cover the material with their tutor. This does not work. Tutors support the work in class, they cannot replace the work in class.
- Students who do not use tutors for any reason should not feel that they are missing out- especially given the after school English help St Joseph’s College offers.

Looking forward to 2020

- A cooperative relationship between student- teacher- family can be enormously helpful in English VCE. I will be encouraging teachers to get in touch with parents early on in term 1. I encourage you to reach out to your year 12 English teacher or to me as Learning Leader for Senior English at any time. No question is too trivial and no problem is too insignificant.
- Please collect a handout and try to find time to sit down with your student. The handout includes the Timeline for 2020 English, the VCE guide to study scores and study strategies, and a goal setting proforma which can help shape your discussion with your student.

Any Questions?

Thank
you!