### IMPORTANT DATES TERMS 1 & 2 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>12th – 14th May</td>
<td>Year 7 &amp; 9 Naplan Testing</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th May</td>
<td>Staff development [1.40pm dismissal]</td>
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<td>20th May</td>
<td>Immunization year 7 girls</td>
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<td>21st May</td>
<td>Science Competition</td>
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<td>27th May</td>
<td>Staff development [1.40pm dismissal]</td>
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<td>2nd June</td>
<td>Mid Year Music Concert</td>
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<td>3rd June</td>
<td>Year 9 Party Safe Day</td>
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<td>5th June</td>
<td>Year 11 Exams</td>
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<td>8th June</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday [Student free day]</td>
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<td>9th - 10th June</td>
<td>Year 10-12 Exams</td>
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<td>9th - 12th June</td>
<td>Year 9 C&amp;D City School</td>
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<td>12th June</td>
<td>Report Writing Day [Student free day]</td>
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<td>15th – 19th June</td>
<td>Year 9-12 Music Tour</td>
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<td>15th – 19th June</td>
<td>Year 10 Work Experience</td>
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<td>15th – 19th June</td>
<td>Year 9 A&amp;B City School</td>
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<td>25th June</td>
<td>Year 11/12 Report night</td>
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<td>26th June</td>
<td>Last day of term [1.09 dismissal] Reports Distributed</td>
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### REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES:

Please notify the relevant coordinator as soon as possible if your child is absent:

- **Year 12**: Christine Farmakis 9458 6141
- **Year 11**: Mary Anagnostopoulos 9458 6138
- **Year 10**: Caroline McLachlan 9458 6167
- **Year 9**: Lyndal Roper 9458 6113
- **Year 8**: Anne Herschell [8A,B,C] 9458 6150
  Georgia Stavrakis [8D,E,F] 9458 6133
- **Year 7**: Grant Wason 9458 6168

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The Gorge Walk was, for many year 7 students, one of the highlights of the year 7 camp at Lake Dewar. [See p.4]

### PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

**IMPROVING LITERACY AT THORNBURY HIGH**

The school’s current strategic plan highlights literacy as the number one priority for the next three years, with a target of 75% of students at or above expected levels.

At Thornbury High the teaching of literacy is seen as everyone’s responsibility and therefore it needs to be tackled in a range of ways. The school has identified the following key strategies:

- The use of John Munro’s high reliability literacy teaching approaches in all subject areas (with the assistance of our literacy coach)
- The introduction of an intervention program targeting students at year 7 who are well below expected literacy levels
- The employment of a teacher to work in classrooms with our Koorie students
- A review of the teaching of English/Humanities from year 7-12

THS News April 30th 2009
• Special arrangement of classes at years 7 & 8 (most mainstream classes have 20 or less students)
• Extension of the ESL program to years 7&8
• Stronger literacy links with our feeder Primary Schools

There is strong evidence to suggest that schools with a focus on literacy see significant improvements in student outcomes across all subject areas.

Peter Egeberg

AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION 2009

The Australian Mathematics Competition is an annual event in August. The competition comprises multiple choice questions completed under test conditions. At Thornbury High School approximately 70 students sit the competition each year and all students participating receive a certificate and a detailed analysis of their performance.

Over the last few years we have had students receive Distinction and Credit certificates for their outstanding performance. The date of this year’s competition is Thursday 6th August and students wishing to participate should see their Mathematics teacher. The cost for the competition is $4.50 and money should be handed in by Wednesday 6th May.

Ms. Lee Mathematics Department

MUSIC NEWS

On behalf of the Thornbury High School music department I would like to welcome to the school Sam Dunscombe who will be replacing Jane as Clarinet Teacher for 2nd term. I would also like to wish Jane a relaxed well-deserved break.

THE YEAR 7 BAND has had two rehearsals and is sounding wonderful already! Thank you to the dedicated members who brave the cold mornings every Wednesday at 8:15am. Rehearsals are compulsory. If you can’t make a rehearsal please ring the music office phone [9458 6128] and leave a message.

VIOLIN AND PIANO LESSONS
I have organised a piano and violin teacher to come into the school one day per week but I am still waiting on a few more students before the teacher can start. Come see me if you are interested. Lessons are very reasonably priced at $25 per 30 minute lesson.

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS
The second installment of our lunchtime concert series will be happening again very soon. Keep your eye on the bulletin for more information.

VOCAL ENSEMBLE
There will be a meeting next week to see how many students are interested in starting a choir / vocal ensemble. Check the bulletin for details.

MUSIC PARENTS MEETING
The second music parents meeting will be held Tuesday 5th May at 7pm in the music room. All parents, guardians, grandparents, uncles, aunts or long-lost relatives of music students are encouraged to attend. The music department would not be able to run anywhere near as well without the help of this group. It’s also a great opportunity to meet and socialise with other parents of music students. Meetings last for approximately one hour and there will be tea and coffee.

Kyle Schutz Director of Performing Arts

YEAR 12 INSTRUMENTAL CHEMISTRY EXCURSION

On Monday, the 23rd of March, the Year 12 Chemistry class attended Latrobe University to complete the Instrumental Chemistry Program. We observed four methods of instrumental analysis which scientists use to ensure that raw materials and ingredients in products comply with industry standards and health regulations.

The four analyses involved:

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<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Analysis</th>
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<tr>
<td>Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy (AAS)</td>
<td>To measure the amount of Zinc (Zn) in sunscreen.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ultra –Violet Visible Spectroscopy</td>
<td>To determine the amount of caffeine in a common analgesic tablet and soft drinks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)</td>
<td>Estimation of caffeine in an analgesic tablet (Excedrin)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gas/Gas Liquid Chromatography (GC/GLC)</td>
<td>Separation of a hydrocarbon mixture by GLC</td>
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The purpose of this workshop was to teach us about these methods in greater detail and give us experience
with these instrumental techniques with real-world examples. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience as we gained more knowledge about these analyses and applied them to substances that we use everyday. I consider it an enlightening excursion, because something as serious as chemistry can be a lot more fun when you’re experimenting with your friends. The instructors were good with us and even gave us a chance to use machines that cost more than some houses! ($300,000 and above)

“The technology and machinery was extraordinary.”
Billy Kyprianou

“It was a fascinating and inspiring experience. I had fun and enjoyed using the machines.”
Phen Pucciarelli

We finished off the day by following a tradition that every Year 12 Chemistry class did. We went to McDonald’s for a bit of relaxation time after a hard day’s work of chemistry. Some of the guys gulped down 4 large meals. Wow! I guess chemistry really works up an appetite in some people. Overall, the day was unforgettable and who knows, some of us might actually end up using those machines on a daily basis to earn a living.

Shazin Shafeer, 12B

**VCAL/SUSTAINABILITY NEWS**

The school has made great progress in sustainability so far this year, with a new student group formed which will meet every Wednesday gold week at lunchtime to discuss issues and decide on how we can best create a sustainable school. They will be electing a president and secretary next time they meet and look at the issue of littering as a priority.

We have the senior VCAL students working on a number of areas around the school. Last Friday, they performed an energy audit of the school to see where we can save money and power in the school, plus they will oversee some of the developments in the school grounds by assisting with the installation of new water tanks to flush the staff toilets, renovate the greenhouse to start propagating Australian native plants and grow fish using an aquaponics system.

The students are very excited to be part of this program which will also see a new BBQ area built outside the VCE centre using a circular design which will feature shade cloth and seating made of recycled plastic.

On May 6th, our senior sustainability case officer, Lorna from CERES, will be coming to the school to talk to the staff about how we can make the school into a five star sustainable school by reducing water, energy and waste generated by our day to day operations. There are only a handful of schools in Australia with this certification which is provided by Sustainability Victoria and will enable us to become a resource smart school that will assist the wider community and ourselves to provide hope for the future.

**Peter Lee and the VCAL Sustainability Team**

**YEAR 7/8 NEWS**

**YEAR 8**

Last week the Year 8 students attended a seminar delivered by Victoria Police. This session helped to inform students of the consequences of dangerous behaviour. Particular focus was placed on internet usage, cyber bullying (eg. myspace and msn) and mobile text messaging. Thank you to the T.H.S Welfare team for organising.

Recently ALL Year 8 teachers met with the Coordinators and Manager to discuss classroom expectations. Students are aware that high expectations have been set for the remainder of this term. Parents are encouraged to check their child's planner for homework and CATs due.

**YEAR 7 CAMP**

At the end of last term, over 100 Year 7 students attended the school camp at Lake Dewar. Here are couple of reflections by students in 7G.

On March 30th (last term) the year 7’s went on camp to Lake Dewar Lodge near Bacchus Marsh. The activities included raft building, canoeing, kayaking, mountain bike riding, survivor challenge, orienteering, archery and a gorge walk. I would say that the kayaking and canoeing and the gorge walk were probably the best activities there.

The cabins fit about five people each and had separate campuses. We didn’t go to bed until about 10:30pm and most of us on the first night were restless, excited and hyper and kept the teachers up almost all night! Breakfast was quick and everybody couldn’t wait to start their activities. We had night activities that included singing in different genres to “Mary had a little lamb" and “Baa Baa Black sheep” and toasting marshmallows on the fire, outside with Mr. Zographos, Ms. Ruhe and Mr. Millar.

THS NEWS  April 30th 2009
The camp came to an end on April 1st and everyone was sad to leave. All in all, the camp was excellent and we can’t wait for the next one!

William Hettrick

When the year sevens went to camp on March 30th, I think the feeling was pretty common: All students were very excited to be leaving school behind for three days of solid FUN! At camp we got to meet lots of year 7’s we hadn’t spoken to before and it was a great opportunity to make new friends.

We did lots of fun activities but my favourite was definitely kayaking. As well as kayaking, at the end of the session we got to go swimming!

As well as being A LOT of fun it was great to spend time with the teachers and not see them as evil dictators!

Natalie Voermans

NEW YEAR 7 FORM TEACHER

Name: Mr. Simon Townley
Form: 7A
Subject: Maths
Previous School: Melbourne Girls College
Country of Birth: England
Passport Status: Dual Nationality
Favourite Sport: Tennis, Soccer
Football Team: Chelsea

Favourite sporting moment: Chelsea defeating Barcelona in 2004!
Hobbies: Creating maths powerpoints and body piercing!
Favourite City to visit: New York
Wants to go to: Antartica

STUDENT WELLBEING REPORT

Welcome back everyone to another exciting term at THS. On Wednesday 27th May 2009 all year sevens will attend an inspirational talk from Lorin Nicholson, a gifted musician who is also vision impaired. Students will be required to pay $2 towards subsidising this presentation. Please ensure your child pays this fee to their form teacher when requested.

Many senior students are beginning to feel the stresses of the VCE years and many issues outside their schooling can impact on their productivity and wellbeing. Parents are encouraged to be mindful about this and to talk to their child often to alleviate this stress and other concerns. Sometimes a professional is required to help with guiding students. Students can access the student services at school but they are also informed that they can access help via their general practitioner. If a student requires a psychologist, your general practitioner can refer your child to one and can receive up to six sessions from this referral (this can be extended) with Medicare covering the costs. If you are concerned do not hesitate to pursue this avenue of help for your child.

All Year 9 students have participated in carousel activities presented by the school nurse Emily Graham where students have been involved in learning about contraception. It has been a very informative program and all students have listened attentively and have asked numerous questions!! Following this, sessions have been given on mental illness. Many students have related to various components of this major concern; from stress to depression. Sam McKenzie from Headspace has been presenting these sessions and once again students have listened attentively. Students were informed about the different signs they can recognize in themselves and their peers regarding mental illness and that there is help and where to get it.

More programs are planned for Year 8’s but I will save this for the next newsletter.

Barbara Carydis  Student Wellbeing Coordinator

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Firstly we’d like to welcome back all Senior School Students. We hope you enjoyed your break, used some of the time to complete homework and took the opportunity to start revision for the upcoming exams.

QUEENSLAND CAMP Year Eleven students no doubt spent the first few days of their holidays recovering from their ten day Queensland Trip. After
a long bus trip north, with too many stops to mention, we arrived on the Gold Coast and quickly hit the Theme Parks. The wet weather did not hinder our fun and we were fortunate enough to have several sunny days. A very big “thank you” to Mr. Hysen, Ms. Gill, and Ms. Anagnostopoulos who volunteered their time and provided students with many memories.

**EXAMS**

Exams will be the focus this term with both the Year 11 and 12s, however we start the term with a visit to La Trobe for the Tertiary Talk on Thursday May 7th. This will provide Year 12 students with the opportunity to meet Tertiary Representatives and ask questions about their chosen career pathways. We depart school at 12.45pm and students will be dismissed from the La Trobe University Union Hall at 2.45pm.

Year 12 students will receive specific exam information shortly; however we encourage all students who have Mid Year exams to visit [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au). The site provides valuable information including past exam papers and strategies on how to respond to the questions.

**FORMAL**

Our annual Thornbury High School Senior Formal will take place on July 24th at Nine Darling Street, South Yarra. The cost of the night is $80.00 and a deposit of $30.00 is due by Friday May 15th for students who wish to attend. Students are reminded that deposits are not refundable.

**UNIFORM**

With the colder weather this term we have noticed that students are arriving to school in jackets that are not part of our uniform. Please remember that the School has an official school jacket and this is the only jacket they should be wearing. School jackets can be purchased from our Uniform Store every Wednesday’s between 1.00 -2.00pm.

**Senior School**

**FREE ‘MASTERING THE EXAMS’ LECTURES FOR UNIT 3 STUDENTS**

Year 12 students are invited to attend unique lectures designed to provide students with the best opportunities to maximize exam scores. Students will be taught how to:

- Structure exam study timetables
- Employ effective learning techniques
- Maximize knowledge retention
- Set out answers to optimise exam scores
- Use exam trends, assessment and marking schemes as well as student responses to past exam questions to your advantage
- Capitalise on consequential marks
- Combat ‘panic attacks’ & ‘mind blanks’

- Best prepare for the ‘open book’ testing style in the mathematics exams.

For more information or to secure your booking call 9663 3311 or you can register online at [www.tsfx.com.au](http://www.tsfx.com.au)

Dates: Sunday 3 May 2009 [10am-1.30pm]
Saturday 9 May 2009 [10am-1.30pm]
Saturday 30 May 2009 [10am-1.30pm]

**REMINDER RE CHEQUES FOR SECONDHAND BOOKS.**

A reminder to parents who have yet not banked cheques received for second hand books to please bank their cheque as soon as possible. Any cheque which is not cashed or is lost will incur a $15 charge to parents.

**PROUD SPONSOR OF YEAR 7 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS [2009]**

**GROCON**

**FUTSAL INDOOR SOCCER - FOR KIDS aged 7-15 (Learn the Brazilian Way)**

Junior development training sessions take place: Mondays/Thursdays at Preston Girls College Stadium, Cnr.Gower & Cooma Street, Preston
Tuesdays/Wednesdays/Saturdays at Princes Hill Sports Stadium, Corner Paterson & Arnold Streets, Carlton North.
Training Times: Weekdays 4:30pm-6:00pm
Weekends 10am-12pm
Vic Force F.C. are preparing boys & girls representative teams for U10's U12's U 14's and U16's to participate in the FFV Melbourne Junior Club Futsal League.
Interested? Check the website out & come down and give it a go! It is a lot fun! It's indoors! It will keep you fit!
Website: [www.vicforce.org.au](http://www.vicforce.org.au), Email: info@vicforce.org.au, Phone: 0406 472 471 or 0433 000 444

**FREE INFORMATION EVENING IN MELBOURNE – 14 May 2009**

- Come and meet our staff
- Hear comprehensive information on all aspects of exchange
- Ask questions
- Listen to questions asked by other students and parents, and
- Meet other students who are considering going on exchange
- Scholarships available!

7.30pm
Thursday, 14 May
Radisson On Flagstaff Gardens
380 William Street
Melbourne CBD
[www.studentexchange.org.au](http://www.studentexchange.org.au)
1300 135 331 (cost of a local call)
### HOMEWORK TIMETABLE FOR YEARS 7-9
#### Semester 1, Term 2, 2009

<table>
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<tr>
<th>YEAR LEVEL</th>
<th>MONDAY GOLD</th>
<th>TUESDAY GOLD</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY GOLD</th>
<th>THURSDAY GOLD</th>
<th>FRIDAY GOLD</th>
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- Teachers are required to set homework on the day the subject appears on the Homework Timetable.
- The subject teacher is to decide when that homework is due.
- Homework for Art, Technology, Music, PE will be set when required.
- Teachers should ensure all students have homework on these nights and that it is written in the planner.
- Teachers should avoid giving homework on other nights unless students are not using their class time effectively or have a test or assignment due.
- Teachers need to decide on a consequence if homework is not done (eg. A note in planner and a teacher detention for a repeat offence).