

TERM 2 NEWSLETTER

**Made for the Community,
By the Students**

POSSCO

**3RD Edition
18th May 2020**

Principal's Report

Respect Effort Responsibility

School Vision: Every student will be supported through high quality teaching and learning practices in achieving successful outcomes and a pathway of their choice.

Strive for Success – Attend Today Achieve Tomorrow

Thank you for all your support during these past few weeks of remote and flexible learning.

Following advice from the Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government has advised that schools can begin a phased return to on-site schooling.

In the first stage, students in senior secondary (Year 11 and 12 VCAL and VCE) will return to school from Tuesday 26 May.

Year 10 students undertaking VCE studies, including VCE VET studies, should also attend school for those classes where practicable. If this is not possible for your child/children, our teachers will make sure the work provided to students attending at school is also provided to your child/children.

To support all school staff to prepare for this transition, Monday 25 May will be a pupil-free day.

In the second stage of our return to on-site schooling, all other year levels will return to school from Tuesday 9 June.

For those students who cannot be supervised at home and vulnerable children, the existing model of on-site schooling will remain in place during the two-week period from Tuesday 26 May to Tuesday 9 June.

The current process that we are using to enable parents and carers to indicate the days or part-days for which on-site schooling is required will continue for this two-week period.

Once a year level has returned, all students will be expected to attend school as normal. This means if you choose to keep your child/children home after their year level has returned to on-site schooling, we can no longer support their learning from home.

This does not apply to children who need to be absent for health or medical reasons. For those families, please contact us so we can make an appropriate plan.

This same approach is being taken by all government schools in Victoria.

To support the health and wellbeing of all our students and staff, our school will continue an enhanced cleaning routine and will encourage frequent hand washing.

Principal's Report (cont.)

If your child is ill or is feeling unwell, they must not attend school. They must remain home and seek medical advice.

While the Chief Health Officer has advised that students will not be required to maintain physical distancing at school, there will be a number of important changes to our school operations, consistent with health advice to all schools such as hand hygiene, using sanitiser and cough and sneezing etiquette (find link [here](#)).

These will apply until further notice; any updates will be published on Compass. I will provide more detail about our local school context as soon as possible, but it is important to note that changes will include:

- adjusted arrangements for drop off and pick up, including staggered school start and finish times will **not** be implemented at PCSSC; parents should not congregate at the school gate or accompany their child onto school premises.
- restrictions on access to the school site for anyone other than immediate school staff and students will apply;
- parent meetings will only be held in exceptional circumstances and social distancing measures will be implemented;
- students will not be permitted inside buildings before school, after school, at recess and lunchtime due to cleaning and hygiene requirements;
- students must bring their ICT device to every class;
- government COVID-19 guidelines apply in all public spaces including bus stops.

We understand that some families may feel anxious about this move back to classroom teaching and learning. I can assure you that this decision has been taken on the basis of the best health advice available to our state.

More information about the return to school and coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found on the Department's website, which will continue to be updated:

www.education.vic.gov.au/about/departments/Pages/coronavirus.aspx

Thank you for your continued support and patience during this time. We look forward to welcoming our students back to the classroom.

**Yours sincerely,
Christopher Mooney**

*together we are creating a
healthy school*

achievement
program



Alumni Program

A BIG WINNER DURING RESTRICTIONS

Since mid-February, Point Cook Senior has been building its alumni community with the help of [Ourschool](#), a not-for-profit service that helps public high schools build a thriving alumni network to benefit students.



The alumni program benefits our PCSSC students by:

- **Inviting alumni back to school to inspire students about study and career pathways**
- **Creating work experience opportunities**
- **Inviting alumni to provide philanthropic, fundraising or scholarship support.**

While the COVID-19 restrictions have been challenging for PCSSC, the alumni program is proving to be a winner!

This is because alumni, usually confined to their homes, are able to link in at any time to a class (with notice), which was the case last Thursday (April 30).

Three alumni (clockwise from top left), Ada Cardona, Adam Coustley,

alumni coordinator Maria Whitmore and Aericka Bou linked in to the Year 12 Media class, hosted by Media teacher Jermaine Doh.



Our alumni answered questions and talked frankly about coping with Year 12, in particular Yr 12 Media, university life, and optimising their career options.

While all three had quite different journeys and aspirations, they were all united on these three key messages:

1. Take care of your mental health; don't burn out, take breaks regularly and speak to your teachers/peers/trusted adult if you are struggling.
2. Make use of teachers; they are your MOST VALUABLE resource, and really do want you to do well.
3. Just do something – anything. The best remedy for anxiety is to just do something RIGHT NOW – particularly as now is the time to get the all important foundational work done, from which you can build.

Check out the feedback from Jermaine, our alumni and a student on our [Facebook page](#).

To date, 66 alumni are registered on our database, all of them excited about the program. We have 197 PCSSC Alumni Facebook followers, and 47 LinkedIn.

If you are an alum of the school, or have children who are, get in touch with Maria Whitmore at mwhitmore@ourschool.net.au and like our Facebook page.

*Read what a student had to say
on the next page*

Year 12 Media

On April the 30th, Ms Doh organised for former Year 12's from Point Cook Senior Secondary College to make a return through the Alumni Program hosted by Maria Whitmore.

Since we are all in quarantine, we hosted a Google Meet online with our fellow former Year 12's Ada Cardona, Aericka Bou and Adam Coustley, who shared their Year 12 experience, speaking about their challenges, approach and management of their own individual learning. Over the course of an hour, we learnt the do's and don'ts of learning which was very beneficial as we had insight into the future hardships of Year 12 and studying. Overall, the session was really engaging since we had people around our age, walked our paths and spoke the language as graduated senior students. Despite quarantine, we've received rather good knowledge and skills on tackling our own career head on, one 5 weekly at a time. We are super grateful to have had this opportunity, as it's opened our eyes towards a better 2020. Big thank you to Ms Doh and Maria for making this event happen!

- **James Harraden, 12[]**

VCAL WRS Home Renovations

Over the past 2 weeks, the Year 12 Senior WRS students have been learning about Occupational Health & Safety and Personal Protective Equipment after watching and analysing the ABC telemovie *Devil's Dust*.

For this assessment students had an allocated budget and were required to source items from a variety of stores and renovate an area in their home and upcycle one item and present a Power Point about their acquired skills and the use of safety equipment.

"The area I renovated was my backyard deck/porch. I chose this area because my family and I love to hang out there when we're having little family games waiting for our BBQ to be ready. I enjoyed this project because I was able to improve my own home, especially an area that my family and I enjoy the most. I loved going out to buy different things and making this area a home feeling environment. I learnt many things during this activity, and one of the things was having patience. So, I tried not to rush it. I also learnt that wearing appropriate protective gear is also the best way to remain safe. It took me about 2-3 days to complete."

- **Filifaiesea MATIU, 12H**

"My home renovation project was to make the feel of my room more personalised, the plan was to paint the ceiling on my roof like the night sky because I've always wanted it to be like that. So we got two different types of paint, we got normal paint to see but then we got glow in the dark to see it in the dark. It was a lot of fun to let my creativity be free and think of how I can make the room my own and unique. I also revamped a fish tank and storage cupboard."

- **Angelique Price, 12C**

"I found the room renovation project very cool and also fun. So far this term in WRS with Mary it has been really fun and enjoyable. The renovation project of revamping a household item was a fun and an independent activity that I enjoyed very much."

- **Sarah Jones, 12A**

See the results on the next page!

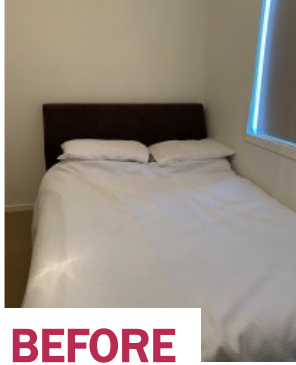
VCAL WRS: The Projects



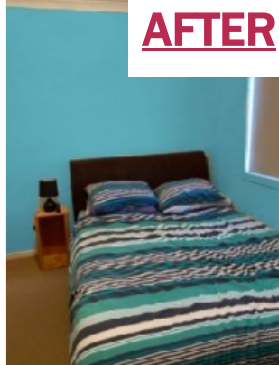
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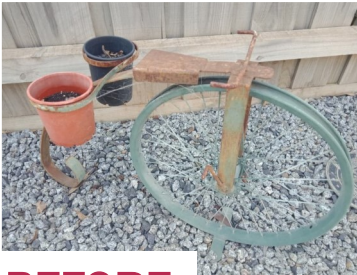
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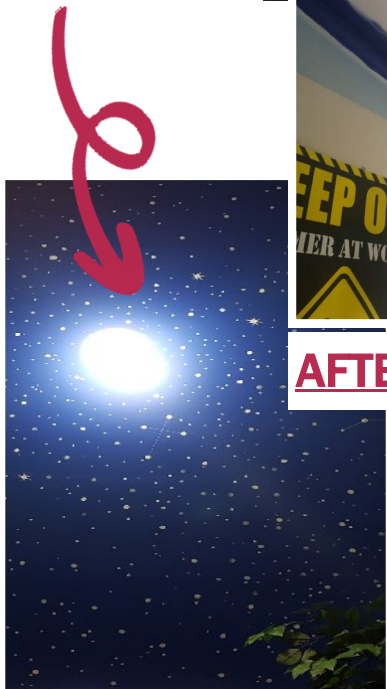
BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



VCAL Literacy

Ms Foot's VCAL Senior Literacy students can't "take to the streets" at the moment, they interviewed those in their houses and phonebooks about issues of the day that are important to them.

BAILEY DEAL

Do you think prisoners should have the right to vote? Why?

<p>1. Yes, they're obviously in prison for a reason and when they come out they will be a better person with better opinions, even if their opinions are no good, they're human, they deserve to vote.</p> <p>Name: Ken Age:48 Location: Point Cook</p>	<p>2. Yes, It makes sense to let them vote, just because they made a mistake in their lives doesn't mean they should be excluded</p> <p>Name: Shannyn Age: 42 Location: Point Cook</p>	<p>3. Of course they should, it should be seen as a form of discrimination when they are not allowed to vote, its leaving them out for no reason.</p> <p>Name:Justine Age:18 Location: Albury, NSW</p>
<p>4. I've heard so much about this topic, Bailey constantly talked to mum and dad about it but i don't have a full opinion on it yet, i think that it really depends on what crime they did to go to prison and how long they're in for.</p> <p>Name: Maddy Age:19 Location: Point cook</p>	<p>5. I really think it should depend on their crime, if someone has committed a simple crime as in shoplifting to feed their family, they might have actual morals whereas someone who has killed a child doesn't have morals and they don't deserve that right</p> <p>Name: Ebonnie Age: 21 Location: Point Cook</p>	<p>6. I didn't actually know that there were laws surrounding it, I thought prisoners just weren't allowed to vote. I think they should be allowed to vote though</p> <p>Name: Kenny Age: 15 Location: Point Cook</p>

JACK VAN DER LINDEN

What is your opinion on 5G network? Do you think it is safe?

<p>1."5G network will present big challenges for the human race"</p> <p>Astrid Van Der Linden, 47, Point Cook Vic</p>	<p>2."The 5g network is using a technology that is apparently far more powerful than anything used before. It would be wise under such circumstances to ensure that there was thorough and extensive safety testing before it is allowed to be rolled out.</p> <p>Nick Van Der Linden, 48, Point Cook Vic</p>	<p>3."I don't really know much about it but if it makes my internet faster I'm all for it"</p> <p>Matty Smith, 17, Point Cook Vic</p>
<p>4. "I don't know much about it but too much of any signal is dangerous anyway"</p> <p>Olivia, 17, Point Cook Vic</p>	<p>5. "I can't wait to have better internet"</p> <p>Jordan Janevski, 18, Point Cook Vic</p>	<p>6. "I think we are getting faster speeds but I also know that the internet towers emit an absurd amount of radiation"</p> <p>Michael Balnozan, 18, Point Cook Vic</p>

hello"

= from

HOME

We caught up with our school community to see how we're all coping with the situation differently



"After eating my way through the first few weeks of quarantine we have been taking our dogs on walks on the golf course (since no one can play) to try to work off some of the Maltesers!

Pictured are my son on a 1 year working holiday visa from the US, me, and my daughter, Riley, who graduated from PCSSC in 2015.

Riley and I also got Animal Crossing and are addicted.

I basically just earn the money and she's making the island pretty.

If it were left up to me it would be a mess!"

- Shelly Tin

If we could see
the miracle of a single
flower clearly
our whole life
would change



"To cope with isolation I have been going on walks around my neighbourhood park. I have taken photographs of the beautiful flowers and then drawn them using my new set of colour pencils"

- Vanessa Riley



Smruti Thombre has also been up to some drawing!

"With all the extra time at home, one of many things I've been doing is recording some new songs.

I've been at it for a couple of weeks now, adding vocals, electric guitar, electric organ and soon a little bit of percussion.

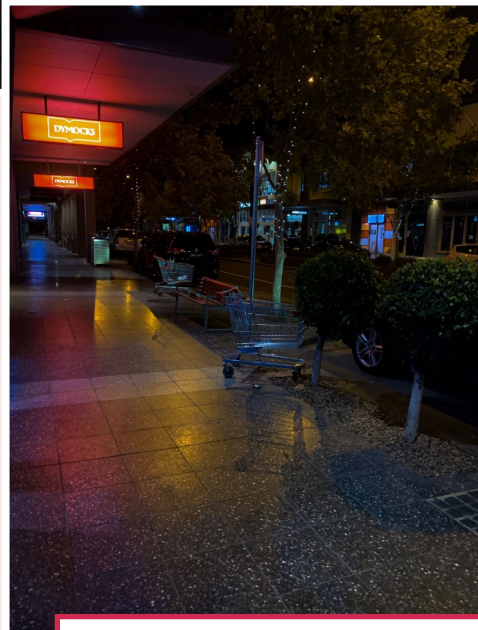
I use an old Fostex 4-track machine, certainly not hi-fi but it does the job :)"

- Maxim Haslett



Jermaine Doh has been doing some baking in her free time. Looks delicious!





"Poppy is our guinea pig. We use Snapchat filters for those photos :) Always a good laugh. Watching the sunset, baking cookies and looking after my roses."
- Marta Candido

"We might be quarantined, but that doesn't mean you can't capture the beauty of outside and bring it with you."
- James Harraden

"Have been watching cooking shows on SBS and MasterChef was inspired to try and cook food we would normally buy. Makes me feel good to see and eat the end product."
- Julie George



Paige Cutter has been painting in her free time!



hello"
= from HOME



What isolation in a semi rural region can do. In between work, family assistance and the ever changing weather conditions, we achieved this by working together in a collaborative manner. Using spare bricks and pavers together we created a fire pit. Ready for the fun gatherings with family and friends in the future. From March 2020 to May 2020 A home made project started and finished. Not all projects get completed, such a good feeling when they are. I am so proud of what was achieved by Peter and myself. - Coralie Saunders

During isolation I have adopted a new dog called Buddy. He's a New Zealand Huntaway breed who was supposed to be a farm dog to herd cows, but unfortunately he wasn't so good at that, so here we are. Luckily for me, I've been at home teaching him new tricks, getting him used to walking on a lead and going on local adventures like walking from Point Addis to Bells Beach with him and my other dog Kirra. - Bryce Flannery



Jordan Moleko has started a magazine project!

hello from HOME

Celebrating Careers Week

MAY 18 - 24 2020

Over the past 10 Years Point Cook Senior has seen many graduates succeed in their post-secondary school career pathways. We celebrate their career achievements during Careers Week 2020.

Ashley Beeby

Ashley graduated from Point Cook Senior in 2016 and following her Year 10 work experience she knew she wanted to work for Cummins.

Upon graduation and with an ATAR score in the top 5% of the State, Ashley applied and was successful to commence an apprenticeship as a diesel mechanic at Cummins.

In 2020, Ashley was awarded the Kangan Institute Certificate of Excellence Inspirational TAFE Student Award. She has also been named as a semi-finalist for the 7 News Victorian Young Achievers Awards.

Winners will be announced in June 2020.



Trent De Villiers

Trent completed Year 12 at Point Cook Senior in 2017.

He recently completed a Diploma of Accounting and is commencing an Advanced Diploma at Victoria University.

Trent is also working at AF Pro Filters.

Heidi Rasmussen

Heidi completed Year 12 in 2019.

She completed a School Based Traineeship in Animal Companion and her VCE certificate.

In 2019 she was awarded the Victorian School Based Trainee of the year.

She is currently studying a Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing at La Trobe University and working at Direct Vets.

She plans to pathway into a Bachelor of Veterinary and become a vet.



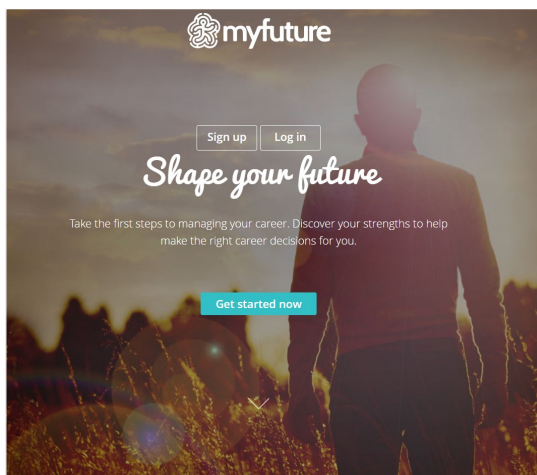
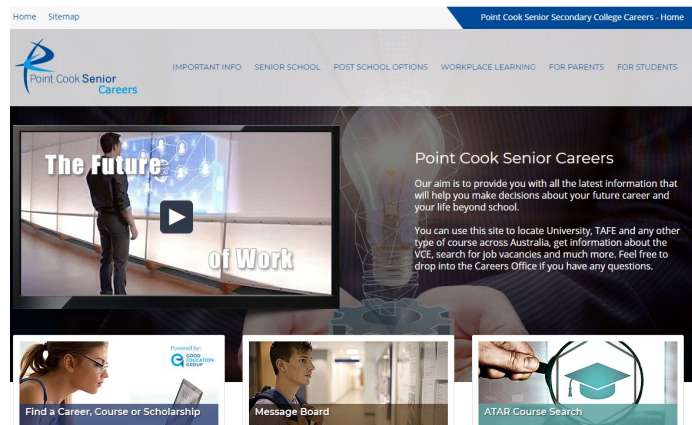
Career Resources

To explore career interests please use the exciting resources below.

POINT COOK SENIOR CAREER TOOLS

The Point Cook Senior Career Tools website is an excellent resource to explore careers, watch real life job clips in thousands of industries, exploring future job prospects and linking into University and TAFE courses.

<https://pointcookseniorcareers.com/>



MYFUTURE

myfuture is an Australian government funded information service providing resources to students, teachers, career practitioners, parents and guardians.

Click [here](#) for more information.

<https://myfuture.edu.au/>

Build your career profile

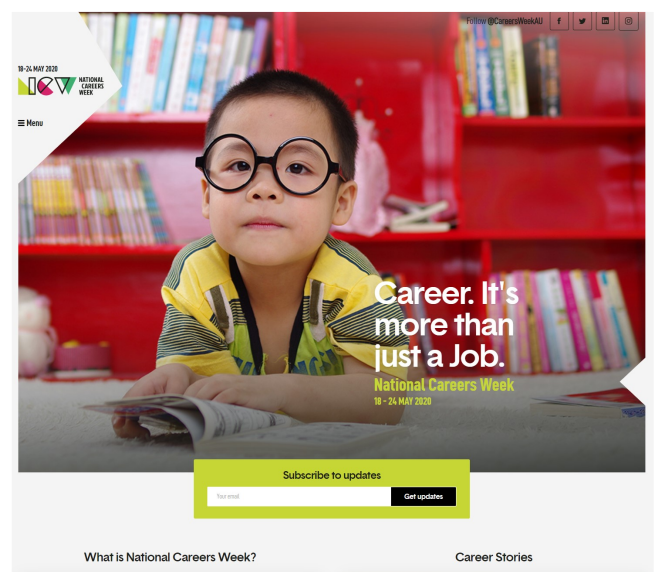
Start your personal career journey. Identify your interests, build your career profile and explore occupations.

[Start here](#)

NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK WEBSITE

Read about what NCW is all about and get access to On-Demand webinars/events from this year's Careers Week presenters!

<https://careersweek.com.au/>



La Trobe Aspire Program

The La Trobe University Aspire Program allows students to apply for University courses and have factors other than the ATAR taken into account. The factors it considers are:

- Volunteer work
- Leadership
- Community involvement



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY

Click the following link to apply: <https://www.latrobe.edu.au/study/aspire>

ACU Assisted Entry Programs



PASSION FOR BUSINESS

The Passion for Business program allows students to gain an early conditional offer for a Business degree at ACU.

Successful applicants do not have to meet any ATAR requirements or subject prerequisites.

Applications are judged on the experience of the student and a personal statement submitted as part of the application process.

For more information and how to apply for the Passion For Business program, [click here.](#)

The Australian Catholic University is offering students alternate methods to pathway into their desired courses.

PASSION FOR LAW

The Passion for Law program allows students to gain an early conditional offer for a Law degree at ACU.

In their application, students outline their experience and submit a statement to illustrate their Passion for Law.

Unlike the Passion for Business program, applicants need to meet ATAR and English requirements.

Eligibility

To apply, a student needs to meet the following:

- You are a Year 12 student studying in Australia
- Minimum Year 12 requirement of ATAR 75
- Minimum English requirement – Study Score of at least 30 in English or 35 in EAL

For more information and how to apply for the Passion For Law program, [click here.](#)

THE BREAKFAST everyone is welcome CLUB

Our Breakfast Program has supporting students in need for 9 years now!

Not only does our program provide students with a fulfilling breakfast to start their day with, but it also improves student wellbeing, supporting their outcomes.

Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy a free breakfast and a carefree environment to start their school day.



Join us and build positive relationships with staff and students!

where? Room 312
when? Fridays 8:00am - 8:30am

REMINDERS

KEY DATES

22 May *Mabo Day*

25 May Curriculum Day
Student-Free Day

26 May Students undertaking VCE/
VCAL to return to school

08 June *Queens Birthday Public Holiday*

9 June All students return to school

22 June Assessment Day
Student Free Day

26 June End of Term 2

13 July Term 3 Commences

**Due to the current circumstances,
Year 10 and Year 11 mid-year exams**

**Please note that dates may
change due to COVID-19
developments.**

**We ask that you stay
updated through Compass.**

have been cancelled.

ATTENDANCE

Though we may not be at school, attendance is still vital to your learning. Ensure that you are attending your online classes.

Student attendance information is available on Compass, including the option to approve absences and input requests to leave early for an appointment.

If you are struggling, please talk to your teacher and seek the necessary advice and alternatives you need.



*together we are creating a
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program



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

REMINDERS

STAY CONNECTED

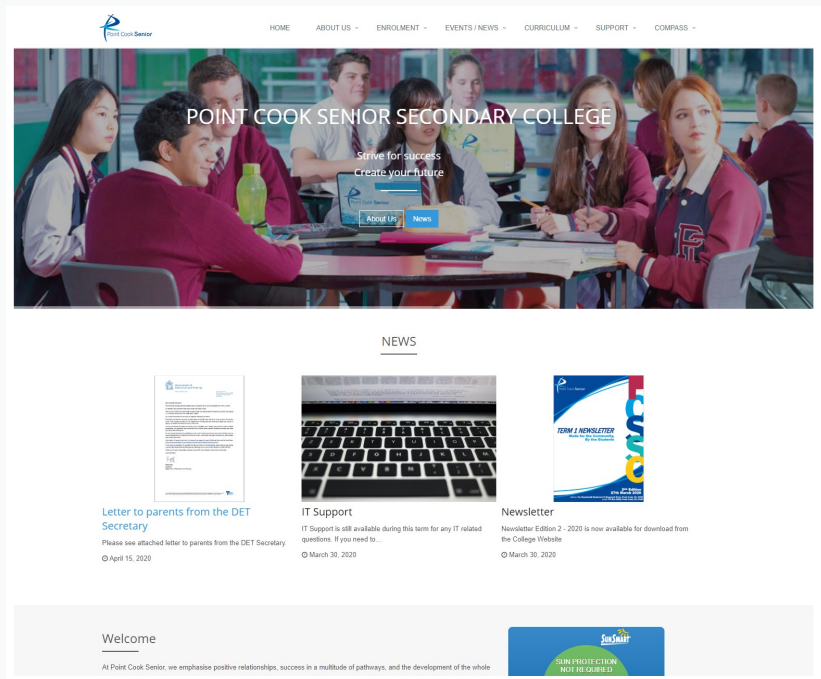
During this period, we encourage the community to get in touch using the following links:

The School Website:

www.pointcooksenior.vic.edu.au

Our school website features many resources for students and parents.

Check in for information regarding resources and support.



The Point Cook Senior Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/PointCookSenior

Our Facebook page is constantly being updated with study tips and helpful links to support everyone through these trying times.

Be sure to like and follow the page so you stay informed!

RESPECT EFFORT

RESPONSIBILITY



Compass

Majority of our communication with parents at PCSSC are made through the Compass Parent Portal.

All parents have a portal account that provides access to:

- reports
- attendance information
- absence requests and approvals
- school photo ordering, teacher email contact
- booking for parent-teacher interviews
- calendar of events
- excursion consent/permissions and
- news items to keep you updated with what is going on.

If you are a CSEF (Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund) recipient, please contact the school before consenting to any event so that we can adjust the costing.

To access your account:

1. go to the College's homepage www.pointcooksenior.vic.edu.au
2. click on the Compass Portal icon.

OR directly go to Compass login:

<https://pointcooksenior.vic.jdlf.com.au/Login.aspx>

If you are having trouble accessing your account,

click on the "Can't access your account" and follow the prompts to access it using your username, email address or mobile number.

If you need guidance on how to navigate the Compass Portal,







please contact the school or see the 'Compass Help' page on the school website.





Could \$500 help you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and we'll match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to \$500 for school costs.

-  laptops & tablets
-  lessons & activities
-  uniforms & shoes
-  books & supplies
-  sports fees & gear
-  camps & excursions

To join Saver Plus, you must be at least 18 years or over, have a child at school or attend vocational education yourself, have regular income from paid employment (you or your partner), have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card and be in receipt of an eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment*



Contact

your local Saver Plus Coordinator

Phone or SMS

your name and postcode to 1300 610 355

Email

WerribeeSP@thesmithfamily.com.au

Online

saverplus.org.au

Find us on Facebook 



* many Centrelink payments are eligible, please contact your local Coordinator for more information.

Saver Plus is an initiative of the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with Berry Street, The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family and other local community agencies. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Go to www.dss.gov.au for more information.

RE-CYCLE YOUR CYCLE



Bicycle Donations Needed

**DO YOU HAVE AN OLD,
UNWANTED BICYCLE YOU
NO LONGER NEED OR USE?**

Preserve the environment and donate it to the **West Metro Community Work Team's Fix the Cycle Program!**

In the program young offenders are taught to repair, refurbish and overhaul old and disused bikes. Once completed, **the bicycles are donated to community members who most benefit** from a sustainable method of free private transport, such as teenagers coming from disadvantaged backgrounds and refugee families who are newly settled in Australia.

**For donations contact
the CW Team on:
1300 389 518**

Westmetro.communitywork@justice.vic.gov.au

