



**General
Achievement
Test (GAT)**

TUESDAY 5 OCTOBER 2021

On Tuesday 5 October students studying a Unit 3/4 VCE examination will be completing the General Achievement Test (GAT). The exam commences at 10.00am and concludes at 1.15pm, students are required to arrive at the St Mary's Campus at 9.00am. Please ensure that your child familiarises themselves with the following guidelines prior to the day of the GAT.

IN CASE OF ILLNESS

On the day of the GAT, if a student is feeling unwell and has COVID-19 symptoms, other medical reasons, or has an emergency, it is essential that the College is contacted between 8.00am and 9.30am by phoning 5445 9101. The General Office will inform Mrs Suzie Kemp or Ms Fiona Bell. Depending on the situation you may be required to apply for an Emergency Special Examination Arrangement via VCAA for your child.

ARRANGEMENTS ON THE DAY

- All students are required to wear their full school uniform. Please be mindful of the weather conditions on the day and dress appropriately.
- Students must supply their own face mask and wear at all times. If your child has a medical condition that requires them not to wear a face mask, they will need to bring a medical certificate as evidence.
- Upon arrival at the College students are to move directly to their designated arrival room (this is not their GAT exam room). Students are not to congregate or socialise upon arrival at the College.
- Students will be signed in by a staff member, asked to hand sanitise and will have their temperature taken. If a student's temperature is above 37.5 degrees they will be asked to proceed to a separate room, where they will be retested after 15 minutes. If their temperature has dropped below 37.5 degrees, they will return to their arrival room. If the student's temperature is still above 37.5 degrees unfortunately the student will be required to leave the College and will not sit the GAT Exam.
- Students will be encouraged to use restrooms prior to entering the exam locations. This will minimise any disruption to other students during the GAT Exam period.
- Lockers will not be accessible, so students are required to leave any personal items at home.
- 15 mins prior to the start of the GAT Exam the staff member will request students sanitise their hands before being escorted to their designated examination room, where students will be seated 1.5m apart.
- All students are required to remain in the examination room for the entire exam period. Once students have been given permission to leave by the Exam Supervisors, all students are to leave the College grounds immediately. Under no circumstances are students to congregate or socialise as a group. Personal items left in allocated meeting rooms are to be collected before leaving the College.
- All relevant information regarding the GAT arrangements e.g.: the student's exam table number and meeting room location will be available to them via the following link: [CMC Exams](#)

YEAR 10 AND VCAL (Tuesday 5 October)

At this stage we have not been advised whether remote learning will continue at the commencement of Term 4 or not. In either case, students in Year 10 and students studying VCAL will complete their regular class schedule. If we are on site, students will need to check SIMON for room changes, as there will be many of these on this day because students will need to stay away from the examination centre.

YEARS 11 & 12 VCE (Tuesday 5 October)

Years 11 and 12 VCE students will complete Periods 6 & 7 only on this day, as most students will be completing the GAT examination in the morning.

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Consideration of Education Disadvantage

ACCOUNTING FOR THE IMPACT OF REMOTE LEARNING

As you are likely aware from the media coverage and the Deputy Premier's recent letter to Year 12 students, the VCAA (Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority) and VTAC (Victorian Tertiary and Admissions Centre) are working with schools to account for the impact of remote learning when determining student ATAR scores.

For this to occur, teachers will provide both students' scores they receive this year, along with 'expected' scores for what they believe students would have received if their schooling was not disrupted by remote learning. To support teachers with understanding students' circumstances, we have asked students to complete a survey. This information will be shared with the students' teachers to help provide an understanding of the impacts of remote learning at an individual level. The responses to these surveys are only shared with students and teachers and are not passed on to authorities.

SPECIAL ENTRY ACCESS SCHEME (SEAS)

There is an additional process whereby students can write about other impacts on their learning called the SEAS (Special Entry Access Scheme). If there are factors other than COVID and remote learning that have presented impacts on a student's learning in their final years of schooling, then students should fill this out in their VTAC applications. The Careers Team and Year Level Learning Leaders have explained this process to students and are available for support if there are questions around this process.

PATHWAYS: EARLY OFFER AND DIRECT ENTRY OPTIONS FOR 2022 COURSES

The majority of universities are offering a range of early offer options and direct entry options for 2022 courses, however, the ATAR is still the common measure in Australia to support university entry. We encourage students to continue to engage with the Careers Team about the options and future pathways available to 2021 graduates.

Exam Revision

SUPPORT WITH REVISION FOR UPCOMING EXAMS

The VCE Unit 3/4 examination period is fast approaching. The results from these examinations make a significant contribution to a student's final study score and consequently their ATAR score. Students have been working diligently throughout the remote learning period on their preparation for their final assessments and we are so pleased they will now be able to complete their final preparations on site.

With the current easing of restrictions for students studying a final year VCE, VET or VCAL subject (this also applies to Year 11 students studying these subjects), we are pleased to put in place the following supports effective for Term 4:

1. The St Mary's library will be open on school days from Monday to Thursday from 8.00am – 5.00pm and Friday from 8.00am – 4.00pm.
2. To support Year 12 students making use of their Friday Period 6 & 7 study periods, there will be supervised practice exams running for the first four Fridays of Term 4 from 1.45pm - 4.45pm in the Backhaus building (BG5 & 6 and BG1 & 2).
3. Supervised practice examinations will be held in the St Mary's Gymnasium at the times below.

Week 1 of the September holidays (Monday 20 to Friday 24 September inclusive):

- Session 1: 9.00am – 11.45am
- Session 2: 1.00pm – 3.45pm

The first four weekends of Term 4:

- Session 1: Saturday 9.00am – 11.45am
- Session 2: Saturday 1.00pm – 3.45pm
- Session 3: Sunday 9.00am – 11.45am

Students are welcome to attend as many of these sessions as they like, and do not need to provide advanced notice. Students will need to bring their mobile phone and use the QR check-in at the College for contact tracing purposes. Students will be required to wear a mask at all times during these sessions.

PRACTICE EXAMS & COVID SAFETY

Having a rehearsal, under full exam conditions, at the College will help students feel more comfortable in completing assessments in the official VCAA administered exam style. Students are advised that they must adhere to the COVID guidelines already in place during school hours when attending any of these practice exams or study support times, including mask wearing on and off campus. There will be a register in the St Mary's gym which students will be required to fill out upon entry to support any potential contact tracing if required. All study spaces and practice exam spaces will be arranged to ensure social distancing is maintained.

THE FINAL STRETCH

We congratulate all our students for their attitude and work towards these exams, and their resilience in preparing for this period so well in trying times. We look forward to providing greater levels of onsite support through this final stretch of preparation for these assessments.