From the Founder

Unlike most people, I don’t believe in miracles, which is pretty pig-headed of me because I see them happen every day. Likewise I am not much of a horse follower, but I do remember Kiwi coming from last on the turn to win the Melbourne Cup in 1983 and Kingston Town flashing home on the outside at the top of the straight to win the Cox Plate after being told he ‘couldn’t win’.

Like life, horse racing is full of what some people call miracles. This year, it revealed a little miracle named Michelle Payne. Even though she is the top female jockey in the country, Michelle is hardly a household name. She was on a horse that even the owners didn’t think could win and indeed, some of the owners did not even want her to ride it because they did not believe a female jockey was strong enough to win ‘The Cup’.

Two days before, her brother and best friend Stevie, who has Down syndrome, drew barrier 1 for Michelle which was a massive advantage. But as the race unfolded, even with 300 meters to go, it seemed Michelle was destined to join the long line of those who had ridden in but never won, the Melbourne Cup. And then it happened. I call it the perfect storm. The moment when all things fall into alignment on your journey and you look around and realise, it is you who is in front and heading to the winning post first. For some it is a miracle and for others it is their moment. Some people grab the moment, others are paralysed by it.

100 to 1 shots rarely get up. And when they do, a lot of so called experts call it a miracle. However, when you listen to Michelle after the race, you get to hear the other side of the story. In her brief three minute post-race interview, she mentions over 20 people by name who contributed to the victory of Prince of Penzance in the Melbourne Cup. They are twenty people who had been with the horse its whole life. Twenty people who dared to dream; who got up at 4 every morning for track work, who brushed, washed, walked, rode and shovelled the shit of Prince of Penzance. Twenty people who held onto the slimmest of hopes in the knowledge that most likely, all their hard work would amount to very little in the end.

When things don’t work out, it is easy when you are one of the 20 to look at the big success stories and feel jealous or hard done by. It is easy to give up. It is easy to feel the world is against you. It is easy to feel taken advantage of and judged by others who don’t even know you. And worst of all, it is easy to hit the front and then sub-consciously ‘pull up’ because after all the struggle and all the work you still don’t believe you belong on the ‘winners’ podium.

And so every now and then when the 100 to 1 shot strides to the front and the ‘miracle’ unfolds, it is easy to tell yourself it was down to luck. But look at it hard enough and you see through this veil. There was no miracle when Michelle’s dad Patty, pulled his 10 kids together the day after their mum was killed in a car crash and set about rebuilding their life together without her. There was no miracle when, Michelle’s sister died of a heart attack at age 36, or when Michelle herself fell from a horse in training and fractured her skull. There was no miracle in the 145 times Michelle Payne got on a horse and lost!... And for my money, there was no miracle when on the 146th time she got on a horse, a gap opened up at the 200 meter mark and she pushed it through to hit the front to win the Melbourne Cup.

Was it a miracle?
Maybe.

But I prefer to think of it as what Albert Einstein called his other theory of relativity...
‘Live your life as though nothing is a miracle…and soon you will find everything is a miracle.’
Please be aware VCE submissions are now closed. If you have any questions in regards to this please contact Kate.

VCE subject selection will be commencing in week 7. Students will have until the second week of January to change their preferences.

Junior submissions continue until the end of Term 4.

Term 4 Camps

Students headed down to Lavers Hill to sharpen their survival and basic life skills. Activities included building, fishing, cooking, mowing and personal development.

Our next camp is the annual Road Trip. Running from the 23rd to the 26th of November the camp is a chance for us to celebrate our year 12 students whilst giving all the students a chance to reflect on all they have learned in 2015.

Important Dates

Mon 24th Nov – Fri 27th Nov: Road trip
Thursday 3rd December: Photo Day
Monday 7th December: VCE celebration dinner
Wednesday 9th December: Term 4 concludes
Wednesday 9th December: Kooyong Student Prize
Thursday 10th December: Speech Evening
**Happy Halloween**

An occasion to be celebrated by all ages! This year’s best costume was awarded to Shanti for dressing up as a bat, this year’s scariest costume. Storme won the prize for best toilet paper dummy and Jason excelled in making the most interesting Halloween cookies as judged by Cat. A special thanks to Josef for bringing in ‘spoopy’ Halloween candy cups and a treat to share.

**Exams and VCE results**

Students will be able to access their results via VTAC on the 14th of December from 7am until 5pm until the 18th of December.

In order to do this students need to be registered with VTAC; if you have not registered you will not be able to apply for any courses and you’ll miss out on valuable information.

Please visit the website below to register, if you haven’t already done so.
http://www.vtac.edu.au/

All VCE students should read the back page of the VCE Exams Navigator 2015; this was posted out to you along with your exam timetable. You can access a digital copy here:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzxmxUooPSYTUEdRajUyblFHVTg/view?usp=sharing

The back of this booklet explains the process of how students can access their VCE results and ATAR. You may choose to receive a text message or standard mail.

Registration for text message notification starts on the 9th of November and ends on the 13th of December.

**Photo Day**

This year’s Student Photo Day will be held on Thursday 3rd of December. It is compulsory for all students to attend this day. Please contact Kate for more information.
Happy Halloween!