Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited

Professional Learning Guide

2026

Upcoming 2026 professional learning opportunities available to all DOBCEL team members.

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DIOCESE OF BALLARAT CATHOLIC EDUCATION LIMITED

Purpose

The **DOBCEL professional learning 2026 guide** outlines the upcoming 2026 professional learning opportunities available to DOBCEL team members.

In the context of Catholic education, it is essential that team members can easily identify, request, and engage with professional learning that supports their growth, compliance, and vocation.

Clear and accessible professional learning opportunities ensure that DOBCEL team members can efficiently book into relevant sessions, plan their development in alignment with school and system priorities, and meet both personal and professional learning goals.

This document aims to promote consistency, streamline administration, and uphold a commitment to continuous improvement across the Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited (DOBCEL) community.

All DOBCEL team members can review upcoming professional learning events and book into professional learning events by visiting the **DOBCEL website** (dobcel.catholic.edu.au) and **professional learning program calendar**



All DOBCEL team members should confirm event details, inclusive of the key dates and times within the professional learning program calendar prior to booking into an event as all event details are subject to change.

Catholic Education Ballarat (CEB) team members may review upcoming professional learning events and propose new professional learning by visiting the **CEB professional learning landing page** available via SharePoint

For any questions, please contact **pl@dobcel.catholic.edu.au**

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2026 professional learning events (Month)

The calendar below gives guidance to team members on what events may be running during each month of 2026 in addition to the other networks and programs requiring longer commitment.

Month	Event
November	Staff Related Injury Management Mastering the Art: Performance Development Crucial Conversations Coaching Conversations: "Our Way of Being" Secondary REL: Semester Two Aggiornamento: Bite-Sized Theology Conversations DOBCEL Bushfire Preparedness Briefing
December	Aggiornamento: Bite-Sized Theology Conversations Child Safe Standard 1: Bringing it all together

2026 long-term networks, programs and events

Month	Event
January – December	Early Career Teachers Program: 1st Years
February – November	Learning Diversity Leaders (LDL) Network Secondary Wellbeing Leaders Network FLARE – Primary Literacy Strategy Student Agency – Schools that Listen English Curriculum Project VCE English Catholic Network Community of Practice: TCL Oral Language Assistants
March – November	Introduction to Pedagogical Coaching Course
May - November	Literacy Bridges: Strengthening Disciplinary Literacy at Year 7

Professional Learning Program

Student Agency - Schools that Listen Initiative

This ongoing initiative aims to enhance listening, responding, and acting processes for student agency within the Diocese. Principals, educators, and about four students (Years 5 & 6, Years 8–10) from each school will collaborate with Dr Jean Stiles to examine factors that influence student engagement in learning and participation in the school community.

The Student Agency - Schools that Listen Initiative will introduce various approaches across the Diocese to be informed by students to best meet their needs. Participants will have the opportunity to develop collaboration, communication, and critical thinking skills. A key aspect of this initiative is supporting students to instigate change within their communities.

Staff participating should be prepared to assist ongoing student agency and change in schools. This initiative provides an opportunity for continuous professional learning that unpacks how to listen to what is important for children and young people in their school and frame responses and actions.

Learning Outcomes:

- Recognise the value of student agency in enhancing engagement, wellbeing, and school success.
- Gain practical skills and strategies to actively listen to students, facilitate student-led discussions, and support students in initiating and leading change within their school communities.
- Strengthen collaboration between principals, Student Agency Facilitators, students, and the CEB Steering Team to create a culture that values and acts on student input.
- Learn to use feedback, action research, and showcase events to evaluate the effectiveness of student agency initiatives and reflect on areas for ongoing improvement and sustainability.

Intended Audience:

- School Leaders
- Education Consultants
- Additional participants – Student Agency Facilitators - will be selected for attendance by Principals

Event details:

- Further details on Student Agency – Schools that Listen are available to Principals via Canvas.
- Event details are subject to change – visit **dobcel.catholic.edu.au** to confirm event details.

Event contact: Julia Petrov - jpetrov@dobcel.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Identity

Aggiornamento: Bite-Sized Theology Conversations

The Aggiornamento series consists of two sets of two 90-minute online modules in Term One and two in Term Four (with differing audiences). Aggiornamento is Italian for 'updating' and came to prominence as one of the aims of the Church of the Second Vatican Council. The four modules have been developed collaboratively by Professor Robyn Horner and Dr Teresa Brown of the School of Theology at Australian Catholic University and draw from the resources of experts in the field.

Learning Outcomes:

- Explore Catholic faith in dialogue with contemporary experiences
- Understand key theological concepts and approaches from Vatican II
- Develop skills in dialogue and applying learning
- Engage with ECSI research to inform practice in school and diocesan contexts

Intended Audience:

- All Catholic Education staff across the Ballarat Diocese

Event details:

- 20-30 mins reading in own time may be required after each session.
- Team members are encouraged to attend any of the below events. Each session (x2 per term) is repeated the next week for easier scheduling and attendance.
- Event details are subject to change – visit **dobcel.catholic.edu.au** to confirm event details and book your place

Aggiornamento: Bitesize Theology: Term 4 - Session 1	
Date:	12th November
Time:	03:45pm – 05:15pm
Location:	Online
Delivery:	Online – link made available at a later date for participants
Cost:	$30

Aggiornamento: Bitesize Theology: Term 4 - Session 1 Repeat	
Date:	17th November
Time:	03:45pm – 05:15pm
Location:	Online
Delivery:	Online – link made available at a later date for participants
Cost:	$30

Aggiornamento: Bitesize Theology: Term 4 - Session 2	
Date:	3rd December
Time:	03:45pm – 05:15pm
Location:	Online
Delivery:	Online – link made available at a later date for participants
Cost:	$30

Aggiornamento: Bitesize Theology: Term 4 - Session 2 Repeat	
Date:	8th December
Time:	03:45pm – 05:15pm
Location:	Online
Delivery:	Online – link made available at a later date for participants
Cost:	$30

Event contact:	Gina Bernasconi - GBernasconi@ceoballarat.catholic.edu.au

Learning and Teaching

Early Career Teachers: 2026 - 1st Years

The Early Career Teacher (ECT) Program is a three-year program designed to support early career teacher induction into the Ballarat Diocese and the teaching profession, within the context of working in the ministry of Catholic education. The program reflects the partnership between DOBCEL and schools who support the professional growth of early career teachers. Elements of the program presented through these dedicated days will complement formation opportunities initiated by the school community.

Learning Outcomes:

- Strengthen teaching skills through support in behaviour, planning, differentiation, and reporting.
- Collaborate and reflect within a professional network of early career and experienced educators.
- Develop professional identity and wellbeing through Catholic identity, and workload management.

Intended Audience:

- Early career teachers who are 1st Years in 2026

Event details:

- Participants attend **Session 1** to begin the 3-year program (selecting their nearest zone). Participants then attend events as needed (bookings required for each event).
- Event details are subject to change – visit **dobcel.catholic.edu.au** to confirm event details and book your place!

ECT: 2026 1st Years Term 4 - Central Session #1	
Date:	11th November
Time:	2:15pm – 3:15pm
Location:	Online
Delivery:	Online – link made available at a later date for participants
Cost:	$0

Event contact:	Julie Cooper - JCooper@dobcel.catholic.edu.au Carmel Clarke - CClarke@dobcel.catholic.edu.au Sam Meerbach - smeerbach@ceob.edu.au

Community of Practice: TCL Oral Language Assistants

This will be an opportunity for oral languages TCL Language Assistants to participate in a Community of Practice and undertake classroom observations of TCL classroom practice.

Learning Outcomes:

- TCL Language Assistants will continue developing their understanding of TCL classroom practice through observation. They will also have an opportunity to connect with their colleagues.

Intended Audience:

- TCL Language Assistants (Oral Languages)

Event details:

- Expressions of Interest to attend this event can be made to the Event Contact listed below.
- Event details are subject to change – please contact the Event Contact below to confirm the event details as needed.
- Participants are encouraged to attend all scheduled events.

Community of Practice: TCL Oral Language Assistants: Term 4	
Date:	27th November
Time:	09:00am – 12:00pm
Location:	TBC - Melbourne
Delivery:	Face-to-Face
Cost:	$0

Event contact:	Lauren Gould - lgould@ceob.edu.au

Introduction to Pedagogical Coaching Course

Join us for an engaging professional learning experience led by Mr Christopher Thomas, a highly respected educator with 25 years' experience across the Australian education sector. Christopher brings deep expertise and practical insight into effective teaching and leadership.

Additional information and learning objectives can be found at the following link: Introduction to Pedagogical Coaching

Learning Outcomes:

- Apply pedagogical coaching strategies to reflect on and strengthen teaching practice, using evidence-informed approaches to improve learning outcomes.
- Use feedback and coaching conversations to support pedagogical improvement within classrooms.

Intended Audience:

- Middle Leaders
- Secondary Faculty Leaders

Event details:

- Participants are encouraged to attend all scheduled events.
- Event details are subject to change – visit **dobcel.catholic.edu.au** to confirm event details and book your place!

Introduction to Pedagogical Coaching Course: Session 4	
Date:	13th November
Time:	09:00am – 3:30pm
Location:	TBC - Ballarat
Delivery:	Face-to-Face
Cost:	$0

Event contact:	Lauren Gould - lgould@ceob.edu.au

FLARE – Primary Literacy Strategy

This professional learning program offers a wide-ranging suite of sessions designed to support literacy leaders and educators across all phases. It includes foundational knowledge, including the history of reading instruction, the Science of Reading, Cognitive Load Theory, orthographic mapping, and systematic synthetic phonics. These sessions also introduce core frameworks such as the Flare Pedagogical Framework and Dehaene's Four Pillars, equipping participants with the theoretical and practical knowledge to inform evidence-based practice.

Further sessions focus on integrating literacy with Humanities and Science through the Lit-HAS Essentials, as well as building teacher capacity to plan effectively, check for understanding, and implement adaptive instruction. Participants will also explore how to refine literacy blocks and make strategic decisions for continuous improvement. The emphasis on critical discernment, evaluating phonics programs, and understanding the role of the literacy leader ensures participants can make informed, research-aligned decisions for their school communities.

Leadership-focused sessions delve into topics such as change management, implementation fidelity, road mapping, de-implementation, and managing resistance. These are complemented by opportunities to engage with assessment and data, including DIBELS, writing moderation, and coaching strategies. A strong thread of collaboration runs throughout, with participants engaging in shared resource creation, data analysis, and feedback practices.

Additional sessions bring together team members to reflect on their experiences, share successes and challenges, and learn from one another. The program also provides space for networking, showcasing practice, succession planning, and preparing for future phases of implementation. Across all sessions, participants are supported in staying current with research, building professional capacity, and fostering sustainable literacy improvement across their schools.

Learning Outcomes:

- Please review each applicable event to learn more about each events content and learning outcomes.

Intended Audience:

- Please review each applicable event to learn more about the intended audience.

Event details:

- Participants are encouraged to attend all events for the relevant role within the Flare Program
- Event details are subject to change – visit **dobcel.catholic.edu.au** to confirm event details and book your place!
- All events including Learning Outcomes and Intended Audiences can be found on the following pages.

Flare Phase A Day 2

Learning Outcomes:
Participants will learn about the Literacy Block, what the 'Building Blocks' hour looks like, checking for understanding, planning, and explicit instruction.

Intended Audience:
x Phase A Schools
x Suitable for all school team members who wish to register

Date:	4th December
Time:	09:00am – 03:00pm
Location:	Online
Delivery:	Online – link will be made available via the Flare website calendar as normal
Cost:	$0

Flare Phase A Day – Face to Face Session

Learning Outcomes:
Participants will learn about the Literacy Block, what the 'Building Blocks' hour looks like, checking for understanding, planning, and explicit instruction.

Intended Audience:
x Phase A Literacy Leaders
x Suitable for all school team members who wish to register

Date:	25th November
Time:	09:00am – 03:00pm
Location:	Halls Gap – final location details TBC
Delivery:	TBC
Cost:	TBC

Flare Lighthouse Network - Session #4

Learning Outcomes:
Participants will learn about and discuss Progress Journals, 2026 reflections, looking to 2027, induction of new staff, collaborative problem solving, professional reading and viewing, Flare updates, school updates, planning for future Flare engagement, management and data tools for 2027, School Information Database rollover, website badging and acknowledgement, writing moderation, reporting, using the Data Tool to support Annual Report to School Community, updating School Information Databases for 2027, feedback on data tool additions/omissions.

Intended Audience:
x Literacy Leaders of Lighthouse schools

Date:	20th November
Time:	12:00pm – 03:00pm
Location:	Online
Delivery:	Online – link will be made available via the Flare website calendar as normal
Cost:	$0

Event contact:	Holly Southwell - HSouthwell@dobcel.catholic.edu.au

People and Development inc. leadership development

Coaching Conversations: “Our Way of Being”

Every day we have conversations, both within and outside of work. This professional learning offers an opportunity to develop knowledge, dispositions, and skills to enable rich and fulfilling coaching conversations for all. Participants will develop deep listening skills that authentically engages the other in conversations of growth and change. Participants will engage in opportunities for practice and reflection, developing coaching partnership with colleagues.

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand self and others and develop a coaching approach as part of our “way of being”
- Learn to be curious a little longer through effective use of questioning
- Apply the GROW model to activate potential
- Understand your personal style and how best to work with others
- Develop a shared language and authentic partnership for the fullness of life for all.

Intended Audience:

- Catholic Education Team working within CEB offices

Event details:

- We are currently seeking **Expressions of Interest** prior to final event details being confirmed. Please reach out to the event contact – Samantha Meerbach smeerbach@ceob.edu.au
- Participants may attend any of the following events.
- Event details are subject to change – visit **dobcel.catholic.edu.au** to confirm event details and book your place

Coaching Conversations: "Our Way of Being": Session #4	
Date:	25th November
Time:	10:00am – 4:00pm
Location:	CEB Ballarat office - 200 Gillies St Nth, Lake Wendouree
Delivery:	Face-to-face
Cost:	TBC

Coaching Conversations: "Our Way of Being": Session #5	
Date:	26th November
Time:	10:00am – 4:00pm
Location:	CEB - 200 Gillies St Nth, Lake Wendouree
Delivery:	Face-to-face
Cost:	TBC

Crucial Conversations

Crucial Conversations teaches a practical model for effective communication, especially in difficult or high-stakes situations. It focuses on managing emotions, fostering respectful dialogue, and achieving mutual understanding to strengthen relationships and drive positive outcomes. This program is ideal for anyone looking to improve their skills in giving feedback and promoting open, constructive conversations—with colleagues, parents, carers, and the wider community.

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the Crucial Conversations model.
- Build skills in giving feedback and encouraging open dialogue.
- Apply these skills in conversations with colleagues, parents, and the community

Intended Audience:

- Current people leaders in both schools and CEB offices
- Suitable for all DOBCEL team members at all levels to attend

Event details:

- Participants may book into any one of the following events to attend except for events marked as Invite Only
- Event details are subject to change – visit **dobcel.catholic.edu.au** to confirm event details and book your place!

Crucial Conversations: Ballarat #2	
Date:	11th and 12th November 2026
Time:	9:00am - 4:00pm (both days)
Location:	Ballarat – specific location TBC
Delivery:	Face to Face
Cost:	$500 per person. Price includes all learning resources and materials.

Event contact:	Fiona Murphy – Fmurphy@dobcel.catholic.edu.au Emma Baldwin – Ebaldwin@dobcel.catholic.edu.au

Mastering the Art: Effective Annual Review Meetings (ARMS) and Performance Development Reviews

Effective self-reflection and Annual Review Meetings (ARMs) are powerful opportunities to strengthen relationships, recognise achievements, and drive professional growth. This practical session will equip leaders with tools and strategies to conduct impactful, two-way performance conversations—covering how to prepare, structure discussions, deliver empathetic feedback, and set clear, accountable goals. Whether new to the process or refining existing skills, participants will gain the confidence to make every review meaningful and motivating.

Learning Outcomes:

- Apply effective strategies to prepare for, structure, and lead Annual Review Meetings that foster engagement, accountability, and professional growth.
- Deliver constructive, empathetic feedback and set clear, achievable goals that inspire motivation and performance improvement.

Intended Audience:

- DOBCEL team members who lead PDR and ARM conversations

Event details:

- Participants may book into any of the following events to attend.
- Event details are subject to change – visit **dobcel.catholic.edu.au** to confirm event details and book your place!

Mastering the Art: Performance Development Reviews #2	
Date:	10th November
Time:	3:30pm – 4:30pm
Location:	Online
Delivery:	Online – link made available at a later date for participants
Cost:	$0

Event contact:	Fiona Murphy – Fmurphy@dobcel.catholic.edu.au

Leading Pedagogical Learning with Christopher Thomas

This program, part of the 2025 Leading Pedagogical Learning series for Secondary Leaders of Learning, builds on previous learning to strengthen leadership capacity. Participants will engage with targeted leadership modules, with a strong focus on embedding a coaching approach to enhance teaching and learning within their schools.

The Leading Pedagogical Coaching workshop will develop participants' skills in leading and sustaining improvements in teacher practice and student learning. Through evidence-based pedagogical practices, structured coaching conversations, case study analysis, and action planning, participants will refine their leadership approach and integrate the coaching model as a core element of their school's improvement strategy.

Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate an understanding of leadership and instructional coaching principles, drawing on evidence-based research and selected leadership modules.
- Apply coaching strategies and tools to enhance teacher practice, student learning, and alignment with school improvement priorities.
- Reflect on and evaluate current leadership and coaching practices to identify areas for growth and improvement.
- Design and implement coaching approaches that foster a culture of professional learning, collaboration, and sustained school improvement.

Intended Audience:

- Secondary Leaders of Learning

Event details:

- The Leading Pedagogical Learning events are by **invitation only** and are not ticketed events. For further information please reach out to the event contact.
- The Online events are held live for invited guests and will be made available for later access.

Leading Pedagogical Learning: Face-to-Face Session 2	
Date:	23rd November
Time:	1:45pm – 3:15pm
Location:	TBC
Delivery:	Face-to-face
Cost:	$0
Event contact:	Ingrid May – IMay@dobcel.catholic.edu.au

Secondary Wellbeing Leaders: Network Meeting

Secondary School Wellbeing Leaders and Wellbeing staff are invited to share knowledge and expertise, showcase achievements, address common issues and challenges, learn together, engage in powerful dialogue, realise shared goals and build professional networks for the benefit of all students across the diocese.

Learning Outcomes:

- Building capacity, networking and collaboration

Intended Audience:

- Secondary Wellbeing Leaders (AP/DP)
- School counsellors and psychologists

Event details:

- Participants are encouraged to attend all events (each event requires booking).
- Event details are subject to change – visit **dobcel.catholic.edu.au** to confirm event details and book your place!

Secondary Wellbeing Leaders: Network Meeting #4	
Date:	12th November
Time:	08:50am – 02:00pm
Location:	St. Brigids College, Horsham
Delivery:	Face-to-Face
Cost:	$30

Event contact:	Anne Ruddell – aruddell@dobcel.catholic.edu.au

Learning Diversity Leader Network

The professional development network days for Learning Diversity Leaders (LDL) offers a collaborative platform for sharing best practices and insights. Participants engage in discussions on inclusive teaching strategies, leverage resources, and establish a supportive community. These dynamic events empower leaders to enhance learning environments and address diverse needs in schools effectively.

Learning Outcomes:

- Updates of relevant information relating to Key Activities of Learning Diversity Leaders
- Professional Development that is delivered to LDL to assist in PL to staff in their schools
- Updates on best practice relating to disability - relevant topics, guidelines, policy and procedures
- Updates on best systems, processes and procedures relating to Students with disability and identification of.

Intended Audience:

- Learning Diversity Leaders

Event details:

- Participants are encouraged to attend their respective 'zones' events each term (each event requires booking).
- Both Primary **and** Secondary Learning Diversity Leaders are invited to their respective zone events in Term 2.
- Event details are subject to change – visit **dobcel.catholic.edu.au** to confirm event details and book your place!

LDL Network (All Zones): Term 4	
Date:	19th November
Time:	10:00am – 2:30pm
Location:	Online
Delivery:	Online – link made available at a later date for participants
Cost:	$0

Event contact:	Lisa Templar - LTemplar@ceoballarat.catholic.edu.au

Secondary REL Network Meeting

This Professional Learning is for the ongoing formation of secondary Religious Education Leaders (RELs) in the areas of the Religious Education Curriculum, Relationships & Sexuality Education (RSE) and Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships (RRRR).

Learning Outcomes:

- The intended outcomes will be determined by the content in the meeting. The RELS select the content.

Intended Audience:

- Secondary RELs

Event details:

- Participants are encouraged to attend one semesters event (each event requires booking).
- Event details are subject to change – visit **dobcel.catholic.edu.au** to confirm event details and book your place!

Secondary REL Semester 2 Network Meeting	
Date:	18th November
Time:	9:30am – 3:00pm
Location:	Marian College - Ararat
Delivery:	Face-to-face **and** Online – link made available at a later date for participants
Cost:	$0

Event contact:	Bernadette Tolan - BTolan@ceoballarat.catholic.edu.au

VCE English Catholic Network 2026

The VCE English Catholic Network (VECN) continues to provide a comprehensive, practice-driven professional learning program for VCE English teachers across Catholic schools. With over 200 users from 30+ Catholic schools, VECN supports teaching excellence by delivering high-quality, on-demand learning resources and live professional learning aligned with the VCAA study design and current assessment practices.

The 2026 VECN program offers flexible, online professional learning for VCE English teachers via CANVAS, featuring curriculum planning, SAC and exam preparation, pedagogy support, and VCAA updates. It includes targeted resources like practice exams, text overview videos, downloadable materials, and live Q&A sessions. New teachers receive dedicated Unit 3 and 4 support, and an end-of-year planning day fosters collaboration for 2027 course design. Pricing is tiered by the number of VCE English classes per school.

Learning Outcomes:

- Confidently interpret and apply VCAA guidelines to plan and assess VCE English, including exam reports, study design updates, and effective SAC and exam strategies.
- Design and deliver cohesive Unit 3 and 4 courses using assessment data, strategic text choices, and differentiated teaching to meet diverse needs and boost outcomes.
- Participate in ongoing professional learning and collaboration with targeted support for new VCE teachers, structured resources, and Q&A and planning sessions.

Intended Audience:

- VCE English teachers
- Learning Area Leaders across Catholic Secondary Schools

Event details:

- The VCE English Catholic Network 2026 events are by **invitation only** and are not a ticketed event.

VECN: Meeting #4 – English Learning Leaders	
Date:	26th November
Time:	TBC
Location:	TBC
Delivery:	TBC
Cost:	$0

Event contact:	Ingrid May - IMay@dobcel.catholic.edu.au

VCE English Catholic Network - Planning for 2027

Join colleagues from across the VECN network for our 2027 VCE English Planning Day on 17 November at Federation University, Ballarat. This full-day, in-person event brings schools together to reflect on the 2026 VCE English course and examination, explore emerging challenges and trends, and begin shaping responsive approaches for the year ahead. Led by Kirstin Bourne, the day will combine practical planning time with rich professional discussion. Teams will work on curriculum and assessment design, SAC development, marking approaches and teaching strategies, while also sharing insights and experiences with teachers from other schools.

Participants will leave with fresh ideas, useful resources, stronger professional connections and a clearer direction for their 2027 VCE English planning.

Please note that registrations are via TryBooking, and each attendee must be registered individually. For any dietary requirements, please contact Ingrid May at imay@dobcel.catholic.edu.au

Learning Outcomes:

- Analyse the 2026 VCE English Examination: Deconstruct the exam structure, identify key trends in questions, and interpret assessment expectations using VCAA examination reports and performance data.
- Strengthen assessment literacy: Apply a clearer understanding of marking criteria, assessor expectations, and common student strengths and misconceptions to improve classroom practice.
- Evaluate and refine text selection and study approaches: Critically reflect on the 2026/2027 text list and teaching approaches, identifying effective strategies to enhance student engagement and achievement.
- Collaboratively design for 2027: Work with network colleagues to develop aligned teaching sequences, assessment approaches, and planning documents for the 2027 cohort.
- Share and leverage high-impact practices: Exchange evidence-informed strategies, resources, and approaches that improve student writing, interpretation, and exam performance.
- Build network coherence and consistency: Strengthen cross-school collaboration to support consistency in expectations, moderation practices, and curriculum delivery across the VCE English Catholic Network.

Intended Audience:

- VECN Network Members

Event details:

- Event details can change – visit **dobcel.catholic.edu.au** to confirm details and book your place!
- Paid parking is available in the streets surrounding the SMB Campus - the first hour is free, and then $3 per hour after that. All day parking is capped at $6.50 in Field Street, Anderson Street, Peel Street North and Peel Street South off-street car parks. Free, all-day parking is available at the nearby White Flat Oval. Ballarat Railway Station is a 10-minute walk from the SMB Campus.

VCE English Catholic Network - Planning for 2027	
Date:	17th November
Time:	09:00am – 3:00pm
Location:	Federation University – Ballarat Campus
Delivery:	Face-to-Face
Cost:	$70
Event contact:	Ingrid May - IMay@dobcel.catholic.edu.au

English, Humanities and Disciplinary Literacy Networks

The English, Humanities and Disciplinary Literacy Networks (formerly English Curriculum Project) returns in 2026, focusing on curriculum alignment, pedagogy, and community for Years 7–12 English teachers across DOBCEL secondary schools. It offers strategic leadership support alongside practical classroom resources, including twice-termly seminars on reading and writing strategies, curriculum design, and research application. Forums, Q&As, and networking encourage collaboration and sharing of best practices. A digital Canvas hub provides customizable units, planning tools, recorded sessions, and targeted mentoring for early career teachers.

Leadership engagement remains central, with termly check-ins for English Learning Leaders and ongoing support in curriculum planning, faculty leadership, and mentoring. This partnership equips leaders and teachers with the tools and connections needed to enhance English teaching and student outcomes across the Diocese.

Learning Outcomes:

- Design and deliver curriculum-aligned English programs using customizable tools, evidence-based methods, and a coherent Years 7–12 sequence.
- Use research-backed teaching strategies to support diverse learners, encourage reflection, and share best practices in collaborative forums.
- Foster professional growth and leadership with targeted mentoring for early career teachers and strategic coaching for Learning Leaders.

Intended Audience:

- Year 7-12 English teachers
- Learning Area Leaders
- Early Career English Teachers
- Returning English Teachers

Event details:

- The English Curriculum Project 2026 events are by **invitation only** and are not a ticketed event.
- The below events are held live for invited guests and will be made available for later access.

English, Humanities and Disciplinary Literacy Networks #6	
Date:	13th November
Time:	3:30pm – 4:30pm
Location:	Online
Delivery:	Online – link made available at a later date for participants
Cost:	$0

Event contact:	Ingrid May - IMay@dobcel.catholic.edu.au

DOBCEL Bushfire Preparedness Briefing

Principals are invited to attend an online pre-season bushfire preparedness briefing on Wednesday 25 November 2026. The sessions will support school leaders to review practical preparedness arrangements and make informed, timely decisions as fire danger conditions change over the summer period. Presented by Tom Kernick, Emergency Management Advisor, and Sam Campbell, Risk Management Officer, the briefing is particularly valuable for new principals and school leadership teams, while also providing a useful seasonal refresher for experienced leaders. Topics will include:

- Seasonal bushfire outlook, Fire Weather Districts and interpreting Fire Danger Ratings
- Preparedness actions for school grounds, vegetation, buildings and access routes
- Emergency Management Plans, monitoring forecasts and communicating operational decisions
- BARR requirements, high-risk weather arrangements and Catastrophic Fire Danger Day protocols
- Planning for camps, excursions and other off-site activities during heightened fire risk

Learning Outcomes:

- Interpret Fire Danger Ratings and identify the relevant Fire Weather District for their school.
- Identify practical bushfire preparedness actions for school grounds, buildings and access routes.
- Explain school leadership responsibilities for Emergency Management Plans, BARR requirements and high-risk weather arrangements.
- Apply relevant procedures to a forecast high-risk weather scenario, including monitoring conditions, identifying operational actions and communicating decisions.
- Identify bushfire risks and appropriate planning considerations for camps, excursions and other offsite activities.

Intended Audience:

- Principals

Event details:

- Participants are encouraged to attend either of the events below.
- Event details are subject to change – visit **dobcel.catholic.edu.au** to confirm event details and book your place!

DOBCEL Bushfire Preparedness Briefing - Session One	
Date:	25th November
Time:	01:00pm – 2:30pm
Location:	Online
Delivery:	Online – link made available at a later date for participants
Cost:	$0

DOBCEL Bushfire Preparedness Briefing - Session Two	
Date:	25th November
Time:	03:30pm – 5:00pm
Location:	Online
Delivery:	Online – link made available at a later date for participants
Cost:	$0

Event contact:	Sam Campbell - scampbell@dobcel.catholic.edu.au