



*Weekly Newsletter #44 - 19 Feb 2025*

## Reflection - Blessings for a New Position



*May your new work excite your heart,  
Kindle in your mind creativity  
To journey beyond the old limits  
Of all that has become wearisome.*

*May this work challenge you toward  
New frontiers that will emerge  
As you begin to approach them,  
Calling forth from you the full force  
And depth of your undiscovered gifts.*

*May the work fit the rhythms of your soul,  
Enabling you to draw from the invisible  
New ideas and a vision that will inspire.*

*Remember to be kind  
To those who work for you,  
Endeavor to remain aware  
Of the quiet world  
That lives behind each face.*

*Be fair in your expectations,  
Compassionate in your criticism.  
May you have the grace of encouragement  
To awaken the gift in the other's heart,  
Building in them the confidence  
To follow the call of the gift.*

*May you come to know that work  
Which emerges from the mind of love  
Will have beauty and form.*

*May this new work be worthy  
Of the energy of your heart  
And the light of your thought.*

*May your work assume  
A proper space in your life;  
Instead of owning or using you,  
May it challenge and refine you,  
Bringing you every day further  
Into the wonder of your heart.*

Amen

O'Donohue, J (2008) "Blessings for a New Position," from  
*To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings*  
Random House: New York

## From the Executive Director

This week, we were reminded of the importance of sensitivity and support when difficult news arises. As many of you may have seen in the news, former diocesan priest and convicted paedophile Gerald Ridsdale



has passed away. His death brings to the surface painful memories for many in our community. I encourage you to be mindful of the impact this may have on members of your school communities. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your school or to the DOBCEL support services and networks if you need assistance or guidance during this time.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the survivors, their families, and all those affected by the harm caused by Ridsdale. While we cannot change the past, we remain deeply committed to the safety and well-being of the children in our care. I am grateful for the ongoing efforts of all DOBCEL schools to ensure a child safe environment for every student.

On a brighter note, we began the week with 90 Principals and school leaders from Catholic schools across DOBCEL, who came together for an inspiring keynote presentation by the esteemed Professor David Hopkins. His talk, titled "*Unleashing Greatness: A Strategy for School Improvement*," was a key part of our DOBCEL Strategy 2035 initiative, and it set the stage for deeper collaboration and reflection on how we can continue to elevate our schools.

Following the keynote, a group of participants engaged in an interactive workshop exploring innovative strategies for school improvement and leadership development. I am excited about the ongoing learning and collaboration that this opportunity will provide for these leaders as they work alongside Professor Hopkins throughout

the year.

Looking ahead, I am eager to join fellow leaders, including Pasi Sahlberg, Dave Runge, and Canadian colleague Jean Claude Couture, for the first Diocesan Leadership Gathering of the year tomorrow in Horsham. This DLG will be another wonderful opportunity for us to continue our co-design work as we work towards our aspiration of becoming a high performing system of Catholic schools.

With best wishes,

*Tom Sexton, Executive Director*

## Unleashing Greatness: A Strategy for School Improvement with Professor David Hopkins

On Monday, 90 Principals and school leaders from Catholic schools across DOBCEL collaborated with the esteemed Professor David Hopkins, who delivered an inspiring keynote presentation titled "Unleashing Greatness: A Strategy for School Improvement" as part of the DOBCEL Strategy 2035.

Participants engaged in an interactive workshop that sparked innovative ideas and collaboration.

David Hopkins is the Chair of Educational Leadership at the University of Bolton, as well as Professor Emeritus at the Institute of Education, University College London and the University of Nottingham.



## Showcasing our Catholic schools in Action

### Embracing Holistic Catholic Education: Let's celebrate our sports and the spirit of teamwork they bring!

It's wonderful to see so many of our schools embracing exciting sporting activities in Term 1! Catholic education emphasises holistic development, and offering a well-rounded experience for their students.

**St Joseph's Primary School, Coleraine** published a great group photo on social media.

Well done to everyone who was involved in the Western Trinity Swimming Carnival. Great spirit was displayed with the grade 6 students helping the F-1 students participate, plenty of loud support for their houses, personal bests were achieved and some ribbons as well.

Some great photos below are from: St Francis Xavier Primary School, Ballarat East's Athletics Day, St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, Alfredton's Athletic Day and St Joseph's Primary School, Charlton.



## Spirit of Catholic Education Awards 2025 - Details Coming Soon

### Let's celebrate excellence in Catholic education together!

DOBCEL is thrilled to continue its proud sponsorship of the Spirit of Catholic Education Awards 2025. This initiative celebrates the remarkable service and inspiring leadership within our vibrant Diocesan school communities and the Catholic Education Office.

We encourage you to take part in this opportunity by submitting your nominations. Let's come together to honour those exceptional individuals whose dedication and passion brings the fullness of life to our students and communities.

**Keep an eye out for upcoming communications regarding nominations, and all the details will be available on the DOBCEL website.**

Your nominations are essential in recognising the extraordinary contributions that uplift and inspire us all.

The Award Ceremony will be held on **Friday 30 May**.

In 2025, the awards align with the DOBCEL strategic priorities, which are positioned to support the DOBCEL vision "*as partners in Catholic Education and open to God's presence, we pursue fullness of life for all.*"

## Social Justice Update



In a *letter* dated 10 February 2025, addressed to his fellow bishops, Pope Francis commends the efforts of American bishops in supporting migrants and refugees. He expresses **support for efforts to uphold the fundamental dignity of every human person** and emphasizes the

significance of providing pastoral support to those undergoing displacement.

To read the letter and full article from Vatican News, please click the link below:



## Laudato Si' Partners News

**1. Invitation to Project Compassion Launch Mass on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025.** All are welcome. Bishop Paul will preside.

**2. Project Compassion 2025: Unite against**

**Poverty this Lent**—your school resources for 2025 were posted last week. If you have not received your resources, please email Jillian Hogbin at [caritas@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:caritas@ballarat.catholic.org.au)



## Wadawurrung Cultural Connections and Teacher Support - Teacher

### Environment Network in-person meeting

The Ballarat Teacher Environment Network (TEN) has an upcoming meeting, with special guest Wadawurrung Traditional Owner and visual artist, Jenna Oldaker, and you are invited to be a part of it.

**Date:** Friday 28 March 2025

**Venue:** Mount Clear College, Earth Ed

**Time:** 9.30am - 11.30am

Here is the [link](#) to the event.

To find out more about the 2025 ResourceSmart Schools Awards which are closing soon, upcoming professional learning, upcoming events, snippets and diary dates, check out the latest ResourceSmart Schools Newsletter below:

[ResourceSmart Schools Newsletter](#)



## Zoos Victoria Youth Programs

The Victorian Zoo's youth programs give young people the opportunity to explore their zoos, develop valuable skills for the future, and connect with like-minded peers who share a passion for animals and conservation. To find out more about Zoos Victoria's youth programs, including the Youth Conservation Leaders Program and the Youth Advisory Committee, click the link below: [Zoos Victoria News](#)

### Upcoming Key Social Justice Dates:

'World Day of Social Justice' Thursday 20th February 2025

↳ [School Resources for Teachers | Social Justice | Caritas Australia](#)

'Schools Clean Up Australia Day' Friday 28th February 2025

↳ [Get Involved as a School - Clean Up Australia](#)

'World Wildlife Day' Monday 3rd March 2025

↳ [World Wildlife Day](#)

'Harmony Week' 17th - 23rd March 2025

'Ride2 School Day' Friday 21st March 2025

↳ [National Ride2School Day | Bicycle Network](#)

'Earth Hour' Saturday 22nd March 2025

↳ [Earth Hour](#)

'World Water Day' Saturday 22nd March 2025

↳ [World Water Day | United Nations](#)

## People and Development Updates

### Leadership Development - Program Offerings for Term 1

Throughout 2025 a number of leadership development opportunities will run to support the implementation of the DOBCEL strategy 2035 and the development of our leaders.

During term one, the following opportunities are offered.

## Feedback - Facilitated by BTS Sparks

<b>Date, time &amp; location</b>	March 6, Sovereign Park Motor Inn, Ballarat 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM
<b>Program overview</b>	<p>Feedback plays a crucial role in the development of collaboration skills.</p> <p>The focus of this program is shifting mindsets from –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a feedback culture is created by giving feedback, to, a feedback culture is created by asking for feedback, and;</li> <li>• Constructive feedback is necessary but creates distance, to, understanding that feedback can create connections and strengthen relationships, and;</li> <li>• I give feedback as part of the performance process, to, I give feedback because every person wants and needs it.</li> </ul>
<b>Target Audience</b>	This program is designed for current people leaders – eg: Early Career Principals, Deputy or Assistant Principals, members of school leadership teams and is also suitable for aspiring people leaders and CEB staff.
<b>Booking Link</b>	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1342196">https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1342196</a>
<b>Cost</b>	\$275

For further information please click [here](#).

*(Minimum participant numbers apply for the program to run)*

## Collaboration - Facilitated by BTS Sparks

<b>Date, time &amp; location</b>	March 6, Sovereign Park Motor Inn, Ballarat 1:00pm – 4:30pm
<b>Program overview</b>	<p>The focus of this program is to deeply understand what collaboration means and how to bring the best version of yourself to collaborate.</p> <p>It focuses on shifting mindsets from –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am most effective when working by myself, to, I am most effective when collaborating with others, and;</li> <li>• I work best with people who think and work like me, to, we create the best results by having diverse backgrounds, opinions and ideas on the team, and;</li> <li>• Teams either work or they don't, to, effective teams require constant attention and evolve and grow over time.</li> </ul>
<b>Target Audience</b>	This program is designed for current people leaders – eg: Early Career Principals, Deputy or Assistant Principals, members of school leadership teams and is also suitable for aspiring people leaders and CEB staff.
<b>Booking Link</b>	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1342190">https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1342190</a>
<b>Cost</b>	\$275

*(Minimum participant numbers apply for the program to run)*

For further information please click [here](#).

Click [here](#) to view the full list of leadership development opportunities for 2025.

**If you have any questions related to Leadership Development opportunities please contact Fiona Murphy.**

## Child Safety Professional Learning Opportunities

Child Safety Professional Learning opportunities for March suitable for all staff who work in schools.

## Reportable Conduct Scheme

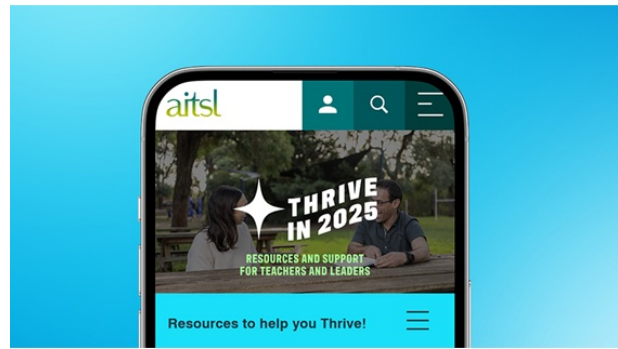
Adam Foster – Employment Lawyer - Colin, Biggers and Paisley will deliver 4 online sessions for DOBCEL staff in relation to the Reportable Conduct Scheme and its application in an education setting.

<p><b>Understanding the Reportable Conduct Scheme - VC 1</b></p> <p><b>Date: 3 March 2025</b></p> <p><b>Time: 10am-11:30am</b></p>	<p>FREE ONLINE BOOKING: <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CZIIA">https://www.trybooking.com/CZIIA</a></p>
<p><b>Understanding the Reportable Conduct Scheme - VC 2</b></p> <p><b>Date: 6 March 2025</b></p> <p><b>Time: 1:30-3pm</b></p>	<p>FREE ONLINE BOOKING: <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CZIIQ">https://www.trybooking.com/CZIIQ</a></p>
<p><b>Understanding the Reportable Conduct Scheme - VC 3</b></p> <p><b>Date: 11 March 2025</b></p> <p><b>Time: 10am-11:30am</b></p>	<p>FREE ONLINE BOOKING: <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CZIJB">https://www.trybooking.com/CZIJB</a></p>
<p><b>Understanding the Reportable Conduct Scheme - VC 4</b></p> <p><b>Date: 12 March 2025</b></p> <p><b>Time: 1:30-3pm</b></p>	<p>FREE ONLINE BOOKING: <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CZIJG">https://www.trybooking.com/CZIJG</a></p>

## Child Safety for Learning Support Officers (LSOs)

<p>Sarah Morgante Director of One Red Apple will work with Learning Support Officers (LSOs) to build confidence and knowledge around responding to disclosures of abuse made by students. LSOs play a key role in supporting a culture of child safety and consequently need to be equipped with the knowledge and skills they require to support their own wellbeing when responding to challenging situations.</p>	<p>FREE BOOKING: <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CZIWD">https://www.trybooking.com/CZIWD</a></p>
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## AITSL Thrive in 2025 Campaign



Have you explored the **aitsl Thrive in 2025 campaign** yet?

It's filled with carefully curated resources to help teachers get the most out of Term 1 and lay the foundation for a successful year.

### Thrive: what does it mean to you?

'Thrive' means different things to everyone, but some key characteristics of thriving at work include: *growth and development, connection to people and purpose, and a sense of agency*. From building your high-quality professional learning plan, to supporting beginning teachers, or strengthening the cultural responsiveness in your educational setting, there are many ways to thrive in your teaching practice.

### Resources Available

AITSL has a broad range of resources, tools and research to support your teaching practice at every stage of your career. To help you **Thrive in 2025** will be providing curated resources designed to meet your needs throughout the year. There's no better place to start planning your professional learning than with self-reflection and goal setting.

## Wellbeing Updates

### Modelling Respect and Equality in Schools



**Representatives from Damascus College and St Alipius join other Ballarat primary and secondary schools attending the Modelling Respect and Equality in Schools (MoRE) program on the 17th and 18th of February for professional learning delivered by the Jesuit Social Services team.**

The MoRE program intends to shift adherence to stereotypical masculine norms, which contributes to the prevention of family violence. It supports the implementation of the Respectful Relationships whole-school approach by providing professional learning that helps:

- Build awareness through critical reflection on gender norms, masculinity, and their links to violence.
- Develop skills to promote respect and gender equality, focusing on vulnerability, social-emotional skills, and strengths-based approaches.
- Model gender-equitable and healthy attitudes, especially focusing on boys and young men.
- Take action to create a culture of respect and equality within school communities.

Click [here](#) to view information on MoRE or the Man Box.

## Understanding and Responding to Harmful Child Sexualised Behaviour in Primary Schools


<p><b>Date and time</b></p>	<p>Date: 24th of February 2025</p> <p>Time: 9:00am – 11:30am</p>
<p><b>Learning outcomes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand sexual development as a typical aspect of childhood, including the continuum of sexual behaviour and identify the characteristics of healthy sexual behaviours as well as those which are concerning, problematic or harmful</li> <li>• Understand the factors that contribute to these behaviours including the neurobiology of trauma, attachment, family violence and pornography</li> <li>• Identify risk and protective factors</li> <li>• Develop practical response strategies guided by the needs of those involved</li> <li>• Understand the policies, processes and teams that can assist in responding to and managing student sexual behaviour and apply best practice approaches to responding to sexual risk, sexual abuse disclosure or signs of sexual abuse</li> <li>• Understand the work of local support services</li> </ul>
<p><b>Venue</b></p>	<p>MacKillop/Glowery Rooms St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat or online</p>
<p><b>Registration link</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CYJDS">https://www.trybooking.com/CYJDS</a></p>
<p><b>For further information</b></p>	<p>For any further information contact Brooke Nester <a href="mailto:bnester@dobcel.catholic.edu.au">bnester@dobcel.catholic.edu.au</a></p>

## MARAM Training for Nominated Staff in Schools

The Department of Education has partnered with the Centre of Excellence in Child and Family Welfare to deliver free and interactive family violence MARAM training to education workforces. This 4-hour training will support school and early childhood staff to build skills they already have to better identify and respond to family violence. Online training is available 1-2 times a week during school term time until June 2026, and in-person training will be held throughout Victoria until June 2026.

This training is for MARAM nominated staff. MARAM nominated staff are identified by school and service leaders and have qualifications, training, experience, or a role aligned with wellbeing, such as wellbeing coordinators, or leadership staff. The training includes activities that will support MARAM nominated staff to screen for violence, plan for safety, make referrals and reports, and provide ongoing support. Training hours count towards professional learning for Victorian Institute of Teaching registration, and Casual Relief Teacher reimbursement is available (the Centre will email you instructions about how to claim this). The training is based on the Department of Education's [Information Sharing and Family Violence Reforms: Guidance and Tools](#).

**Register - Scan this QR code and follow instructions below.**

	<p>You will then receive an email from the Centre's Learning Management System (LMS) within 24 hours asking you to set a password so you can login to the LMS at any time and see the training calendar.</p> <p>Log in and enrol yourself in a session that suits you.</p>
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Register now for in-person training in South West Victoria Region:	
24 March 2025	Deer Park
25 March 2025	Newport
26 March 2025	Geelong
27 March 2025	Ballarat
28 March 2025	Warrnambool

## Save the dates

### Wednesday Online Primary Student Network Day

<b>Date</b>	Wednesday 19 March 2025 - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
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<b>Event information</b>	<p>The Student Wellbeing Team is hosting a day for leaders across the diocese, this includes the Mental Health and Wellbeing Leaders (MHWLs). The day will be aligned to different elements of the Student Wellbeing Framework.</p> <p>The online learning is designed to inform school-wide practice and allow school leaders to learn from, and connect with, experts from across the field. An online format allows flexibility and will hopefully allow as many leaders as possible to attend either all, or part of, the day.</p> <p>There will be time to interact in smaller groups and connect with other leaders.</p>
<b>Online Network for MHWLs &amp; Primary Student Wellbeing Leaders Registration Link</b>	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CXYLO">https://www.trybooking.com/CXYLO</a>

### School-wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) Refresher Day

<b>Date</b>	Friday 21 March 2025 - 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM
<b>Event Information</b>	<p>The Student Wellbeing team is hosting a day in <b>Ballarat</b> as a <b>SWPBS refresher day</b>.</p> <p>SWPBS is an evidence-based school improvement approach that creates a positive and supportive learning environment for all students. It focuses on teaching and reinforcing positive behaviours while providing targeted assistance to students who may need extra support, leading to a more successful and inclusive learning community. When implemented well, it ensures that all students receive support to maximise behavioural, wellbeing and academic growth.</p> <p>The day will focus on unpacking the pedagogy of SWPBS and exploring systems and processes which support SWPBS.</p> <p>Intended audience for PD will be all staff to deepen their understanding of SWPBS</p>
<b>SWPBS Refresher Day – Ballarat</b>	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CXYVE">https://www.trybooking.com/CXYVE</a>

# Learning and Teaching Updates

## GENERAL NEWS

### English as an Additional Language

#### *The EAL Grapevine*

Please [click this link](#) to read the Term 1 EAL Grapevine.

This issue includes:

- Online EAL tutoring
- Professional learning opportunities.
- The Migrant Story: Nepal.
- Useful resources.

### PAT News



ACER is pleased to offer a series of webinars targeted to schools using, or about to use, the PAT Progressive Achievement suite online.

#### Webinars Term 1:

**Understanding PAT:** a guide for new teachers  
Wednesday 12 February 4:00pm

**The PAT Teaching Resource Centre:** supporting teachers with the next steps after assessment Tuesday, 18 February 4pm

**PAT Administration:** account setup tips and tricks  
Wednesday 19 February 4pm

**PAT Interviews:** exploring the context of PAT in a school setting Wednesday, 26 February 4pm

**Understanding PAT workshop:** designed to deepen knowledge of PAT and analysis of student data  
Wednesday 26 March 9am - 3pm

Click [here](#) to find out more information and to register for the PAT sessions

## Early Career Professional Learning 2025



The Early Career Teacher Program is a three-year integrated program designed to support early career teacher induction into the Ballarat Diocese and the teaching profession within the particular context of working in the ministry of Catholic education. The program reflects the partnership between DOBCEL and schools, who, together, 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.

Early Career Teacher program days will take place on the following dates throughout 2025. To encourage participation and decrease travel time for people in the north, program days in terms one and two will be repeated in two locations.

If you know an early career teacher, please share these dates with them!

**Please note early career teachers who have been granted permission to teach are also welcome to attend.**

### 2025 dates for your diary

#### First Year ECT Program

Central Location	Northern Location	Cost	Mode of delivery
	Session will go ahead subject to numbers		

Term 1	Tuesday March 11 9am-3pm	Monday March 17 9am-3pm		
Location	Ballarat - Glowrey Room – St Patrick’s Cathedral Hall	Mildura or Robinvale (TBC subject to registrations)	\$80	Face to Face
Booking link	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CYLBI">https://www.trybooking.com/CYLBI</a>	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CYLCH">https://www.trybooking.com/CYLCH</a>		
Term 2	Monday May 19 9am-3pm	Wednesday May 21 9am- 3pm		
Location	Ballarat - Glowrey Room – St Patrick’s Cathedral Hall	Mildura or Robinvale TBC (subject to registrations)	\$80	Face to Face
Term 3	Formation Retreat - August 13/14	Formation Retreat - August 13/14	TBC	Face to Face
Location	Halls Gap	Halls Gap		
Term 4	ECT Check- ins Weeks 3 & 4 20/10 – 1/11	ECT Check- ins Weeks 3 & 4 20/10 – 1/11	N/A	Online

Term 1	Thursday, March 20 9am-3pm	Tuesday, March 18 9am-3pm		
Location	Ballarat - Glowrey Room – St Patrick’s Cathedral Hall	Mildura or Robinvale (TBC subject to registrations)	\$80	Face to Face
Booking link	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CYLDB">https://www.trybooking.com/CYLDB</a>	<a href="https://www.trybooking.com/CYLCK">https://www.trybooking.com/CYLCK</a>		
Term 2	Thursday June 12	Thursday June 12		
Location	Online check- in (1 hour) 3:45-4:45pm	Online check- in (1 hour) 3:45-4:45pm	\$80	Online
Term 3	Formation Retreat - August 13/14	Formation Retreat - August 13/14	TBC	Face to Face
Location	Halls Gap	Halls Gap		
Term 4	ECT Check- ins Weeks 3 & 4 20/10 – 1/11	ECT Check-ins Weeks 3 & 4 20/10 – 1/11	N/A	Online

If you have any queries about the program, please contact Julie Cooper [jcooper@dobcel.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jcooper@dobcel.catholic.edu.au) or Sarah Hanley [shanley@dobcel.catholic.edu.au](mailto:shanley@dobcel.catholic.edu.au)

## VIT Effective Mentoring Program



### Calling mentor teachers!

The **Effective Mentoring Program (EMP)** is a free professional learning program developed and delivered in partnership with the Department of Education and VIT.

This two-day program equips participants with mentoring skills to support beginning teachers and guide them through the **provisional to full registration** process.

Any teacher who wishes to become a mentor for a PRT moving to **full registration** can participate in a VIT-approved mentoring program.

## Second & Third Year ECT Program

		Northern Location		
	Central Location	Session will go ahead subject to numbers	Cost	Mode of delivery

Two-day EMP Course		
Location	Day 1	Day 2
Ballarat	10 February 2025	19 March 2025
Bendigo	12 June 2025	7 August 2025
Geelong	3 July 2025	28 August 2025
Horsham	8 May 2025	26 June 2025
Mildura	21 August 2025	9 October 2025
Warrnambool	19 June 2025	14 August 2025

**One-day EMP refresher course**  
Refresher courses are available for those who have completed the initial two-day training but would like to refresh their mentoring skills.

Location	Day 1
Melbourne	28 February 2025
Melbourne	30 May 2025
Melbourne	15 August 2025
Melbourne	20 October 2025

For further information and registrations, please click [here](#).

## Children & Youth Cultural Gathering: Close the Gap Day

Ballarat and District Aboriginal Cooperative are hosting a cultural day on Thursday March 30 for Yr 1-9 First Nations students from Ballarat and district. All Ballarat schools are encouraged to promote this event.

More information and register here:  
<https://forms.office.com/r/Tiq1mvXB7p>

## FIRE Carrier Program

**F** **r** **i** **e** **n** **d** **s** **i** **g** **n** **i** **n** **g**  
**R** **e** **c** **o** **n** **c** **i** **l** **i** **a** **t** **i** **o** **n** **t** **h** **r** **o** **u** **g** **h** **o** **u** **s**  
**E** **d** **u** **c** **a** **t** **i** **o** **n**



The FIRE Carrier Program is a way that schools can show their outward commitment to authentic reconciliation and their support of self-determination in education for First Nations students and their families. All members of a school community are encouraged to share reconciliation with others under the lead of the Commissioned Staff and Student FIRE Carriers.

Each school creates a School Covenant that emphasises the ethos and faith belief of Catholic schools and the social justice responses they are committed to make as part of their Catholic identity. The school covenant focuses on the three core values of Spirituality; Cultural Recognition and Awareness; and Practical Recognition and Justice. Schools commit to actions that meet each of these values. This is a living document that is referred to throughout the year and has the input from the school community including staff and students. First Nations students and families are also invited to contribute if they would like to part of the program.

The FIRE Carrier Program provides a framework for addressing School Compliance including Child Safe Standards and the [VCEA Aboriginal and Torres](#)

[Strait Islander Education Action Plan](#). It is a great opportunity for student leadership, voice and action for social justice.

We look forward to your school becoming a FIRE Carrier School in the future!

For more information about the **FIRE Carrier Program** send an email to [firecarrier@openingthedoors.org.au](mailto:firecarrier@openingthedoors.org.au)

You can visit our [New FIRE Carrier School Information](#) folder containing our Information Booklet, PowerPoint presentation, Fee Schedule and Expression of Commitment Form ready to share the FIRE Carrier Program with your school leadership, staff and students.

## Opening the Doors Foundation



### Financial Grants for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students

The Opening the Doors Foundation provides grants to families to assist with the extra costs incurred in the schooling of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary or secondary school students. The 2025 Grant Round is now open, with a closing date of **14 March 2025**. For students to commence the 2025 school year with the necessary items, the ideal time to apply is now or before the start of Term 1.

**Please note that due to a substantial increase in applications, the Foundation's Trustees have had to modify the eligibility criteria.** The updated criteria and guidelines are outlined on both the [Opening the Doors Foundation](#) website and the [Opening the Doors Foundation Application](#). Please contact the Foundation (details listed below), **Helen Christensen** (0467 415 768) or **Jeanette Morris** (0408 360 098) for further information.

**Pertinent information:**

**Website:** [Opening the Doors Foundation; Foundation Application Criteria and Guidelines](#)

**App link:** [Opening the Doors Foundation Application](#)

**Phone:** 0401 487 414 or 1300 236 356

**Email:** [applications@openingthedoors.org.au](mailto:applications@openingthedoors.org.au)

**Closing date:** 14 March 2025 (applications will not be accepted after this date)

# PRIMARY NEWS

## English Bites

### English Version 2.0 Familiarisation

Schools in the Ballarat Diocese will engage in familiarisation in 2025 and move to implementation in 2026.

CEB will offer a series of three invitational **online** workshops to assist schools to understand and implement the changes to English Version 2.0 curriculum. Please note that Flare Guided Schools have this work built into their PL syllabus but are very welcome to engage.

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 3:45 – 4:45pm	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March 3:45 – 4:45pm	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 3:45 – 4:45pm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Compare V1.0 to V2.0</li><li>Summary of changes</li><li>Modes and Achievement Standards</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Auditing current units of work</li><li>Whole school curriculum area plans</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Adapting current units of work</li><li>Reporting</li></ul>

Please use [this link](#) to register your attendance for session 1.

If you have any queries with regard to these sessions, please contact:

Sarah McKnight: [SMcKnight@dobcel.catholic.edu.au](mailto:SMcKnight@dobcel.catholic.edu.au)  
0427 406 918

Belinda Chiswell: [BChiswell@dobcel.catholic.edu.au](mailto:BChiswell@dobcel.catholic.edu.au) 0484  
641 997

Joe Ewing: [JEwing@dobcel.catholic.edu.au](mailto:JEwing@dobcel.catholic.edu.au) 0429 985  
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## Primary Leaders of Learning Meeting Schedule 2025

*Our Primary Leaders of Learning network aims to provide a platform for open dialogue, sharing of evidence-based teaching practices, and collaboration*

*among primary school leaders.*

*By coming together, we can leverage our collective knowledge of learning and experiences to enhance the quality of education we provide to our students.*

### PLOL Meeting Dates 2025 and Agenda Items for Term 1

Please register your intentions to attend the Term 1 PLOL meeting [here](#).

**Term 1:** Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 1:30 – 3pm

Agenda Items:

Educational leadership

Curriculum updates

Reporting to Mathematics V2.0

**Term 2:** Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 1:30 – 3pm

**Term 3:** Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August 1:30 – 3pm

**Term 4:** Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1:30 – 3pm

## Teaching Mathematics to Foundation Students with Michael Ymer



**Ballarat: 25 March**

**This day will be full of activities that teachers can readily take back and trial with their students.**

**Content for the day will include:**

- Teachers enjoying teaching mathematics, children enjoying learning mathematics.
- A sensible approach to covering all the content in the new Victorian Curriculum Version 2.0.
- Managing mixed abilities so all students experience success.
- Resourcing the mathematics classroom.
- Integrating number with other strands to support a meaningful learning environment.

**For more information and registration details click [here](#)**

## F-6 Mathematics Curriculum V2.0

Where are you currently on the Roadmap in preparation for the implementation of Mathematics V2.0 in 2025? Reflect on what you have in place and cross reference your progress against the 2025 Implementation Roadmap **document**.

### **Voices from the field sharing their journey about preparing to implement Mathematics V2.0**

For more assistance, please contact:

Sarah McKnight [smcknight@dobel.catholic.edu.au](mailto:smcknight@dobel.catholic.edu.au)

OR

Teresa Hadden: [thadden@dobcel.catholic.edu.au](mailto:thadden@dobcel.catholic.edu.au)

## SECONDARY NEWS



## ECP in 2025

Thursday, 20 February marks the commencement of the English Curriculum Project (ECP) for 2025 with our first ECP Seminar. We will be working with ten DOBCEL Secondary Schools to develop strategies and skills that can be used to directly improve teaching and learning outcomes in English classrooms from 7 – 10.

In the first session of the year we will revisit Writing Frames, which are scaffolds and models that can be used to enable students to develop complex structures of writing. We will be looking at the strategic use of them as part of the extended writing process as well as their alignment with elements of the Victorian Curriculum 2.0. There will also be a focus on when writing frames stop being appropriate for students and what we replace them with.

As with all of our Seminars, there is space for questions, reflections and collaboration between schools.

We look forward to seeing you online on Thursday 20 February 3:30 – 4:30pm

Link to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81574024667?pwd=C24zltGeWQZYbA3OGVMfFhDsGUFgwW.1>

Meeting ID: 815 7402 4667

Passcode: 797009

For further details, please contact Julia Petrov, Learning and Teaching Education Officer (Secondary) on [jpetrov@dobcel.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jpetrov@dobcel.catholic.edu.au) or 0432 499 683.

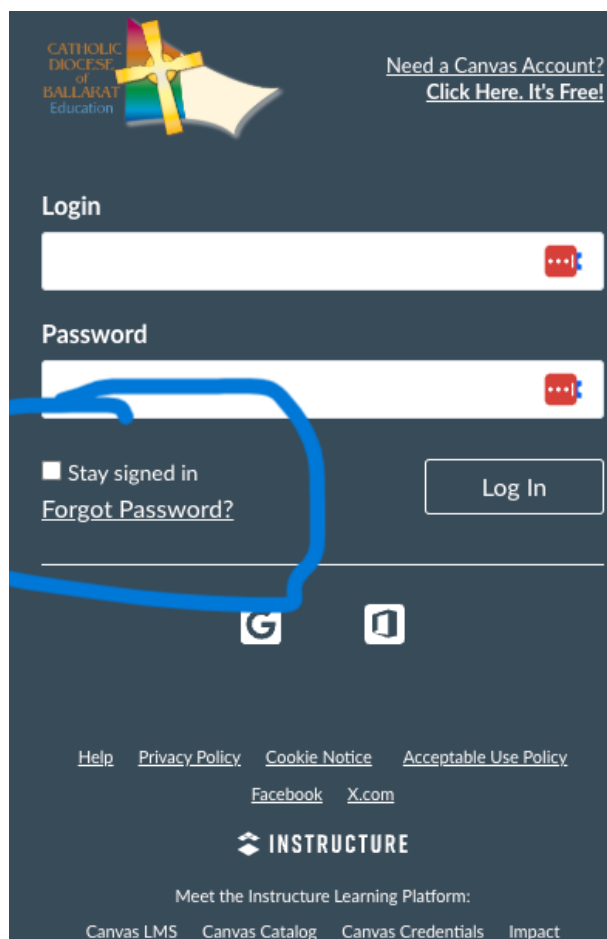
The ECP Canvas site can be [accessed here](#).

### **Please note the new Canvas login details:**

In order to log in to Canvas, please follow these steps:

1. Access Canvas via this link <https://ceob.instructure.com/>

The landing page will look like this:



2. Select the **"Forgot Password"** option as circled in blue.

3. Use your **school email address**. You will be sent an email to create a new password

4. **Create a password.**

You will be able to use your new password next time you login.

If you forget it, simply reset it by using the "Forgot Password" option again.

If you select "Stay logged in", you won't have to login as often.

Bookmark the Canvas link so you have easy access.

## Career Opportunities in the Diocesan Education Community

### Catholic Education Ballarat Vacancy

- **No Vacancies.**

### Principal Vacancy

- **No Principal Vacancies**

### School Vacancies

- **Careers and Pathways Coordinator** – St Patrick's College, Ballarat – ongoing position at 1.0 (**closes 24 February**)
- **Part time classroom teacher** – Emmaus Catholic Primary School, Mount Clear – fixed term position at 0.2 FTE (**closes 25 February**)
- **Classroom Teacher (Monday and Wednesday)** – Sacred Heart Primary School, Colac – fixed term position at 0.4 FTE (**closes 28 February**)
- **Casual Relief Teachers** – St Brigid's School, Ballan (**closes 28 February**)
- **Classroom Teacher - terms 2-4 (Maternity Leave Position)** – St Joseph's School, Coleraine – fixed term position at 1.0 FTE (**closes 7 March**)
- **Classroom Teacher** – St Malachy's, Edenhope – fixed term position at 1.0 FTE (**closes 7 March**)
- **Dance Teacher** – St Joseph's College, Mildura – ongoing position at 1.0 FTE (**closes 14 March**)