



**Essendon
Keilor College**

ESSENDON – EAST KEILOR – NIDDRIE

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PROGRAM TERM 2 NEWSLETTER



**SALLY STEVENS
LATER YEARS
CAMPUS PRINCIPAL**

Term 2 has been a very busy term for our International Students. They have had a range of experiences including many incursions and excursions to support making real life connections to their learning. Students at all year levels have just completed their midyear examinations and semester 1 reports will be released to the families at the end of the term. During term 3, families will have an opportunity to have parent teacher interviews online, and I am excited to announce I will be travelling to Vietnam in September where we will continue to spread the work about our fantastic International Student Program and our English Language Program.

DID YOU KNOW??

Our Year 12 students have their very own Study Centre, complete with individual and group study areas, access to teachers for support and help and a kitchen where they can prepare their own food!

THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM TEAM:

Our newly appointed International Student Coordinator has worked well with our students in 2025 - those in our English Language Centre and in our mainstream classes. Our Homestay Coordinator continues to support the many students who are a part of our homestay program and our administration officer supports all aspects of this work. Later in the newsletter you will hear about our Vietnamese First Language teacher and the fantastic results he achieved with his students in 2024.



**Carmela
Aldridge**
International
Student
Coordinator



Hung Nguyen
Vietnamese
Teacher



Nancy Bragaglia
Homestay
Coordinator



Chiu Kwan Tong
Administration
Officer

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS UPDATE



CARMELA ALDRIDGE
INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS
COORDINATOR



Wow, it's hard to believe we're already halfway through the year and there's still so much more to look forward to!

Semester 1 has offered our students wonderful opportunities both on and off campus, and it's been a joy to watch them embrace each one wholeheartedly. Some of those things included a trip to the Melbourne Zoo, University expo, inter school sport.

At the start of Term 2, we welcomed three new international students into the mainstream program, two joining Year 10 as they prepare to begin VCE next year, and another joining us short-term from Paris.

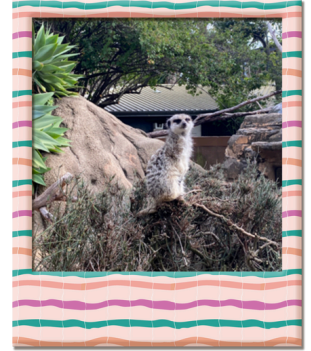
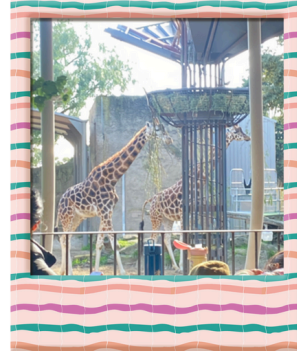
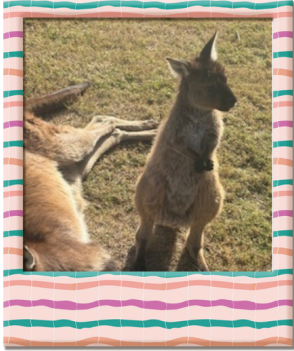
Get to know Giao Thy, from Paris and hear about her experience with us. It's fantastic to see that overseas students are encouraged to study abroad during their summer breaks. Completing a full term here allows them to fully immerse themselves in our community while enhancing their English skills.

At our school, we host Breakfast Club every Thursday morning, run by our food tech students. It's a wonderful way to start the day, offering ham and cheese toasties, cereal, yogurt, fresh fruit, freshly squeezed juice, and hot drinks. Our international students have been enthusiastically embracing this opportunity, making it a great way to connect and integrate with local students.

We are excited for Semester 2, when we will welcome 11 new students to our wonderful school. We're thrilled they have chosen us, and we look forward to supporting them as they work towards completing their VCE and pursuing further studies.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTRE ZOO TRIP

BY NHA THANH NGUYEN (TIFFANY) -
ELC STUDENT



Melbourne Zoo

Hello everyone, I'm Tiffany. I'm an international student from Vietnam, and I am studying at Essendon Keilor College. Today, I want to talk about a wonderful trip. On Monday, June 16th, 2025, I went on a trip to Melbourne Zoo with my classmates, Miss Carmela, and Miss Geerling. Firstly, I want to introduce Melbourne Zoo to you. Melbourne Zoo is the oldest zoo in Australia. It is located close to the center of Melbourne. The ticket prices range from 0 to 53 dollars. If you are under 15 years old, you get free entry. If you are over 16, the ticket costs 53 dollars. Secondly, when I visited Melbourne Zoo, I was surprised because there were so many animals and the place was very spacious. For example, kangaroos, koalas, lions, gorillas, butterflies, giraffes, and many more. Especially, they have planted a lot of trees there. You can relax, study, and have fun at the zoo. It is a great place to connect with nature. During my visit, I had the chance to see animals and plants that I had never seen before in Vietnam.

Thirdly, I think I liked the butterfly house the most. The greenhouse was very warm. It was the first time I had seen so many butterflies. Two butterflies even landed on my hand, they were really beautiful and cute. After that, I was really impressed by the White's Tree Frog because it has a beautiful green color. I thought it was just a decoration. I also want to recommend that if you visit Melbourne Zoo, you should see the meerkats because they are so cute and small about the size of my hand.

Fourthly, I had time to have lunch and rest. It was wonderful because the place where we rested was very comfortable and airy. Especially, we could see giraffes nearby. It was a beautiful place to rest or study. They also sell souvenirs related to the zoo.

Finally, I just want to say that you should visit Melbourne Zoo. This was a great trip for me. I could study, rest, and connect with my friends and teachers.

TIFFANY NGUYEN
19/06/2025

TEACHER INSIGHT



Mr Hung Chi Nguyen VIETNAMESE TEACHER

Unit 1

In term 2 students develop an understanding of aspects of language and culture through the study of Vietnamese Folkliterature topic.



Unit 3

In this term students develop their understanding of aspects of language and culture through the study of the Tale of Kiều.

Through the use of Vietnamese, students access and share useful information on the topics and consolidate and extend vocabulary, knowledge of grammar and other language skills. Students reflect on the interplay between language and culture, and its impact on meaning, understanding and the individual's language use in specific contexts and for specific audiences.



CAREERS UPDATE



DAN KINGHAM
TRANSITION &
PATHWAYS LEADER

The Transition and Pathways program at Essendon Keilor College puts the student and their individual pathway goals at the centre of our work. We provide a range of Career Planning opportunities beginning at Year 9. Below is an overview of the key events and opportunities we provide to International Students and an outline of the timeline of key dates they need to be aware of related to course selection for 2026.

Careers Events and Opportunities at Essendon Keilor College

YEAR 9

- Career Action Plans
- EKC Careers EXPO (High Achiever Program Students)
- Try a Trade Day Excursion
- Morrisby Profiling / Essendon Campus Transition Day
- One on One Morrisby Careers Interviews
- Subject Selection Information night / EKC Subject EXPO
- Course Counselling / Subject Selection
- MMVLLEN workshops – Job Seeking / Planning Work Experience
- Year 10 STEP UP Program - work experience safe@work modules

Careers Events and Opportunities at Essendon Keilor College

YEAR 10

- Career Action Plans
- EKC Careers EXPO
- Subject Info night / EKC Subject EXPO
- Work Experience Program (1 week)
- University Experience Day - Victoria University
- Kangan Trade Taster Day
- VIC Careers Show
- Industry Immersion Tours (Eg Qantas)
- Course Counselling / Subject Selection
- Course Confirmation Day

CAREERS UPDATE



Careers Events and Opportunities at Essendon Keilor College

YEAR 11

VCE

- Career Action Plans
- EKC Careers EXPO
- RMIT and ACU City Experience Day
- Mentor Group Activities
- Course Counselling / Subject Selection
- Course Confirmation Day

VCEVM

- Career Action Plans
- EKC Careers EXPO
- Public Safety Cert III Course (Firefighting)
- First Aid Course
- White Card Course
- VET Course and Work Placement
- CHASE Program



Careers Events and Opportunities at Essendon Keilor College

YEAR 12

VCE

- Melbourne Uni Study Camp
- Career Action Plans
- EKC Careers EXPO
- One on one Student Action Plan Data conversations
- Once on one Career Planning VTAC meetings
- Latrobe Uni Experience Day
- Deakin Uni Experience Day
- VTAC Course Applications / Change of Preference support

VCEVM

- Melbourne Uni Study Camp
- Career Action Plans
- EKC Careers EXPO
- Public Safety Cert III Course (Firefighting Ops)
- Food Handling / RSA Course
- Financial Literacy Course
- VET Course and Work Placement

Timeline of Important Dates, Events & Requirements

Year 10 2026	
Monday 24th - Friday 27th June	Year 9 Morrisby Careers Interviews
Monday 28th July	Year 9 into 10 Course Selection Evening - Essendon Campus
Friday 1st August	Applications for VCE Access & AFL Football Program Due
Friday 22nd August	Year 9 into 10 Course Counselling Day - Course Selections Due
Monday 8th - Friday 12th December	Step Up Program (Essendon Campus)
Year 11 2026	
Monday 28th July	Year 10 into 11 Course Selection Evening - Essendon Campus
Monday 4th August	Year 10 into 11 Course Counselling Day - Course Selections Due
Thursday 20th Nov - Wednesday 3rd Dec	Step Up Program (Essendon Campus)
Thursday 4th - Friday 5th December	Course Confirmation Days
Year 12 2026	
Tuesday 29th July	Year 11 into 12 Course Counselling Day - Course Selections Due
Thursday 20th Nov - Wednesday 3rd Dec	Step Up Program (Essendon Campus)
Thursday 4th - Fri 5th December	Course Confirmation Days

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CAREERS EXPO

On Thursday, 1st May, we took our Year 11 and 12 students to the Uni Open Day Expo hosted by AIDE (education and migration). The event brought together over 500 international students from more than 30 secondary schools, offering a valuable opportunity for VCE students to connect with university representatives and explore career pathways tailored to international students.

A memorable moment was the bus ride home, where the students enthusiastically sang their hearts out, truly a joyful end to an inspiring day.



Year 9 International Students Mathematics & Science

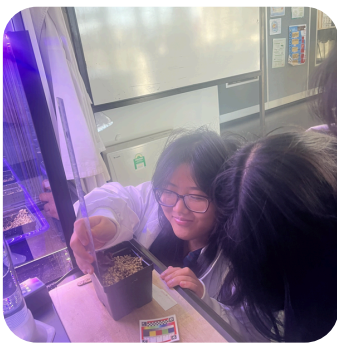


CORY DUKER
MIDDLE YEARS
CURRICULUM

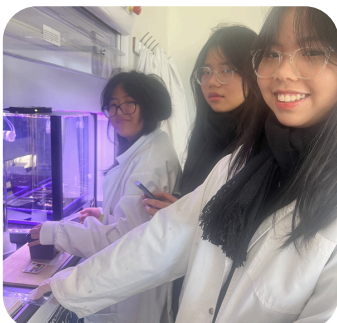
Our Year 9 International Students Lilly, Angela, and Tina, as part of the Extension Science program, are participating in the international research initiative Growth Beyond Earth. In this NASA-affiliated program, they constructed plant growth chambers modeled after those used on the International Space Station. The students cultivated a variety of plant samples and logged their data on the dedicated Fairchild/NASA portal.



They also took part in “Meet the Experts” Zoom forums with scientists from NASA and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Miami. During these sessions, the students discussed their research results and contributed to the design of future protocols.



This exciting journey includes an Immersion Day at La Trobe University early in Term 3, as we move into the second phase of our growth protocol. The program will culminate in a symposium in October, where the students will have the opportunity to present their findings.



BREAKFAST CLUB AT SCHOOL

BREAKFAST CLUB

1.What is breakfast club?

Breakfast Club is a program that provides free breakfast to students before class. This club helps us start the day with a full stomach so we can concentrate better on our studies. The breakfast club is organized by the school every Thursday morning.

2.Who is it for?

The Breakfast Club is open to all students at Essendon Keilor College. It is a welcoming place for all students to eat breakfast, socialise and start their day in a friendly environment.

3.What do they make?

Breakfast clubs usually prepare simple and nutritious dishes such as cereals, sandwiches, fruit, milk, juice and hot chocolate. The dishes are quick to prepare but still ensure to provide energy for students to start an effective learning day.

4.What do I like about breakfast club? How does it make you feel?

At breakfast club my favourite things are sandwiches and hot chocolate it keeps us warm on cold days. Breakfast club makes us feel excited and look forward to every Thursday.

By Duc Trong Tran (Douglas) and Quoc Thang Nguyen (Tom)



GIAO THY HOANG

3 MONTH STUDY ABROAD FROM PARIS



An interview with Giao Thy – Short term Study abroad (term 2). Come meet Giao Thy! She joined us at the beginning of Term 2 for a one-term study experience all the way from Paris. We have thoroughly enjoyed having her as part of our school community and look forward to welcoming more international exchange students eager to accelerate their studies with us.

What part of Paris are you from?

I am from Angers, a city located in the west of France. It's 1h30 from Paris and 1h away from the beach. Even though you probably never heard about it, it is a known city in France.

Can you tell me a little about your school back home?

Everything about my school in France is different from EKC. In France, we don't have uniforms, we have class from 8 AM to 5 PM most days but when teachers are absent, we can stay home. Our timetable is very flexible, which means sometimes we can start very late and finish school super early. Everyone has the same subjects, that we keep throughout the entire year.

What made you decide to do an exchange program?

I wanted to do an exchange program because I wanted to discover another lifestyle in another country. In France, in yr 10, we don't have any major exams which is why most students do an exchange during that year.

What are you most excited about during your time here?

I was very excited to talk every day in English and to learn how to live on my own, away from my parents. I also wanted to see how people my age lived here and compare how different it could be.

What are some French customs or traditions you think we might find interesting?

Bread is actually very important in our culture. It's everywhere, on every table and a meal can be not complete if it doesn't include bread. "Baguette" is a very large term because we have 10 types of baguettes. And also, PLEASE stop eating croissant with ham and cheese. Croissant is supposed to be eaten plain, dipped in hot chocolate for breakfast.

Is there anything you're curious to learn about our culture or school system?

I was curious about how different it could be to wear a uniform and a backpack to school every day.

What's something you think people often get wrong about Paris or France?

We are not as rude as you think we are. French people are known all around the world to be considered as mean and rude, but it's just because we don't have the same culture. Tourists may find Frenches rude, but in reality, it's just because most of them can't speak English. Even though we have english classes as a second language from primary school until the end of high school, most of us can't even say a full sentence. Moreover, in France, we aren't used to be friendly with strangers, so if you ever come to visit and people don't seem nice with you, don't take it personally!

What are your favourite hobbies or activities?

I spend a lot of time hanging out with my friends. We usually spend our weekends going to each other's sport game, like ice hockey, which is one of the most popular sports in France (by the way my city is first national!) I also love everything that is artistic, such as drawing, music, cinema, designing and sewing...

Do you play any sports or musical instruments?

I've been playing tennis for 8 years and I play piano and guitar as well.

What kind of music or movies do you like?

I like different genres of music: French rap, us/uk rap, pop, rock, ... My favourite kind of movies are rom coms obviously.

Do you have a favourite French dish that you miss already?

The French food that I missed the most was unexpectedly butter. It may seem kind of funny, but our butter tastes a lot better than yours (sorry) and affected a lot cooking here.

Are there any foods here you're excited (or hesitant) to try?

The only Ausie food I heard about is Vegemite and I haven't tried it yet. I don't know if I should though because I haven't heard very good reviews...

How has your experience been so far?

I've loved this experience so far! Doing an exchange program is probably the best decision I have made in my life. Being away from your hometown a few months gives you a break. I learned many things and I personally think that my mindset has changed a lot too. Most of my friends are also studying abroad (Canada, US, New Zealand), and even though we all have different experiences, we all agree that this trip helped us grow a lot. So, if I can give you an advice, go on an exchange year and study abroad!

How are you finding the language—do you feel comfortable speaking English here?

Even though I speak fluently english since I was a child, I needed a little bit of time to adjust, especially with the aussie accent.

What do you hope to gain or learn from this exchange experience?

Thanks to this experience, I know now how to live on my own. I would also say that this exchange made me look more forward, think more about my future. I learned to be grateful as well, for everything because nothing should be taken for granted. I do realise that this is an amazing opportunity that not everyone can have, so hope that I lived those 3 months in the most fulfilling way possible.

Are there any places you're hoping to visit while you're here?

Well, when I knew that I was going to Australia, I really wanted to go to Gold Coast and surf there. And I did! For me, it was not imaginable to go to Australia without surfing there. And I also really wanted to see if the stereotypes were real: big spiders, venomous snakes and kangaroos everywhere. Let's say I was a bit disappointed; I saw 0 spiders. The kangaroos part was real though; they are actually everywhere.

MY HOMESTAY

BY NGOC NHU NGUYEN (CHLOE)

Hello everyone, my name is Chloe. Today I will talk about my homestay in Melbourne. When I received the information about the homestay which I would live in Australia, I felt like I didn't really belong here because in my opinion I wanted to stay with Vietnamese homestay not Australian homestay. And after that when I came here and Miss Nancy took me to my homestay, I just said that "OMG" because the house so big and convenient. Their house is very modern and they have a granny flat for me behind their house – "WOW" I just think it is my dream. My room has a white kitchen, bed, a toilet, very clean, long table to study, the third table to eat, a big sofa is very comfortable, and specially I have a television. So cool. On the other hand, their family homestay has 6 people: Jackie, Dale, Lauren, Siobhan, Lourdes, Mathew and Siobhan is similar age to me. My birthday is 3rd May, she is 9th May so I remember her birthday. I feel like I am very lucky because I can live with my homestay. Jackie is my homestay host; she is the same as my mom. She is similar age of my mom, and she always takes care of me like her daughter, so kind, more she cooks very well. Which the foods which she makes very delicious, and I haven't eaten before. Her husband Dale is so friendly, I think same my dad, but he is more knowledge my dad but sometimes he is strict and I know he just wants to teach me from the smallest things. Besides Siobhan, Jackie's other children are also very friendly. Lauren is very smart and always helps me when I don't understand something. Mathew is funny and likes to tell jokes that make everyone laugh. Lourdes is a bit quiet, but she is really nice and always smiles at me. Even though we are different ages, they still treat me like part of their family. Living with my homestay family in Melbourne has changed my first thoughts completely. Even though I was worried at the beginning, now I feel happy and grateful to be part of such a warm and caring family. They make me feel at home even though I am far away from Vietnam. I hope I can learn many good things from them and make unforgettable memories during my time here.



MORE HOMESTAYS NEEDED



**Essendon
Keilor College**

International Homestay Hosts Needed!



We are recruiting homestay families for long term international students. If you would like more information please contact the school on **9319-1300** or head to our webpage where you will find a form to complete and our homestay coordinator will be in contact.

Being a homestay host for international students offers cultural exchange, personal fulfillment, financial support, and the chance to positively impact a young person's life!

www.ekc.vic.edu.au

