

2018



# Year 9

A guide for Parents,  
Students and Staff

# ELTHAM College City Experience

The **ELTHAM College City Experience** program consolidates learning from Year 7/8, building on its energy to provide a strong preparation leading to the independence and responsibility of Years 10 - 12. This special program has been designed to respond to the learning and social needs of young people at a time when they are navigating their way to adulthood.

The City Experience challenges and encourages students to engage fully in learning and thinking for themselves, about themselves and about who and what is beyond. Our desired outcome is for students to leave the City Experience with the thinking tools to understand the complexity of Melbourne as a city and the social and emotional tools to participate constructively in their community.

**Community Partnerships** are a key part of the City Experience program. Over the course of the year, students are involved in a range of active community based experiences, such as working with underprivileged, early-primary aged children in the Literacy Support Program at Sacred Heart School, Fitzroy and volunteering with the Brotherhood of St Lawrence Breakfast Club program. They actively participate in community fundraising activities such as the 40 Hour Famine. Every year a small group of students participate in the Global Leaders Convention organised by World Vision. Our students complete the City Experience with a well-developed sense of personal achievement, a stronger sense of community and a deeper understanding of their relationship with the world of study and work.

**Each young person's** City Experience develops around core studies and integrated courses that maximise the city's unique environment as an extended classroom. Students work collaboratively with teachers to develop a range of themes, academic tasks and experiences requiring them to be actively involved in their own educational programs.

**Using the city as their classroom**, students undertake excursions to places and spaces relevant to their studies. Tours, excursions, incursions, guest presenters and performers create lively exchanges and experiences. Excursions may include visiting the Melbourne and Immigration Museums, the Shrine of Remembrance, Chinatown, Sydney Road, Queen Victoria Market, ACMI, Federation Square, the State Library of Victoria, Parliament House, the Botanical Gardens and more. Excursions could be organised in advance, or depending on events in the CBD, with short-term notice. A member of the teaching staff usually accompanies students, but it could occur that they need to work independently on an assignment. This takes place in groups of three and students sign out before they leave and check in with their teacher on their return. The staff member will always take a first-aid kit along in case of minor incidents, but mobile phones are an excellent, and necessary form of communication in the city.

**A City Experience week** involves four days at the City Campus where students utilise cultural and historical sites, confront urban environmental and community issues and meet and work with a range of people in the multicultural city of Melbourne. They enjoy typical city-based recreational activities, such as running/walking the 'Tan', taking golf lessons at Albert Park Driving Range, ten pin bowling at Strike Melbourne Central, rock climbing or ice skating. One day per week, students return to the Research Campus to participate in additional language study, specialist technology based subjects and interschool sport. ELTHAM students also complete one week of Outdoor Education at Wilsons Promontory

during the last week of Term 3 and the first week of Term 4; with a focus on community and leadership to further extend and develop their learning in a remote environment.

**Close bonds between students and teachers** are an integral feature of the City Experience. Mentoring, positive relationships and the development of life skills are promoted by the team who provide a secure, caring and supportive environment in which students can grow and learn. A small, dedicated teaching team of Learning Advisors work with the students supporting their individual, group and class work as well as their involvement in community based programs.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Where is the City Campus located?**

Level 2, 398 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

### **What time is the campus open?**

The City Campus team is on campus from 8.15am – 4.00pm. Lessons commence at 9.00am.

### **What days does my child attend the City Campus?**

Year 9 students attend the City Campus each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday of the school term. Thursdays are spent at the Research Campus.

### **How do I notify the school if my child is absent?**

All student absences are to be reported to the Learning Advisor (direct line 9433 9973) or Liza Coviello in the Senior School Office by 9.00am each school day by phone (9437 1421) or email ([lcoviello@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au](mailto:lcoviello@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au)). If possible, planned absences should be reported ahead of time so relevant teachers can be advised.

### **What does my child do during recess and lunchtime?**

Students are allowed to leave campus during recess and lunch in groups of three. Groups sign out on the board with all names included and a mobile number for one person in the group.

### **What does my child do if they're running late or have to leave early?**

If they are late to school or need to leave early they need to sign in/out using the student attendance register. A student will not be allowed to leave the campus unless notification has been provided from home via phone, email or hand written letter.

### **How do I communicate with my child's teachers?**

Learning Advisors should always be the first point of contact for families with queries regarding the City Campus program. If appropriate the Head of Year 9 and the Director of Senior School can also be consulted. During the day it is often difficult to speak to Learning Advisors directly. We recommend families contact the main campus Reception or Mel Ward or Liza Coviello in the Senior School office, who can then pass on a message.

Phone or email are our preferred methods of contact. Staff based in the City can be contacted on 9433 9973 and Research Campus staff on 9437 1421.

Staff email addresses are:

Mel Ward	Administrator	<a href="mailto:mward@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au">mward@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au</a>
Liza Coviello	Administrator	<a href="mailto:lcoviello@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au">lcoviello@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au</a>
Joseph Sassone	Learning Advisor	<a href="mailto:jsassone@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au">jsassone@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au</a>
Jonathon Ashley	Learning Advisor	<a href="mailto:jashley@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au">jashley@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au</a>
Katy Stiffe	Learning Advisor	<a href="mailto:kstiffe@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au">kstiffe@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au</a>
Jodie Potter	Leaning Advisor	<a href="mailto:jpotter@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au">jpotter@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au</a>
Evan Watts	Head of Year 9	<a href="mailto:ewatts@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au">ewatts@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au</a>
Mark Pobjoy	Director, Senior School	<a href="mailto:mpobjoy@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au">mpobjoy@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au</a>

### **How does my son/daughter get to and from school every day?**

Most students attending the City Campus will travel by train on the Hurstbridge Line:

<b>Mornings</b>		<b>Afternoons</b>	
Departs Hurstbridge Station	7.46am	Departs Melbourne Central Station	3.36pm
Departs Eltham Station	8.01am	Arrives Eltham Station	4.18pm
Arrives Melbourne Central Station	8.50am	Arrives Hurstbridge Station	4.33pm

Further information on the train timetable can be obtained at: [metrotrains.com.au](http://metrotrains.com.au)

If your child is using an alternative form of transport such as bus or tram, you will need to inform the City Campus so we can make a record of it.

### **How can I get in touch with my son or daughter during the day?**

Students are encouraged to carry a mobile phone and a small amount of cash with them at all times whilst travelling off campus. Mobile phones should not be used for phone calls or texting during learning time. If it is necessary to contact a student during class time, please ring the City Campus on 9433 9973.

### **Does my child need a concession card or Myki?**

All students require a Myki card to travel to and from the City Campus by train. Children under the age of 16 do not need a Concession Card to purchase a concession fare, however it does not hurt for students to have a concession card as it makes it easier to identify themselves and their age if needed. For further information please refer to: [myki.com.au](http://myki.com.au)

### **What uniform does my child wear?**

Students are required to wear correct core school uniform with brown school shoes and white socks at all times unless told otherwise. This includes the school blazer. If a student is unable to wear core uniform for any reason please contact their Learning Advisor to negotiate an alternative. The College school bags are a mandatory item at Year 9.

Students will be involved in a sport and recreation program as part of their City Experience and you will be advised of what days they will need to wear their PE uniform. At the Research Campus, students wear their sport uniform and appropriate footwear for sport and recreational activities. Please also be aware that thongs and open-toed shoes are not acceptable footwear for a workplace under Occupational Health and Safety, and are not acceptable under any circumstances, including free dress days.

### **What staff will my child be working with during their City Experience?**

There are four teachers in the City Experience team; each one has a role in teaching, mentoring and student care. The City Experience team, the LOTE team and the staff that work with Year 9 students on Thursdays are responsible for the wellbeing of all the students in their care. Should you have any questions about your child's learning experience or their wellbeing you should not hesitate to contact their teacher and/or Learning Advisor.

The teachers and support staff are:

Evan Watts	English/Drama
Jonathon Ashley	Maths/Science/Robotics
Joseph Sassone	Humanities/Media/Food Technology
Katy Stiffe	Science/Art
Jodie Potter	Humanities
Dianne Dawson	Coordinator, Learning Support (Research Campus)
Anne Cook	Learning Support Aide

**Learning Advisors** act as facilitators of information between parents, staff and students as well as working with the young person to develop a City Experience program that meets their individual needs. The Learning Advisors seek the support of parents, other team members, the School Counsellor and/or the Case Manager when needed. The aim of the Learning Advisor group is to create a sense of belonging by building positive relationships, promoting personal growth and a sense of self, as an individual and as a member of many different communities.

### **What subjects will my son/daughter be studying as part of their program?**

The City Experience Curriculum ranges across the following learning areas:

- English
- Mathematics
- Humanities
- Science
- Art
- Robotics
- LOTE
- Food Technology
- Music
- Chemistry
- Physical Education
- Personal Health
- Geography
- Performing Arts

### **How will I be kept informed of my child's progress?**

Early in the year, Learning Advisors will conduct conferences with parents and students to discuss general matters and students settling into the program. Subject conferences are held early in Term 2 and 3 at the Research Campus to discuss academic progress and performance. Both parents and students are encouraged to attend, as this is a dialogue about how we all work together to improve student outcomes.

Students are provided with, or help establish, a set of assessment criteria to help guide them with their work and their learning. A wide variety of assessment tasks are used, which include tests, assignments or project-based investigations.

### **Will there be homework?**

Working at home is an integral part of our learning environment and, when set, should be completed to the appropriate standard and within the given time frame. Types of homework will vary. At times there may be set work or wider reading and investigation. The purpose of homework is to build upon and reflect on daily learning, promote discussion with family and friends or the opportunity to fine-tune assignments or learning tasks. Most importantly, homework is seen as a way of building upon the students' individual learning experience and should be meaningful and worthwhile.

### **What is expected of me as a parent/guardian while my child is involved with the City Experience program?**

Throughout the school year, parents/guardians will be invited to take part in different activities with their child. Key dates are listed on the College Calendar on mE, in Family News or letters sent via email. Parent/Guardian involvement is an essential part of student learning and development and has proved to have positive impacts on their health and wellbeing. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any further ideas about how this can be achieved.

More information regarding all events is provided via parent emails closer to the scheduled dates.

### **What additional activities will my child be involved with during their City Experience?**

Citizenship is an essential part of the City Experience program and we aim to provide a variety of opportunities for students to be actively involved with Melbourne's inner-city community through our Community Action Program:

- **Atherton Gardens Breakfast Club: Brotherhood of St Lawrence.** Students volunteer for one morning of the week by assisting the regular volunteers who service the children living in the surrounding commission housing.
- **Sacred Heart School: Literacy support program.** Students assist the Prep - Grade 2 students in their Literacy Program. They work closely with the Literacy Co-ordinator at the school to assist and support the students they are working with.
- **Melbourne University Learning Partnerships.** Year 9 students have the opportunity to workshop with student teachers and final year medical students from Melbourne University on how experts work with adolescents. This partnership is a rewarding experience for both groups of students and assists in their learning development.

### **Can my child still take part in the vocal and instrumental program at ELTHAM even though they are based in the City?**

Year 9 students involved with instrumental and vocal lessons can still do so at the Research Campus on Thursdays (at a pre-arranged appropriate time). Students needing to leave the city for after school rehearsals at Research on other days can catch the earlier 2.46pm train from Melbourne Central Station to arrive at Eltham Station at 3.37pm, with a connecting bus to Research Campus at approximately 3.50pm.

### **Are Year 9 students still involved with Interschool Sport?**

Interschool sport is a compulsory part of the Year 9 program. Students will participate in EISM sport on Thursday afternoons and are required to wear the College sport uniform and appropriate footwear for physical activity. Students also participate in all House carnivals held by the College.

**When do Year 9 students take part in Outdoor Education?**

The Year 9 Outdoor Education involves a five-day trip to Wilsons Promontory National Park - four days of bushwalking, spending one night in the lighthouse. The focus of the program is living together in a community. Teamwork, leadership and independence are promoted and encouraged, as well as having the opportunity to visit this remote but beautiful location in Victoria's South. The program will take place early in the last week of Term 3 and the first week of Term 4.

**We hope you enjoy the year!**