

## **Best wishes to Year 12 students**

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) Executive Director Dr Edward Simons has offered his encouragement to 11,000 Year 12 students from 65 Catholic secondary schools across the Archdiocese of Melbourne, as they undertake their final assessments and prepare to sit VCE written exams from Tuesday (24 October).

'On behalf of the Catholic education community, we offer our very best wishes to the students and teachers in our Catholic schools, and indeed across all school sectors, as they embark on this final phase of their school learning journeys', he said.

'This can be a stressful time for students, families and teachers. We encourage all students to work hard and prepare well, but in a way that also prioritises their health and wellbeing.'

Dr Simons said it is important for students to remember that these final assessments and VCE exams are not the 'be all and end all', and that there are multiple pathways available to pursue preferred tertiary courses, training programs and career paths.

'These students, with their teachers and families, have already demonstrated incredible dedication and resilience, after having over two years of their schooling disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

'We trust that students feel well-prepared to give their best in their upcoming assessments, but most importantly we are proud to be witnessing students flourish fully as healthy, happy, well-rounded young people ready to succeed in their chosen post-school pathways, and as beacons of faith, hope and love in parishes and communities', he said.

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