On Wednesday, 20 March the Year 11 and Year 12 Food Technology and Design and Technology students attended Top Designs at the Melbourne Museum. The Design and Technology students also visited Domayne Furniture with Mr McIntyre. The Food students visited Movida, a Spanish tapas restaurant in Hosier Lane where we were met by David Roberts, head chef at Movida and who was College Captain in 1999. He told us about his experience in the food industry and his experiences at Movida where he did his apprenticeship and is now head chef and has appeared in Frank Comorra’s cook books. His apprentices made three different tapas for us to try—Miguel chicken in crispbread, smoked cod balls and croquettes with cuttlefish and black squid ink. We were given a tour of the kitchen and cool-room where we saw beef cheeks that had been cooked for eight hours, a Spanish delicacy and a very popular dish at Movida. It was great to see behind the scenes and try some unique food. The bright and colourful work in Hosier Lane added to the beautiful atmosphere for the students’ experience. For our studies it was amazing to have an experience first hand rather than just reading our textbooks. Although the portfolios at Top Designs were the best of the best, we got excellent examples and inspirations of what we could all strive to achieve. All Year 11 and 12 students took something positive and creative away from the experience.

Morgan and Michael
**Year 10 to 12 Excursion**

Last Wednesday the Year 10 to 12 French classes travelled to the city to watch a French film. The film was entitled ‘Thérèse Desqueyroux’ and told the story of a young woman living in 1920s France. The film itself gave us some insight into 1920s France, the actions Therese took to escape her life and her ‘imprisonment’ within her home as a consequence. As well as being an interesting story, it was an enjoyable day for all us. This gave us a chance to test our listening skills as well as learn some new vocabulary.

*Caley, Year 12*

**French Film Excursions**

**Year 8 French Excursion**

On 8 March, the Year 8’s went to see a French film at the Como cinema in South Yarra. The film was called ‘Asterix & Obelix in Britain’. The movie went on for an hour and a half. After we were out of the cinema, we went to the Jam Factory on Chapel Street where we had a variety of choices for lunch. It was pleasant looking around the Jam Factory complex before we headed back to school. Everyone loved the movie because it was funny and enjoyable. It was a great day!

*Leila, 8B*

**Kitchen Garden Update**

This term has seen the start of students using the kitchen garden after last year’s mammoth task of creating it. At the end of last year a number of fruit trees were planted including lemons, limes, apples, pears as well as olive, raspberries and blueberry bushes. They seem to have survived the hot summer and are long time projects which will hopefully result in some bumper crops showing the fruits of our labour (no pun intended). We have just completed reconstructing a greenhouse which will allow us to propagate plants from seeds saving money and providing us with another tool for engaging students in various curriculum areas. Years 7 and 8 have been utilising the garden as well as some of the VCAL students planting a variety of herbs and vegetables; hopefully this will continue and interest will grow throughout the year. There are still lots of projects that we would like to pursue, including creating our own compost and worm farms, creating more garden beds and improving our water catchment. We intend on starting an after-school gardening club for all students who are interested so watch this space. Finally, the Food Technology students will be running a sausage sizzle on Friday, 19 April at Bunnings Warehouse in Mentone to help raise money to support the project, so if you happen to be in the neighbourhood, pop by for a snag and say hello. Have a great break and happy gardening!

*Mr Stuart McIntyre*
VCE French Immersion Camp

From the evening of Friday the 15\textsuperscript{th} until the afternoon of Sunday the 17\textsuperscript{th} of March, Kayla Enez and I, Year 12 French students, participated in a VCE French Immersion Camp held by the Alliance Francaise de Melbourne. We applied eagerly for a generous $300 subsidy from the DEECD to attend the event, and gratefully received it, two of twenty students in the state to do so.

On Friday, students arrived at the Portsea camp at around 6pm where we were greeted by two chatty French women who encouraged us to speak only in French. We were installed in our rooms, greeted our fellow students and then proceeded to head to the main hall for dinner. On this night we were served French delicacies such as pâté and Quiche Lorraine. Prior to this, the hosts had presented themselves, and now we were directed into some ice-breaking activities. A while later we returned to our rooms to get a good night’s sleep ready for a big day ahead.

On Saturday morning we were roused by a gentle wake-up call from a male host and, about half an hour later, ate breakfast. This day was to be based around four different workshops focusing on the different components of our final exam – grammar, written expression, oral expression, and oral comprehension – listening. The sixty or so students were separated into four groups based on ability determined by a placement test taken by the camp – I was fortunate enough to be placed into group one and our friend Kayla in group two. It was sure to be an enriching one and a half days ahead.

Each of these workshops were well presented, organised and, without doubt, increased my confidence in each of the different areas. Our hosts were accommodating and friendly and made the entire day a pleasant experience. I only felt stressed when I was required to perform a role play with two partners in front of our group.

After our eventful and tiring day we dined, and at about 8 o’clock an interesting French movie was screened for our enjoyment – and simultaneously for our potential benefit as we were each handed a quiz to complete on the movie. The movie was about a man whose family had died due to a terrorist threat and who was forced to migrate from Algeria to France. He became a school teacher - filling the position of a teacher who had hanged herself in a classroom – having trouble keeping the kids’ emotions in check. Eventually they become sensitised to his methods and begin to like him. But, the film ends as he, Monsieur Lazhar (also the title of the movie) is forced to move back to Algeria because he has overstepped the boundary in attempting to resolve the emotions of the deceased teacher’s colleagues.

Finally, on the Sunday, our task was clear, but surely a challenge – we were to complete a mock examination which contained listening, reading comprehension and written elements. We rose early once again and at about 9 o’clock commenced the difficult task. After a difficult two hours we emerged from the rooms so relieved to have the exam over and done with.

All in all the camp was a highly enriching experience, from which Kayla and I feel we have benefited greatly. We are approaching our French studies with growing enthusiasm as we see our capabilities increase and will, of course, spread this enthusiasm to our classmate Caley Govender. We would most definitely recommend this camp to future VCE French students who want to have a fun, memorable and fulfilling experience making new friends and practising their French at the same time. Merci beaucoup – thank you very much. Good luck in your studies.

Justin, Kayla – Year 12.
Work Experience Placements – Can you help??

All Year 10 students are reminded that they are required to complete four days work experience from 11 to 14 June. Students need to complete the paperwork by the end of the first week of Term 2. We still have a few students looking for placements in a wide range of industries. If you are able to help one of our students with a placement, we would love to hear from you. The various student’s interests range from Architecture to Zoology and everything in between. We also have a small number of Year 11 and 12 VCAL students who would like to work for 1 – 2 days per week. Their preferred industries include Automotive, Childcare/Nanny, Hairdressing, Hospitality, Equestrian, Sport and Recreation. If you are able to offer a placement or have a question regarding Work Experience please contact Jane Jamieson, the Careers and Pathway Coordinator.