1. OPEN DAYS. All yr 10-12 students must attend Open Days. Although some months away, dates can already be found on www.vtac.edu.au (see ‘key dates’).

2. TAFE FEES UPDATE - The Victorian Government has announced changes to TAFE education under the Jobs for Your Future: Skills for Victoria reforms, taking effect from 1 July, 2009. Changes coincide with the Commonwealth government decision to allow TAFE students to access a loan scheme similar to the Higher Education FEE-HELP scheme. It is expected that fees for Diploma courses will be $2,000 p.a.

3. CHECK OUT LA TROBE - by attending 'Experience La Trobe' holiday program. When: 30 June (Bundoora). Choose three hands-on workshops from over 40 sessions and take a tour. A great way for Yr 10-12’s and families to check out the University; register attendance/obtain details at www.latrobe.edu.au/experience; enquiries: 1300 135 045.

4. ADF GAP YEAR UPDATE - Due to the popularity of the Australian Defence Force Gap Year (following Year 12), the application process has changed and improved. This year you apply online; applications open 1 May and run till 3 Sept, and a fairer application process has been developed. The selection model will not be ‘first-in first-served’, but all candidates will be assessed for suitability. However, it is still wise to apply early. For information go to: www.defencejobs.gov.au/gapyear.

5. WOULD YOU LIKE TO STUDY IN QUEENSLAND? Bond, a private University (Gold Coast), is offering full-fee/part-fee scholarships to Australia’s best and brightest. They are designed to reward/encourage Year 12 students who excel in academics, leadership and/or community service. To learn more attend an info. session. When: 7pm for 7.15pm start, Tues 16 June; Where: Novotel, 270 Collins St, Melbourne; Register: www.bond.edu.au/events; Info: Ph. 07 55 95 1067 scholarships@bond.edu.au.

6. NIDA The National Institute of Dramatic Art is an internationally regarded institute. It trains ‘imaginative, dynamic, creative and talented people for careers in theatre, film and television’. Pick up information from careers resource centre for short courses and an upcoming information evening.

7. VTAC PARENT INFO NIGHT FOR YEAR 12S. Essendon Keilor Secondary College is holding its annual regional VTAC information night on July 23 at 7.30PM. This always attracts strong numbers, so if interested, call Barbara Opal (9319 1384) or Faye Moriarity (9319 1385) to make a booking!

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