The Alumni would like to congratulate Suma Shahab on being the 2016 Thomastown Secondary College DUX. At a whole school assembly Suma was presented with a plaque to acknowledge her achievement and $500 from us to help further her studies. Here is what she had to say about her time at our school.

1. What are you doing now?

I am currently in my first year of studying the Advanced Diploma of building Design (Architectural) at RMIT University. I have never done anything as challenging or stressful as this before but I love it and I know it will be worth all the hours because I will get to make a positive impact on the world one day by doing something I’m passionate about.

2. What did it mean to you to have received the DUX award?

Receiving the DUX Award meant a lot of things. It meant that everything I went through till that moment was worth it. It meant that other Muslim girls could see that what other people say about you doesn’t have to affect what you are really capable of. It meant that everything my parents have sacrificed, all the trust, time and support they continue to invest in me doesn’t go to waste. It meant that I had done enough to get into the course I was working towards. It’s not really about me, it’s more about the people around me, who see what I do day to day knowing that success is very easily accessible if you know what you want.

3. What do you miss about Thomastown Secondary College?

What I miss most about Thomastown SC is how relaxed life was when I was a student there and I will always be grateful for the life skills I learnt while in high school.

4. What advice would you give to current TSC students?

My advice to current Thomastown SC students would be that you really need to know what you want to do with your life, without a future vision and purpose you won’t have any motivation to move forward and that’s what makes people lazy and disengaged. All you have to do is know what you need to get out of school, and work for it, simple. Don’t forget to take it easy on yourself along the way though.

5. Any other thoughts?

I’d like to thank the Alumni for their efforts towards education and encouraging students but I think that someone needs to encourage individuality and tell people to do what they need to do to be successful, not trying to force a unanimous order where everyone does the same thing and the outcome isn’t taken into consideration. I know for a fact that doesn’t work but I feel like everyone seems to be ignoring that.
Inspiration Award winner: Luke Todaro

What are you doing now?
Currently I am studying certificate 3 in electrotechnology better known as an apprentice A-grade electrician.

What did it mean to you to have received the inspiration award?
Receiving the inspiration award meant a lot to me and it was a real honour to receive. I was extremely pleased and proud to receive it and knowing that my perseverance had paid off made it very special to me. This is an award that I will cherish forever.

What do you miss about Thomastown Secondary College?
What I miss the most about Thomastown SC was the amazing and unique group of teachers, coming to school each day to see them and their enthusiasm towards teaching made it something that was a little difficult to leave behind.

What advice would you give to current TSC students?
Advice I would give to current Thomastown students would be to make the most out of Thomastown SC. They offer a wide range of support and help for you to reach your full potential for individual excellence this will benefit you later on in life, so try your best to make the most of every moment.

Inspiration Award winner: Mary Stoichevska

What are you doing now?
I am currently studying at Victoria University, working towards a career in teaching.

What did it mean to you to have received the inspiration award?
To receive the Alumni award, it was amazing. I had worked very hard all year, and receiving the Alumni Award made it all count for something. It was a symbol of my hard work and dedication, and made me feel that the whole year’s work, was done well, and worth something.

What do you miss about Thomastown Secondary College?
What I miss most about Thomastown Secondary College is every part of my involvement within the subject of music. I miss the long hours of choir and band rehearsals after school, music classes with our teacher Jimmy, and having my weekly vocal lessons with Oliva. Overall, being a part of 4 visions concerts and the 2016 Kool Skools. Being able to record my own original song at Kool Skools and perform it as a solo at the school concert.

What advice would you give to current TSC students?
Make the memories while you’re there, in the moment. Don’t be afraid to show the world who you truly are, and shine. Shine bright for all to see, because each and every one of you are unique individuals, and are all one of a kind. Just think, there’s not one other person in the world like you. Of course, you must follow the rules and hand in your assignments on time, and study for tests and exams, but don’t forget to have fun. Don’t forget to live and enjoy life.
Proud is how we all felt of our students at Wednesday’s Twilight Music & Arts Night. From the performers in the limelight to the students behind the scenes, it takes a great team of both students and staff to ensure this night runs as well as it did.

The ever popular, K-Pop Dance troupe, opened the night flipping across the reception floor, impressing the slightly nervous crowd, not knowing where to turn, toward the dancers, the art exhibition or the mysteriously dark setting of the promising music performance. Hao Thao and Cecila Tran’s tinkling on the keyboard managed to comfort the crowd as they moved across the performance space.

Soon a casual and relaxed atmosphere ignited the mood for the evening. Faces were aglow amongst the café style tables as parents watched their children take their places by their instruments and microphones. The Royal J’s opened the night with the booming voices of Jessica Nguyen and Sibel Erkekli singing popular songs ‘Back to Black’ and ‘Valerie.’ Rhythm Nation, continued to beat its way through the quiet chatter of the crowd. But it’s the band, Maj, that demands total silence with the soothing voice of Fay Faatele. Chloe Elazar was a star on drums.

Our Twilight exhibition once again presents the creative standard of art making amongst our 7 to 12 art students. This exhibition was highly anticipated and enjoyed by all students, staff and parents. Amongst the many themes addressed in the exhibition are explorations of our city, culture and dominant art influences of our past masters. The work presents a diverse selection of mediums including painting, drawing, construction, digital media and printmaking.

We look forward to seeing you all in Term 2, 2018 at REFLECTIONS, performed on 4 stages, a new way to experience a visual art journey.

Lena Torikov
Creative & Visual Arts Coordinator
Another fantastic Multicultural Day! This year’s Multicultural day comprised of 14 different performances: including the Flag Parade, Macedonian Dance, Vietnamese Dance, African Dance, Girls Cook Island Dance, Bollywood Dance, Tongan Dance, Salsa Dance, Korean Dance, Haka and an Arabic Dance.

Alumni Gift

Once again the Thomas-town Alumni will be giving a text book to all of the year 12s from Thomas-town Secondary College. This year’s gift will be the text ‘Like a House on Fire’ from Cate Kennedy which all of our 2018 year 12 English students will be studying. The novel is a collection of short stories dealing with tragedy, illness, mortality, life and love. All novels will be personally inscribed by Sibel Erkekli.
Making a Difference...that’s our motto!

What is the purpose of our Alumni? It’s simple. We want to “make a difference” to the students of Thomastown Secondary College in ways that are supportive and meaningful. We want to be able to connect with the students and give back to the school we once attended, where we were educated and where we formed lifelong friendships. We want to give back to the place that has contributed to who we have become; Thomastown Secondary College is a part of our identities.

At one of our recent committee meetings, we went around the table and asked each member why he/she joined the committee and the answers were fundamentally the same: to ‘make a difference’. We recalled teachers who had supported us when we felt lost, teachers who had given us hope when we were ready to give up and teachers who made learning fun. We recalled how Thomastown Secondary College had “made a difference” to our lives and now, as adults, it was time to give something back.

From our humble beginnings of four old friends gathering to pool our thoughts and ideas as to how we might give back to our old school, we have grown to become a group that meets regularly to plan fundraisers for scholarships and awards that recognise achievement and endeavour. These scholarships and awards are also intended to support the recipients financially with their future studies. We have developed funds to support students who might be experiencing financial stress. When students graduate in Year 12, we give them a small gift to symbolise their lifelong connection to the school through the Alumni. It is our hope that they will remember Thomastown Secondary School fondly and continue their connection into the future.

Have we made a difference? Yes. We have made a difference for many students and we feel both humbled and honoured. We feel proud to be a part of the Thomastown Secondary College community through the Alumni.

Mahe Castles on behalf of the Thomastown Secondary College Alumni.

ALUMNI EVENT


Register your email details on our website to receive your free Newsletter and regular updates on Alumni events.

We are all older and wiser now but our origins are all tied back to Thomastown High School / Thomastown Secondary College. So come along and be part of creating history that is the Thomastown Alumni.

www.thomassc.vic.edu.au
**What is the Thomastown Alumni?**

**Mission**

To create a level of awareness with former students, current and past teachers that there is a forum available for them to connect in an environment which allows participants to celebrate their association with Thomastown High School / Secondary College and each other.

To create a level of awareness of the school developments, events, functions with the option of Alumni members to attend / participate.

To create various avenues in which Alumni members can contribute / support the Thomastown Secondary College and its students.

Through these avenues, generate a financial base which allows encouragement awards to be made to VCE students.

**Vision**

Provide a forum for current and past students and teachers to connect, reconnect previous friendships and celebrate the common bond of being a part of Thomastown High School / Secondary College.

To establish a sense of pride with the Alumni members in the school environment and the current students of the school.

This group will be known as the Thomastown Alumni.

Through these avenues, generate a financial base which allows encouragement awards to be made to VCE students.