

VCE

Secondary Pathways Expo

THURSDAY 31 JULY 2025

VCE INFORMATION SESSION



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VCE Coordinator

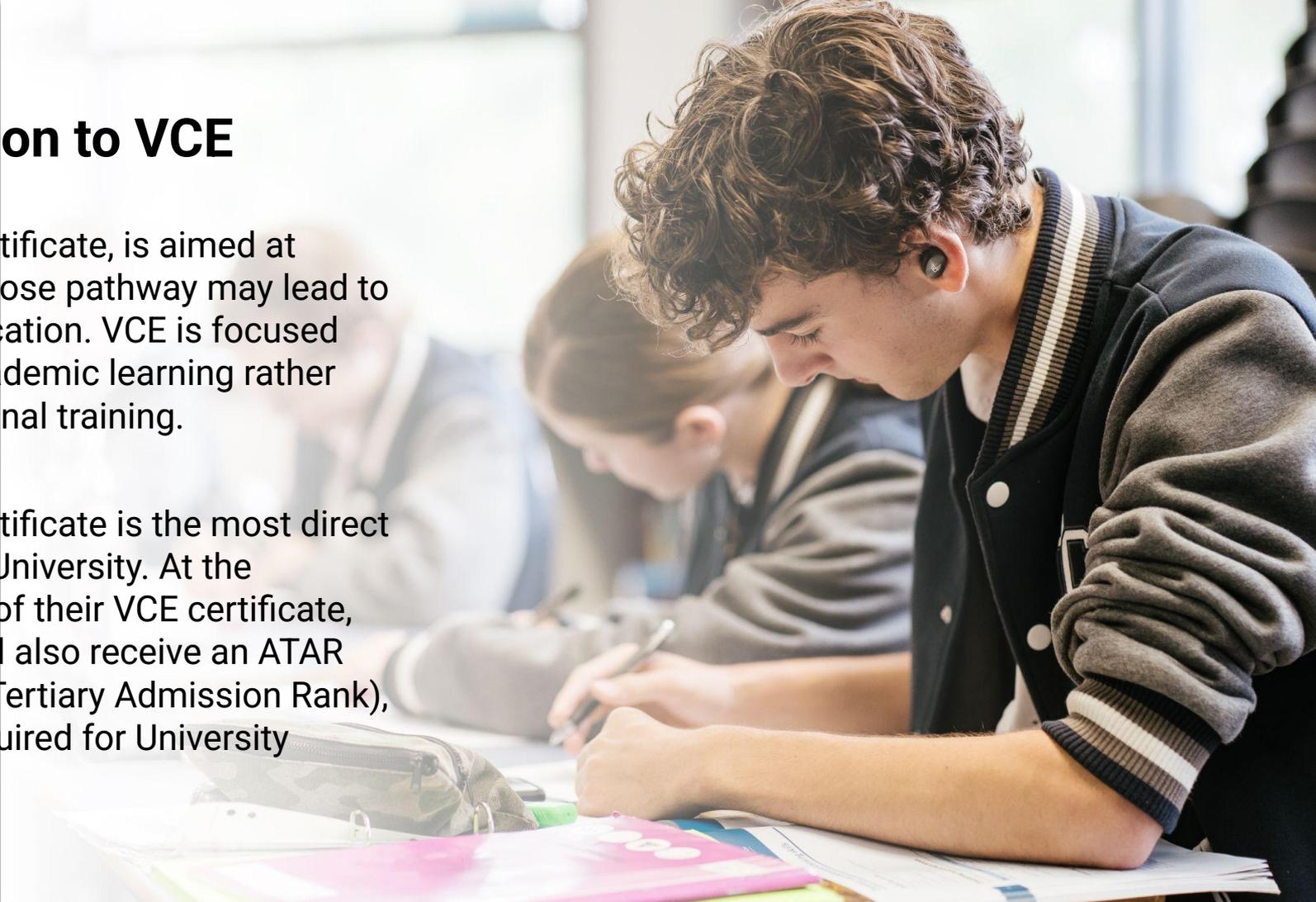
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Introduction to VCE

The VCE certificate, is aimed at students whose pathway may lead to tertiary education. VCE is focused more on academic learning rather than vocational training.

The VCE certificate is the most direct pathway to University. At the completion of their VCE certificate, students will also receive an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank), which is required for University enrollment.



Units required for a VCE Certificate

The VCE certificate runs over 2 years. Each subject consists of 4 Units

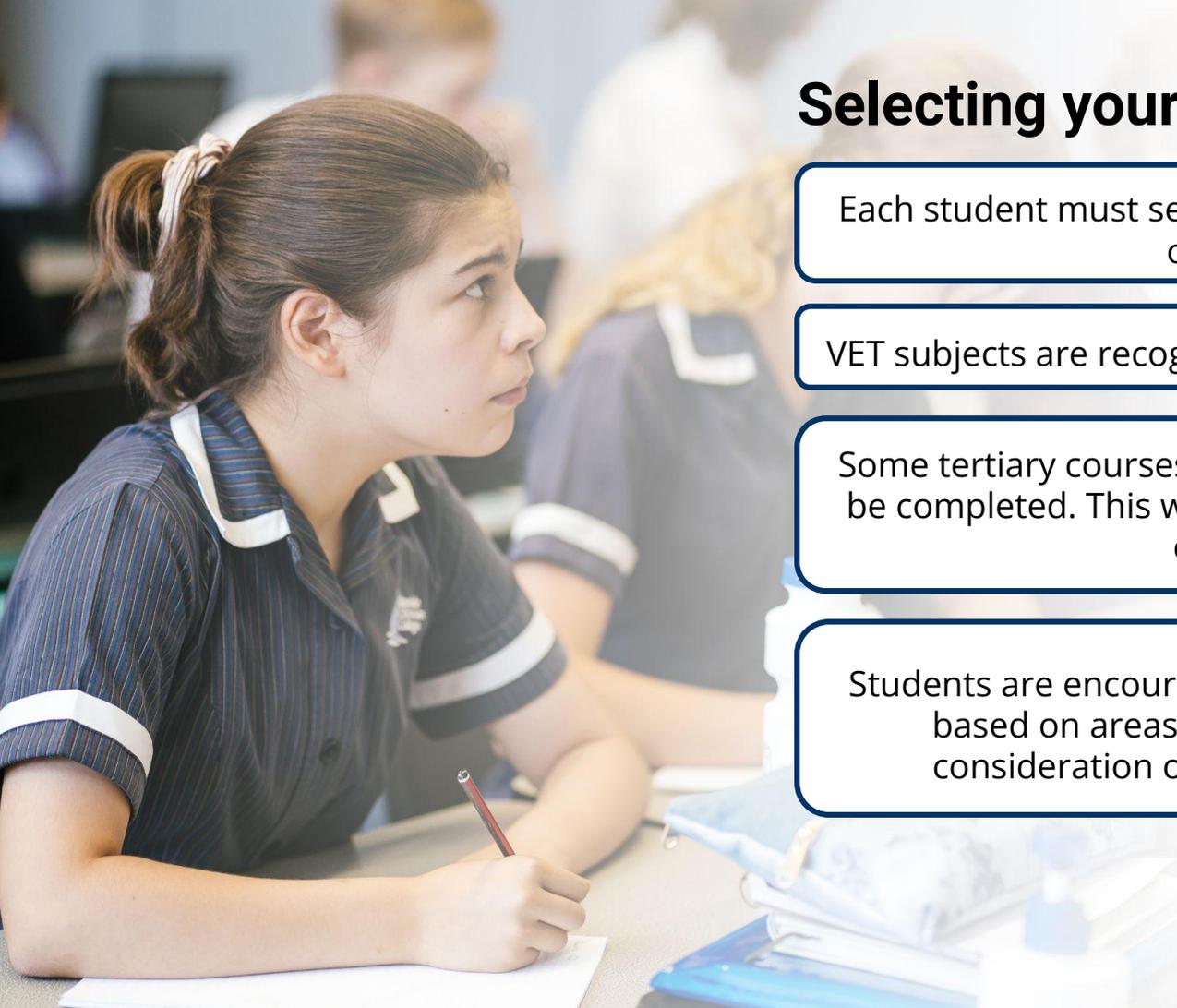
Unit 1+2: Typically completed in Year 11

Unit 3+4: Typically completed in Year 12

Students must pass a minimum of 16 units in total to be eligible for a VCE Certificate, including a minimum of 3 units of English or Literature.

Students typically select 6 subjects including English, and complete 24 units in total of the course of their VCE.





Selecting your VCE Program

Each student must select at least one of either English or Literature.

VET subjects are recognised as part of the VCE program

Some tertiary courses require prerequisite subjects to be completed. This will be discussed with the careers coordinator.

Students are encouraged to select their VCE subjects based on areas of personal interest and in consideration of their academic strengths.

Subject Offerings in VCE

Further details on each subject can be found in the course guide

- Art Making and Exhibiting
- Biology
- Business Management
- Chemistry
- English
- General Maths
- Health and Human Development
- History
- Legal Studies
- Literature
- Maths Methods
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Product Design Technology
- Psychology
- Specialist Maths
- Visual Communication Design
- VET - Agriculture
- VET - Cookery

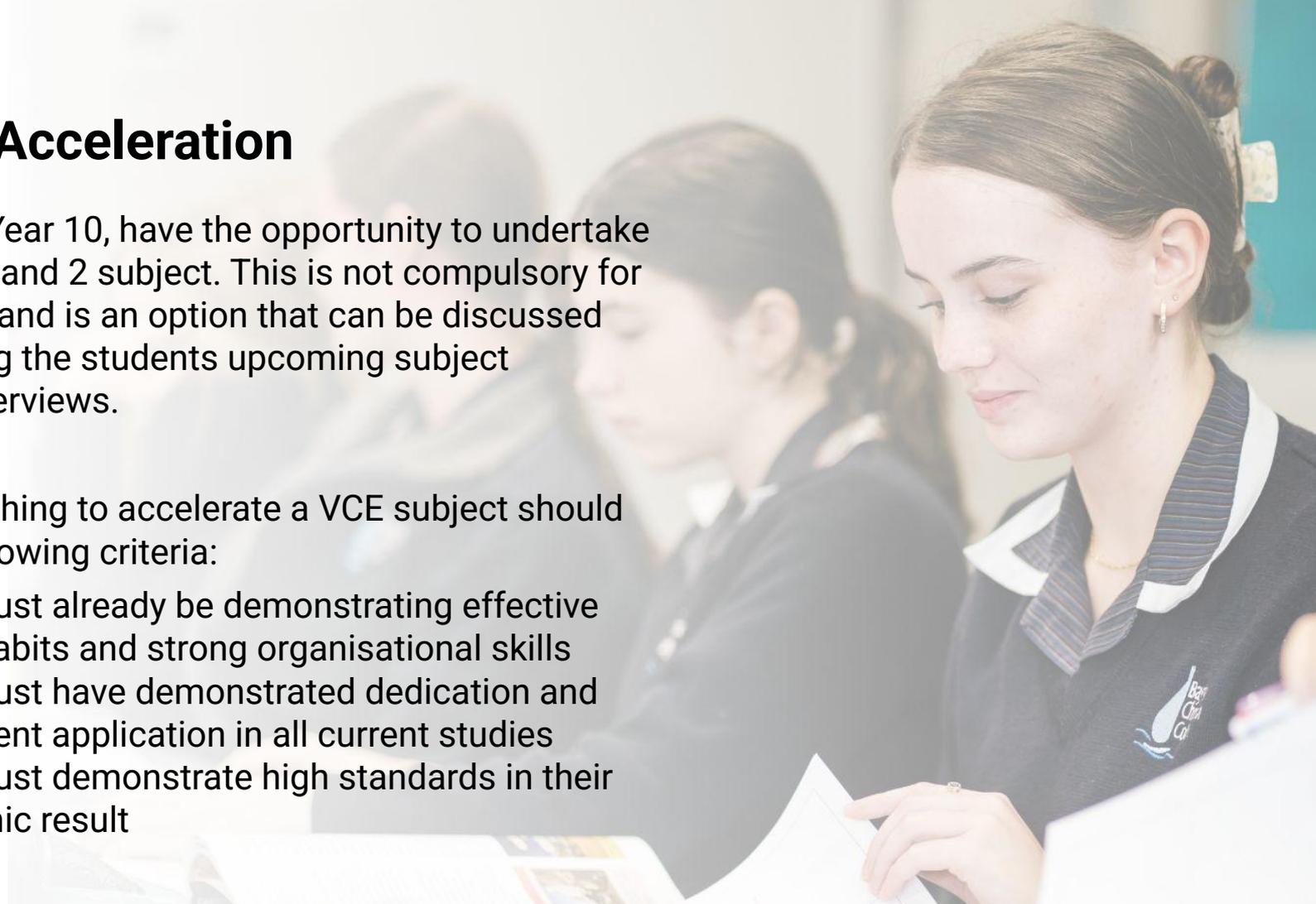


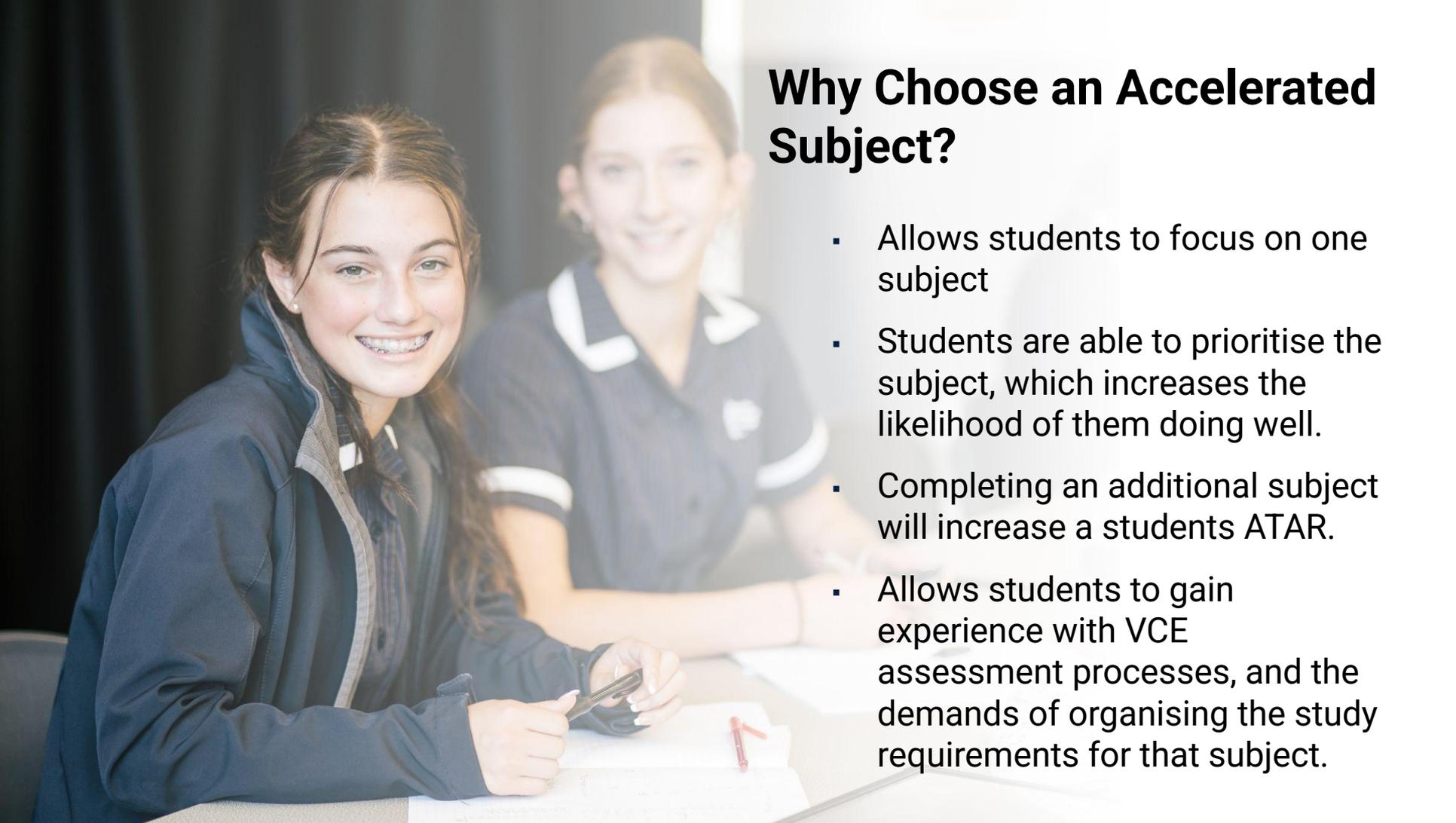
Subject Acceleration

Students in Year 10, have the opportunity to undertake a VCE Unit 1 and 2 subject. This is not compulsory for all students, and is an option that can be discussed further during the students upcoming subject selection interviews.

Students wishing to accelerate a VCE subject should meet the following criteria:

- They must already be demonstrating effective study habits and strong organisational skills
- They must have demonstrated dedication and consistent application in all current studies
- They must demonstrate high standards in their academic result





Why Choose an Accelerated Subject?

- Allows students to focus on one subject
- Students are able to prioritise the subject, which increases the likelihood of them doing well.
- Completing an additional subject will increase a student's ATAR.
- Allows students to gain experience with VCE assessment processes, and the demands of organising the study requirements for that subject.



Application for subject Acceleration

Students will discuss the possibility of subject acceleration in their subject selection interview

Students will need to register their interest in subject acceleration on their subject selection form

The suitability of a student to manage the requirements of the accelerated subject will be discussed with the relevant subject teacher. The student's current academic performance and future pathway will also be considered.

Students will receive a formal offer to undertake an accelerated VCE subjects if the application has been approved.

Selecting an Accelerated Subject

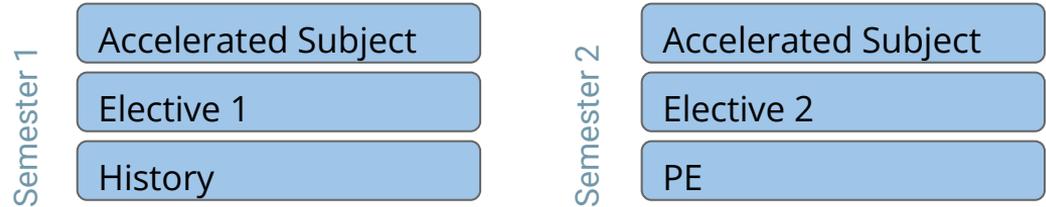


When a student selects an accelerated subject, this takes the place of one of their elective blocks each semester. Please note, students must complete a compulsory History and PE subject, one in each semester.

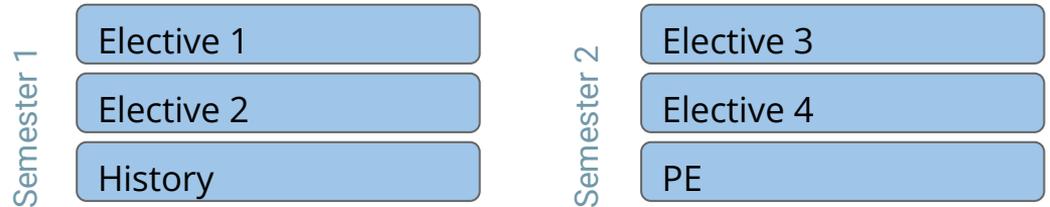
Accelerated Subjects on Offer

- Health and Human Development
- Psychology
- Business Management
- Outdoor Environment Studies
- General Maths
- VET Agriculture

Example Program with Acceleration



Example Program without Acceleration

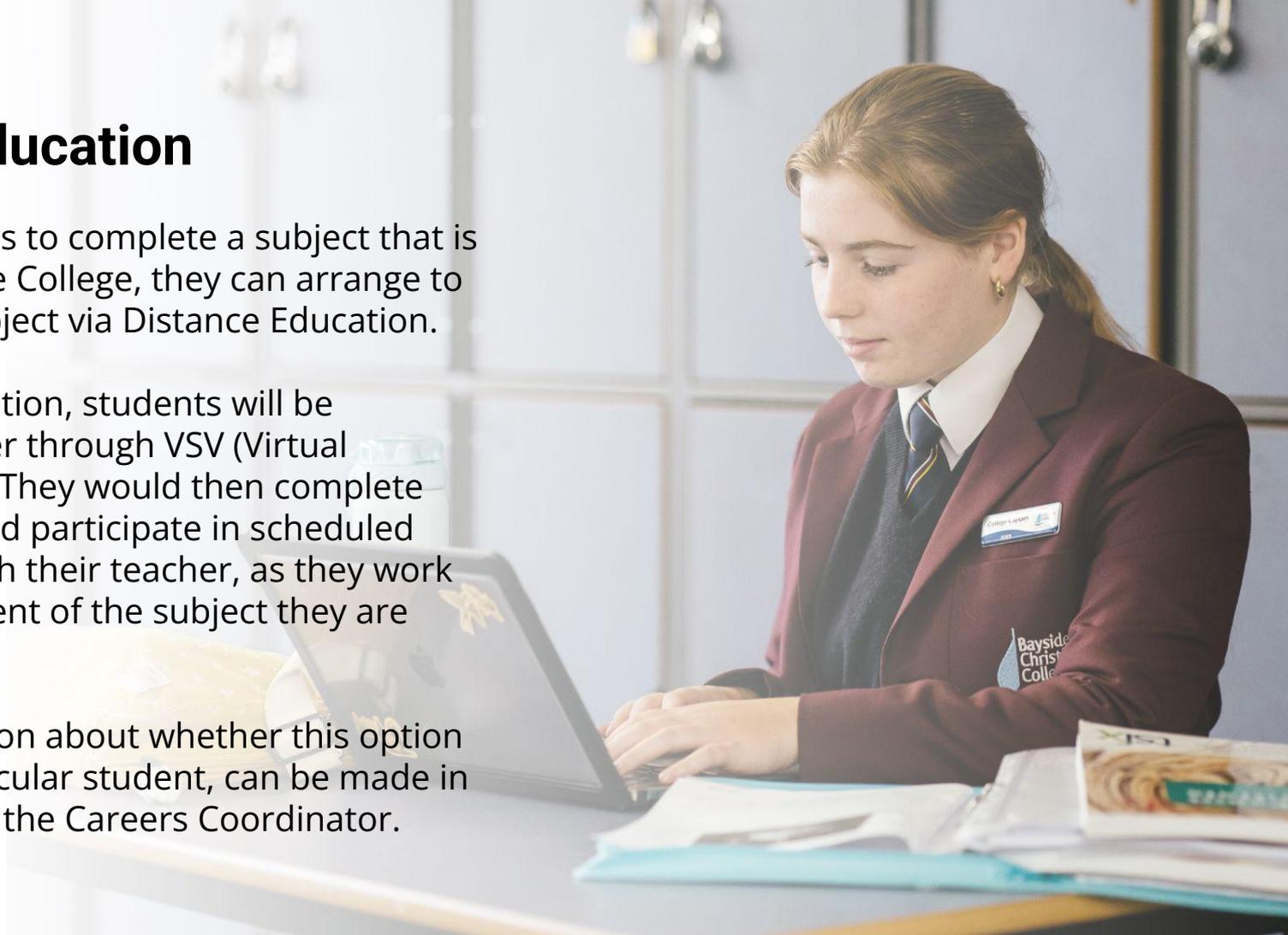


Distance Education

If a student wishes to complete a subject that is not offered by the College, they can arrange to complete this subject via Distance Education.

In Distance Education, students will be assigned a teacher through VSV (Virtual Schools Victoria). They would then complete online courses and participate in scheduled online classes with their teacher, as they work through the content of the subject they are undertaking.

Further information about whether this option is right for a particular student, can be made in consultation with the Careers Coordinator.



Assessments of a VCE Unit

Outcomes

Most Units have around 3 Outcomes. Completion of each Outcome is determined by the students results on their SACs or SATs. Students must pass all outcomes to be given a pass for the Unit.

Please note: Students who achieve below 50% on any internal assessment will be asked to resit the task to achieve a passing grade.

SACs

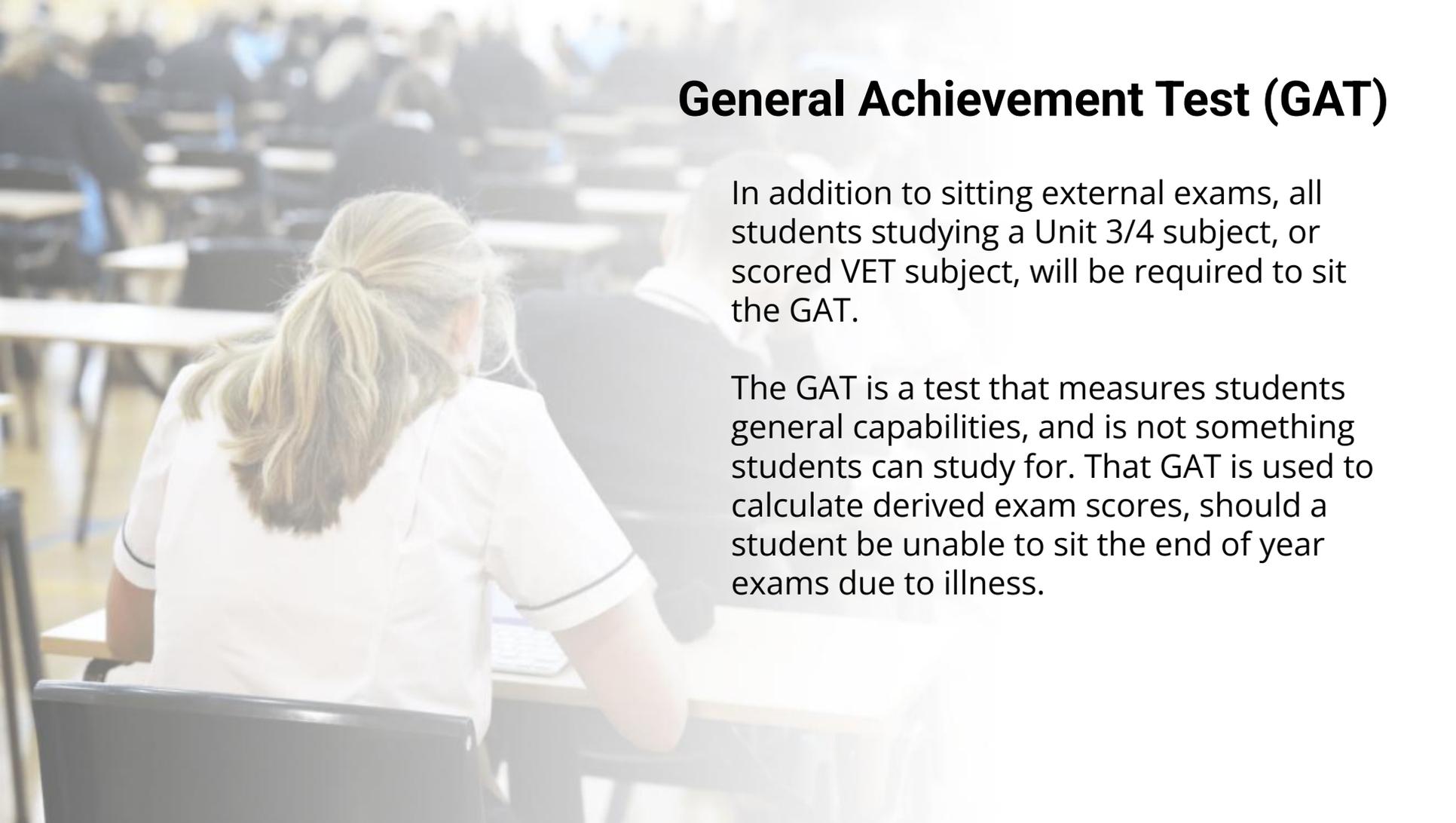
School Access Coursework (SACs), are the most common form of internal assessments in VCE. These often take the form of tests, and are usually undertaken under timed conditions.

SATs

School Access Task (SATs), are an ongoing task such as a folio. Unlike SACs, these are not completed under test conditions. Folios (SATs) are usually seen in Arts or Technology subjects, and the folios students produce can also be used to apply for tertiary courses in a creative field.

Exams

All students in VCE will be required to sit exams. These can be internal exams run by the school at the end of a Unit, or the external exams at the end of Unit 4 run by VCAA.



General Achievement Test (GAT)

In addition to sitting external exams, all students studying a Unit 3/4 subject, or scored VET subject, will be required to sit the GAT.

The GAT is a test that measures students general capabilities, and is not something students can study for. That GAT is used to calculate derived exam scores, should a student be unable to sit the end of year exams due to illness.

VCE Study Scores and ATAR

What is a Study Score?

A study score, is a score out of 50 that a student receives for each Unit 3/4 subject undertaken. This is calculated by the students results on internal assessments (SACs and SATs) and their performance on the external exam. The average study score received for each subject is 30.

What is an ATAR?

The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) is a number between 0.00 and 99.95 that indicates a student's position relative to all the students in the state. This scores is based on the students VCE results, and is used by universities to determine admission into tertiary courses.

How is an ATAR Calculated

Students study score in English or Literature

Study scores in their next three best subjects



10% of the fifth and sixth best study scores

Scaling of VCE Study Scores



What is Scaling?

Scaling adjusts for the fact that it is more difficult to obtain a high VCE study score in some studies than others. This is not because some studies are inherently harder or easier, it is because some studies attract a more competitive cohort of students. Scaling ensures that it is possible for all students to attain a high ATAR regardless of the combination of studies they undertake

Is it better to choose subjects that get scaled up?

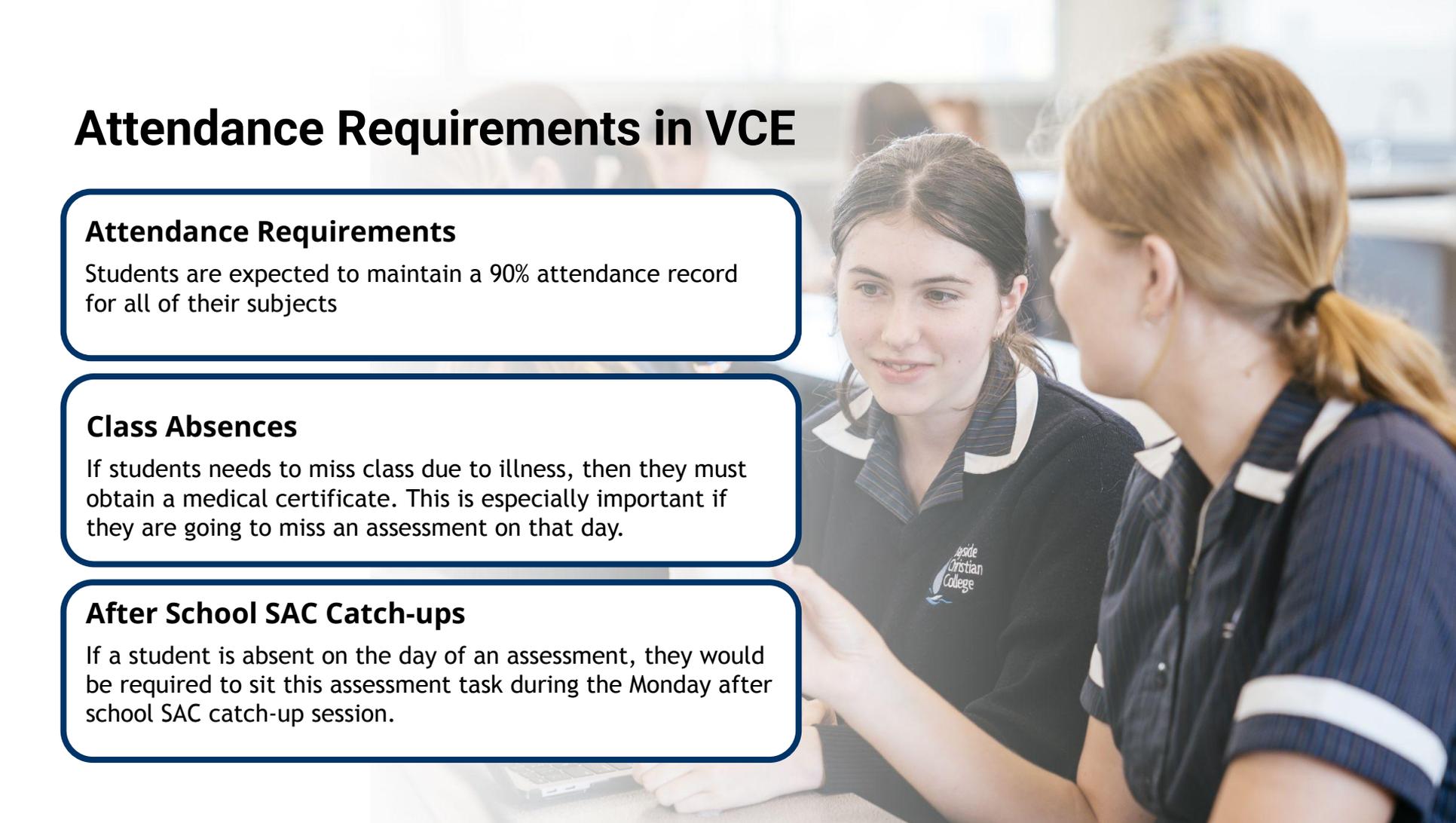
Selecting subjects based on scaling often works against students. Whilst a subject might be scaled up, this will be from a lower initial score. Due to the competitive nature of the cohort undertaking some studies, it's harder to achieve a high study score.

EXAMPLE

The 2020, Business Management students across the state averaged 27 in all their VCE studies.

Therefore, the scaling process adjusted the Study Scores downwards so that the average VTAC Scaled Score for Business Management was 27

Attendance Requirements in VCE

The background of the slide features a photograph of two young women in school uniforms. They are standing and talking. The woman on the left is looking towards the woman on the right. They are both wearing dark blue or black short-sleeved shirts with white collars and cuffs. The woman on the left has a logo on her shirt that says 'Reside Christian College'. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in a classroom setting.

Attendance Requirements

Students are expected to maintain a 90% attendance record for all of their subjects

Class Absences

If students need to miss class due to illness, then they must obtain a medical certificate. This is especially important if they are going to miss an assessment on that day.

After School SAC Catch-ups

If a student is absent on the day of an assessment, they would be required to sit this assessment task during the Monday after school SAC catch-up session.

Study Expectations for VCE

Homework Years 11-12

At this level, homework requirements will generally increase from 1-2 hours per night with increased study on weekends during peak assessment periods

Homework Catch-up

If a student has not completed their homework, they will be asked to attend lunchtime homework club. This runs every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday in N3.

Study Periods

VCE Students will often have study periods, where they have no scheduled class. They are expected to study in either of the study spaces provided.

Study Spaces

- **N5 (The Quiet Study Room):** Students are allowed to work collaboratively on classwork or study.
- **N3 (The Silent Study Room):** Students are only allowed to work silently on their studies.



Tips for students selecting their subjects

- Think about your interests
- Think about how you like to learn
- Think about the subject areas you have achieved the most success in
- Think about what career pathway you might want to explore
- Think about any subjects that might be a prerequisite for tertiary courses you are interested in
- Discuss your pathway and subject selection with the Careers Coordinator
- Discuss what's involved in each subjects with your teachers
- Discuss what subjects you are considering with your parents

