



PLENTY VALLEY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE



**YEAR 9
CITY CITE EXPERIENCE
TERM 3 2017**

**INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION FOR
STUDENTS AND FAMILIES**

A CITY BECKONS

The City Cite aims to take students into new realms of learning. One obvious aspect of this is taking them beyond their knowledge of suburban living to encounter the energy, opportunities, challenges and problems at the heart of our state capital, Melbourne. No doubt, students will go through the full gamut of emotions and excitement about this – from anxiety mixed with anticipation, to being enormously stimulated and engaged, to being plain exhausted!

Just as important, however, is the kind of learning which students encounter at the City Cite. Their learning will be based on direct experience, on inquiry and on group cooperation. Like many modern workplaces, the City Cite will ask for a multi-disciplinary approach to the task to be done rather than a single ‘subject discipline’. The students will be encouraged to see how rich the city is in human and physical resources. They will develop skills to tap into those resources. This involves really seeing things rather than just looking. It can involve libraries, interview skills, skills in talking with people, and skills in collecting key facts.

When they return to Plenty Valley Christian College, students will have benefited both personally and academically. In Year 9, students are laying down beliefs, values and moral perspectives, which will be central to their adult lives. The City experience will give extra dimension and maturity to the spiritual perspectives they already know from Plenty Valley Christian College and from home. Academically, the City Cite is excellent preparation for the senior years of VCE.

All this is perhaps the official and adult viewpoint. The students’ perspective is very simple and direct: **The City is cool and fun!** No Year 9 student will want to miss it, not just because of the obvious excitements, but because they know that, many of Australia’s richest resources and opportunities are found in the central city. All students will benefit from the experience of getting about safely, efficiently and pleasurably in a great city – an important thing given that the huge majority will undertake tertiary studies in town. It is also likely that students will gain a new appreciation of the good things about living on the fringe and about ordinary school!

Thank you for supporting us in this enriching adventure. We look forward to seeing a more independent son or daughter in Term 3.

Harry Leather

Director of City Cite

Central Innovative Thoughtful Education

ESSENTIALS TO BRING

1. pencils and pens
2. scissors
3. glue sticks
4. sticky tape
5. black felt pen for outlining
6. clipboard and paper
7. colored textas or pencils
8. some money (see below)
9. MYKI (see below)
10. (optional) a simple digital camera – but not an expensive camera please – a camera phone is adequate.

THINGS NOT TO BRING

1. Large School bags – Travel like a University student. Clipboard and pen will suffice. Large bags are cumbersome and knock into people on the footpaths and on public transport. Many excursion venues will not allow or take responsibility for bags.
2. Personal items of value like expensive cameras or jewellery
3. Valuables of any sort, which are not absolutely needed for the program.

STUDENT DRESS AND GROOMING IN THE CITY

Students are important ambassadors for the school. They should realise that the CBD operates on the basis of adult expectations of smart business dress and grooming – not teenage ideas of what is OK. Smart appearance also adds to students' safety. More positively, well-presented students will find city folk friendly and helpful. They will find that they are able to gain access to places where other teenagers may have been 'brushed off'. Therefore full school uniform will be worn by the students while at City Cite.

Staff will insist on acceptable and appropriate dress and grooming. Parents can greatly help us by doing the same from home so that students' limited time at the City Cite is not spoiled by negative interchanges – but rather that doors open for them because of the way they present themselves.

- **Clothing** should be clean, worn appropriately and fit correctly.
- **Excessive jewellery and nail polish** are taboo.
- **Chewing gum** is not allowed – same as at school.

LUNCHES AND, IN PARTICULAR, FAST FOOD

Students can bring lunch to City Cite or buy in town. Bringing your own lunch, on at least some days, certainly helps the budget.

For other students the first instinct is to head to 'Maccas' and the like. We discourage, however, fast foods while in the city. As an alternative, there is a wide range of affordable ethnic and health food shops nearby – an opportunity to try things that cannot be found near home.

MONEY

The College does not intend the City Cite to become an excuse for unnecessary spending by students. However, they will need money for some things and it is only realistic to expect them to want to do some shopping. As a guide:

- For lunches, prices may be a little higher than at school but not much.
- Most students use photographs for their work. Digital photographs can be printed for about 10 cents per print. Typically a group would print about 20 – 30 prints.
- Students may want to sample an ethnic lunch as part of their multicultural visits. Allow \$12.
- Money will be needed for the MetCard if not already purchased (see below).

VISITS BY PARENTS

Because of the nature of our program, **visits must be by prior appointment**. Although we will certainly try to fit you, we cannot really accommodate ‘drop in’ visits by family or friends. If you are visiting the City Cite by appointment, car parking is available nearby. Please be sure to ask for advice when you are making the time with us.

THE CITY CITE – A DIFFERENT SORT OF CAMPUS

The City Cite does not look like a school and that is deliberate. It feels more like a combination of university or TAFE and a contemporary office for young people. Most study, visits and assignments will be done in work-groups of about five people based in their own conference room. These conference rooms are glass-walled in modern office idiom and open onto a large open area which is used for guest speakers, presentations and other shared activities.

We find that Year 9s love their privacy and office-style space. The conference rooms cater admirably for group work and discussion. Each has a computer workstation and furniture for which students are responsible. Each also has a large display board, which the group uses for preparing visual presentations.

Assignment to conference groups have been worked out with Plenty Valley Christian College staff. It is impossible to please everyone, of course, but part of the City Cite experience is about working positively and happily with other people that happen to be in the same work team. This is an important life skill and you may find it worthwhile explaining to your son or daughter if the group seems to be issue for them. Normally students will go out into the city in their conference group. For some activities, they may do so in pair or threesomes. Staff members supervise, accompany and visit as appropriate for each activity. **We do not permit students to leave the campus alone**. They will be at least in a group of three, more usually in their conference group.

SAFETY IN THE CITY

As part of their preparation, students will be addressed by City Cite staff during the first day at City Cite. Safety issues will be reinforced whenever appropriate. Our **emergency plan** covers every conceivable situation and has been refined over many years of experience with young people in the city. Actually, we find that students accept the rules for safe behaviour just as they adopt airline safety procedures. In our experience, most unexpected events are simple things like false fire alarms, traffic accidents or interrupted power supply. The CBD's excellent emergency services deal with most expertly with these things. We have the added bonus that the City Police headquarters is literally round the corner from our campus.

In the event of a genuine ‘incident’, **our first call will be to Plenty Valley Christian College Senior Staff who** will activate the College’s procedures. Simultaneously we will ensure that parents are reassured. We have ready access to mobile phones at all times so word will reach you promptly if your daughter or son is involved. Please do not get alarmed at ‘news flash’ stories about supposed events. In our experience, these are often half-baked or garbled. In fact, not over-reacting or projecting our natural anxieties onto the students is always important.

MYKI

All students will need to use the MYKI ticketing system. This will provide them with unlimited travel on trams, buses and trains during the week. Students will have two options: MYKI Money or a MYKI Pass. They will need to organise/purchase a MYKI card before travelling. More information can be found at <http://www.myki.com.au/>

MYKI Money

Daily	Zone 1+2	Zone 2
Full fare	\$8.20	\$5.60
Concession	\$4.10	\$2.80

WEEKLY PASS

Weekly rate 7 day pass	Zone 1+2	Zone 2
Full fare	\$41.00	\$28.00
Concession	\$20.50	\$14.00

For metropolitan train, tram and bus information, call ‘Metlink’ on **131 638**

The MET is safe during the hours when students will be travelling.

HOURS OF OPERATION AND PROCEDURES

- The City Cite will be open from 8:15am to 4:00pm. **Classes will begin at 9.00 am and finish by 3:30 pm.**
- **Students who are late or will not be in attendance must notify us by 9am. Telephone City Cite on 8660 6700,** leaving a voicemail message if no one is able to answer.
- Students who come into the city **early** with parents or leave late will be the responsibility of those carers until opening time/after closing time.
- On some afternoons, there may be opportunity for a group to **'work back'**. A student wishing to do this will be required to contact their parents beforehand to obtain permission.
- **Please avoid sending in students who are unwell** or who have injuries, which would confine them to the Cite. If an individual cannot participate in the normal program, a staff member must remain on campus with him or her, which can severely handicap or even force cancellation of an activity for everyone else. Similarly, we request that you do not make **appointments** for students during the school day.
- The City Cite phone number is **8660 6700**. There is no receptionist so please do not phone during school hours to speak to staff, except in an emergency. We are either out with students or working with them on site.

THE CITY CITE PROGRAM

The program of work is integrated. That is to say, it is organised in themes and strands of investigation, not in traditional subjects. Students are expected (and guided) to apply subject-style skills to the topics they pursue. Not only is this an efficient way of using limited time in the city. It is also a key skill for students in their upper secondary schooling: keeping alive their curiosity, learning how to identify things they are interested in, learning how to follow through those interests in an organised, substantial way so that they produce solid outcomes.

Students will be issued with a City Cite folder in which to build up their work. Much of their work will be as a member of a group and so may not be visible in this folder. (It may also have been done in electronic, dramatic or oral format.) Each student, however, will also be required to complete personal work and this, with various handouts and working papers will form the bulk of the folder's contents.

Key visits to such places as the Urban Seed or Heritage Walk are led by specially trained education officers, not general tour guides. A Plenty teacher and a City Cite teacher are also in attendance.

Guest speakers bring a direct, personal quality to the 'big ideas' of the city. Example of speakers which we have arranged in the past are an architect, Docklands expert, members of the Baptist Urban Seed mission to the homeless, business people, representatives of ethnic communities etc.

Follow-up writing frequently goes with these activities. Sometimes we ask students to reflect upon their experiences with some personal writing.

A group challenge (Big Question) presentation will also be given by students. They will mainly draw on first-hand experience in the city and information from interview and surveys. Those vital skills in teamwork, public speaking, presentation, visual or dramatic display and PowerPoint will be emphasised. **The group display board or audiovisual presentation** will form a part of their performance. During their time in town, each conference group will be required to build up a display, which represents their week's experience – drawing on graphics and art and photographic skills in the group.

HOMEWORK

Please do not expect homework to follow a routine pattern. Like the city program, it will be different. With such a short time in Melbourne, we are especially interested to develop students' thinking as well as to have them produce written work.

Moreover, we need to take into account the demands, which the whole City Cite experience makes on students. For many of them it will be a first experience of commuting: rising early, travelling for a considerable time, managing metropolitan public transport, interacting with all sorts and ages of people.

During the day they will have a huge amount of new learning and stimulus to digest: the vast city classroom, teamwork negotiations, interaction with adults in workplaces where entirely new standards and codes apply, dealing with their own emotional, intellectual and spiritual responses to often high intensity situations, being expected to 'deliver' to their peers and teachers under tight time pressures.

So while there will be things to do each night we do not set 'busywork' to be done at home. We expect that students will need some personal space to think, to be. We do set tasks, which will require them to think. The student workgroups will set each member tasks to do as part of the group workload.

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

Plenty Valley Christian College students will be assessed on three different tasks.

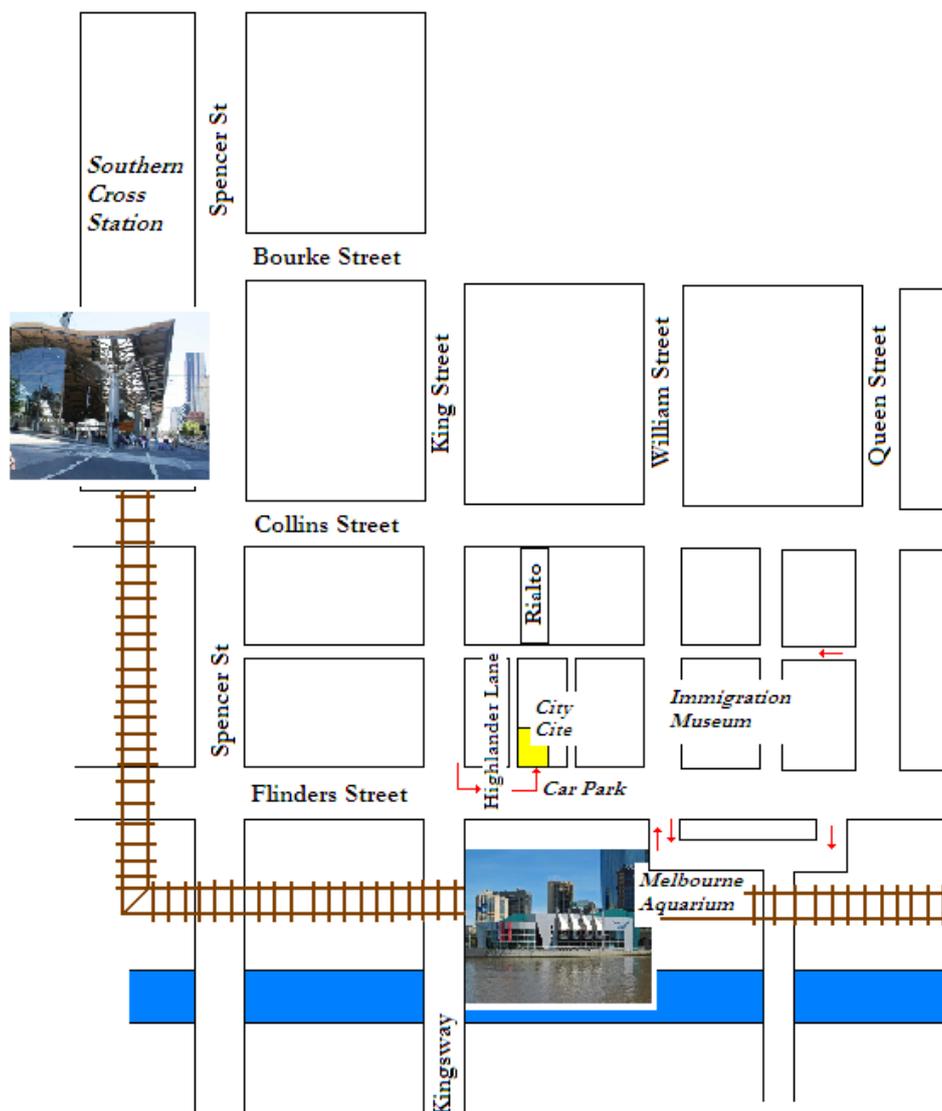
1. Reflections – Students will be expected to write two well-presented and thought out pieces of work. The first is to be completed early in the week and the second is to be an overview of the whole experience submitted on Friday morning.
2. The Big Question group presentation.

CITY CITE LOCATION

Parking is available in the building. The first 6 stories of 474 Flinders Street is a public car-park (*Wilson Car Park*). The cost of evening parking is a flat rate of approximately \$10. Entrance is off Flinders Street across the road from the tram stop and aquarium.

Please note that the entrance to the office floors is from Highlander Lane. If parking at 474 Flinders Street you will need to return to street level and walk around the corner to the lobby entrance in Highlander Lane.

We would, however, strongly recommend that parents consider using the train on Friday night to avoid frustration with traffic, which can be very heavy on a Friday night!



CITY CITE KEY INFORMATION

City Cite address: Level 12, 474 Flinders Street, Melbourne (**Entrance off Highlander Lane**)

Telephone: 8660 6700 (emergencies or absentee notification only please)

Mr Leather 8660 6701

Hours: Program starts at 9am – Be there by 8.45 if possible
Program ends at 3.30 pm.
Any variations will be advised in advance

Illness/lateness: Advise City Cite on 8660 6700 by 9am please.

Dress: **School uniform is to be worn**, so please help by enforcing normal school rules.

Lunches: Bring or buy.
Dietary and budgetary control is advisable.

Bags: No large school bags on campus please. Students should use the folders, which we provide for their written work. If they have access to a small bag this will be useful for personal items.

Homework: Will be set but not so much in standard format. You can help in these ways:

- **Talk** with students about what they are doing in town, especially what they feel and their opinions. Often the nightly news or other television will relate to issues which they are thinking about;
- **Ask** about how they are going with the planning of their group presentations. With only one week, there is no room for procrastination or suddenly realising that you need those photos developed!