

**Introduction to Nossal High School**  
**An Information Session for Prospective Parents 2021**  
**Thursday 16 July 2020**

## Questions & Answers

This is a record of the Q&A stream collected during the recent online information session introducing Nossal High School to parents of students interested in attending the school in 2021. Most of these answers were provided during the session, in the context of the presentation. Readers may find it useful to consult the associated recording of the event.

In some cases, similar questions were asked which all had the same answer. In this case, only one example is included below. If you can't find the answer to a question you still have in this collection, please do not hesitate to contact us.

*At the time of publication, the bodies which authorise and regulate the entry examination for Victoria's select entry schools had not published its guidelines regarding how the examination would run in the light of COVID-19 restrictions.*

*Once this decision has been made, registered families will be contacted directly via email.*

| Question  | Answer  |
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| Is the school very big or it has portables?   | It's custom built for the number of students we teach. There are two main buildings, along with a fitness centre, an oval, basketball courts etc. We will be publishing a link (also available via the website) for a virtual tour at the end of the session. If you watch that, you can see some vision taken via drone of the school from above, and also see Roger walking through some of the spaces. |
| Is there any upcoming online school tour for NHS?                                       | If you follow the link below you can do a virtual tour.<br><a href="https://vimeo.com/438763235">https://vimeo.com/438763235</a><br>The tour is also accessible via the school website<br><a href="http://www.nossalhs.vic.edu.au">www.nossalhs.vic.edu.au</a>  |
| does the food in the canteen meet different dietary requirements?                       | Yes. Our staff and student population are both diverse, and the school is accustomed to catering to the dietary needs of both groups.   |
| What's the average class size? For example, how many students would be in a math class? | A full class would have 25 - 26 students in it (e.g. a typical senior mathematics class). We do quite a lot of team teaching (especially in Yrs 9 & 10), in which case up to 52 students will   |

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|   | be learning in a shared space with two teachers looking after the group.  |
| Is there a prayer room available for Muslim girls?  | There is no "labelled" room for these students, but we make arrangements for our students' needs in this area very regularly. Typically this means booking one of the school's spaces for them at appropriate times so that they can have privacy for their observances.  |
| Does Nossal have a cricket team?  | Yes! In fact Nossal is very active in a wide range of sports at the regional level, and has been district champion more than once in recent years.  |
| How many placements are available for Nossal High?  | 208 students in Year 9, and typically a very small number (e.g. 2 or 3) for Yr 10 each year.  |
| How many year 10 intake at Nossal High for 2021?  | We don't know yet. It depends on how many (if any) of our 2020 Year 9 students decide that they don't want to stay at the school. Typically it is a very small number... 5 would be "a lot" in a particular year.   |
| If somehow, that there is no offering space for the year 10 Exam, will extra spots be made? | Unfortunately this is not possible. The school's enrolment is capped at 832 (208 at each year level) so if none of our current students decide to leave, we cannot accept any new students.   |
| How are classes run in Nossal?  | <p>The structure of the day involves lessons which are 1 hour long, except for Mondays when classes last for 50 minutes. Most days we have 5 periods, except for Monday when there are 6 and Wednesday when there are 4.</p> <p>Students will work with one or two teachers, depending on whether their class is team taught or not. Team teaching is common in Year 9 and Year 10, but not unheard of at the higher year levels. In Year 9, students have somewhat limited choices about what they study, but from Year 10 they can begin to make more selections, and almost all of our Year 10 students accelerate into at least one VCE Unit 1 &amp; 2 subject.</p> <p>When we talk about learning at Nossal we try very much to focus on the individual student's progress, instead of worrying about comparisons between students. This affects many aspects of our classes including the types of assessment we do, the way students receive feedback from their teachers, and the way we write our reports. We are focussed on helping our students become independent learners, and we therefore tend to offer them more choice and more unstructured time (e.g. study periods) so that they can learn to manage their own learning.</p> |

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| Is there an option for International Baccalaureate?  | Not at this time, but much of the thinking which underpins the design of the IB is also incorporated into the learning at NHS. At this time all of our senior students undertake the VCE.  |
| Are there any compulsory VCE units in Year 12 which students have to complete  | All students have to complete one Unit 3 & 4 (i.e. Yr 12 level) English subject. There is a choice of 3 (English, Literature & English Language) offered by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority, and students must choose at least one of these. Other than that, they may choose what they wish to study.   |
| Do you offer a second language subject? If a student opts to choose a language that you don't offer, do you support the student taking distance education (VSL)? | Within the school timetable we offer French and Japanese, but we also have a large number of students studying other languages through VSL and other institutions (e.g. weekend schools). There are certainly structures in place to support those students.   |
| Is there extended investigation for year 11 vce  | We offer the subject to students every year. Some years the number of students who select it is small and so we don't end up running it as a formal part of the timetable, but in this case we commonly support them to do it through VSV (Virtual School Victoria).   |
| Does NHS offer VET studies, specifically Dance in the Senior School Curriculum?  | It is not uncommon for us to have a few students undertaking VET studies, though they typically go off campus for this. Dance is offered, but in recent years there has not been sufficient demand from students for us to offer the subject at the senior level (though we do typically have some Yr 9 elective classes).   |
| What position is Nossal in VCE score?  | Nossal was the third highest performing government school in Victoria in 2019.   |
| How many students from each school are accepted.   | This varies from school to school. Students are ranked based on their score on the entry exam. We work our way down the list, accepting students based on their score and their stated preferences. However, we are not allowed to accept more than 5% of applicants from any particular school. This means that our incoming group is very diverse. Typically students come from 90 different schools and from all sectors (Government, Catholic, Independent). |
| Can i apply if my son home schooling? How the 5% cap will work?  | <p>We definitely have some students every year who have been home schooled and who then move into Nossal. Any student who sits the entry exam is eligible, regardless of where they have completed their previous schooling.</p> <p>If your child has been home schooled, then you simply write "home schooled" on the form where it asks for the school name.</p>   |

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|  | <p>The school is only allowed to accept 5% of all applications from home school families, but since the number of applicants from this group is typically very low, the 5% cut-off usually does not apply in practice.</p>  |
| <p>What results do you need to get into NHS?</p>                       | <p>Roger has now shown you a graph comparing national achievement against NHS achievement. The "average" of our curve is around the AA (above average) to S (superior) level. There is no set "number" of superiors that we can cite to guarantee entry, because the entry of a particular student may also be affected by things like how many other students we have accepted from their home school that year (which is capped at 5%, as he noted earlier).</p> <p>In the same way, it is not possible to tell you a single "cut off score" because entry depends on more than just exam results. Sometimes many students from a single school will get very high results, but we are only allowed to accept a limited number from a single school (5%) so some of them will not get an offer and a different student (with a lower but still very good score) at another school may get in.</p> |
| <p>Is the exam for entry into years 10 &amp; 11 now on 8th August?</p> | <p>Yes, this is the proposed date at the time of publication of this document.</p> <p>In general, the date is published on the web site. It is best to double check there, closer to the event, but if you are registered for it, you should also receive notification directly.</p>  |
| <p>Is (the written task on the exam) it persuasive or creative?</p>    | <p>Creative. It used to be persuasive, but this has been changed.</p>   |
| <p>Does writing section needs good vocabulary?</p>                     | <p>Reasonably, yes, but not beyond that of an able Year 8 student. (i.e. we are not expecting the students to be able to write like adults!)</p>  |
| <p>Must students, who undertake the Exam-also must do a interview?</p> | <p>No, most students are offered a place on the basis of the examination only. A small number of students (e.g. about 20) are offered an opportunity to come for an interview for entry through the 'Principal's discretion' process, which permits the principal to accept an extra 10 students based on his assessment of their suitability.</p>  |
| <p>Is the school report can play part?</p>                             | <p>Only for students who are invited to an interview. For most students, only the examination result is considered.</p>   |
| <p>Are any spots still left for entry exams, or is it closed?</p>      | <p>Unfortunately registrations for the 2021 entry examination is now closed.</p>  |