


LORETO 
Academy Winter 2023

SENSE OF DIRECTION

*'There is Growth in
Moving Through Discomfort'*

Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th June



LORETO ACADEMY

Loreto Academy is an experiential and academic program that provides challenge while fostering excitement in learning. Complementing the School's core academic program, the Loreto Academy develops curious, independent and capable intellectuals who will leave Loreto Toorak ready to be the leading thinkers, innovators and achievers of their generation.

Open to all students entering Years 10 and 11 in 2023, and Year 9 by nomination, and facilitated by Loreto Toorak subject experts, Loreto Academy offers a suite of rich learning experiences to extend curiosity and add depth to learning programs covered at Loreto Toorak. Scholars participating in the Loreto Academy will:

- Deepen their curiosity and excitement for learning and intellectual endeavour;
- Cultivate enhanced knowledge of a subject area or field of inquiry;
- Develop soft skills such as verbal communication, interpersonal and collaborative skills, problem solving and analytical skills; and
- Foster character strengths and growth mindset.

What kind of learning experience will scholars enjoy?

Learning and knowing go hand-in-hand: Scholars develop a disposition to learn and make smart choices about what, how, where and why they learn. This disposition will be evident in their relentless curiosity, their command of a range of knowledge and ways of thinking and their desire to grapple with unclear and thorny problems.

Low threat, high challenge learning experiences:

Scholars are made to feel supported, not afraid or inferior. Tasks are designed to allow students to ask better questions, not just give concrete answers – support is high, but so are expectations and challenges. Scholars are liberated by their learning; their experience opens their minds to new worlds. Learning is not fixed to a specific time or place. Scholars take what they learn and apply it to any and all contexts.

Learning is personally significant:

Facilitators focus on how the learning is personally significant for the student. They make thoughtful decisions about learning and prioritise deep, prolonged engagement. Facilitators enable learning that allows students to build their capacity to self-manage their learning. Inquiry guides the learning and scholar engagement – there is no assessment.

Discomfort and the unfamiliar are embraced:

Scholars are comfortable with 'the grey area' and are okay with 'not yet' being able to do something, they tolerate discomfort and welcome complications of error-making, rather than playing it safe through memorisation.

What can scholars expect to learn?

Courses in a range of fields including STEM, Humanities, Art and Literature are offered. Scholars will receive Micro-Credentials that will be recorded on their Loreto Toorak academic transcripts.

Loreto Academy will be held at Loreto Toorak from 9.00am – 3.30pm on Thursday 19 to Tuesday 24 January.

Each scholar will receive an email detailing the courses they will undertake; this will determine their schedule for the Program. The students participating are required to make their own way to and from School. They will be required to wear neat casual clothes and bring lunch and snacks. Scholars will have the opportunity to go offsite to purchase food and drink during break time. There is no additional cost to participate in the 2023 Winter Loreto Academy program.

Sense of Direction

Welcome to the 2023 Loreto Winter Academy!

This year the Loreto Winter Academy will explore the theme of:

SENSE OF DIRECTION - the ability to orient yourself in the world.

As the theme suggests, notions of growth and moving toward the future imply elements of change and navigating through unfamiliar contexts. Change, moving from the familiar to the lesser known, is often fraught with sensations of distress and unease. Perseverance is key! Growth is about moving through discomfort while seeking both individual and collective well-being.

Having a 'Sense of Direction' is the ability to know your location and perform wayfinding; that is, using specific elements which may help you navigate a space. Developing your 'Sense of Direction' can provide you with an effective tool to assist you with managing your movements, improve future experiences, and contribute to a sense of well-being and security.

Sometimes all that is required is a simple shift in perspective to improve your understanding; this shift may include taking a different path to reach the same destination.

Experiencing moments of understanding which can result in a personal transformation are often of a transient nature, fleeting, and may occur in a random nature. Yet at the same time, these very moments can be euphoric and give much joy.

Through exposure to interdisciplinary learning, scholars are encouraged to make connections between people and places and how they relate to each other, in order to get a better sense of how things connect.

During the two-day 2023 Loreto Winter Academy program scholars will participate in 4 courses across 6 sessions, presented by Loreto Toorak expert Facilitators and guest speakers. These courses are designed to empower scholars to make sense of the world by reflecting critically on new ideas and issues by considering them from multiple perspectives. Scholars will become more deeply aware of their own perspectives, enabling them to identify global concepts and apply those concepts in inventive ways.

Ms. Caterina Chng

SCHEDULE

Session time	Monday 26 June	Tuesday 27 June
Session 1 9:00 – 10:45	Cosmology – how the universe as we know it started and how it is likely to end. How to orient ourselves in our massive universe. Mr. Eric Friedman	Pestilence: a plague on all your houses! Part 1 Dr. Sharmini Kumar & Ms. Kirsti Graham
Break 10:45 – 11:00		
Session 2 11:00 – 12:45	“That other shirt” and how it came about! Part 1 Ms. Natalie Caruso, Ms. Josie Fagan & Ms. Gin Saunders	Pestilence: a plague on all your houses! Continuation Dr. Sharmini Kumar & Ms. Kirsti Graham OR A scaffolded guided writing exercise influenced by Rupi Kaur’s Healing Through Words book. Part 1 Ms. Christine Dragwidge
Lunch 12:45 – 1:15		
Session 3 1:15 – 3:00	“That other shirt” create your own. Part 2 Ms. Natalie Caruso, Ms. Josie Fagan & Ms. Gin Saunders	Painting: reflecting on Boccioni’s influence on cubism, abstraction, and figurative art. Part 2 Ms. Christine Dragwidge

COURSE GUIDE

**Cosmology – how the universe as we know it started and how it is likely to end.
How to orient ourselves in our massive universe.**
Mr. Eric Friedman

What are the theories about how the universe started? Will there ever be an end to the universe as we know it in the future? This course will explore these ideas and the latest scientific theories about our universe, using recent discoveries and research. For thousands of years, people have looked up at the amazing night sky and wondered about the origins of the stars, planets, and other celestial objects; we now know so much more about our universe and how it functions.

Pestilence: a plague on all your houses!
Dr. Sharmini Kumar & Ms. Kirsti Graham

Plagues, epidemics, and pandemics have been a feature of life for millennia. They’re unavoidable (as we’ve all seen!). What causes various diseases, how do they spread, and why do some reach epidemic levels while others fade away? Why do some remain a threat today while others are more insignificant? And what awaits us in the future?

“That other shirt” and how it came about!
Ms. Natalie Caruso and Ms. Josie Fagan

Part 1:
‘The shirt’: An introduction to the stories behind the creation ‘the shirt’ and of women of significance on ‘the shirt’.

Part 2:
Over to you! Scholars are invited to design their own ‘t-shirt’ covered with images of inspirational people; whom would they choose and why? Scholars will create a design in the form of a collage which may include a space for their own image. This collage will be transferred onto a t-shirt which may serve as an aspiration for the future.

**A scaffolded guided writing exercise influenced by Rupi Kaur’s book
Healing Through Words.**
Ms. Christine Dragwidge

Part 1:
Looking at the Boccioni States of Mind series of works that use art for wayfinding, moving through discomfort, to represent what words cannot. The aim is for students to capture their current state of mind and use painting as a cathartic process for reflection and visual representation. In turn, scholars will ponder and investigate their own activist movements, develop their own voices, and recognise their ability to influence courts, laws, and the structure of their society. The course will conclude with the opportunity for students to vocalise their cause for action and deliver it to members of parliament, in the hope of enacting change.

Part 2:
A condensed version of the student’s written work is transformed into a visual representation reflecting on Boccioni’s influence on cubism, abstraction, and figurative art. This will take the form of an acrylic painting on canvas.

FACILITATORS

Facilitator: Ms Caterina Chng



As Head of Loreto Academy, Caterina has directed the delivery of the Summer and Winter Academy programs and the Loreto X suite of programs. In 2021 and 2022, she was a co-collaborator with Xavier College of the Your Voice. Eyes Open and the Your Voice. What Matters programs. Caterina is an avid Italophile, passionate about fostering a love for the Italian language and culture. She has extensive experience in developing curricula, including the Middle Years Program of the International Baccalaureate, and strives to promote in scholars a life-long love and curiosity for learning across multiple disciplines. A recipient of two Australian government scholarships, she has completed the Diploma Dante Alighieri at L'Isitituto Dante Alighieri, Firenze, and an Endeavour Fellowship at Cà Foscari, Università di Venezia. Caterina has a Bachelor of Arts degree (Italian, French, and English), with Honours in Italian, and has completed a Graduate Certificate in Teaching Religious Education. She holds the C2 level qualification (Native Speaker) in CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) and has completed studies in Interpreting and Translating at NATI. Caterina is currently completing her Masters in Interpreting and Translation. She is a presenter at the University of Melbourne VCE Winter School, the VATI (Victorian Association of Teachers of Italian) conference, and a VCE Italian Oral examination assessor for VCCA. Caterina enjoys volunteering at Heide MOMA and loves combining her love of art, culture, and language by organising Study Tours of Italy.

Facilitator: Dr Sharmini Kumar



Sharmini Kumar is the founder and Artistic Director of 24 Carrot Productions and a producer of AustenCon, an annual Jane Austen celebration now in its fifth year. She has adapted 'Persuasion' and 'Pride and Prejudice' for the stage, 'Emma' for online performance during lockdown, and mostly recently co-wrote and directed the original musical adaptation of 'Sense and Sensibility'. She is currently working on a stage adaptation of 'Mansfield Park'. Sharmini has written, directed and produced many performance pieces and short films including 'Shakespeare in Therapy' and 'The Regina Monologues', as well as radio documentaries for the ABC. When she's not writing and directing, she works as a doctor and teaches medicine.



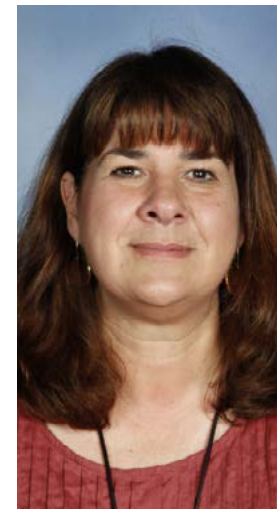
Facilitator: Kirsti Graham

Kirsti is passionate about sharing her love of history and reading with others to support lifelong learning. She loves nothing more than helping students find books to ignite their interest in literature. An avid reader of both fiction and nonfiction, she holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from La Trobe University majoring in archaeology, and a Graduate Diploma of Arts in museum studies and collections management from the Australian National University. After working at the National Museum of Australia as a curator, she returned to Melbourne to complete a Master of Information Management at RMIT and commenced a career in school librarianship.



Facilitator: Josephine Fagan

Flexibility, integrity, and compassion are the foundations of Josephine's practice. She prides herself on her professionalism, practical skills, pedagogical knowledge, wealth of experience, collegiality, and ability to inspire. Through individual, project-based, and collaborative approaches to Art and Design production, Analysis, and Education, Josephine endeavours to develop both the practical and meta-skills that will enable her practice and those with whom she works, to foster a variety of approaches to navigate the future challenges of changing work environments and act as creative agents, ethical global citizens, and leaders.



Facilitator: Natalie Caruso

Natalie has a passion for mathematics and is dedicated to sharing this passion and her knowledge with students. She has been quoted as saying 'I feel like numbers are my friends, and they snuggle on my pillow next to me at night when I go to sleep.' Natalie has a Bachelor of Science Education (Mathematics) from Melbourne University and a Graduate Diploma of Science Education (Mathematics) from Curtin University.

Natalie has broad experience as a VCAA assessor and has been on the Mathematical Methods exam panel as a vetter for Units 3 and 4 examinations. She has taught Mathematics at the University level as part of the MUPHAS program, taking tutorials at Melbourne University and teaching this course to students in schools. She is the author of numerous Mathematics textbooks, study guides, and the Checkpoints series for all VCE Mathematics studies.

Natalie is a lifelong learner with a passion for reading and audiobooks, theatre, science and nature, history, and travel.



Christine Dragwidge

Christine is a fervent advocate of the visual arts, valuing the creative and critical thinking skills they develop. She is a firm believer that both Art and Design are outlets for students of all ages, to communicate what words cannot. Christine holds a Bachelor of Visual Arts and Graduate Diploma of Education from Monash University, as well as a Master of Education from the University of Melbourne. Her visual arts studies fostered a strong focus in painting, design and animation, leading to studying under the guidance of renowned Australian artist Stelarc in Italy, engaging in cross-disciplinary study of anatomy, drawing and Italian Renaissance history with medical, physiotherapy and art students. Alongside her career in education and to complement her love of both art and design, Christine has worked as a freelance communication designer and exhibited her paintings and animations in numerous international and local exhibitions.



Facilitator: Eric Friedman

Eric has taught Chemistry, Science and Maths at many different Government, Independent and Catholic schools during a long teaching career. He is still passionate about inspiring young people to explore the world around them and achieve their own personal goals.

Eric completed degrees in Science and Commerce, as well as a Master's degree in Education. He also was seconded to Monash University as a Science Method Lecturer.

His fascination for the universe started at an early age and as there were few astronomy courses at the time, he taught himself from books and by talking to people, later from the internet. Lifelong learning is an important part of his life. In the 2021 Summer Loreto Academy, Eric presented a popular course titled Cosmology: The Origin and Evolution of the Universe. In the 2021 Winter Loreto Academy, Eric organised a group researching Galileo's scientific inventions and discoveries.



Facilitator: Ginevra Saunders

Ginevra has worked with the Loreto Toorak Art Faculty as an Art Technician since 2006. She has facilitated independent student projects; particularly, but not limited to, the VCE students in Art, Photography, VCD and Media. Ginevra has brought her wealth of technical art-making knowledge and generosity of time to ensure that the students and staff that she advises, are able to realise the best results that they can in their art and design making.

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Mandeville Hall Toorak