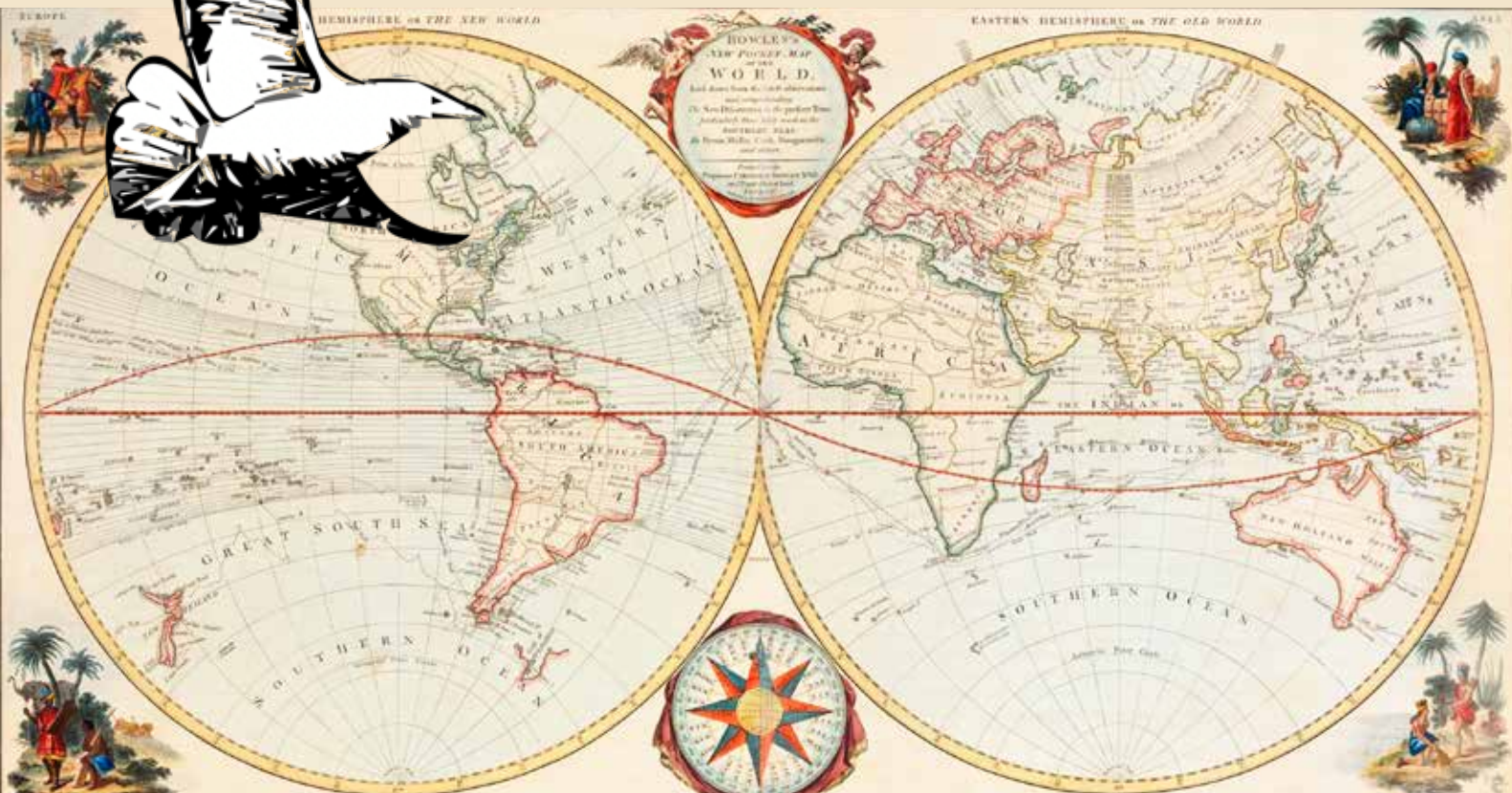


# LORETO Academy *Summer 2024*



## SET A COURSE FOR...

Monday 22nd - Thursday 25th January 2024



# 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 2024, and Year 9 by nomination, and facilitated by Loreto Toorak subject experts and invited professionals, 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 a 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 range of knowledge and command of 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 10:00am – 3:00pm from Monday 22nd to Thursday 25th January 2024.**

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 2024 Summer Academy program.

**At the heart of the Loreto Summer Academy is the concept of an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach to learning.**

## ***Set a Course For...***

To 'Set a course for ...' is a phrase used when talking about setting the direction for a journey. The course is the direction and 'setting' means marking the course on a compass and then traveling in that direction.

'Set a course ...' means to have a goal and create a detailed plan and timeline in order to reach a destination.

Any course set for future projects should consider the origins and beginnings of the journey that brought us to our current place in time.

'Set a course for ...' is a concept that involves the ideas of advancement, continuity, development, flow, furtherance, movement, order, progress, progression, sequence, and succession. The direction is forward-moving and invokes notions of passage, which follow a well-laid-out path or route and aim to reach a future trajectory.

Metaphorically speaking 'Set a course for ...' means to open up the sails, to catch the prevailing winds that will propel the vessel to its future destination. This involves gathering our most creative thinkers and developing ideas and solutions in order to reach our future goals.

This theme serves to embrace the philosophy of the Loreto Academy and the upcoming Loreto Mandeville Hall Toorak centenary celebrations.

**Caterina Chng**  
**Head of Loreto Academy**

# COURSE GUIDE

## **Bringing Ideas to Market: A blueprint**

*Ella Kee*

In this course, participants will delve into the realm of idea generation, product development, and the steps involved in bringing a concept to market within the business landscape. It will empower learners to examine the sequential processes undertaken by businesses worldwide in the journey from idea inception to product realisation. Scholars will not only gain the knowledge to plan and create their own products but also nurture their capacity for independent thought and foster collaboration with fellow participants throughout the duration of the program



## **Set a course for a journey out of our Solar System and beyond**

*Eric Friedman*

After Neptune lies Pluto and the Kuiper Belt, the origin of many short-period comets and other strange icy objects. Even further out is the Oort Cloud, consisting of long-period comets and planetesimals. We are about to reach for the stars and exoplanets.



## **How human-centred design can solve your problems**

*Tait Ischia, Human-centred designer at Today*

In a perfect world, everything goes to plan. You're never late to anything. You always say the right thing. You never fail the test. We don't live in a perfect world, yet when we plan we tend to imagine that we do. This tendency is called the optimism bias. It's how our brains are wired, and it's the reason why we do things without thinking about the consequences.

So if we're wired to imagine a perfect world, what can we do to circumnavigate our own hard-wiring? How can we envision an ambitious goal then make a plan that will actually work?

The answer is through creativity, collaboration, and empathy. Human-centred design is a problem-solving toolkit for working through challenges and reaching a goal.

Learn what human-centred design is, how it can help you solve problems, and how it can help you adapt to change in a world filled with complexity and uncertainty.





## Sense of Direction – an Artist’s Journey

*Vera Möller*

The intention of the presentation and workshop is to demonstrate Vera’s personal course of progressing from Biology studies and work as a freshwater lake researcher, to working as a multidisciplinary artist interested in the subject of Submarine Species and Environments. Vera will provide examples of her actual work to demonstrate her working methods.

Students can choose to do one or both of the following workshop projects:

Session 1: Collage Project ‘Hybrid marine invertebrates’

Session 2: Fabrication of Objects: ‘Hybrid Corals and Sponges’



## The Art of Mathematics

*Natalie Caruso, Josephine Fagan and Anna Finlayson*

Session 1: Join Natalie Caruso, Anna Finlayson and Josephine Fagan in a discussion of how art and mathematics are intricately connected practices. Anna Finlayson will then discuss her practice as an artist and how she employs the grid and geometric conventions to create her vibrant and illusory paintings. Learn about the Modernist development of the masculinisation of The Grid in Art History and how Anna uses Post Modernist and feminist ideas of the subversion of The Grid to create her own artworks.



Session 2: Anna, Natalie and Josephine will run a workshop in which you can create your own artwork in response to the use of mathematics in art. This may be 3-dimensional in ceramics, or a 2-dimensional painting using grids, spirographs and mathomats.

## Sense of Direction, Agency, and Consequences: Exploring Shakespearean Tragedies

*Jill Fitzsimons, Director of Teaching and Learning*

Embark on a captivating literary adventure where you’ll explore timeless themes of ambition, choice, and the consequences that shape our lives. Delve into Shakespearean masterpieces like Macbeth, Julius Caesar, and Romeo and Juliet to understand how characters’ sense of direction and agency influence their fates.



Act out famous scenes, engage in thought-provoking discussions, creative writing, and inspiring insights as you navigate the complex world of Shakespeare’s tragedies. Join us and unravel the mysteries of self-discovery through the timeless wisdom of the Bard. Your journey begins here, and your choices define your destiny. Are you ready to take the reins of your life’s direction? Don’t miss this opportunity to shape your own future.

## Exploring Your Sense of Direction through Creative Writing

*Jill Fitzsimons, Director of Teaching and Learning*

Calling all young writers and dreamers! Join our 'Exploring Your Sense of Direction through Creative Writing' workshop for a thrilling journey of self-discovery. Immerse yourself in the world of imagination, explore famous literary works, and craft your own unique stories. Through engaging writing prompts and captivating discussions, discover how characters find their path and purpose, just like you can in your own life. Whether you're a literature enthusiast or just starting to explore your creative side, this workshop is the perfect place to develop your writing skills, find your voice, and shape your own destiny. Unleash your inner storyteller, express your thoughts, and connect with like-minded peers. Join us and ignite your passion for personal or creative writing!



# SCHEDULE

Session Time	Monday 22 Januray	Tuesday 23 January
Session 1 10:00 - 12:00	The Art of Mathematics Session 1	Set a course for a journey out of our Solar System and beyond  OR Bringing Ideas to Market: A Blueprint Session 1
Lunch Break 12:00 - 1:00		
Session 2 1:00 - 3:00	The Art of Mathematics Session 2	Sense of Direction, Agency, and Consequences: Exploring Shakespearean Tragedies  OR Bringing Ideas to Market: A Blueprint Session 2

Session Time	Wednesday 24 Januray	Thursday 25 January
Session 1 10:00 - 12:00	Sense of Direction: an Artist's Journey Session 1	How human-centred design can solve your problems
Lunch Break 12:00 - 1:00		
Session 2 1:00 - 3:00	Sense of Direction: an Artist's Journey Session 2	Exploring Your Sense of Direction through Creative Writing

## FACILITATORS



*Facilitator: Ella Kee*

Ella is focussed on encouraging young people to develop their thinking when it comes to business and health to broaden their skills, understanding and questioning beyond the face value of what they may be told. She is committed to the importance of feedback to enhance student academic performance. Ella holds Bachelor of Business and Bachelor of Health Sciences degrees from Monash University. Upon completion of her undergraduate degrees, she was a tutor for a 3rd year Health Sciences subject and worked for MonCOEH (The Monash Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health) researching and assisting with database development for core morbidities. Subsequently, she completed her Master of Teaching (Secondary Education) focussing on both Business and Health Education at Monash University.



*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.

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.

Past Loreto Academy workshops have included Cosmology (beginning and end of the universe), Astrobiology (search for extraterrestrial life), the science of Alchemy, and Galileo's scientific discoveries.





*Facilitator: Tait Ischia*

Tait is a human-centred designer and copywriter. He works at a design studio called Today <https://today.design/>—a company that exists to make social and environmental change through the use of thoughtful design and clever technology—with organisations such as University of Melbourne, Lifeline, and the Australian Conservation Foundation.

Tait believes that change can be influenced at many levels, from an individual's behaviour, to large groups, and entire systems. He is particularly interested in how communications can influence people to make decisions that have a positive social impact and thinks deeply about how information is absorbed, distributed and amplified by people within complex systems.



*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.



*Facilitator: Dr Anna Finlayson*

Melbourne-based Anna Finlayson is best known for her site-specific installations as well as wall and floor based sculptural forms and assemblages, which often utilise pre-existing and mass-produced objects such as plastic balls or electrical cables. However, her work has consistently derived from an expanded drawing practice, and her obsessively rendered drawings over the past ten years have constituted an ongoing series of investigations into the subjectification of the grid through the creation of a narrative of process.

Dates and times are recorded at the commencement of a work, grids are calculated and ruled, calculations defining the parameters of the drawing are noted, coordinates are documented, lines are numbered and space is counted. The notation and recording of the practice creates layers of data and information that not only create the works, but also give the viewer proof and evidence of the process of making—and the presence of the maker. All of this information manifests as both part of the visual language of the drawing and an essential aesthetic component of its composition.

Her ongoing spectrum works will appeal to those with an obsessive/compulsive streak; here Finlayson meticulously rules and annotates her own detailed grids on paper, only to fill them in with an ever-shifting spectrum of orderly gouache daubs, recording the time and date of each in the process. They serve as both an aesthetic exploration and an almost diaristic record of artistic activity. Finlayson's colour choices and gestures may be pretty and palatable but the sustained rigour of her process and logic puts these works in another realm entirely.



*Facilitator: Dr Vera Möller*

Vera Möller is a cross-disciplinary visual artist living on the lands of the Boon Wurrung / Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation.

Her artwork engages in ecological issues arising from living in the Anthropocene and considers the persistence of life forms, species mutation, terrain and marine habitat. Drawing on the biological, visual, and spatial phenomena found in natural environments Möller's practice acts as a form of speculative biological hybridity.

She utilises close observation, new scientific research, and somatic material exploration, to devise multi-layered immersive installations that invite reflection on the impact of humankind on ecosystems. "I am captivated by the idea of some slippage between those life forms that actually exist in our natural environments and entirely fictitious organisms." – Vera Möller

Often working in response to a specific site, in the last two decades Möller's creative projects have ranged from: an investigation into the undergrowth of the Kings Wood in Kent, UK; a botanical exploration of the sub-alpine heath lands of Skullbone Plains, Tasmania; wetlands in Goulburn Valley, Victoria; the Great Barrier Reef in the Northern climates of Australia; cold water marine environments of the Victorian coast; as well as the vast underwater environment of the Great Southern Reef.

She has exhibited widely both internationally and in Australia. Möller's work is held in private collections in Australia, China, Japan, UK, USA and Germany, along with the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; Australian National Museum, Canberra; Monash University Collection, Melbourne; Latrobe University Collection, Melbourne; Victoria University, Melbourne.



*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.

Josephine holds degrees in a Bachelor of Fine Art (hons) from VCA, an Advanced Diploma of Electronic Design and Interactive Media from RMIT, and a Graduate Diploma of Art Education from Melbourne University. Josephine has broad experience as a VCAA assessor and has been on the Art and Studio Arts exam panels as both writing and as a vetter for Units 3 and 4 examinations. She has taught Art History at the University level as part of the MUPHAS program, taking tutorials at Melbourne University and teaching this course to students in schools. Josephine has taught Yrs 5 - 12 Art and Design students for over 15 years and practiced as an artist and designer since 1999.




*Facilitator: Jill Fitzsimons*

Jill Fitzsimons is the Director of Teaching and Learning and a passionate and proud member of Loreto's English faculty and the wider VCE English teaching community. Jill believes that no life is really complete without a strong understanding of Shakespeare's brilliance and that understanding his concerns and insights help us to be more thoughtful thinkers and writers, particularly in relation to the notion of agency. Jill believes in writing's ability to help crystallise where we are going in life and where we've been, as well as make sense of the inevitable confusion we sometimes feel about our past, present and future, which is all part of being human. Jill is in awe of students' ability to be creative and is looking forward to facilitating an experience that encourages students to explore the theme – 'Sense of Direction' – while developing their writing skills.

# NOTES



LORETO   
*Academy Summer 2024*



**LORETO**  
Mandeville Hall Toorak