

# Media Release

**The Hon James Merlino MP**

Deputy Premier

Minister for Education

Minister for Mental Health

Acting Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers



Thursday, 18 November 2021

## MASTER TEACHERS APPOINTED FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

Nine outstanding Victorian teachers have been chosen to lead the Andrews Labor Government's Teaching Excellence Program – an Australian-first professional learning program at the new Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership.

The Teaching Excellence Program will provide advanced professional learning for highly-skilled teachers at government, Catholic, and Independent schools – working with academics, international experts and partners from across various sectors to deliver an innovative training program for Victoria's best and brightest educators.

The one-year program will support up to 500 teachers each year to advance their professional practice, with access to the best research in the science of learning and discipline-based content knowledge at academies in Melbourne, Bairnsdale, Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Mildura, Moe and Shepparton from the beginning of 2022.

The nine exemplary teachers were selected from around Victoria to lead eight disciplinary streams including arts, English, humanities, languages, technologies, science, mathematics and health and physical education.

Each Master Teacher was selected based on being recognised as an exceptional teacher in their field, having knowledge and skills for curriculum and professional learning design and contributing to the teaching culture in their school, raising student achievement and learning confidence and participation in their learning.

The Master Teachers for each subject discipline are:

- Adam Brodie-McKenzie - University High School (Humanities)
- Dr. Andrea Truckenbrodt - McKinnon Primary School (Languages)
- Christopher Wines - Ballarat High School (Science)
- Clare Mackie - Haileybury College (English)
- Colin Chapman - Caroline Chisholm Catholic College (Technologies)
- Hayley Dureau - Mount Waverley Secondary College (Mathematics)
- Johanna Simmons - Altona P-12 College (English)
- Paul Seery - Bendigo Senior Secondary College (Health and PE)
- Tobias Wilkins - Box Hill High School (the Arts)

For further information about the Teaching Excellence Program, visit [academy.vic.gov.au](https://academy.vic.gov.au).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Education James Merlino

*"I welcome and congratulate our inaugural Master Teachers – I can't wait to see the work they do in inspiring and building the skills of Victoria's best and brightest teachers."*

*"We've established the Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership not just to invest in our amazing teaching workforce, but to deliver better outcomes for every Victorian child for many years to come."*

**Media contact:** Matilda Edwards Jézéquel 0447 422 464 | [matilda.edwards-jezequel@minstaff.vic.gov.au](mailto:matilda.edwards-jezequel@minstaff.vic.gov.au)

Name	Short Biography
<u>Tobias Wilkins</u>	Tobias Wilkins is an exceptional Arts educator currently completing a Doctorate in Education while pioneering Arts teaching practices as a Learning Specialist at Box Hill High School. In addition to his work in the classroom, Tobias has worked as a lecturer at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education with a focus on contemporary Drama and Media pedagogies, creating and delivering curriculum to postgraduate students and developing their teaching expertise. With extensive experience mentoring colleagues and in developing and presenting instructional models for teachers, Tobias is a well-respected leader of instructional practice. In addition to contributing to the Literacy Teaching Toolkit for Media Arts, launched by the Department of Education in 2021, Tobias is associate editor of the <i>Journal of Artistic and Creative Education</i> .
Clare Mackie	Clare Mackie is the Head of English for Middle School at Haileybury College and is passionate about building powerful learning and effective teaching. With a Master's degree in Teaching and a Master's degree in Education, Clare has proven herself as a deeply reflective practitioner who focusses on the growth of each learner. A presenter at various conferences including the Australian Association for the Teaching of English (AATE) annual conference and the Victorian Association of the Teaching of English (VATE) conferences, Clare is a highly regarded English teacher committed to sharing her expertise. Clare is also the host of podcast <i>Teachers Talk Texts</i> .
Johanna Simmons	Johanna Simmons is a Literacy Learning Specialist at Altona P-12 College and is a highly skilled English and English as an Additional Language (EAL) teacher. Johanna is a passionate school leader, deeply committed to teaching and learning excellence and with a proven track record in inspiring high-performing teams to achieve. She is committed to both excellence and equity and the motivation behind her work is the desire for all students and communities have access to world-class education. In her previous role, Johanna was a Teaching Partner for schools across the Hume-Moreland area working with teachers and school leaders to enhance teaching and learning.
Adam Brodie-McKenzie	Adam Brodie-McKenzie is Learning Specialist responsible for Student Agency at the University High School, where he was previously the head of Humanities. Adam is passionate about opening avenues for student empowerment and voice. Following this passion, he is a sessional lecturer at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education where his focus is on creating curriculum, teaching and assessing graduate students in teaching for student engagement as well as on Diverse and Inclusive Classrooms. Adam has also been a visiting scholar at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. With numerous publications on humanities and civics and citizenship education, Adam is also an executive member or advisor to numerous professional teacher associations, VicSRC and the VCAA.
Dr. <u>Andrea Truckenbrodt</u>	Dr. Andrea Truckenbrodt is a Leading Teacher at McKinnon Primary School and a consultant in language and literacy education. Previously a clinical specialist and lecturer in Language and Literacy Education at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, Andrea is the co-writer of annotations to the Department of Education's Literacy Toolkit. In addition to her Doctorate, Andrea holds a Master's in applied linguistics and a diploma in Gifted Education. A frequent presenter at Modern Language teaching conferences, Andrea has also authored numerous papers on languages and education.
<u>Colin Chapman</u>	Colin Chapman is a Head of Learning at Caroline Chisolm Catholic College where he is a leader in the STEM disciplines. Colin is a VCAA State Reviewer for Systems Engineering and is part of the ACARA Mathematics teachers' reference group. In his previous role Colin was an International Baccalaureate teacher specialising in Physics and Chemistry at the Swiss International School Winterthur. Colin is passionate about teaching and learning practices that bridge design thinking from the practical to modelling and theory in ways that stimulate learning and unleash the joy of experimentation and discovery.
Christopher Wines	Christopher Wines is a team leader and Science specialist with deep experience in teacher education through his work with Federation University as a program leader and as a facilitator of Science extended professional learning. Christopher is a VCE teacher of both Chemistry and Physics but is passionate about teaching, learning and student programs with a particular focus on the Year 9 program at Ballarat High School. A presenter at local and international conferences, and author of numerous papers on student engagement and Science education, Christopher is highly regarded as a member of various professional associations and as a mentor and coach for teachers.
<u>Hayley Dureau</u>	Hayley Dureau is a Leading Teacher at Mount Waverley Secondary College where she is an experienced and passionate mathematics educator and a forward-thinking, vibrant, and enthusiastic educational leader. Hayley believes that being an educator is a great privilege and that teaching is the most meaningful and rewarding profession. She has been a member of the Department of Education and Training's Guiding Coalition since it was established in 2017 and has contributed to state-wide improvement initiatives in the Education State. With a passion for learning and finding innovative ways to support and enhance both student and teacher learning, Hayley is currently undertaking a Doctorate at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education where she also holds a Master of Instructional Leadership and a Clinical Teaching qualification.
<u>Paul Seery</u>	Paul Seery is an Assistant Principal at Bendigo Senior Secondary College. Paul's deep commitment to his vocation is unquestionable and he values individuality, diversity and excellence, traits that he has shown as a teacher, coach and mentor over 30 years. A passionate Health and PE educator, Paul is well regarded for his contributions to professional associations and in the professional learning that he leads for teachers across the State. Equally, Paul is committed to his community and to making a difference for young people in Bendigo and surrounds. With a driving interest in assessment practice and its intersection with teaching, Paul brings a unique skill set to this team.