

# College offers China certificate

By Cameron Tait

THOMAS Carr College will become one of a select few secondary schools to offer the Victorian Certificate of Education in China from next year.

The College has been in negotiations with the Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority and the Wenzhou Number 21 Middle School in Zhejiang Province since January last year to develop a model for the delivery of the program.

More than 165 students sat for the enrolment exams with a group of 50 to be selected to begin a five-month English preparation program before they start VCE next year.

The college's VCE in China co-ordinator Tom Bridges said the school rated as one of the best in Wenzhou, which has a population of more than eight million. About 240 Chinese students are already studying the course through partnerships with schools around Victoria.

Mr Bridges said its program would be taught in English at the Wenzhou school campus by its own teachers, under the direction of a Thomas Carr College mentor.

A group of six teachers from Wenzhou will travel to the college to observe and teach classes with their mentors from July.

Mr Bridges said the program, which would come at no cost to the college, was an exciting addition to its sister school relationships with Indonesia and Japan and its international students program.

"Many Chinese students may decide to study in Australian universities as full fee paying students once they complete the VCE," he said.

"We see the program as a wonderful demonstration of the way in which people from different parts of the world can come together with a shared purpose.

"Students are growing up in an increasingly interconnected world and this program will provide opportunities for them to study, live and travel alongside each other."



Study link: Thomas Carr College principal Bruce Runnalls outside the Wenzhou Middle School in China.