



Eastern education: Thomas Carr's Mark Santospirito and Chinese teacher Christina Bao take a class.

Program a catalyst for lessons in China

By **Cameron Tait**

A GROUP of six teachers from China have spent four weeks learning from colleagues at Thomas Carr College as the Tarneit school prepares to launch its VCE program in the country from next year.

It will be one of exclusive group of Victorian secondary schools to offer the Victorian Certificate of Education in China. The program will be offered through a partnership with Wenzhou No. 21 Middle School in Zhejiang province.

More than 165 students sat for the enrolment exams and 50 were selected for a five-month English preparation program before the new school year. Along with the regular Chinese curriculum, the program will be taught in English at the Wenzhou school campus by its own teachers under the direction of mentors from the college.

The college's VCE in China co-ordinator Tom Bridges said that as part of the induction program, the overseas visitors had been observing and evaluating the styles of teachers.

Mr Bridges said they had also developed week-by-week teaching plans and spent a minimum of two weeks in team-teaching scenarios as well as conducting and cross-marking student exams.

"It's been a steep learning curve for them," he said. "As part of the program, their individual mentors taught them the subjects they will go back and teach in China.

"One of the requirements of their involvement was they had to be proficient in English but it was still a challenge to learn some of the technical terms we use.

"The aim is to help them develop professionally and incorporate Western teaching methods into their own classrooms."

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