



Respect

Resilience

Ambition

Community

Principal's Report



Important Dates

- **Tuesday 4 March 2025**
College Photo Catch Up Day
- **Monday 10 March 2025**
Labour Day Public Holiday
- **Wednesday 12 March 2025**
NAPLAN commences
- **Wednesday 19 March 2025**
Year 7 Camp commences
- **Friday 21 March 2025**
Year 7 Camp concludes
- **Friday 21 March 2025**
Harmony Day
- **Monday 24 March 2025**
NAPLAN concludes
- **Wednesday 2 April 2025**
PIMs 11am - 7pm
(Not student free)
- **Friday 4 April 2025**
Term 1 Ends: 2.25pm finish

College Absence Line:
9744 0500

A reminder to parents that when your student is absent to call the College Absence Line and leave the following information:

- Parent/Carer name
- Student name
- Home Group
- Reason: please give detail of absence

Dear Sunbury Downs College Community,

Welcome to the 2025 School Year. I hope that all community members are well and had a restful December/January vacation period with their families and friends.

The College has commenced its Teaching and Learning Program for 2025 with teachers and students settling in well for the start of the year.

Year 12 Retreat

The Year 12 VCE Retreat was conducted at Melbourne CYC from Thursday 30 January — Friday 31 January 2025. The event was well attended by both mainstream VCE and Vocational Major students.

Study tips, goal setting, revision and administrative information was delivered to students who participated in readiness for a successful final year of study.

Whole School Academic Assembly

On Monday 3 February 2025 we conducted our first whole school assembly for the year. We welcomed new staff, students and families as we commenced what I'm sure will be another productive school year.

We also publicly acknowledged the achievements of the class of 2024. We recognised and celebrated the success of the 2024 College Dux, David Geissler, who obtained an ATAR of 93.35. David joined the College during Year 7. He has been accepted into Commerce at Melbourne University.



Principal's Report

College Photos

Student photos were taken on Friday 7 February 2025. A second day has been scheduled on 4 March 2025 for any students who were absent on the day and to complete Leadership/Group photographs.

Year 7 and Meet and Greet Barbecue

The Meet and Greet barbecue to welcome Year 7 students and families new to the school was held on 10 February 2025.

Minor Capital Works/Relocatable building program

The College is continuing to work with subcontractors responsible for upgrading the access ramps to sick bay and room 36/37. We expect these works to be completed within the next two weeks. The recently delivered double storey portable classrooms are currently in use and have had a significant positive impact on the teaching and learning program at the College. We are appreciative of the support provided to the College by the Victorian School Building Authority with this project.

Swimming Carnival

On Friday 21 February 2025 the College conducted the House Swimming Carnival at the Sunbury Aquatic Centre. This event provided the perfect environment for our students to further support and develop our College value of Community. Congratulations to competitors and students from Mitchell House, who were the winning house on the day.

Debutante Ball

The 2025 Debutante Ball was conducted on Friday 28 February 2025. I would like to thank Mr Michael Watson and the Senior Sub School team for planning and supporting students for this event.

Staffing Update

We welcome the following new teaching staff to our school:

- Ms Connie Messina
- Ms Kerrie Dowsett
- Ms Kyra Porteous
- Ms Kyleen Popovic
- Mr Ryan Patterson
- Mr Dominic Simonelli
- Mr Ethan O'Donovan
- Mr Seth Warren
- Ms Eloise Crawford
- Ms Tamarra Chatterton
- Ms Sophie Miljus
- Ms Haley Gunn
- Mr Nicholas Giugni



Principal's Report

Staffing Update

We welcome the following Educational Support staff to our school:

- Ms Emily Craighead
- Ms Chloe Gooderham
- Ms Frances Browne
- Ms Gayle D'Amico
- Ms Sarah Lungu
- Ms Kristy Lowe

College Council Election 2025 - 2026

I would like to thank all current members of College Council for their support and guidance over the last 12 months. We have continued to conduct our core business and provide the necessary governance required for the administration of the College.

The election and selection process to appoint a new school council for 2025 – 2026 is currently underway. Announcements will be made in due course regarding newly appointed members.

Regards,

Warwick Beynon
Principal



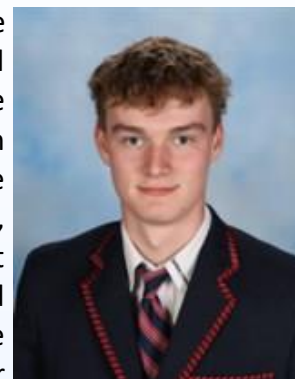
Mr Warwick Beynon | PRINCIPAL



School Assembly

On Monday 3 February, we welcomed the start of a new school year with a whole school assembly. Two of our three Senior College Captains, Kody Hughes and Charlize Micallef, addressed the gathering of students, staff and members of the Sunbury Downs College community.

Welcome back to another exciting year at Sunbury Downs College! I hope you've all had a restful break and are ready to dive into 2025 with enthusiasm and positivity. Before we look ahead, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on all the incredible achievements we made together in 2024. It was a year filled with success, from academic achievements to sporting triumphs, as well as impressive creative projects that highlighted your talents. Beyond these accomplishments, what stood out most was the way we came together as a community whether it was through volunteering, supporting each other, or making a difference beyond our school. Each of you has contributed to making Sunbury Downs College a place of kindness and excellence, and I'm excited to see what we can achieve together in 2025.



To our new Year 7 students, welcome! You're now part of a wonderful community that will support you, help you grow, challenge you, and celebrate your achievements. We're excited to have you as a part of the Sunbury Downs community, and we're all here to support you as you begin this new chapter of your secondary school journey.

Let's make 2025 a year of growth, friendship and success. Together, we can achieve even more than we did last year. Thank you!

Kody Hughes 12B

As we step into this new year, I want to share one simple message: make it count. Each of us has the power to shape our journey, to grow, to learn. We have strengths and dreams, which leave us with the ability to make a difference. Whether in academics, sports, arts, or simply being a good friend, what you do matters. There will be challenges, but they are just stepping stones to success. Keep pushing forward, support one another, never be afraid to dream big, and most importantly be yourself.



This year is a fresh start - a chance to set new goals, try new things, and create memories that will last a lifetime. So let's give it our all, and make this a year to remember. Thank you.

Charlize Micallef 12C



Dwayne Stojcevski | ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL — JUNIOR SUB-SCHOOL (YEAR 7 & 8)



Meet and Greet BBQ

On Monday 10 February, the College held our annual Meet and Greet BBQ for new parents and carers to our community.

Fortunately, the weather was on our side with a glorious summer night for parents and carers to meet our staff and explore the College, all while enjoying a bite to eat.

It was amazing to see so many parents and carers in attendance coming together to celebrate the start of their students' journey at Sunbury Downs College.

Students enjoyed showing their families their homegroup spaces and their lockers.



Opportunities like this for us to come together as a community only serve to enrich the experience of students at Sunbury Downs College.

I would like to also publicly thank our Senior College Captains and our Middle Years Captains who managed the BBQ. Your support is greatly appreciated.



Dwayne Stojcevski | ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL — JUNIOR SUB-SCHOOL (YEAR 7 & 8)



Year 12 Retreat

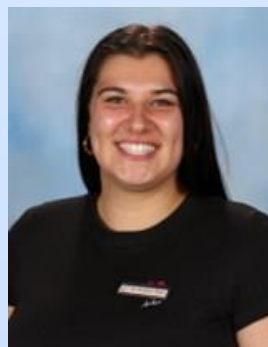
On Thursday 30 January, 60 of our senior students ventured into Melbourne's CBD for their Year 12 Retreat. On this camp, the students participated in a range of seminars to learn about study skills and habits to support them in Year 12, and also about being safe and looking after their peers. The students had a guest speaker present to them, Scott B. Harris. He spoke about his life journey and challenges after being in an accident, and needing to re-start his life due to a significant amount of brain damage. His story was incredibly inspiring to the cohort.

The students discussed and identified their Year 12 motto, 'finish strong'. Together students identified that strength is not the same, that students will face success in their own ways, and as long as they strive to achieve their best they will come out strong at the end of Year 12!



The students were joined by Mr Watson, Mrs Plieger, Mr Senior, Mr Locker and Mrs Jackson for their camp. They also enjoyed some shopping at Melbourne Central and roamed streets looking for icons and significant landmarks on their scavenger hunt!

Year 12s, we cannot wait to see what you achieve this year!



Nicollette Plakas | YEAR 12 COORDINATOR



Year 12 Retreat

On 30 January at 10am the Year 12 cohort met outside Southern Cross Station ready to go for our two days of retreat. We took a short walk to the Christian Youth Centre (CYC) and headed down the flights of stairs to the basement. We all got settled in ready to listen to our very first presenter. One of the CYC managers went over safety precautions and excitement was bursting across every student around the room.

Ms Plakas opened with multiple presentations teaching us and others to be careful especially as we enter into adulthood, a conversation that really impacted every Year 12 student. It let us consider what our future responsibilities could look like, preparing us for what's to come. Later that day, Mr Beynon came and spent his time allowing us to get to know him and prepare us for the year ahead. Together we partook in multiple activities including 'Ball game', musical chairs, and writing a letter to our future self which was very intriguing.

Restlessness fell over us as we climbed up the thousands of steps and ate our lunch, which were lamb wraps. We found our rooms two more storeys above and got settled in with our assigned groups. We continued more engaging presentations downstairs and went out to walk in the city later that night as a collective, spending time in Melbourne Central. After the walk back to CYC we watched cinematic masterpiece 'Shrek 2' together while playing card games, eating snacks and spending time as a group.



The following morning after having a very 'restful' night, we had an amazing presentation with themes of resilience and pushing yourself to achieve your goals. This was presented by Scott B. Harris, from 'The Injured Brain'. He really empowered us and showed how strong he was battling his brain injury, which he suffered in a tragic accident at the age of 23. Along with this we learnt more about the life of our Assistant Principal which was extremely enlightening, and the cohort was happy to learn more about the teachers we'd be spending time with.

The event's final activity was a scavenger hunt, where we split into groups of our choice and used this as an opportunity to explore the city. The retreat was a wonderful experience for us in the opening week of Year 12. It allowed us to reconnect with our friends after the holidays and come together closer as a cohort.

Amelia Sacco 12A and James Cias 12A



Swimming Carnival

On Friday 21 February, our Swimming Carnival was held at the Sunbury Aquatic and Leisure Centre. Students enjoyed a day outside of the classrooms competing in various swimming events or cheering on their friends.

Students who did not competitively swim on the day were involved in the House Volleyball Competition on the back lawn. Many staff and students supported the Student Voice BBQ. Student relay teams took on the staff team, but the students were just too strong and took out the win. Students were able to take part in a free swim at the end of the day.

After tallying the results from all events on the day, it was Mitchell who took out the title of winners for 2024. Mr Beynon presented the annual shield to Mitchell Captain Amelia Sacco and Vice-Captain Mitchell Jenkinson.

Overall Results

1 st	Mitchell	1357 points
2 nd	Jackson	783 points
3 rd	Evans	562 points
4 th	Aitken	540 points

Individual Age Group Champions

Under 13: Zoe Watt and Noah Anderson
Under 14: Summer Pott and Ethan Greenwood , Jacob Bernales
Under 15: Amber Mink and Chase Green
Under 16: Isabelle Mogridge
Under 17: Charlotte Peters and Connor Lindsay-Scholtz
Under 21: Alex Rosewall-Davison and Caden Simpson



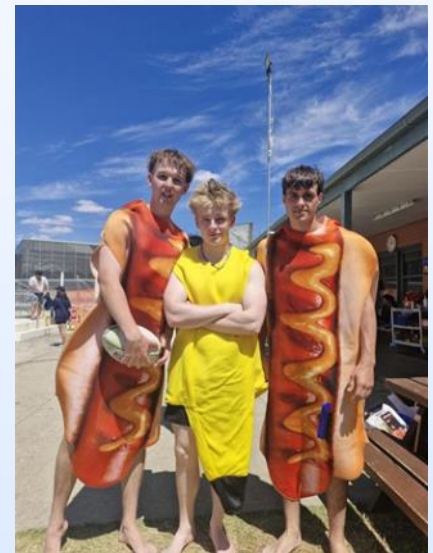
A big thank you to all staff and students who helped make this year's Swimming Carnival a success. I look forward to the Athletics Carnival on Thursday 15 May. More information will be made available on Compass prior to the Term 1 holidays.



Ashley Gillard | HOUSE COORDINATOR



Swimming Carnival





Swimming Carnival





Interschool Cricket

Our Intermediate Cricket Team competed against Gisborne Secondary College and Alice Miller School on 19 February at John McMahon Reserve in Sunbury. Students competed for next round qualification in tough conditions.

All students demonstrated excellent resilience, community and ambition. They won their opening game against Alice Miller School and were defeated in the match-up against Gisborne Secondary College.

Congratulations to all students for their participation and for representing Sunbury Downs College with pride and respect throughout the day.



Decklan Jessop | HEALTH & PE TEACHER



Careers & Pathways

2025 is off to a great start and we are busy implementing Careers Programs across various year levels at Sunbury Downs College. Some of the Careers Programs that students are involved within the near future are:

Year 12 Students

- Individual pathway discussions – Term 1
- Careers Expo – Term 3: Friday 25 July
- VTAC Applications Term 3

Year 11 Students

- Career Action Plans – Term 1
- Excursion to the VCE and Careers Expo (Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre) – Friday 2 May
- Individual pathway discussions – Term 2

Year 10 Students

- Career Action Plans – Term 1
- Year 10 Work Experience Program – Term 2: Monday 30 June - Friday 4 July. Students need to have their placements confirmed and finalised by the end of Term 1! Any students that require assistance need to see Mel or Abbi in Careers ASAP.
- Excursion to the VCE and Careers Expo (Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre) – Thursday 1 May

Year 9 Students

- Career Action Plans – Term 1
- Career Insights – Morrisby Report and Interviews held in Terms 2
- Mock Interview Program – Term 3: Tuesday 19 August

Year 7 and 8 Students

- Career Action Plans – Term 2

Students and parents are welcome to make an appointment to discuss careers options. Please feel free to contact us on 9744 0500, or email us as follows:

Melanie Hatch (Monday, Tuesday and every second Friday): melanie.hatch@education.vic.gov.au

Abbi Smith (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday): abbi.smith@education.vic.gov.au



Melanie Hatch | CAREERS COORDINATOR



Abbi Smith | CAREERS COORDINATOR



HeadStart

Brock Smith – Certificate III Automotive Light Vehicle

Brock completed Year 10 work experience last year with Alltune Automotive. Brock's great work ethic, skills and enthusiasm impressed the employer so much that when the opportunity for a School Based Apprenticeship was available, the employer was keen to employ Brock. Brock enjoyed working additional days throughout the school holidays in his SBAT. Well done Brock!

Ryder Bowman – Certificate III Electrotechnology

Ryder has completed work experience with an electrician and knew this was the industry he wanted to pursue. When Ryder heard about the HeadStart SBAT program, he knew this was the pathway he wanted to pursue. He approached numerous employers himself to find his Electrical SBAT opportunity and is going well combining school, work and TAFE. Congratulations Ryder!

Mabel Clarke – Certificate III Hairdressing

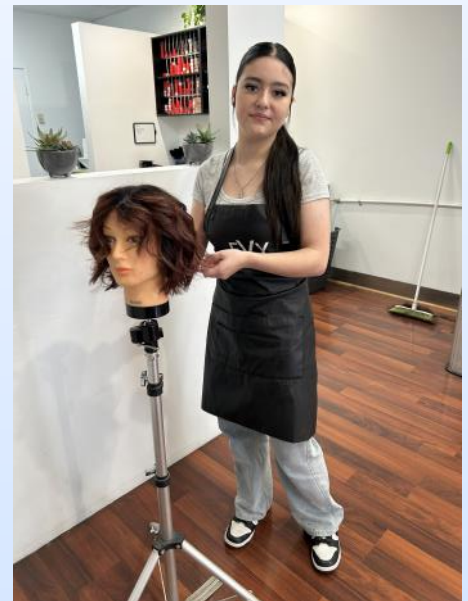
Mabel had always had a keen interest in hairdressing and enjoyed working with a supportive employer who identified her talent very quickly. Mabel's employer is enjoying mentoring her about the industry and teaching her hands on skills already. Good luck Mabel!



Brock Smith



Ryder Bowman



Mabel Clarke



Karen Riley | ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - NORTHERN METRO HUB
HEADSTART



HeadStart

Jake Lenssen – Certificate III Plumbing

Jake enjoyed his Year 10 work experience with a plumber, completing a wide range of tasks. Upon hearing of the VCE VM and HeadStart program, Jake approached his employer requesting a SBAT opportunity. Having already seen Jake's work ethic and passion, he was keen to employ Jake as a school based apprentice. Great work Jake!

Spencer Stapff – Certificate II Automotive Light Vehicle

Spencer has been passionate about cars throughout his life and therefore enjoyed his work trial with a local motor mechanic. Spencer's knowledge, skills and attitude led to an offer to start his apprenticeship part time whilst completing his senior schooling. Good luck in your SBAT Spencer!

Ryder Rhodes – Certificate II Supply Chain Operations

Knowing Ryder is keen to become a plumber, he was identified as a great candidate to apply for a school based traineeship. Ryder was required to complete several steps in the application process before securing a three day work trial. The work trial ensured that the employer and Ryder felt that the traineeship offer would be a good fit for both parties. Ryder will work two days each week, and complete school four days per week and his traineeship TAFE requirements. This should give him great knowledge and skills to embark on his career. Good luck Ryder!



Jake Lenssen



Spencer Stapff



Ryder Rhodes



Karen Riley | ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - NORTHERN METRO HUB
HEADSTART



2024 College Dux



To Students, Teachers, Parents, and other members of the Sunbury Downs Community,

I hope this message finds you well. Unfortunately, I was unable to present my speech in person, but I still wanted to share some thoughts and advice with you as well as expressing my gratitude to the school.

Reflecting on my time at school, one thing that stands out is how important the little things are. The habits you form in years 7-11, such as how you manage your time or how you handle challenges, will all contribute to your success in Year 12. While it may seem far off, trust me, it will come faster than you think. And when it does, remember it's all about taking things one step at a time. You don't need to be perfect, just keep moving forward and do the best you can in each moment, I promise things will fall into place.

Year 12 is important, but it's not everything. There are many paths after school - university, apprenticeships, trades - and they all lead to success in their own way. Don't feel pressured to follow one specific path. My goal had been to attend Melbourne University for a long time so I had to go down an academic pathway to follow my passions, however each of you will have to create your own journey to that thing that will bring you fulfilment. If you're unsure of what that thing is, it's completely fine. High school is that time to try everything you can. Don't be afraid to put yourself out there and use this time to learn where your passions and strengths lie. Lastly, surround yourself with the right people. The friends you choose will help shape your success. Find those who challenge and encourage you to grow rather than hold you back.

I would also like to thank all the staff at the school for everything they have given me in my time at Sunbury Downs. The commitment teachers have to the school and its students is something I will always admire, and I am eternally grateful for it. Furthermore, to the staff who work every day to make sure the school runs as well as it does, your work doesn't go unnoticed and I also want to extend a big thank you to you.

Take care and I believe in you all.

Warm regards,

David Geissler
2024 College Dux



Community News



U17

PLAYERS WANTED

**DISCOUNTED REGISTRATION FEES
& SIGN ON INCENTIVE**

LANCEFIELD TIGERS
JOIN THE TIGER FAMILY!

For More Information
Football Manager – Dave Condon 0491 288 835



Community News



VACCA
Connected by culture

START YOUR FOSTER CARE JOURNEY TODAY

Have you been thinking about becoming a Foster Carer?
Are you able to provide Aboriginal children with a positive and nurturing family life?

Are you excited to support a child's cultural and emotional needs?

VACCA is seeking carers who are open to a journey that is both challenging and rewarding.

If you've ever considered becoming a foster carer, now is the time to start your foster care journey.



Visit our website to find out more: www.vacca.org



Community News



FUN, FRIENDS, ADVENTURE



BE A GIRL GUIDE

Join Any Time!

guidesvic.org.au

Meeting Times at Sunbury Guide Hall:

Monday	(Prep-Grade 2)	4.30 - 6.00pm
Wednesday	(Grade 6-14 yrs)	6.30 - 8.30pm
Thursday	(Grade 3-5)	6.30 - 8.00pm
Friday	(14-18 years)	6.30 - 8.30pm





Sunbury Girl Guides has vacancies for all ages. We can't wait to welcome you to revel in **FUN, FRIENDS and ADVENTURE!**

At Guides, girls expand their world, make friends, discover more about themselves and what they care about. Girls learn new skills, explore the outdoors and are empowered to realise their full potential.

Specialising in leadership, resilience and confidence development, Girl Guides is the perfect place for your daughter to challenge herself in a safe and positive environment.