



Respect

Resilience

Ambition

Community

Acting Principal's Report



Important Dates

- **Monday 1 June 2026**
Yr 10 & 11 Exams commence
- **Monday 8 June 2026**
King's Birthday public holiday
- **Tuesday 9 June 2026**
Yr 9 Exams commence
- **Thursday 11 June 2026**
Yr 9-11 Exams conclude
Thurs 11 to Sat 13 June 2026
Production performances
- **Friday 12 June 2026**
Report Writing Day
(Student free)
- **Tuesday 16 June 2026**
General Achievement Test
(No Yr 11/Yr 12 classes on this day)
- **Monday 22 June 2026**
Yr 9 Urban Experience and
Yr 10 Work Experience
commence
- **Friday 26 Jun 2026**
Yr 9 Urban Experience and
Yr 10 Work Experience
concludes
End of term: 2.25pm finish

College Absence Line: 9744 0500

A reminder to parents that when your child 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
- Phone number

Dear Sunbury Downs College Community,

When students from Sunbury Downs College connect with our local community, it's always a pleasure to see the confidence, grace and leadership our students demonstrate when representing the school.

At our Open Night on Monday 27 April, students shared their experiences and answered questions for prospective families. Teachers were both grateful for the support and proud of the commitment and conduct of our students. Speaking in front of a large audience in our gym can be daunting, so I particularly wish to thank our school captains, Charlotte Peters and Riveen Randeniya, as well as Ellie Wheeler and Summer Catania from Year 7.

Our participation in ANZAC Day commemorations was also an occasion where our students made us proud. Following the whole school assembly on Friday 16 April, guests from the Sunbury branch of the Returned & Services League of Australia and the Sunbury Sub-Branch of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia commented on the respect shown by our students throughout the assembly.

At the local ANZAC service on Saturday morning, our captains, Charlotte and Riveen, laid a wreath and addressed the community, with many praising their poignant and sincere words.



Acting Principal's Report

Within the school, sub schools have been making changes to support students and teachers to increase student engagement in learning. We have changed from running after school detentions only on Tuesday afternoons, to running after school detentions every day from Monday to Thursday. This change means the school can implement consequences closer to incidents occurring and have smaller groups of students in detentions. We have also improved our processes for supporting students to remain in class.

During the Curriculum Day on 12 May, teachers reviewed our Behaviour Response Guidelines and discussed complex scenarios of student engagement. A change to our processes which parents may notice is for classroom teachers to contact parents more often. For significantly positive contributions to their learning, or when students are removed from a lesson for repeated disruptions, classroom teachers will be contacting families to let them know. By increasing our communication with families, we hope to continue to strengthen the partnerships between the school and families in support of students.

For an opportunity to see our talented and amazing students in action, don't miss Seussical Jr, our College Production, showing from 11 to 13 June. Tickets can be purchased using the QR code on Seussical Jr advertisements advertised on our website and our socials.

Klate McFarlane
Acting Principal



Mr Klate McFarlane | ACTING PRINCIPAL



House Athletics Carnival

House Athletics Carnival

On Thursday 14 May, students walked to Boardman Reserve for our school Athletics Carnival. The sun was shining as students took part in a range of track and field events. The day ended with Year 12 students performing a lap of the track in costume as a cohort to signify their final House Athletics Carnival. There was plenty of cheering and support from students across the four houses.

Results:

1. Jackson 3162 points
2. Aitken 2683 points
3. Evans 2499 points
4. Mitchell 1672 points

Individual Champions:

Under 13 Female Champion	Addison Houghton	Jackson
Under 13 Male Champion	Nate Cameron	Jackson
Under 14 Female Champion	Indigo Boccabella	Jackson
Under 14 Male Champion	Noah Anderson	Jackson
Under 15 Female Champion	Anna Oporowicz	Mitchell
Under 15 Male Champion	Hudson Faulkner	Jackson
Under 16 Female Champion	Amber Mink	Aitken
Under 16 Male Champion	Steel Jarrett	Jackson
Under 21 Female Champion	-	-
Under 21 Male Champion	Luke Williams	Jackson

Students are to be commended on their behaviour on the day. We thank all staff and students who were involved in a successful Athletics Carnival for 2026. Congratulations once again to Jackson house on winning the carnival this year. Best of luck to all students who have made the interschool athletics team that will compete in Term 3.



Susan Aldridge | HOUSE COORDINATOR



House Athletics Carnival





Open Night

On Monday 27 April 2026, the College hosted its annual Open Night. Prospective families, students and the wider community were invited to discover more about our school and its various subject offerings, programs and initiatives. Student ambassadors were actively involved as tour guides and also in subject area demonstrations, as well as meeting and greeting guests and assisting with general enquiries. A large number of family members and prospective 2027 Year 7 students came out to see the wide range of subjects and options available through the College. The evening was capped off with a presentation from key staff and two of our current Year 7 students, Ellie Wheeler (7C) and Summer Catania (7C), talking about how the transition to Sunbury Downs College has been a positive experience for them.

James Ross - Junior Sub School Leader



On Monday the 27th of April we welcomed many Sunbury families to Sunbury Downs College and showed the College's amazing facilities, teachers, students and more. My friends and I helped out at Open Night. My roles were sharing the amazing things about Student Voice by a presentation, and I also wrote a speech for the information part of Open Night, where I shared all the amazing things we do in Year 7 at Sunbury Downs and how amazing our school is. Helping out at Open Night was a fun and good experience. I got to share all my fun experiences and how my time in high school has been to Year 6s and their parents.

Ellie Wheeler 7C



James Ross | JUNIOR SUB SCHOOL LEADER



Open Night





Open Night

Year 7 Speech: Ellie Wheeler

Good evening Year 6s, parents and other guests and welcome to Sunbury Downs College. My name is Ellie and I am currently in Year 7 at Sunbury Downs. Sunbury Downs is a great school with amazing teachers, students and facilities and they help you to create awesome memories and experiences.

This year we have already done so many fun things. Last term we had our Swimming Carnival where you can come and swim, hang out with friends and cheer them on. We held a barbecue at the swimming carnival so you could come and buy a sausage, and even if you didn't want to swim you could still come and it was a great opportunity to hang out and have fun with friends.

One of my favourite things we have done this year is Year 7 camp. We went to Lady Northcote and it was so much fun. Some activities that we did were giant swing, low ropes, mountain bike riding, radio rogaïne, frisbee golf, archery, and we chose between high ropes or leap of faith. My favourite was probably radio rogaïne, which was like a scavenger hunt where you and your group have to find out the answers that are on a sheet of paper then say on the walkie talkie what the answer was. The team to get the most right wins - and my team won.

In a few days we have an athletics day, and we can do as many events as we like. If you're like me and love sports, then you will love the athletics day. We also get many opportunities to sign up for a sport so if you like basketball, volleyball, soccer, footy and many other sports there will be an opportunity to sign up for those. Thank you. I hope you have a great evening. Good luck for high school and I hope to see you next year.

Year 7 Speech: Summer Catania

Good evening parents, carers and future students. My name is Summer and honestly my hands are kind of sweating right now. Not because I'm speaking in front of you all, but because it was exactly where you were last year. I remember sitting in those chairs and thinking there is no way I'm ready for high school. I spent my whole holiday worrying about my locker and getting lost in the hallway and will I lose or make new friends.

Now that I'm officially a Year 7 student, I realise that being nervous is so normal and I don't mean an everyday normal - I mean it's a normal feeling that everyone feels. You might be nervous about class, or is the homework hard and where do I go if I'm upset or worried? I was the exact same, but the teachers are so helpful in class and you don't really get homework. You might get holiday homework but not a lot, and if you need help you will have your sub school or the wellbeing people to talk to, which are both amazing and helpful.

The hallways are bigger, but you'll learn them in a week. You will do your locker code so many times you can do it in your sleep. You will meet new people that aren't like everyone else and those are the friends to keep! So when you feel nervous, just remember that you have so many people around you that can help like your parents, friends, teachers and so many more. Thank you. Have a great evening and good luck for high school.



ANZAC Day

Our school community came together on Friday 24 April for a whole-school ANZAC Day assembly, providing a meaningful opportunity for reflection and remembrance. We were honoured to welcome special guests from the local National Servicemen's Association of Australia – Mr Bill Tarry and Mr Carl Brown, and local RSL President David Jordan, whose presence helped reinforce the importance of this significant day. The assembly was led by our School Captains and Vice Captains – Charlotte Peters, Riveen Randeniya, Carlo Santos and Eleanor Leviston - who demonstrated leadership and respect in guiding the proceedings.



On Saturday 25 April, our School Captains further represented the College at the local ANZAC Day morning ceremony. They spoke to the wider community about what ANZAC Day means to them, sharing personal reflections on service, sacrifice, and remembrance. As part of the ceremony, our student leaders also laid a wreath on behalf of the school, showing their deep respect and gratitude.

We are incredibly proud of the way our students conducted themselves, both at the assembly and within the broader community, honouring the ANZAC spirit with dignity and sincerity.

We also received an email from the President of the Sunbury RSL David Jordan: "Thank you very much for the invitation to attend and be part of the ANZAC Day assembly at Sunbury Downs College. It was a privilege to share ANZAC Day with the school community. The respect shown by the students and staff was wonderful. It was great to see the importance of ANZAC traditions so strongly reflected in the assembly. It is also important to me that the RSL engages with our community where our veterans live and work. Thank you again for the warm welcome and for including the Sunbury RSL."



Angela Lane | ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
JUNIOR SUB SCHOOL/OPERATIONS



ANZAC Day Service



ANZAC Day Service Speech

To me, ANZAC Day means many things, but most of all, it is a time to take small moments throughout the day to pause, reflect, and try to truly comprehend the immense sacrifices of the brave men and women who served in armed conflicts over the years. We are fortunate to live in a country filled with opportunity, connection, and freedom - things that we often take for granted in our daily lives. ANZAC Day encourages us all to step outside of our routines and think deeply about the courage, resilience and selflessness shown by those who served our nation.

To me, ANZAC Day is about appreciating the past with both respect and gratitude, while also carrying hope for our future and love for our country. It is about honouring not only those who fought, but also the families and communities who stood behind them, sharing the burden of war and the sacrifice of countless lives. Their courage, mateship and sacrifices became the wind under our wings of hope and their bravery and intangible sacrifices became the foundation upon which our freedom was built and they are the reason we are able to stand here today as a community in commemoration. For their service, their courage, and their sacrifice, we remember them. Lest we forget.

Charlotte Peters - College Captain

The Silence – What ANZAC Day Means to Me

It's easy to look around at our lives today at the quiet streets of our neighborhood and the peace of our own backyards and see how things have always been. We wake up in a country that is safe and free, often forgetting that this stillness was earned.

When I think about ANZAC Day, I don't just think of history books or black and white photos. I think about the empty chairs. I think about the thousands of Australians and New Zealanders, not much older than us, who walked out of their front doors and never came back to sit at their family dinner tables. They gave up their future mornings, their quiet afternoons, and their entire lives so that we could have ours. Time has a way of covering the scars of war. The battlefields are now silent, and the world has moved on. But it is our job to make sure the silence of those empty chairs are never forgotten.

So today, as we stand here together, let's look at the peace of our homes not as a given, but as a gift. Let's promise to cherish the freedom the ANZACs brought for us, and to live lives that are worthy of their sacrifice. Lest We Forget.

Riveen Randeniya - College Captain



Debutante Ball

Our Debutante Ball was held on Friday 24 April. It was an extraordinary night to be a part of as one of the debutantes from Sunbury Downs College. Seeing all the other debutantes and their partners dressed up and ready for the night was wonderful. We all looked phenomenal when we arrived at Luxor Receptions. All the work of the rehearsals paid off because the night was one to remember. Even the effort that the teachers and the staff at Luxor put into organising the night paid off. The hard work we all had contributed made everything, from the dances to the decorations, look like a dream. It was incredibly fun to learn the dances, even though they were difficult. Every couple helped each other in some way, and it was amazing to see everyone growing closer throughout the deb, which made the night even more special.



The people who came to support us also made the night very memorable. Thank you to all the families and friends who came to support us. I am also very grateful to the teachers who attended and supported the night. I also want to give a huge thanks to the staff at Luxor Receptions, as well as Mr Merzel, our Year 11 Coordinator, Miss Plieger, Ms Plakas and Mr Watson, for coming to all the rehearsals and cheering us on.

I am very grateful, and I am sure the rest of the students would be too, for all of your support throughout the preparation for the deb and for helping make the night so important and memorable for all of us.
Isabelle Mogridge 11B



Jack Merzel | YEAR 11 COORDINATOR



Media & Art Excursion

On Tuesday 28 April, the Year 11 Media and Art Making and Exhibiting students attended an excursion to the NGV and the ACMI at Federation Square. Students were given the opportunity to explore the gallery spaces, including Top Arts, as part of their AOS to help gain a better understanding of how media and art are made and displayed. They then made their way to the ACMI, where they attended a screening of short films and animations across a range of genres created by VCE Media students. This experience provided valuable insight into creative processes and storytelling techniques, and was both an engaging and inspiring opportunity for all students involved.

Riley Drysdale 11C



On Tuesday 28 April, the Sunbury Downs Year 11 Art and Media classes went to the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) and ACMI. I found the NGV very exciting and interesting. Seeing all of the different exhibitions and creations was very fascinating to look at and engage in. One of my favourite parts was the Top Arts collection where previous VCE students' work is displayed in one area to view and vote for. I loved the Indigenous Australian art because of how millions of years and traditions get to be exhibited in a gallery where the public can gather and learn.

Bella Caruso-Chestnut 11B



Raneen Wardy | ART DOMAIN LEADER



Top Arts 2026

Top Arts is an annual event held at the National Gallery of Victoria celebrating VCE Art Making and Exhibiting, and Art Creative Practice students. The exhibition provides a platform for emerging artists from across the state who are completing their VCE studies to showcase their skills, enthusiasm, and creativity. In 2026, the exhibition highlights the increasingly innovative use of materials and techniques employed by students.

Sunbury Downs College student Sandra Abeywardena has been successful in having her sculpture titled 'BRAT' be accepted into Top Arts 2026. Sandra worked tirelessly on developing and refining her skills throughout 2025.

Top Arts 2026 will be on display until 19 July at the Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia. A huge congratulations to Sandra for her hard work and dedication to her craft.



Sandra Abeywardena

BRAT 2025

air-dried modelling clay, wire,
aluminium foil, doll's hair, synthetic
polymer paint

12.0 x 8.0 x 6.5 cm

Sunbury Downs College, Sunbury
Wurundjeri Country

© Sandra Abeywardena



Raneen Wardy | ART DOMAIN LEADER



ADF Excursion

ADF Land Engineering Agency STEM excursion

A small group of Year 12 students attended the ADF Land Engineering Agency STEM Focussed event held at Monegeetta on Friday 6 March.

This event was developed to showcase the variety of STEM careers available in the Land Engineering Agency (LEA) and wider Defence, particularly to promote these careers for women.



On the day, students were exposed to how STEM professionals work to support Australia's Defence and sovereign capabilities. They spent time engaging with STEM professionals to discuss their experiences and lifestyle. One of the highlights was being able to participate in testing equipment and sit in one of the Defence vehicles.



Melanie Hatch | CAREERS COORDINATOR



Year 11 Careers Expo

Year 11 students attended the VCE & Careers EXPO held at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre on Friday 1 May. The students spent time speaking to exhibitors from universities, VET providers, employers and training organisations. Many students attended seminars while at the EXPO to learn about pathways and hear from professionals. After the EXPO, the students visited the RMIT city campus to learn about study options and the possible pathways available. This was a fabulous day out for our students.



Melanie Hatch | CAREERS COORDINATOR



Food Studies



Year 12 Food Studies students have been learning about factors that influence the foods that we eat. The class has been looking at food trends and how social media is used to sway us to try new and exciting foods. Matcha is one of the most recent trendy foods that has been seen all over social media and in the supermarkets. Students explored how matcha can be used in food products by making matcha cupcakes with matcha buttercream icing.



Year 11 students are looking at the waves of migration in Australia and how they have influenced the foods we eat by introducing new foods, dishes and cooking techniques. The class has prepared chicken wonton soup as an example of what this topic looks like in real life. Calil and Riley are very proud of their efforts, and Aydin shows off his bowl of wonton soup. The class successfully all ate with chopsticks!

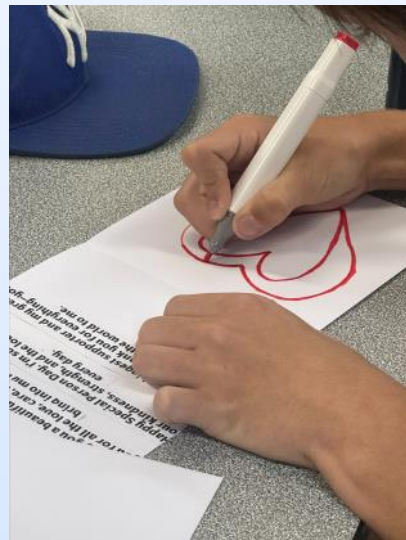


Jessica Mazur | FOOD STUDIES TEACHER



Student Services

On Monday 4 May, Sunbury Downs College held a wonderful Special Person craft session. It was a very successful lunchtime event filled with creativity, crafts and handmade cards.



Students really enjoyed the opportunity to make something thoughtful and special for an important person in their lives. It was great to see so much enthusiasm, creativity and kindness throughout the day.



Liz Farley | SECONDARY SCHOOL NURSE



Nicole Keil | YOUTH WORKER



Production

SeussicalTM JR.

A fantastical journey through the wonderful world of **Dr. Seuss!**

DATES:	PRICES:
11TH – 13TH	\$27.50
OF JUNE	ADULTS
7.30PM	\$22
AT SUNBURY DOWNS COLLEGE	STUDENTS AND CONCESSION

 **TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM**
www.trybooking.com/DMEUS

SeussicalTM Jr
Music by Stephen Flaherty Lyrics by Lynne Ahrens
Book by Stephen Flaherty and Lynne Ahrens
Co-conceived by Stephen Flaherty, Lynne Ahrens and Eric Idle
Based on the works of Dr. Seuss
Music Supervised, Adapted and Produced by Bryan Louiselle
Licensed exclusively by
Music Theatre International (Australasia)


Sunbury Downs College
"Confidence to Achieve"



Community News



HOW MONEY WORKS

A 3-WEEK SHORT COURSE FOR 15-25 YEAR OLDS ON FINANCIAL LITERACY

How money works is about providing young people (15-25 year olds) with the skills and confidence to take control of their money, make smarter choices, and build a future filled with financial freedom and opportunity. Research shows that 90% of Gen Z want to learn to be more confident in managing their finances, but they are not taught this at school. Given the increased cost of living pressures, now is the time to make the most with what we have.

This course is split into 3 x 1 hour sessions over 3 weeks. It covers concepts including:

- Budgeting
- Saving
- Types of debt
- Credit cards and how they work
- Buying a house
- Investing
- Superannuation
- Insurance
- And many other topics

Who will be leading the session?

The sessions will be delivered by Chris Colson who has 30+ years experience in large corporate businesses including Bulla Dairy Foods, Carlton & United Breweries, and Australian Leisure and Hospitality Group. Chris graduated from Monash University with a Bachelor of Business (Accounting) degree and has expertise in Finance, Sales and Marketing.

Participants don't need to attend all 3 sessions, but it will work better if those attending modules 2 and 3 have attended the previous ones.

\$15

Dates and Time

- Wednesday 3rd, 10th & 17th June
- 4-5pm
- Macedon Ranges Further Education Centre
12 Hamilton Street, Gisborne



For further information and online enrolment, visit our website or give us a call!



(03) 5428 3799



enquiries@mrfec.net.au



www.mrfec.net.au



Community News



Teen Takeover

**Friday 12 June
5.00pm - 8.00pm**

Sunbury Library
44 Macedon Street
Sunbury 3429

Take over Sunbury Library for one night only! We will have board games, video games, craft activities, and best of all - pizza!

Make sure you arrive before 5pm to sign in. At 5pm, the library will be closed to the public.

**Bookings are
essential. Scan the
QR code to book
your spot!**



DESIGN SHARE GROW
FIND A RESEARCH
LAUGH & READ

For more information please visit:
humelibraries.vic.gov.au

humelibraries humelibraries





Community News



Providing low-cost psychological services to the community.

The Victoria University (VU) Psychology clinic offers individual and group therapy. Specialising in Cognitive-Behavioural Therapy provided by provisional psychologists at a fraction of the usual cost.

Feel looked after with mental health support.

If you're going through a challenging time, our provisional psychologists can provide confidential, low-cost support.

This can include support for mental health conditions such as depression or anxiety, or help with life challenges such as work stress, grief or relationship difficulties.

Face-to-face and telehealth sessions are available, and a first session will be offered within 2-4 weeks.

Referrals are welcome from across the community for adults, adolescents and school aged children*, but you can also book an appointment without a referral.

Your treatment provider:

Your psychology session will be delivered by a provisional psychologist completing their final years of postgraduate study at VU, supervised by a fully registered and experienced psychologist.

Location:

VU at Metro West
47 Paisley Street, Footscray 3011

Contact:

 (03) 9919 2353

 psychclinic@vu.edu.au

Find out more:

 vu.edu.au/psychology-clinic

*Please note we accept referrals from friends and family members of VU staff and students, however there are some limitations to the referrals of specific VU staff and students. Our intake team can discuss this with you.

Victoria University, CRICOS No. 00124K (Melbourne), 024750 (Sydney and Brisbane), RTO 3113, TEQSA No. PRV12152, Provider Category: Australian University

1011-1256



Community News



PERSONALISED
SUPPORT SYSTEMS

New Hub Space
SUNBURY



PERSONALISED
SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Phone
(03) 9894 0602

Email
admin@personalisedsupports.com.au

For information
about our supports
and our new Hub
Space in Sunbury,
please scan below



SUNBURY HUB PROGRAM SCHEDULE



CONNECTION, CREATIVITY AND COMMUNITY FOR ALL AGES

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MORNING 9:30AM TO 12:30PM	 MUSIC PROGRAM	MOVIES TIMEZONE OR BOWLING PROGRAM	POTTERY PROGRAM 	ART PROGRAM GARDEN PROGRAM	 WALKING PROGRAM
AFTERNOON 1PM TO 4PM	GARDEN PROGRAM 	 WELLNESS PROGRAM	ART PROGRAM 	TINKER TECH PROGRAM 	 COOKING PROGRAM
EVENING	COOKING PROGRAM 4:30PM TO 7:30PM 			MUSIC PROGRAM 4:30PM TO 7:30PM 	MONTHLY SOCIAL AT THE HUB 4:30PM TO 8:30PM

EMAIL: SUNBURYPROGRAMS@PERSONALISEDSUPPORTS.COM.AU TO FIND OUT MORE



Canine-Assisted Therapy

Personalised Support Systems is thrilled to announce a new addition to our Counselling Team! Macy, a lovable King Charles Cavalier puppy.

Why Canine-Assisted Therapy?

Canine-assisted therapy offers emotional comfort, reduces stress, and promotes a sense of connection through the calming presence of a therapy dog. It can improve mood, enhance social interactions, and even support physical health by lowering blood pressure and increasing oxytocin, which is the 'feel good' hormone.



Macy's Journey

Macy is now a fully qualified therapy dog. This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of her journey and experience the benefits of canine-assisted therapy in a relaxed and supportive environment



Contact Us

(03) 9894 0602



mariann.parker@personalisedsupports.com.au





Community News





Community News

BECOME A **FOSTER** **CAREER**

Brighter futures **start with you!**



TERM 2: ONLINE INFO SESSIONS

April:

Wednesday 15th, 4 - 5pm

Thursday 30th, 6.30 - 7.30pm

May:

Wednesday 13th, 6 - 7pm

Wednesday 27th, 7 - 8pm

June:

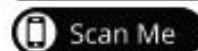
Thursday 11th, 4 - 5pm

Wednesday 24th, 6.30 - 7.30pm

Register to attend!

1800 809 722

caring@anglicarevic.org.au





Community News

Woods Street Youth Art Prize / 2026

Entries now open

4 May to 12 June 2026

Open to artists aged 14 - 25 years
with a connection to Melbourne's west

Over \$2,500 worth of prizes to be won

Find out more and apply: hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/youthartprize



woods
street
arts
space



Hobsons Bay
Youth Services



HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL

