



Principal's Report



Important Dates

- **Friday 19 September 2025**
Last day Term 3: 2.25pm finish
- **Monday 6 October 2025**
Term 4 Commences
- **Wednesday 15 October 2025**
9 ACE Coastal Camp Commences
- **Friday 17 October 2025**
9 ACE Coastal Camp Concludes
Year 12 Celebration Day
- **Tuesday 28 October 2025**
VCAA Exams Commence
- **Monday 3 November 2025**
Professional Practice Day (Student Free)
Year 11 SWOT VAC
- **Tuesday 4 November 2025**
Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

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
- Phone number

Dear Sunbury Downs College Community,

Welcome to the end of a very productive Term 3.

Progress is underway planning for Term 4 and an exciting 2026.

The College is expecting approximately 180 students to enrol in Year 7 for the commencement of 2026. This is an increased number of students that commenced in 2025 for Year 7. Enrolment enquiries are continuing at all year levels, some for an immediate start and others in preparation for 2026.

There have been some terrific student achievements and performances this term inside and outside the classroom:

- Domain and subject-based promotional events and curriculum incursions have engaged students at all year levels across the College.
- Careers activities, Science Week, Book Week, Numeracy Week, Chess competition, Maths competitions, STEM/Robotics, sporting activities, College Production, Student Services initiatives and Student Wellbeing/Engagement promotional days.

All of these activities have encouraged students to engage with their learning. The interactions by students, both professionally with staff and as peers during the term, has been terrific and is continuing the work to further promote the College value of Community.



Principal's Report

Staffing Update

Assistant Principal Dwayne Stojcevski has been successfully appointed to an Assistant Principal position at Walcom Ngarra Secondary College. Consequently, a position has been advertised to fill/replace the Assistant Principal position, commencing in Term 1 2026. A Term 4 2025 Acting Assistant Principal position, Whole School College Operations/Leadership of the Junior Sub School team has also been listed.

Staff Professional Development – Disability and Inclusion

The recent whole school Curriculum Day was dedicated to developing staff capacity and understanding of initiatives linked to the revised Victorian Teaching and Learning Model. The resources and information presented to staff and worked through collaboratively supports the Disability and Inclusion work that commenced from August 2024. During Term 3 and continuing in Term 4 2025 we have been fortunate to have the services of an Educational Improvement Leader from the Diverse Learners and Inclusive Practices branch of the network in our school working with our staff at SDC.

Course Counselling and Subject Selection

Subject Selection and Course Counselling discussions with students currently in Year 10 in preparation for Year 11 2026 and with students currently in Year 9 in preparation for Year 10 in 2026 are continuing.

School For Student Leadership

On Friday 12 September the School for Student Leadership students presented their Community Learning Projects to visiting teachers. Acting Assistant Principal Mrs Middlemast and Year 9 Coordinator Mr Snelson visited our students on site and heard about their learnings during Term 3. Students will return to school for the commencement of Term 4 and we look forward to welcoming them back to the College.

Relocatable Classrooms – Term 1 2026

Confirmation has been received from the Victorian Schools Building Authority that the College will receive additional relocatable classrooms in preparation for Term 1 2026. Information has been disseminated to students, parents and the wider community previously. Site works have commenced this week.

Interschool Athletics Sports

The Interschool Athletics team participated in the local district competition at the Cobblebank Athletics Track in Melton earlier this month. Sunbury Downs College performed extremely well on the day and finished in second place. Congratulations to all the competitors and thank you to the staff who attended and supervised this activity.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the College. Have a safe and enjoyable term break.

Regards

Warwick Beynon
Principal



Mr Warwick Beynon | PRINCIPAL



Interschool Athletics

Sunbury Downs College students performed exceptionally well at the Interschool Athletics Carnival held at Melton Athletics Track on Wednesday 3 September. Our team finished 2nd out of the 10 participating schools in our region.

Some notable results were:

- Zara Fox-Worn won the U13 Female 100m Sprint and 400m
- Zara Fox-Worn, Ruby Baxter-Smith, Alexis Smith and Maraea Rewha won the U13 Females 4x100m Sprint Relay
- Hudson Faulkner won the U14 Male 100m Sprint
- Amerie Taylor won the Under 15 Female High Jump and Triple Jump
- Amber Mink won the Under 15 Female 1500m
- Chase Green won the Under 15m 400m and 800m
- Avneet Kaur won the Under 17 Female 800m and 1500m
- Tom Beddoe won the Under 20 Male High Jump
- Sam Lenssen won Under 20 Male 800m
- Alejo Banting won the Under 20 Male 1500m



Matthew Quigley | SPORTS COORDINATOR



Mitchell Bongiovanni | HEALTH & PE TEACHER



Zoo Incursion

Our junior students participated in an incursion from Wild Action Zoo on Thursday 4 September. They learnt about wildlife and developing a deeper connection to nature.

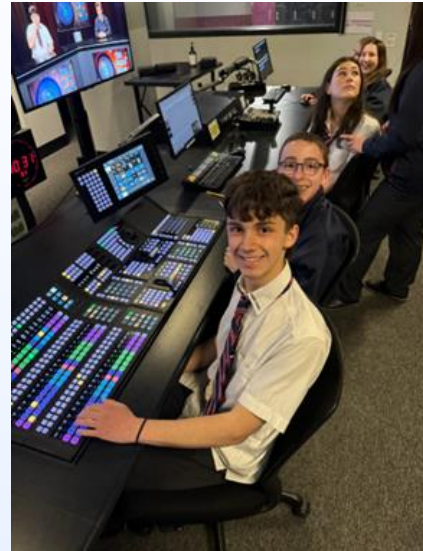


Lachlan Senior | SCIENCE DOMAIN LEADER



RMIT Workshop

On Thursday 28 August, Year 9 students headed to RMIT University for a workshop day. The program aimed to promote study and career opportunities available through tertiary education. Students had the opportunity to gain greater insight into what it would be like to study at University or TAFE. Students were able to meet RMIT students and staff, experience life on a university campus, gain knowledge about tertiary education and develop an understanding of the various study and career options available.



Student Reflection

On Thursday 28 August, we had an RMIT university excursion. The staff introduced us to university life, what the university had to offer and the campuses they had. The staff also introduced us to university students. They were studying courses like medical radiation, law and criminal justice.

The first workshop we did was space science. We learnt the science behind rockets and how to build and launch a rocket. The rocket my friends and I built was called Uncle Jimball and it went the furthest. We then went to the media studio and saw how live TV shows were broadcast. We got to participate in a media production activity. After lunch, we had our last workshop called battlebots. This was a robotics and engineering challenge where we had to decorate RC cars in teams. The teams' cars then had to battle each other. Our car looked like a lizard. We won against every team but started to lose at the end. We had a fun and lovely experience at RMIT.

Nigella Holt and Catherina Vongdachit 9C



Courtney Thorn | MIDDLE SUB SCHOOL LEADER (ACTING)



RMIT Workshop



Courtney Thorn | MIDDLE SUB SCHOOL LEADER (ACTING)



Mathematics & Numeracy

Numeracy Week

Numeracy Week in Week 7 of Term 3 at SDC kicked off with the World of Maths incursion for all Year 7 students on Monday. Daily chess competitions heated up each lunchtime across all year levels.

World of Maths

The Year 7 cohort participated in the *World of Maths* incursion – an engaging and interactive experience designed to bring problem-solving to life. Working in small groups, students explored a range of hands-on activities that encouraged investigation, comparison and reflection.



The incursion provided opportunities for guided discovery, where students identified mathematical concepts in real-world contexts and applied their skills in fun, collaborative ways. Through teamwork and critical thinking, they discovered that maths is not just about numbers on a page, but a powerful tool for solving problems in everyday situations.



Mathematics & Numeracy

Annual SDC Chess Championship

Students across all year levels competed in the annual SDC Chess Championship, with year level winners and an overall SDC Chess Champion.

Congratulations to the following students:

SDC Chess Champion Alex Lipic 9D

Year 7 Alex Henderson 7G

Year 9 Alex Lipic 9D

Year 10 Ben Reynolds 10E

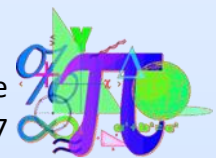
Year 11 Joel Linard 11A



Afterschool Maths Club: Mondays 3.30pm-4.30pm in Room 4A

A reminder that all students from Year 7 to 12 are welcome to come along to complete coursework, get help with homework or work on extension tasks. Students in Year 7 and 8 can also join in to complete sessions on their Essential Assessment tasks.

We hope to see you there!



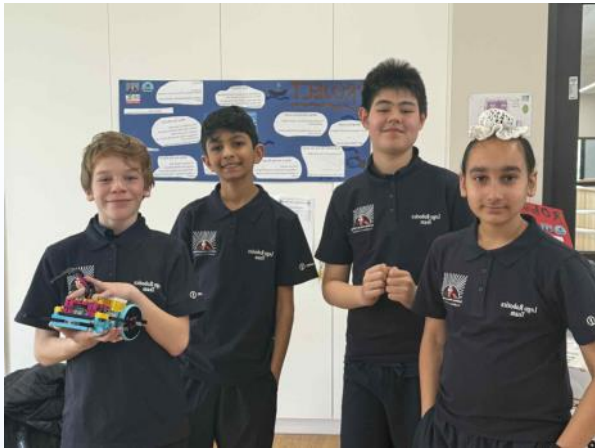
Lauren Jackson | LEARNING SPECIALIST (NUMERACY)



Tyler Locker | MATHEMATICS DOMAIN LEADER



Robotics



Our three Lego Robotics teams proudly represented Sunbury Downs College at the Sunbury Schools First Lego Robotics Competition, “Submerged”, on Friday 15 August 2025. All three teams were fantastic and showed great teamwork, problem-solving skills and determination. The support and encouragement they gave each other throughout the day was truly inspiring.

We are thrilled to share that two of our teams brought home awards! Our Downs Discoveries team won the Core Values Award for demonstrating all the values of the First Lego League – Discovery (exploring new skills and ideas), Innovation (using creativity and persistence to solve problems), Impact (applying what we learn to improve our world), Inclusion (respecting and embracing differences), Teamwork (being stronger together) and Fun (celebrating what we do). Our second team, SDC Dragons, won the Robot Design Award for their outstanding and creative robot engineering.



We are very proud of what our teams achieved during the competition and would like to sincerely thank our sponsors, Kuehne+Nagel and Sunbury Connected Community, for their generous support in helping make this opportunity possible.



Jenny Wadeson | ROBOTICS PROGRAM COORDINATOR



Year 11 Food Studies

Year 11 Food Studies students are currently learning about cooking methods and the science of foods. They made beautiful sponge cakes for a practical that focused on baking and aeration.



For their Food Studies SAC, students were tasked with designing a cookie for a well-known cereal brand. Students had to research the company and the ingredients commonly found in their products and design a cookie using those ingredients. Lachlan Mowatt (pictured below) made a spicy Aztec cookie.



Jessica Mazur | TECHNOLOGY DOMAIN LEADER



Science Week & Fair

Sunbury Downs College celebrated Science Week from Monday 11 to Friday 15 August. Students of all ages came along for fun lunchtime activities such as science-themed escape rooms and an engineering challenge to design a roller coaster for a marble!



Students from 8G and 9G also poured hours into wonderful science projects that they presented to both the wider community and local primary schools at a Science Fair. From demonstrations of chemical reactions, to thought projects of what aliens could look like on different planets, their efforts were a fantastic showcase of science education at SDC. I would like to give a special congratulations to 9G students Prabnoor Sohi and Nayoni Muralidharan, whose presentation and demonstration of the Great Red Spot was voted the best project by a panel of teachers!



Lachlan Senior | SCIENCE DOMAIN LEADER





Student Services

On Friday 29 August, Sunbury Downs College celebrated Wear It Purple Day. The day celebrates the inclusivity, visibility and empowerment of our LGBTQIA+ community.

There were plenty of fun activities including the raising of the pride flag, student speeches, fairy bread and ally pledge stalls, music, crafts and badge making.



It was amazing to see our school community so engaged in establishing a safe, supportive and empowering environment for our LGBTQIA+ students and allies. Thank you to everyone who took part!



Xanthe Rixon-Caruana | YOUTH WORKER



Book Week



Book Week 2025 celebrations at Sunbury Downs College from Monday 18 to Friday 22 August started with a bang and certainly ended with one too. The theme was 'Book an Adventure'. Lunchtime activities run by students were held in the ERC and offered the chance to win prizes. They included an adventure-themed blooket, word games and an unlimited Wordle, and a book-themed escape room. Last but certainly not least, we had a schoolwide scavenger hunt with a book theme.

I would like to give a huge congratulations to all the student winners, and a massive thank you to Ms Zapparoni, Ms Collier and Ms Twomey. More people to thank are the Student Book Week Committee members which included Abigail Simaris 10D, Charlotte Barre-Whitford 8G, Harriet Banchero 7G, Isabelle Mogridge 10B, Hannah McSween 10E, Kelley Twomey 10E, Larissa Dandas 10E and Savannah Pott 10E. Charlotte Barre-Whitford 8G



Sarah Zapparoni | LEARNING SPECIALIST - LITERACY



Karen Collier | ERC MANAGER



Corinne Twomey | LIBRARY ASSISTANT



Art Excursion

The Year 12 Art Making and Exhibiting class visited Heide Museum of Modern Art on 27 August 2025. Heide is a gallery that used to be the home of artists John and Sunday Reed, who lived and made art there with their artist friends.



Students learnt how to conserve specific artworks that are found in one of the galleries, Heide Cottage, which is a heritage listed building. They explored the surrounding sculpture park and gardens and enjoyed a day out in a space known for its architecture and history.



Raneen Wardy | ART DOMAIN LEADER



Real Industry Job Interviews – Building Skills for the Future

On Tuesday 19 August, 31 students from the VCE Vocational Major program took part in the HWLLEN (Hume Whittlesea Local Learning and Employment Network) Real Industry Job Interviews at the Sunbury Global Learning Centre. This event gave students the chance to step into a professional setting, practise real interview skills, and receive personalised feedback from industry professionals.

These experiences directly connect to the VCAA requirements for VCE-VM Work Related Skills (Unit 2, Area of Study 2), where students must demonstrate their ability to:

- Explore and apply strategies that support future employment
- Practise employability skills such as communication, planning and self-management
- Reflect on strengths, areas for improvement and future pathways

What students said about the experience:

“This was an excellent experience for the mock interview. I would highly recommend it for Year 11 students, as it provides valuable preparation for real-life situations such as job interviews, college applications and developing communication skills.”

Victor Vongdachit 11E

“I was interviewed by David Turnbull. He was very easygoing, kind and welcoming while still being professional. I felt comfortable and enjoyed the task. This would be extremely beneficial for students who haven’t experienced an interview before.”

Mabel Clarke 11E

“I really enjoyed the experience. It helped me understand what a job interview is like. It was nerve-racking at first, but I managed to show enthusiasm in my responses. I also learned about appropriate clothing for interviews and how to respond to questions. I’m proud of my results and want to keep practising.”

Rylan Light 11E

Why this matters:

These interviews are more than practise — they are real opportunities to develop skills for the workplace and build confidence for the future. Students who participated have taken a big step towards meeting their VCE-VM Work Related Skills outcomes while gaining valuable, real-world experience.



Haley Gunn | VCE VM & SCIENCE TEACHER



Runner Excursion

As part of our Year 8 English studies, students have been exploring *Runner*, a gripping novel by Robert Newton set in 1919 Melbourne that follows the journey of 15-year-old Charlie Feehan. To deepen their understanding of the novel's historical context and themes, our Year 8 cohort participated in an immersive excursion on Wednesday 13 August.

The day began with a guided walking tour through key locations featured in the book, including the bustling streets of Richmond and the historic laneways that once formed the backdrop to Squizzy Taylor's world. Students were able to connect the novel's setting to real places, gaining insight into the living conditions, social issues and community spirit of post-World War I Melbourne.



Highlights included visiting old buildings, learning about the city's rich history, and seeing first-hand the contrast between Melbourne's working-class neighbourhoods and its wealthier districts. Students were encouraged to reflect on how environment shapes character, and many remarked on how these experiences brought Charlie Feehan's world vividly to life. The rest of the day was spent basking in the sun at Treasury Gardens before heading back home.

I would like to thank the staff who helped organise this engaging and educational opportunity, and our Year 8 students for their enthusiasm and thoughtful participation throughout the day.



Renu Sharma | ENGLISH & LEGAL STUDIES TEACHER



Youth Scholarship

Hi all, my name is Kingston Bonett. I am a student at Sunbury Downs College and a recipient of the Hume City Council Youth Opportunity Scholarship.

From the very start of my educational journey, academics (more specifically, Mathematics) has been a top priority for me, assisted by the fact that I do enjoy all my classes. The scholarship, given to students who demonstrate consistent effort and progression towards their goals throughout school, gives the recipients \$1000 to spend on a multitude of academic-related purchases to further their studies.



Recipients also attended a presentation night where everyone got a frame presented to them to formalise their achievement and had some great complimentary food and dessert before and after the ceremony. We also got to speak to Hume City Council Mayor Jarrod Bell.

The ceremony was a truly great experience and I am very grateful to Hume City Council for providing myself and other students with this amazing scholarship.

Kingston Bonett 10E



Himneet Kaur | YEAR 9 & YEAR 10 COORDINATOR



Head Start



James Formosa – Certificate III Carpentry

James has grown up working in the shed on woodwork projects at home. This has fostered his love of carpentry and taught him to safely use hand and power tools.

James has demonstrated a great work ethic and is keen to learn onsite.

This has led to James being offered a quality Carpentry School-Based Apprenticeship with a local team. Head Start wish you all the best in starting your career!



Karen Riley | ASSISTANT DIRECTOR — NORTHERN METRO HUB
HEAD START



Community News



Join us for an

AUTISM FAMILY NETWORK NIGHT

Sensory friendly family event

Saturday 11 October 2025

6:00PM - 08:00PM

\$10 per person

Includes BBQ, pool entry and activities

Welcoming event for children and adults of all abilities

Scan QR to find out more



Hume Leisure

