

Respect

Resilience

Ambition

Community

Acting Principal's Report



Important Dates

- **Monday 2 March 2026**
College Photo Catch Up Day
- **Wednesday 4 March 2026**
Year 7 Camp commences
- **Friday 6 March 2026**
Year 7 Camp concludes
- **Monday 9 March 2026**
Labour Day public holiday
- **Wednesday 11 March 2026**
NAPLAN commences
- **Monday 23 March 2026**
NAPLAN concludes
- **Wednesday 1 April 2026**
PIMs 11am - 7pm
(Not student free)
- **Thursday 2 April 2026**
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,

Sunbury Downs College has had a busy start to the school year, with many events and programs designed to help students settle back into school routines.

For Year 7 students, an orientation for part of their school day over the first two weeks of school allowed students to experience regular secondary school lessons along with targeted lessons on organisation, socialisation and school values.

The 'Meet and Greet BBQ' was very well attended and an excellent opportunity for parents to meet with Homegroup teachers and the Junior Sub School team.

Meanwhile, Year 12 students spent two days in the Melbourne CBD on the Year 12 Retreat. They experienced a combination of social activities to enhance students' social connectedness and peer supports, and study skills sessions to prepare them for the academic challenges of VCE.

These two programs, and the upcoming Year 7 camp, are examples of targeted support for students embarking on significant milestones in their life as students.



Acting Principal's Report

We gathered as a whole school, reinforcing our values and aspirations, at a whole school assembly on Monday 2 February and at our swimming carnival on Friday 13 February. At the assembly, students heard from school captains, our 2025 Dux (Sandil Wijesooriya) and myself about our values, together with our motto, Confidence to Achieve, as well as habits which help students make the most of their educational and extra-curricular opportunities at school.

Students presented well in blazer and tie during the school photo day on Thursday 5 February. If your child was absent that day: a reminder to attend in full school uniform on the photo catch-up day on Monday 2 March. The Year 12 group photo will also be taken on that day, as well as group photos for school captains.

Staff and students have now settled well into school routines, with their regular academic programs well underway. Sunbury Downs College has very dedicated and capable teaching and support staff, ensuring all students are able to experience success at school.

In particular, I wish to thank the Leading Teachers and Learning Specialists for the leadership of school improvement initiatives, and their organisation and support of teachers in our first few weeks.

On the principal team, we welcome Angela Lane as Junior Sub School Assistant Principal, Kylie Middlemast continues in the role of Middle Sub School Assistant Principal, and welcome back to Michael Watson as Senior Sub School Assistant Principal.

I appreciate the warm welcome I have received by staff and students across the College and am grateful for the privilege of serving as Acting Principal for Semester 1, 2026.

Klate McFarlane
Acting Principal



Mr Klate McFarlane | ACTING PRINCIPAL



School Captains

A new school year always brings a mix of excitement and nerves, but it also brings opportunity. It brings the chance to grow, to learn, and to challenge ourselves in ways we might not have before. For our new students and staff, starting at a new school can feel overwhelming, but I hope you quickly come to see this as a place where you belong and a place where you're supported, encouraged and valued. We are all incredibly grateful for the energy, passion and knowledge you bring, and we're excited to not only learn from you but to give you the chance to learn from us.

I want to touch on two values that play a huge role in success as a student and as a person in general — resilience and ambition. Resilience is about pushing forward when things don't go perfectly. It's about learning from your mistakes, asking for help when you need it, and not giving up when something feels difficult. Every challenge we face — whether in the classroom, on the sporting field, or in our personal lives — helps shape who we become in both the short and long term. Similarly, ambition is what drives us to aim higher. It's about setting goals for ourselves, believing we're capable of achieving them, and being willing to put in the effort to get there even if we fail at first. When ambition is paired with resilience, they become an incredibly powerful resource.



This year, I encourage everyone to challenge themselves, support one another, take pride in your own goals, and to learn how to be the person you want to be. On that note, let's make this a year where we grow together, strive for excellence, and make the most of every opportunity. Thank you, and I wish everyone an amazing year ahead.

Charlotte Peters 12B

One of the things that makes Sunbury Downs College special is our sense of community. We don't succeed alone. We succeed because we support one another in classrooms, on the oval, in the arts, and in everyday moments you might not even notice. So, this year, I challenge all of us to be kinder; lift each other up; ask for help when we need it; and back ourselves, even when self-doubt creeps in.

To the Year 7s, welcome. You belong here, even if it doesn't feel like it yet. Over the coming years, you'll create memories, discover new strengths, and Sunbury Downs College will be a place where each of you can grow and prosper in your own way. To the senior students, aim high this year. Put in the effort, back yourselves, and squeeze the most out of every experience while you're here. It's a big year, so make sure you enjoy it too. And to everyone inbetween, your journey matters just as much, and every bit of effort you put in makes a difference. Keep pushing, keep learning, and remember that what you do this year counts. As captain, I promise to do my best to represent you, to listen to you, and to help make this school a place where everyone feels safe, valued and proud to belong.



So as we step into this new year together, remember Nelson Mandela's words: "A winner is a dreamer who never gives up." Hold onto your dreams. Be patient with yourself. And never underestimate what you're capable of becoming. Thank you, and here's to an amazing year ahead at Sunbury Downs College.

Riveen Randeniya 12A



Meet and Greet BBQ

On Monday 9 February, the College held our annual Meet and Greet BBQ for parents and carers who are new to our community.

Fortunately, the weather held for the 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.



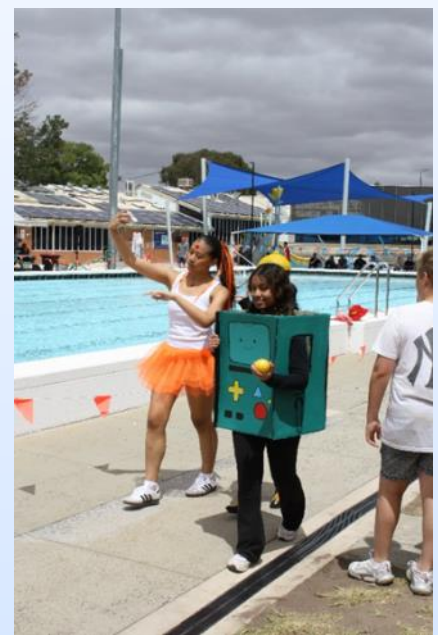
I would like to also publicly thank our College Captains and Student Voice representatives who managed the BBQ, and those students who provided entertainment on the night. Your support is greatly appreciated.



James Ross | JUNIOR SUB-SCHOOL LEADER (YEAR 7 & 8)



Swimming Carnival





Food Studies

After having time off for the school holidays, students were excited to get back into the kitchen for Term 1.

A fresh summer dish, san choy bow, was cooked by Year 9 Food Studies students.



Students are currently learning about healthy eating. The san choy bow recipe was an example of how we can prepare a healthy dish that can be enjoyed by all.



Jessica Mazur | TECHNOLOGY DOMAIN LEADER



Interschool Cricket



The Sunbury Downs College intermediate boys cricket team attended a tournament match against Sunbury College on Wednesday 18 February to advance to the next stages.

The team won the toss and decided to bowl first. Sunbury College put on 96 runs. Our students, Jett and Mitch, demonstrated some great wicket-taking ability.

Our team fell short by 20 runs, but some great batting from Adam, Mitch and Yuvraj almost got us over the line.

The students played with great respect and resilience, and tried their best.



Decklan Jessop | YEAR 8 COORDINATOR
HEALTH & PE TEACHER



Essential Assessment: Year 7 and 8

Students in Year 7 and 8 have access to the Essential Assessment program this year at SDC, which has successfully run since 2024. Students have started to use Essential Assessment to complete pre-topic assessments to show us what they know before teachers start to teach a topic. Teachers will use the results to target student learning gaps more effectively. Students will be able to work on filling any gaps in knowledge using the 'My Numeracy' portal, which is also accessible at home. A learning library with videos of key concepts is available for content from levels Foundation to 10A.

Students can also complete 'my numeracy' tasks at home or play some of the interactive games that come with the program to target key skills. The more often skills are practised, the easier they are to remember and apply. Learning multiplication and division facts thoroughly is essential as students move into more senior maths levels.

Charged laptops are a requirement in every Maths class. Students should charge laptops at home each night. If you would like to learn more about the Essential Assessment program, please contact your child's Maths teacher.

Maths Olympiad (Year 7 and 8) Round 1: Wednesday 6 May



This competition builds on important mathematical concepts and helps students to consolidate strategies and develop their problem-solving skills. It also provides high achievers with an opportunity to compete against themselves and others across Australia. Students answer five problem-solving questions over four rounds. No notes or calculators are allowed.

There are practice questions and resources available. Teachers will also go over solutions after the competition to ensure students continue to improve their maths problem-solving skills. Students in Year 7 and 8 ACE classes are automatically enrolled. If your child enjoys a challenge and would like to participate, please let their Maths teacher know.

Competitions

Students have achieved some very impressive results in competitions over the years and honed their problem-solving skills. The chance to compete with students outside their own classroom is also a benefit. We will be offering the following competitions again this year:

- Maths Olympiad – four rounds for Year 7 and Year 8 students
- The Australian Mathematics Competition (open to students from Year 7 to 12)
- Melbourne University Maths Competition.

Details will be provided in the next newsletter, or through direct contact your child's Maths teacher.



Tyler Locker | LEARNING SPECIALIST (NUMERACY)



Mathematics & Numeracy

Equipment in Maths Class

A reminder to parents that students are expected to bring the following items to every Maths lesson:

- The relevant year level Maths textbook as specified on the booklist.
- Two **10mm grid** (squares, not lines) books, which are used as: An *Index Book* for note-taking and to reference during classwork and assessments and A *Workbook* for classwork and exercises.
- Standard stationery (pens, pencils, eraser, sharpener, ruler, etc.)
- A charged laptop.
- A complete Maths set, which includes essential equipment such as a **compass** and **protractor**.

Having the correct equipment each lesson supports student organisation and learning. Thank you for your support in ensuring your child is prepared for Maths class.

Helpful Numeracy or Mathematical Fluency Websites

- www.mathplayground.com (games for addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, decimals, ratios, pre-algebra)
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> (game to practise multiplication, division, doubling and squaring skills)
- <https://www.mathsisfun.com/links/index.html> (Maths content suitable for primary to VCE level)
- www.khanacademy.org (Maths content suitable for all levels to VCE)

Afterschool Maths Homework Club: Mondays 3.30pm-4.30pm. Venue: Room 4A

Every Monday afternoon, students have the opportunity to take part in the Maths Homework Club. All students, from Year 7 to 12, are invited to attend to gain valuable assistance with their class work, homework, exam preparation or anything related to Mathematics. Our Maths teachers are once again providing their services. There are no costs and no booking is required.



If you have any questions regarding Mathematics or Numeracy please contact us.

Tyler Locker
Learning Specialist (Numeracy)
Tyler.Locker@education.vic.gov.au

Edward Long
Mathematics Domain Leader
Edward.Long@education.vic.gov.au



Tyler Locker | LEARNING SPECIALIST (NUMERACY)



ERC

It has been great to see many students making use of the ERC (Education Resource Centre) since the start of Term 1. Year 7 students have been introduced to the space. We look forward to seeing Year 7 and Year 8 students regularly for timetabled English classes, and to help you borrow books of interest.

A reminder to students, we also have a selection of chess sets, card games, board games, activity and colouring-in sheets for use at recess and lunchtime — ask ERC staff and we will be happy to help you!



On Friday 20 February, Hume Libraries youth librarian Donna Woods visited the ERC during lunchtime and hosted some fun pyramid-stacking and Lego challenges. Stay tuned for announcements about other visits later this year.



Karen Collier | ERC MANAGER



Careers & Pathways

This year is off to a great start and we are busy working with students to support them with their pathway planning. Students at Sunbury Downs College in years 9-12 will be involved with the following career-related programs in 2026:

Year 12 Students

- Continuous individual pathway discussions – Terms 1 and 3
- VTAC applications support – Term 3

Year 11 Students

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

Year 10 Students

- Career Action Plans – Term 2
- Year 10 Careers Day
- Year 10 Work Experience Program – Term 2: Monday 22 June - Friday 26 June. 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) – Term 2
- Subject Selection – Terms 2 and 3

Year 9 Students

- Morrisby Profile and interviews – Term 1
- Mock Interview Program – Term 4
- Subject Selection – Terms 2 and 3

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

Melanie Hatch (Monday, Thursday 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



24 February 2026

Dear Sunbury Downs College Community

Notice of election and call for nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of Sunbury Downs College.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by **4.00pm on Tuesday 17 March 2026**.

The ballot (where applicable) will close at 4.00pm on Tuesday 24/3/2026.

Following the closing of nominations, a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school.

The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

Membership category	Term of office	Number of positions
Parent member – two year term of office	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2026 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2028	7
Student member – two year term of office	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2026 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2028	2
School employee member – two year term of office	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2026 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2028	1

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Regards

Klate McFarlane
ACTING PRINCIPAL



Canteen Menu



BOCCA FOODS

SCHOOL CAFE MENU

SUNBURY DOWNS SECONDARY COLLEGE



BREAKFAST

Fruit Salad (GF V VEG H DF)	\$4.50
Gourmet Yoghurt Cup (GF V VEG H)	\$4.00
Egg and Bacon Muffin	\$4.50
Brekky Wrap	\$5.50
Hash Brown (GF V VEG H DF)	\$2.00
Filled Croissant	\$5.50

DELI BAR

Fresh Fruit (GF V VEG H DF)	from \$1.50
Sushi Roll (GF V VEG H DF)	\$4.00
Jelly Cup (GF V VEG H DF)	\$1.50
Sandwiches (VEG H)	from \$3.50
Gourmet Rolls (VEG H)	from \$4.50
Gourmet Salad Wraps (VEG H)	\$7.00
HCT Toasted Panini	\$6.00
Gourmet Toasted Panini (VEG H)	\$7.00
Salad of the Day (GF V VEG H DF)	from \$5.50
Chicken Caesar Salad (GF H)	\$7.00

DRINKS

Juice - 350ml Bottle	\$3.50
Oak Flavoured Milk 200ml	\$3.00
Oak Flavoured Milk 600ml	\$5.50
Ice break 500ml	\$5.50
Bottled Water 600ml	\$3.50
Sugar Free Schweppes Can	\$3.00
Lipton Ice Tea 500ml	\$5.00

HOT FOOD

Steamed Dim Sim (H)	\$1.50
Homemade Sausage Roll	\$5.00
Chicken/Beef Burger (H)	\$5.50
Devil Pocket or Burger (H)	\$6.50
Oven Baked Wedges (V VEG H DF)	\$4.00
Crumbed Chicken Wrap (H)	\$5.00
Vegetable Spring Rolls (3) (V VEG H DF)	\$3.50
Homemade Pizza Slice	\$4.50
Chicken Souvlaki (H)	\$7.00
Chicken Parma Wrap/Roll (H)	\$7.00
Bolognese/Napoli Penne (V VEG H DF)	\$4.50
Lasagne/Ravioli/Tortellini (H)	\$7.00
Fried Rice/Curry/Stir-Fry (VEG H) from	\$5.00
Spanakopita (VEG H)	\$6.50
Turkish Pide (VEG H)	\$7.50

SNACKS

Muffin (VEG H)	\$4.50
Slice (VEG H)	\$2.50
Cookies (VEG H)	\$3.50
Red Rock Deli Chips (GF V VEG H DF)	\$2.50
Banana Bread	\$3.00
Frozen Yoghurt (GF VEG H)	\$1.00
Icy Poles (V VEG H DF)	\$2.00

CAFE BAR

Hot Chocolate	\$4.00
Coffee	\$4.00
Chai Latte	\$4.50
Strong/Extra Shot/ Mocha	0.50c
Almond/Soy/Oat Milk	\$1.00
Medium Cup	\$4.50
Large Cup	\$5.50



To Place a Lunch Order:
Log in at
www.boccaonline.com.au
Contact support@boccafoods.com.au



OCCASIONAL GLUTEN FREE HALAL VEGAN DAIRY FREE VEGETARIAN



Community News

UNDER 15'S BOYS FOOTY

**READY TO PLAY?
READY TO LEVEL UP?**

Calling all boys **who love footy**, mateship and having a crack on the field!

- 🏈 Train with **top coaches** 🏆
- 🏋️ Get fit & boost **your footy skills** 🏋️
- 👊 Make new **mates** 👊
- 🏆 Be part of an **epic club culture!** 🏆

📍 **Location:** Lancefield Park
🕒 **Training:** Wednesdays 5 - 6pm

**REGISTER NOW OR
COME DOWN FOR A TRYOUT!**

Contact: Dave 0491 288 835

LANCEFIELD Juniors



Community News

WE ARE HIRING

Local Jobs for Local People

SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISORS



Work Close to Home in Your Local Community

Multiple Locations Across Greater Melbourne

Now Recruiting - School Crossing Supervisors

- ✓ *Flexible work that fits around your lifestyle*
- ✓ *Play an important role in your community*

Contact us today to secure your interview!

schoolcrossing@hoban.com.au or (03) 9325 3200

HOBAN Recruitment



Community News

ENVIRO-ENERGY EXPO Saturday 21st March 2026

10.00am to 3.00pm

Riddells Creek Leisure Centre
26-32 Sutherlands Road, Riddells Creek

A free and engaging community event showcasing practical, affordable solutions to help homes, the planet and our pockets



What Students, Teachers & Parents can discover

- Latest in home-energy technology
- Environmental chemistry & pollution science keynote
- Bushfoods, biodiversity & local ecosystems
- Recycling & resource recovery in action
- Passivhaus, Off-grid, and Electric Vehicle expertise
- Displays from 30+ government agencies, councils, sustainability groups, planet-positive businesses and community organisations
- Electric vehicles powering food and entertainment sites
- Test-ride a range of e-bikes
- Food, drink, music, fantastic prizes to be won

Note: Free Reservations recommended for Keynote Conversation, Panel Discussions and 1-on-1 consultations due to space limits.

Event Website



<https://mrsg.org.au/riddells>

Session booking link



<https://tinyurl.com/yc3exhux>

Hosted by



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5/2/2026