

Respect

Resilience

Ambition

Community

Important Dates

- **Thursday 2 April 2026**
Term 1 Ends: 2.25pm finish
- **Monday 20 April 2026**
Term 2 Commences
- **Friday 24 April 2026**
ANZAC Day Assembly
Year 11 Debutante Ball
- **Monday 27 April 2026**
Open Night
- **Monday 4 May 2026**
Year 9 Outdoor Ed Camp commences
- **Wednesday 6 May 2026**
Year 9 Outdoor Ed Camp concludes
- **Tuesday 12 May 2026**
Curriculum Day (Student Free)
- **Thursday 14 May 2026**
Whole School Athletics Carnival

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

Acting Principal's Report



Dear Sunbury Downs College Community,

Term 1 has been productive for staff and students at Sunbury Downs College.

Teacher professional learning activities have focused on the Victorian Teaching and Learning Model 2.0, which is underpinned by research on the Science of Learning. For experienced teachers, it is fascinating to learn theories and classroom practices derived from recent advances in cognitive sciences.

Students have demonstrated our school values (Respect, Resilience, Ambition, Community) by being prepared and on time for classes. Teachers have focused on a clear and consistent start to all lessons, establishing a calm and orderly learning environment for students.

The school has purchased bright lanyards for students who have permission to be out of class, such as media students, 'duty students' or those visiting the bathroom. Students out of class without a lanyard are reminded about our duty of care for them and directed to the appropriate class or school service.



Acting Principal's Report

Duty Students is a new program which commenced on Monday 16 March. The program supports students in Years 8 and 9 to develop independence and maturity while practising our value of Community.

Duty Students support staff across the school with a range of duties, such as carrying messages between offices and classrooms. The duties require maturity, good judgement and confidence from younger students at the college, providing an opportunity to contribute to the broader school community.

I hope many of the parents and carers reading this had an opportunity to book Progress Information Meetings with teachers, scheduled for Wednesday 1 April. Particularly for families who joined the school community this year, it is a great opportunity to meet in person and celebrate your child's achievements.

I wish everyone a safe and happy school holidays and look forward to an exciting Term 2.

Klate McFarlane
Acting Principal



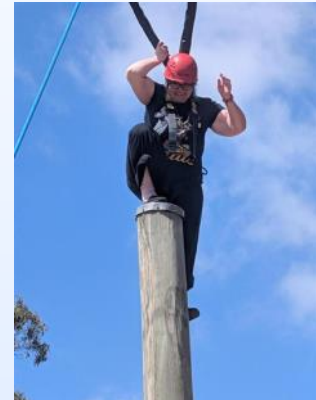
Mr Klate McFarlane | ACTING PRINCIPAL



Year 7 Camp

On Wednesday 4 March, our Year 7 cohort set off for their first secondary camp experience. Students gathered eagerly in the gym before we left, saying goodbye to their families and chatting excitedly about the adventures that lay ahead. Over the next 2 ½ days, students challenged themselves through a variety of different camp experiences. Some highlights were high and low ropes courses, bike riding, pizza making and archery to name a few. Students showed amazing ambition and the confidence to achieve as they stepped outside of their comfort zones to try new, exciting experiences. Year 7 camp presented students and staff alike with great opportunities to get to know one another outside of the school landscape. All staff were incredibly impressed by student behaviour while on camp. We were especially proud of the respect students demonstrated for their peers, teachers, camp staff and themselves. Camp 2026 was an incredibly positive experience all round and we look forward to another amazing camp again in 2027.

Kerrie Dowsett - Year 7 Coordinator



Kerrie Dowsett | YEAR 7 COORDINATOR

Year 7 Camp



A three-day camp at Lady Northcote Discovery Camp as a Year 7 student was an experience that blended adventure and challenge. From the moment we arrived at camp we were surrounded with tall trees and wildlife. I felt a mix of nerves and curiosity. My favourite highlight from camp was definitely low ropes, even if my partner and I spent the first few minutes trying to decide who would go first, but then we ended having the best time of our life. The bush walk gave us a chance to slow down and appreciate the quiet outdoors, something we don't normally get to do. Evenings at camp were just as memorable, with the night walks, games, and time as a group watching a movie that just didn't work out but it's a night we won't forget. Over the three days, I learnt how to be more independent, how to work better with others, and how to push myself past my comfort zone. By the time camp was finished, I was exhausted but felt so proud of what I accomplished. This camp was the kind of camp that brings a year level closer together and leaves you with stories that will live with you forever.

Leni Maheras 7D





Interschool Swimming

On 4 March, numerous students from Sunbury Downs College qualified for interschool swimming. The day started out beautifully, spirits were high and students were determined to honour their school. As the day progressed, we had lots of wins, particularly in the relays, and a few close seconds. My personal favourite part of the day at Melton Waves was seeing everyone laughing and supporting one another during the races. It was this enthusiasm that resulted in Sunbury Downs College placing second overall, which was an amazing achievement not only for the students who participated but also the entire school.

A massive congratulations to all the students who made it into regionals — I know that you will make us all proud. Finally, thank you to Mr Bongiovanni, Mr Cosner and Mr Quigley for helping support and organise everyone, particularly in the relays.

Makayla Newton 11C



Anthony Bongiovanni | HEALTH & PE TEACHER



Student Services

Sunbury Downs College proudly celebrated International Women's Day with a vibrant and engaging series of activities that brought our school community together to recognise and honour the achievements of women. On Friday 6 March, students participated in a range of fun and meaningful activities, including interactive games and a creative photo board where they shared messages of support. Many students also took part in writing pledges, committing to actions that promote respect, equality, and positive change. Music added to the celebratory atmosphere, creating an uplifting environment across the College and bringing everyone together in the spirit of the day.



Congratulations to Stacey Jenkinson (pictured above, centre), who was voted by students as the Sunbury Downs College International Women's Day Staff Member of the Year. This recognition reflects the positive impact she has on our school community and her commitment to supporting and inspiring students.

It was wonderful to see such enthusiastic participation from students and staff alike. The celebration was a great reminder of the importance of recognising women's contributions and continuing to work towards gender equality.



Liz Baggs | SECONDARY SCHOOL NURSE



Robotics

Our 2026 Year 7 and 8 SDC Lego Robotics program comprises 19 students who come together every Monday after school. Their inaugural Lego Robotics workshop with all Sunbury schools took place on Friday 6 March.

The program features four key components:

Robot Design: Students design and program a LEGO Spike PRIME robot to follow lines using sensors, push objects, or pull levers as they navigate the mission mat.

Robot Game: Teams aim to complete as many missions as possible on the challenge mat within a time frame of 2.5 minutes, with points awarded for each successful mission.

Innovation Project: Working collaboratively, students develop an innovative solution to a competition-related problem.

Core Values: Throughout the competition, participants are expected to exemplify the core values of Teamwork, Inclusion, Impact, Fun, Discovery and Innovation.



Our Year 7 Robotics teams were unable to attend this first workshop due to being away on a school camp, however, our Year 8 Robotics team were present and enjoyed engaging in team-building challenges and constructing and programming their robots.

Congratulations to the 2026 SDC Lego Robotics team for their enthusiastic participation!



Jenny Wadeson | ROBOTICS PROGRAM COORDINATOR



Kryal Castle Excursion

Our Year 8 Humanities Kryal Castle excursion on Friday 20 March started off as any other excursion. It started with a loud bus ride. The bus ride to the castle had a soundtrack that included 'Wheels on the Bus', 'I Want It That Way' by the Backstreet Boys, and 'Firework' and 'California Girls' by Katy Perry. So, the bus had a stacked playlist and we all had headaches. Once we arrived, we entered the main castle bit and were greeted by a dragon. We continued to where the 'home base' would be, which was an arena for jousting and sword fighting. Then we were split up into groups, and we were off to our activities. The activities we did included a reenactment of the Battle of Hastings, in which we got to hit each other with 'swords' which were just pool noodles but still just as fun. Archery and siege were where we got to break open a door using a battering ram. Arms and weapons was where you learn about armour and weaponry, which sounds boring but was actually interesting. The last activity that we did was leatherwork, where we got to stamp something onto a piece of leather and we got to take it home.



At lunch, we were allowed to venture about. There was a playground that looked like a mini castle that we were allowed to play in. There were a sheep and peacock that you could see. There was also a highland cow (the fluffy cow) you could see from the arena. There was also a maze that for some reason no one could find at first, but eventually people found it.

I would like to thank the teachers and staff who organised and took us on this adventure on behalf of the Year 8 cohort.

Celeste Vance 8C



Lindsay Knight | HUMANITIES TEACHER



AFLW Clinic

On Wednesday 25 March, some other girls and I from Year 7, 8 and 9 walked down to Boardman Oval for an AFLW footy clinic with Emma Grant. Emma is an ex-AFLW Collingwood player.

At the clinic, we started with some of the basics like handballing and groundball. We then did some kicking and marking. Emma told us about the ABCD of kicking. At the end, we put our skill to the test and did a mini game.



This footy clinic was a fun and good experience that helped and improved my foot skills and where we got to play footy and hang out with friends. I am very happy and grateful for this opportunity and experience to improve my footy, so thank you to Emma Grant for coming and helping us.

Ellie Wheeler 7C



Mitchell Bongiovanni | HEALTH & PE TEACHER



Middle Sub School

Middle Sub School Update

It has been a busy and productive start to the year for our Middle Sub School students, and we would like to acknowledge the efforts of both our Year 9 and Year 10 cohorts.

Year 9 Update

Our Year 9 students have recently completed their Morrisby Profile assessments. These profiles are a valuable tool that help students better understand their strengths, interests, and potential career pathways. Students will soon begin their one-on-one interviews, where they can explore these results in more detail and start making informed decisions about their future. Year 9 students have also completed their final NAPLAN assessments — congratulations to all students on reaching this milestone! Looking ahead to Term 2, we will continue building conversations around future careers as students begin preparing for subject selections. We will also begin discussing the upcoming Urban Experience which occurs in the final week of Term 2. Please note that full school uniform is required for participation. Over the holidays, we encourage families to check that students have all required uniform items ready.

Year 10 Update

Our Year 10 students are to be commended on how well they have settled into their new classes. The transition from Year 9 to Year 10 is a significant step, and it has been pleasing to see many students rising to the challenge. Work Experience will take place in the final week of Term 2 (22–26 June 2026). All relevant information is available on Compass. Well done to the students who have already secured work experience placements. For students who have not yet secured a placement, we strongly encourage continued contact with potential employers over the holidays. Support is available through the Careers team. We would also like to acknowledge the 14 students participating in the Build 10 Program. It has been fantastic to hear about their positive experiences and engagement with their TAFE courses. In Term 2, Year 10 students will begin preparing for subject selections and will need to start considering whether they wish to pursue a VCE or VCE-VM pathway. An information evening will be held next term to support students and families in making these important decisions.

Attendance and Learning Habits

Across both year levels, we are continuing to focus on building strong learning habits. This includes arriving to class on time, remaining in class, and coming prepared with the correct equipment so students can maximise their learning and give their best effort in every lesson. Regular attendance at school is essential for both academic success and wellbeing. If a student is unwell, we ask that families provide appropriate documentation, such as a medical certificate, to support absences. Thank you for your continued support in helping our students engage positively and achieve their best.



Courtney Thorn | MIDDLE SUB SCHOOL LEADER



Mathematics & Numeracy

Essential Assessment: Year 7 and 8

Students in Year 7 and 8 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. 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 this program please contact your child's Maths teacher.

Maths Olympiad (Year 7 and 8) Round 1: 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 5 problem-solving questions over 4 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 is a high performer in Maths 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 — 4 rounds for Year 7 and Year 8 students. Round 1: 6 May
- 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 with your child's Maths teacher.



Tyler Locker | LEARNING SPECIALIST (NUMERACY)



Mathematics & Numeracy

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)



Head Start



Jaiden Hendahewa



T-Jay Edwards



Eliot Lee

Jaiden Hendahewa – Certificate III Glass and Glazing

Jaiden looked outside of the traditional popular trades and explored the glazing industry during work experience. Jaiden's employer was extremely happy with him and quickly offered him a full-time or school-based apprenticeship. We are very pleased that Jaiden is keen to complete his schooling and start his SBAT in 2026. Jaiden is required to attend TAFE regularly in Chadstone, which has not deterred him. This great commitment and positive mindset is wonderful to see. Congratulations, Jaiden.

Thomas (T-Jay) Edwards – Certificate III Carpentry

Thomas has grown up working on carpentry and maintenance projects at home and in the workplace. Thomas' knowledge, skills and experience has steered him towards an early offer to start a Carpentry School Based Apprenticeship. We wish you the best of luck T-Jay!!

Eliot Lee – Certificate III Engineering (Metal Fabrication)

Eliot completed work experience in engineering and found a passion for metal fabrication and welding in particular. The company invited Eliot to undertake further work experience to understand the types of tasks a first year apprentice would perform and offered him a SBAT. Well done, Eliot!!



Karen Riley | ASSISTANT DIRECTOR — NORTHERN METRO HUB
HEAD START



Head Start

Ryan Caruana – Certificate II Supply Chain Operations

Ryan (pictured below) was selected to apply for a local supply chain operations SBAT, learning about processing stock supplies in and out, computer systems, deliveries and customer service.

Ryan was successful in his work trial and is enjoying his traineeship. Good luck, Ryan!



Jack Brilliant – Certificate II Automotive Servicing Technology

Jack undertook his one week work experience with a local employer in June last year. This went so well, that Jack arranged to continue working in the school holidays.

The employer recognised Jack's eagerness, skills and attitude, leading to the employer offering Jack a School Based Apprenticeship to start in 2026. Well deserved, Jack!



Karen Riley | ASSISTANT DIRECTOR — NORTHERN METRO HUB
HEAD START



Swimming Carnival

On Friday 13 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 or in the smaller pool for a range of novelty events such as a wading relay and team rescues. Many staff and students supported the Student Voice barbecue. Student relay teams took on the staff team, but the staff were far too strong and won easily. Students were able to take part in a free swim at the end of the day.

After tallying the results from all events, Mitchell claimed the title of winners of the carnival for 2026. Acting Principal Mr Klate McFarlane presented the annual shield to Mitchell captain Tina Keubekian and vice captain Logan Waldon.

Overall Results

1st Mitchell 1100 points; 2nd Jackson 872 points; 3rd Aitken 829 points; 4th Evans 752 points.

Individual Age Group Champions

| Age group | Female | Male |
|-----------|------------------|----------------|
| Under 13 | Lily Watt | Dylan Hyland |
| Under 14 | Zoe Watt | Liam Rogan |
| Under 15 | Summer Pott | Sunnie Newton |
| Under 16 | Amber Mink | Chase Waldon |
| Under 17 | NA | Lachlan Mowatt |
| Under 21 | Charlotte Peters | Joel Keay |

Thank you to all staff and students who helped to make this year's Swimming Carnival a success. We look forward to the Athletics Carnival next term.

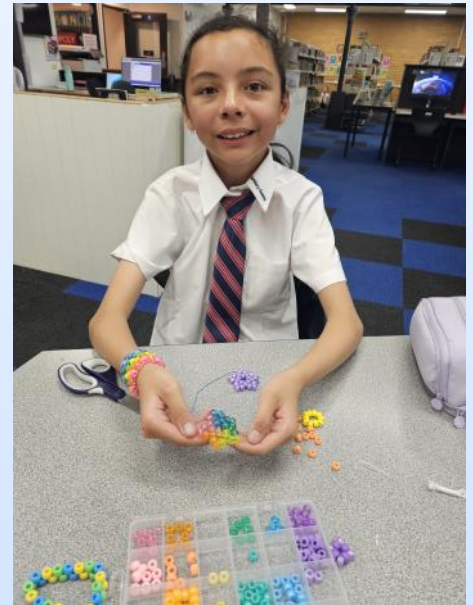


Susan Aldridge | HOUSE COORDINATOR



ERC

Throughout Term 1, it has been fantastic to see students from different year levels respectfully sharing the ERC space for reading, studying and activities before school, at recess and at lunchtime. We look forward to welcoming students back in Term 2.



Karen Collier | ERC MANAGER



Community News



**EAST SUNBURY
FOOTBALL CLUB**

WANT TO PLAY JUNIOR FOOTY IN 2026?

JOIN US!



**U8 MIXED TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
4:45PM - 5:30PM**



**U10 MIXED MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS
5PM - 6PM**



**U12 MIXED TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
5PM - 6PM**



**U14 MIXED TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
5PM - 6PM**



**U16 GIRLS TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
5PM - 6PM**



**SCAN TO
REGISTER**

**U16 BOYS TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
5PM - 6PM**



**Sam Rushworth - Junior President
0401 833 326
esfsecretary@eastsunbury.org.au**



Community News



SWIM SCHOOL HOLIDAY INTENSIVE PROGRAM

For all ages 3 years and above

5 day intensive swim program

Enquire at reception or via the portal



BOOK NOW





Community News



K-Pop Karaoke

Wednesday 8 April
1:30pm-3.30pm

Sunbury Library
44 Macedon Street
Sunbury 3429

Calling all teen K-Pop fans! Step into the world of K-Pop and join us for an action-packed singalong featuring your favourite movie songs.

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



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LAUGH 2 READ

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



PS5 Gran Turismo Tournament

Monday 13 April
2:00pm-4:00pm

Sunbury Library
44 Macedon Street
Sunbury 3429

Join our Gran Turismo comp, race your best, and enjoy some friendly comp with great prizes. Bookings for School Holiday Programs open two weeks prior to the event.

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



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

Art Class

ARTHOUSE
DIRECT

Age 9 - 18

Pastel Drawing

with Jim Reilly

Wednesday 4pm - 5:30pm

8 Weeks \$240

April 22nd till June 10th

In this class students will be able to learn and understand how to use soft chalk pastels. Students learn to use soft pastels to create art, covering basics like techniques, colour mixing, and layering to produce multiple finished art works. They are able to bring reference photos or choose images from the many books we provide in our classroom.



Art Classes Terms and Conditions

A minimum of four students and a maximum of ten in each class. There are no casual places in our classes.

Deposit - A\$40 non-refundable deposit with the final payment due before the 1st week of class.

Cancellation Fee - Is also \$40 if cancellation is later than one week prior to class starting. Materials are extra.

10% discount applies to all Arthouse Direct student purchases, excluding sale and discounted items. The term fee is a full payment; there are no part-payment options available.

STORE: 2B Old Bakery Walk, Sunbury

PHONE: (03) 9740 7487

EMAIL: sunbury@arthousedirect.com.au

E-scooter Road Rules

Tougher penalties as e-scooters are made permanent.

e-scooter riders cannot

- Ride on the footpath
- Use a mobile phone while riding
- Ride while under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Carry passengers or animals or ride in tandem
- Ride a high-speed e-scooter, one capable of more than 25 km/h
- Ride on roads that have a speed limit over 80 km/h

e-scooter riders must

- Be aged 16 years and over
- Not exceed the maximum speed of 20 km/h
- Ride only on shared paths and roads that have a speed limit up to 80 km/h
- Wear a helmet at all times
- Follow traffic rules
- Use lights and reflectors



Scan the QR code to learn more

For more information (including community language translations) transport.vic.gov.au/Road-rules-and-safety/E-scooter-road-rules



Youth Road Safety Fact Sheet



Whether you're biking or riding an e-scooter, follow these simple road safety tips to stay safe and have fun on the move!

MODIFIED OR PETROL POWERED BICYCLES

- Illegal.



MOTORBIKES

- To ride on or off-road it must be registered with a full or recreation registration
- Helmet must be worn at all times.



E-BIKES

- 25 km/h MAX speed
- Motor cannot provide power at speeds higher than 25km/h
- Helmet must be worn at all times
- No passengers
- Cannot be ridden on footpaths.



E-SCOOTER

- Be aged 16 yrs or over
- Max speed 20 kmph
- Helmet must be worn at all times
- No passengers
- Cannot be ridden on footpaths.



For more information, visit police.vic.gov.au/road-safety