



Principal's Report



Important Dates

- **Tuesday 11 November 2025**
Remembrance Day Assembly
- **Thursday 13 November 2025**
Unit 2 Exams Conclude
- **Friday 14 November 2025**
Annual Music Night
Unit 2 Practice GAT
- **Tuesday 18 November 2025**
Year 10 SWOTVAC
- **Wednesday 19 November**
Awards Ceremony
VCAA Exams Conclude
Year 10 Exams Commence
- **Friday 28 November 2025**
Last Day Year 11
Year 10 Exams Conclude
Year 10 Formal
- **Monday 1 December 2025**
Year 9 Exams Commence
- **Friday 5 December 2025**
Year 9 Exams Conclude
Last Day Year 10
Valedictory Dinner
- **Monday 8 December 2025**
Year 7 - 9 Step Up Commences

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,

I hope that you and your families are well. We have welcomed all students and staff back for the commencement of the Term 4 teaching and learning program.

We congratulate the Year 12 class of 2025 on reaching the end of their formal secondary schooling. We extend our support at this time to the cohort and encourage all Year 12 students to continue remaining positive and perform the best they can during their examinations. The VCAA Year 12 examination process has commenced, and we wish all students who are undertaking their exams all the best.

Year 11 students have recently completed end of semester work tasks in class and their examinations commenced on Wednesday 5 November.

Year 12 Celebration Day

Recently we acknowledged the end of the teaching and learning program for Year 12 students. A whole school Celebration Day Assembly was held and we publicly recognised their achievement. The maturity and understanding demonstrated by all students on this day allowed us to celebrate and showcase the journey of this cohort in a symbolic way.

We are looking forward to a successful evening on Friday 5 December when we conduct our Year 12 Valedictory Dinner/Graduation Night. This is a terrific opportunity to share the successes and acknowledge the graduating class of 2025 with family members.



Principal's Report

Capital Works Building Program – Additional Relocatable Portables

Building works have commenced to install four additional classroom spaces (relocatable classrooms) in preparation for Term 1, 2026. The building is double storey, similar to the existing relocatable that was installed in preparation for this year. This program is being overseen by the Victorian School Building Authority. The works are expected to be completed by the end of this school year. This is great news for the College.

Music Night

Planning and preparation is underway for our annual Instrumental Music Night. This will be conducted on Friday 14 November 2025. All members of the school community are invited to attend this event.

Awards Ceremony

Planning and preparations are underway for the annual Awards Ceremony. This will be conducted on Wednesday 19 November 2025. We look forward to celebrating the achievements of our students on this night.

Student Leadership

Congratulations to the recently appointed student **College Captaincy teams for 2026**. The **Senior College Captains** are Charlotte Peters and Riveen Randeniya. The new team were introduced to the whole school at the Year 12 Celebration Day Assembly. It was terrific to have parents and family members in the audience to witness the induction process of their children.

The selection process to determine the **Junior** and **Middle Years Vice Captains** has commenced. Successful applicants will be informed in coming weeks, and an announcement will be communicated to the whole school via Compass.

MUSE Evening (Wednesday 15 October 2025)

The annual MUSE event was conducted during Week 2 of this term. This was an opportunity for our Year 12 students to showcase their talents to the broader community. Art works and three-dimensional pieces were displayed in our gallery space. I congratulate all students who contributed to this event and have produced remarkable pieces of work.

Please continue to take care.

Regards,

Warwick Beynon
Principal



Mr Warwick Beynon | PRINCIPAL



Celebration Day

On Friday 17 October, our Year 12 VCE and VCE-VM students celebrated the end of approximately 2600 days of schooling — a journey that began back in Prep and has shaped who they are today.

The day began with a BBQ breakfast and was followed by peer awards, an emotional final assembly, and the traditional Guard of Honour, where the school community farewelled our graduating class with pride and warmth. The students also tastefully decorated the courtyard, filling it with colour, creativity and a sense of celebration that reflected their personalities and the friendships formed over the years.



A special highlight was seeing our current College Captains induct the 2026 College Captains, symbolising the passing of leadership and legacy. There were plenty of tears, laughter and shared memories as students reflected on how far they've come — from facing the challenges of remote learning during Years 7 and 8, to showing resilience and determination through adversity in their senior years. This cohort, across both pathways, have grown into a community that embodies respect, perseverance and ambition. They have set goals for the future with confidence and optimism.

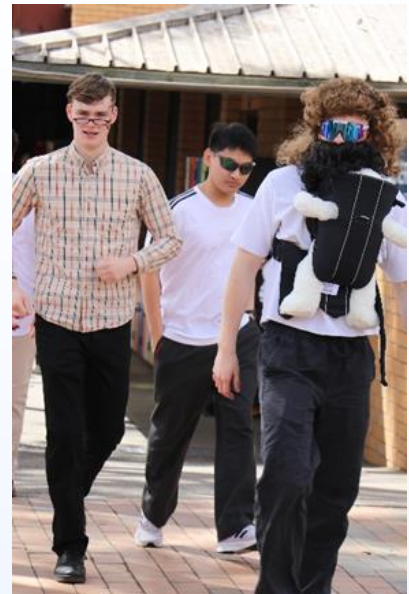
We are incredibly proud of our Year 12s and wish them every success in their exams, final projects and the exciting paths ahead.



Nicollette Plakas | YEAR 12 COORDINATOR



Celebration Day





Mathematics & Numeracy

Maths Olympiad (Year 7 and 8)



Students who completed the Maths Olympiad challenge will be awarded their certificates and prizes over the next few weeks. All students are to be congratulated on the way they approached each question, trying out different problem-solving methods. These tasks help to develop skills in solving unfamiliar problems, an essential skill moving forwards in mathematics.

The following students have been particularly recognised for their efforts. Well done everyone!

Maths Olympiad Prize Winners		
	Year 7	Year 8
1 st place medallion	Alexander Henderson	Margaret Rout (also receiving a top 25% badge)
Encouragement Award	Harriet Banchemo	Logan Waldon

Australian Mathematics Competition

This year we had a record number of 112 students participate in the AMC. This was an outstanding effort from everyone. All students will receive a certificate and a summary of their results shortly. The following students have done particularly well this year, receiving some very impressive results. Well done. We hope to see everyone join in again next year too!

Year 7: Jayden Bernales (**Distinction**). Noah Anderson, Harriet Banchemo, Jude Barbary, Indigo Boccabella, Fletcher Cook-Lee, Devansh Farwaha, Tyler Gates, Alexander Henderson, Cohen Latter, Jeremiah Miller, Joshua Ninan, Brent Olinares (**Credit**).

Year 8: Matias Avila, Jannat Kaur Mangat, Margaret Rout (**Distinction**). Logan Chestnut, Max Oliver, Janani Prabhu, Kiki Sacco, Carter Sims, Claire Sojin, Izzy Stanford Ross, Logan Waldon (**Credit**).

Year 9: Jacob Bernales, Sarvin Gnanam Rajesh, Grace Khera, Niki Markotsis, Liya Ninan, Ashwini Prajapati, Jungmin Seo (**Credit**).

Year 10: Kingston Bonett, Connor Ferguson, Benjamin Reynolds (**Distinction**). Ernie Rout (**Credit**).

Year 11: Joel Linard (**High Distinction**). Kevin Li (**Credit**).

Year 12: Theo Panetta (**Credit**).



Lauren Jackson | LEARNING SPECIALIST
(NUMERACY)



Tyler Locker | MATHEMATICS DOMAIN LEADER



Talk Money Workshop 2

The second Talk Money workshop for the year was another great opportunity for our Year 7 and Year 9 cohorts to learn about money. The Year 7 focus was on 'Spending and saving money', which considered things like how to make goals achievable and how to develop savings strategies to help manage spending influences and achieve future goals. The Year 9 focus was on 'Making money work'. Students gained an awareness of their digital profile and learned practical skills including how to read pay slips, and what taxation and superannuation is all about.



Important takeaway messages from students this year:

Year 7

- I learnt how to control my spending.
- I learnt that if you keep on saving your money, you can end up with a lot in the end.
- I learnt how to save my cash/money.
- I learnt some ways to save money, especially when you are older, also some money hacks on how to save money like mending clothes instead of buying new ones.

Year 9

- I learnt about taxes and to ask for a pay slip if you get paid in cash.
- I found all the information useful, it will help me pick a job in the future.
- I learnt about the financial differences between casual workers and part-time workers.
- I found out how to figure out how much you should be getting paid using the website.

Keep Practising Skills

Students in Year 7 and 8 should continue to practise skills using the Sunset maths platform on Essential Assessment. It's great to see progress through the levels including doing decimal multiplication and division. Students should complete their online tasks at least three times per week to develop fluency.

Recommended practise websites for all maths topics for students in Years 7 to 10 are:

<https://au.ixl.com/>

<https://www.mathsisfun.com/>



Women in STEM

The Women in STEM program hosted by RMIT and Eco-link was a very enjoyable and intriguing experience that is dedicated to encouraging women into STEM fields. This year, the program's main focus was construction and engineering.

The day began with construction-focused workshops that taught us about the infrastructure processes for buildings. We participated in surveying, electro tech, VR simulated construction and the development of sustainable technology.

After a delicious catered lunch, we transitioned to the second segment of the day where we were able to interview various women in STEM careers for a short amount of time each. In this activity we gathered insight on their field, day-to-day life and journey into their occupations. Overall, I definitely recommend the experience for any female students interested in STEM.

Larissa Dandas 10E



Eloise Crawford | SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS TEACHER



Art Anthology

Hume Art Anthology

During Term 3, SDC art students participated in workshops that explored the theme of Transformations and Beginnings. This was the theme of this year's Hume Art Anthology – a magazine compiled by Hume that celebrates young people's stories and creativity.

Congratulations to the following students who have been accepted into the anthology and have their work exhibited at Hume Global Learning Centre, Sunbury for a duration of two months:

Angel McDonald 9F
Elizabeth Sullivan 10A
Scarlett Jensen 10A
Astrid Nickel 10D
Isabelle O'Shannessy 12C



Raneen Wardy | ART DOMAIN LEADER



Interschool Volleyball

Our Year 7 students recently represented Sunbury Downs College in the Interschool Volleyball competition at Cobblebank. The boys competed on 17 October, winning two games and narrowly losing one in their group. It was a strong performance throughout the day.

The girls played on 23 October and showed great teamwork and determination, winning one game and remaining competitive in their others.

Both teams displayed outstanding behaviour and sportsmanship, especially from those attending their first interschool sports event. It was fantastic to see our students representing the College with pride and respect. Well done to all involved!



Roberto Cosner | SPORTS COORDINATOR



Year 11 Science

On Wednesday 15 October, ten students from Year 11 were selected to attend the biomedical sciences day held at GTAC and the University of Melbourne. They learnt about science pathways at the university and got to work alongside PHD students. They explored the Harry Brookes Allen Museum of Anatomy and Pathology, which has one of Australia's largest collections of real human tissue specimens and historical anatomical models. At the Biomedical Sciences Digital Learning Hub students got to hold a virtual reality heart in their hands to learn about its anatomy.



My highlight was exploring the Harry Brooks Allen Museum and seeing the anatomy of a Pica-affected stomach up close. I've come away with a much clearer understanding of the Biomedicine degree and the exciting opportunities it offers at Melbourne University.

Rebecca Efu

My favourite part was definitely the anatomy museum, it was super interesting! The whole day really opened my eyes to all the different pathways I can take after high school and helped me figure out what I want to do in the future.

Zainab Fatima

My highlight of the day was talking with the PhD students in biomedical science, as I learned a lot about biological processes, enzyme studies, and skin research—especially how some people are more prone to certain diseases than others. I'm interested in specialising in dermatology, so this really inspired me. I took away that there are many opportunities in biomedical science.

Riveen Randeniya

My highlight was having the freedom to explore the human tissue museum while still having adequate guidance from the scavenger hunt sheet and the director of the exhibition. I also enjoyed being able to walk through the day while also having time to ask questions and explore things that I wanted to.

Charlotte Peters



Courtney Thorn | MIDDLE SUB SCHOOL LEADER
YEAR 11 CHEMISTRY TEACHER



Footy Day

The annual Staff vs. Students Footy Match on Friday 19 September once again lit up Sunbury Downs College with a huge crowd in attendance. The Year 12s brought incredible spirit to the event, unveiling an impressive banner and even creating personalised footy cards for every player – teachers and students alike – adding a fun and professional touch to the day.

From the opening bounce, it was clear this year's clash was going to be much closer than in years past. The Year 12 students, full of energy and flair, pushed the staff right to the edge. However, fierce winds made it difficult for the students to fully unleash their pace and high skill level, slowing down their run-and-carry style of play. The staff, with their bigger bodies and wealth of experience, managed to absorb the students' early pressure. As the game wore on, their composure under contest and ability to win the ball in tight proved to be the difference. In the end, the teachers held on in a nail-biting finish to claim victory.



Best on ground honours clearly went to Mr Jessop, who was a competitive beast all afternoon. His relentless attack on the ball and ability to win critical contests kept the staff on top when the game hung in the balance. Mr Quigley also had a major impact in the midfield, while Mr Warren's hard work around the ground in the ruck was instrumental in securing the win for the staff side.

Despite the narrow defeat, the Year 12s earned plenty of admiration for their effort, teamwork and creativity in bringing colour and excitement to the event. Orin Efu, Caden Simpson and Nicholas Lacy were the students' best players who demonstrated grit, determination, and finesse at times. The banner and custom footy cards were a highlight for everyone involved, and the crowd's energy made the game feel like a true grand final. The 2025 edition of the Staff vs. Students footy match will be remembered as one of the closest and most thrilling in recent years. While the experience of the staff once again proved too strong, the Year 12s left the field with their heads held high, knowing they pushed their teachers to the absolute limit.



Mitchell Bongiovanni | HEALTH & PE TEACHER



Footy Day





Art Exhibition

Student Choice Art Exhibition

On Wednesday 8 October, Sunbury Downs College Art students participated in a collaborative exhibition with Sunbury Heights Primary School and the Dulap Wilim Hub.

Students in Years 7-10 had the opportunity of exhibiting any work of their choice, whether it was created at school or at home. Students' artworks were celebrated at an open night at the Dulap Wilim Hub.

Congratulations to all who participated, both for their hard work and for their bravery to share their work with the wider community.



Raneen Wardy | ART DOMAIN LEADER



Business Management

As part of Year 11 Business Management studies, you are able to go on an excursion into the city as part of the marketing unit of the course. Throughout the day, you will visit several Melbourne icons such as Federation Square and the Queen Victoria Market, discussing the clever marketing techniques that you will see in use first hand. This experience is a great opportunity to use what you see in the city as examples on SACs and exams, giving you a real and personal relation to your work.

Getting to spend time with your classmates while exploring the city and taking photos is more fun than you might think. You can certainly pull off some creative forced perspective photos, making the day a whole lot more interesting. Getting to explore the Queen Victoria Market for a tasty lunch is always a fun time, especially with the wide variety of options. Overall, the day was my highlight of the business management course, and is something I'd gladly do again.

Jamin George 11B



James Ross | ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JUNIOR SUB-SCHOOL (ACTING)
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT TEACHER



Love Bites Program

The Year 10 Love Bites program on 10 September was a comprehensive and confronting workshop that delved into the issues surrounding relationships in Australia, spanning the areas of domestic, emotional, sexual, financial and physical abuse. During the incursion, students were educated on Australia's current issues with relationship abuse, the definition and importance of consent, harmful social cultures, the legalities concerning our rights, and a clear contrast on what a healthy and unhealthy relationship looks like.



There were engaging activities, such as facilitated class discussions on aspects of relationship abuse, of which many contentions were fairly polarising. It was interesting and fun to voice and hear others' perspectives, opinions and concerns. Furthermore, it was unnerving to hear some of the statistics surrounding relationship abuse and domestic violence, such as the fact that an estimated 1 in 4 women and 1 in 8 men have experienced relationship violence from an intimate partner. The reality of relationship abuse being so prevalent in Australia that workshops, such as the Love Bites program, are enacted in schools also allows us students to realise the weight of the situation. Overall, the Love Bites program was great and relevant to our lives as maturing people.

Larissa Dandas 10E



Liam Menzies | YEAR 10 COORDINATOR



Himneet Kaur | YEAR 9 & 10 COORDINATOR



School for Student Leadership

Five students (Ruby Jackson, Holly Barker, Fraser Butler, Jesse Marrick and Thomas Brown) represented Sunbury Downs College at the School for Student Leadership throughout last term. On the sixth week, Mrs Middlemast and Mr Snelson travelled far east to Marlo to visit the students who had been living, learning, exploring and growing at the Snowy River campus. The visit included a student-led welcome, campus tour, lunch and presentations from all schools. This also included many performances from the students at the camp that showcased their different talents, including singing, instrumental and “one-man-band” capacities. Teachers from near and far came to witness their students present a community learning project that they had been working on since starting at the School for Student Leadership. We are incredibly proud of what our Year 9s have achieved, learned and how much they’ve grown as individuals. They returned with new skills, leadership and plenty of lifelong memories and friendships. We are excited to welcome them back to Sunbury Downs!



Last term, I started my School for Student Leadership journey. I learnt how to get out of my comfort zone when talking in front of people. And to push myself in uncomfortable positions.

Fraser Butler 9A

Last term, I had the opportunity to attend the School for Student Leadership program. During this journey, I had to face my fears while abseiling, overcome challenges on expos, and learnt how to get out of my comfort zone.

Holly Barker 9A



Nathan Snelson | YEAR 9 COORDINATOR



Year 7 Science



Early in 2025 Science Laboratory Technician Ms Jenny Wadeson and Science Teacher Mr Fearghus McSweeney successfully applied for a Victoria Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grant. This helped to cover the costs of plants/equipment and a smoking ceremony later in the year to support environmental stewardship at SDC. Science Domain Leader Mr Lachlan Senior and his Year 7 ACE Science class broke the ground and planted the endemic plants at two locations at the College, with assistance from maintenance team Joey and Steve.



A welcome to country and smoking ceremony was organised in conjunction with Senior Sub School Leader and English Teacher Ms Kate Plieger and presided by Wurundjeri Elder, Uncle Perry Wandin. All Year 7 students attended the ceremony at the end of last semester after the plants had a chance to take hold. These plants give students an opportunity to learn to identify some native species from the Sunbury area.



Fearghus McSweeney | SCIENCE TEACHER



Army Careers Day

On Friday 12 September, 18 students from Years 9-11 had the opportunity to attend a Career Expo with the Australian Defence Force (ADF). The expo at the Puckapunyal Military Area showcased the variety of careers available in the Army and Defence.

The students were able to have one-on-one discussions with current members and the ADF recruitment team. They participated in physical training lessons, saw live demonstrations and static displays, viewed equipment not usually open or accessible to the public and even listened to music from the Army Band!

At the end of the day students had the opportunity to ride in an Army vehicle. This was a wonderful way to finish a rewarding and interesting day!



Abbi Smith | CAREERS COORDINATOR



Year 10 Excursion

On 11 September, the Year 10 cohort visited the Melbourne Holocaust Museum as part of their study of 'Night' by Elie Wiesel.

Here the students were treated to a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of meeting with a Holocaust survivor, Paul Grinwald. Students asked questions, giving them a rare insight into what his life was like both in the concentration camps and beyond.



Divided into smaller groups, students were escorted around the museum to look at different displays where they received interesting facts about people and society at the time.

Students then took part in activities with artefacts, further cementing their knowledge of the Holocaust, what life was like for the Jewish population and how something like this was able to occur.



Rita Barichievich | ENGLISH TEACHER



Student Services

On Friday 10 October, Sunbury Downs College hosted two programs for our Year 10 students, The Man Cave and The Big Sister Experience.

The Big Sister Experience offers wellbeing and life education programs to female students, with a focus on real life education, mental health and overall wellbeing. Facilitators of The Big Sister Experience work with students to provide a safe and inclusive space for young people to build on the tools they need to navigate the complexities of the modern world. This includes students engaging in activities and discussions around self-love, body image, peer-pressure and supporting the sisterhood.

Similarly, The Man Cave is a preventative mental health organisation that empowers communities to raise generations of healthy young men. The Man Cave uses evidence-based workshops to provide boys with the critical and emotional skills they need to become self-aware, respectful and emotionally mature men. Facilitators build connections with students through creating space for real conversations, playing games that build engagement, and exploring topics that students want to speak about.



It was great to see staff at Sunbury Downs College participating in both The Big Sister Experience and The Man Cave to further build on their relationships with students and strengthen our positive school community. Students had a fantastic day engaging in the programs, and we can't wait to see how they use what they learnt towards becoming the best version of themselves. Thank you to the facilitators of The Man Cave and The Big Sister Experience for an amazing day!



Xanthe Rixon-Caruana | YOUTH WORKER

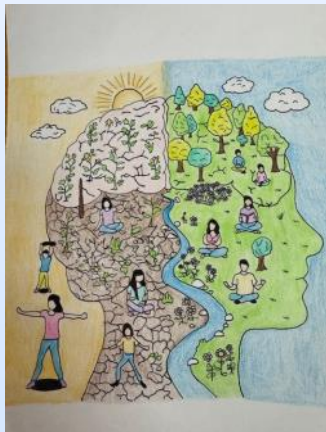


Student Services

On RUOK? Day on 10 September, our school community came together to shine a light on the importance of checking in with those around us and encouraging meaningful conversations about mental health. The day was packed with connection and fun, from a delicious BBQ to a lollie guessing competition, and some incredible live performances by our talented school band. It was fantastic to see students and staff getting involved and supporting such an important cause. We also held a writing competition, where students expressed their thoughts and messages of support. The entries were powerful, heartfelt and truly inspiring.

Congratulations to our winners:

- 1st:** Karlie Hawkey 8E for her moving piece 'RUOK'.
- 2nd:** Mali Jordan 11A for the message 'We're Here to Help'.
- 3rd:** Rebecca Efu 11B for her insightful Mind Map on mental wellbeing.



We are also proud to share that through donations and BBQ sales, we raised funds for Beyond Blue, supporting their work in mental health advocacy and support across Australia. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



Liz Baggs | SECONDARY SCHOOL NURSE



Community News

Escape the Vape



Podcast Series.

DPV Health have produced and created the Escape the Vape podcast series to educate adults in the community on the various harms associated with vaping, and practical tips on how to support young people in their lives.

Episode #1: Understanding vapes with **Dr Farhan Ulhaq**, GP & Medical Director DPV Health



Episode #2: Industry tactics & new laws with guests **Alecia Brooks** (Cancer Council NSW) & **Rachael Andersen** (Quit Victoria)

Episode #3: Supporting young people to quit with guests **Riona Taylor** (The Zone) & **Sabine Ostrowski** (Quit Victoria)



Listen on Spotify or YouTube



Visit the website for more information

www.dpvhealth.org.au/escapethevape



1300 234 263



dpvhealth.org.au

ETV_Podcast Poster V4_02SEP25



Community News

2025
SUNBURY
STREET life

O'Shanassy & Brook Streets
Sunday 23rd November
10am to 4pm

Featuring:
Live
Entertainment
& Family Fun!

Showcasing over 120 stalls, kids activities, interactive shows, live music & more!

Proudly Supported by:

sunburystreetlife.org.au | Email: sunburystreetlifeacc@gmail.com
 ph: 0409 028 400 | follow us: facebook.com/sunburystreetlifefestival



Community News



Australian
BORDER FORCE



BECOME A FOSTER CARER FOR A FUTURE DETECTOR DOG

Foster Carer Program

**Australian Border Force
are always on the hunt for
volunteer foster carers
who can help nurture
our pups to become
future detector dogs.**

- Do you live in Melbourne, greater Geelong or Ballarat areas?
- Would you like the rewarding experience of raising a pup?
- Can you provide a loving home with a secure backyard for 12 months?
- Can you commit to daily walks and three outings per week?
- We cover the associated costs including food, veterinary care and some equipment.

Your help will contribute to protecting Australia's border.

APPLY NOW!

For more information, visit
abf.gov.au/detectordogs

