



## Principal's Report



Dear Sunbury Downs College Community,

### Important Dates

- **Friday 19 December 2025**  
Last Day Term 4: 2.25pm Finish
- **Wednesday 28 January 2026**  
Term 1 Commences
- **Thurs 29—Fri 30 January 2026**  
Year 12 Retreat
- **Thursday 5 February 2026**  
College Photo Day
- **Friday 13 February 2026**  
Whole School Swimming 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

As we approach the end of 2025 the College is busy planning for 2026. The subject selection and course confirmation process for students is finalised, and this completes the planning required to create the 2026 timetable.

The Year 12 end of year examination process has concluded and we conducted the Valedictory Dinner for all graduating Year 12 students, which was held at Luxor Receptions, to acknowledge each student's achievement on Friday 5 December.

A very successful Year 10 Formal was held on Friday 28 November at Lakeside Banquet and Convention Centre. This significant school event allowed our Year 10 students to celebrate and share the end of their school year together.

The annual Academic Awards Ceremony was held on Wednesday 19 November, and we thank the community for coming together publicly to recognise our students. Congratulations to all the award winners. In excess of 150 students were acknowledged, with many students receiving multiple awards. We congratulated and publicly acknowledged a current staff member, Ms Christine Jajo, for 35 years of service to Sunbury Downs College at the ceremony.

On behalf of the College, I thank all staff who were involved in organising these important school events.



# Principal's Report

## Staffing

At the end of every year there are staff who will be farewelled by the College. We are very grateful for their contribution to our College and wish them well for the future. The departing staff are:

- Mrs Lauren Jackson
- Ms Sarah Zapparoni
- Ms Rachael Williams

As previously communicated, I am taking Long Service Leave during Semester One, 2026. The Acting Principal whilst I am on leave is Mr Klate McFarlane.

## Relocatable Building Program

The Victorian Schools Building Authority continues to work on the relocatable building construction project in readiness for 2026. We are pleased to have reached this stage of the project in a timely manner. ICT equipment and other classroom items have been purchased and will be delivered at the beginning of January.

## Robotics

A team of Year 7 and Year 8 Robotics students recently participated in the Sunbury First Lego League Competition. Unfortunately, this year the College teams did not progress to the next stage of the competition. I would like to thank Ms Wadeson, Mrs Brown and Mr O'Donovan for supervising and mentoring these students.

## Year 12 VCE Results

VCE students received their results on Thursday 11 December. All Year 12 students are to be congratulated on their achievements. A message to the community announcing the achievements of the Class of 2025 will be sent on Friday 12 December.

## Assessment and Reporting

The end of year assessment and reporting processes are underway, and staff are currently finalising Semester 2 student reports. Reports will be published on Friday 19 December.

## Step Up / Orientation Program

Step Up and Orientation programs have been implemented by the College to prepare students for their 2026 learning. On Tuesday 9 December the statewide Transition Day was held to support Grade 6 into Year 7 orientation.

I would like to thank all members of the College community for their support of the College in 2025. I wish you and your families a great Christmas vacation. Above all, travel safely and look after each other.

Regards,

Warwick Beynon  
Principal



Mr Warwick Beynon | PRINCIPAL



# Valedictory Dinner

On Friday 5 December, our school community came together with Year 12 students, their families and special guests to celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2025 at the Valedictory Dinner. Held at the Luxor Function Centre, the evening marked the formal conclusion of our students' secondary schooling. It offered a meaningful moment to reflect on their hard work, resilience and personal growth throughout their journey.



Surrounded by proud families and dedicated teachers, each graduate was recognised on stage and presented with their certificate of completion and graduation medallion. The night was filled with celebration, connection, and the opportunity to come together again after the exam period.

We are incredibly proud of the Class of 2025 and wish them every success as they embark on the next chapter of their lives.



**Nicollette Plakas** | YEAR 12 COORDINATOR



# Valedictory Dinner





# Year 10 Formal

The Year 10 Formal on Friday 28 November at Lakseide Banquet and Convention Centre was a fantastic evening filled with dancing, singing and plenty of laughter. It was wonderful to see the cohort come together and create such a positive, respectful, and joyful atmosphere. As one of the Year 10 Coordinators, I want to acknowledge how proud we are of these students. Their attitude, energy and support for one another made the night smooth, enjoyable and truly memorable.



It was a celebration that reflected the strength and character of this group, and we are grateful to everyone who helped make it such a special occasion.



**Lachlan Senior** | YEAR 10 COORDINATOR



# Year 10 Formal





# Student Voice & Science



SDC students celebrated with a free BBQ run by Student Voice on Friday 5 December using the proceeds from a 10-cent cans, cartons and bottles recycling collection initiative.

I'd like to extend a special thanks to Ms Tamara Chatterton for encouraging Student Voice to work with the Science Department on the recycling initiative. A total of 2440 drink containers were collected and recycled. In doing so, students helped the environment and economy (circular) and ultimately got to see the value in trash, so that it becomes "elegantly wasted".



**Fearghus McSweeney** | SCIENCE TEACHER



# Awards Ceremony



On Wednesday 19 November, the College community gathered for our annual Awards Ceremony to once again recognise the amazing achievements of our students, both academically and for the wider facets of school life. Over 160 students across Years 7 – 12 were acknowledged for their outstanding efforts and contributions to the College in 2025. We would like to congratulate these students; they should be proud of what they have achieved this year.

The evening was also an opportunity to formally thank the outgoing College and Middle Years Captaincy teams for their positive and thoughtful contributions to the life of the College in 2025 as well as formally inducting the 2026 teams, whom, whilst having big shoes to fill, we have every confidence will achieve great things in 2026.

The College would like to thank special guests Mr Ryan Drage (appearing on behalf of Mr Sam Rae MP), Mr Jesse Ramsay (appearing on behalf of Mr Josh Bull MP), Mr Ellen Jarman of the Naturally Cool Big Band, Mr Nathan Sellwood, brother of former student Lousie Sellwood, and College Council President, Mr Neil Christie, for their attendance on the night and their support presenting various awards. We would also like to thank all those who sponsored or provided awards for our students.

Once again, we would like to congratulate all of the award recipients for their outstanding efforts and contributions to the College in 2025.



**James Ross** | ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - JUNIOR SUB-SCHOOL (ACTING)



# Robotics

On Friday 14 November, our two robotics teams — Downs Discoveries and SDC Dragons — competed proudly at the Sunbury Region First LEGO League Competition. Both teams demonstrated excellent teamwork, creativity and problem-solving throughout the day.

Although they did not progress to the national round, we are incredibly proud of their efforts and achievements. Earlier this year, SDC Dragons won the Robot Design Award, and Downs Discoveries received the Core Values Award at the Sunbury Schools Practice Competition.



We would like to give a big thank you to our sponsors, Kuehne & Nagel, for supplying team T-shirts and logo printing, and Sunbury Connected Communities for funding that enabled all students to participate.

Congratulations to all students and staff on a fantastic season. We look forward to an exciting 2026!



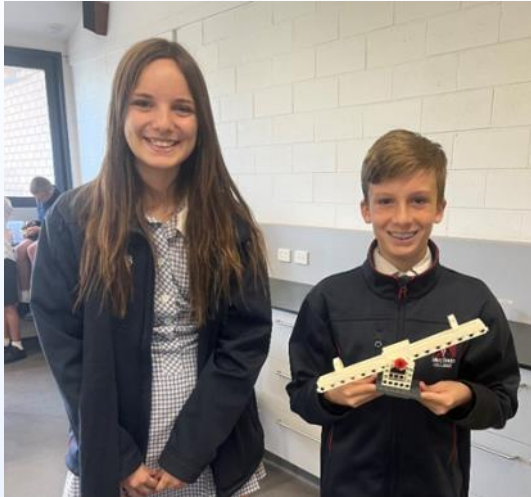
**Jenny Wadson** | ROBOTICS PROGRAM COORDINATOR



# Year 7 Science

Recently our Year 7 Science classes put into practice some of what they learned from studying forces and simple machines by creating their own machines.

As you can see from the photographs below, the students in 7E and 7C came up with some wonderful contraptions.



**Sophie Miljus** | SCIENCE TEACHER



**Fearghus McSweeney** | SCIENCE TEACHER



# Music Night

Our annual Music Night on Friday 14 November showcased about 60 students from Year 7 through to Year 12. I would like to thank our maintenance team for building the stage and setting up the chairs, Ms Lynne Compston for once again donating her plants, which always transform the gym into a beautiful space to perform in, Ms Lorraine Coster for providing tea, coffee and sweets for the parents, and Mr Luke Compston and Mr Alex Bryce for setting up the lights and sound for the evening. The night featured three bands, four ensembles and a solo performance by Jayden Barbera. The students did an amazing job, which was a testament to their hard work and dedication.

## Band Performances

**Year 7 Band:** These beginners delighted the audience with timeless classics such as 'Hot Cross Buns', 'Mary Had a Little Lamb' and 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star', as well as 'A Suite of Christmas Carols' and a rendition of Beethoven's classic song 'Ode to Joy'.

**Year 8 Band:** The band took on a classic song, 'Eye of the Tiger', music from Harry Potter, and 'The Tempest', which featured our saxophone and percussion sections.

**Senior Band:** The band performed two classic songs, 'Jupiter' and 'Mars', from the famous suite called The Planets. These songs are a staple of the concert band repertoire from the early 1900s that somehow still sound fresh today. They finished the evening with a beautiful song written by Brian Balmages called 'Rippling Watercolors'.

## Ensemble Performances

**Guitar:** Two duos performed 'Creep' by Radiohead and 'Disco Yes' by Tom Misch. Jayden Barbera performed a solo interpretation of 'Let Her Go' by Passenger.

**Saxophone:** Made up of students from Year 7 to Year 12, this ensemble performed Scheherazade by Rimsky Korsakov. This was a great opportunity for the younger students to play more difficult music and they stepped up to the challenge!

**Clarinet:** This ensemble included all clarinetists in the instrumental music department and challenged the students to not only learn their parts, but to have an individual voice and learn how to listen to everyone around them and to hear how everyone fits together. The clarinet ensemble did a great job learning extra music on top of their band performances.

Once again, our annual Music Night was a celebration of our students' dedication, teamwork and musical achievements. Thank you to Mr Warwick Beynon for being our MC for the evening, to Mr James Ross for attending and giving his support to our music program, to Mr Ryan Patterson for making the programs and supervising students, and to our instrumental music team for their hard work and passion for music!



Ronald Romero | INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC COORDINATOR



# Music Night

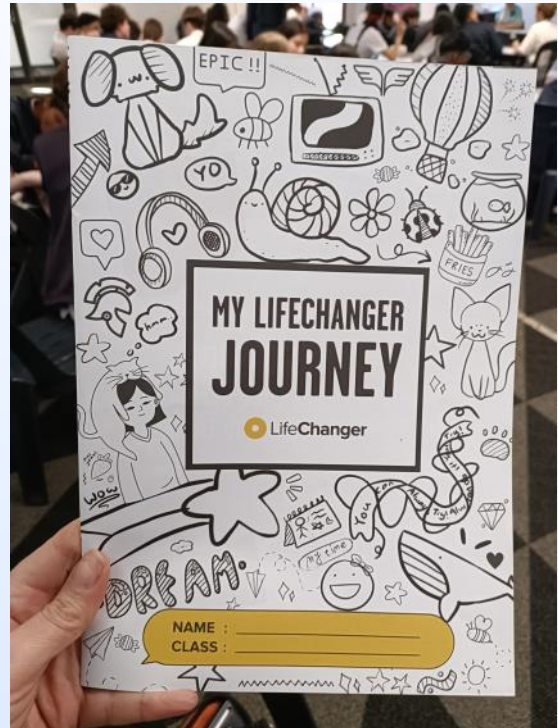




# Lifechanger Program

I feel like Lifechanger really helped us get to know our classmates and each other. I learned a lot about the people around me and myself. Being in the Lifechanger program really changed mine and Karlie's friendship. We trust each other much more, now that we know more about each other. Being in Lifechanger really did change us. It made us closer and we understand more about each other, and for that I am very thankful for the program.

Siri Vellanki 8E



Lifechanger has lived up to its name. It has changed my life. I found out more about my peers and it made me closer to people in my life. The games and activities were fun. I found myself engaged in every class, looking forward to their classes, and wanting to do it all over again.

Karlie Hawkey 8E



**Decklan Jessop | YEAR 8 COORDINATOR**



# Remembrance Day



## Remembrance Day Assembly Speech: Connie Messina

Today, we gather to pause, to take a moment out of our busy lives to reflect on something that truly matters. Remembrance Day isn't just another date on the calendar, or a tradition we repeat each year. It's a day that asks us to stop and think to remember the men and women who served, who sacrificed, and who helped shape the freedom and peace we have today. When I think about what Remembrance Day means to me, one word comes to mind — gratitude.

It's about being thankful for people we may never meet, who gave so much so that we could live freely, speak openly, and have choices about our futures. The red poppy we wear is a small symbol, but it carries a huge message — one of courage, sacrifice, and remembrance.

I often think about what life must have been like for young people during times of war. Many of them were not much older than you as students, apprentices, sons and daughters. They left their families, schools, and communities to serve, not knowing if they would return. Some never did. Others came home changed forever. And yet, they did it out of a sense of duty, loyalty, and hope for a better world.

Remembrance Day is also about connection. Even if we don't have family members who served, this day reminds us that we are part of a much bigger story, one that stretches across generations. It's about remembering the soldiers, the nurses, the families who waited, and all those affected by war both in the past and today.

When we stand in silence at 11 o'clock, I try to imagine the world going completely quiet. No phones, no traffic, no noise, just a shared moment of reflection. In that silence, I think about those who fought for peace and the kind of world they hoped we would inherit. It reminds me to value what we have, to be kind, to stand up for what's right, and to live with empathy and respect. Most importantly, Remembrance Day reminds me that remembering isn't just about looking back, it's about how we move forward. The best way we can honour those who served is by building the kind of world they dreamed of; one that values peace, fairness, and understanding.

So today, as we bow our heads and wear our poppies, let's take that moment seriously. Let's remember their bravery, their sacrifice, and their hope. And let's carry that spirit with us not just today, but every day. Lest we forget.



Connie Messina | INCLUSION LEADER



# ERC

It has been wonderful this year to see so many students using the ERC before school, at recess and during lunchtime for studying, reading, and playing chess, cards and board games. Students from junior, middle and senior year levels made the most of our welcoming space.



**Karen Collier | ERC MANAGER**



# Year 12 Legal Studies

Our Year 12 Legal Studies class visited the Melbourne Magistrates Court for a hands-on look at how the Victorian justice system operates in practice. They explored the public areas of the court and observed real matters being heard, including summary offences and committal proceedings.



The students were able to see courtroom etiquette in action, watch magistrates manage busy lists, and connect their Unit 3 and 4 knowledge to real cases. The session finished with a Q and A with a magistrate, where students asked insightful questions about sentencing, rights and access to justice.

It was an invaluable experience that brought these students' classroom learning to life and strengthened their understanding of how justice is delivered in Victoria.



**Tamara Chatterton** | LEGAL STUDIES TEACHER



# MUSE Exhibition

On Wednesday 15 October, Sunbury Downs College held its annual Year 12 art exhibition, MUSE.

This year, fifteen Art Making and Exhibiting students successfully presented artworks that they had been exploring and refining throughout 2025. Their work explored a variety of art forms including drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture. Students examined and developed artworks based on themes of isolation, growth, belonging, identity and societal expectations. Their artworks were accompanied by didactic panels that students wrote by themselves to explain their work and encourage the audience to think deeper.

Artist Vivian Qiu was present on the night. She shared with the audience her art journey, as well as tips on how to succeed in the art industry. Vivian left the audience with a message encouraging them to sow seeds and anticipate the wonderful things that they can grow into.



The following students received awards:

**Domain Award:** Kitty Sinfield, Jia-Zhen Lu and Sandra Abeywardena

**Principal's Acquisition Award:** Mackenzie Sheppard and Tyson Lamb

**People's Choice Award:** Lilly Bromley

Congratulations to the 2025 Art Making and Exhibiting class on their effort and hard work this year. Ms Wardy and the Art team are extremely proud of you all!



**Raneen Wardy | ART DOMAIN LEADER**



# MUSE Exhibition





# House Captains 2026

We are pleased to announce the following House Masters and Captains for 2026:

## AITKEN

- **House Master** — Nicollette Plakas
- **Captain** — Aalyrah Tuariki
- **Vice Captain** — Charlotte Barre Whitford

## EVANS

- **House Master** — Jaclyn Demetriou
- **Captain** — Joel Keay
- **Vice Captain** — Grace Wareham

## MITCHELL

- **House Master** — Decklan Jessop
- **Captain** — Tina Keubekian
- **Vice Captain** — Logan Waldon

## JACKSON

- **House Master** — Nathan Snelson
- **Captain** — James Vella
- **Vice Captain** — Olivia Curtis



**Susan Aldridge** | HOUSE COORDINATOR



**Ashley Gillard** | HOUSE COORDINATOR



# Head Start



## **Kaelan Myers — Certificate III Carpentry**

Kaelan started a VET Certificate II Building and Construction pre-apprenticeship this year and worked one day each week with an employer.

This led to him starting his Certificate III in Carpentry SBAT with the same employer. He is learning framing, lock up and fixing. Great work, Kaelan!

## **Alex Arsenoulis – Certificate III Automotive Heavy Vehicle**

Alex first discussed his dream of becoming a Diesel Mechanic with Head Start at the SDC Careers Expo. Alex has completed structured workplace learning with three large international companies.

Alex's qualities and skills impressed the employer greatly and he was offered a full-time apprenticeship, where he will learn all aspects of the industry to become a highly regarded technician. Alex's family are very supportive in driving Alex to and from work in Derrimut. Well done, Alex!



**Karen Riley | ASSISTANT DIRECTOR NORTHERN METRO HUB  
HEAD START**



# Uniform Shop



## NOONE

BEST IN CLASS SINCE 1947

### Sunbury Downs College Uniform Shop

#### Trading hours

The Uniform Shop will be **OPEN**

#### December 2025 Last day of trade

Monday 15 December 3.15pm – 5.00pm

#### January 2026 School Holiday Trading Hours

Monday 19 January 2.30pm – 5.30pm

Thursday 22 January 8.00am – 12.00pm

Monday 26 January **CLOSED** Australia Day

Tuesday 27 January 8.00am – 11.00am

Wednesday 28 January 8.00am – 11.00am (First day of term)

#### TERM 1 TRADING HOURS

The following normal trading hours resume from Thursday 29 January

Monday 3.15pm – 5.00pm

Thursday 3.15pm – 5.00pm

Full uniform is also available at Noone Niddrie store:

543 Keilor Road Niddrie VIC 3042

Phone: 03 9379 5037

Email: [niddrie@noone.com.au](mailto:niddrie@noone.com.au)

#### Trading Hours

Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm

Saturday 9.00am – 1.00pm

Sunday and Public Holidays **CLOSED**

Christmas trading hours – Closed from 1pm on Wednesday 24 December 2025, re-open Friday 2 January 2026

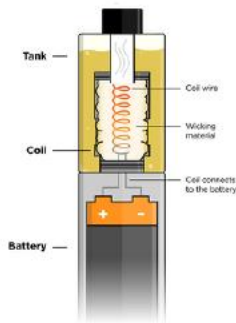


# Vaping Prevention

## Escape the Vape

### What is a vape?

Vapes, or e-cigarettes, are battery operated devices that use a coil to heat an e-liquid into an aerosol. This aerosol is then inhaled into the lungs & airways and delivered into the bloodstream.



## Escape the Vape

### What is in a vape?

The e-liquid in vapes contain up to 200 toxic and corrosive chemicals. These chemicals can also be found in:

- Nail polish remover
- Bug spray
- Paint thinner
- Fumes from car exhaust
- Industrial glue



These chemicals are known to cause cancer and damage the brain - they do not belong in the lungs.



## Escape the Vape



### Benefits of avoiding or quitting vapes

#### Brain

Allowing the brain to continue its healthy development, including reducing the risk of stress, anxiety and depression.

#### Mouth & throat

Keeping the mouth, teeth and gums healthy.

#### Lungs

Keeping the lungs and airways healthy, making it easier to breathe and complete physical activity.

#### Heart & cardiovascular system

Allowing the heart & chest to perform at its best and complete physical activity more comfortably.

#### Stomach & intestines

Allowing the digestive tract to function more easily, reducing the risk of nausea & vomiting.

#### Immune system

Keeping the immune system healthy and strong, making it less likely to fall sick.

#### Cancer risk

Reduced exposure to cancer causing chemicals.





# Vaping Prevention

## Talking to your teen about vaping

A conversation guide for parents



Looking for strategies to talk to your child about vaping? Follow this VicHealth conversation guide to have a meaningful, non-threatening conversation about vaping.

The best time to start the conversation is now.



## Support to quit

Quitline is a free, non-judgmental and confidential service to support people looking to quit smoking or vaping. Quitline counsellors will help motivate you, build your quit plan, provide tips and so much more.

Wherever you are on your quitting journey,  
Quit is here to help.

Call 13 7848 or SMS 0482 090 634 to speak with a friendly Quitline counsellor.





## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

# SUNBURY UNITED FC 2026

## U14, U16, U18 GIRLS U15, U18 BOYS

### **Expressions of Interest to join Sunbury United FC in 2026!**

SUFC is looking for players to join existing squads in boys and girls teenage groups.

If you're looking at joining SUFC, fill in an Expression of Interest at <https://www.sufc.com.au/registration/>