



Respect

Resilience

Ambition

Community

## Principal's Report



### Important Dates

- **Tuesday 5 March 2024**  
Catch up College Photos
- **Wednesday 6 March 2024**  
Interschool Swimming Carnival
- **Friday 8 March 2024**  
Debutante Ball
- **Monday 11 March 2024**  
Labour Day Public Holiday
- **Wednesday 13 March 2024**  
NAPLAN commences
- **Thursday 14 March 2024**  
Year 11 Careers Expo
- **Thursday 21 March 2024**  
Harmony Day
- **Monday 25 March 2024**  
NAPLAN concludes
- **Tuesday 26 March 2024**  
WMR Swimming carnival
- **Wednesday 27 March 2024**  
PIMS 11am - 7pm  
- Not student free
- **Thursday 28 March 2024**  
Last Day Term 2.25 finish
- **Monday 15 April 2024**  
Term 2 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

Dear Sunbury Downs College Community,

Welcome to the 2024 School Year. I hope that all of our community members are well and had a restful December/January vacation period with their families and friends.

The College has commenced its Teaching and Learning Program for 2024 with teachers and students settling in well for the start of the year.

### **Year 12 Retreat**

The Year 12 VCE retreat was conducted at the Melbourne CYC in Collins Street from Thursday 8 – Friday 9 February. This was a well-attended event by both mainstream VCE and Vocational Major students. Study tips, goal setting, revision and administrative information was delivered to students who participated in preparation for a successful final year of study.

### **Whole School Academic Assembly**

On Wednesday 31 January we conducted our first whole school assembly. We welcomed new staff, students and families as we commenced another productive school year. During the assembly we publicly acknowledged the achievements of the class of 2023. We acknowledged and celebrated the achievements of the 2023 College Dux Lily Morgan who obtained an ATAR of 99.2, excelling in Mathematics and Science subjects.

Lily attended Sunbury Downs College since Year 7. She has been accepted into Science at Melbourne University.



# Principal's Report

## College Photos

Student Photos were taken on Friday 2 February. A second day has been scheduled on Tuesday 5 March to "catchup" students who were absent on the day and to complete Leadership/group photographs.

## Year 7 and Meet and Greet BBQ

The Meet and Greet BBQ to welcome Year 7 students and families new to the school was held on Monday 19 February.

## Swimming Carnival

On Friday 16 February the College conducted a successful swimming carnival at the Sunbury Aquatics Centre. Congratulations to competitors and students from Evans House (Red) who were the winning house on the day.

## Student Toilets/Amenity Upgrade

Stage 1 (Junior) building works to upgrade the student bathrooms and amenities have concluded and students from all year levels are welcome to use these facilities whilst Stage 2 (Senior) works continue. The revised date for completion of this project is during the second week of the Term 1 School Holidays.

## College Council Election 2024 -2025

Thank you to all parents and staff who contributed to the College Council nomination process. In accordance with due process, the closing date for nominations for College Council closed at 4.00pm on Thursday 22 February 2024. The results of the nomination process were communicated to the community on Friday 23 February 2024, as follows:

### Newly Appointed Parent Members 2024/2026

1. Mr Sean Bassett
2. Mr Neil Christie
3. Ms Natalie Harrison
4. Ms Katherine Michell
5. MsCassandra Pieroni

### Newly Appointed Staff Members 2024/2026

Mr Dwayne Stojcevski

The Constitution of the 2024-2025 College Council will be formally ratified at the Special and First Council Meeting after the poll on Thursday 21 March 2024.

Regards,

Warwick Beynon  
Principal



Mr Warwick Beynon | PRINCIPAL



# Assistant Principal

It feels like just yesterday that we were welcoming our students for the start of the academic year with a mix of excitement and nervousness about what the year would bring for them. This was even more evident with our 2024 Year 7 cohort along with new students joining us at other year levels.

Then as it often does, the term was flying and in the blink of an eye we have reached the middle of Term 1.

Looking back, a lot has happened for our students in the Junior Sub-School over the first half of the term. As already mentioned, we welcomed the College's new 2024 Year 7 cohort who all engaged in a two week transition program that has seen them settle quickly into positive learning routines.

It was fantastic to meet so many of our new families at our Meet and Greet BBQ on Monday 19 February. With the weather being kind to us it was a great event with well over 100 family members attending, meeting with our staff and helping to establish those key relationships that will support our newest students throughout their educational journey at Sunbury Downs College.



Our Year 8 cohort has similarly had a positive start, experiencing new subjects for the first time, including Food Studies, Visual Communication & Design, Digital Technologies and Music. It has been fantastic to see the growth in our Year 8's from 2023 to 2024. No longer our new students, but the leaders of the newly formed Junior Sub-School. I am excited to watch them further grow into this role.

The second half of Term 1 stands to be just as busy as the first half with NAPLAN, Robotics Club and Production in the coming months.

I can't wait to see how our students embrace these opportunities and look forward to sharing these stories with you in our next newsletter.



**Dwayne Stojcevski** | ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL—JUNIOR SUB-SCHOOL (YEAR 7 & 8)



# Year 12 Retreat

On the morning of Thursday 8 February the Year 12 cohort headed off to our Retreat. Meeting time was 10.30am outside Southern Cross station, but many groups came in earlier to enjoy a breakfast together. After the meeting we walked to our accommodation, CYC City, where we began our first activities. The theme of the Retreat was 'Pathways to Success' and in line with this, we listened to the speeches of Mr. Beynon, Mr. Watson, Mr. Nassiep and Ms. Carew. They spoke to us about what success looks like to them and how they achieved it. On Thursday night after dinner we took a walk from our accommodation to Southbank, where we had a bit of free time to wander in our groups and enjoy some ice-cream and watch some amazing street performers. After getting back we were allowed some free time before bed, where we played games, watched movies and spent time in our rooms. On Friday morning we were lucky enough to have special guest speaker Mr Scott B. Harris who came to talk to us about his journey with brain injuries after a motorcycle accident and how he has overcome adversity. After that, we sadly packed our luggage up and headed out for the last activity - The Amazing Race around the city. We were given a list of locations and tasks where we had to take a picture of as many as we could. These included something unique from the Queen Victoria Market, a photo out the front of the State Library and riding the City Circle Free Tram. Overall, Retreat was a great experience and we want to thank all those who helped to make it happen.

Charlotte Brennan 12B



**Tierney Carew | YEAR 12 COORDINATOR**





# Careers

## CAREERS & PATHWAYS

2024 is off to a great start and we are busy implementing Careers Programs into the curriculum at Sunbury Downs College across various year levels.

Some of the Careers Programs that students are involved within the near future are:

- Year 12 Students – Individual pathway discussions – Term 1
- Year 11 Students – Victorian Careers & Employment Expo held at the Showgrounds on Thursday 14 March
- Year 10 Work Experience Program - Monday 24 - Friday 28 June Term 2. Students need to have their placements finalised by the end of Term 1
- Year 9 Career Insights – Morrisby Report held in Terms 2 & 3

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

Joanna Rains – Careers Coordinator (Tuesday & Thursday) email: [Joanna.Rains@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Joanna.Rains@education.vic.gov.au)

Melanie Hatch – Careers Coordinator (Wednesday & Friday) email: [melanie.hatch@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:melanie.hatch@education.vic.gov.au)



**Jo Rains** | SENIOR SUB SCHOOL LEADER (ACTING) & CAREERS ADVISOR



**Melanie Hatch** | CAREERS ADVISOR



# Swimming Carnival

On Friday 16 February 2024, 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 wading relay and noodle races. Many staff and students supported the Student Voice BBQ. Student relay teams took on the staff team but the staff were far too strong and took out the win easily. Students were able to take part in a free swim at the end of the day.

After tallying the results from all events on the day it was Evans who took out the title of winners of the carnival for 2024. Mr Michael Watson presented the annual shield to Evans Captain Nathan Richards and Vice Captain Sonechka Javier.

## Overall Results

1 <sup>st</sup>	Evans	1031 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mitchell	1001 points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jackson	890 points
4 <sup>th</sup>	Aitken	684 points

## Individual Age group Champions

Age group	Female	Male
Under 13	Charlotte Hedges	James Butler Carter Sims
Under 14	Aaliyah Phung	Chase Green
Under 15	N/A	N/A
Under 16	Summer Newton	Connor Lindsay-Scholtz
Under 17	Alex Rosewall-Davison	Ashley Hennessy
Under 21	Abbey Caldane	Nathan Richards

A big thank you to all staff and students who helped to make this year's swimming carnival a success. I look forward to the Athletics Carnival on Thursday 9 May. More information will be made available on compass prior to the Term 1 holidays.

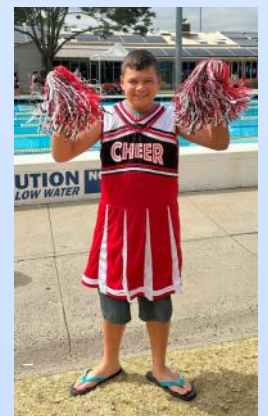
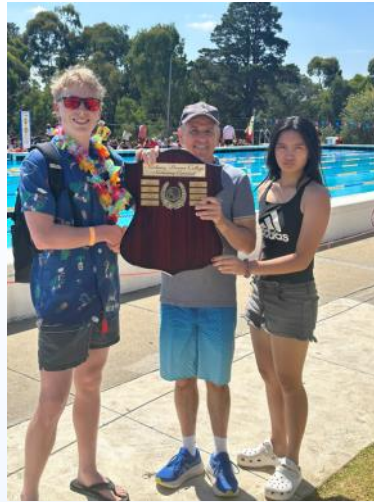


**Susan Aldridge** | HOUSE COORDINATOR





# Swimming Carnival







# Swimming Carnival







# Production



We are thrilled to announce that this year's production by the SDC is the beloved classic, Mary Poppins! Auditions have kicked off, showcasing our students' tremendous courage and resilience. A big round of applause to all who have stepped up to audition so far!

Stay tuned as we anticipate unveiling the cast within the next few weeks, marking the beginning of our journey into rehearsals.

In the upcoming weeks, we will also be reaching out to our wonderful SDC community for volunteers. We're seeking enthusiastic students and parents to lend their talents and support in various areas such as set design, costume creation and assisting with front of house operations.

Mark your calendars for an enchanting experience as Mary Poppins will be performed on Thursday 18 - Saturday 20 July 2024. We can't wait to see you all there, creating magical memories together!



**Jo Rains** | SENIOR SUB SCHOOL LEADER (ACTING) & CAREERS ADVISOR



# Teaching & Learning

In 2024, the Teaching and Learning programme has begun at all year levels, with students settling well to the new routines and rigours of their classes.

To enable students to be ready to learn, we ask that students are equipped with all the required materials (as outlined by the [booklist](#)) and supplies. As students advance through their schooling, more specific materials and supplies are required. Please ensure that your child maintains these materials and that items that are lost or exhausted are replaced.

You can also support your child's learning at home by checking in with their curriculum content, viewing their planner regularly to overview your child's organisational habits and homework requirements and by keeping up to date with any Compass or email correspondence. Similarly, all students have had their Learning Tasks published to Compass for students and families to view.

At VCE, students are provided with a SAC calendar to assist with planning their semester, with all subjects' assessment dates. Please take particular note of any subjects that require students to make an after-school commitment. We run SACs after school for several reasons: to promote and replicate formal examination processes, allowing students to build their familiarity and security with these formal procedures; to ensure equity across classes in the case of multiple classes; and to maximise effective use of class time.

We are excited to be back on campus and to have begun our teaching and learning with your child.



**Lauren Sinderberry** | TEACHING AND LEARNING LEADER: CURRICULUM & TIMETABLE (ACTING)





## **Why Reading is Important for Everyone**

One of the basic reasons why reading is important is that it helps you grow mentally, emotionally and psychologically. Every book gives you an opportunity to learn new things and explore new ideas. Reading books increases your knowledge and makes you smarter. But the importance of reading is not limited to just these benefits. You will be amazed to know how beneficial reading books can be for you.

### **1. It helps you discover yourself**

Every good book opens up new dimensions of thoughts for the reader. When you read a book, you somehow try to connect the events, emotions, experiences and characters in the books with yourself. This not only keeps you engrossed into the book but it also makes you realize how you would react and feel to those situations that have not yet occurred in your life. It helps you broaden your dimension of likes and dislikes and things that would please you. So with every page that you read, you have a chance to discover a new part of yourself!

### **2. It improves your focus and concentration**

The Internet has definitely revolutionized our world. But there's a huge drawback too. For many of us, a large part of our day is spent surfing, chatting, watching videos, reading unnecessary memes and articles online. No wonder people are growing more impatient and losing focus. However, reading books is one of those constructive habits that actually helps us improve our concentration power. It helps us to train our brain to focus our attention and live in the present.

### **3. Reading improves your emotional health**

Books are full of emotions. Sometimes they will make you cry with every turning page and sometimes they will just keep you smiling. It can fill you with anger when the antagonist of the story succeeds in his evil plan, but again it can give you immense pleasure to see your hero achieving his goal. Books can make us happy, sad, jealous, loved, betrayed and so on! Books are thus an amalgamation of different mixed emotions that ultimately help us grow emotionally!

### **4. Importance of reading in memory enhancement**

There are a lot of things that we need to remember while reading a book. Name of the characters and their features, name of the places, plots and sub-plots, the sequence of events, important conversations etc. are some of the key information we need to keep in mind while reading. The ability to retain this information keeps improving with the number of books that you read. As your brain learns to remember information from the story-line, it also becomes better at remembering other things of your life. So by reading books, you are also indirectly training your brain in improving your memory.

### **5. It expands your knowledge and makes you smarter**

Books are a very rich source of information. With every book you read, you get to learn new things. The more you read, the more you know about different people, their behaviour and experiences, different places, different cultures and facts that otherwise you would not have known. Reading books adds depth to your knowledge base. With your increasing knowledge, you become capable of making better decisions and choices in life. You become aware of your surroundings and tend to have an open mind.



## 6. Improves your vocabulary, language command and communication skills

If you are a reader, you probably know the importance of reading in enhancing your vocabulary. Reading books is one of the best ways to improve your vocabulary. Moreover, the conversations in the books also help you to strengthen your command over the language. Your sentence formation becomes quick, better and qualitative. You rarely get stuck for lack of words. Once you have a richer vocabulary and controlled command over the language, your communication skills automatically become better.

## 7. Reduces stress and helps you sleep better

Reading is one of the best ways to relax your mind. Reading for even six minutes can reduce your stress levels by as much as 68 percent! Psychologists believe that this is probably because when we are lost in a book, our mind is focused on reading and that little distraction from the real world and our problems into a literary world eases the tensions in muscles and heart. So the ultimate way of relaxing your mind is by losing yourself in a book! Read more and you will realize yourself that your stress levels become significantly lower with time. Reading has a pretty positive impact on another important aspect of our life – a good night sleep! Reading books calms your mind and helps you sleep better.

## 8. Importance of reading in enhancing your critical and analytical thinking

While reading, a lot of information is being processed in our brain simultaneously. It opens up many different perspectives for your brain to comprehend. If you are reading a mystery or suspense book, your brain constantly tries to guess certain outcomes and events. It also has to relate one event to the other to make sense in the story. All this, in turn, sharpens our mind and enhances our critical and analytical thinking skills.

And if you aren't reading yet, don't wait any longer, the best time to start reading is today!

Happy Reading



**Meredith Martell** | ERC MANAGER





# Mathematics & Numeracy

## Essential Assessment - My Numeracy Program

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have access to the Essential Assessment Program this year at SDC. Following some initial assessments students will have the opportunity to use the program to work on their individual learning gaps.

Students should receive log-in details over the coming weeks. If you would like to learn more about this program please contact us.

## 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 Years 7 and 8 students. Round 1: May 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The Australian Mathematics Competition (open to students from Years 7 to 12)
- Melbourne University Maths Competition

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

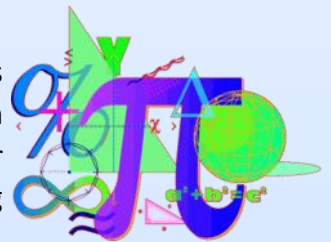
## Helpful numeracy or mathematical fluency websites:

- [www.mathplayground.com](http://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](http://www.khanacademy.org)  
(maths content suitable for all levels to VCE)

## Afterschool Maths Homework Club: Mondays 3:30 – 4:30pm

### Venue: Room 4A

Every Monday afternoon students have the opportunity to take part in the Maths Homework Club. All students, from Years 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.

[Lauren.Jackson@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Lauren.Jackson@education.vic.gov.au)

[tyler.locker@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:tyler.locker@education.vic.gov.au)



**Lauren Jackson** | LEARNING SPECIALIST (NUMERACY) **Tyler Locker** | MATHEMATICS DOMAIN LEADER



# HeadStart Success Story

To celebrate former SDC student Will Paul's success in the aviation industry the Premier, Jacinta Allan and Minister for Education, Ben Carroll held a Press Conference on Monday 12 February 2024 together with SDC Principal, Warwick Beynon and HeadStart NMH Assistant Director, Karen Riley.

The Aviation industry has a skills shortage of qualified engineers. Karen and Will's school HeadStart Coordinator arranged to change the Victorian regulations to allow him to be the first SBAT student in the state to undertake this apprenticeship. William transitioned to a full-time apprenticeship with Interair in September 2023 and he has a bright future ahead in a role and industry he is passionate about and has been a trailblazer for others to follow. An amazing achievement, well done Will!



**Karen Reilly** | HEADSTART ASSISTANT DIRECTOR





# International Program

International program — Homestays needed.

Currently Sunbury Downs College has 11 students in our International Program. As part of the International Students Program (ISP), students will require homestay provision through which accommodation, meals, internet facilities and services e.g., meals, gas, electricity, desk, etc., are provided by the nominated homestay provider. The homestay experience is an excellent way for students to improve their English, learn more about Australian culture and to make the most of their International Education experience. It is essential that homestay accommodation is in compliance with the Department International Student Program Quality Standards (2015). In preparation for our intake of International Students in 2025, the College welcomes expressions of interest from families who are interested in providing homestay. Weekly fees that students pay for homestay is \$ 310.00.



**Anina Alexander** | INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS COORDINATOR

**Help needed in  
your community.  
Paid positions  
available now.**



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