



# Portland Secondary College Newsletter

**TERM 1 WEEK 3**

11th February 2026

## Highlights

- **Principal's Report**
- **Sports**
- **Student Achievements**
- **Library News**
- **Year 7 Camp**
- **Parent Feedback**

and more.....

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Swimming Sports
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February - School Photo Day
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February - GD Swimming
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February - Year 7 Welcome BBQ
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March - Athletics Day
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March - VCE VM Careers Expo - Warrnambool  
- Live4Life Crew Induction
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March - PSC Student Leader Induction Ceremony



**Portland Secondary College is a Child Safe School**

# Jo Kindred, Principal



## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The first couple of weeks of 2026 have flown by with many students coming to visit me in the office just to say hello or to showcase some of their class work they have begun. It is wonderful to see students enjoying being back in school and taking pride in the outstanding quality of the work they are producing.

The start to the year has been extremely busy for all students, and particularly so for the new cohort of Year 7. They enjoyed a wonderful three days at camp and engaged in a whole host of team building activities including team activities, scavenger hunts, ten pin bowling, mini golf, swimming, and lawn bowls. Students also spent some time working on relational capacity building activities which is really important as they meet students from other schools and make new friends. The weather was great, almost too warm and the students all had a wonderful time getting to know their classmates and their teachers, going home very tired after the camp.

Lots of building works have been occurring at the College. Our Year 7 Hub has new flooring and carpet, a new roof and has been configured slightly differently this year. Students started in the Hub this week and have already commented on what a great space it is. We are also very excited to welcome back 'Hubble', the Hub's pet axolotl, who has been enjoying her summer holidays at Mr Elijah's home. The technology rooms are having a makeover with all the floors being sanded and polished, the bike enclosure has been painted as have parts of the Gym, indoors and out, and a number of other rooms have had minor repairs completed. Around the GLG (the Year 11 and Year 12 space) and the trade training Centre, a great deal of drainage work is occurring to prevent future flooding of the grounds in the event of a huge rainstorm. In the next few weeks, this work will move further into the school and be centred around repairs to the Marriott Theatre, and while all this is a little inconvenient at times, it will be wonderful when it is all completed.

Last Monday our School Captains, Sienna Stone and Gracie Walder hosted a whole school assembly where we welcomed all students back to school and introduced our new staff to the student body. Sienna and Gracie, both shared their leadership journey's to becoming a school captain and the arrangements for the Swimming Sports were outlined. This year the Swimming will occur on Friday the 13th of February but only those students who have nominated to swim will be going to the pool to compete. The rest of the student body will enjoy a normal day back at school.

**Respect**

**Success**

**Resilience**

**Creativity**

An opportunity exists for parents to get involved in School Council. If you would like to have a say in state education and the operational decisions of Portland Secondary College, please get in touch with the College. Keep an eye on future newsletters for further details.

Finally, this week, the College is looking for a Canteen Manager as Cindy Taylor, our manager of the past few years is starting on the journey to become a teacher. If you would like to hear more about the role of Canteen manager and exactly what is involved please contact Jemma Aitchison on [Jemma.Aitchison@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jemma.Aitchison@education.vic.gov.au) or call the general office on 55231344.

# **PARENT INPUT: SCHOOL POLICIES VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY**

Every year Portland Secondary College invites parent input into a number of school policies. This week we publish the first of these – the College’s Statement of Values and School Philosophy.

If you have any comments or contributions regarding the Policy, please email the Principal on [Portland.sc@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Portland.sc@education.vic.gov.au).

Please see the following pages to read the Statement of Values and School Philosophy.

**Respect**

**Success**

**Resilience**

**Creativity**



# Portland Secondary College

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## Statement of Values and School Philosophy

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the values of our school community and explain the vision, mission and objectives of our school.

### POLICY

Portland Secondary College is committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all students, staff and members of our community. Our school recognises the importance of the partnership between our school and parents and carers to support student learning, engagement and wellbeing. We share a commitment to, and a responsibility for, creating an inclusive and safe school environment for our students.

The programs and teaching at Portland Secondary College support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy, including a commitment to:

- elected government
- the rule of law
- equal rights for all before the law
- freedom of religion
- freedom of speech and association
- the values of openness and tolerance.

This policy outlines our school's vision, mission, objective, values and expectations of our school community. This policy is available on our school website, our staff induction Knowledge Base and is published in an early newsletter each year.

To celebrate and embed our Statement of Values and Philosophy in our school community, we

- display posters and banners that promote your values in our school
- celebrate our values in our school newsletter
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

### VISION

At Portland Secondary College our purpose is to provide a safe and supportive learning community that offers all students the opportunity to develop the skills, knowledge and dispositions needed to become successful, creative, resilient and respectful learners.

### MISSION

At Portland Secondary College we strive to create an environment where high expectations, a wealth of opportunities, and dedicated professional growth enable students to embody our core values.



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## OBJECTIVE

Our school's objectives are considered as part of the 4 yearly strategic planning process and reflected in the goals listed in our current School Strategic Plan (SSP). We also develop an Annual Implementation Plan to operationalise the goals and key improvement strategies contained in our SSP.

## VALUES

Portland Secondary College's values are Respect, Success, Resilience and Creativity. We treat ourselves and others with consideration, being courteous at all times and acknowledging diversity and rights of others. We are successful when we strive to do our very best, being dedicated to learning and reaching our goals. We show resilience by persevering through challenges and by working together with a focus on positive outcomes. We take ownership of our behaviour and actions, persistently contributing in a positive way across all parts of the College. We demonstrate creativity when we use our initiative to have a positive impact as a global citizen.

## BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Portland Secondary College acknowledges that the behaviour of staff, parents, carers and students has an impact on our school community and culture.

We acknowledge a shared responsibility to create a positive learning environment for the children and young people at our school.

Shared expectations of staff, parents, carers and students to support positive student behaviour are set out in the [Respectful, safe, engaged: shared expectations to support student behaviour statement](#).

Students are also supported by school staff to meet expected standards of behaviour as outlined in our Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy, Inclusion and Diversity Policy, and Bullying Prevention Policy which are all located on our website.

Staff must follow our school and department policies and the Victorian Public Service Code of Conduct and Values. Teaching staff also adhere to the [Victorian Teaching Profession's Code of Conduct](#).

Parents and carers play a vital role in helping their child understand and meet shared behaviour expectations. Additionally, information about the expectations of parents and carers to ensure schools remain respectful and inclusive places is outlined in the department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#).

## UNREASONABLE BEHAVIOURS

Schools are not public places, and the Principal has the right to permit or deny entry to school grounds (for more information, see our Visitors Policy).

Unreasonable behaviour that is demonstrated by school staff, parents, carers, students or members of our school community will not be tolerated at school, or during school activities.

Unreasonable behaviour includes:

- being violent or threatening violence of any kind, including physically intimidating behaviour such as aggressive hand gestures or invading another person's personal space
- speaking or behaving in a rude, aggressive or threatening way, either in person, via email, social media, or over the telephone
- sending demanding, rude, confronting or threatening letters, emails or text messages



# Portland Secondary College

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- discriminatory or derogatory comments
- the use of social media or public forums to make inappropriate or threatening remarks about the school, staff or students.

Harassment, bullying, violence, aggression, threatening behaviour and unlawful discrimination are unacceptable and will not be tolerated at our school.

Unreasonable behaviour and/or failure to uphold the principles of this Statement of Values and School Philosophy may lead to further investigation and the implementation of appropriate consequences by the Principal.

At the Principal's discretion, unreasonable behaviour may be managed by:

- requesting that the parties attend a mediation or counselling sessions
- implementing specific communication protocols
- written warnings
- conditions of entry to school grounds or school activities
- exclusion from school grounds or attendance at school activities
- reports to Victoria Police
- legal action.

Inappropriate student behaviour will be managed in according with our school's Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy and Bullying Prevention Policy.

Our Statement of Values and School Philosophy ensures that everyone in our school community will be treated with fairness and respect. In turn, we will strive to create a school that is inclusive and safe, where everyone is empowered to participate and learn.

## **COMMUNICATION**

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in the staff Knowledge Base
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

## **RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES**

Department of Education policies and resources:

- [Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy](#)
- [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)
- [Respectful, safe, engaged: shared expectations to support student behaviour](#)



# Portland Secondary College

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Portland Secondary College policies:

- [Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy](#)
- [Inclusion and Diversity Policy](#)
- [Bullying Prevention Policy](#)
- [Complaints Policy](#)
- [Respect for School Staff Policy](#)

## **POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Policy last reviewed	February 2025 – Version 4
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	February 2028

# Portland Secondary College

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## 2026 TERM 1 CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> - Swimming Sports

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> - School Photo Day

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> - GD Swimming

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> - Year 7 BBQ

- School Photos backup (in the afternoon)

### MARCH

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Athletics Day

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> - VCE VM Careers Expo - Warrnambool

- Live4Life Crew Induction

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> - PSC Student Leader Induction Ceremony

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Labour Day Public Holiday

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> - NAPLAN (Year 7&9)

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> - NAPLAN (Year 7&9)

- Live4Life Launch - Year 8s and L4L Crew

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> - NAPLAN (Year 7&9)

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> - White Card Training Day

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> - Grade 6 Experience Day

- Year 7&8 Home Study Day

- 2027 Year 7 Information Evening 6:30pm

- Year 9 Future Me

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> - GD Athletics

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Year 7-11 Elevate Study Sessions

- Year 12 Elevate Study Skills (after school)

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> - Year 12 Tertiary Information Session

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> - GWR Swimming

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> - Young Leaders Conference

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> - Year 9 Morrisby Profiling

### APRIL

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Parent/Teacher Interviews

- End Term 1

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> - Term 2 commences



Calendar was last updated on  
11/02/2026.

Please monitor Compass, Newsletter and  
Social Media for updates.

# Who is Who?

## Principal Class

Principal Assistant Principal of Curriculum & Learning  
Assistant Principal of Discipline & Wellbeing

Ms. Jo Kindred  
Ms. Kirsten Mitchell  
Mr. Colin Payne

## Leadership Team

Learning Specialist - Inclusive Teaching  
Leading Teacher - Alternate Programs  
  
Leading Teacher - Year 7 Hub Facilitator & Data  
Compass, NAPLAN & Reporting Data  
Inclusive Practice Leader

Ms. Deandra Tanner  
Mrs. Christine Dixon  
  
Ms. Mollie Reed  
Mr. Braden Dawson  
Mrs. Elizabeth Paulet

## Year Level Leaders

Year 7 Student Engagement Leader  
Year 8 Student Engagement Leader  
Year 9 Student Engagement Leader  
Year 10 Student Engagement Leader  
Year 11 & 12 Senior School Leader  
Year 11 & 12 VCE Manager

Ms. Mollie Reed  
Ms. Dakota Robinson  
Mr. Adrian Porter  
Ms. Susanne Patterson  
Ms. Sue Taylor  
Ms. Sha Gallagher

## PLAT Leaders

English  
Health & Physical Education  
LOTE - Indonesian  
Visual & Performing Arts  
Mathematics  
Humanities  
Science  
Design & Technology

Ms. Marika Howman  
Ms. Kirsten Mitchell  
Ms. Jane McGrory  
Ms. Sue Taylor  
Ms. Emma Speers  
Mr. Andrew Harris  
Ms. Donna Jennings  
Mr. Thurston Bassett

# Who is Who?

Daily Organiser

Mrs. Jemma Aitchison

MIPs, Careers Development Coordinator,  
Koorie Liaison Officer

Ms. Suzanne Patterson

Satellite Campus Program Leader  
Senior Data, RTO and Exam Coordinator

Mrs. Christine Dixon

Ms. Donna Matthews

Library Programs & Resource Manager

Ms. Janelle Collins

Sport – Intra & Inter School Sport

Ms. Emily Gorey

Inclusion & Supported Learning Admin Support

Mrs. Marie Hein

Student Services Manager College Council

Mrs. Tania Beard

President

Ms. Rebecca Fraser

## Administration

Business / Finance Manager

Ms. Alana Nesbit

Operations Manager

Ms. Cheryl Van Echteid

HR

Mrs. Jemma Aitchison

Attendance & General Office Team Leader &  
Junior School Attendance

Mrs. Joan Pethybridge

Middle School Attendance

Mrs. Leesa Hein

Senior School Attendance

Ms. Donna Matthews

College Communications

Mrs. Jodie Hollis

Principal's PA

Mrs. Jemma Aitchison

Assistant Principal of Curriculum & Learning PA

Mrs. Shannon Thomas

Assistant Principal of Engagement & Wellbeing PA

Mrs. Jodie Hollis

Teaching Staff initials are created by taking the first letter of your surname, last letter of your surname and first letter of your Christian name. E.g. Jo Kindred becomes KDJ

Education Support staff use their initials. E.g. Jemma Aitchison becomes JA

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# School Wide Positive Behaviour Support



## Parent Information

At Portland Secondary College we recognise that strong student wellbeing is paramount to student learning and engagement, and we highly value the importance of establishing, nurturing and maintaining positive relationships in order to improve student outcomes.

The implementation of School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) has allowed the College to establish a solid framework to develop a positive, safe and supportive culture where student wellbeing and student learning are equally important.

SWPBS is a multi-tiered support system for behaviour management employed by teachers to focus on promoting expected behaviours through positive teaching and reinforcement.

When SWPBS is implemented well, teachers and students have more time to focus on relationships and learning. Students and staff benefit from:

- increased respectful and positive behaviour
- increased time focused on learning
- increased academic performance
- improved social-emotional wellbeing
- positive and respectful relationships among students and staff
- a predictable learning environment with improved perceptions of safety and increased attendance
- improved perception of safety
- reduced bullying behaviours
- decreased suspensions
- increased positive school culture and climate

SWPBS is supported by programs such as PSC's Mentor Program, the Level Managers, Respectful Relationships, Wellbeing Programs, Student Services and other external organisations and utilises the Department of Education Wellbeing High Impact Strategies and Positive Classroom Management Strategies. The College values and listens to Student Voice and Agency and encourages students to take on leadership roles and to be active participants in their local community.

The College uses the Compass program to share each child's progress at school in both their learning, engagement and behaviour.

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# Portland Secondary College

## School Wide Positive Behaviour Support



### What is Compass?

Compass is our School Management program that allows parents and carers to access up-to-date and meaningful information about PSC and your child's progress.

Compass allows users to:

- Monitor your child's attendance, and enter an explanation for absence or lateness
- Communicate with your child's teachers, and update your family contact details
- View your child's timetable and the school calendar
- Monitor your child's homework and assessment tasks
- Download and view your child's academic reports
- Book parent-teacher conferences
- Pay and provide consent for events and school fees
- Access the College Newsletter
- Check your child's learning, engagement and behaviour at school

As part of School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) your child can receive positive feedback in the form of a tangible reward which could be a token, a green Compass chronicle or a postcard.

**Tokens:** To reward a student for demonstrating a positive behaviour, staff simply hand the student the relevant coloured token and inform the student they can save their tokens and redeem them to gain a prize at the SWPBS Shop.

All teachers will be issued with a token pouch containing counters of the four values colours.

**Red = Creativity**

**Blue = Respect**

**Light Green = Success**

**Dark Green = Resilience**

Once every three weeks students will be able to redeem their tokens at the SWPBS Shop which will be manned by the Student Voice & Agency Committee (SVAC) students.

### Green Compass Posts:

Teachers can also reward students by recording a green compass post under the relevant College Value. These posts are visible on the student's compass profiles for students and their families to view. The Compass Program automatically calculates each student's Compass points and they can also be redeemed for a prize at the shop.

### Postcards:

To acknowledge the demonstration of valued and expected behaviour, teachers can send Postcards home to students to be celebrated by their families.

When students make academic errors, it is important to respond by re-teaching, providing guided practice, and allowing them to practise with frequent monitoring. Similarly, viewing inappropriate behaviours as learning errors supports taking a supportive, educative approach. Effective responses to inappropriate behaviour in the classroom involve fair and consistent corrective actions. By explicitly teaching and providing constructive, specific feedback, students can learn and practise new behaviours.

Staff also use the Compass program to record the behaviours we want to see corrected. These occur in the form of 'yellow' Compass notes for minor behaviours and 'red' Compass notes for major behaviours.

It is important that parents are regularly monitoring Compass to see how your child is functioning in the College environment.

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

## INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's financial circumstances and their outcomes.

## CAMPS, SPORTS and EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school excursions, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or support an out of home care student you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid directly to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is \$400 for all school students.

### HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments:** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances:** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>



## Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund eligibility

Applications must be submitted to the school as soon as possible and no later than the end of Term 2.

Where a school or family is unsure if the concession card is eligible, they are encouraged to submit the application into the CSEF system for validation.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

**Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.**

Those who are eligible to apply for the CSEF **must meet both** of the following two criteria or be eligible for special consideration.

### Eligible means-tested cards

Only financially means-tested cards are eligible.

### Eligibility date

Eligibility will be subject to the parent/carer's concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink (refer to the department's policy, [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\)](#)), on either the first student day of Term 1 or Term 2.

### Criterion 1 – General eligibility

The applicant must be one of the following:

- a parent or carer who is the beneficiary of a financially means-tested card
- a student over 16 years who is considered a mature minor and holds a valid concession card (such as a Youth Allowance Health Care Card). Applicant to use the 16 and over application form. For guidance on assessing whether a student is a mature minor, refer to the department's policy on [Mature Minors and Decision Making](#)
- a parent or carer whose child is 16 or over and the beneficiary of a financially means-tested card but are not considered a mature minor. Applicant to use the 16 and over parent consent form.

For students over 16 years of age and where the eligible card is in the name of the student, the fund is only granted to that student, not their siblings.

### Criterion 2 – Be of school age and attend a Victorian school

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a registered Victorian school.

CSEF is not payable to a student attending pre-school, kindergarten, TAFE or who are home schooled.

### Special Consideration

A special consideration eligibility category exists to assist families and students in certain circumstances. Applications should be made through this application form. For more information, refer to: [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Eligibility](#).

### Payment amounts

The CSEF is an annual payment paid directly to the school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child. Please refer to the department's policy for the current rates and more information, [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Payment amounts](#).

### How to complete the application form

**Note: all sections must be completed by the applicant.**

1. Complete the APPLICANT DETAILS section.  
Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.
2. Complete the STUDENT DETAILS section for students at this school.
3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible and no later than the end of Term 2.

### Privacy Statement

The Department of Education is committed to protecting your privacy. All information collected will be handled in accordance with the Privacy Data and Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and the Health Records Act 2001 (Vic). This personal information is collected to assess your eligibility to receive a CSEF payment. Your data is securely managed and only shared with Centrelink and DFFH when necessary for business operations or legal compliance. By submitting this form, you consent to our data practices. For more information regarding correction to your personal information or the handling of personal information please email [csef@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:csef@education.vic.gov.au). For more information about the departments privacy policy, please visit: [Schools' privacy policy | vic.gov.au](#)

# Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

## APPLICATION FORM

School Name

School Ref ID

### Applicant details

Surname	
First Name	
Address	
Town/Suburb	
State and Postcode	
Contact Number	

 Centrelink pensioner concession **OR** Health care card number (CRN)

   -    -    - 
**OR**  Veterans affairs pensioner (Gold Card)\* **OR**  Special Consideration\*\*

\*Applicants must provide a copy of the Veteran Affairs Gold card.

\*\*Out of Home Care applications must include a letter of support from the institution facilitating the arrangement (for example, Mackillop Family Services or the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH)) as evidence of the arrangement and must be no more than 18 months old).

### Student details

Child's surname	Child's first name	Student ID	Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	Year level

### Declaration

I authorise the Victorian Department of Education (DE) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry about my Centrelink customer details and concession card status to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) to provide the results of any enquiry to DE regarding temporary care orders. I understand that:

- DFFH or Centrelink will use information I have provided to DE to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DE personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
- This consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DFFH and provide it to my child's school so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.
- If I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DE.
- Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to DFFH and/or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You can request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/202\_\_

# Annual privacy reminder for our school community

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' privacy policy and the Schools' privacy collection notice.

Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students policy

<https://portlandsc.vic.edu.au/our-school/policies/>, describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use Microsoft 365 safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using Microsoft 365, please contact the school.

For more information about privacy, refer to: Schools' privacy policy: information for parents. This information is also available in eleven community languages:

- Amharic
- Arabic
- Chinese
- Dari
- Gujarati
- Mandarin
- Somali
- Sudanese
- Turkish
- Urdu
- Vietnamese

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# Back to School Information Pack 2026

## Reminder

### Schools fees are voluntary for Government schools

Government schools provide students with free curriculum and ensure students have free access to all items, activities and services that they need for their regular classes.

The school may invite you to:

- Make a voluntary contribution to support the school.
- purchase extra-curricular items and activities
- purchase educational items to own.

You are not required to make payments or voluntary financial contributions to your school. Schools cannot refuse your child school if you do not contribute.

### For additional support

-  03 9481 0800
-  [vaeai@vaeai.org.au](mailto:vaeai@vaeai.org.au)
-  <https://www.vaeai.org.au/>
-  144 Westbourne Grove, Northcote VIC 3070

## Start at your school

First off talk with your schools' principal, assistant principal, KESO or Koorie support worker, wellbeing coordinator or even a teacher you get along with to talk about your situation and see what supports they can offer.

### How do I apply?

Ask your school about their Financial Help for Families policy or contact DE below.

### For more information.

-  1800 338 663
-  [enquiries@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@education.vic.gov.au)

# State-wide Information

## State Schools Relief

StateSchools Relief supports families in buying school supplies, such as shoes, uniforms, books & learning devices in State Schools for disadvantaged students attending **Government schools**.

They offer the following:

- Glasses for Kids Program. Providing glasses for students with visual impairments.
- Graphing Calculator Program. Providing graphic calculators for secondary students doing STEM subjects in terms 1 & 4.
- iPad Program. Providing iPads for non-verbal students.
- Travel Pass Program. 30-Day Travel Pass for any primary, secondary or specialist school students experiencing crisis, such as family violence or sudden financial hardship, to ensure they can continue to travel by public transport.
- Work boots for students enrolled in VET subjects.
- Discount items from direct from their online store, such as:
  - School basics.
  - School shoes.
  - Workwear uniforms.
  - Swimwear.

### How do I apply?

Requests for assistance are made by the school staff, this could be a principal, wellbeing coordinator, KESO or a teacher. A request can also be made by a support agency.

Ask your school or support service about applying for assistance through the State Schools Relief program.

### For more information.

-  03 8769 8400
-  [contact@ssr.net.au](mailto:contact@ssr.net.au)
-  <https://stateschoolsrelief.org.au/>
-  1/8 Johnston Court, Dandenong South VIC 3175

## Opening the doors foundation

Opening the Doors Foundation provides grants to support the extra costs of school, including school uniforms, books, school camps & excursions, IT equipment, stationary and other school associated costs (schools fees and tutoring not included). The fund is open to students of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent currently enrolled in a **Catholic or Independent education institution**.

### How do I apply?

Complete the online form below:  
<https://app.openingthedoors.org.au/>  
Applications close: 2nd April 2026

The form can be completed by the student/family, a school support person, or a support worker from another organisation.

### For more information.

-  0401 487 414
-  [enquiries@openingthedoors.org.au](mailto:enquiries@openingthedoors.org.au)
-  <https://www.openingthedoors.org.au/>

## Les twentyman foundation's back to school program

The Les Twentyman Back to School Program provides educational resources, textbooks, and stationery for young people in **Government, Catholic & Independent schools** experiencing financial difficulty and unstable living conditions.

### How do I apply?

A young person must be referred by their school or a support worker from a 3rd party organization (ie. VACCA, VACSAL, VAEAI, local co-op or health service) and must meet specific criteria to be eligible for the program. First nations students are eligible for assistance through the program. The worker referring should email the full booklist to the program when applying.

### For more information.

-  03 9689 4800
-  [info@ltfoundation.com.au](mailto:info@ltfoundation.com.au)
-  <https://ltfoundation.au/>

## Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund expenditure (CSEF)

The CSEF provides payments to assist eligible families to cover the costs of camps, sporting activities and excursions.

Payments are made directly to an eligible student's school. Schools must use a CSEF payment only for the eligible student. From 1 January 2026, families eligible for CSEF will see an increase in support to \$400 for primary and secondary school children. Applications for 2026 CSEF support will open from 27 January 2026.

This support is available for **Government schools**.

### How do I apply?

Parents/guardians apply through their child's school; applications for 2026 open January 27, 2026.

### For more information.

-  <https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>

## School Saving Bonus

The specific \$400 School Saving Bonus (SSB) for 2025 is no longer available. Any remaining 2025 bonus funds can still be used for school activities (camps, excursions, events) in 2026, but cannot be combined across different schools.

### For more information.

-  <https://www.vic.gov.au/receiving-school-saving-bonus>

## Aboriginal Co-ops and Organisations.

Reach out to your local Aboriginal Co-op or Organisation. They may be able to provide assistance on a case-by-case basis according to the needs of your family and their available resources.

## — Transport

From 1 January 2026, young people under 18 can travel for free on Victorian public transport with a Youth myki.

- Must be aged 5 to 17 years old,
- use a registered myki account for purchasing online, [Manage your myki - Transport Victoria](#)
- pay \$5.00 for the card, which will be mailed to you, or you can buy it at a train station near you.

## — Sustainable School Shop

BUY & SELL second hand text books, uniforms, calculators, musical instruments, sports gear, Uni books and more.

<https://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au/>

## — The Smith Family Learning for Life

Through Learning for Life, The Smith Family connects students to sponsors whose support helps families by providing students with financial support for school costs, coordinator guidance and access to out-of-school programs

### How do I apply?

Contact your local Learning for Life office.

**Bairnsdale**  
03 5116 1620

**Ballarat**  
0458 716 669  
0428 487 916

**Bendigo**  
0481 911 725

**Brimbank**  
03 9311 2367

**Broadmeadows**  
03 9066 3635

**Lakes Entrance**  
03 5155 5159

**Melbourne**  
03 9473 4300

**Dandenong**  
03 9793 9852

**Epping**  
0466 089 570  
0411 792 879

**Geelong**  
0428 137 622  
0466 474 229

**Morwell**  
03 5133 9065

**Shepparton**  
0466 776 682  
0428 642 164

**Werribee**  
03 9473 4300  
03 9473 4343

# Regional Specific Support

## South-East Victoria

## — Emergency Relief

Through VACCA Dandenong.

 9108 3500

## — Cranbourne Community Information & Support

Provide financial support through their Education Assistance Program.

Only for families located in Hampton Park, Cranbourne, Blind Bight, Cannons Creek, Clyde, Pearcedale, Tooradin, Warneet, Lyndhurst, and Lynbrook. Health care card required.

 <https://ciscranbourne.org.au/education-assistance-program/>

## — Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC)

Community benefit fund. Only for Gunaikurnai people.

 <https://gunaikurnai.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Community-Benefit-Fund-Policy-v4.pdf>

## — Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-Operative (GEGAC)

Can offer limited supports for school uniform, and school supplies,

but to utilise funds you must complete and intake and assessment and meet the criteria and be eligible for the programs.

## South-West Victoria

### Goolum Goolum: Back to School Day

Students will receive packs for school, lunch and healthy lunchbox ideas. These events in Stawell and Horsham, are an opportunity for families to learn about Goolum Goolum's support programs for 2025.

#### Horsham

Date: 20 January 2026  
Location: Dalki Guli Hub  
Time: 11am - 2pm

#### Stawell

Date: 22 January 2026  
Location: Goolum Hub  
Time: 11am - 2pm

Please register your child/children's attendance  
Contact: Kym Bateson 0447 846 250

## North-West Victoria

### Mallee District Aboriginal Services (MDAS)

Can help existing and current serviced clients/families.

#### For more information.

**Mildura office**  
(03) 5018 4100

**Swanhill office**  
(03) 5032 8600

**Kerang office**  
(03) 5412 6004

### VACSAL - BWAYS Aboriginal Early School Leavers 'Back to School' Program.

VACSAL - BWAYS AESL program supports students from Prep - Year 12 in the **Northern & Western Metropolitan Region of Melbourne**. They offer support for families of low-income and single income parents by ensuring that their children receive the best start to their school year. The program is offered from 1st December-1st February each year.

They offer the following support:

- school textbooks ~ referrals to Les Twentyman "Back to School" program
- negotiate with schools regarding payment plans for school fees.
- offer case management to those who wish to receive further support for young people who are at risk of disengagement at school

#### For more information.

Contact Jirrah at VACSAL-BWAYS on 9484 5310

## North-East Victoria

### Ganbina

Can help kids that are already part of the program. Our program is open to all young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, from the age of six to 25 years old. You can join at any time, and it's free.

They offer the following support:

- Help cover school or work related expenses.

#### For more information

☎ 03 5821 7333

✉ [info@ganbina.com.au](mailto:info@ganbina.com.au)



# Portland Secondary College

*Creating the Opportunities...*

Do you want to get further involved in your child's education?  
Would you like to have input into how  
Portland Secondary College operates?

## ***Then how about considering joining our School Council!***

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills and a range of experiences and knowledge that can help inform and shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

### ***Who can join school council?***

Parents and Guardians can all be elected on to School Council. Council is also made up of the Principal, Assistant Principal, Business Manager and a staff member, as well as elected students and the Deputy Captains of the College.

Portland Secondary College Council also includes a community member category - members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experience. Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

### ***How can you become involved?***

By participating in, and voting in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates that there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might consider either standing for election as a member for School Council, or encouraging another person to stand for election.

## **Get involved in your child's education.**

Contact the Principal  
on **55231344**

for more information .

## **Join the School Council at PSC!**

PO Box 452

170 Must Street Portland VIC

03 5523 1344

[portland.sc@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:portland.sc@education.vic.gov.au)

ABN: 45 147 185 348



# Portland Secondary College

*Creating the Opportunities...*

## High Expectations at PSC

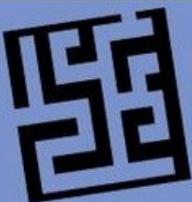
Staff at Portland Secondary College have a belief that all students can be learners and leaders and we work hard to create opportunities for all students to be active and engaged. We aim to foster high expectations and four core values in all our students.



**Respect** - We demonstrate respect when we actively contribute to a positive classroom culture; following classroom rules, being considerate of others' needs, being an active listener, not talking out of turn, being inclusive of others, looking after each other, our equipment and our environment and wearing correct uniform.



**Success** - We demonstrate success when we take active responsibility for our own learning; being punctual and organised, being focused and fully participating in classes and completing all tasks both in and out of the classroom.



**Resilience** - We demonstrate resilience when we show consistent effort; striving to do our best even when we find tasks challenging. Resilient students seek support when they need it, tell an adult when things really aren't going well, ask lots of questions and push to extend themselves at every opportunity.



**Creativity** - We demonstrate creativity when we apply our knowledge to new experiences and challenges, willingly trial problem-solving strategies, and embrace our strengths and areas for growth to enhance our learning experiences.

**By working in partnership, parents, staff and students can ensure that a positive education experience is enjoyed by all.**



## High Expectations in the JUNIOR SCHOOL

We are **SUCCESSFUL** when we:

- Arrive before the bell
- Line up quietly
- Bring correct equipment to every class
- Give everything our best go
- Complete all homework
- Take pride in our school community

We are **RESPECTFUL** when we:

- Are kind to others
- Are kind to ourselves
- Care for property and our environment



## High Expectations in the MIDDLE SCHOOL

We are empowered to SUCCEED by:

- Arriving to mentor and classes on time
- Bringing correct equipment to every class
- Wearing full school uniform
- Completing & submitting all work
- Respecting ourselves, each other, facilities, and the environment
- Taking responsibility for all equipment (e.g. locks on lockers)
- Participating positively and actively in our school community
- Being prepared to seek opportunities for self-improvement



## High Expectations in the SENIOR SCHOOL

In the Senior School community we:

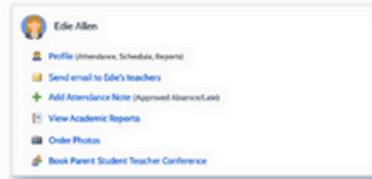
- Respect each other, ourselves, and spaces
- Are quiet and productive in our work and study time
- Encourage, support and celebrate each other's efforts and successes
- Are responsible for following the VCE & PSC rules and regulations
- Are active participants who take pride in our education
- Model positive behaviours
- Learn from mistakes and feedback

# Compass - Attendance & Wellbeing

Attendance and wellbeing are complex, interconnected issues, but keeping track of this information shouldn't have to be difficult. Compass has made sure of that.

## Entering an Attendance Note

- 1 From the Compass home screen (or from your student's profile), click the **Add Attendance Note** item.
- 2 From the pop-up window
  - ➔ Select the reason
  - ➔ Enter a brief description of the absence
  - ➔ Select the start and finish time
  - ➔ Click the 'Save' button



**What is an Attendance Note?**  
An Attendance Note is used to explain when your child is absent or late for school.



Where possible, attendance notes should be entered prior to the absence/lateness occurring.

## Summary

Using Compass you can view up-to-the-minute attendance information for your child.

### Notes

This sub-tab provides a list of attendance explanations for your child. From this tab you can also add absence notes (both past and future).

### Daily Snapshot

Recent school news items and information relevant to you. This may include newsletters, details of upcoming events.

### Explain Specific Absences

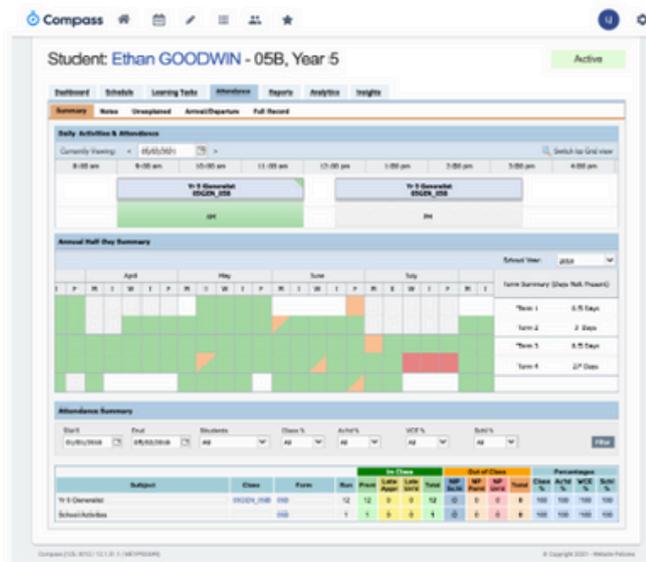
This sub-tab provides a list of all unexplained lates and absences from class. From this tab you can click to approve specific absences.

### Attendance Summary

Includes a summary of attendance in each class. For full details about a specific absence, click the appropriate number in the grid. For an explanation of a heading item, hover your mouse over the heading of interest.

When students are marked 'Not Present' in class this can sit in one of three different categories. These include:

- NP Schl** Not present in class and is explained by a school related activity.
- NP Parnt** Not present in class and is explained by a parent approval.
- NP Unap** Not present in class with no explanation entered.



**We must have parent / carer communication for every single day your child is absent.**

# Gaylene Turri, Textiles Teacher



## Year 8 Textiles

Ms Turri's Year 8 Textiles class is off to a flying start. After being briefed on safety in the textiles room, students are learning the art of hand sewing, including running stitch, back stitch, blanket stitch, and sewing on a button. They will then design a drawing that incorporates all of these stitches before creating a finished item.



# Braden Dawson, Food Studies Teacher



## Year 10 Food Studies



Mr Dawson's Year 10 class cooked tiger nut cakes this week. As tiger nuts are quite hard to find, students improvised by using almond meal. This unusual cake is not baked in the oven; instead, it is cooked in a saucepan on the stovetop and then shaped into a cone before serving. The cakes are traditionally served with date syrup, and in this case, students were also treated to a little cream on the side.



## Year 7 Camp

Our Year 7 students recently enjoyed a fantastic couple of days on their school camp, making the most of the beautiful local area while being based right on the school grounds. The weather was perfect, providing nothing but sunshine and blue skies as the group set off for a series of adventures across Warrnambool and Portland.

After set-up and get-to-know-you activities on the first day, energy was high on day two as the students headed to Warrnambool to test their skills at mini-golf and ten-pin bowling. There was plenty of friendly competition and laughter as they navigated the greens and chased strikes on the lanes, with a pizza break and playtime at Lake Pertobe for lunch, of course!

The fun continued on their final day in Portland, where the year level enjoyed a refreshing swimming session or an alternative activity of lawn bowls, followed by a beautiful picnic in the Botanical Gardens to round out the camp. It was wonderful to see the Year 7s embrace new sports and friendships with such enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

Staying on school grounds offered a unique opportunity for the cohort to bond in a familiar setting. These three days were a brilliant way for the students to strengthen friendships and build school spirit in a relaxed, sun-filled environment. We are incredibly proud of how the Year 7s represented themselves throughout the trip.





# Year 7 Welcome BBQ

Portland Secondary College  
*Creating the opportunities*

## Invitation

We warmly invite our Year 7 students and their families to join us for a 'Welcome to PSC BBQ'.

Date: Wednesday 25th February, 2026  
Time: 5:30pm-6:30pm  
Location: Grassed area outside the HUB

This event is a wonderful opportunity to meet the HUB team and other staff and connect with fellow Year 7 students and their families.

Phone Number: 03 5523 1344  
Website: [www.portlandsc.vic.edu.au](http://www.portlandsc.vic.edu.au)  
Facebook: [portlandseccollege](https://www.facebook.com/portlandseccollege)  
Instagram: [portland\\_secondary\\_college](https://www.instagram.com/portland_secondary_college)

## 🎉🍖 YEAR 7 WELCOME TO PSC BBQ 🎉🍖

We look forward to seeing you at the event!

Please accept or decline this event on your Parent Compass so we can keep track of numbers for catering.

RSVP by Thursday 19/02/26.



ROW 1:

Year 7 HUB Teachers:  
Mollie Reed, Emily  
Gorey, Ashley  
Elijah, Jasmine  
McDonald and Marika  
Howman



ROW 2:

Year 7 HUB Ed  
Support:  
Flynn Chapman,  
Cindy  
Taylor, Liza  
Chapple



## Koorie Big Day Out

**UPCOMING**

### 2026 Warrnambool Koorie Big Day Out

An aspirational event to promote university pathways to young mob in secondary school.

The Koorie Big Day Out brings together the Koorie units of Victorian Universities, showcasing opportunities of future pathways and careers to young mob.

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> of April

**Time:** 10:30am-2:30pm

**Place:** Wannon Function Centre  
331 Koroit Street, Warrnambool  
Victoria 3280



**Rachael Cannon Siemen**  
Toorong Marnong Project Coordinator  
M: 0499 884 476 E: rachael@vaeai.org.au

## Register for our regional bus service

for the 2026 Warrnambool Koorie Big Day Out (KBDO).

We'll be organising buses to provide transport to and from regional locations to attend the Metro Koorie Big Day Out 2026.

**Registrations are essential**, as they will help us organise pick-up locations and bus capacity. Koorie students, teachers, KESOs, and parents are welcome to use the bus service.

KBDO is an aspirational event to promote university pathways to young mob in Secondary School.

**Date:** 28th April 2026

**Time:** 10:30am-2:30pm

**Place:** Wannon Function Centre,  
331 Koroit Street,  
Warrnambool Victoria 3280

Contact:  
Rachael Cannon Siemen  
Rachael@VAEAI.org.au



0499 884 476



### Pick up locations

- Horsham.
- Portland.
- Ballarat.
- Geelong.
- Haywood.
- Hamilton.





## Sporting Events



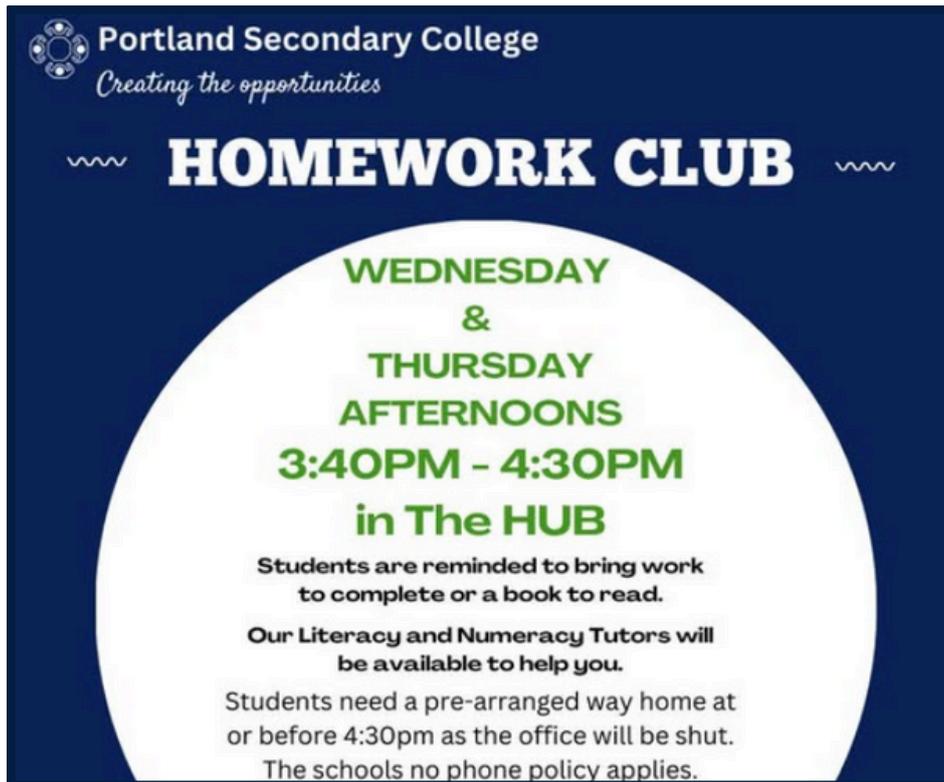
🏃‍♀️ Ready! 🏃 Set! 🏃 Go!

### **PSC Athletics Day is Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March @ Nelson Park.**

What you need to know:

- ✓ Students must go to school to be marked off by their Mentor
- ✓ Students will walk to Nelson Park with their Year level and teachers
- ✓ Students must remain at the park until they are dismissed at the end of the day (if a student needs to leave early, they must be collected by a parent/guardian and signed out by their Mentor)
- ✓ Parents/Guardians are welcome to come and watch and support their students
- ✓ Canteen will be available (cash only) or bring your own food from home
- \* Students local excursion form must be completed before event to attend
  - 👕 Wear the colours assigned to your Year level
  - ✗ NO mobile phones (normal school rules apply)
  - ✗ NO fast food can be dropped off by parents
- ? Any questions, please contact PSC 5523 1344 or your students PE teacher

# PSC Homework Club



Portland Secondary College  
*Creating the opportunities*

**HOMEWORK CLUB**

**WEDNESDAY  
&  
THURSDAY  
AFTERNOONS  
3:40PM - 4:30PM  
in The HUB**

Students are reminded to bring work to complete or a book to read.

Our Literacy and Numeracy Tutors will be available to help you.

Students need a pre-arranged way home at or before 4:30pm as the office will be shut.  
The schools no phone policy applies.

🌟 PSC HOMEWORK PROGRAM IS BACK FOR 2026 🌟

All students are welcome to attend.

The homework club provides an opportunity to study in a quiet environment, with support available from our Literacy Tutor, Mrs Foster, and our Numeracy Tutor, Mrs Chapman.

There's no need to book – just turn up on the selected night with some work to complete or use the time to revise work.



**Mrs Elley Foster**  
**Literacy Support**



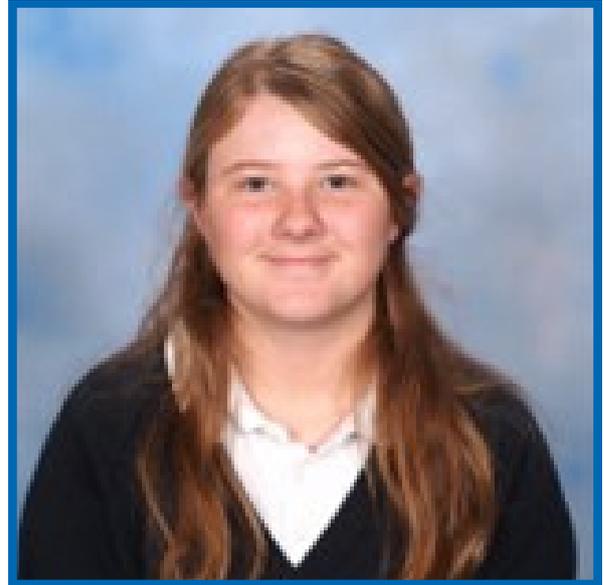
**Mrs Donna Chapman**  
**Numeracy Support**

# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

## Victorian Young Leaders First Nations Program



**Year 10 Isobel Fraser**



**Year 10 Tyianah Walmsley**

Two of our students enjoyed an amazing experience over the Christmas break and will embark on phase two of the adventure. Isobel Fraser and Tyianah Walmsley took part in the all expenses paid, Victorian Young Leaders First Nations Program.

The Victorian Young Leaders First Nations (VYLFN) program is a cultural leadership program for First Nations students enrolled to study year 9 or 10 at a Victorian Government school and enrolled in the Koorie Academy of Excellence (KAE) in 2026. The program promotes pride in identity and culture and highlights the strengths of First Nations young people.

The objective of the VYLFN program is to enable First Nations students to connect with First Nations peers and organisations in Victoria and Aotearoa New Zealand, with a specific focus on strengthening self-determination in their education, leadership and learning from other experiences of self-determination.

After writing extensive applications to be accepted into the program, the girls first participated in a cultural and filmmaking camp. Originally planned to take place in the Jamieson Valley, the camp was moved to Phillip Island due to the bushfires which occurred across the summer.

Whilst on the camp, Isobel and Tyianah engaged with a number of Koorie students and six Maori students from New Zealand. As well as completing a number of activities such as The Giant Swing, Zip Lining, Indigenous and Maori games, campfire conversations and music, the girls were required to take part in the creation of short films which will be shown at the Maori Land Film Festival. Māoriland Film Festival is the world's largest celebration of Indigenous storytelling through film with five days of screenings, interactive installation and art exhibitions, industry events and more.

Tyianah was involved in the film production of a series of interviews about culture, connections and what it means to be part of a mob. Isobel's film is a dreamtime story about how the creator made fire and the black crows. Both girls worked very hard to plan, film and edit their productions.

The next part of the Program is to travel to Aotearoa New Zealand between the 20-29 March 2026 where they will catch up with their new Maori friend and learn about their culture as well as showcasing their films at the film festival.

Both girls commented that they have loved both the opportunity to travel overseas and learn about new cultures as well as exploring their own. We look forward to hearing about their New Zealand experiences early in term 2.



**Students  
on  
the camp**

**Leaf - From  
Budawang  
Land**



# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



**Year 12 Sienna Stone**



**Charlotte Fraser**



Sienna had a very busy summer break! At the end of 2025, Sienna was selected to tour the USA with the Surfcoast Basketball Association—an experience of a lifetime!

She then kicked off 2026 as a member of the U20 Victoria Navy team, competing at the National Championships.



2025 Year 12 student Charlotte Fraser was shortlisted for NGV TOP ARTS 2026. We are proud to report that Charlotte made it down to the last 9% of the 1500 entries. It was reported to be very close and the judges took their time considering Charlotte's work. Charlotte was offered to be a guest speaker at one of the Top Art events.



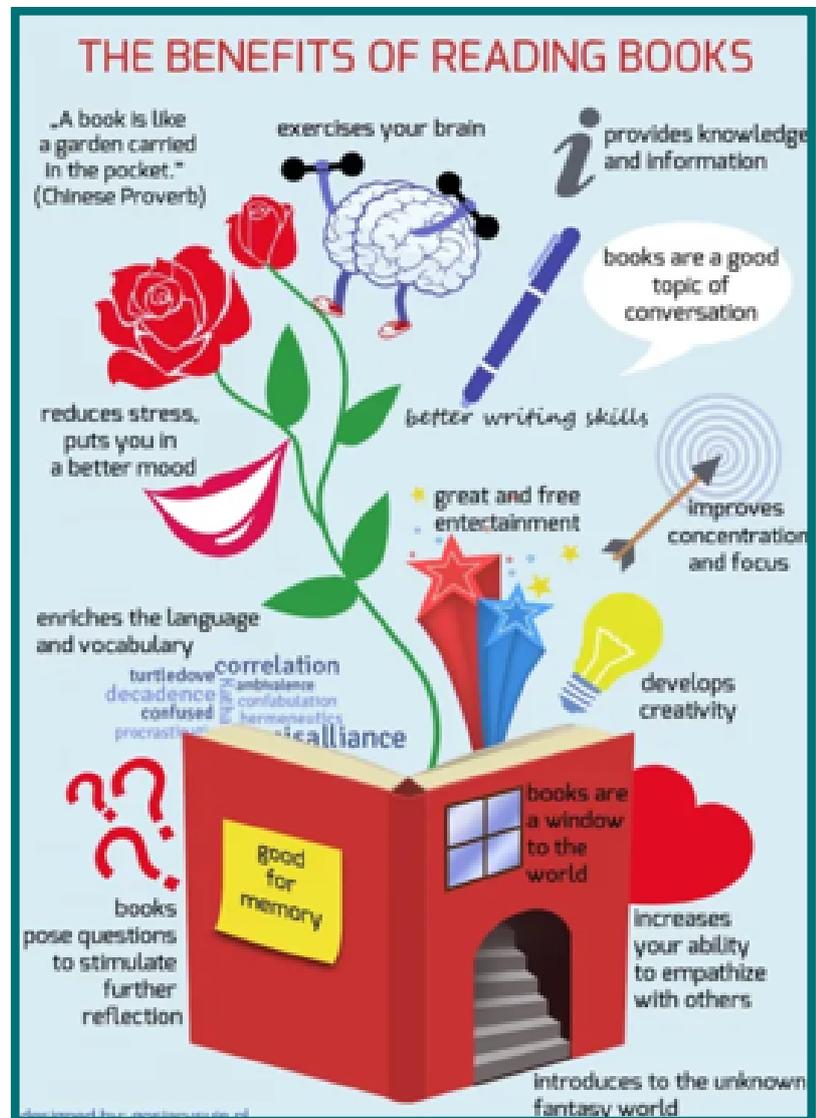
## Library News

The library is open for students for at least one break time each day so students have access and can borrow a book or magazine if they need to for Reading, which happens in classes after lunch for 10 minutes.

It is great to see students using the library at break times to play games, read or study.

There have been many studies that have shown the benefits of reading, so why not take along something interesting to read when you are given time?

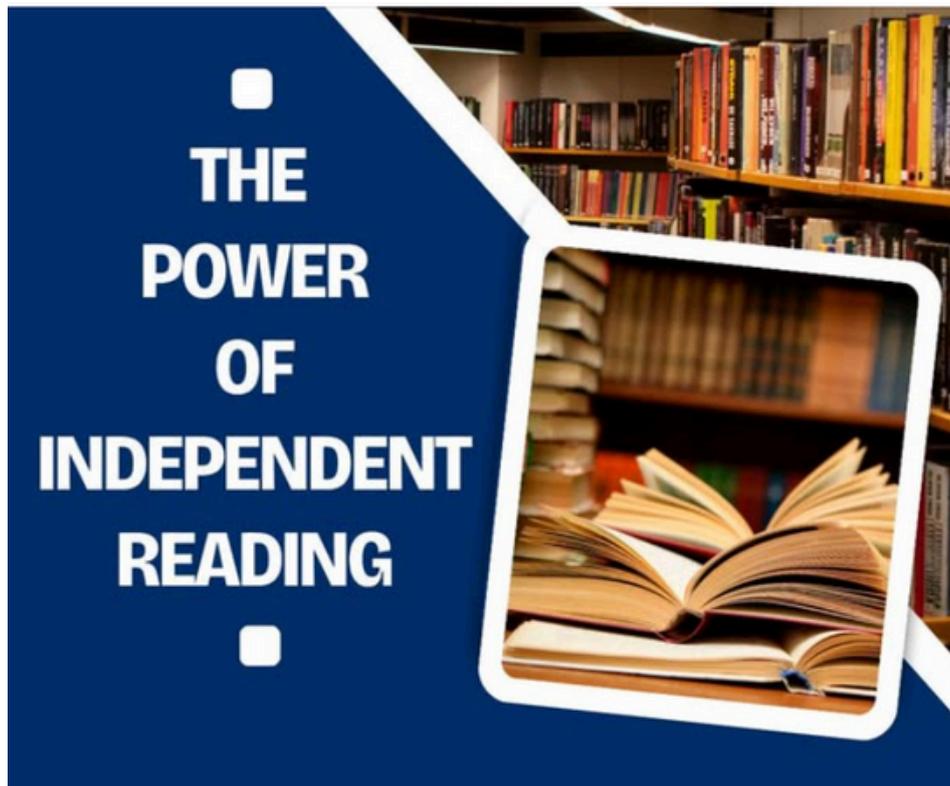
We have a wide range of books – fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels – and magazines available for borrowing, and Ms Collins is happy to have students suggest new additions to the library collection to help ensure students can find material that interests them.



Most books are available for four week loan, graphic novels and picture books have a two week loan period and magazines one week. If students want to re-borrow books, all they need to do is pop into the library, and this can be easily done.

Don't forget the Library web app is also available via the star menu on Compass and has access to a range of resources, including audio and eBooks 24/7.

Year 7 students will be timetabled for one period a fortnight to have Library and Information Skills sessions to help familiarise them with the Library, and to learn information skills. In their next session they will be introduced to the PSC eBook and audio book library.



## **The Power of Independent Reading**

“Independent reading is the foundation that supports every aspect of a child’s learning.” Independent reading builds comprehension, vocabulary, creativity, and confidence—it’s the core operating system that supports every subject and future learning opportunity.

### A Long-Standing PSC Tradition

For many years, PSC has provided a dedicated daily after-lunch reading time. This valued routine remains a cornerstone of our commitment to student learning.

### How Families Can Support at Home

You can help build strong reading habits by:

- Ensuring your child brings a reading book each day 
- Encouraging regular reading at home 
- Helping your child find books they truly enjoy 

Our Library team is always happy to help students choose books that match their interests and abilities.

### When Families and Schools Work Together

When we nurture a strong reading culture—at school and at home—our children thrive, grow, explore, and succeed together.

# LOCK REMINDER



All students are required to have a lock for their locker.  
This is important to keep their personal belongings safe and secure while at school.



Portland Secondary College  
*Creating the opportunities*

## REMINDER...

# MOBILE PHONE BAN



### **MOBILE PHONE BAN REMINDER**

A reminder that the Victorian Government and Department of Education have banned mobile phones at all government schools. Students may bring phones due to travel needs, but they must be stored in locked lockers for the entire day. Phones are not to be in pockets, bags, or pencil cases. If a phone is seen or detected, it will be collected in line with government regulations.

This rule also applies when arriving and leaving—please wait until you are off school grounds before using your phone.

Any collected phone will be secured at the General Office, and parents will be contacted to pick it up. Failure to hand over a phone when asked will result in suspension from the Year Level Manager



# Community News

We love hearing from our community, please contact us if you have an event or story to share.

[newsletter@portlandsc.vic.edu.au](mailto:newsletter@portlandsc.vic.edu.au) | 0355231344



## Girls' Football Preseason commences for 2026

Join us for the Girls' Football preseason  
**Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February**  
**5pm to 6 pm**  
**Hanlon Park**

Everyone is welcome—feel free to bring a friend or two!  
Just come down and have a try!!

Lets get together and kick off a fantastic pre-season.

Contact Chantel, Head Coach U18s Girls on 0418 149 438

**Respect**

**Success**

**Resilience**

**Creativity**



# FREE YOUTH SURF PROGRAM



TO FIND OUT HOW TO APPLY OR VOLUNTEER



SCAN CODE OR VISIT [brophy.org.au/stoked](http://brophy.org.au/stoked)

## PORTLAND

Hey Portland! STOKED is running a 4 - week surf therapy program for young people (12 - 25)

Riding the waves of life can be stressful.

Come LEARN TO SURF, meet new crew, yarn about life & boost your wellbeing - Yeeew.

### YARN - SURF - EAT



**THURSDAYS 4:30 - 7:30PM**

THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY

THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY

THURSDAY 05 MARCH

THURSDAY 12 MARCH

## 4-WEEK POP UP MINI PROGRAM

FEB - MAR 2026

for young people aged 12 - 24

### Location:

**SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB**  
BRIDGEWATER ROAD  
CAPE BRIDGEWATER BAY

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The program involves a crew of amazing mentors, local surfers, ocean lovers and other local legends who want to join in and connect with young people. Keen to get involved? - Get in touch!



Contact Stoked  
ph: (03) 5561 8888. e: [STOKED@brophy.org.au](mailto:STOKED@brophy.org.au)  
[brophy.org.au/stoked](http://brophy.org.au/stoked)

[facebook.com/brophy.org.au](https://facebook.com/brophy.org.au)  
 [stoked\\_surf\\_therapy](https://in.linkedin.com/company/stoked_surf_therapy)



Hi Schools/Pre-schools,

It is that time of year again “**TYRENDARRA SHOW**”, 14/2/2026. We would love to see your student’s wonderful creations decorating our wall space again. Our ‘budding artists’ always excitedly point out their drawing/ painting/collages to their proud families. It is a busy time for you and we appreciate the effort it takes to support local events and to give your students different opportunities.

TOPICS this year:

\* Free choice

or

“Different animals we would like to see in the show”.

Maybe ‘Ollie the Octopus’ or an imaginary ‘uptydowny’ in the pet parade. Free rides on a friendly dragon perhaps. The possibilities are endless.

Good Luck!

\*Machines

\* If your school/grade or students would like to enter and would like a **pick up**, I have enclosed my contact details. All groups need to be ready by **Friday** lunch (13/2/26) so we can get them displayed.

**Janetnunn1@hotmail.com**

\* Please ensure artwork is clearly labelled with section, grade and school. Names are fine on the front for easy location for parents if you wish.

\* A3 and below is preferred to ensure adequate space.

Once again, Thank you  
Janet Nunn, Tyrendarra show Art Steward