

From the Principal...

Welcome to Sunbury Downs College, a Year 7 to 12 co-educational Secondary College situated in the regional town of Sunbury, 37 kms North West of Melbourne. It is a growing school with student enrolment numbers exceeding 800. The College is not ethnically diverse; most students are of Anglo origin, and less than 1% of students speak a language other than English at home.

The College offers the very best in teaching and learning. Highly capable and professional teachers and education support staff encourage students to learn and grow in the classroom and beyond. Our teachers' talents ensure that students are supported to reach their potential in a caring, yet structured orderly learning environment. We are known for setting the benchmark, with excellent results for students in their final years of schooling.

We offer a rich program in an environment with strong student management, high expectations and educational outcomes. The College regards itself as an academic school with a wide range of programs. There is a strong emphasis on core subjects: English, Mathematics, Science and Humanities, complemented by programs in the Arts/Technology, Performing Arts, Physical Education/Health and Languages (Italian). We also offer a wide range of VCE subjects including some VET studies and a structured, rigorous VCAL program.

The College is the only secondary school in the area that offers an Accelerated Curriculum & Enrichment (ACE) Program for academically able students; extending students through a challenging curriculum including early commencement of VCE. The ACE Program is a select-entry course with enrolment from a broad range of primary schools.

Sunbury Downs College offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities and an inter-school sporting program. There are year level and specialised camps and excursions, including an overseas Italian Study Tour.

The College has a well-established Student Leadership Program as well as a House Program with whole school carnivals for Athletics and Swimming. We offer instrumental music tuition and present a highly acclaimed Musical Production, enabling students to excel in the Performing Arts in an environment that fosters participation, responsibility and teamwork beyond the classroom.

The College offers outstanding modern facilities that support students in their learning, ensuring they are educationally challenged. There is a focus on the Sciences, Technology, Arts and Sports. We boast a modern Education Resource Centre, functional Technology Wing as well as an on-site Art – Design – Technology Exhibition space, enabling the display of exemplary student work.

Our College is proud to be in partnership with its community and various organisations so as to offer and provide the very best for our students. Some of these partnerships include our feeder schools, local businesses and universities including 'The University of Melbourne'. In more recent times, corporate partners such as the Beacon Foundation have extended their work into our classrooms.

I thank you for taking the time to look at our great school.

I recommend you read through the information herein and look forward to you joining me on a tour with the prospect of becoming a member of our community ~ the Sunbury Downs College community.

Maria Oddo
PRINCIPAL



College Vision

The Sunbury Downs College motto 'Confidence to Achieve' is reflected in our agreed Mission Statement:

'The ongoing development of a learning community of students, staff and parents (community members) committed to a culture of participation and excellence based on mutual respect. This College culture promotes personal growth leading to meaningful citizenship and successful pathways to further studies and employment through students' academic success.'

Educational Philosophy

The College Motto and Vision are supported by the educational philosophy below. This underpins classroom practices and teaching actions across the College.

Our Educational Philosophy is:

"Sunbury Downs College has a welcoming, safe, and orderly learning environment.

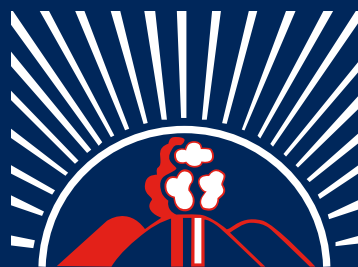
We believe outstanding teaching produces high quality learning outcomes.

The positive learning environment fosters collaboration and cooperation with shared expectations of educational success.

Students develop responsibility for their own learning, progress and behaviour. This occurs when all learners are engaged with differentiated and challenging learning.

We create confident, resilient and reflective independent life learners.

Sunbury Downs College fosters authentic respectful relationships so learning is enjoyed and students may achieve their full potential."



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'Confidence to Achieve'



Our School Structure

At Sunbury Downs College, we understand the needs of adolescents as they move through the most important years of their schooling lives.

Our College is structured so that our students have a sense of belonging, are known by those who work with them and feel safe in the school environment.

Our Mini-Schools reflect the Middle and Later Years of education, so our students progressively develop independence with a focus on their future pathway.

We cater for our students by;

- Targeting the points of transition within a supportive and caring Mini-School structure
- Allocating each student to a Home group, with a Home group teacher
- Having an experienced team of staff who are passionate, dedicated and professional
- Providing learning that caters to the various stages of development
- Allocating students to a House Program led by student leaders and staff
- Offering a network of Student Services support e.g School Nurse, Counsellors and Psychologists



Confidence to Achieve

Developing the Learner

We value the whole person and acknowledge that young people's learning develops in a myriad of ways. Furthermore, we recognise the ever-changing needs of society as employability skill-sets require teamwork, creativity, the ability to problem-solve and interdependence.

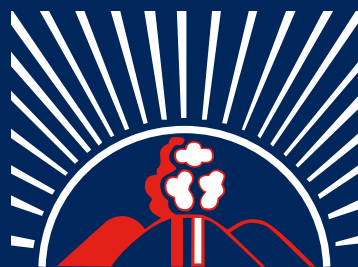
We strive to offer our students a breadth of curriculum, both to engage them in 21st century learning and also to maximise their prospects for the future.

We provide quality educational provision through;

- Best-practice orientation programs to assist with each student's transition from primary to secondary school
- Students actively participating in goal-setting and pathways planning to ensure personal academic and future success
- Targeted support in the Middle Years of schooling in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy
- A Careers Program with Work Experience at Year 10
- An Accelerated Curriculum & Enrichment [ACE] Program
- Offering a comprehensive range of VCE studies
- Access to alternative pathways programs including Vocational Education and Training [VET]
- A comprehensive and rigorous VCAL course with a focus on applied learning as well as School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeships [SBAT]

There are also programs and opportunities for students to extend their abilities, experiences and skills or seek support with their learning. These include;

- Homework Club Years 7-12
- Study and tutorial afterschool groups
- Debating & Public Speaking
- VCE Study Skills ~ timetabled afterschool and during holiday periods
- Enrichment English classes at Year 12
- Lunchtime Activities
- An Education Resource Centre that is open before and after school



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Enhancing the Learning Experience

We provide opportunities for our students to experience their learning in a variety of ways, both within and beyond the classroom environment. This, we believe, creates adaptable and multi-faceted young people who can take their place in the world.

Dedicated and passionate staff facilitate outstanding teaching and learning programs. These opportunities include;

- Student leadership – Captaincy, Student Representative Council & Ambassadorial roles
- A House Program – with whole school Athletics and Swimming Carnivals
- A comprehensive Music Program – bands, choir, ensembles and regular performances
- A rich Visual & Performing Arts Program including an annual Gallery Exhibition (MUSE) and the College Musical Production
- Sports Teams - including participation in an inter-school sports program
- Participation in Mathematics and Science Competitions
- Camps and Excursions/Incursions across all year levels
- An ICT-rich learning environment
- A biannual Italian language and cultural studies international field trip



Confidence to Achieve

A Connective Culture

We foster a culture of collaboration and cooperation between the school, student and home.

In developing reflective and critically aware learners, it is imperative for students to be connected to their school environment, local community and the world. This is supported by strong parental involvement at the College.

At Sunbury Downs College we do this through;

- An International Student Program – enrolment of students from overseas
- A strong focus on digital learning
- A structured and timely reporting and assessment schedule
- Parental access to learning data
- A range of interactive and relevant parent educational forums
- Positive parental participation through P'n'G @ SDC – our Parents & Guardians group, focusing on fundraising & events
- College Council and Sub-Committees

This is further enhanced with our commitment to partnerships. Some of our partnerships include:

- Feeder primary and local schools
- Universities, including 'The University of Melbourne'
- Beacon Foundation-supporting business and education links within the classroom
- Local organisations such as Sunbury RSL, National Serviceman's Association and Rotary

Celebrating Achievements & Success

Acknowledging achievement is an important aspect of our College community. As a College, we provide many opportunities to share in the achievements of our students, staff and parents. These include:

- Student-led College Assemblies
- Mini-School and Year Level Assemblies
- An Awards program
- College Awards Ceremony
- Year Level Formals
- Debutante Ball
- Valedictory Dinner
- Year 12 Celebration Assembly
- Art, Technology and Design exhibition ~ MUSE
- Newsletters and eCommunication strategy
- College Magazine "Nexus"



Supporting & Strengthening Student Success

Knowing our students well allows us to monitor and support their growth, both academically and personally. At our College, we understand the strong link between student health and wellbeing, and learning success. We provide targeted resources to promote student personal growth and learning.

At Sunbury Downs College, we support students with;

- A Student Services Team of professionals who provide counselling, guidance, advice and referrals
- Regular feedback to students and families
- Careers & Pathways support and guidance
- A structured course counselling program for students in Years 9-12
- An extensive network of service providers within the local and broader community
- Careers support and monitoring beyond Year 12
- Subject selection based on learning data



Confidence to Achieve

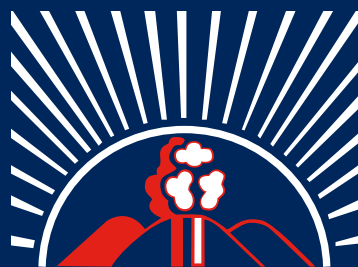
Facilities to enhance Teaching & Learning

Sunbury Downs College provides students with a safe & secure learning environment.

We pride ourselves on high expectations and this is reflected in the maintenance of clean, modern College buildings and grounds.

To provide for the needs of our learners we have a 21st Century learning environment which includes:

- Education Resource Centre (ERC)-open before school, recess, lunchtime and after school
- Flexible Learning Centre with open classroom space allowing for differentiated learning
- Art courtyard with specialised classrooms to facilitate the learning of The Arts, including a Media Suite
- Well-appointed outdoor learning spaces with beautiful landscaped gardens
- Well-resourced Technology Wing
- Specialised classrooms for Science and Technology subjects
- Student Services Centre for our team of counsellors, wellbeing staff and visiting support staff
- Well-resourced and positioned VCE Study Centre (Year 12)
- Art Gallery for exhibitions, student displays and community events
- Purpose built Gymnasium with a mezzanine, including a dance studio
- Music specialised classrooms including private tutorial rooms
- Wireless ICT facilities with computer laboratories supported by a 1:1 laptop program
- Canteen open each school day for recess and lunchtime
- Outdoor ovals, basketball and multipurpose courts
- On site Uniform Shop (contact the Administration Office for operating times)



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