



## Principal Newsletter Report

21<sup>st</sup> November 2025

**Unit 4 VCE exams concluded this week at the Lutheran Hall**, and I received some excellent feedback from our examination supervisors about the way in which Year 11 and 12 students have tackled their written exams over the past fortnight; it has been very pleasing to observe lots of exam preparation happening at school, and at home. **VCE results this year will be released to students electronically on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December from 7:00am onwards**, and hardcopy results will arrive in mailboxes in the days after this date. I wish all our VCE students well with their results - they have certainly worked hard in their studies across the year.

On Wednesday evening we celebrated the graduation of our 2025 Year 12 VCE group at the Hawkesdale Memorial Hall, and the effort and perseverance that is required to successfully finish thirteen years of primary and secondary education. **The Year 12 Graduation Dinner** is one of the highlights of the school year, and I felt very proud to hear our School Captains - Heath and Lillian - reflect on their memories and appreciation of our school in shaping their schooling journey.



**I note that a number of families have a youngest child graduating from Year 12 this year. I would like to thank the Boyd, Hibbert, Hutchins, Johnston, Leske-King, Triance and Thomson families for their involvement with our school over the years, and to wish them all the best into the future.** Guiding students through their schooling is an important partnership between the teachers, students and parents, and I am always grateful for the efforts that families make to ensure that children are present at school and fully supported in their learning. A big thanks particularly to Ms White for her role in organising the Year 12 Graduation Dinner this year, and to Mr Kingston for making a flying visit back to Hawkesdale to wish the Year 12's all the best with their future endeavours.

**Well done also to our busy Parents and Friends Club** for their involvement in purchasing decorations and photo backdrops for the Year 12 and Year 6 graduation ceremonies that will occur this year; the Memorial Hall looked fantastic! Our P&F also arranged for the design and ordering of graduation stoles for each of our Year 12's - a new tradition for our school, and one that was well-received and looked very stylish. Thank you!

The recall of kinetic sand products has received extensive media reporting and consumer alerts over the past fortnight, with school closures happening in other states and territories. At our school, we are taking the steps set out by the Department of Education to collect and dispose of any kinetic craft sand products that may be in classrooms. Current advice from national and Victorian health authorities is that there is a low risk to human health from craft sand products that may contain asbestos. If you have the product at home however, the advice from health authorities is that you should stop using it and follow online ACCC product safety advice; the online link can be found in the Compass email that I sent to all families earlier in the week. Please contact me at school if you would like to discuss anything to do with this issue.



It has been pleasing to observe secondary students training at lunchtimes using our set of school mountain bikes, preparing their riding and fitness skills for **the upcoming Great Hawkesdale Bike Ride**. The GHBR this year will use the vehicle-free surface of the Port Fairy to Warrnambool Rail Trail, and as always there will be overnight camping and lots of fun for the riders involved. A rest day is available for students who take part in the ride on Friday, December 12, with classes still happening at school for all other students on this day.



**A reminder to families that from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 children and young people aged under 18 can travel free on all Victorian public transport services** - this includes trams, trains, buses and coach services across the state. A new tap-on/tap-off Youth MYKI card has been developed to allow for this free travel, and more information will be available as to how these cards can be accessed later in the term. Regional travellers will need to show their cards on services that do not feature MYKI readers. Reduced Vline ticketing costs have been a great saving for our metro-based camps and excursions, and this latest travel initiative from the Victorian government will continue to assist our families financially with statewide travel.

Following on from feedback from the Strategic Review process earlier in the year, I am planning to restructure our school timetable in 2026 to maximise teaching and learning opportunities at our school. We currently operate within a 30-period week, with students taking part in 6x50 minute sessions each day. In 2026, we will begin the year with 5x one hour period days, with students having 25 subject sessions for the week. One of the significant advantages created by this change will be to allow our primary students to have access to the recommended two hours of literacy instruction every day, as well as one hour of numeracy instruction every day. Building primary literacy and numeracy skills will translate to improved secondary literacy and numeracy skills as students move through year levels and will have the capacity to lift the academic performance of all students over time. This will be very different way for our school to operate, and we will use 2026 to monitor and assess the scheduling of subjects to create the best model possible for future years. While start and finish times will not change in 2026, recess and lunchtime will be a little later, with 2x hour sessions happening before recess, 2x hour sessions happening before lunch, and then a single hour-long period happening after lunch to finish the day. I will share the new weekly schedule with our community via the newsletter next week - please let me know if you would like to discuss this further.

Finally, there is some more great woodwork and design work on display in our Admin foyer this week, with our Year 7 class creating a range of clever coin boxes using layered plywood and perspex. The quality of this work is excellent - well done Mr Hoeksema and our Year 7 students!

Have a great weekend everyone ...

**Mr Ralph**  
**Principal**





# Happy Graduation



Last night, we celebrated the outstanding achievements of the Class of 2025 at the Year 12 Graduation Dinner, held at the Hawkesdale Memorial Hall.

It was wonderful to hear the reflections and funny memories shared by Year 12 Coordinator Ms White, Mr Ralph, and, much to everyone's delight, a very special surprise guest, Mr Kingston, who returned for the evening.

Our College Captains, Heath and Lillian, also spoke beautifully as they looked back on their favourite moments from their time at our school. It is always meaningful to hear the experiences that have stayed with our students: ADVANCE camps with Mr Jarrad, the many sporting opportunities, and the strong relationships that grow between students and teachers in our small-class environment.

As is tradition at our Graduation Dinner, we also took the time to farewell the families whose journey with our school has come to an end. This year, we say goodbye to the Boyd, Hibbert, Hutchins, Johnston, Leske-King, Thomson and Triance families, marking the end of long and valued connections with our community. For some, like Aiden, this marks the end of a school experience that began all the way back in Prep.

We could not be prouder of everything the Class of 2025 has achieved. Throughout their time with us, they have truly embodied our school values of respect, responsibility and resilience.

As Mr Ralph reminded us in his closing remarks: once a student of Hawkesdale P-12 College, always a student of Hawkesdale P-12 College. We hope you will come back to visit us, and we look forward to hearing where the next stage of your lives takes you.



# Happy Graduation



## Class of 2025



# Happy Graduation



Dare to Achieve



# Happy Graduation



# Dare to Dream



# Happy Graduation



We are so proud!



## **Port Fairy Show Triumph**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of November Addisyn competed in many events held at the Port Fairy Agricultural Show. There were several competitions such as 'Best presented Horse and Rider', which she came 1<sup>st</sup> in. She also did many other classes and came home with 1<sup>st</sup> place 6 times, 3 2<sup>nd</sup> places, 2 'Champion' and 1 'Hero' ribbon. There were many moments where nervousness took over but, in the end, she had an amazing day and was ecstatic with her wins. Congratulations Addisyn! What an amazing accomplishment in an area you are passionate about.





## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC CONCERT

On October 31st, eleven students put on a music concert for family and friends. It was a wonderful concert, with students aging in range from grade 1 through to year 12. They each played songs to demonstrate what they had been learning on their chosen instrument, with songs ranging from Mary Had a Little Lamb to a piece by Chopin. Thank you to all the students for performing, and the school and parents for their support for the music program.

Melanie Pocknall, Instrumental Music Teacher









# Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

## APPLICATION FORM

School Name

School Ref ID

### Parent/carer details

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

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

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

\*Foster Parents must provide a letter of support from the institution facilitating the arrangement (for example Mackillop Family Services) or the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) is required as evidence).

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

### Student details

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

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 CSEF 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 CSEF 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 CSEF provided by DE.
- Information regarding my eligibility for the CSEF 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 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2026



## Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund eligibility

Below are the criteria used to determine a student's eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

### 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 or Disability Support Pension Card). 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.

Applications must be submitted to the school by the end of Term 2.

Where the parent or carer is seeking eligibility based on an eligible financially means-tested card, eligibility will be determined when the relevant concession card successfully validates with Centrelink on either the first day of Term 1 or Term 2.

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.

A special consideration eligibility category also exists and should be made through the application form. For more information, see: [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Eligibility | education.vic.gov.au](#)

### Eligible means tested cards

The full list of eligible concession and health care cards is available on the [Services Australia](#) website.

### Eligibility date

For concession card holders, CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/carer's concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink (see [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Policy | education.vic.gov.au](#)).

### Payment amounts

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 policy for the current rates.

**For ungraded students**, the rate payable is determined by the student's date of birth. For more information, see: [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Payment amounts | education.vic.gov.au](#)

**Foundation and Year 7 government school students** who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents, so please register your interest at the school.

### How to complete the application form

**Note: all sections must be completed by parent/carer**

1. Complete the PARENT/CARER 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.

If you are claiming as a Foster Parent a letter of support from the institution facilitating the arrangement (for example Mackillop Family Services) or the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) is required as evidence. If you are claiming a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card.

2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.

3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

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

### 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). Your data is securely managed and only shared with third parties 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](#)



# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

**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 background and their outcomes.**

## CAMPS, SPORTS & 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 trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid 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 primary school students
- \$400 for secondary 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>







You're invited to...

# Community BBQ and Presentation Assembly

**Monday 15 Dec**

1 pm - Community BBQ by  
the college tennis courts

2pm - Presentation  
Assembly in the college  
stadium

**Don't forget to wear full  
school uniform!**

3.30pm - Buses depart

Join us to celebrate the achievements  
and milestones of our students  
throughout the year!





# End of Year Dates

Fri 28 Nov:

Final official day of school for Years 10 and 11 students.



Monday 15 Dec:

Community BBQ - 1pm  
Presentation Assembly - 2pm  
Buses Depart - 3.30pm



Tues 16 Dec:

Final official day of school for P-9 students with the annual Primary and Secondary Picnic Day  
School day finishes at 3.30pm



Wed 17 - Thurs 18 Dec:

Student free days for staff curriculum planning and to support the acquittal of time in lieu hours generated by camps in this semester.



HAWKESDALE  
P12 COLLEGE

## Year 6-to-7 Transition Days

Monday & Tuesday  
October 27 & 28

Monday & Tuesday  
December 8 & 9

For more information please contact the school

Transition Coordinator: Patricia Butters  
patricia.butters@education.vic.gov.au

Year 7 Level Coordinator: Tyna Lee  
tyna.lee@education.vic.gov.au

(03) 5560 7225

[www.hawkesdalecol.vic.edu.au](http://www.hawkesdalecol.vic.edu.au)

[hawkesdale.p12@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:hawkesdale.p12@education.vic.gov.au)

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OPEN NOW!

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**BLACK FRIDAY  
TWILIGHT MARKETS  
AND DINNER @ LOGANS**

**LIEBIG STREET,  
WARRNAMBOOL**

**START AT 3PM | FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER**

SELF DRIVE OR CAR POOL WITH FRIENDS!  
CARS WILL BE DEPARTING HAWKESDALE AT  
VARIOUS TIMES. IF YOU WOULD LIKE A LIFT,  
PLEASE LET US KNOW.

**DINNER @ LOGANS  
RESTAURANT - 7.30PM**  
PLEASE RSVP BY WED 26<sup>TH</sup> NOV  
FOR NUMBERS.  
DINNER AND DRINKS AT OWN EXPENSE.

Email : [parentsandfriends3287@outlook.com](mailto:parentsandfriends3287@outlook.com)

Welcome **SUMMER**

**Hawkesdale Swimming Pool**  
2025/26 season opens  
**Saturday 13th December**

**Open Times**

School Days	4:00-6:00pm
Weekends	1:00-6:00pm
School Holidays	1:00-6:00pm
Closed on Christmas Day	

**HAWKESDALE SWIMMING POOL  
2025/26 SEASON**

Daily Admission		General Memberships	
Adult (16+yrs)	\$6.00	Family	\$108
Concession/Under 16	\$4.00	Family concession	\$67
Child (0-4yrs)	\$3.00	Adult	\$67
		Concession/Student	\$46
Rostered Memberships			
Family (2 adults + children)	\$18.00	Family	\$85
		Adult	\$55

\* Pool will only open if the Hamilton forecast is 22C or above

**BUNNINGS  
warehouse**

**FUNDRAISER  
BBQ**

**\$1560.95**

Thank you to the volunteers who helped at the Bunnings  
sausage sizzle and to those who came along and bought a  
snag! We had a great day and raised \$1560.95 for the school.  
Fantastic effort



# Social media

## age restrictions:

### A guide for parents

### and carers



From 10 December 2025, age-restricted social media platforms will have to take reasonable steps to prevent Australians under the age of 16 from creating a social media account or continuing to use an existing account. The new social media age restrictions are intended to keep young people safe from digital harm. While this is a popular decision among many parents and carers, ReachOut research shows that the majority of young people aged 12–15 (72%) disagree with the restrictions or have mixed feelings about them.

Many young people may struggle with accepting the restrictions and could find it difficult to manage the period of transition away from social media. This guide is designed to help you better understand how this change may affect your teen's emotions and wellbeing, and to suggest some ways you can support them to navigate the transition.

**REACHOUT**



## Understanding the impacts



While there are many expected benefits to staying off of social media, your teen may only be considering what they are set to lose.

Social media is a core element of teen friendships today. It's the most common way to chat with friends, to make new friends, and to keep up to date with each other's lives. Many teens also find connection and comfort in digital spaces.

These benefits are especially valued by teens from marginalised backgrounds, who may struggle to see themselves represented in the physical world around them.



Hear how teen content creator George uses social media to celebrate his sexuality and connect with his community

Our research shows that teens also use social media as a way to discover mental health information, often using these platforms as frequently as they would use a search engine like Google.

Delayed access to social media may mean that your teen feels they are losing access to their standard way of communicating with their friends, learning about themselves and connecting with the world around them. They may feel left out, or uncertain about where they fit in, and this could affect their confidence and overall wellbeing.



Browse our Social Media and Teenagers resources

### Helping teens cope with this change

Change is a normal part of life. It can even help us to develop strengths such as courage, flexibility and resilience. But change can also be overwhelming and confusing. Negative emotions around losing access to social media may not disappear overnight. Talking about things with them will help your teen to process and accept what's happened.

Here are some quick tips for supporting your teen during this time of change:

1. Listen closely, and with empathy, to what they have to say.
2. Don't dismiss or minimise their feelings about the situation.
3. Help them to practise acceptance by discussing what they can and can't control.
4. Encourage positive wellbeing behaviours such as exercise or journaling.
5. Support them to build offline friendships to prevent isolation and loneliness.
6. Find ways to spend positive time offline together as a family.



More tips on helping teens to cope with change



Supporting lonely or isolated teens



# Navigating tension and behaviour change

Having the freedom to make your own choices and decisions is an important part of growing from a teen into a capable adult. These restrictions may feel like a big loss of freedom, and your teen may respond by rebelling or blaming you. Teens with older siblings who can still access social media might also feel they're being treated unfairly, which could cause tension within the family.

You might also notice some behaviour changes in your teen during this time. If they've become dependent on social media for their sense of wellbeing, they may experience some withdrawal-like symptoms. This could look like frequent mood swings, withdrawal from family life, disrupted sleep, poor eating habits, or issues with communication (e.g. they might become impatient or short-tempered).

The first step if you notice tension or a behaviour change is to speak openly about it with your teen. Approach the conversation with empathy and patience, and practise active listening so they feel heard and understood.

If your teen is unresponsive or uncooperative, try to have the chat again after they've had some time to reflect. If they are really struggling, it might be time to seek professional help.



Tips for having a difficult conversation with your teen



03

## Professional support for teens

If you're worried about your teen's mental health and wellbeing, a visit to their GP is a great first step in getting help. You could also explore counselling or therapy.

Your teen may be feeling a lot of uncertainty about whether a professional can help them, how to talk about what they're going through, or whether they even need to see someone. A good way to support your teen through this

process is to make sure they're prepared for their appointment. Sit down together and help them write out what they're feeling and experiencing. Encourage them to refer to this list during their appointment.



More information on seeking professional help for teens

### Further information and support



Visit the eSafety social media age restrictions hub for practical information



Explore more of our resources on raising teens



Visit our Parents and Carers Coaching service for one-on-one support



Support and resources for teens available via the ReachOut website

## HAWKESDALE P12 COLLEGE 2025 YEARBOOK

A great historical record of the year. Relive and reminisce about the camps, excursions, the study, and the good times with your friends. Limited copies available. Contact the office for further information.



Photos of friends and good times, memories to keep.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



CONTACT US  
At the office. 55607225



We are now taking orders for the **2025** School Magazine.  
Please fill in the form below or phone the College 55607225  
The Magazine is due to arrive very early 2026

OoOoOoOoOoO

## HAWKESDALE P12 COLLEGE - SCHOOL MAGAZINE - 2025

STUDENT/S NAME: .....

PARENT NAME: .....

I/We wish to order ..... copies of the 2025 School Magazine @ **\$36.00 per copy**. If you need the magazine to be mailed to you please write the address below or email the college on [hawkesdale.p12@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:hawkesdale.p12@education.vic.gov.au) with your address and add \$6.00 postage per magazine to the total cost.

ADDRESS: .....

Payment methods available:      ☐ CASH   ☐ DIRECT DEPOSIT   ☐ EFPTOS   ☐ CREDIT CARD (see below)

I/We have included payment (please tick payment method) of \$.....

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(Please note all credit card information will be destroyed after payment has been processed)

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