

MANSFIELD SECONDARY COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER



Issue 1 - 10 February 2022

From The Principal:



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Mansfield Secondary College! We value the partnership we share with parents and guardians, and we look forward to achieving with your children the strong results we traditionally generate. Particularly, welcome to our new students; we have 15 students from other schools joining us, and a big cohort of 91 Year 7's.

COVID-19:

It has been a significant start to the year in terms of COVID-19, with a range of strategies in place to support student safety:

- Rapid Antigen Tests have been distributed to most students. Our request is that students test twice a week. Any positive result should be reported to the school and the family should isolate at home for 7 days
- Rapid Antigen Tests have also been distributed to staff
- Air Purifiers have been installed in 21 higher-risk places within the College
- Masks continue to be mandated indoors. Please ensure that your young person comes to school with sufficient masks for each day

Moving forward, I do not anticipate extended periods of flexible and remote learning. However, I do expect significant absences of staff and students as the virus spreads throughout our community. We will work to ensure that course materials continue to be placed on Google Classroom for students to access if they are isolating. The degree of incapacitation due to COVID -19 seems to be quite variable – you may find that your young person will not be able to complete much work whilst unwell. Please take care of each other and your families. Also, please be forgiving of staff who are isolating and/or unwell with COVID-19 themselves.

Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) data:

We were very proud of our students from last year. Despite the pandemic and periods of remote learning, we had fantastic outcomes:

- The Australian Tertiary Entrance Ranking (ATAR) gives a national comparison of absolute student achievement. Our top ATAR was 93.4 (well done Max Les!), plus there were five students with scores above 80. Our students are competitive on the National stage.
- Study scores are the score out of 50 for each unit completed. The percentage of scores above 40 is used as an indicator of very high performing students. We had 6 students achieve a study score of 40+, representing 7.1% of the cohort. That compares very favourably with the state mean of 6.6%. Again, students here achieved excellent results.
- The mean study score is used as an indicator of how the 'average' student progresses. Our mean was 29.16, up from 28.84 in 2020, and again compares favourably against the state mean of 28.92.
- Growth and Pathways – despite the focus on absolute achievement, what we are really proud of is getting every one of our school leavers onto the next step in their pathway. We had a significant number of students commencing apprenticeships, of whom we are just as proud as we are of those going to university.

Well done to every single student, and to the staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure that they have the best opportunities possible.

New Staff:

We welcome several new and returning staff to our team:

- Jen Wenlock, coming to us as an experienced teacher from St Michaels Grammar, teaching English
- Jaclyn Wale, an experienced teacher returning to teaching following a period of family leave, teaching English and Humanities
- Andrew Raftery, an experienced teacher returning to us following a period of time teaching in international schools across Europe, Africa and Asia. Andrew has a range of Maths classes including Senior Maths
- Amanda Jones, an experienced teacher returning to us following a period of service at Rubicon Outdoor School. Amanda has classes across Physical Education, Health, Outdoor and Environmental Studies, and Humanities
- Jane Kay, returning to us to take up the position of Canteen Manager
- Bec Studds, a graduate with forestry experience, teaching Science and Maths

We also acknowledge some current staff changing their role within the college to take up senior leadership positions:

- Daniel Hough, our new Assistant Principal – Wellbeing/Student Services
- Courtney O'Loughlan, our new Junior School Coordinator

We welcome them to our team and look forward to the contribution they will make with our students.

School Council Elections:

School Council is the governing body of the College. We normally meet on the fourth Monday of the month, for about 2 ½ hours. School Council manages the finances of the College, sets strategy and direction, and supports the grounds maintenance and fundraising efforts. Membership provides a great opportunity to see 'inside' the college. Positions on the council are filled by parents, teachers, students and community representatives. In the parent category we have vacancies for three positions of two years tenure.

In the student category we have a vacancy for a single position of two years tenure. You might like to talk to your child about being involved in this way. We have a long history of student involvement on School Council – they are full members and have a significant input into the direction of the school

Nominations close on Friday 18th February at 4pm, with elections to be held after this. Nomination forms are available from the Front Office.

Compass:

The roll-out of the Compass portal has not been as smooth as desired, with some student timetables represented incorrectly for the first three days. This has now been corrected, and I apologise on behalf of the College for the errors – transitioning to new software is never easy. I encourage you to download the app for your mobile device.

**Attendance:**

In Compass, you will be able to track your child's attendance. Please ensure that all absences are reported to the Front Office for approval. Also please work with us to ensure that students remain engaged and attending – research shows that being at school is a major support for mental health, is directly linked to financial earning potential, and inversely linked to substance abuse. Being at school is great for a whole range of reasons, and sets our young people up for successful adult lives.

Uniform:

Just a reminder to follow our uniform policy, as outlined on the website. In particular, students participating in physical education activities should change back into their school uniform at the end of the class. Therefore, students who have PE at the start of the day can come in their sports uniform, but need to bring their correct uniform for the end of class. Thanks!

Swimming Sports:

Our house swimming sports are scheduled for next Wednesday 16th February. It is a great day and we encourage all students to participate. Even if your child is not competing, it is important to attend and support their house team.

Parents are welcome to attend the sports, but will need to show evidence of double-vaccination.

A note on swimwear: The sports are a school function, and our expectation is that swimwear is appropriate for that context and meets our sun-smart obligations. That is, be conscious about the choices you make with your swimwear. Thanks!

Mobile Phones:

A reminder that there are state-wide rules around phones in schools. Phones should be off, and locked in lockers, from the first bell to the last bell. If your child does not have a lock for their locker, then these can be obtained from the Front Office.

We have noticed that some students use their phones for purchasing goods from the canteen. This is a clear contravention of the rules. Please help your young person to carry their card, rather than using the app on their phone.

Drop-off and Pick-up zones:

Most parents and students have now found the carpark at the end of View St. I encourage you to drive along View St from the roundabout, rather than using Reynolds and Finlayson streets – it is far easier! Equally, I respectfully discourage parents from using the staff carpark (opposite Finlayson St) for drop-off or pick-up, as it is an identified risk point for pedestrian/car collisions.

Who to talk to for:

General enquiries:

- The Front Office team on 5775 2022

Wellbeing issues and any learning related needs are the Year Level Coordinators (first port of call) :

- Year 7 - Mrs O'Loughlan (Junior School Coordinator)
- Year 8 - Mrs Kapaun
- Year 9 - Mr Owens
- Year 10 - Ms Wallace
- Year 11 - Mr Howlett
- Year 12 - Ms Macdowell (Senior School Coordinator)

- Wellbeing Coordinator - Brad Freind
- Youth Worker - Trish Marks
- School Nurse - Chris Nicholls
- Business Manager - Anna Francis
- Absences - the Front Office team

I encourage you to contact the College promptly if you need support, or need to tell us something about your child. We value the opportunity to work together with you, for the good of all the young people in our community.

Child Safety:

Mansfield Secondary College has a zero tolerance stance on Child Abuse. Child safety encompasses matters related to the protection of all children and young people from child abuse, managing the risk of child abuse, providing support to a child at risk of child abuse, and responding to incidents or allegations of child abuse. Mansfield Secondary College supports and respects children and young people with a disability, and people of diverse cultures.

Our Child Safety Officer is Mr Daniel Hough, Assistant Principal - Student Services. I encourage you to reach out to him if you are concerned for the safety of any student. Further resources can be found on our website at <http://www.mansfieldsc.vic.edu.au/student-parent-portals/child-safety-resources>

All the best with the school year!

Regards
Timothy Hall

Instrumental Music Lessons

Instrumental Music lessons will begin in Week 3 (Mon 14th Feb).

Students who are interested in having instrumental music lessons, please see Mr Webb, Ms Kapaun or the Front Office to collect an Expression of Interest form.

Instruments and groups on offer include: voice, guitar, drums, keyboard, woodwind, brass, sound production and other instrumental ensembles.

Tim Webb
Head of Music





Maths Help

Mansfield Secondary College is pleased to continue offering Maths Help every Thursday afternoon from 3:20 until 4:30.

This is an opportunity for students to get some extra help with their maths work and is open to all students from Year 7 to Year 12. It is staffed by our dedicated Maths teachers who give up some of their planning time to help out our kids. Students can use the time to work on homework sheets or get specific help on whatever they are studying at the time.

Maths Help has been well attended by students in the past and those who attend regularly often improve their maths skills quite considerably (there is also a lolly jar that might come out of the cupboard every Thursday!).

What: Maths Help

When: Every Thursday after school 3:20 – 4:30

Where: D2 Language centre

Who: Every student from Year 7 to Year 12

If you have any questions, please email me at mark.oloughlan@education.vic.gov.au.

Mark O'Loughlan

Mathematics Coordinator

When you're solving a word problem in math and you arrive at fathers age=1, baby's age=27.



Parent Payment Assistance Options

Consideration of Hardship

Mansfield Secondary College's Principal and it's School Council exercise sensitivity to the differing financial circumstances of students and their families when considering parent payments. There are a range of options available to support and assist parents.

Consideration of hardship arrangements in respect to payment requests is provided to families experiencing long term hardship or short term crisis on a confidential, case by case basis.

Families having difficulties meeting their financial obligations can contact the school's Business Manager, Anna Francis, to discuss options: anna.francis@education.vic.gov.au or on 5775 2022.

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provides payments for eligible students to attend various activities: school camps, swimming and school-organised sport programs, outdoor education programs, excursions and incursions.

Parents/students holding a means-tested Health Care Card or Pension Card valid on the first day of Term 1 may be eligible. Foster parents and Veterans Affairs cardholders may also be eligible.

Year 7 students that are recipients of the CSEF automatically qualify for the State School Relief uniform package.

CSEF and SSR Forms are available from the Front Office. Completed forms, with a copy of your Centrelink Card, should be submitted to the Mansfield Secondary College Front Office. For further information, please visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Conveyance Allowance

If you are an eligible bus traveller and live more than 4.8kms from your closest bus stop, you may be eligible to claim Conveyance Allowance to assist with travel costs.

Application forms are available from the Front Office and need to be submitted by 16 March 2022. Eligible applicants can either be reimbursed by EFT and paid each term, or your conveyance allowance can be credited to your family account.

For more information, go to: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/transport/Pages/conveyance.aspx>

Centrepay

Centrepay is a free, voluntary service for Centrelink customers to pay expenses via regular deductions from their Centrelink payments. Deductions can be started, changed or cancelled at any time to suit the family's circumstances.

Refer to the Department of Education & Training website for more information, and to the Mansfield Secondary College website for the Mansfield Secondary College Parent Payment Guide: <https://www.mansfieldsc.vic.edu.au/mansfield-secondary-college/policies-documents-library/college-policies>



Important Notes

PHONES

Students are to leave Mobile Phones in their locker throughout the ENTIRE day. Messages can be left by calling the Front Office and canteen EFTPOS transactions must be made with a physical card - not a phone. Any urgent messages for students can be relayed through the Front Office - please call 5775 2022

UNIFORM & UNIFORM SHOP

Full uniform is expected of all students. If students require a 'uniform pass', they must see their Year Level Coordinator at the beginning of the day. We are still awaiting delivery of some stock to backfill orders. Our supplier has advised we should receive this by the end of the month.

The Uniform Shop is open every Wednesday at lunchtime (12.40pm - 1.30pm) for students requiring a fitting. Orders are placed via the MSC website and families are notified by email when ready to collect.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Students will be given a photo order form on the day of the school photos (Monday 14 Feb) to take home. Families can then order directly with National Photography online after this day. Students are expected to be dressed in full school uniform (not PE uniform, if they have PE on Monday they will change before class.)

LOCKERS

Students must have a lock for their locker. These can be brought from home (spare keys left at the Front Office for safekeeping), or combination locks are available to buy from the Front Office for \$15.

SICK BAY

Students not feeling well are to go to the Sick Bay, which is located next to the library. Parents will be contacted by the staff when required.

LEAVING THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

Year 7-11 students who need to leave school grounds during the day must meet a parent/guardian at the Front Office to be signed out. Alternatively, parents must call the Front Office to discuss or email mansfield.sc@education.vic.gov.au

LOST PROPERTY

We highly recommended that all student items are labelled, including stationery, laptops, bags, clothing. All lost property is handed into the Front Office and held for one month only.

PRIVACY POLICY

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy. Please take time to remind yourself of our school's collection notice, <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/Schools-Privacy-Policy-English.pdf>

Canteen Roster



February

Monday 14 Jan - TBA

Tuesday 15 Feb - Katrina Fox

Wednesday 16 Feb - Clarissa Leatham

Thursday 17 Feb - TBA

Monday 21 Feb - Sharon Bunce

Tuesday 22 Feb - Gail O'Halloran

Wednesday 23 Feb - Bianca Hurlle

Thursday 24 Feb - Sue Dolling

Thank you to all for volunteering your time!

Calendar



Week 3

Monday 14 Feb - School Photos

Wednesday 16 Feb - Swimming Carnival

Week 4

Wednesday 23 Feb - Uniform Shop Open 12.40pm- 1.30pm



MSC ARE HIRING

Administration Assistant

We are looking for a part time Administration Assistant to work in the Front Office at MSC.

The position is a fixed term contract from 7 March 2022 to 24 June 2022 (end of Semester 1). Hours are 5 hours/day Monday to Friday and responsibilities include: Student Attendance Management, Uniform Shop and General Office administration tasks. (Attendance is not required in the school holidays).

To apply, you need to go to: Careers (eduweb.vic.gov.au) and in the Search Jobs prompt, enter Mansfield. Follow the instructions to apply.

Please contact Anna Francis if you have any questions on 5775 2022.

NEVR MUSIC CAMP

BEECHWORTH - THE OLD PRIORY

3RD - 5TH MAY 2022

Enjoy three days of intensive music playing & performance in the picturesque town of Beechworth. We offer junior and senior concert band, string, jazz or contemporary band. There's also an opportunity to try out another instrument - maybe play marimba, ukulele or percussion and sing in our fabulous concert finale. You can even show off any special talents (the usual or the very unusual!) in our extremely popular talent night show - Dookie's Got Talent. Places are limited so don't miss out!



REGISTRATION

All registrations are online. Go to www.trybooking.com and search NEVR Beechworth Music Camp or use the OI code. Once registered and paid, you will be sent an email with permission forms to be signed and returned. Any queries about registration please contact Tricia on 0409855434 or julie.taylor@education.vic.gov.au

COSTS

- Early bird with bus travel to Beechworth \$285-
 - Early bird (no bus) \$270-
 - Full price with bus travel to Beechworth \$305-
 - Full price (no bus) \$290-
 - Non-government school (no subsidy) \$459-
- EARLY BIRD PRICE AVAILABLE UNTIL 3rd April 2022

*Family discounts available - call Tricia for details
Bus travel is one way to Beechworth. No return travel available.
Parents to collect students after final night concert.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK



Malcolm Street School Crossing Safety Reminders

Behind the yellow line

Stand behind the yellow line, not on the road edge

Cross after 2 whistles

Only cross the road when you hear 2 x sharp whistles from the Supervisor

Cross from the line

Do not run diagonally from the road side into the crossing. Walk across the road directly from behind the yellow line

Walk

Walk calmly to the line and when crossing the road

1 long whistle

STOP!!!

2 sharp whistles

Go - start crossing

COVID-19 BOOSTERS

Boosters now open to 16-18 yr olds.
An afternoon clinic is being run next Wednesday 16th February to cater for this age group.

Appointments open from 2-7pm & can be made through the call centre on 1800 675 398 or online @ www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/book-your-vaccine-appointment