



# MANSFIELD SECONDARY COLLEGE

# Newsletter



2024 Year 7s first day!

## 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, including our intake of 93 Year 7 students.



College newsletters give students, parents and alumni a peek into what's going on at the College. Published every fortnight, they complement the ongoing communication that is delivered through our student management program 'Compass'. The link for Compass can be found here: <https://mansfieldsc-vic.compass.education> All new families will have received a welcome email from Compass.

Please contact the School Office if you have any questions.

### Students in the community:

It is great to see our past and present students out and about, contributing to our community. I recognise, in particular:

- Judah Kelleher, current school captain and representing the College as the Australia Day Ambassador for Mansfield
- Amelie Walker, past student and the Mansfield '2024 Young Citizen of the Year' for her work particularly with the Rural Education Support Network and Women in the Northeast, including representation to federal Parliament last year
- Hayley Cotterill, past student and recipient of the 2024 Bendigo Bank scholarship to support her tertiary studies. Included in Hayley's time at school was an opportunity to contribute at a National level through the Rural Youth Ambassadors program
- Emmeline Evans, current Year 12 student, highlighting in last week's Mansfield Courier, pathways within our School Based Apprenticeship program and the contribution that our local employers make to support these students

## CALENDAR

### TERM 1

#### Week 3

Mon 12/2 - School photos

Mon 12/2 - Year 7 welcome BBQ

Wed 14/2 - Uniform shop open 1:45pm - 2:15pm

#### Week 4

Wed 21/2 - Uniform shop open 1:45pm - 2:15pm

Fri 23/2 - House Swimming Sports

## Changed your details??

It is important the school is kept up to date with families contact details.

Please email any change of details to the School Office on

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



# MANSFIELD SECONDARY COLLEGE

## From The Principal (continued)

I really enjoy watching the way our young people grow and flourish in our community and beyond. It is one of the reasons I love being involved in education.

### Victorian Certificate of Education results:

You will have seen some of our students' academic results from last year in various publications. Again, we out-performed our neighbourhood schools, including many of the local private schools. Below is a selection of the results, as published in The Age in December.

|                          | Study Scores =>40<br>(State average ~ 6.4%) | Median Study Score |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Benalla P-12             | 0%  | 23                 |
| Cathedral College        | 2.5%  | 29                 |
| Euroa SC                 | 2%  | 24                 |
| FCJ Benalla              | 4.4%  | 29                 |
| Galen College Wangaratta | 3.7%  | 28                 |
| <b>Mansfield SC</b>      | <b>5.7%</b>                                 | <b>30</b>          |
| Seymour College          | 1.8%  | 25                 |
| Wangaratta HS            | 3%  | 28                 |
| Yea HS                   | 1.4%  | 25                 |

The 'percentage of scores above 40' gives an indication of the proportion of high-performing students. The 'median study score' gives an indication of how the group has performed on average.

I acknowledge the excellent results of our students and commend both school staff and students on their efforts throughout the educational journey. We do, however, always look for growth and pathways provision. That is, as a result of our work, are students learning and are they able to achieve their next steps?

### School Council Vacancies:

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 Monday 19th February at 4pm, with elections to be held after this. Nomination forms are available from the School Office.

### New Staff:

It has been great to watch our new staff engage with our community. As a growing school, we have worked hard to obtain high quality staff to join us and our new staff have settled in well and are making a difference for our kids. I encourage you to attend the Parent-Teacher-Student interviews at the end of term and to reach out for a conversation with the teachers if you need support at any time.

### Year 7 Welcome BBQ:

All Year 7 families are invited to the welcome BBQ on Monday 12th February from 5:00pm - 6:00pm. Please take the opportunity to come and meet your child's teachers. We look forward to meeting you.

### Changes at the College for 2024:

For returning students and parents, there are two obvious changes which have occurred for this year:

- We have launched our new timetable structure. This was a significant piece of work for the College in preparation for 2024. It has resulted in:

## From The Principal (continued)

1. A shift in the break times (recess and lunch)
  2. An increase in the face-to-face teaching time for senior students (up from 200 to 232 minutes per subject per week)
  3. A time allocation to enable homegroups to occur
- We have launched our new homegroup structure. This is done with deliberate and thoughtful intent, looking to build student social/emotional capabilities and to further improve student-teacher relationships. We are very excited to be able to shift our focus towards these outcomes and trust that your young people will benefit from the opportunity. If you have questions, Brad Freind is our Wellbeing Coordinator and is leading the Homegroup work.

### Points of Contact:

I remind parents that we are keen to work in partnership with you. Points of contact are:

- Classroom teacher
- Homegroup teacher
- Year Level Coordinator
- Wellbeing team
- And as always, the School Office can direct your enquiries – 5775 2022 or [mansfield.sc@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:mansfield.sc@education.vic.gov.au)

We look forward to working with you throughout the year.

Kind regards,  
**Timothy Hall**

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## Homegroups

2024 marks a significant shift for Mansfield Secondary College. Changing the timetable is no easy task. After many months of planning, the new timetable is in full swing. Students and staff are adjusting and despite some grumbling stomachs at around 1pm, it all seems to be running smoothly.

One of the key features of the change is the advent of homegroups. As a relatively small regional school, we pride ourselves on knowing our students and forming strong connections. COVID-19 showed us the importance of this as we found new ways to stay connected despite remote learning. We know that every student wants to feel seen, known and valued. Each student is different with their unique strengths, challenges and learning needs. Our challenge is to know each student and how to help them reach their goals. It is a lofty ambition but made more achievable through homegroups.

Homegroups also provide a space in which to deliver social and emotional learning curriculum. Wellbeing learning is not solely the role of the wellbeing team, nor is it only for a percentage of students with identified needs. Our hope is that students will not only develop academically, but also develop the tools to manage the many challenges that they will face throughout their lives. In fact, we know that students who feel safe, supported and have positive mental health, are more likely to achieve better academic outcomes. Learning and wellbeing go hand in hand.

Each student has been placed in a homegroup. They will meet together with their homegroup teacher every day for 13 minutes. This is a chance to have some fun, build relationships, and have a daily check in with their teacher. Every Wednesday each homegroup will also meet for an additional 58 minute period. This is an opportunity to strategically engage with a social and emotional learning program. Students in Year 7 will be using The Resilience Project while students in Years 8-12 will be using a resource called Wellio. The main themes are listed below:



## From The Principal (continued)

| Year 7  | Year 8  | Year 9   |
|---|---|--|
| Belonging and relationships<br>Connection to our community<br>Gratitude, empathy & mindfulness  | Positive beginnings<br>Strengthening relationships<br>Internet safety<br>Reducing worry & building resilience<br>Sleep & mindfulness<br>Self-care & emotions<br>Positive psychology & character strengths                                   | Gratitude, positivity & purpose<br>Inclusive relationships<br>Stress & balancing emotions<br>Caring for the community<br>Positive choices with alcohol & the Internet<br>Strengths & self-worth<br>Healthy mind & body |
| Year 10   | Year 11   | Year 12  |
| Positive & purposeful living<br>Balancing thoughts & emotions<br>Health & self-care<br>Bullying & safe technology<br>Respect in our community<br>Future purpose<br>Mindset & resilience | Purpose goals & habit<br>Relationships & conflict resolution<br>Growing resilience<br>Self-awareness & mental agility<br>Impulse & informed decisions<br>Building strong connections<br>Positive communities & equality<br>Flow foundations | Personal growth & self-reflection<br>Flow, mindfulness and meditation<br>Future planning & life milestones<br>Thought & emotion regulation<br>Agency & aspiration  |

Feel free to get in touch with your child's homegroup teacher if you have any questions or concerns. They can be a useful point of contact along with Year Level Coordinators.

### **Brad Freind**

Wellbeing Coordinator

## Introducing Key People at MSC

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

### **2024 Year Level Coordinators**

Year 7 Coordinator - Michelle Comerford ([michelle.comerford@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:michelle.comerford@education.vic.gov.au))

Year 8 & Junior School Coordinator - Daniel Hough ([daniel.hough@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:daniel.hough@education.vic.gov.au))

Year 9 Coordinator - Jen Wenlock ([jennifer.wenlock@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:jennifer.wenlock@education.vic.gov.au))

Year 10 Coordinator - Sam Manson ([sam.manson@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:sam.manson@education.vic.gov.au))

Year 11 Coordinator - Jade O'Connor ([jade.oconnor@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:jade.oconnor@education.vic.gov.au))

Year 12 & Senior School Coordinator - Melanie Brooks ([melanie.brooks@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:melanie.brooks@education.vic.gov.au))

### **Other Key College Personnel**

Principal - Timothy Hall

Assistant Principal - Janessa Burkhardt

Assistant Principal - Daniel Hough

Curriculum Coordinator - Nigel Kain

Integration Coordinator - Jenny Hearn

Wellbeing Coordinator - Brad Freind ([brad.freind@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:brad.freind@education.vic.gov.au))

Business Manager - Anna Francis ([anna.francis@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:anna.francis@education.vic.gov.au))

ICT Manager - Abbey McConnell

For any other enquiries or if you are not sure who you should speak with, please contact the School Office team on 5775 2022 or at [mansfield.sc@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:mansfield.sc@education.vic.gov.au)

## Sports Carnivals 2024

Welcome back everybody to the New Year at MSC especially our new students and parents. Considering this I thought I'd put together a list of how our Sports program looks for the start of 2024.

Before I begin that, a big shout out to two of our students who have made the final squad in their respective sports. Max Mahoney on his Murray Bushrangers under 18 position and Jess Dolling on her under 20 Ariels Netball squad position, both wonderful achievements. If you know of a good news story about our MSC sporting students, please pass onto Mr Thomson as we are proud of what our young people are doing across many sporting endeavours.

A lot happens in Term 1. The MSC swimming carnival will be held at the Mansfield pool on Friday 23rd February. The Southern Ranges (SR) swimming will be held at Benalla Aquatic centre on Tuesday 5th March. The Hume Region (HR) swimming event will be held on Thursday 15th March in Wodonga. MSC athletics carnival will be held on Monday 26th March at Lords Oval.



It's important to remember that the school events are carnivals where the emphasis is on participation. There is plenty of room for students with strengths in these carnivals to compete at the next level which is called 'Southern Ranges'. Students who win an event at the school carnivals will be given the option to attend that next level.

For the school swimming sports we allow students to swim in a maximum of 5 events and 2 relays in one age group. Students are only eligible for their age group champion medal by swimming in their age group but can accumulate points for their houses if they swim in age group above their own to help with competitor numbers. This year with the inclusion of Multi Class events the 400m swims will be direct entry via Mr Thomson to SR swimming on 5th March.

The sports house captains will run a house 'Sign Up' meeting on 14th February where students will be able to put down events they wish to take part in. We have novelty races for students who prefer non-mainstream events. There are only 2 spots for each house per event and age group. The captains explain how things work on the day.

We do not have enough time to run heats during the main program on the day as it is a program with 92 events. We sometimes have an opportunity to run heats prior to carnival for students who feel they are in the best two, and miss out on a preferred spot. Sports Captains will consult me about this if necessary. It's important to remember that if your child does not make the 13r old freestyle race they could well be placed in the 15yr old one as numbers in that age for their house might be low. By the time everyone fills relays, Novelty Races and other events, usually everybody's needs are met.

### Round Robin Term 1 is 22nd March

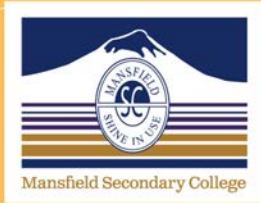
Round Robin takes part every term and we encourage our students to try different sports to the ones they would normally play for new experiences. Team lists are posted a month prior to event and payment and permission go through the school office if you want to hold a spot!

Each term has different offerings. For example, Term 1 has cricket and tennis. These sports are played against other Southern Ranges schools which are made up of Alexandra, Benalla, FCJ, Seymour and others. The winners of Round Robin sports can advance to the Hume Region stage where the bigger schools from Shepparton, Wangaratta, Wodonga, and others take part.

If teams win the HR category, they go onto Vic Sports State level. The same applies with Swimming and Athletics. Last year we had an MSC student compete in the 1500m running at Albert Park and swimming at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre.

MSC has always had a very healthy school sports life and this year we expect no less. It is a really important way for students to challenge themselves and socially connect with others. We also ask that everybody in the school community supports these opportunities in the right spirit. We invite all parents to come along to our carnivals and support your child. If you have any questions around how MSC conducts its sports program, please make contact before the day of the events. As you can imagine there is lots to coordinate on the day!

Christian Thomson  
**Sports Coordinator**



## INVITATION

We welcome all Year 7 families to come along and enjoy a BBQ.  
Meet the Principals, Year Level Coordinators and teachers.

When: Monday 12th February  
Time: 5:00pm - 6:00pm  
Where: Mansfield Secondary College

RSVP - Friday 9th February to  
[mansfield.sc@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:mansfield.sc@education.vic.gov.au)

### 2024 DEBUTANTE BALL

#### Expressions of Interest

Any Year 11 student who would like to participate in the 2024 Debutante Ball, please forward your expression of interest to 0400 557 990 with the following information:

- Name
- Partners name
- Parents email address
- Parents phone number

Planned for a later time this year

Please note: depending on interest, numbers may be restricted.



MANSFIELD SHIRE YOUTH

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ARTS  
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### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

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**ROCKY TRAIL ACADEMY**  
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