



KOONUNG

Secondary College

October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the Koonung Secondary College community and thank you in anticipation for your support of our College and the programs we offer to students. Koonung is a neighbourhood school offering:

- A challenging and innovative curriculum designed to maximise the academic potential and personal skills of each child
- Strong student engagement and wellbeing, based on the rights of individual students and supported by welfare and discipline policies
- A diverse range of programs benefitting all students at all year levels and
- A high performing College on a single site.

While the State Government supplies the majority of the school's funding, it is not sufficient to meet all the costs of the College's programs. As you know, all schools are dependent on locally raised funds in order to supplement State Government funding for curriculum programs and school services and resources. The science and food technology upgrade is an example of what can be achieved with your support through donations to the Building Fund, which are tax deductible. With the first stage of the College Capital Works program due to complete during 2021, there will be a range of opportunities to enhance the fit-out of the new wing, which the Building Fund will enable.

For the 2021 school year, the College Council and staff have again made a commitment to all students by allocating funds to continue and build upon the many curricular and co-curricular programs we offer, such as instrumental music, sport, language, literacy, numeracy and pastoral care. Funds have also been committed to the further development and improvement of learning technologies and facilities including multimedia equipment, the Compass learning management system and the tablet and notebook programs. In addition, the school nurse and school counsellor are funded through locally raised funds. Locally raised funds in the form of voluntary parent contributions are thus essential for the operation of the school's extended learning program, specialist staff and the purchase of additional equipment.

The Department of Education and Training (DET) Parent Payment Policy provides advice on the different types of payments that schools may request from parents and outlines the procedures and protocols to which schools must adhere. College Council is responsible for developing and approving a school-level parent payment policy that is compliant with the Department's policy. The DET policy is available on our website or a hard copy is available on request from the general office.

Recognising the challenges faced by many families due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Koonung Secondary College budget for 2021 has been planned so that there are NO increases in parent contributions over last year.

Parent contributions are detailed in multiple components to provide you clarity as to their intended allocation.

The curriculum component supports the increasing demands of special programs such as:

- Active and varied involvement in School Sport Victoria sporting competitions
- Vibrant, well resourced Visual and Performing Arts programs
- Year 9 Live Life Program
- Years 9 and 10 Elective Program
- Continued support of senior students through the provision of specialised counselling in careers, access to VETDSS studies, tutors, mentors and guest presenters.

The Computer Technical Support contribution enables us to continue employing technology support staff to support the school's servers and wireless networks, website and information kiosk facilities (including the Compass system) and more than 1,300 notebooks, tablets and other devices allocated to students and staff, as well as providing funds to enter into lease agreements for the continual updating of hardware.

Our innovative 'Learning on Line' fund appeal (Library Fund), designed to enhance student access to learning technologies, has received wonderful support from parents since 1997. Donations to the Library Fund are also tax deductible.

All voluntary parent contributions are spent on student programs, specialist staff and facilities and everyone benefits from the contributions. When everyone contributes, the collective effect is very powerful.

We are aware of the continuing financial burden on families. However, it cannot be too strongly stressed that the viability of many of our innovative programs in 2021 is dependent on your support via the payment of the voluntary parent contribution. Payment of the 2021 parent contribution is preferred at the time of re-enrolment and payment of the school fees. The Principal and the Business Manager are available if you wish to discuss any matters concerning payment. College Council relies upon and thanks you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Geoff Spicer
College Council President



Marianne Lee
Principal