

# KOONUNG SECONDARY COLLEGE

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

**Victoria, Australia**

Department of Education



**KOONUNG**  
Secondary College







## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

**Welcome to Koonung Secondary College. Our College has a very strong sense of community and a culture of excellence and inclusion. The positive interactions between students, parents and staff are a demonstration of this.**

Our VCE results are consistently outstanding, and our students have access to, and readily participate in, a wide range of co-curricular activities and experiences.

I have great confidence that our dedicated teachers, motivated students and supportive parents will continue in a strong partnership leading to a Professional Learning Community. This is where every member of our school community continually learns and grows.

Our College motto is Excellence through Endeavour. We encourage all members of our community to be aspirational, with an intention to produce their personal best via practice and hard work.

As Principal, I work together with teachers and parents to instil a love of learning in our students.

This enables them to be thoughtful, creative and problem solvers who are resilient and self-assured citizens with an understanding of self and others, locally and globally.

Thank you for your interest in our College, if we can be of further assistance, please contact the College directly.

I encourage you to participate in a school tour, which is a wonderful way to meet our students and staff as they work together.

**Andrew McNeil**  
Principal

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OF OUR COMMUNITY TO BE  
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VIA PRACTICE AND HARD WORK.





# WHY CHOOSE KOONUNG SECONDARY COLLEGE?

**Koonung Secondary College has participated in the International Student Program for many years and it's become a valuable part of our College's multicultural community.**

Our students come from a variety of countries and regions including China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam, Iran, Lebanon and Germany, etc.

We have a range of programs specifically for international students including:

- an experienced and caring international student team
- homework club after school each week
- a careers team
- school counsellors and a nurse
- international student captains and peer support
- separate EAL classes and multicultural aides who attend classes to support students.

We are proud of our international students, who consistently strive to achieve their personal best in their classes and VCE studies.

Many of our international students have achieved ATAR scores greater than 90, placing them in the top 10 per cent of the state.

Post-school destinations for Koonung's international students include the University of Melbourne; Monash University; RMIT; Deakin University and other internationally renowned universities.

## **An academic program which rewards ambition**

Koonung Secondary College commits to helping all students to reach their academic potential; integrating new technologies to enhance student learning; and carefully assessing students to monitor their progress.

All our students have access to core learning in English/ EAL, Maths, Science, Humanities, Health and PE, Performing and Visual Arts, Languages (Japanese or French) and Technology.

Where classes are not on offer at the College, students can take subjects via Distance Education. We also offer access to a wide range of Vocational and Educational Training (VET) subjects via our local cluster.

At Koonung, we encourage students to develop at their own pace and we celebrate their different talents and skills.

Students who are highly able often benefit from a tailored program. That's why we introduced the Select Entry Enhancement (SEE@K) Program for Year 7 to 9 students.

Students in SEE@K take an enhanced program which includes more challenging content to develop problem-solving skills and foster higher-order thinking.

Many of our SEE@K students follow an accelerated VCE pathway in Year 10. This option is available to any student who demonstrates decent work habits and strong academic performance.







## A rich menu of activities outside the classroom

Koonung's wide range of extra-curricular activities is a great way for students to meet like-minded friends and gain confidence in English.

Our instrumental music program encourages students to take part in ensembles and perform at whole school events.

Students can be part of inter-school competitions in badminton; basketball; netball; volleyball; cricket; table tennis; football; soccer; tennis; golf; and hockey.

Many of our teams and individual athletes successfully transition to Regional and State Finals through these competitions. All our students participate in the annual Athletics and Swimming Carnivals as well as the school Cross Country.

Koonung offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities to develop collaboration skills; independence and social connection; including the College musical production, Talent Quest and musical evenings.

There are also many lunchtime clubs and activities available, including our chess club, arts club and STEM club. Many of our clubs are student led so there is always an opportunity for students to add to the list available.

## Welfare and wellbeing: key to a positive student experience

All international students attending Koonung Secondary College receive support from our very experienced staff in the international student office.

Students also have access to trained school counsellors; a registered nurse; careers counsellors to help with career planning; student representatives in the College Student Leadership team (including international student captains); and a homework club after school to provide extra support.

## Homestay for international students

Our friendly and caring homestay families provide an inclusive and warm living environment for our international students.

They acknowledge and celebrate birthdays and cultural events. As well as working hard to create the feeling of a second home for our students - many of whom make lifelong friends after studying at Koonung.

In Victoria, all government school homestay families provide:

- a safe, secure, welcoming place to live
- a household compliant with the Child Safe Standards
- a separate single room for the student's personal use
- three meals a day, seven days a week, including snacks
- facilities including a bed, wardrobe, towels and linen
- utilities including gas, electricity, heating and water costs, and internet
- cleaning services of common living areas
- the use of living areas within the residence
- study facilities such as a desk, study light and bookcase
- attendance at parent/teacher evenings on behalf of each student's parents

## Local area information

Koonung Secondary College is situated in the suburb of Mont Albert North, approximately 14 kilometres from Melbourne's Central Business District (CBD).

The school is located near two large shopping areas - Box Hill Central and Doncaster Shoppingtown - while Box Hill Hospital is a short distance from our College.

The school is well-serviced by public transport, with several buses servicing the campus direct to the city, Doncaster and Box Hill. A train station and tram lines are also within easy walking distance.



## A recent success story

Zijun Ma completed his studies at Koonung Secondary College in 2021 and received an outstanding ATAR score of 98.95. He is now studying a Bachelor of Engineering at Melbourne University.

Zijun said he found adjusting to the Australian style of learning at the VCE level most challenging. However, the support from his peers and teachers helped him to reach his full potential.

*"Keep grinding; do what you need to do and get what you deserve. All the pain you hold makes you worth your weight in gold."*

OUR FRIENDLY AND CARING HOMESTAY FAMILIES PROVIDE AN INCLUSIVE AND WARM LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.



**KOONUNG**  
Secondary College

# CONTACTING THE SCHOOL

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