

## Questions from Meet the Principal Forum

### Teaching and Learning/ Intervention Programs

The key to improving learning outcomes for students is to ensure that we know our students as learners and as individuals. We build up detailed learning profiles of each student beginning with our strong relationships with their primary schools and you; their parents. We conduct regular diagnostic assessment of our students Literacy and Numeracy levels. Students needs and strengths are identified so that teachers across all subjects can cater for varying student capacity.

Do parents have access to the student analytics profile?

- Parents have access to most of the data on the student profile through the Compass platform. This allows parents to track attendance, teacher communications and academic progress on an ongoing basis.

How does the Quicksmart program work and who is it for?

- Quicksmart literacy and numeracy is offered to 16 year 7s in both areas a year. it is done via pre - testing to ensure that the students who require extra support are targeted. it happens mostly before school, 3 times a week

How do you choose the 16 students selected to do Quick Smart?

- We run whole cohort testing at the start of year 7 to provide the students who require the most support in quicksmart

Can you explain a bit about the SEE@K program please?

- The SEE@K class does core subjects together from years 7-9 and follows a differentiated curriculum to the mainstream.
- There is one SEE@K class at each Year level and entry is via participation in an Edutest assessment.
- Students are also able to accelerate into VCE by taking one or more VCE subjects in Year 10. This option is available to students both within and outside of the SEE@K class based upon performance criteria across all subject areas and an application process.

What are the pre-requisites for the SEE@K program please?

- no prerequisites. We run Edu-test testing in October the link will be provided in the transition email package in July/ august to parents of all students who have enrolled in our Year 7 program.

Do you currently offer VET and VCAL? I understand it is about to change?

- We currently offer VET subjects across all core VET areas. The college is currently developing more vocational education options in line with the Firth Review recommendations which will replace the VCAL program by 2025.

Is Google classroom used?

- We use the Compass learning management system and Microsoft Teams/Onenote.

How do you promote entrepreneurship to those who are interested, and are there any business / finance skills taught at any point?

- We have economics and financial literacy within our Year 8 Humanities curriculum as well as a specific Year 10 elective subject called Money & Markets. We have a large Accounting and Business Management cohort at VCE level as well.

Do you employ a Librarian full time?

- Yes, we have a full-time librarian, she is excellent, and has really brought fun and engagement to the library
- We have a full-time librarian and the library is open for access all breaks and after school. The library also runs a number of clubs including Book club and Film club. Very important place within the school
- Books are organised in genre categories and updated regularly

Do kids get homework?

- Generally, homework is designed to allow students to finish off class work or revise. At times there will be completion of assignments. All learning tasks and homework is documented on Compass.
- Teachers provide lesson plans for students to read prior to coming to class we like to encourage students to read these as part of their preparation to learn.

Do you provide textiles as a subject?

- Yes, all year 7s do compulsory textiles, it is then an elective from year 9 onwards and leads to VCE studio arts

What year do electives begin?

- Electives begin in Year 9- student choice from the arts/technology as well as other domains including Creative Writing, Experimental Science, Philosophy, Sports Performance

Do you have robotics elective in yr 7?

- Not as an elective, all students in Year 7 complete a Digital Technology subject for a semester. This subject covers basic file organisation, email, folder storage, the use of Compass etc as well as familiarisation with the software applications on the device. It also explores the history of computer technology and impacts of technology on our lives (positives and negatives). Finishes with some basic app design.
- Robotics is a unit which is included in the Year 7 science curriculum.
- Digital Technology, Games Design etc are also available as electives in Year 9

What languages do you provide?

- French and Japanese are the languages taught. Students choose one of these at the beginning of Year 7, it is compulsory until Year 9 and students can elect to study language through to Year 12

## Support Programs

Can you offer additional transition for students with extra needs this year and next year?

- We make contact with the primary schools once we have details of the students who will be enrolling at our school.
- Arrangements can be made to cater for students who are identified as having extra needs and who may benefit from increased opportunities to familiarise themselves with key staff members and the school layout.
- Parents may also facilitate this by contacting the school after enrolments are formalised.

Is there extra support for students say falling behind in reading/spelling etc.

- Teachers work with students at a range of levels, we also have homework clubs which we encourage students to be involved with.
- Also mentoring and Tutoring with senior students and a range of intervention programs including Quicksmart, Extra Literacy and Numeracy courses, and the Tutor Learning Initiative.

When your child struggles with literacy, do they have to learn a second language?

- second language is compulsory from 7-9 in Victoria however we will monitor the learning needs of our MYLNS students and individualise programs if required

Can you say more about transition for students who need more help with organisation and time management...

- There is an extensive transition program with Positive Classroom teachers, and the Mental Health Practitioner and Counsellors who present to students in assemblies also around organisation and time management strategies.
- In first term a lot of time is spent with teachers helping students to set up lockers, pack their bags and use Compass to understand the timetable and work requirements.
- If required individualised assistance can be put in place to help students with their organisation.

Do you have any classes that are single sex?

- Not generally

What is the rate of staff turnover relative to state average?

- Our staff retention is very strong, staff tend to come to the school and stay. It is a good place to work. We have increased our staff numbers over the last few years due to increasing enrolments.

Do you offer a careers counsellor to senior students at the time of subject selections?

- Yes, very extensive careers counselling from year 9 onwards including one on one interviews with students, parents and the course counselling panel.

What percentage of year 12 students got into University last year?

- 97% of students who completed VCE last year moved into tertiary study or full- time work.
- 91% of students have accepted University Placements.

What is the ratio of female/male staff in the school senior leadership

- Female/male staff in senior school is 50-50

Do we need a Chrome book or laptop any brand for year 7?

- We do run a 1:1 program and students need an electronic device. These devices can be purchased from the college or families can decide to purchase a different device.
- We have a laptop device program available for purchase, or you can BYOD as long as your device has the minimum specs to connect to our website.

### **Co-Curricula Programs - Lunchtime Activities, Clubs, Sport and Performing Arts Program**

Students and staff members operate a number of clubs and committees which have developed through their interest in a variety of social issues. These include the Reconciliation Action Group, The Equity Collective, Breakfast Club and Interact.

What sports and clubs are available?

- there are many lunchtime clubs, from book-club, chess, hoop-time and so many more
- We also participate in the Victorian Secondary School Sports program fielding interschool sports teams in all sports.
- the college runs athletics, swimming and cross- country days with students going on to district events afterwards. We have sports teams representing the college in football, soccer, basketball, softball, baseball, netball, tennis, badminton, table tennis and volleyball. We have a number of lunchtime clubs such as Art Space, Friday Film Club, Monday Book Club, Chess Club, Year 7 Lunchtime Board Games, Indoor Soccer, Christian Club, Mindfulness Mondays, Equality Collective, Sensational Art Projects, Koonung Tennis Open, Down Ball and Dodge Ball Tournaments.
- We also have a strong performing arts program with a number of different college bands, a college play and a college musical.

How often do you do the plays?

- The Play and Musical are both run annually. This year the play is “The Election” The Musical is the “ Sound of Music”.
- Lots of ex-student involvement in both of these events to support the cast and crew. Students from all year levels can be involved as performers, back stage crew, sound and lighting, set building, costume and make up. Front of House and Publicity.

Do you offer a club in performing arts/dance?

- We have had drama clubs, a variety of dance groups and music groups. Generally, if students identify a possible type of club we ask staff who are interested. Last year we had a very popular KPOP dance club. It varies each term.

Is there a chess club?

- Chess club meets on Friday lunchtimes and they compete in tournaments, the last couple of years we have had teams who have made it into the National Schools Finals. They do very well

Do you have to pay for the clubs

- No
- Some costs at times for chess tournaments outside of the school

How are student leaders selected?

- Expressions of interest are called for each role, students complete an application and then interview process.
- Those who are running for School Captain or Middle School Captains are shortlisted to present to their peers and staff and are voted for by their peers. They would be expected to express their vision as informed by our school values

## **Sports Program**

Do you have any school sport teams?

- Many school sports teams we enter all competitions offered by School Sports Victoria, we are very successful at district and regional level and regularly have teams competing for State titles.

Do you have sport programs?

- We run Sport Education at 7 and 8 as well as health/pe as a curriculum area. We compete in all School Sports Victoria events.

Is it compulsory to do interschool sports?

- Not compulsory to do interschool sports
- Extra sports teams are not mandated, but health/pe compulsory subjects from years 7-9 are

Are the students able to play sport during their lunch breaks?

- Yes, equipment is available to borrow from the Middle Years and Senior Years centres.
- Also there are also regular lunchtime competitions run by the Student Leaders and House Captains

Did I hear about a visit to NASA? When is this typically offered? Do you run camps?

- It was planned for every second year, at the moment all International Tours have been suspended.
- We also have run visits to our Sister Schools in France and Japan and hosted visitors from these schools every second year. These trips also ran every two years.
- Each year there is a Year 7 Orientation Camp and opportunities for a Year 8 or 9 camp.

- Other options include a Ski Camp which is available for students from Years 8 to 12 to apply to attend.
- Prior to COVID 19 we also ran a World Challenge Camp in November each Year, this was typically attended by students in Years 10 and 11.

### **Domain Competitions**

Do you participate in the Math Olympiad?

- We generally have teams in events such as the Maths Olympiad, Biology Olympiad as well as other Science/Stem programs and Events based upon
- Small business and Entrepreneur challenges also.
- Students also take part in the Mock United Nations event, Maths, Geography and History Competitions.

Do you have before school care/breakfast club?

- We do not run formal before school care, however, library is open at 8.00 am and breakfast club runs each Friday morning.

Can students go to the library at recess and lunch?

- Yes, the library is available to students at recess and lunchtimes and after school. It is also a space used by some of our clubs during this time.

### **Enrolment and Population**

What is the school capacity?

- We have a deemed capacity of 1200 students so are able to take some students from outside our catchment, however, we have a policy of taking students who are relatively close to our catchment area so they can engage with peers easily.

If the capacity is 1200 - what are the current student numbers?

- Current numbers are 1150

Will max capacity change as a result of completion of construction, and if so, will that be in effect by next year?

- The projected enrolment capacity once complete masterplan has been developed will be about 1300 students. Will remain at 1200 for next year

How many out of zone students did you take last year? Do you follow DETs priority order of placement in terms of offering places.

- We must offer a place to everyone in our catchment. We do follow DET's priority order of placement.

Can I enrol my daughter now for 2024 for year 7?

- No

What are the rules for someone who moves into the catchment area at year 8 or 9, do they get accepted?

- Yes, if a family moves into our catchment they are entitled to attend the college at any Year level.
- If you move into our catchment after year 7, you are entitled to a place

What is the average number of students per class and is there a maximum intake for Year 7 next year?

- 25 maximum per class is the planning number, most Middle School classes have between 22 and 25 students in them
- We would be looking to accept 200 to 225 students in Year 7 next year

How many classes are there for year 7 in total?

- We have 9 Year 7 classes.

### **Facilities and Master Plan**

Could you talk about the construction work that is to happen?

- Stage 1a  
Middle Years Centre is about to open. Includes 5 learning areas/classrooms with breakout rooms, Staff room, Conference and Meeting rooms, kitchen, auditorium which will be a presentation and performing space, new student and staff bathrooms.
- Stage 1b is going to tender now. Will be a new administration area, reception, offices, conference rooms, Health Centre and more classrooms. Should be completed during this year.
- The current Administration area will become an updated Wellbeing Centre (funding has been provided for this) including counselling rooms, quiet sensory spaces and meeting spaces for students to access.

Will there be senior school rebuilds happening down the track too?

- When funding was provided a complete Masterplan was developed which includes Senior Centre, Specialist Domain block including Science, Technology and Arts. Refurbishing of the Gym/Theatre and Library to produce a Performing Arts Area and a new Sports Stadium. Each stage is reliant on funding.

Are the new classrooms enclosed or open-planned?

- The new classrooms are enclosed with the capacity to open up to larger space, they are intended to be generally used as discreet classrooms with flexibility if required.

If I had a quieter student who was funded what spaces and support could you offer them?

- There are a number of quiet spaces that students can access including the sensory rooms attached to the Well-being Centre, Quiet reading rooms, break out rooms and various outside places around the school. The plans for the new Wellbeing centre also includes such spaces.

Do you have a canteen?

- Yes canteen, lunch orders via app, or students can line up during breaks.
- We are also connected to the School Breakfast Club and provide fresh fruit, and other food items for students to access during the lunch breaks outside the Middle School and Senior Centres.

Will we be able to see the master plan online or at the school.

- We have copies of the master plan on display and should be able to put onto the website.

How long has Koonung been going on as a school?

- We are now 58 years old the school was built in 1964

### **PFA**

Is there a parent community that is involved with raising funds for any building/refurb projects?

- Yes, our PFA (parents and friends association) is very active in fundraising and social events and working bees.
- They run a number of very popular events which are College highlights including Mother's and Father's Day breakfasts, support for Orientation, The Second Hand Uniform Shop and Book Sale, Bake Sales and Bunnings Fund Raisers.
- They actively support school events and programs with funds they have raised and allocated.

Do you have a fete?

- Not in that format, we do run a special event day called Koonung Day in September and the PFA have been involved with that. It is a student/staff run event.
- Business Management classes run stalls and there is a range of activities for students to participate in.

### **Operations and School Structure**

Would you usually do an acknowledgement of country? For assembly's or other meetings?

- We do include an acknowledgement of country for assemblies and meetings.

Are girls able to have their hair down?

- Girls and boys can wear their hair down, it is recommended that long hair is tied back in Food Technology, Science Labs and Technology classes as required for safety.

Are there movement breaks during the day?

- We have a 5 minute movement break between periods 1+2 and 3+4.
- The day is made up of 5 X 1 hour periods.
- First period begins at 8.55 am and last period finishes at 3.15

Are there any learning areas, such as the library, open after school hours, for students to utilise whilst waiting to be picked up?

- The library is open until 4.00 pm and the senior centre is open for homework, study group until 5.30. We also run homework clubs on some nights for middle school students

Is there a restriction on what time you get to school?

- Unless there is a special event it is recommended that students arrive at school after 8.15 am.
- The Locker bell goes at 8.40.

What are your policies in regards to mobile phone use by students?

- We follow the Victorian Government mobile phone policy. Students should leave them in their lockers. We have always operated this policy.
- Mobile phone policy is set by the state govt, no phones to be used from 8.40-3.15

Is there a school operated bus for daily commute to school?

- We have PTV buses which come at the back of the school in box hill crescent in the afternoon which go to box hill central

When will more school tours be available?

- We are running two tours per week on Tuesday and Thursday mornnigs. If you are unable to book in contact the office.