



STAWELL SECONDARY COLLEGE

79 – 97 Patrick Street, Stawell 3380 Victoria
Postal Address: PO Box 202 Stawell 3380 Victoria
Tel: +61 3 5358 1700, Fax: +61 3 5358 3096 Email: stawell.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au
School No: 01/8731/29
Provider Name: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Victoria. CRICOS No: 00861K

6 November 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer,

Stawell Secondary College would like to thank you for selecting our school for your child's education in Year 7, 2025.

We are looking forward to another exciting year of teaching and learning ahead and would like to advise you of Stawell Secondary College's voluntary financial contributions for 2025.

Our Stawell Secondary College School Council are very aware that families are facing a difficult financial climate with many of the costs associated with children continually increasing. With all of this in mind, our School Council have made the decision that there will, yet again, be no increase from the 2024 Voluntary financial contributions for 2025. This is the second consecutive year that this decision has been made

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum, and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. Nevertheless, the ongoing support of our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education and assistance for our students. This voluntary contribution makes a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

Within our school, this commitment has allowed us to offer our students numerous advantages including a wider range of subjects, special curriculum experiences and involvement in exciting local events.

For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached.

Also included is all the information you require to assist you in ordering your 2025 Year 7 student's books and the dates for the school year.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any concerns on any of the information provided in this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Murray Hart
Principal



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Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<u>YEAR 7 2025</u>	
Year 7 Student ID Card	\$5.00
Year 7 classroom consumables, materials & equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art – paint, crayons, canvas, coloured paper (\$24) • Food Tech – flour, butter, fruit, vegetables, meat, rice, pasta (\$20) • Science – chemicals (\$20) • Woodwork – timber, screws & nails (\$25) • Health and Physical Education - equipment (\$15) 	\$104.00
Year 7 online subscriptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Jacaranda Supercourse VIC Maths Quest (\$40) • Language Perfect (\$20) • Stile - Science (\$10) 	\$70.00
Year 7 printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials	\$130.00
Year 7 whole school events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletics carnival - entry and transport (\$1.50) • Swimming carnival – entry and transport (\$2.50) 	\$4.00
Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
School Sports Victoria membership	\$7.00
Student wellbeing programs	\$30.00
Year 7 School hat	\$15.00
Total Amount	\$365.00

Educational items for students to own

Our Book List, which displays a list of items that the school recommends you purchase from Champion Books for your child to individually own and use, is included with this letter. Ordering with Champion Books is only available online. Families may choose to purchase some or all the items elsewhere, but we encourage you to use the Book List as a guide to what you are invited to purchase.

The log in detail is www.champion.com.au then tap on 'Parents order here'. You will also be able to access the Book List using the school website: www.stawellsc.vic.edu.au. **The Resource List Code for Stawell Secondary College is V3QD.**

A one page 'How To' sheet is included with this letter.

Please note: If you wish to use some of your School Saving Bonus (please see more information further in this letter) to purchase items on the booklist from Campion, we recommend that you do not place your order online until you receive your email in mid-November with the \$400 voucher information.

If you require assistance in lodging your book list with Campion, please phone our school office on 5358 1700 to make an appointment for our office staff to assist you to enter your order or to answer any of your questions.

All Book Lists should be completed by Sunday 15 December 2024 to ensure your students will have all of their items for the first day of school in 2025.

You may select to have your Book Pack delivered to your home in January 2025 or you will be able to collect the pack from the school on Tuesday 28 January 2025 from 12 – 4 pm in the Stawell Secondary College Senior Hub via Patrick Street entrance

All students in Years 7 and 8 will study all subjects on the Book List. If your student is in Years 9 - 12 please find enclosed a list of your student's subjects to assist in your Book List selection.

Student Laptops in 2025

What are your options?

To ensure the best possible access to information, communication technology and to meet the expectation that every student will have access to a laptop, Stawell Secondary College has made the following three options available to parents.

Please note the following relevant details:

- Parents of Stawell 502 Primary students, who have previously chosen to purchase a device on the Stawell 502 LWT portal whilst in Grade 6, are not required to purchase a new laptop, as their current grade 6 laptop meets all the requirements for an IT device at SSC
- If you indicate you would like to purchase or bring your own device, but change your mind, you can still access the library laptop option at any time.
- All year 7 students are required to attend an induction session to fully inform them of the rules and responsibilities that are part of the laptop program and to teach them how to get the most out of their new laptop.

OPTION 1: PURCHASE A DEVICE

Parents may purchase a laptop from our preferred supplier *Learning With Technologies* using the online portal <http://stawellsc.orderportal.com.au>

The portal offers parents multiple methods of payment including BPay, credit card & PayPal.

The portal gives parents the option of a range of laptops of varying cost and specifications. All laptops on the selection list satisfy the performance requirements that students will need for school use and include options for insurance, warranty and accessories.

Laptops purchased before December of any year will have delivery guaranteed for mid-January the following year ready for the commencement of term 1.

Laptops purchased through this site are sent directly to the school, enabling efficient

distribution to students via Xuno (school's management program). Students are then able to download their own free software from the education links provided using the students own Edupass details that will be provided by the school.

Laptops purchased in this manner have the advantage of onsite repairs at Stawell Secondary College for all warranty and insurance issues.

The choice of recommended laptops for 2025:

Lenovo K14 Gen 2 - 14" Non Touch, Core i3, 8GB, 256GB



Stock should arrive for school delivery on 15th of Jan 2025

\$999.00 inc GST

A perfect balance between mobility and productivity, durable device with bright 14" screen

Lenovo 13w Yoga Gen 2 - 13.3", Ryzen 5, 8GB 256GB



Stock available for school delivery on 15th of Jan 2025

\$1,219.00 inc GST

Built for school students this unit is a 13.3" touch device with garaged stylus that has a drop-resistant design, spill-resistant keyboard, scratch-resistant display, and reinforced ports and hinges.

Lenovo 13w Yoga Gen 2 - 13.3", Ryzen 5, 16GB



Stock should arrive for school delivery on 15th of Jan 2025

\$1,272.00 inc GST

Built for school students this unit is a 13.3" touch device with garaged stylus that has a drop-resistant design, spill-resistant keyboard, scratch-resistant display, and reinforced ports and hinges.

OPTION 2: BORROW AND RETURN A LAPTOP FROM THE LIBRARY EACH DAY

- Upon signing a Borrowing agreement, a student receives the same computer each day which they collect from the library before school and return to the library after school between 3:30 and 3:45 pm. This may not be a new computer.
- Installation of all appropriate software included. No other software or music allowed.
- Access to school IT support staff for routine maintenance and problem solving.
- Warranty is arranged by the school.

OPTION 3: BRING YOUR OWN LAPTOP (BYOD)

Students bring their own laptop to school.

Laptops must be:

- Minimum Screen Size of 13.3"
- Core i3 Gen 10 Processor / AMD Ryzen 3 Processor
- 8GB RAM
- Operating System of Windows Professional 10 64Bit
- 256GB SSD Hard drive
- 7 Hour Battery

- 802.11 a/b/g/n wireless LAN
- Be less than 4 years old
- In addition to the above please note that:
 - IT staff can offer support but cannot help with hardware or virus issues.
 - Repairs and warranty issues will need to be arranged and completed by the family.
 - Laptops are required to be insured by the family.
 - Once a BYOD device no longer fills the required specifications it will no longer be able to be used.
 - Apple and Chromebook devices CANNOT be used as these are not supported by our network technology.

If any of this information raises any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the school on 5358 1700 and ask to speak with the Business Manager, Marie McAloon.

All computer information for students is also always available on the school's website.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Stawell Secondary College offers a range of items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount
Optional Year 7 Transitional camp - two nights in Halls Gap	\$475
Optional Year 7 Interschool Sports program	To be confirmed when destination and events are known
Optional Year 7 private music lessons	There will be no cost for Music lessons in 2025
Optional China Trip two-week trip 14 – 28 Sept 2025 approximately	\$2000
Optional overnight camp in Melbourne for participation in Chinese Speaking Competition	\$50
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities	

Financial Support for Families

Stawell Secondary College understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- **School Saving Bonus**

The Victorian Government is making life that little bit easier for families by providing a one-off \$400 School Saving Bonus.

This support will help cover the cost of school uniforms, textbooks, and school activities like camps, excursions and sports.

The School Saving Bonus is in addition to existing and continuing means-tested supports for Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) and the Affordable School Uniforms Program.

The School Saving Bonus will be provided to schools and families in Term 4, 2024.

Accessing the \$400 School Saving Bonus

You do not need to apply for the School Saving Bonus.

The Department of Education will email you in November 2024 with your \$400 School Saving Bonus. You will be able to decide how to best use the School Saving Bonus for your family's needs and allocate the \$400 in the online system.

PLEASE NOTE: If a family accidentally deletes the email, they must call the helpdesk (separate number will be provided) to have it resent.

The bonus can be used towards 2025 school costs, which may include:

- camps, trips, excursions and incursions
- swimming and sporting programs
- graduation
- school uniforms – from Fosters Mensland
- generic school uniform items such as school shoes – from State School Relief
- textbooks – from Campion Books.

Any amount that you choose to allocate to textbooks and uniforms will be valid until 30 June 2025. It will then transfer to your child's school account for future activities. Funds will roll over for use in future years if it is not all spent in 2025.

Please note: If you wish to use some of your School Saving Bonus (please see more information further in this letter) to purchase items on the booklist from Campion, we recommend that you do not place your order online until you receive your email in November with the \$400 voucher information.

If you choose to use part of the School Saving Bonus to purchase your student's book pack from Campion, it is essential that you select at least one text book to make the book pack eligible for the bonus. The only text book on the Yr 7 Booklist is the dictionary for English.

Families with more than one eligible child

Families who have more than one child at the same school can combine their School Saving Bonus payments to use on one child, or for a specific activity. So, for example, a family with 3 children who are all government school students would receive support to the value of \$1,200 and choose how they spend those funds. For example: if one of the

students in the family has a number of expensive textbooks in VCE, some of the available funds can be used to purchase the entire booklist if you wish. The School Saving Bonus cannot be combined across different schools.

To learn more about the School Saving Bonus visit vic.gov.au/school-saving-bonus.

- **the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund**

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund will ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to partially cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid concession card or are a temporary foster parent you may be eligible to for CSEF. Cards must be valid with Centrelink. Students can be aged from 6 to 18 years old. If a student is the holder of a Youth Allowance type card in their own name which is valid, the parent is eligible to apply for the CSEF.

The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards a child's expenses relating to camps, excursion or sporting activities.

The annual amount per student is \$250 for every secondary school student of eligible families, and payments will be made into the applicant's school account.

How to apply: On Tuesday 28 January 2025 contact the school office to obtain a CSEF Application Form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef. A copy of your Centrelink Concession Card will be taken when you return the completed form to school. A reminder will be published in the school newsletter, Connections, early next year.

If you have any questions please contact Marie Mcaloon, Business Manager.

- **the Year 7 CSEF Uniform Package**

Every 2025 Victorian child that is eligible for the CSEF automatically qualifies for the uniform package. The package consists of an \$85 voucher from Fosters Mensland and a pair of black school shoes provided by State School Relief. The voucher can only be used to purchase essential school uniform items.

The application form is to be completed and returned to Stawell Secondary College office by 27 November 2024. The student MUST attend the school office when the order is submitted to enable the correct style and size of school shoe to be chosen.

The school will submit your application to State School Relief. This cannot be done direct. Once the application is approved, families will be posted the voucher before 20 December 2024. The school shoes will be distributed at the start of the 2025 school year.

If you need another application form or you have any questions, please speak to the Business Manager at the school.

- **contact with a local community group who work with our school.**

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact:

Marie McAloon

Ph: 03 5358 1700 Email: Marie.Mcaloon@education.vic.gov.au

Every effort will be made to assist our families.

Payment methods

There are a number of options available to parents to finance all costs associated with your student's education at Stawell Secondary College:

1. Payment in full. This payment can be by cash, cheque or EFTPOS for all debit and credit cards.
2. Parents can arrange regular direct deductions by contacting their bank or employer or using internet banking facilities. Parents choose the amount and the preferred regularity eg weekly, fortnightly or monthly. Parents may suspend or cancel these payments at any time. This process can commence any time after the enrolment form is submitted.

Families choosing this method of payment are not required to send individual payments for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities such as camps and sport events.

To deposit directly to the school please use the following details and quote your family name or your student's name as a reference.

Account Name:	STAWELL SECONDARY COLLEGE
Bank:	COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA
BSB:	063-528
Account Number:	10009073
Details:	Student's Name

3. BPAY facilities are available. Your relevant information will be available from the School Office.

Refunds

Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the school and made on a case-by-case basis. Refunds will be provided where the school deems it is reasonable and fair to do so, taking into consideration whether a cost has been incurred, the Department's Parent Payment Policy and Guidance, Financial Help for Families Policy and any other relevant information.

2025 SCHOOL DATES

Tuesday 28 January 2025... School Office open from 8.30 – 4.00 pm for payment of voluntary

..... Curriculum Contribution & CSEF applications.

..... Collection of Campion Book Packs from Senior Hub-Patrick St 12 – 4 pm

Wednesday 29 January 2025 All Year 7 & 12 students attend school.

Thursday 30 January 2025.....All students attend school

Term 1 finishes 4 April 2025

Term 2 22 April to 4 July 2025

Term 3 21 July to 19 September 2025

Term 4 6 October to 19 December 2025

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Stawell Secondary College school dress.

Stawell Secondary College tartan skirt or approved navy trousers or approved navy shorts.

Stawell Secondary College navy and red polo top with logo.

Stawell Secondary College red jumper with school logo or Stawell Secondary College navy blue polar fleece with school logo or Stawell Secondary College rugby top with school logo.

Stawell Secondary College navy winter jacket with school logo

Black or white socks or navy tights.

Plain Black shoes or black boots with no visible logo or pattern.

Plain navy scarf, plain navy approved beanie or navy beanie with Stawell Secondary College logo (available from school canteen) or plain head scarf (school colours)

Sports Uniform

Stawell Secondary College red Sports and Physical Education Polo Shirt with logo, navy shorts, track pants and sports shoes.

House Sports Uniform

House-coloured t-shirt borrowed for House Events from House Leader and returned on the day.

Sports footwear.

Year 12 Jacket

Must be ordered through the school in Term 4 of previous year to starting Year 12.

School Back Pack

All Year 7 students receive a complimentary navy blue with school logo back pack. Students in Years 8 – 12 may choose to purchase the back pack from our uniform supplier, Fosters Mensland.

Sun Smart policy

In line with this policy, during Terms 1 and 4, all students are encouraged to wear an approved broad-brimmed school hat when outside. This includes lunchtime and recess. Aside from headscarves worn for cultural reasons, hats should not be worn inside. Hats are supplied to all Yr 7 and Yr 8 students and replacement hats are purchased from the school canteen.

PARENT PAYMENTS POLICY ONE PAGE OVERVIEW



FREE INSTRUCTION

- Schools provide students with free instruction and ensure students have free access to all items, activities and services that are used by the school to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements in Victorian Curriculum F-10, VCE and VCAL.
- Schools may invite parents to make a financial contribution to support the school.



PARENT PAYMENT REQUESTS

Schools can request contributions from parents under three categories:

Curriculum Contributions	Other Contributions	Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.	Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.	Items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides for free to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

- Schools may also invite parents to supply or purchase educational items to use and own (e.g. textbooks, stationery, digital devices).



FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

- Schools put in place financial hardship arrangements to support families who cannot pay for items or activities so that their child doesn't miss out.
- Schools have a nominated parent payment contact person(s) that parents can have a confidential discussion with regarding financial hardship arrangements.



SCHOOL PROCESSES

- Schools must obtain school council approval for their parent payment arrangements and publish all requests and communications for each year level on their school website for transparency.