

CONNECTIONS

[PO Box 202] 79-97 Patrick Street, Stawell, Victoria 3380

T (03) 5358 1700 | F (03) 5358 3096

E stawell.sc@education.vic.gov.au | W stawellsc.vic.edu.au

Volume 35 Number 1

7/2/2025

CONGRATULATIONS JADE

Stawell Secondary College are thrilled to announce that Jade Smith, one of our dedicated (aspirational) and passionate (resilient) students, has been accepted into the prestigious Victorian Apprentice Jockey Program! After a year-long journey that included physical testing, interviews, and specialized training, Jade's dream of becoming a race rider is finally coming to fruition.

The road to success has not been easy. Jade participated in last year's program but did not make the cut. However, Jade's (resilience) perseverance and (aspiration) determination has paid off as she came back stronger than ever, earning a spot this year. The program is highly competitive and serves as a gateway to a career as a jockey, offering training and screening comparable to being drafted into the AFL.

Over the past year, Jade has undergone rigorous physical assessments, including VO2 max tests, body scans, strength and endurance challenges, and even an Echocardiograph (ECG) to ensure that only the most physically capable athletes move forward. Alongside these tests, Jade has participated in numerous interviews with racing officials and coaches to prove not only her physical fitness but also her passion for the sport and her integrity meets the strict ethical standards of Racing Victoria.

As part of her acceptance into the program, Jade will spend two days a month at the iconic Flemington racecourse, alongside specialized sessions at the Victorian Institute of Sport.

Throughout the program, she will work toward completing her Certificate III and IV in Race Riding, giving her the technical skills needed to thrive in this demanding field.

We couldn't be prouder of Jade's achievements and her relentless drive to pursue her dream. This next step is just the beginning of what promises to be an exciting career in racing.

Congratulations, Jade – the finish line is just ahead!



RESPECT
INCLUSION
ASPIRATION
RESILIENCE
PARTICIPATION

Parent Teacher Student Interviews

Our first Parent – Student - Teacher Interviews will be held on Thursday 13 March after school and Friday 14 March 2025 in two sessions:

Thursday 13 March 4.00 pm - 6.30 pm

Friday 14 March 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Friday 14 March 12.30 pm - 3.00 pm

Students are not required to attend normal timetable classes on Friday 14 March but would be expected to attend their interviews with their parent/guardian/carer.

This opportunity is provided to students and their parents, guardians or carers to discuss how the year has commenced and how the student has adapted to the subject. It gives everyone the chance to ask any questions they may have on the relevant subject. Our teachers see these interviews as invaluable, and we hope the students and families also consider these interviews as an important part of the child's education.

All sessions will be face to face.

Interviews for students in Years 7 – 10 will be for 5 minutes for each subject.

Interviews for students in Years 11 and 12 will be held for 10 minutes for each subject.

Parents/Guardians/ Carers will be able to book interviews via the XUNO parent portal from Friday 21 February from 3.00 pm. Should you need assistance with your login to the parent portal, please phone our school office on 53581700 and our office staff will be able to assist you.

All bookings must be made by the close of business on Friday 7 March. This enables our dedicated staff to prepare the information relevant to your child prior to the interviews.

If you are not yet using XUNO, we strongly recommend that you follow the instructions in the Welcome Email you have received or call the school and ask for your login details. We recommend you set this up as soon as you can. You are then able to use it for reporting your child's absence, view your child's timetable, view news items to assist you in all the events taking place at the school and so much more. This also gives you the ability to arrange your Parents Teacher Student interviews for some, or all, of your child's subjects.

If you do not have access to arrange your interviews, please do not hesitate to call our office staff on 5358 1700 and they will arrange your interviews with you.

Please note: the sessions will be held in the Senior Hub, which is the building on the corner of Patrick Street and Hastings Street.

Free Stawell Secondary College Bag for 2025 Year 7 Students



We are excited to share with you that every Year 7 2025 student will receive a free Stawell Secondary College bag as part of their uniform.

This bag has a warranty to last for the duration of your child's secondary education (6 years) and a secure compartment for their laptop.

This bag is to be brought to school every day by all Year 7 students.

We hope this helps with decreasing the uniform costs of transitioning from primary to secondary school.

All students from Year 8-12 are most welcome to purchase this backpack from Foster's Mensland for \$84.95

ENGLISH AT STAWELL SECONDARY COLLEGE

Every class has been completing getting to know you activities. The Year 7's have borrowed books from the library for silent reading. They are now starting to explore autobiographies to link in with reading "Boy". The Year 8's have completed a pre-test and will be exploring graphic novels and narrative writing. The Year 9's have done a spelling test and will be looking at narratives and the Year 10's have borrowed out books from the library and will be starting argument analysis, looking at key issues in the media.

In VCE Year 11 English the students have been looking at film techniques for when they watch "The Dry" and in Year 12 English they are creating character charts from the book *Chronicles of a Death Foretold* by Gabriel García Márquez.

Silent reading (10 minutes at the start of every lesson) is a major focus of Years 7 – 9 and in Years 10 – 12 the students do 10 minutes of consistent silent writing.

The English staff look forward to having a great year with all the students at Stawell Secondary College.

Mrs Prior
Head of English



YAY Claire!

Over the summer, one of Victoria's best known and most experienced music teachers, Ms Sue Arney, offered a donation of a keyboard to a deserving student. This offer was made known statewide. The student would be one who was known to be very actively engaged in their music but did not have a reliable practice instrument of their own. Mrs Hemley nominated Claire Scott, now in Year 10, who has been learning music for two years, has been a member of the school band for about a year and a half and has demonstrated further commitment through her extra work on theory and composition. Claire was selected to receive this donation and is very excited to be able to return her school hire instrument and have this one to keep.



Building
Works

SUBJECT CHANGES - YEAR 11 & 12 STUDENTS ONLY

In line with our Subject Change Policy, for the first two weeks of every semester, students are allowed to change elective subjects – pending parent/guardian approval and class sizes.

The Process:

· Students are encouraged to attend their timetabled classes in the first week (3-7 February) – (and determine if you actually want to change electives – as many discover they enjoy the subject if they give it a chance!)

· Second week (10-14 February) – if you still wish to move subjects and there is room in the alternative class and parents/guardians have given permission – this move will be approved. Parent/guardian permission must be received to Cindy Bibby by 3pm on Friday 14th February.

To nominate to change subjects please message me via XUNO (preferably) or come and see me during the above dates.

· I will communicate to students of the approved subject change via XUNO. You are not to move classes unless you have received a message from me or your timetable has been updated - so keep checking XUNO.

Therefore from 17th February no more subject changes will be approved and your classes will remain stable from then on.

Any students who feel their timetable is incorrect – as in missing/incorrect subjects please message me via XUNO or come and see me asap.

VET Classes Commence Wednesday 12th February

All students have been notified of this and also given information of bus travel to Ararat or Horsham (if applicable)

VET classes commence at 9.30am and finish at 2.30pm (full school uniform unless otherwise advised)

Students are to attend each week (except school or public holidays) unless otherwise advised until the last class on Wednesday 29th October.

VET Withdrawal date – students are not allowed to move VET courses after 12th March, 2025.

Automotive School Base Apprenticeship – Stawell

Northern Grampians Shire

School Based Apprenticeship – Office Administrator

Eventide Homes - Stawell

School Based Apprenticeship – Civil Construction

Northern Grampians Shire - Stawell



YEAR 9 – MY CAREER INSIGHTS PROGRAM

Thursday 20th February, 20225

My Career Insights is a program for all Year 9 students in government secondary schools. This program will help your Year 9 child to:

- Learn about what skills and abilities they could bring to a job.
- Find out about what jobs match their abilities, interests and personality, and the subjects they need for those jobs.

As part of the program, your child will:

- Complete a series of online questions and quizzes (on the Morrisby Profile website) at school.

After the February session -

- Receive a Morrisby Profile Report showing the results from the questions and quizzes, and possible jobs that match their abilities, interests and personality.

Have a 30-minute meeting with a Morrisby-trained Career Practitioner, who will explain the report to your child. You can attend this meeting. Please tell the school if you need a telephone interpreting service

Consent for this program has been XUNO messaged to all parents/carers – and is awaiting your approval

ACU Uni Step Up Program

The 2025 ACU Uni Step-Up Online program is about to begin, and the enrolment period is still open and available to all Year 11 students.

This program is ideal for students interested in Business, Nursing, Midwifery & Paramedicine or Exercise Science and would like to take a first step towards achieving their career goals.

Benefits of studying USU Online:

- It's completely free.
- Students who complete two units are eligible to receive an early entry offer to a mapped ACU course, with credit for their study.
- Students are supported in their studies by academics, student ambassadors, academic support and library services.
- Get a head start at university, develop Uni-level study skills, and discover more about your potential degree.
- Applications close 23rd February 2025 -

To learn more please visit – <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/widening-participation/uni-step-up>

Unit 1 classes will commence early March and runs for 12 weeks, the second unit will begin early August and conclude mid-November.

Earning while Learning

Congratulations to

Dean Dryburgh - Year 12 – Norton Ford - Mechanic

Jack Sirre – Year 11 – Stawell Toyota - Mechanic

Students are undertaking a School Based Apprenticeship in the above-mentioned pathways.



Chinese Program News

🏮 Celebrating Lunar New Year 2025 at Stawell Secondary College 🏮

Lunar New Year, also known as Chinese New Year or Spring Festival, is the most important traditional festival in Chinese culture, celebrated by millions around the world. In 2025, the Lunar New Year falls on **January 29**, marking the beginning of the Year of the Wood Snake. **The Snake is associated with wisdom, resilience, and transformation, symbolizing a year of opportunity and progress.**

To embrace the spirit of the Lunar New Year (from 19th January to 12th February), Stawell Secondary College has organized an exciting range of activities to engage students and the wider school community.

Event 1: On **Thursday, 6 February**, five students will perform a **Chinese New Year storytelling session** at the Stawell Library.



Event 2: On **Monday, 10 February**, the **Year 10 Chinese language students** will organize a **Chinese Buffet Lunch for staff, with a gold coin donation to fundraise for the CFA.**

Event 4: On **Friday, 14 February**, our **Year 9 Chinese language students** will take charge of **making, cooking, and selling dumplings to raise funds for the CFA.** Be sure to check out the posters around school designed by our talented Year 9 students!

Event 3: On **Wednesday, 13 February**, **Homegroups** will participate in a **Lunar New Year trivia quiz**, with rewards for the top three winners. Our Year 10 Chinese language students are currently developing the quiz questions in class!



Example poster by Soraya

We incorporate other fun activities in our Chinese classes to help students understand different cultural perspectives and develop higher-order thinking skills by reflecting on new year traditions and rituals.

We look forward to celebrating together and making this Lunar New Year a memorable and meaningful experience for all!

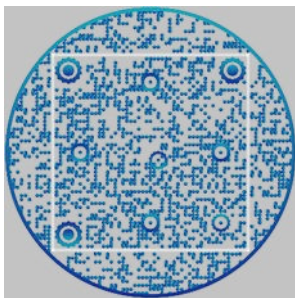
As we welcome the Year of the Snake, the Chinese Faculty would like to extend our warmest wishes to our students, families, and the entire school community. May this year bring you wisdom, success, and happiness. Xīnnián kuàilè! (Happy Lunar New Year!)

Ms Ling, Mr Bao and Leah

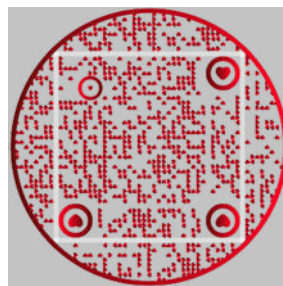
Senior School Information Night

On Thursday January 30, the Stawell Secondary College Senior School Team provided all families of students completing Yr. 11 & Yr. 12 VCE a family information night. The night covered important topics such as Key Dates and VCAA rules and regulations. We then narrowed down to focus on more specific topics such as different studying techniques and study habits, what families can do to help their students in the Senior Years, the importance of study timetables and self-care and stress management. We were lucky enough to secure the expertise and knowledge of psychologist and co-founder of One Red Tree Resource Centre, Carly McKinnis who shared with us professional insights into what families can do to look out for each other and support each other during high stress situations, not only in relation to school but also in everyday family life. Families were then invited to join Senior School staff including our Acting Principal and Acting Assistant Principal for a BBQ dinner to have a more informal and relaxed conversation about their subjects and goals at Stawell Secondary College.

Please see below QR codes to some of the resources and information provided on the night.



PowerPoint



One Red Tree



Study Tips and Tricks

Principals Communications

A warm welcome to all our school community for the 2025 school year. A special welcome to the Year 7 students, the new teachers, and their associated families. We welcome 81 Year 7 students and 5 new staff to Stawell Secondary College. Mrs Ellen McDonald joins us as a Learning Specialist in the English and VM Faculties, Mr Adetayo joins the Science Faculty, Mr Jake Gebert joins the Health and Physical Education faculty, Mrs Angela Fromm and Mr Gordon Ross join the Education Support team. We would like to welcome back to the College Zoe Jones into the Humanities Faculty. We wish Mr Murray Hart a wonderful time on his Long Service Leave. We look forward to seeing him on his return later this term.

Our Year 12 cohort enter their 13th and final year of education. It is an important year in their preparations for life after Secondary Education. Some are preparing to move onto further education, or take up apprenticeships, while others will move directly into the workforce. We wish all Year 12's the best of luck and encourage them to set their goals and work hard to achieve these goals.

As we move into the school year, we are seeing a lot of movement with the building program. The work continues to clean out the Hall ready for the renovations to commence. We are expecting another 2 weeks of work to happen to clean the space before the building will begin. The Admin building is getting back on track and we will be seeing the concrete trucks onsite pouring the slab. We expect the slab to be completed early March. The Cleaner's room is close to completion. We are continually reviewing the processes at the College and adapting to best support our students learning. We congratulate all on their flexibility with the changes due to the building program.

Dean Greenhalgh
Acting Principal

UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

Stawell Secondary College's compulsory school uniform items are as follows:

- 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 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 SPORT UNIFORM

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



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES

SCHOOL SAVINBG BONUS

Have you accessed your \$400 School Saving Bonus for each child?

This once only support for families is very easy to use. This is your opportunity to purchase uniform items from Fosters Mensland or school books from Campion at no cost to you. Please do not hesitate to contact Marie McAloon, Business Manager, if you need any information or assistance.

Funds that have not been spent by 30 June will revert to your family account to be used for your child's camps or excursion. The opportunity to use the \$400 for uniform or book lists ends 30 June 2025. Funds will rollover for use in future years if not all spent in 2025.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

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 the opportunity to join their peers for important, educational and fun activities.

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursion encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. Cards must be valid with Centrelink as of 19 January 2024. Students can be aged from 6 – 18 years old. If a student is the holder of a Youth Allowance type card in their own name that is valid, the parents are eligible to apply for the CSEF.

The annual amount per student will be \$250 for every secondary school student of eligible families. Payments will be made into the applicant's school account to use towards a child's expenses relating to camps, excursion or sporting activities.

REMINDER: ALL APPLICANTS ARE ASKED TO PROVIDE THE SCHOOL WITH A COPY OF THEIR CURRENT HEALTH CARE CARD.

How to apply: 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. Applications need to be made by **Friday 21 March 2025**, however the sooner you apply the sooner you will receive the funds into your account.

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

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE 2025

A conveyance allowance may be paid to parents who drive their children more than 4.8km to the nearest pick up point of a free country bus service or their nearest school, where no bus service is available.

All Families need to lodge a new application.

Students who are attending Stawell Secondary College for the first time must meet the following guidelines. To be eligible for the Conveyance Allowance students must be:

1. Attending their nearest Government school.
2. Living further than 4.8km from either the school or the nearest pick up point of a free country bus.

Please contact the school office for an application form.

All eligible families must complete and **return the form to the school by 28 February 2025.**

If you require further information, please contact Mrs Marie McAloon at the College. If you have any questions on all other Bus matters, please contact Georgia Byron on 5358 1700.

YEAR 7 UNIFORM PACK **(If you haven't already applied)**

In 2025 every Year 7 government school student who was a recipient of CSEF in 2024 automatically qualifies to receive a uniform pack that is provided through State Schools' Relief. If your child is eligible and you are yet to apply for the package, you can apply for a CSEF Year 7 Uniform Pack by contacting Stawell Secondary College and completing the order form. We also ask that you arrange to have your child's foot measured at the school office.

You will receive a \$85 voucher for Foster's Mensland and a pair of school shoes.

You can call the General Office for more information on 5358 1700.

The most important thing to remember that if you ever have any questions or concerns over any financial matters, related to our child's education, please do not hesitate to reach out to our Business Manager, Marie McAloon on email:

Marie.Mcaloon@education.vic.gov.au or Ph: 03 5358 1700 for assistance.

Acknowledgement of Country

Stawell Secondary College is located in the lands of the Djab Wurrung and Jardwadjali people and we acknowledge the land which we learn, work and live.

We recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community and pay respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our College Community.



ASPIRATION



RESPECT



INCLUSION



RESILIENCE



PARTICIPATION

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES 2025

12/2/25—VET classes begin

18/2/25—House Swimming Sports

21/2/25—Year 12 English Lecture

2/3/25—3/3/25—Music Camp

3/3/25—5/3/25—Year 7 Camp

13/3/25—Parent Teach Interviews 4-6pm

14/3/25—Parent Teacher Interviews. PUPIL FREE. Interviews 10am-12pm & 12:30pm-3pm

28/3/25—House Athletics Carnival

4/4/25—Last Day of Term 1

22/4/25—First Day of Term 2



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

RITCHIES IGA + LIQUOR

NOMINATE US TODAY
AS PART OF THE
**RITCHIES COMMUNITY
BENEFIT PROGRAM**
and help us generate extra funds.

- 1 Download or update the Ritchies Card App
- 2 Search and select our name when prompted to nominate a club, school or charity
- 3 Every time you shop at Ritchies and scan your app or card, Ritchies will contribute a percentage of the total to us*

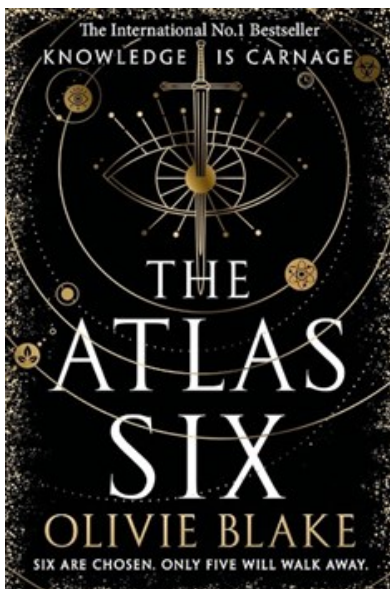
*CONDITIONS APPLY. Go to ritchies.com.au/loyalty for further information.

RITCHIES IGA + LIQUOR

**MEMBERS
SAVE MORE**

Become a Ritchies Card Member today to receive our latest weekly specials anywhere anytime, along with helping raise funds for your chosen Club, School or Charity.

CLAIM YOUR WELCOME OFFER TODAY!
\$10
Off Your First Shop



Book of the Week

The Atlas Six
Author: Olivie Blake

Six Extraordinary Magicians
Five Chances To Win
One Secret Society

Once a decade, the world's best magicians are invited to join the elite Alexandrian Society. Its members enjoy a lifetime of power and access to ancient secrets. But only five places are offered. So, after recruitment by the mysterious Atlas Blakely, the candidates must complete a rigorous year of arcane study.

Libby Rhodes and Nico de Varona are inseparable enemies and cosmologists who can control matter with their minds. Parisa Kamali is a telepath, Reina Mori understands the flow of life itself and Callum Nova can manipulate desires. Finally, there's Tristan Caine, whose powers mystify even himself. The rivals must survive their trials. And if they can prove themselves, they will. Most of them.