

CONNECTIONS

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Parent Student Teacher Interviews

2025 Year 7 – Year 11 Semester 2 Parent-Student-Teacher Interviews

Interviews shall be held on the following sessions:

Session 1: Thursday 21st August - 4.00pm – 6.30pm

Session 2: Friday 22nd August - 10.00am – 12pm

Session 3: Friday 22th August – 12.45 – 3.00pm

Students are not required to attend timetabled classes on Friday 22nd August but are expected to attend interviews with a parent/guardian. Parents are now able to book interviews via the parent portal from 4.00pm on Thursday 7th August until 5.00pm on Monday 18th August.

State Cross Country Student Achievement

We celebrate and recognise the outstanding efforts from Billy Williams who was our sole school representative in this year's State Cross Country Championships. This was Billy's 3rd consecutive State Championship and the gruelling 5km course on the Yarra Glen racecourse gave him the opportunity to display his grit and determination to improve on his 2024 performance (shaving 1 minute off his time from last year). Well done Billy!



RESPECT
INCLUSION
ASPIRATION
RESILIENCE
PARTICIPATION

Stawell Secondary College's child safety and wellbeing policies and practices can be found on our school website: www.stawellsc.vic.edu.au. We welcome comments and feedback on these from our school community at any time. Feedback can be made to Murray Hart on 5358 1700.

Chinese Program Report

Congratulations to all our incredible participants in the Global Village Chinese Speech Conference!
Your outstanding efforts and excellent results are truly commendable. Every one of you received an award — a well-deserved recognition of your dedication, persistence, and hard work.
You have not only achieved personal success but also made our school immensely proud. Your courage to step up, your commitment to excellence, and your passion for language and culture have inspired us all.

My buddy Joe was a nice person. He was kind and also really funny as well as good at English - Haylei



I liked meeting our buddies, the food and going on the train for the first time. Although I was very anxious for the speech the experience was still fun. - Adalita



The trip was good as you got to do stuff you normally wouldn't do and I feel like I've got better at speaking Chinese. - Tyler



I really loved the speeches and dancing to a crowd. My favorite part was meeting my partner and being friends with her. - Aika



I loved meeting our buddies, even though it was a little nerve wracking to start, we became best friends. The experience was amazing I had so much fun hanging out with friends, playing games and just having fun. - Millie



I really liked meeting our buddies. I was very nervous at the start, but the experience was really good. I also liked going on the train and walking around to the hotel and then back to the train station. I really liked it even though I was really scared of the speech but when I did it I felt really good. - Kendal

I really loved the trip. We did a ton of things from shopping to singing and dancing to a crowd. My favourite part of this entire trip however was getting to know my fellow peers and Chinese buddy -Isaiah



I loved meeting my Chinese buddy and her friends. They were lovely to talk to and I feel I'm more comfortable with public speaking. - Noah



The most fun thing was meeting our buddies they were the nicest people I have ever meet and how they were being so supportive. I loved how everyone was so good and how they were helping each other. - Jason



The experience was so good, from practicing all day with our Chinese buddies, to singing and taking photos. I really loved being able to work with people from other countries and cultures. - Lacey



I really enjoyed meeting a bunch of new Chinese friends and the whole experience in general was genuinely a lot more fun than I thought it would be. - Earl



News from the VM team

It's amazing, we are already in Term 3, and before you know it, our Year 12 VM students will be off into the sunset for their next chapter. Last term, the students were very busy having fun. As part of their PDS projects, they included a trip to Hamilton, this was organised by Billy. He shared his love of vintage cars with his peers and organised a scavenger hunt.

Into the mix was a trip to the Halls Gap Zoo organised by Violet, who I did hear was attacked by an ostrich. I wasn't there, so this is purely a rumour. To finish off their adventures, in the last week of Term 2 the students went to Halls Gap for some paintballing, organised by Jacob. Too many crazy things happened there to mention. Congratulations to Ms. McDonald, their PDS teacher, come bus driver, and the ever-reliable Tate. There is a lot of planning and negotiating to get these activities organised, and both staff and students did a wonderful job. Further to this, the students are preparing their workplace presentations, for WRS (work related skills).

In the Year 11 VM program, things are a little quieter, but we did have two days of training and now most of our students have a barista certificate and a food handlers certificate. This did include a day in the food tech room; thank you to the Food Tech team for letting us cook.

On Friday last week, during a successful Celebration's Day, Sonny organised the CFA to do a burn off. This is part of his PDS project work. It was well received by the students.

Tuesday was a successful fundraiser for the "Do it for Dolly" organisation. Thank you to Alicia, Aliah, Siani and Chelsea for their hard work. They spent Monday cooking cupcakes, and these delicious blue treats were enjoyed. Great team- work!

With winter slowly but surely on its way out, we will be outside very soon, getting our Market Garden up and running. We now have a locked- up enclosure, we are waiting on the garden beds and tools to arrive.

In the world of Numeracy, Mr. Greenhalgh and Mr. Illig are keeping the students engaged with their activities and singing.

Helen Giles and the VM crew



SUBJECT SELECTIONS *for* 2026



Year 8 into Year 9 / Year 9 into Year 10 / Year 10 into Year 11

SUBJECT EXPO: Monday 4th August 2025

- staff present on their subject area for 2026– Parents/Carers welcome to attend
- This expo will be conducted onsite at Stawell Secondary College Periods 5 & 6 (1.30-3.30pm) to allow students to make informed decisions regarding their subject selections for 2026
- Current Year 8 students will select their Year 9 2026 electives in week 4 after both students/parents have read the 2026 handbooks, and from student preferences elective blocks will be formed and students will be allocated to electives

SUBJECT SELECTION INTERVIEWS online

All interviews will be conducted online/telephone Parents/carers are encouraged to attend interview., if possible.

18-22 August - Year 12 2026 subject selection interviews

25-29 August - Year 11 2026 subject selection interviews

1-5 September – Year 10 2026 subject selection interviews

*** There are no student free days during the subject selection weeks – timetabled classes will operate as normal***

To book Subject Selection Interviews please go to:

<https://stawellsc.vic.edu.au/students/subject-selection-interview-booking/>

OR

Got to College website at stawellsc.vic.edu.au

Scroll down to **Orange icon**

2026 Subject Selection

Click on **BOOK NOW** - by Noon Friday 8th August



Cindy Bibby.
Registrar Cindy Bibby
T: 03 53581700
E: cindy.bibby@education.vic.gov.au



Careers Day

In Term 3, Week 2 we saw fourteen guest speakers visit our college to speak to all Year 7 to 12 students on 'a day in the life of their job'. Speakers ranged from Hopkins Correctional Centre Dog Squad, Forensic Scientist, Victoria Police to Funeral Director, trades and Urban Planner. Students visited two presentations to hopefully open their eyes to the variety of careers and the world of work.

The Careers Day assists students to aspire to life after school and prompt them in their subject selection choices coming up over the next few weeks.

Subject Expo

Monday this week was the annual subject expo where students visited teacher presentations and heard about all the elective subjects on offer in 2026.



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7 Stawell Fire Brigade Members will join the Melbourne Firefighter Stair Climb to raise money for Mental Health and Cancer Research

6th September 2025

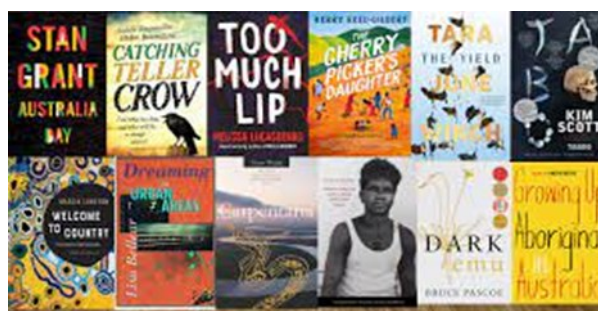
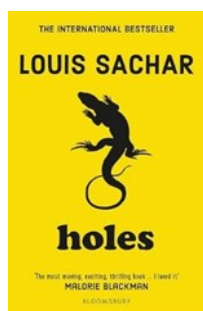
Donate in support of Stawell Members below



Over 700 Firefighters
28 floors, 25kgs of kit
Million Steps for Mental Health and Cancer Research
\$1 Million to raise for the fight against cancer, depression and suicide

Year 7 English

In Year 7 English students have begun reading the novel 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. They have been analysing the novel's context, themes and characters by completing a variety of activities such as: comprehension questions, vocabulary work, researching the author and constructing a timeline. They will then plan a TEEL essay using evidence from the text to support their arguments. Students will be assessed on their participation in class discussions and activities, as well as their submission of the final task.



Year 8 English

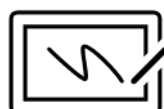
Students have been exploring the concepts of self, belonging and connection to country through poetry, song and other forms of writing from First Nations Peoples, immigrants and other Australians. Students will then choose one of the First Nations texts that they connect with and will write a report about the author/creator of the piece and will present this to the class along with their response to the text.

What is involved in the subject English?

English the subject, is the study of reading, viewing, writing, speaking and listening. This is broken down further into language, literature and literacy. In Secondary School, students will build on the basics learnt in Primary School by expanding their vocabulary, deepening their understanding about grammar and punctuation and becoming confident, independent and critical thinkers. Students learn how language enables people to interact effectively, to build and maintain relationships and to express and exchange knowledge, skills, attitudes, feelings and opinions. A variety of texts are studied from Year 7 through to Year 12 which enables students to see the world from different perspectives and to analyse character and plot development. Texts take the form of novels, graphic novels, films, newspaper articles, poetry, short stories and many more. As students progress to senior secondary the texts studied become more complex, with more mature themes and intricate characters. The writing expected from students is more advanced, often drawing on their own life experiences. At Stawell Secondary College students are assessed on one formal speech each year and they are given multiple opportunities to speak throughout English classes. Students are given opportunities to read each lesson and to write a variety of different pieces of writing, considering audience, purpose, form and context. The English teachers at Stawell Secondary College are all passionate about the subject and we attempt to instill in our students a love of reading and writing.

Mrs Prior (Head of English)

**The more that you read,
the more things you will know.
The more that you learn,
the more places you will go.**
— Dr. Seuss



2025 Celebration Day!!

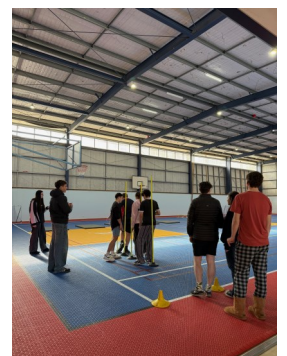
Our Celebration Day was a great success and ran like clockwork!

Students enthusiastically rotated through a range of engaging activities, each thoughtfully designed to reflect and reinforce our core school values: Aspiration, Respect, Inclusion, Resilience, and Participation.

The feedback from both students and staff was overwhelmingly positive, with many describing the afternoon as one of the highlights of the term.

Hundreds of free sausages were enjoyed, and there was a buzz of excitement as Mackenzie House proudly celebrated their first victory in four years – a well-deserved moment of triumph!

Enjoy a selection of photos capturing the fun and spirit of the day at Stawell Secondary School.



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



ASPIRATION



RESPECT



INCLUSION



RESILIENCE



PARTICIPATION

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES 2025

18/8/25 -22/8/25—Year 12 2026 Subject Selection Interviews

21/8/25—Year 7—11 Parent Student Teacher Interviews—**4pm—6:30pm**

22/8/25—Year 7—11 Parent Student Teacher Interviews— **PUPIL FREE DAY**

25/8/25-29/8/25—Year 11 2026 Subject Selection Interviews

1/9/25-5/9/25—Year 10 2026 Subject Selection Interviews

11/9/25—Staff Professional Development Day—**PUPIL FREE DAY**

12/9/25—27/9/25—2025 China Trip

19/9/25—Last Day of Term 3

6/10/25—First Day of Term 4



Year 8 Random Acts of Kindness

During Term 3, Year 8 students have been considering the kind deeds they have been doing for others over the previous 7 days. Each student who has been able to justify their meaningful actions has received an achievement, and the student who has carried out the kindest deed has also received an acknowledgement during our Year Level Assembly each Monday morning. As well as the many kind actions that have been recognised, we commend Asiya Sheikh and Aika Ramos.

Student achievement in NAPLAN 2025

Our Year 7 & 9 students have received their NAPLAN reports, and it is pleasing to acknowledge the number of students who displayed our core values of Aspiration, Participation and Resilience throughout the testing schedule.

We especially acknowledge the outstanding achievements of the following Year 9 students who have achieved the highest proficiency in NAPLAN – Exceeding

Ruby Nicholson (Reading & Numeracy), Tikanni Nelson-Chittock (Reading), Alex Simpkin (Reading & Numeracy), Oliver Hunter (Reading & Numeracy) and Will Evans (Numeracy)

It is also pleasing that our students have been recognised for achieving high growth and an increase in proficiency level, in particular Harry Holloway (Reading), Shayla Madin (Numeracy) and Scarlett Rimon (Reading)

These students' will have a formal presentation at our Term 3 Whole School Assembly which will celebrate student achievements.



Book of the Week

Eleanor Jones Is Playing With Fire

Author: Amy Doak

Eleanor Jones isn't looking for trouble. But someone is starting fires in Cooninda, and the first one looks like a murder.

Eleanor's determined not to get involved, but when she receives a warning to keep quiet 'or else', she can't help but investigate.

Who had motive to commit murder? One of her classmates? A volunteer firefighter?

And are the fires connected to the car thefts around town?

Can she discover who is to blame before the entire town goes up in flames?