

# CONNECTIONS

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RESPECT  
INCLUSION  
ASPIRATION  
RESILIENCE  
PARTICIPATION

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## Principal's Communication – Welcome to 2026

A warm welcome to all members of our school community as we begin the 2026 school year. I extend a special welcome to our Year 7 students, our new staff, and their families as they join Stawell Secondary College.

In 2026, we welcome 69 Year 7 students and five new staff members to our College:

- **Mr Jeremy Boyd**, Technology and Art
- **Ms Abbie Tonkin**, Student Support Team
- **Mr Frank Kelang**, Chinese (Stawell Secondary College, Stawell West Primary School, Concongella Primary School, and Great Western Primary School)
- **Mr Shiv Prasad**, Mathematics
- **Mr Michael Seary**, VET Automotive (Wednesdays)

The school year has commenced in a very positive manner. It has been pleasing to see the majority of students attending in full school uniform. Families are reminded that uniform guidelines specify plain black shoes, with no additional colours. Perry's Footwear and Mensland are our main uniform suppliers and are able to assist with requirements. Families who may need support accessing school uniform items are encouraged to contact the General Office.

Our Year 12 students begin their 13th and final year of compulsory schooling. This is a significant year as they prepare for life beyond secondary education. Some students will move on to further study or apprenticeships, while others will enter the workforce. We wish all Year 12 students every success and encourage them to establish strong work habits early in the year.

As part of our 2026 improvement focus, the College will continue to embed our School-Wide Positive Behaviours framework and Classroom Instructional Model into daily practice to support student learning, wellbeing, and achievement. Additional strategies will also be implemented to strengthen student voice and ownership of learning.

Returning to school can present challenges in re-establishing routines. A balanced routine that includes adequate sleep, nutrition, and recreation is essential in supporting both learning and well-being. I encourage families to assist students in developing positive routines and to notify the school of any matters that may impact this.

In closing, I reaffirm that student learning remains the core focus of our school. I encourage our entire school community to work together in support of our students. I urge all students to take advantage of the many opportunities available at Stawell Secondary College—whether in the classroom, sport, music, camps, leadership, or lunchtime activities.

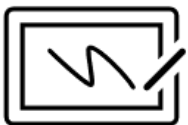
I wish all students, families, and staff a successful and rewarding year in 2026.

**Murray Hart**  
Principal

Stawell Secondary College's child safety and wellbeing policies and practices can be found on our school website: [www.stawellsc.vic.edu.au](http://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.

# 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. They 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 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)

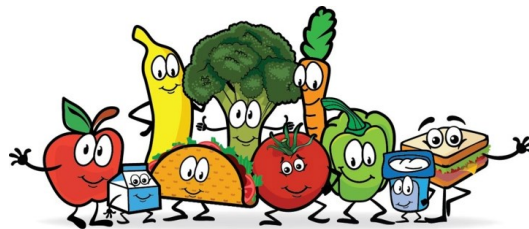


**The more that you read,  
the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn,  
the more places you will go.**  
-- Dr. Seuss



## Food

Reminder to all Food Technology students to please make sure they bring their containers for their cooking classes each week.



## Technology

## Music Enrolments

Music enrolments are coming in fast. In order to ensure that we are able to look after as many interested students as possible, please make sure that your green enrolment forms get handed in either at the front office or directly to Mrs Hemley as soon as possible. Please also remember that telling Mrs Hemley that your form is in your bag is not the same as handing it in.



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 (2-6 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 (9-13 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 13th February.

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

Cindy will communicate to students of the approved subject change via COMPASS.

Students are not to move classes unless you have received a message from Cindy or your timetable has been updated - so keep checking COMPASS.

Therefore, from 16th February, no more subject changes will be approved and your classes will remain stable from then on.

### **VET Classes Commenced Wednesday 4th 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

Students are to attend each week (except school or public holidays) unless otherwise advised until the last class on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October.

### **YEAR 9 – MY CAREER INSIGHTS PROGRAM**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2026

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 will be COMPASS messaged to all parents/carers in the next few days.



# Chinese Program Report

Our **Year 7 classes** are focusing on an introduction to the Chinese language and culture.

**Year 8 students** are revisiting the topic of colours and extending their language skills by using more sophisticated expressions to talk about their colour preferences.

**Year 9 students** have been working extremely hard on the topic of Chinese New Year and are very keen to step up and further extend their language skills.



Our VCE students are preparing for their first SAC next week. While it is understandably a little nerve-racking, they are working hard and showing great determination to achieve their goals.

A special acknowledgement goes to our Chinese Dance Club students **Summer Smith, Haylei Mitchell and Millie McColl**, as well as Year 11 Cultural Ambassador **Kayan Barnes**, who proudly represented Stawell Secondary College by performing Chinese Fan Dance and Dragon Dance at the Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony. This performance was by invitation from the Northern Grampians Shire, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts and cultural leadership.

Overall, we are very much looking forward to a wonderful year ahead filled with learning, cultural celebration, and student growth!

On an exciting note, from **17 February to 20 February**, we will be celebrating **Chinese New Year** with a wide range of activities for students and staff. These will include a staff Chinese New Year banquet, dumpling sales to raise funds for The Cottage, and various cultural activities during lunchtime. An outline of the activities is listed below.

**Event 1: 16 February (Monday) – Chinese New Year’s Eve**

**Activity:** Chinese Buffet Lunch for Staff

**Event 2: 17 February (Tuesday) – Chinese New Year’s Day**

**Activity:** Tuesday Lunchtime Activities

**Event 3: 19 February (Thursday)**

**Activity:** Lunchtime Dumpling & Fried Rice Stall – Fundraiser for The Cottage

**Event 4: 20 February (Friday)**

**Activity:** Homegroup Chinese New Year Trivia Quiz



# Marrung Program

## - First Nations Students.

At Stawell Secondary College, we celebrate and respect the diverse cultures of our student community.

This term will be a very busy one, with a wide range of activities for all students. We look forward to engaging with all First Nations families, recognising and supporting their cultural heritage through various events throughout the year. Please keep an eye out for flyers and information through Compass.

**BUDJA BUDJA**  
Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd

**BUDJA BBQ**

Come & meet the new  
Budja Budja team!

**CATO PARK STAWELL**  
Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of February  
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

# 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**

### **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 helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's financial circumstances and their outcomes.

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

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school excursions, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or support an out of home care student you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid directly to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is \$400 for all school students.

**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](http://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 20 March 2026, 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 on [marie.mcaloon@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:marie.mcaloon@education.vic.gov.au)

### **CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE 2026**

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 27 February 2026.

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 2026 every Year 7 government school student who was a recipient of CSEF in 2025 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.



The banner features a blue background on the left with the text 'STUDENT TRAVEL ASSISTANCE' and the Victoria State Government logo. The right side shows a white school bus with a 'PT' sign, parked on a green field with rolling hills and trees under a blue sky with clouds.

COUNTRY BUS TRAVELLERS:

Registering your child to take the country bus for 2026.  
[https://studenttravelassistance.educationapps.vic.gov.au/s/?c\\_\\_tab=register](https://studenttravelassistance.educationapps.vic.gov.au/s/?c__tab=register)  
As of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2026, The student transport assistance portal will be introducing free travel for all students aged 17 and under. As a result, ineligible travellers approved for the School Bus Program will no longer be required to pay a term fare.  
If you are having any trouble with registering or renewing applications, please contact Georgia Byron by emailing [georgia.byron2@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:georgia.byron2@education.vic.gov.au) or calling 5358 1700, or the School Bus Management System on 1800 338 663 or [schoolbus@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:schoolbus@education.vic.gov.au).

### **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 2026**



- 13/2/26 - Swimming Sports Carnival
- 18/2/26 - Year 12 English Lecture
- 18/2/26 - 20/2/26 - Chinese New Year Celebrations
- 19/2/26 - Year 9 Morrisby Careers profiling
- 23/2/26 - Year 10 Ice Hockey excursion
- 25/2/26 - School Council meeting 7 pm
- 1/3/26 - 2/3/26 - Music Camp
- 4/3/26 - Wimmera Field Day
- 9/3/26 - Labor Day Public Holiday
- 11/3/26 - 13/3/26 - Year 7 Camp
- 14/3/26 - Presentation Ball
- 25/3/26—School Council Annual General Meeting 7 pm
- 27/3/26 - Cross Country

## **2026 SCHOOL TERM DATES**

- Term 1 finishes ..... Thursday 2 April
- Term 2..... Monday 20 April to Friday 26 June 2026
- Term 3..... Monday 13 July to Friday 18 September 2026
- Term 4..... Monday 5 October to Friday 18 December 2026

**Gaslit** Author: Megan Davidhizar

### **Book of the Week**



The truth is hiding somewhere.

Ella wishes that she was doing something more fun on New Year’s Eve than babysitting her cousins – but when nobody answers the door to her aunt’s house, she knows something isn’t right. Breaking in, she finds her cousins unconscious on the floor ... and someone else is dead.

When investigators discover that the cause of death was from a gas leak, a small voice in the back of her head keeps reminding Ella that it could have been her inside that house – and she’s determined to find out what really happened. As deadly lies begin to seep through the cracks of the investigation, Ella gets the feeling that the gas leak might not have been an accident – and that someone might be out to kill her next.