DAYLESFORD
SECONDARY COLLEGE
PROFILE

RESPECT
HONESTY
COOPERATION
COURTESY
ENDEAVOUR

FURTHER INFORMATION

We welcome and encourage parents to contact the College for further information or to arrange a visit.

Principal  Mr. Graeme Holmes  Acting Assistant Principal  Mr. Steve MacPhail
Council President  Mr. Tim Ferrier  Student Wellbeing  Ms. Sue Bosch
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Daylesford Secondary College is the sole provider of secondary education in the Shire of Hepburn. The College has been functioning since 1961 on the present Smith Street site but was originally established in November 1890 as the town’s School of Mines in the main street. The school has a population of 470 students in 2015.

The school draws students from a wide region. Daylesford is between Ballarat and Bendigo and is one hundred kilometres from Melbourne. Sixty-five percent of students travel to school by eleven buses from a radius of up to 35 kilometres.

**OUR VISION**

Our vision is to **AIM HIGH**, united as one school that provides endless opportunities for learning, personal growth and achievement to one’s greatest potential.

Our moral purpose is to foster a school community of curious, knowledgeable, skilful and responsible citizens. We must nurture and develop individual talents, capacity and motivation, to enhance learning, achievement and contribution locally, nationally and globally.

We value individuality and diversity within a safe and caring environment and we value excellence in teaching and learning with an overall emphasis on achievement to one’s greatest potential.

**OUR VALUES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Respect</td>
<td>We care for and take pride in ourselves, each other, our relationships, our community, and our environment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endeavour</td>
<td>We are enthusiastic, resilient and persistent, and we give our best in everything we do.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooperation</td>
<td>We work together as one team to support each other and to reach our goals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honesty</td>
<td>We are truthful and trustworthy in all our behaviours and actions. We are responsible for our own choices and conduct.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Courtesy</td>
<td>We willingly show regard for others and are polite and helpful in all our gestures.</td>
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**THE COLLEGE**

The College has strong VCE results and many of our 2014 students gained places in their desired tertiary institutions and further studies. The school celebrates the success of those students who have chosen to undertake further training or successfully gain employment upon completing school.

One of the school’s priorities this year is to complete our whole-school review and develop a new four-year strategic plan. Another priority is to transition our curriculum programs to align with the National Curriculum.

Transition from primary to secondary school is also a priority. We are continuing to build closer working relationships between primary and secondary teachers, we are monitoring students’ levels of connectedness to school and to their teachers and identifying students with special needs, for example literacy difficulties.

**FACILITIES**

The College is currently planning for a major upgrade to its facilities. A promise of $10 million for capital works has been made and is anticipated to be available in the immediate future. Proposals and plans will be developed in consultation with parents, staff, students and the broader community.

The College has an excellent 1:1 laptop program. Students in Years 7-9 are offered a leasing arrangement while students in Years 10-12 may lease or use BYOD (Bring Your Own Device).

The school has a theatre, gymnasium, canteen and squash courts and has worked with the local community and Shire Council in the planning, development and construction of an indoor community sporting complex on the school grounds (The ARC). This is a community partnership facility and has helped to promote and encourage lifelong participation in sport.

**OUR PHILOSOPHY**

Daylesford Secondary College commits itself to providing a comprehensive, engaging, challenging and creative learning environment that:

- Enables students and teachers to reach their full potential as learners and teachers
- Strives for high achievement
- Values learning in the context of mutual respect, honesty and cooperation
- Prepares students for further education, training and employment
- Actively involves parents and the wider community
- Ensures a culture where all students and staff feel safe and valued in an environment of mutual trust and respect
- The diversity of individual interest and achievement is valued
- All participants in the learning process develop academically, vocationally, personally and socially
- Equips young people for life and for lifelong learning

Our aim is that students leave the College as responsible, curious and knowledgeable citizens, with an enhanced ethical understanding, concern for the environment and respect for human rights.

**CURRICULUM PROGRAMS**

The College provides a comprehensive program for students in all year levels. Our program provides flexibility and breadth in order to cater for individual needs, interests and aspirations.

**Junior School Program – Years 7 & 8**

The College provides a common, comprehensive program for students in Year 7 & 8. The school aims to expose students to a wide range of studies over this period to broaden experience and enhance curiosity and success. Some subjects are taken continuously for the two years...
while others run for one or two semesters over the two year period. We aim to connect students with a core group of teachers to assist in their transition from Primary School.

Middle School Program – Years 9 & 10
The college offers a wide range of subjects for students to select from. Subject preferences are chosen with the help and guidance of counsellors and parents to ensure that requirements for further studies and careers are met.

Senior School Program Years 11 & 12
The school offers a wide range of VCE, VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) and VET (Vocational Employment and Training) studies in Years 11 and 12. Year 10 students are able to access a range of Year 11 subjects as part of their program. The majority of Year 11 students also study a Year 12 subject. Year 11 students are expected to study six 5-period units each semester, while Year 12’s typically take five.

The College motto of “Aim High” is emphasised and many VCE results indicate students can achieve at the highest levels. As an alternative to VCE, students may undertake the more vocationally orientated VCAL certificate at Years 11 or 12. VCAL provides an opportunity for students to develop appropriate numeracy and literacy skills, to develop their personal skills, to undertake a work placement and to incorporate part-time work and VET subjects as part of their program.

The Senior School focus is on all students developing an appropriate pathway to further training, work or tertiary study. Students develop individual pathway plans with help from the College MIPS Coordinator and careers advisor. Teachers and co-ordinators get to know the senior students very well, resulting in personal and dedicated approaches to optimising student outcomes.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS
The College encourages all students to participate in activities beyond the prescribed curriculum. These activities include:

Instrumental Music
In addition to classroom music there are additional studies available in instrumental music - brass and woodwind. Subject to the availability of staff, classes in percussion, guitar and singing are also available. These lessons run during school hours on a rotating timetable.

We are proud of our music program and currently have a number of band options for students to participate in. The College Concert Band tours a designated area within Victoria each year, playing to a variety of audiences.

Student Representative Council (SRC)
The school encourages student input into decision making. A number of the SRC members represent the student body on various committees within the school, including the School Council.

Annual Production
The College has an annual production in which student participation is high. The 2014 was again a great success and involved many students on stage and behind the scenes. This involvement is not only a great experience for students, but provides an opportunity for staff and students across all year levels to work together on a less formal basis.

Sport
Daylesford Secondary College competes against other schools in the western zone in a number of sports. While our students are keen to do their best, we place considerable emphasis on sportsmanship and fair play. Many students compete keenly and a number progress to state level competition.

Camps & Excursions
Daylesford Secondary College has a broad camps program. Students are offered a variety of camps and excursions. The College mini-bus allows us the opportunity to offer some activities at a minimal cost. All students participate in a number of subject based excursions, and our Year 7 students attend a three day camp to develop co-operation and leadership skills. The school offers a yearly ski trip and international trips are also offered.

Other Extra-Curricular Activities
Other activities designed to foster students’ individual talents and interests include, but are not limited to, debating competitions, writing competitions, peer support and mediation training, maths and science competitions. Activities such as these, or new opportunities, are continuously evolving within our school.

INTEGRATION PROGRAM
The integration program caters for students with a disability or impairment. The aim of the program is to successfully integrate students into the mainstream curriculum as much as possible, whilst catering for their individual learning needs. Regular program support meetings are held with parents and individual program/education plans are developed. Visiting teachers, physiotherapists, occupational and speech therapists provide specialised consulting services to assist in meeting students’ needs.

OUR VALUES & STUDENT EXPECTATIONS
At Daylesford Secondary College we believe that all individuals should be valued and treated with respect. Our College strives to provide a safe, positive and supportive learning environment, which meets our students’ needs and where our values of respect, honesty, endeavour, cooperation and courtesy are practised and modelled by all.

Our College Behaviour Guidelines have been formulated in line with Department of Education guidelines and regulations and is best administered by staff, parents and students working together.

The purpose of our policies relating to student behaviour and expectations is to create and maintain an orderly and supportive educational environment which:

- Develops effective learning based on mutual respect and the rights of the individual
- Emphasises that the onus is on the student to know the rules and accept responsibility for his/her behaviour
Ensures that learning takes place in a safe and healthy environment
Is reinforced by appropriate consequences

Rights and Responsibilities
Students have responsibilities and corresponding rights. All students have a right to learn, to be accepted, to express an opinion, to succeed and to be safe. In return, their obligation is to respect themselves and others, be honest, cooperative and courteous, and endeavour to do their best. They must also act responsibly, be organised, be health and safety conscious and support the College.

STUDENT WELLBEING
The College Student Wellbeing Co-ordinator, Sue Bosch, is responsible for coordinating services to students and their families. Sue offers assistance with students' personal and family problems. She will also work with other staff members on strategies for helping students with difficulties.

The College also has a 'Peer Support' program. The aim of this program is to make other students, rather than adults, the first point of call when issues/concerns arise. Serious problems are referred to the Student Wellbeing Coordinator.

In addition the school works closely with Daylesford Family Services, Hepburn Health and other community agencies.

There is an Educational Psychologist, Peter Gallagher, based at the College who also works at our cluster Primary Schools. Our school Chaplain, Elaine Anderson, is at school on most days to support students in their educational journey. Our School Nurse, Andrew Netherway, is available two days a week. There is also support provided for Speech Pathology and Hearing Impairment.

PARENT & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
Daylesford Secondary College is committed to maintaining strong links with the local community and to providing and encouraging community use of its facilities. We welcome our Year 7 parents each year with a staff and family B.B.Q. Other parents offer their time and expertise in a variety of ways to assist us in daily operations and fund raising.

The College provides information to parents and the local community through:

- Regular press releases
- A newsletter is published every fortnight and is also found at www.daylesfordsc.vic.edu.au
- Publication of the Annual General Meeting Report and monthly reports from the College Council
- Community meetings
- Oral and written reports on student progress
- Year level information nights
- Awards to students on Presentation night
- Notification of relevant dates on a monthly planner
- Published school documents
- Career and work education information
- Representation on College Council committees

Parents and guardians have an obligation to support the College in its effort to maintain a productive teaching and learning environment. Daylesford Secondary College encourages parents to make a positive contribution to their child's education by:

- Monitoring their child's educational progress
- Assisting their child with, and monitoring homework
- Paying fees and levies
- Maintaining links with teachers at the College
- Supporting the College Uniform Policy
- Supporting the College Student Wellbeing and Discipline Policy and processes
- Providing appropriate books, materials and equipment for their child's school activities

The College relies on and encourages parents and the local community to participate in and to provide support for a range of College activities such as:

- Curriculum and policy reviews
- Canteen operations
- Sporting and cultural activities
- Community surveys
- Work education program
- Fundraising
- Support groups
- Maths tuition
- Library assistance

Daylesford Secondary College is proud of its standing as a provider of outstanding education from Years 7 to 12.

We are committed to placing emphasis on participation and performance by students so they are able to learn and achieve to their greatest potential.

We rely on involvement from staff, students, parents and guardians to obtain the best possible outcomes for our students.

At Daylesford Secondary College we AIM HIGH.