



Cheltenham
Secondary College



Artist impression only, subject to change

VCE / VCE VM 2026 Parent Contributions

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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RESPECT | RESPONSIBILITY | PERSONAL BEST | SENSE OF COMMUNITY



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Cheltenham Secondary College is looking forward to another rewarding year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Cheltenham Secondary College's voluntary financial contributions for 2026. Alongside the Victorian Curriculum, we invite families to contribute to our voluntary contributions program, including the opportunity to support our tax-deductible building fund. Every voluntary contribution helps us provide the very best environment for our students, whilst the building fund also gives families the benefit of a deduction at tax time.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements, and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. However, it is the generosity of our families that allows us to go further. Voluntary contributions help fund additional programs, resources, and facilities beyond government funding, such as

- additional classroom materials
- wellbeing initiatives such as an Engagement officer and Social workers
- sporting equipment, activities and additional staffing such as our Sports coordinator,
- campus improvements such as our half basketball court

ensuring a richer, more supportive day-to-day learning experience.

This year, we're excited about our new building works. We also plan to redevelop the space between the gym and new learning area into a vibrant sporting precinct with all-weather courts, along with tiered and under-cover seating used for lessons, recess and lunchtime. As this project isn't funded by the Department or State government, contributions to our tax-deductible building fund will help make these a reality.

Every contribution, big or small, helps bring this vision to life. Plus, as the building fund donations are fully tax-deductible, families can support the projects in a way that also provides a personal benefit at tax time.

Information about how contributions are used is detailed on the following pages. For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached.

Thank you sincerely for your continued support and for your contribution to your child's education at Cheltenham Secondary College.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Karl Russell
Principal

Mrs. Janine Abbott
School Council President

Contents

Your Parent
Contributions at work

- Wellbeing
- Buildings and
Grounds

Curriculum
contributions

Other contributions

Tax deductible
contributions

Extra-Curricular items

Financial support for
families

Payment Methods

Refund Policy

Department of
Education Parent
Payments Policy
overview

YOUR PARENT CONTRIBUTIONS AT WORK



Wellbeing

All students participate in a range of wellbeing programs. These include whole year level programs (Tier 1) and targeted programs for smaller groups (Tier 2).

Year 7: Welcome program (Wellbeing Team), Lunchtime games (Kingston Youth Services), Transition Check-ins for every student (Wellbeing Team), Emotion Regulation (Toolbox Education), Social Stencil (Wellbeing team), iSafe Day (Wellbeing team, IBM, Headspace), Values Compass (Wellbeing team).

Year 8: Social Media Privacy (Wellbeing Team), Gratitude, Empathy & Mindfulness (GEM) and Kindness (Wellbeing Team), Thinking Traps (Toolbox Education), Upstander Program (Courage to Care), RAISE Foundation Mentoring program, iSafe Day (Wellbeing team, IBM, Headspace), Social Skills Workshop (Dept of Ed Nurse Partnership Program).

Year 9: Ignite Program (Wellbeing team, external providers), Character Strengths (Wellbeing Team), Power Nutrition (Felstead Education), Healthy Relationships (Relationships Australia), Vaping presentation (Perennial Health Institute), RAISE Foundation Mentoring program, Rail Safety and Awareness (Metro Trains).

Year 10: Inspire Program (Wellbeing team, workshops and guest presenters), Smashed - highlighting the dangers of underage drinking (Gibber Live Theatre), Vaping presentation (Perennial Health Institute), Stop, Breath & Chill - Mindfulness workshops (Headspace).

Year 11: Be Wise: Cowards Punch (Pat Cronin Foundation), Study Calm (Felstead Education), Vision Board (Wellbeing Team).

Year 12: Be Wise: Cowards Punch (Pat Cronin Foundation), Alcohol and other Drugs Harm Minimisation (Taksforce), Motivation and Goal Setting (Victorian Institute of Sport - Be Fit Be Well Olympic Athlete), Schoolies/Party Safe (Red Frogs), Inflatable Rides for Picnic Day (Wellbeing Team), Stress Management Check-ins for every Year 12 student and accompanying brochure (Wellbeing Team).

Years 7 and 12: Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony (Bunurong Land Council/Aboriginal Corporation).

Years 9-12: Elevate Program (a series of high-impact seminars and workshops to help students improve their study techniques, increase motivation, build confidence, and lift exam performance).

Parents: Thinking Traps (Toolbox Education - online forum).

Whole School

Awareness Weeks/Days - Pride Week, International Women's Day, IDAHOBIT Day, National Day of Action Against Bullying & Violence, R U Ok? Day, World Mental Health Day.

Wellbeing Week - Individual Wellbeing days for each year level including Myuna Farm Mobile Animal Ark, Kingston Youth Services, live music, guest speakers, interactive wellbeing games and lessons.



Building Fund to support new college facilities

2026 contributions to the 'Building Fund' will be utilised in the planned redevelopment of the existing soccer space at the front of the gym. Once the new junior education centre is complete, the area between the building and the gym will be developed into a sports precinct, with plans for all weather playing surface basketball and netball courts, along with seating and landscaping. Once complete, this space will be used for sport lessons, lunchtime and recess play and after hours and weekend public use. Ultimately, we are planning for the courts and seating to be undercover.



Indicative image only



Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum

<p>Independent learner programs These programs support the students to own their learning, develop time management skills and develop effective study skills.</p>	\$40
<p>Student ID Card and Planner <i>ID card is required for borrowing of library books, using the Compass kiosk to sign in and out and as the concession card for discounted myki card. The planner should be used every day.</i></p>	\$55
<p>Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials. <i>These are items the students will use and keep. (\$15.00)</i></p>	
<p>Whole college/year level events <i>These include actives such as swimming and athletics carnivals.</i></p>	\$30
<p>Student and parent communication tools (\$55.00) <i>Compass student and parent portals – allowing online access to reports, event consent/payments, Parent/student/teacher conference bookings etc.</i></p>	\$95
<p>Digital Technologies (\$40.00) <i>Provision of devices, software, and system support.</i></p>	
<p>Electives with associated costs: Parents will be invited to make a curriculum contribution towards electives with associated costs via Compass on subject confirmation in 2026. These cost electives are material/experience heavy. Your financial support of these electives will allow the college to continue to offer the range of materials required to maintain these to a high standard.</p>	
Total Curriculum Contributions	\$220



Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities

<p>Lockers and Locker Bay security <i>We are currently replacing the remaining older lockers in the college with more modern secure lockers to ensure mobile phones and other valuables are protected. We are also installing more CCTV around these areas.</i></p>	\$30
<p>First aid and hygiene <i>We maintain extensive first aid support, room, consumables, and equipment for all students and staff, including a defibrillator.</i></p>	\$25
<p>Library support <i>To help provide additional resources and books in the library, which would be available to students to enhance their learning and to support their classroom work.</i></p>	\$25
<p>Sports affiliations <i>Whole college participation in School Sports Victoria and Beachside network.</i></p>	\$30
<p>Enhanced wellbeing support <i>The college employs additional staff to support student wellbeing needs, both on an individual basis and with whole college/year level programs.</i></p>	\$75
<p>College grounds maintenance and improvements</p>	\$50
<p>Careers Additional staffing and programs to help students start thinking about their future direction.</p>	\$20
Total Other Contributions	\$255



Tax deductible contributions

Building fund.

A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of college infrastructure, suggested amount \$150 per family

\$

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

College magazine	\$30.00
Optional Instrumental music lessons individual full year payment	\$1750.00
Optional Instrumental music lessons group full year payment	\$550
Other optional excursions to be scheduled	Compass Events

Totals

Category	Total
Curriculum Contributions	\$220
Other Contributions (<i>Non-tax deductible</i>)	\$255
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$30
Total	\$505
Building Fund (<i>Tax-deductible</i>)	\$150 (suggested)

Financial Support for Families

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

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- State Schools Relief (SSR)
- Payment plans for Parent Payments, Extra-Curricular Items and Activities.

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, please contact the college on 9555 5955 and ask to speak with Wellbeing

The 2025 School Saver Bonus cannot be used for Parent Contributions.

Payment methods

All payments, including excursions and incursions, are done online using the Compass Parent Portal and are open now. The College does not accept cash or credit card payments on site. Payment plans will be made available, with several different payment plans available automatically. If you wish to set up a custom payment plan, please email accounts@cheltsec.vic.edu.au and we will contact you. We would appreciate all payments, or the set up of payment plans, to be made by the first day of Term 1 2026 so that we can plan our year.

Refunds

- Refunds will not be given if the refund will cause a financial loss to the school.
- Refunds will only be considered when requested in writing within 21 days of the event, by emailing accounts@cheltsec.vic.edu.au
- Where the school is charged for the provision of a program or service as a bulk cost and not a “per head” cost, no refund is able to be given. Where the cost of an event is based on the number of students attending and paid in advance, no refund can be given if the student didn’t attend on the day.
- Where a “per head” fee is charged on the day refunds can be considered.
- Where there is a combination of a bulk charge and a “per head” charge in an excursion e.g.: visit to the zoo – bus charge is a bulk cost and the entry fee is a “per head” cost, only the “per head” component may be able to be refunded if it was not paid to the zoo on the day.



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 requirements of the Curriculum. This includes the Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- 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

Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.

Other Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

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.