

Messages from the Principal & Junior School Leader



Karen Harris
School Principal

Hello, and welcome to Brunswick Secondary College.

If your child is enrolled as a Year 7 student at Brunswick Secondary College, there will be a strong commitment from us to you and your child.

Three things which are very important to the staff of Brunswick Secondary College are:

- Getting to know your child – both as a person and as a student - so we know what level of work is right for them
- Providing quality teaching. The teaching at our school is excellent, but our staff community is committed to professional learning and continuous improvement
- Continuing to develop a school culture which is inclusive and positive, and which continues to have a balance between academic learning and co-curricular opportunities

In Term 4, 2018, we completed a School Review, and in order to identify our three main goals for the next four years the college sought feedback from students, parents/carers and staff.

The commonality with the feedback from all our stakeholders was that:

- Students like coming to our school
- Teachers like teaching at our school
- Parents have a high level of satisfaction with our school

I think it is important for me to state that I love being the principal at Brunswick Secondary College. Like the parents who contributed to our feedback forums, I think the school is doing many things well - but I believe there are things we can do even better. I personally am open to hearing the opinions of students and parents on how the college and its processes can be improved, so I invite ongoing feedback.

The college was fortunate to receive government funding for major refurbishment, completed throughout 2017 and 2018. With this came improvements to existing buildings and the opportunity to build new classrooms. Going forward, the School Council is committed to ensuring that our outdoor areas are brought up to a standard that matches what we now have in terms of indoor areas, and the college has plans to enhance gardens and seating areas as well as the outdoor basketball courts. Our students deserve the very best inside *and* outside of classrooms.

Finally, some information on the enrolment process. You can view the Brunswick Secondary College school zone if you visit the www.findmyschool.vic.gov.au resource. If your residence is within the Brunswick Secondary College zone you are guaranteed a place once you have provided proof of residence to the school. After providing enrolment to those within our zone, we then offer places to siblings, providing an older sibling is still enrolled at the school in 2021 and that there are still places available. After this, if there are still further places available, we will consider any prospective families from outside the school zone who submit an enrolment request based on Curriculum Grounds. Curriculum Grounds forms can be downloaded from the college's website.

If your child is in a Government school, your placement forms are returned to Brunswick Secondary College through the primary school. If you are applying on Curriculum Grounds, *only* the Curriculum Grounds form should be forwarded to us directly via email: studentadmin@brunswick.vic.edu.au

If your child is currently attending a non-Government school, both the placement form (and Curriculum Grounds application if applicable) should be forwarded to us directly via email: studentadmin@brunswick.vic.edu.au

If your child is applying for our SEAL program you must register for the test through our website.

I wish you all the best as you make your choice and I hope to see meet many of your children as confirmed enrolments later in the year.

Karen Harris
Principal



Sally Goss
Junior School Leader

Hello everybody.

I am the Junior School Leader and Transition Coordinator at Brunswick Secondary College. I work closely the Year 7 and Year 8 Level Coordinators to develop a Junior School culture that encompasses the college's values of respect, responsibility, achievement, excellence, persistence and teamwork. I also work hard to establish and maintain collaborative relationships with Junior School students and parents.

Often, I am asked to sum up Brunswick Secondary College in one sentence. That is impossible, but here is a statement that best describes the college:

At Brunswick Secondary College we care about the totality of the educational experience and commit to do all that we can to enable each child to become the best version of themselves.

We believe that a good education is comprised of three elements.

First and foremost, comes **Academic Learning**. Our dedicated, compassionate teachers and diverse, enthusiastic student community create a cohesive school environment that makes every day a new and exciting opportunity for development.

The second element is **Social and Emotional Learning**. I am sure that you, as parents, will agree that student wellbeing is an important element in them achieving their academic potential and for their confidence and resilience as adolescents and future adults. In 2019 the college introduced Home Group to support the wellbeing and development of young people. Home Group is where pastoral care comes to life at Brunswick Secondary College. The programs delivered during this time target social and emotional learning and ideally have a positive and significant impact on attitudes to learning, social relationships in school, and student achievement. Students remain in their core class groups for these sessions and a teacher is allocated to them. This Home Group teacher will also teach the same class in another subject.

The third element that is critical to a full and rewarding education is **Extension, Enrichment and Leadership**. Our college has outstanding co-curricular and leadership programs. This is because we know that it is through these more unbounded learning opportunities that students are able to connect across year levels, often discovering interests and talents that become their life-long passion. We offer extra programs such as the school production, academic support, chess club and many more which you can access on our college website.

At Brunswick Secondary College, we believe that unless you have these three elements working together, you cannot achieve a truly full, rich education.

Throughout my eleven years at the college, the school has experienced a lot of change; new staff, new principal team, new students, new buildings to name but a few. What has *not* changed is the passion that our staff have to enable academic and personal growth in every student.

Choosing a secondary school involves choosing the place where your child will grow and develop into a confident young adult. The challenge for you is to find the school that couples your child's aspirations, strengths and needs with a teaching and learning environment that will best enable them to flourish.

I wish you well in making this important choice.

Sally Goss
Junior School Leader

