



# Victoria University Secondary College

Create The Future

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Victoria University Secondary College  
encourages students to Create The Future by:

*Aspiring to **Achieve***

*Strengthening the **Community***

*Respecting Ourselves and Others*



## Our College Logo

**T**he symbol is based on the appearance of a wreath. Wreaths are commonly associated with success and eternity. Each leaf of the wreath is intended to represent the school's success and the success of the students. The flowing movement of the leaves stand for the progressive journey of students. This is accentuated by the dots on the side, which gradually enlarge to indicate students going through each year of secondary school. The final leaf separated from the wreath symbolises the successful students brought up by the school, who enter and strengthen our community. The fact that leaves fly to new and unknown places relates to the multitude of students' aspirations beyond their secondary schooling. Wreaths are also evergreen plants lasting throughout all seasons. The strength of these plants signifies the strength of the school community and the bond between teachers, students and their parents.

# Welcome

Victoria University Secondary College is a learning community where all staff learn together and continuously improve, and where students are guided to discover their talents, set aspirational goals for themselves and grow and develop into independent, resilient and adaptable individuals.

Our vision is for students to be educated and enabled to Create the Future: their own future, their communities' future and the global future. Students create their future by following our values of Aspiring to Achieve, Strengthening the Community and Respecting Ourselves and Others.

At VUSC we believe all students can succeed with effort and persistence. We teach our students to aim for excellence in all that they do. Our teaching and learning framework is based on a synthesis of recent educational research. Enacting this research in the classroom leads to high quality instruction that is reliably delivered throughout the school. Our evidence based teaching practices and strategies establish safe, purposeful and inclusive classroom learning environments while providing the individual behaviour and learning supports needed to achieve academic and social success for all students.

Our focus on Literacy and Numeracy has seen our student outcomes increase significantly over the last few years. Support is provided to students at all levels and high achieving students are challenged and extended. Parent opinion of the college is overwhelmingly positive and student attitude surveys have shown progressive increases in their satisfaction with the school. Students comment that they feel safe, are motivated to learn and that teachers help them learn to the best of their ability.

Our vision is future focused and empowering. We aim to encourage visionary thinking; to enable members of our learning community to adapt to an ever changing world and prepare for global challenges; to be adaptive and flexible in their thinking and to have the skills to engage with current and emerging technologies.

We empower members of our learning community to develop control over their own thinking and actions, develop the self-belief and confidence to persevere with learning challenges and tasks and to take initiative and act. Our focus on reflective thinking develops independent learners. Our focus on collaboration develops students who are able to work co-operatively towards a common goal; to share ideas and resources while respecting and recognising individual contributions. Students develop the skills to create respectful learning relationships within the school and the wider community.

Parents and prospective students are warmly invited to contact the College and make an appointment for a tour to see classes in action. We look forward to seeing you at Victoria University Secondary College.

*Elaine Hazim*

**Elaine Hazim**  
College Principal







# Teaching and Learning

**A**t VUSC we are committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all students, staff and members of our community. Our school recognises the importance of the partnership between our school and parents/ carers to support student learning, engagement and wellbeing.

Our school is a learning community where all staff learn together to continuously improve, and where students are guided to discover their talents, enjoy their educational journey and develop goals for their future.

Students at Victoria University Secondary College are taught according to our College Values:

1. Aspire to Achieve – by valuing hard work, effort and commitment to learning
2. Strengthen the Community – by contributing to the school, local and global community
3. Respect Ourselves and Others – by behaving in ways that they would like others to behave towards them.

VUSC is a high reliability school which provides effective teaching in every classroom with a guaranteed and viable curriculum. As part of delivering effective teaching, with consistency and predictability for students, we use a standardised lesson format, known as the VUSC Learning Improvement Framework for Teaching (LIFT). Teachers also use High Impact Teaching Strategies in their lesson planning.

Our teachers collaborate in Professional Learning Teams to improve their teaching by preparing tasks, planning curriculum, observing lessons and reflecting on student outcomes together. Our signature programs – AVID, Deep Learning, Music and Performing Arts and the Sports Academy, as well as our comprehensive range of co-curricular programs, enrich and extend student learning across all year levels.

We strive to ensure that VUSC graduates have:

**Academic Skills** that will enable them to succeed in further education and beyond, as lifelong learners:

- Critical literacy and numeracy
- Inquiry and problem solving skills
- Innovation and creativity
- Critical thinking

Students are better able to achieve these skills with:

**Attributes** to be effective learners and highly valued colleagues and leaders in continuously evolving educational settings and workplaces:

- Organised
- Collaborative
- Independent
- Adaptable

A **Growth Mindset** that empowers them to believe in themselves, take measured risks and aim high:

- Confident
- Aspirational
- Resilient
- Active Learners

The school also enjoys several learning partnerships with the wider community, including business and educational organisations, which create vital opportunities for growth and development and are mutually enriching.



# Year 7 Scholarships Program

Victoria University Secondary College provides an opportunity for our community to share in our success by offering College Scholarships that support worthy students in realising their educational and social goals. The College motto 'Create the Future' signals to students that we provide them with every opportunity to reach their individual potential in an environment that promotes academic excellence, community responsibility and respect for all individuals. The College offers a range of scholarships for entry at Year 7 in the following areas:

## Academic Excellence Scholarships

These scholarships are available to students with an exemplary academic record who have demonstrated outstanding application and achievement in one or more of English, Humanities, Mathematics or Science along with a strong performance in general studies and technology. Students will display a passion for learning, outstanding work ethic and a preparedness to participate fully in the life of Victoria University Secondary College.

## Leadership & Community Contribution Scholarships

These scholarships are available to students who have demonstrated leadership skills in primary school as well as citizenship and a commitment to the broader community. Students will be encouraging and supportive of their peers, and display a strong academic performance, outstanding work ethic and positive behaviours, together with a preparedness to participate fully in the life of Victoria University Secondary College.

## Music Excellence Scholarships

These scholarships are available to students who have displayed outstanding aptitude, experience and commitment in Instrumental Music. The scholarship may be used to cover instrumental music and/or concert band fees, as well as uniform and textbooks. Students will demonstrate an outstanding work ethic and positive behaviours, and a preparedness to participate fully in the life of the College.

## Sporting Excellence Scholarships

These scholarships are available to keen sports persons who have demonstrated outstanding sporting skills, positive behaviours and a commitment to doing their best not only on the sporting field,

but also in their academic development. Personal qualities of sportsmanship and teamwork are important, together with a preparedness to participate fully in the life of Victoria University Secondary College.

## Selection

Equality of opportunity underpins our Scholarships Program. Selection is based on a written application and interview. Students are also required to present a current school report and reference together with a portfolio of their work which best supports the scholarship they are applying for. Applicants for Music Excellence Scholarships may also be required to audition. Applicants are not required to sit an entry exam.

## Application & School Tours

Scholarships for entry in Year 7 are valued at \$500 and are redeemable against College uniform, devices and textbooks. For more information, contact the Junior Campus office or visit our website. To see the College in action, visit our Open Day or contact the College to arrange an appointment for a tour.



# Junior Campus Deer Park

## Years 7, 8 and 9

As students progress through Year 7 and 8, their curriculum is grounded in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy, with Information Communication Technologies and AVID strategies also at the foreground of each subject area. Students undertake a breadth of discipline areas, allowing them to explore their interests. Working within flexible learning areas, life long learning skills such as good organisation, a strong work ethic and a desire to achieve their full potential are promoted throughout these years.

Throughout Year 9, students have the opportunity to engage in exciting new programs within a range of electives and specialised classes. Students focus on developing their life skills

by strengthening and engaging with the broader community. Students are also involved in a range of programs and initiatives designed to build their self-confidence, foster independent learning and develop a greater sense of respect for themselves as well as others, ensuring our students transition to the Senior Campus with confidence and a clear sense of direction.

Our Year 9 Enrichment Program presents exciting opportunities throughout the year for students to step out of their comfort zone and explore new skills through immersive experiences off campus. Students work together to set goals, problem solve and support each other while completing a number of excursions and activities. The program is

designed to upskill students' personal and social capabilities to support them in fostering healthy relationships with their peers, which are known to result in mental, emotional, social and physical benefits. Students develop practical skills in teamwork, decision making, communication and project management. In addition to this, students will begin to consider their career pathway options by investigating university and TAFE courses and the subjects needed to successfully move into these areas of study.

At the end of the year, all students undertake a comprehensive Step Up program to prepare them for their transition to the next year level.





# Senior Campus Cairnlea

Years 10, 11 and 12

Victoria University Secondary College takes pride in guiding and supporting students as they travel through their senior years of secondary school. Our extensive Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), VCE Vocational Major and Vocational Education Training (VET) programs give students every opportunity to specialise in the subject areas of their choice.

VET subjects offer students industry specific and practical experience in a particular vocational area, as well as gaining a nationally recognised certificate. Our Senior Campus and Trade Training Centre have state of the art facilities for Building and

Construction, Electrotechnology, Business and Sport, Aquatics and Recreation courses. A full range of VET subjects is offered to students through Brimbank VET Cluster arrangements with other local schools and TAFE providers.

Senior students also have access to the HEADSTART program. The HEADSTART program matches the student with an employer and enables them to begin a part time apprenticeship or traineeship while studying for their VCE Vocational Major certificate.

Our expert Careers staff coordinate our Managed Individual Pathways (MIPS) and Careers programs. Together we

help plan individual learning needs, preferences and career pathways. Course and subject selections are discussed with each student. Industry based work experience and structured workplace learning is also facilitated for students within the senior years.

The Senior Campus staff work hard to ensure the individual success of every student, with extensive support for all to achieve their goals in the final years of secondary schooling and beyond. Students are provided with a separate study area and continual support programs in the areas of study techniques, work readiness, well-being, additional tuition and careers advice.

# SEAL Program

The accredited Select Entry Accelerated Learning program is offered at Year 7 and 8. It is designed to enrich and extend students through a curriculum that emphasises content of greater complexity and depth, more abstract and challenging learning tasks, higher order critical and creative thinking, problem-solving skills, independent research skills and leadership opportunities. This supportive environment encourages learning and collaboration with like-minded peers to develop students academically, socially and emotionally.

The SEAL Program:

- Provides high-functioning students with the opportunity to fulfil their academic and social potential
- Offers a highly challenging, engaging and motivating learning environment for students to move rapidly through the curriculum
- Offers greater flexibility in their choice of subjects for the remaining years of their secondary education
- Provides the opportunity to work independently and cooperatively with other students of similar abilities and interests.

Students who undertake the SEAL program may continue to be extended at Year 9 and 10 in the Deep Learning Program.

# Deep Learning Program

The Deep Learning Program is an extension program that is designed to allow academically ready students to specialise their learning in certain subject areas, gaining access to a rigorous curriculum that includes challenging content and inquiry-based learning.

Students can specialise in the areas of English and Humanities, taking an extension English class, Literature and 12 months of their chosen Humanities, either History or Economics & Legal Studies. Students can also specialise in the areas of Mathematics and Sciences, being part of an extension Mathematical Methods class and having additional

periods of Science where they undertake inquiry-based learning. Some students are able to specialise in all areas.

Students in Year 10 may apply to take advanced placement in a Unit 1 & 2 VCE subject. These students may also take Introduction to Extended Investigation, which is an inquiry-based learning unit where students are able to pursue academic research in a field of their interest.

Students who are offered a place in the Deep Learning program are eligible to apply for a scholarship for entry in Year 9 or 10.







# AVID

**A**dvancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is a highly successful and innovative teaching program which supports students with academic and organisational skills.

AVID is underpinned by five key skills: Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organisation and Reading (WICOR). The College runs AVID elective classes as well as using the strategies school-wide in every class.

## AVID Elective

AVID students are ambitious and aspirational. They spend time thinking about their futures and determining what they will need to do in order to reach their goals. Students who undertake the AVID elective will have two periods of AVID each week. The elective is available from Year 7 to Year 10. In the AVID elective class, students undertake a rigorous and engaging curriculum that extends and develops their skills in the five key areas of WICOR. Developing these skills allows students to succeed in all their subjects and sets them up for success in both VCE and tertiary education.

Students also have the opportunity to attend excursions to universities, so that they are exposed to the learning and entry requirements of tertiary education. Students undertake regular binder, diary and Cornell note checks to ensure

they are able to meet important deadlines in their school work.

## AVID School-Wide

At VUSC, the WICOR strategies are implemented school-wide. This includes the use of a binder, which students use to organise their Cornell notes and resources for every subject.

Cornell note-taking is a system every student uses in all subjects. Cornell notes are designed to support student learning by teaching them to identify new vocabulary, summarise their ideas, take detailed and well-organised notes, and develop questions about their notes in order to test themselves later.

All students at the College are encouraged to work collaboratively with their peers, in order to develop interactive and leadership skills. Students regularly participate in activities which develop these skills. For example, Philosophical Chairs enable students to discuss and debate ideas, and Socratic Seminars encourage students to develop key questions, and discuss texts they have read with strong perspective.

More information and applications for the Year 7 AVID Elective Program are available from the Junior Campus.

# STEM

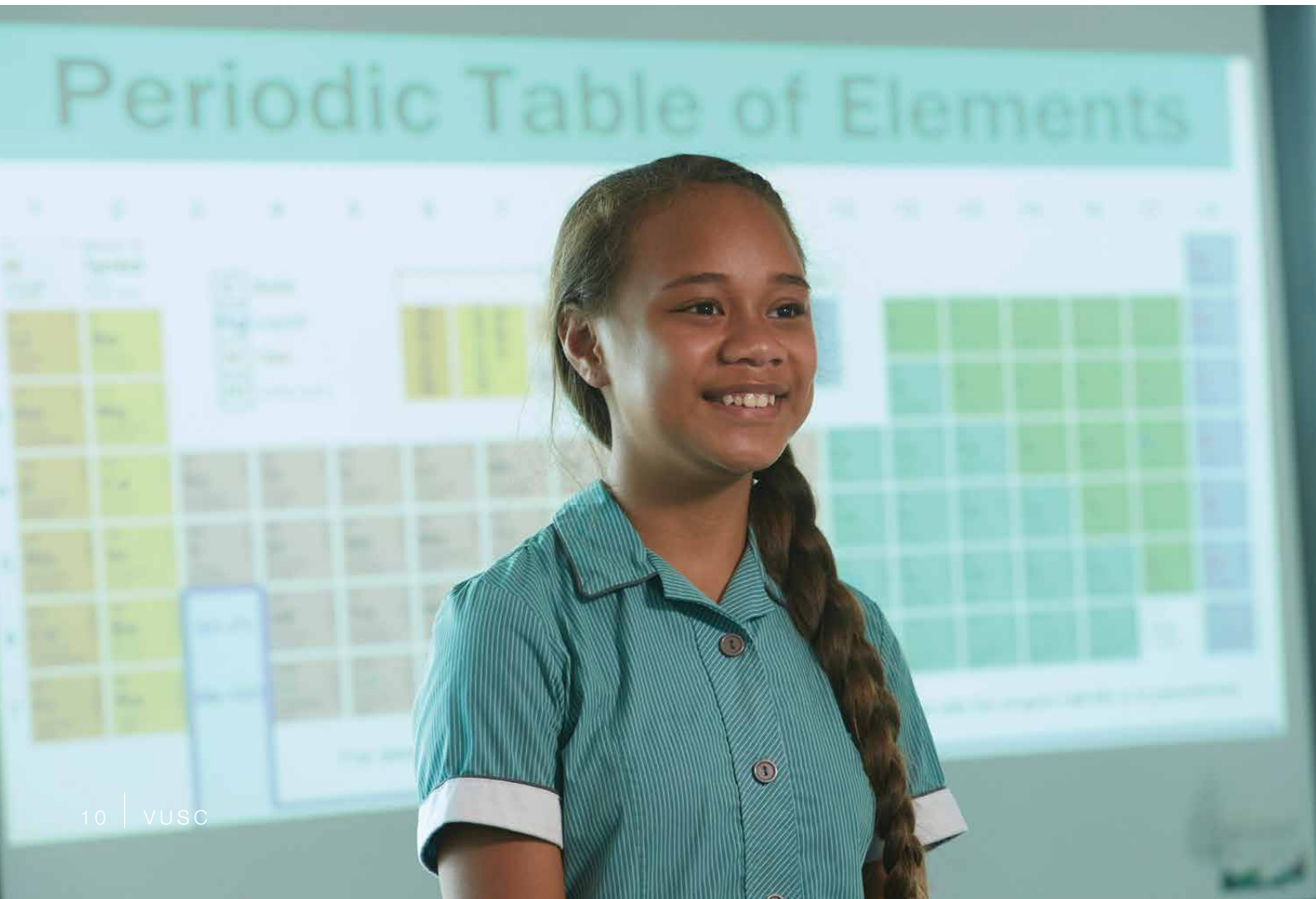
## Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

STEM covers a wide range of disciplines and skills, which are increasingly in demand in our rapidly changing world. STEM skills and knowledge are important for all stages of our learning, jobs and everyday lives.

STEM education and training covers the specific knowledge and skills found in science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines. STEM education also develops capabilities such as critical and creative thinking, collaboration and ethical decision making.

Our College offers a wide range of STEM subjects from Year 7 – 12. Junior students begin by learning coding and robotics in Information Technology, cooking and nutrition in Food Technology and core Science and Mathematics.

Senior secondary students with a strong interest in STEM can access a wide selection of subjects as part of the Year 10 elective curriculum, Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and Vocational Education Training (VET) programs, such as Applied Computing, Food Studies, Systems Engineering, Electrotechnology and a full range of Science and Mathematics subjects.







# Music and Performing Arts

Victoria University Secondary College has a long-standing reputation for excellence in Music and Performing Arts. Through a multitude of performance ensembles and theatrical productions incorporating music, drama and vocals, we encourage our students to develop their individuality and talents, and increase their self-confidence.

The college engages many music instrumental and singing teachers offering students a wide range of learning options including piano, guitar, percussion, and woodwind instruments.

Instrumental music and vocals students have a weekly 30 minute lesson on a rotating timetable so that they do not miss the same class each week. These lessons are compulsory for these students and essential in



developing their skills in vocals or on their chosen instrument.

Students perform at campus assemblies and events as solo performers and as part of the Junior and Senior Concert Bands, Rock Band or Choir.

Students also have the opportunity to take part in the college theatre production every year in our Drama complex. The production involves students from both the Junior and Senior campuses, participating in everything from singing, dancing and acting to costumes, make-up and set production. Our College partners with local performing company Western Edge Youth Arts to collaborate with our students on artistic expression and story-telling.





# Sport, Health and Physical Education

The College encourages and provides for student participation in a wide range of individual and team sports and activities through interschool sports, lunch time games, camps and excursions. These are held regularly to help personal development, build self-esteem and foster teamwork. Our Sport, Health and Physical Education program challenges students to move beyond their comfort zone and explore new frontiers, encouraging self-motivation and well-being.

Sport, Health and Physical Education play an important part in an individual's holistic growth and development, and the Sports

Academy programs at VUSC offer students the opportunity to develop these skills further. The aim of the Academy is to encourage positive educational and career outcomes for boys and girls in the areas of sport and recreation.

Health and Physical Education subjects are offered to all students from Year 7 – 12, with additional electives in Years 9 and 10 for students who are interested in pursuing careers in these fields. VET Sport, Aquatics and Recreation is also offered at the Senior Campus, equipping students with a nationally recognised qualification and the aspiration to excel both academically and physically.

## Rugby League Academy

The Rugby League Academy is a select entry program, with selection made via application and interview.

The program provides students with specialised and individual support in skill development and strength and conditioning by high performance coaches who have many years of experience working with rugby league teams at all levels.

VUSC has experienced enormous success in Rugby League competitions since the implementation of the Academy, including students being selected to represent

Victoria and winning major competitions both locally and interstate. The Senior VUSC Team currently competes in the NRL Schoolboy Cup – a Tier 1 competition with only 16 teams Australia-wide.

Scholarships are available to students who demonstrate outstanding sporting skills in Rugby League and are interested in joining the VUSC Rugby League Academy at Year 10 or 11.



## Sister School Relationship

As part of strengthening the community, our College has an international education focus through creating connections with Chinese schools, offering Chinese language classes from Year 7-12 and developing global citizenship skills in both students and staff.

Students from our College have participated in the Department's Victorian Young Leaders to China program since its inception in 2014, both in-country and online. This program is a life-changing opportunity for students and teachers, combining language and cultural learning with personal development and leadership skills.

Additionally, our College has an established sister school relationship with the High School Affiliated to Yangzhou University, in the Jiangsu Province of China. Students from both schools have visited

each other as part of reciprocal sister school visits and participated in online activities. Students from both China and Australia are given the opportunity each year to learn about each other's country, develop an appreciation of diverse perspectives and be involved in cultural and immersion activities. The annual sister school visit to Jiangsu provides amazing opportunities for our students to develop an understanding of Chinese culture and traditions, visit incredible landmarks and experience life as a student in China.

Our sister school relationship is a fundamental part of the College's teaching and learning strategy for internationalising education, and we will continue to strengthen this relationship to provide students with the knowledge, skills and attributes required to become upstanding global citizens of this ever-changing world.

## Student Leadership

Student leadership development is a priority of the College and is strongly supported by the school community. Through a 'student voice' focus, students are encouraged to have an input into programs and new initiatives, while developing strong teamwork and leadership skills. Our Student Representative

Council (SRC) led by our Junior Captains and College Captains, plan and implement several events during the year, and organise assemblies and activities for their fellow students. Students also sit on the College Board and meet with parent, staff and community members twice per term.





## Transition to Year 7

The transition from primary school is seamless for our Year 7 students. Our orientation program brings Year 6 students into the College where they quickly begin to develop new friendships and familiarise themselves with their teachers. Students start the secondary school year with confidence, supported by the Year 7 teaching and leadership team who run further orientation activities in the first week of Term 1.

At VUSC, each student has a Home Group Teacher who will provide pastoral care, monitor their personal and academic development, and maintain regular contact with parents/ guardians. Year 7 students

also have classes with their Home Group Teacher throughout the week so that a strong and trusting relationship can be built. This enables teachers to take an active interest in each student's wellbeing.

Students at Year 7 have the majority of their classes in a specialised area. Students are required to bring their own device for use at school as ICT technologies are incorporated throughout the curriculum and are facilitated by a wide range of online teaching and learning applications. Each student is provided with a locker and combination lock to securely store their belongings.

## Positive Behaviour Support

Positive Behaviour Support is an evidence based framework for teaching students the expected behaviours at our College, and providing support and opportunities for them to demonstrate and practise those behaviours.

It aims to create a positive school climate, a culture of student competence and an open, responsive management system for all school community members.

Our expected behaviours apply to all students – in the classroom, outside the classroom and in the wider community.

Our College has implemented Positive Behaviour Support measures in consultation with the school wide community. We believe that implementing, modelling and reinforcing positive social behaviour is an important component of each student's educational experience.

Commendations are awarded regularly to students who demonstrate positive behaviours, outstanding effort and great achievement in relation to our College values of Aspire to Achieve, Strengthen our Community and Respect Ourselves and Others.





# College Uniform

**A**t Victoria University Secondary College students are required to wear the College uniform correctly at all times.

A uniform dress code reinforces in students pride in their own appearance, instils recognition of themselves as an integral part of the school community, and assists in developing pride in representing their school. Issues of equality, health and safety, and expense are also factors that contributed to the establishment of the college's Uniform Policy. The school makes every endeavour to ensure the uniform is affordable for families and has supports in place where assistance is required.

The College blazer is compulsory for all students in Years 7 to 11. Students in Year 12 may elect to wear the College blazer or Year 12 jacket. The blazer/jacket must be worn every day to and from school. Full black leather school shoes must be worn with the uniform.

Details of the uniform as well as itemised price lists can be accessed through our uniform suppliers:

## **PSW Deer Park**

2/51-53 Westwood Drive, Ravenhall 3023 (Tel: 9768 0342).

Victoria University Secondary College operates a personalised bus service for students from areas that are currently lacking public transport. The route can be varied to cater for student needs.



#### **Junior Campus**

88 Billingham Road  
Deer Park Victoria 3023

**P** 03 9363 1155

#### **Senior Campus**

43 Ken Jordan Rd  
Cairnlea Victoria 3023

**P** 03 8312 0200

Correspondence to:  
PO Box 83  
St Albans Victoria 3021

**Email** [victoria.university.sc@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:victoria.university.sc@education.vic.gov.au)  
**www.vusc.vic.edu.au**