

December, 2023



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Patterson River Secondary College is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of our voluntary financial contributions for 2024.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary, with Extra-Curricular Items and Activities provided on a user-pays basis.

Patterson River receives very strong voluntary contributions from families which enables the College to provide students with a diverse range of experiences, facilities and resources. Three years ago, we introduced the option for families to make voluntary contributions towards targeted areas that they could select from. This has resulted in a significant increase in contributions over and above normal subject fees which this year enabled us to purchase a range of new equipment and resources, including:

- Performing Arts - Black Box Theatre
- Science - Temperature Controlled Water Baths
- ICT – 10 Programmable Drones
- Significant contributions to other areas that will roll over into 2024 targeted areas (see below)

We invite parents to consider making contributions towards our new initiatives, some of which are in the tax-deductible areas.

There are three financial contribution categories to ensure the successful operation and resourcing of our Educational Programs:

**Curriculum Contributions** – These are voluntary contributions which parents/guardians pay to the school to provide essential support to the standard curriculum program. This payment ensures that the College can offer high quality programs and facilities for all students.

**Extra-Curricular Items and Activities** – These items and activities are provided in addition to the standard curriculum program and are designed to broaden the school experience for your child. This includes activities such as camps, along with certain subjects that your child may have chosen that are in addition to the standard curriculum at that year's level. For example, all students complete technology in Year 8, however your child may have also selected an additional subject such as Retro Metal which has an associated user-pays contribution.

**Other Contributions** – These are voluntary contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives. Patterson River Secondary College continues to welcome your contributions to support our school. Your child will not be disadvantaged if you do not make a voluntary contribution. All records of voluntary contributions are kept confidential, as well as your decision about whether to contribute or not.

#### **2024 Voluntary Contribution Target Areas:**

Learning Area	Description	Target Amount	Current Donations
Library Trust Fund – Tax Deductible	ICT Upgrade	\$30,000	\$9,163.95
Building Trust Fund – Tax Deductible	Playground and Outdoor Gym Equipment	\$20,000	\$6,298.00
PE	Movable Soccer & Hockey Goals, Soccer Nets for Goals	\$8,245	\$2,776.25
Instrumental Music	Instrument Upgrade (Percussion)	\$15,000	\$5,125.00
Music	Mini Midi Keyboard (Class Set)	\$2,650	New Project
Performing Arts	Dance Studio Barre, Video Cameras (Class Set)	\$2,250	New Project
PE	CPR Dummies (x8) Defibrillator Trainers (x3)	\$3,000	New Project
Math	CAS Calculators (Class Set)	\$5,000	New Project
Science	Electronic Balances (x5)	\$1,100	New Project
Visual Arts	Pottery Wheels (x2), Banding Wheels (Class Set), Wacom Tablets (x10)	\$3,630	New Project
Digital Technology	Microbit Accessories	\$1,500	New Project

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We have set nominal amounts of \$20.00 for each of these target areas in Compass. You can change the amounts for each of these (including to \$0.00) so that you can target your contribution to a particular learning area if you wish.

### **Educational Items for Students to Own**

Booklist information is now available on Compass and on the College website. Patterson River Secondary College recommends you purchase from Campion Education however, you may choose any suppliers to source these items from for your child to individually own and use.

### **Payment Methods**

Parent Contributions are now available for payment through the Compass Portal (preferred method). The College also accepts Cash, EFTPOS, BPAY (contact the General Office for details). Payment is requested by February 2, 2024.

### **Financial Support for Families**

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

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) payment of \$250.00 per student for eligible parents/guardians
- State Schools Relief (SSR) for assistance with uniform, footwear, clothing, textbooks
- Tailored payment arrangements including Centrelink deductions
- Netbook Daily user program

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, contact:

Rachel Lindsey Ph: 03 8770 6700 | Email: [rachel.lindsey@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:rachel.lindsey@education.vic.gov.au)

Carol Darma Ph: 03 8770 6700 | Email: [carol.darma@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:carol.darma@education.vic.gov.au)

### **Refunds**

Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the school and made on a case-by-case basis. Refunds will be provided where the school deems it is reasonable and fair to do so, taking into consideration whether a cost has been incurred, the Department's Parent Payments Policy and Guidance, Financial Help for Families Policy and any other relevant information.

For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy, please see the one-page overview attached.

Yours sincerely,



Daniel Dew  
College Principal



Nicole Eveston  
School Council President

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## 2024 CONTRIBUTIONS – YEAR 7



Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Classroom Consumables - Food Studies, Art, Science, Design Technology (required for all students)	\$120.00
Workbooks – Health, Food Studies (required for all students)	\$10.00
German* – Student Workbook	\$5.00
Mathspace – Online learning subscription (required for all students)	\$20.00
EXCEL Academic Program* (select entry) Challenge days, STEM challenges, EXCEL testing, DaVinci Decathlon Includes enrolment in the Instrumental Music Program for Semester 1	\$60.00
Combination Lock for Locker (only available through the College)	\$10.00
Curriculum Excursions/Events/Activities (to be communicated via Compass as scheduled)	tba
<b>Total Curriculum Contributions \$</b>	

\*Applicable students only – see Compass Billing

Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
PE – Movable Soccer and Hockey Goals, Soccer Nets for Goals suggested contribution	\$20.00
Instrumental Music – Instrument Upgrade (Percussion) suggested contribution	\$20.00
Music – Mini Midi Keyboards (Class Set) suggested contribution	\$20.00
Performing Arts – Dance Studio Barre, Video Cameras (Class Set) suggested contribution	\$20.00
PE – CPR Dummies (x8) Defibrillator Trainers (x3) suggested contribution	\$20.00
Math – CAS Calculators (Class Set) suggested contribution	\$20.00
Science – Electronic Balances (x5) suggested contribution	\$20.00
Visual Arts – Pottery Wheels (x2) Banding Wheels (Class Set) Wacom Tablets (x10) suggested contribution	\$20.00
Digital Technology – Microbit Accessories suggested contribution	\$20.00
Other Contributions – (Tax Deductible)	Amount
Building Trust Fund – Playground and Outdoor Gym Equipment parent to complete	\$
Library Trust Fund – ICT Upgrade parent to complete	\$
<b>Total Other Contributions \$</b>	
<b>Total Other Contributions (Tax Deductible) \$</b>	

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### Extra-Curricular Items and Activities – provided on a user-pays basis

Patterson River Secondary College offers a range of optional items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides to deliver the Curriculum. If you would like to purchase an item or activity for your child, please ensure payment is made to the College by February 2, 2024.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount
Year 7 Camp – CYC Cowes, Phillip Island	\$320.00
Student ID Card – PTV approved for concession fares on public transport (valid 6 years)	\$10.00
Student Photocopying/Printing (balance rolled over each year)	\$20.00
College Yearbook	\$20.00
EXCEL Sport Program* (select entry) Specialised program involving elite sporting excursions/incursions. Includes EXCEL Sport Polo	\$273.00
Instrumental Music Program (with Instrument hire) – Includes sheet music, photocopying	\$160.00
Instrumental Music Program (own instrument/Voice/Percussion) – Sheet music, photocopying	\$40.00
Swimming and Athletic Carnivals – Transport (dates to be confirmed)	\$20.00
Year 7 Sport – Students select from a range of individual and/or team sports with an approximate cost of \$0 - \$50.00	Tba
Interschool Sports – Transport (approximately \$10.00 per event)	Tba
Optional Excursions/Events/Activities (to be communicated via Compass as scheduled)	tba
<b>Total Extra-Curricular Items and Activities</b>	<b>\$</b>

\*Applicable students only – see Compass Billing

Category	Total
Curriculum Contributions	\$
Other Contributions (Non-tax deductible)	\$
(Tax-deductible)	\$
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>

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## 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.