PATTERSON RIVER
SECONDARY COLLEGE

Dear Parents/Carers,

This letter provides information about voluntary contributions you can make to support Patterson River Secondary College for 2027 and other payments you can choose to make.

Victorian government schools provide free instruction. This means all students have free access to all items, activities and services that schools use to deliver the curriculum, including reasonable adjustments to support students with disability.

Some families choose to make a voluntary financial contribution to support the school, and we are very grateful for this support. Making a voluntary contribution is your choice. There is no expectation or pressure for families to contribute.

Patterson River Secondary College offers a range of items and activities that are additional to the free instruction provided to all students at our school. Financial help is available for extra-curricular items and activities if you are experiencing financial hardship (see further details under Financial Help for Families in the attached information). For a confidential discussion about how to access the financial help available, please contact: Rachel Lindsey 03 8770 6700, rachel.lindsey@education.vic.gov.au.

If you need an interpreter, please contact 03 9605 3053 and give our school's phone number 03 8770 6700. An interpreter can help you speak with us. This service is free. For more information, please see How to use an interpreter to contact your school.

For more information on the Department of Education's Parent Contributions policy please see the information attached. You can read the full policy at Parent Contributions: Policy | education.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Dew
Principal

Nicole Eveston
School Council President

79 – 98 Eel Race Road, Seaford VIC 3198
PO Box 2664, Seaford VIC 3198
P 03 8770 6700 E patterson.river.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au
www.prsc.vic.edu.au

PATTERSON RIVER SECONDARY COLLEGE

PATTERSON RIVER SECONDARY COLLEGE'S 2027 PARENT CONTRIBUTIONS ARRANGEMENTS

Voluntary contributions

If you are the carer of a student in out-of-home care or hold a financially means-tested card (such as a healthcare card), please ignore the invitation to make voluntary contributions.

We encourage any family experiencing financial hardship to contact the school for information about the financial help available for extra-curricular activities like camps and excursions.

Voluntary contributions	Suggested amount (parents can contribute more or less)	Amount
Voluntary contributions: to enhance our school's range of programs, resources and environment such as high-quality class materials for Art, Food, Design Tech and Science, Student workbooks, combination locks for student lockets, compulsory curriculum incursions/excursions, and more	$400.00	$[parent to complete]
Tax-deductible voluntary contributions	**Suggested amount (parents can contribute more or less)**	**Amount**
Voluntary - Building fund: a tax-deductible contribution to support renovations and upgrades of school infrastructure including Playground and Outdoor Gym Equipment for students	$200.00	$[parent to complete]
Voluntary - Library fund: a tax-deductible contribution to support library maintenance and enhancements such as an ICT upgrade and specialist materials to create a Media Room within our Library	$100.00	$[parent to complete]

Extra-curricular items and activities

Patterson River Secondary College offers a range of optional items and activities that are additional to the free instruction provided to all students at our school. Accessing these items and activities does require payment, but financial support is available (see further details under Financial Help for Families below).
Example extra-curricular items and activities include:

- optional activities, camps, excursions and programs
- class photos
- Social events like formals

We have provided confirmed or indicative costs of known extra-curricular items and activities below.

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Payment for extra-curricular items and activities with a confirmed cost can be made now or later. Payments can also be made via instalments.

Please contact the school for advice on financial help available for extra-curricular items and activities.

Extra-curricular items and activities	Indicative cost	Confirmed cost (where known)	Parent/carer to select
Year 9 – Optional Enhancement Items and Experiences			
Student ID Card – PTV approved		$12.00	
Student Printing	$.50 - $20.00		
College Yearbook	$25.00		
Year 9 Camp – Alexandra Adventure Camp		$485.00	
EXCEL Sport – Includes Camp	$1051.00		
EXCEL Academic Competitions/Excursion/Activities	$60.00		
Instrumental Music Program (includes 1 Instrument Hire)		$200.00	
Instrumental Music Program (own Instrument/Voice/Percussion)		$40.00	
Swimming Carnival		$15.00	
Interschool Sports ($15.00 per event)		tba	
Excursions/Events/Activities		tba	
School Productions/Performances		tba	
Overseas Experiences i.e. German Exchange		tba	
Multicultural Munching		$126.50	
Bat & Racquet Sports		$45.00	
Product Design & Technology – Resistant Materials		$55.00	
Build Your Own Business		$100.00	
Leadership, Exploration, Adventure, Development (LEAD)	$200.00	tba	
Total Extra-curricular items and activities	$	$	$

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LEARNING MATERIALS FOR STUDENTS TO OWN

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Booklist items:

You can choose to buy learning materials for your child to individually use and own. These items can be bought from any supplier. Patterson River Secondary College has an arrangement with the following supplier for the materials that you can buy:
Campion Education - Unit 5, 151-155 Princess Highway, Hallam, VIC 3803.

If you do not buy these items, your child will still be provided with what they need, however they may not be provided with these items to own, or keep, on an individual basis. If you wish to buy items through the supplier, please go to Student Ordering - Campion Education using code CC38.

If you would like to buy items to own that are not from this supplier, you can contact the General Office on 8770 6700 for information about editions of textbooks that will be used.

Digital subscriptions:

Patterson River Secondary College uses the below digital subscriptions for learning. You can buy these if you want via Parent Contributions on Compass:

- Education Perfect can be purchased for Students in Years 7-10 and students in VCE VM for $30.00
- Compass/Microsoft 365 can be purchased for $100.00

If you do not buy a subscription, your child will be provided with access to what they need for their learning.

Digital devices:

Patterson River Secondary College uses digital devices to support learning. You can buy a device for your child to own. If you do not buy a device, your child will be provided with access as they need for their learning, but it may not be one-to-one, to take home, or to keep.

You can find information about the digital devices our school recommends, including minimum device specifications, at Laptop Program (BYOD) - Patterson River Secondary College

Financial help for families

Patterson River Secondary College understands families can experience financial difficulty. Help is available, including:

- **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund** – this program provides funding for eligible students, including those in out of home care, and holders of eligible financially means-tested cards (such as health care cards), to attend activities like camps, sporting activities, excursions and incursions that are offered on a user-pays basis.
- **State Schools Relief** - this program helps cover costs such as school uniforms, shoes, and other essential school items where families are experiencing financial hardship or short-term crisis.
- Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
- Second-hand book sales - Second-hand books may be sourced from wider community channels
- Second-hand uniform store / sales - Second-hand uniform may be sourced from wider community channels

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Applications for support from the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and State Schools Relief are submitted by the school - please contact us to discuss these and for other financial help.

For a confidential discussion about how to access financial help, please contact:
Rachel Lindsey Ph: 03 8770 6700 | Email: Rachel.lindsey@education.vic.gov.au

Payment methods

Parent Contributions are now available for viewing and payment through the Compass Payments Centre and/or via Compass Events. Further extra-curricular items and activities will be communicated via Compass Events as they are scheduled. If you want to make voluntary contributions throughout the year, you can:

- decide when to make each contribution
- choose the amount of each contribut**ion**

For extra-curricular contributions on the Compass Payments Centre, the following options are available:

- Payment in full by 31 January 2027
- Monthly Compass instalments on 31 January, 28 February, 31 March, 30 April, 31 May 2027
- Personalised payment plans

The College also accepts Cash, EFTPOS and BPAY (contact the General Office for details).

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 of Education's Parent Contributions policy and guidance, Financial Help for Families policy, and any other relevant information. Eligible refunds may also be allocated to extra-curricular items or remain as a credit on the family account for future use.

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Parent Contributions policy

Information for families

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FREE INSTRUCTION

Schools give students free instruction in the curriculum. This includes:

- Free access to all items, activities and services that schools use to deliver the curriculum, including reasonable adjustments to support students with disability.
- The Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major, and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- Free access to all subjects, including elective subjects.
- Free access to select-entry and accelerated programs.

FAMILIES CAN CHOOSE TO CONTRIBUTE

Schools can invite 2 types of voluntary contributions:

Voluntary contributions	Tax deductible contributions
Used towards enhanced educational programs and school environment, and additional resources and opportunities offered by schools	Used towards building and/or library fund (for those schools who have such funds)

Schools must advise the carers of students in out-of-home care and parents and carers who hold a financially means-tested card (such as a healthcare card) that the invitation to make voluntary contributions does not apply to them.

In addition, schools can invite parents and carers to pay for optional:

- Extra-curricular items and activities that go beyond the curriculum - for example, school photos, some excursions and some camps.
- Learning materials for students to individually use and own - for example, textbooks, stationery, and in secondary schools only, digital devices. If these items are not bought or provided from home, schools must provide students with free access to what they need for curriculum delivery.

FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

Each school has a contact person who can discuss with parents and carers the financial supports that are available.

Schools must publish their Parent Contributions arrangements on their school website, along with a link the department's Parent Contributions policy.

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