SWAN HILL COLLEGE
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Newswan

Achieving Excellence Together

Friday October 16, 2026

Issue: 16

Principal's Report

Welcome to Term 4.

While there is plenty happening across the College this term, I would like to dedicate this report to our Year 12 students and the families, friends and community members who have helped them reach this point.

This is their final week onsite with us in classes. From here, our VCE students move into scheduled study classes before commencing their exams, while our VM and FLO students begin taking their next steps into employment, further training and TAFE.

Whatever comes next, 85 amazing young people are preparing to walk beyond the school gates, and none of them has reached this point alone.

Inside the gates, we have provided education, practical experiences, work placements, routines, wellbeing support, pathways, opportunities and, importantly, people who have advocated for them. For some students, Swan Hill College has been part of their lives for six years. During that time, relationships with staff have grown well beyond the classroom. We see them at school, at work, on sporting fields and around our community. We teach them, challenge them, support them and enjoy plenty of banter along the way.

They will walk out of our gates ready to move on—and that is exactly what we want. They may not always realise the impact the people at SHC have had on them, but we know we have played a part in helping shape the young adults they have become.

Outside the gates, families have done even more. You have encouraged them, supported them, taught them values and manners, driven them to training and work, celebrated their successes and picked them up when things haven't gone to plan. Most importantly, you have been their biggest advocates.

As a parent who has experienced Year 12 with my own two children, I know this year brings plenty of emotions. You laugh, worry, celebrate, occasionally cry and support them as hard as you can. In the months ahead, you will continue to guide them through exams, employment, university, TAFE or whatever their next chapter may be. Then, somewhere along the way, you will look at them across a table and realise just how incredibly proud you are of the person they have become.

There are also so many others who belong in this story. Friends who have been beside them since primary school, and others they have met along the way. Coaches, counsellors, employers, family friends, former teachers, dance teachers, neighbours and community members who have encouraged them, challenged them and been positive role models in their lives.

We as a community all should be there to honour their final roll call and celebrate each individual and the Class of 2026. **Please come along this Friday at the Leisure Centre to show your support and be part of this special occasion.**

Seating begins at 9.30 am, and we would love to see families, friends and significant people in the lives of our Year 12 students there to celebrate them.

For our students, Friday will bring a mixture of excitement, pride, sadness and probably a little relief. For our staff, it will be much the same. We are incredibly proud of them, a little sad to see them leave, but most of all excited to see where life takes them next.

To the Class of 2026—enjoy your final week, enjoy Friday, and take a moment to recognise just how far you have come. To the 25 Year 12 students I have taught all year, thank you for teaching me also. Your honesty, humour and kindness are what, at times, have kept me afloat as I have navigated being a principal and a teacher. I will miss you.

And to everyone who has helped these 85 young people reach this point, thank you.

Come and join us on Friday as we celebrate them, farewell them and wish them every success as they take their next steps beyond the gates of Swan Hill College. This whole-school assembly is where we truly do celebrate how we all *Achieve Excellence Together.*

De Rosewarne - Principal

Student Voice

Respect

As we start our final term of the year, there is a lot happening around Swan Hill College. Our Year 12 students are getting ready to finish their time at the College and begin their final exams, our Year 10 and 11 students will soon be preparing for their exams too, as well as getting a head start on next year through our Jumpstart program, where they begin experiencing their classes for 2027, and Year 9s will be heading off to Melbourne for school camp.

With so much happening, it is a good time to reflect on our College values and what they mean to us as students.

The Swan Hill College demonstrates respect by creating a safe, kind environment where everyone feels valued, has plenty of opportunities to learn and is treated well by teachers. Teachers and staff show respect by listening carefully to students and praising their hard work. I believe students can easily show respect by following classroom rules and using polite manners.

The school has plenty of opportunities and pathways that can lead to any career, and we students should be grateful for the hard work the teachers put in. From my three full years at the College, I felt involved almost straight away, with staff and my mates respecting me and making me feel great.

Yes, sometimes we all could improve in making everyone feel respected, no matter our differences.

Henry Cox - Junior School Captain

Hay Fever and Asthma Medication Reminder

Earlier this week, we sent out information to families regarding hay fever and asthma medication at school.

As a reminder, if your child requires medication at school, a completed Medical Authority Form must be provided along with their medication. Medication must have the pharmacy label and instructions clearly visible.

The College is unable to supply hay fever or asthma medication for students.

More information about our Medication Policy can be found on our website. Click here for the Medical Authority Form.

Susan Domaille - Sick Bay

2026 Important Dates

October 16	**Year 12 Final Roll Call - Whole School Assembly - Swan Hill Aquatic & Recreation Centre (formally Leisure Centre), 9.45am**
October 19	School Council meeting
Oct 27 - Nov 18	Unit 3+4 Written Exams
October 28-30	Year 9 Camp
November 2	Professional Practice Day - Student Free Day
November 3	Melbourne Cup Holiday
November 16	Clontarf Awards Evening
November 16-20	Year 10+11 Exams
November 23-27	Jumpstart (students completing VCE/VET in 2027)
November 27	Year 10+11 final day
November 27	Year 12 Graduation Dinner
December 3	FLO Presentation Evening
December 8	Statewide Transtion Day / Student Free Day
December 14-18	Activities Week
December 18	Final day for 2027, 2.15pm finish

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Beyond the School Gates

Our alumni continue to inspire us with the many different pathways they take after leaving Swan Hill College. In this edition, we catch up with another past dux recipient as they reflect on their journey since leaving school, the experiences that have shaped them, and the different opportunities and pathways they have pursued along the way

Seeing my brother, Jackson, prepare for his final Year 12 exams, it's crazy to think that it's already been 7 years since I was in his shoes. I vividly remember the mixed feelings of nervousness and excitement in knowing I was on the home stretch of my SHC journey.

After graduating in 2019, I moved to Bendigo to study a Bachelor of Dental Science (Honours) at La Trobe University. As strange as it sounds, studying dentistry had been a dream of mine pretty much from day one. So to have finally received the course offer, I was over the moon with immense joy and deep gratitude for everyone who had supported me along the way. Honestly a dream come true for the nerdy kid who could never be given too much homework.

My first year of university was quite the experience. As if learning to cook and clean wasn't hard enough already, we had the additional challenge of the pandemic and its various lockdowns. Not quite the start I had anticipated.

Nonetheless, I look back on my 5 years of university with many fond memories. I've made many lifelong friendships and had the opportunity to experience a variety of clinical placements across regional Victoria, which broadened my perspective and allowed me to connect with different communities.

Fast forward to today, and I have been practicing as a general dentist for close to 2 years now, working in private practices across Bendigo and Daylesford. The jump from university study into real world dentistry was definitely daunting at first. However, it is the ability to create meaningful connections with my patients that serves as my daily reminder of why I chose this profession and why I love my job.

Outside of dentistry, I have been busy settling into married life, having married my beautiful wife Laura earlier this year. We both love the strong sense of community across the Bendigo region, making it such an enjoyable place to live and work.

Whilst I was one of the lucky ones who always had a clear idea of what I wanted to do after school, I would encourage SHC students to always try and fully commit themselves to their academic and extracurricular pursuits, as you never know what doors may be opened by your hard work and dedication.

Daniel Hughes, Class of 2019

Supporting Student Learning Through Year 6–7 Transition

This term, we are aiming to visit our feeder primary schools to strengthen the transition process for students entering Year 7 in 2027. These visits provide an opportunity to work alongside Year 6 teachers and transition coordinators to better understand students' existing strengths, learning needs and the teaching strategies that have supported their progress throughout primary school.

Through these visits, we are aiming to coordinate across teams working on student engagement and Wellbeing, literacy and numeracy, and disability inclusion. By sharing information and building on the successful practices already in place at primary school, we can help students feel supported and ready for the challenges and opportunities of secondary school.

An important part of this work involves reviewing existing assessment data and, where needed, completing additional literacy and numeracy assessments. This will help our teachers identify students' current skills and knowledge, plan teaching that builds on their strengths, and provide targeted support or extension where appropriate.

This project also forms part of our broader work to develop a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), which aims to ensure that all students have access to high-quality classroom teaching, with additional support or extension matched to their learning needs. We are aiming to make the transition into Year 7 as smooth as possible while giving every student the opportunity to make progress and succeed throughout secondary school.

James Hinton - High Abilities Program Leader

New House Sports Tops

Last term, we introduced our new house-coloured sports tops, featuring designs by local artist Sandra Kropinyeri.

The new tops give each house its own fresh look while showcasing Sandra's artwork. They will be the required sports tops for all PE, Sport, VET Sport, Aquatics and Recreation classes.

The tops are now available for pre-order from Swan Hill Work Locker, Curlewis Street, Swan Hill, ready for the 2027 school year.

Our current sports tops will no longer be produced and will be phased out over the coming years. From 2029, all students will be required to wear the new sports tops.