DAYLESFORD SECONDARY COLLEGE
PROFILE

RESPECT
HONESTY
COOPERATION
COURTESY
ENDEAVOUR

Further Information
We welcome and encourage parents to contact the College for further information or to arrange a visit.

Principal     Tiffany Holt
Council President   Lorraine Hayes
Student Welfare      Sue Bosch
Assistant Principal-Junior School   Anthony Avotins
Assistant Principal-Senior School    Phil White

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Daylesford Secondary College Profile

Daylesford Secondary College is the sole provider of secondary education in the Shire of Hepburn. The College has been functioning since 1961 on the present Smith Street site but was originally established in November 1890 as the town’s School of Mines in the main street. The school has a population of 493 students in 2011.

The school draws students from a wide region. Daylesford is between Ballarat and Bendigo and is one hundred kilometres from Melbourne. Sixty-five percent of students travel to school by eleven buses from a radius of up to 35 kilometres.

The College is very proud of its VCE results – again many of our 2010 Year 12 students gained places in tertiary institutions. The school also celebrates the success of those students who have chosen to undertake further training or successfully gained employment upon completing school. One of the school’s current priorities is to develop managed individual pathways for each senior student to assist them in planning for their future education and employment.

Our other priority is to smooth the transition for junior students from primary to secondary school. This is being addressed in numerous ways including secondary and primary teachers developing closer working relationships, monitoring students’ levels of connectedness to school and to their teachers and identifying students with special needs, for example literacy difficulties.

Facilities

Over the past few years the College has upgraded a number of its facilities including the library, science and art departments. We have recently completed a refurbishment of the Music Graphics area, constructed a Learning Centre and completed Stage One of the College rebuild.

The school has installed a number of small computer centres (pods) around the school. These will supplement our existing two fully equipped computer laboratories. We also have trolleys with banks of laptops which can be used in most classrooms across the school.

The school has a theatre, gymnasium, canteen and squash courts and has worked with the local community and Shire Council in the planning, development and construction of an indoor community sporting complex in the school grounds. This is a community partnership facility and has helped to promote and encourage lifelong participation in sport.

Our philosophy

Daylesford Secondary College commits itself to creating a comprehensive, engaging, challenging and creative learning environment that

- Enables students and teachers to reach their full potential as learners and teachers
- Values learning in the context of mutual respect, honesty and cooperation
- Prepares students for further education, training and employment.
- Actively involves parents and the wider community
- The College aspires to a culture where all students and staff feel safe and valued in an environment of mutual trust and respect
- The diversity of individual interest and achievement is valued
- All participants in the learning process develop: academically, vocationally, personally and socially
- Equips young people for life and for lifelong learning

Our aim is that students leave the College as responsible, questioning citizens, with an enhanced ethical understanding, concern for the environment and respect for human rights.

We aim to implement all codes of practice and behaviours so that our agreed set of core values:

- Respect
- Honesty
- Endeavour
- Cooperation
- Courtesy

are exemplified.

Curriculum Programs

The College provides a comprehensive program for students in all Year levels. Our program provides flexibility and breadth in order to cater for individual needs, interests and aspirations.

Junior School Program – Years 7, 8 & 9

The College provides a common, comprehensive program for students in Year 7, 8 & 9. The school aims to expose students to a wide range of studies over this period to broaden experience and enhance success. Some subjects are taken continuously for the three years while others run for one or two semesters over the three-year period.

Students select their subject preferences with the guidance of counsellors and parents to ensure that requirements for further studies and careers are met.

Senior School Program Years 10, 11 & 12

The school offers a wide range of VCE, VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) and VET (Vocational Employment and Training) studies in Years 11 and 12.

Year 10 students are able to access a range of Year 11 subjects as part of their program. The majority of Year 11 students also study a Year 12 subject. Year 10 and 11 students are expected to study six 5-period units each semester, while Year 12’s typically take five.

The College is a high achieving school and proud of its VCE results. The 2010 average study score was one of the best of all regional government schools. The three-year average percentage of high study scores
(40 or higher, roughly equivalent to A+) is also the best of any regional government school and superior to some private Colleges.

As an alternative to VCE, students may undertake the more vocationally orientated VCAL certificate at Years 11 or 12. VCAL provides an opportunity for students to develop appropriate numeracy and literacy skills, to develop their personal skills, to undertake a work placement and to incorporate part-time work and VET subjects as part of their program.

The Senior School focus is on all students developing an appropriate pathway to further training, work or tertiary study. Students develop individual pathway plans with help from the College MIPS Coordinator and careers advisor. Teachers and co-ordinators get to know the senior students very well, resulting in personal and dedicated approaches to optimising student outcomes.

**Extra-Curricular Programs**
The College encourages all students to participate in activities beyond the prescribed curriculum. These activities include:

**Instrumental Music**
In addition to classroom music there are additional studies available in instrumental music - brass and woodwind. Subject to the availability of staff, classes in percussion, guitar and singing are also available. These lessons run during school hours on a rotating timetable.

We are proud of our music program and currently have:
- VET/VCE Music related bands
- A beginner band
- A concert band

Refer to the curriculum handbook and instrumental music brochure for further information.

**Student Representative Council (SRC)**
The school encourages student input into decision making. Each class has two representatives on the SRC. A number of these SRC members represent the student body on various committees within the school, including the School Council.

**Annual Production**
The College has an annual production in which student participation is high. The 2010 production – “High School Spoofical” was a great success and involved many students on stage and behind the scenes. This involvement is not only a great experience for students, but provides an opportunity for staff and students across all year levels to work together on a less formal basis.

**Sport**
Daylesford Secondary College competes against other schools in the western zone in a number of sports. While our students are keen to do their best, we place considerable emphasis on sportsmanship and fair play. Many students compete keenly and a number progress to state level competition.

**Camps and Excursions**
Daylesford Secondary College has a broad camps program. Students at all levels are offered a variety of camps and excursions. We have a school mini-bus, which gives us the opportunity to offer some activities at a minimal cost. Year 7 students participate in a number of subject based excursions and go to Camp Curumbene (10 km from Rochester) for a three day camp to develop co-operation and leadership skills. A year 9 camp is usually scheduled, while most Year 10 students undertake work experience.

The school offers a yearly ski trip and international trips are a possibility.

**Other Extra-Curricular Activities**
Other activities designed to foster students' individual talents and interests, include Double Helix Science Club, debating competitions, writing competitions, peer support and mediation training, maths competitions, and chess club.

**Integration Program**
The integration program caters for students with a disability or impairment. The aim of the program is to successfully integrate students into the mainstream curriculum. Regular program support meetings are held with parents and individual program plans are developed. Visiting teachers, physiotherapists, occupational and speech therapists provide specialised consulting services to meet students’ needs.

**Student Code of Conduct**
We at Daylesford Secondary College believe that all individuals should be valued and treated with respect. Our College strives to provide a safe, positive and supportive learning environment, which meets our students’ needs and where respect, honesty, endeavour, cooperation and courtesy are practised by all.

The Code of Conduct has been formulated in line with Department of Education guidelines and regulations. This Code of Conduct for students has been developed by, and is best administered by staff, parents and students working together.

The purpose of this policy is to create a supportive educational environment which:
- Develops effective learning based on mutual respect and the rights of the individual.
- Emphasises that the onus is on the student to know the rules and accept responsibility for his/her behaviour.
- Ensures that learning takes place in a safe and healthy environment.
- Is reinforced by appropriate consequences.

**Rights and Responsibilities**
Students have responsibilities and corresponding rights. Students have a right to learn, to be accepted, to express an opinion, to succeed and to be safe. In return, their obligation is to respect themselves and others, be honest, cooperative and courteous, and endeavour to do their best. They must also act...
responsibly, be organised, be health and safety conscious and support the College.

Student Welfare
The College has a Student Welfare Co-ordinator, Sue Bosch, responsible for coordinating services to students and their families. Sue offers assistance with students' personal and family problems. She will also work with other staff members on strategies for helping students with difficulties. The College also has a 'Peer Helper' program. The aim of this program is to make other students, rather than adults, the first point of call when problems arise. Serious problems are referred to the Student Welfare Coordinator.

In addition the school works closely with Daylesford Family Services, Hepburn Health and other community agencies. There is a Educational Psychologist, Peter Gallagher, based at the College who also works at our cluster Primary Schools. Our school Chaplain, Elaine Anderson, is at school on most days to support students in their educational journey. Our School Nurse, Andrew Netherway is available two days a week. There is also support provided for Speech Pathology and Hearing Impairment.

Parents/Guardians & Community Involvement
Daylesford Secondary College is committed to maintaining strong links with the local community and to providing and encouraging community use of its facilities. We welcome our Year 7 parents each year with a staff and family B.B.Q. A number of parents support us as parent tutors in our Literacy and Numeracy programs. Other parents offer their time and expertise in a variety of ways to assist us in daily operations and fund raising. The College provides information to parents and the local community through:

- Regular press releases
- A newsletter summary (or snippets) is published every fortnight which summarises the full online newsletter which can be found at www.daylesfordsc.vic.edu.au
- Publication of the Annual General Meeting Report and monthly reports from the College Council.
- Community meetings.
- Oral and written reports on student progress.
- Year level information nights.
- Awards to students on Presentation night.
- Notification of relevant dates on a monthly planner.
- Published school documents.
- Career and work education information.
- Representation on College Council committees.

Parents and guardians have an obligation to support the College in its effort to maintain a productive teaching and learning environment. Daylesford Secondary College encourages parents to make a positive contribution to their child's education by:

- Monitoring their child's educational progress
- Assisting their child with, and monitoring homework

- Paying fees and levies
- Maintaining links with teachers at the College
- Supporting the College Uniform Policy
- Supporting the College Student Welfare and Discipline Policy and processes
- Providing appropriate books, materials and equipment for their child's school activities

The College relies on and encourages parents and the local community to participate in and to provide support for a range of College activities such as:

- Curriculum and policy reviews.
- Charter development.
- Canteen operations.
- Sporting and cultural activities.
- Community surveys.
- Work education program.
- Fundraising.
- Support groups.
- Maths tuition.
- Library assistance.

Family School Partnerships
Communication activities to engage parents, students and teachers

- Welcome events
- Surveys
- Exploring communication options including everyday technology
- Keeping parents informed about school activities, programs and policies

Creating a sense of pride in belonging to Daylesford Secondary College

- Volunteering your skills
- Promoting extra-curricular school activities – sport, music, drama etc
- Student and parent engagement
- Uniforms

Connecting to our local community

- Becoming part of our local community
- Linking to our local skill base
- Fostering a local identity

Connecting home to the school learning environment

- Parent teacher communication
- Understanding what our children learn at school

Daylesford Secondary College is proud of its standing as a provider of education from Year 7 to 12. We are committed to placing emphasis on participation and performance by students so that they make full use of their potential and the opportunities available. We rely on involvement from staff, students, parents and guardians to obtain the best possible outcomes for our students.