



WHITTLESEA SCHOOLS NETWORK: TRANSITION BOOKLET

Schools in the Whittlesea Network

are

GREAT SCHOOLS!

*Supporting families in making decisions about
Secondary Schools*



The purpose of this 'Whittlesea Schools Network: Transition Booklet' is to support you and your child with the transition from Primary to Secondary school.

All schools in the Whittlesea Schools Network serve a broad range of educational needs. What follows in this booklet, is additional information about each school.

We encourage you and your child to participate school tours, open days or information nights with your local school in the Whittlesea Network.

This will allow you and your child to experience first hand the professional, dedicated staff and outstanding programs that schools in the Whittlesea Schools Network have to offer.

The booklet has been compiled by the Whittlesea Schools Network Transition Team that is represented by both Primary and Secondary Schools in the Whittlesea Schools Network.

We are very proud of our schools and the collegiate relationship that exists amongst the students, teachers, parents and principals in the Whittlesea Schools Network.



Thank you to **Snap Mill Park** for supporting the Whittlesea Schools Network.



Curriculum @ Secondary Schools

Victorian children usually begin secondary (high) school at 12 years of age. It is a legal requirement that students attend school until they complete Year 10. After Year 10 and up to age 17 they must continue in approved education or be in full-time employment.

Year 7-10 Curriculum

AusVELS at secondary level is the Year 7 to 10 curriculum that provides a single, coherent and comprehensive set of prescribed content and common achievement standards, which schools use to plan student learning programs, assess student progress and report to parents. All schools in the Whittlesea Network utilise AusVELS as their foundation for teaching and learning programs.

The Australian Curriculum in Victoria (AusVELS) has been written to equip young Australians with the skills, knowledge and understanding that will enable them to engage effectively with and prosper in a globalised world. Students will gain personal and social benefits, be better equipped to make sense of the world in which they live and make an important contribution to building the social, intellectual and creative capital of our nation.

AusVELS incorporates the Australian Curriculum for English, Mathematics, History and Science within the curriculum framework first developed for the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). AusVELS uses an eleven level structure to reflect the design of the new Australian Curriculum whilst retaining Victorian priorities and approaches to teaching and learning.

In the middle to senior years of secondary school, students can also choose from elective subjects. Electives vary among schools.

Languages

Language subjects are called Languages Other Than English (LOTE). Studying one or more languages is part of the school curriculum.

Students who have recently arrived in Australia may be eligible for classes in 'English as an Additional Language' (EAL).

VCE, VET and VCAL

Your child might be about to start year 7 next year but you may have heard other parents talking about Year 10, 11 and 12 Pathways for their children. Some parents, when choosing a Secondary College, like to consider what pathways are available for their children when they are older.

VET, VCE or VCAL allows students to include vocational studies within their senior secondary certificate. Students undertake nationally recognised training from either accredited state curriculum or national training packages which may contribute to their VCE and/ or VCAL. These VET programs may be undertaken in a variety of settings and offer students the opportunity to undertake Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) and School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships.

We encourage you to speak to your local school about what programs are available for your children when they are older. For more information:

<http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/documents/vet/publications/vetoverview.pdf>

Student Engagement Wellbeing

Engagement:

Schools in the Whittlesea network strive to cater for all kinds of learners and areas of interest. It is essential that students find the work they do to be relevant and at the correct instructional level for them. To this end, schools offer a variety of programs and pathways for high achievers, students with special needs, students who speak English as an Additional Language or who struggle with literacy and students who are disengaged or have other difficulties with their academic studies or home life. While these programs will look and sound different in each school, the essence remains the same: that all students' learning needs are catered for and all students can be engaged and encouraged in their learning.

Regardless of where you live, all schools have a number of students who display a range of behaviours. Most students choose to *live by their school values*, however there is a minority group of students who do not take their learning seriously. With this in mind, all Whittlesea schools have a supportive behaviour management plan in place to ensure that the learning of all students is protected. While the specific strategies put in place may differ, no school will accept other students' learning or safety being put at risk and will therefore have a variety of proactive and disciplinary measures in place. We encourage you and your child to participate school tours, open days or information nights with your local school in the Whittlesea Network. This will allow you and your child to experience first hand the professional, dedicated staff and outstanding programs that schools within the Whittlesea network, have to offer.

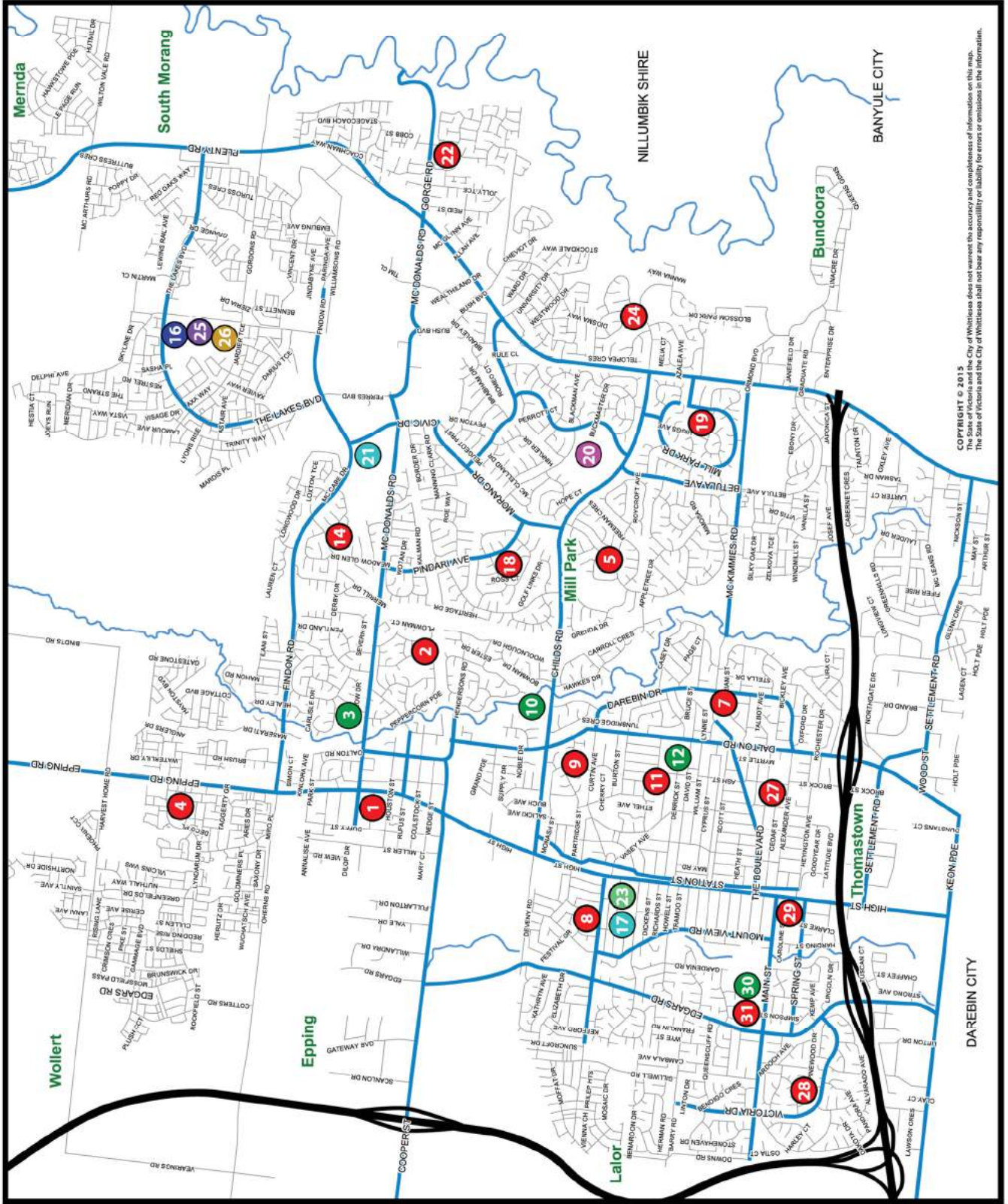
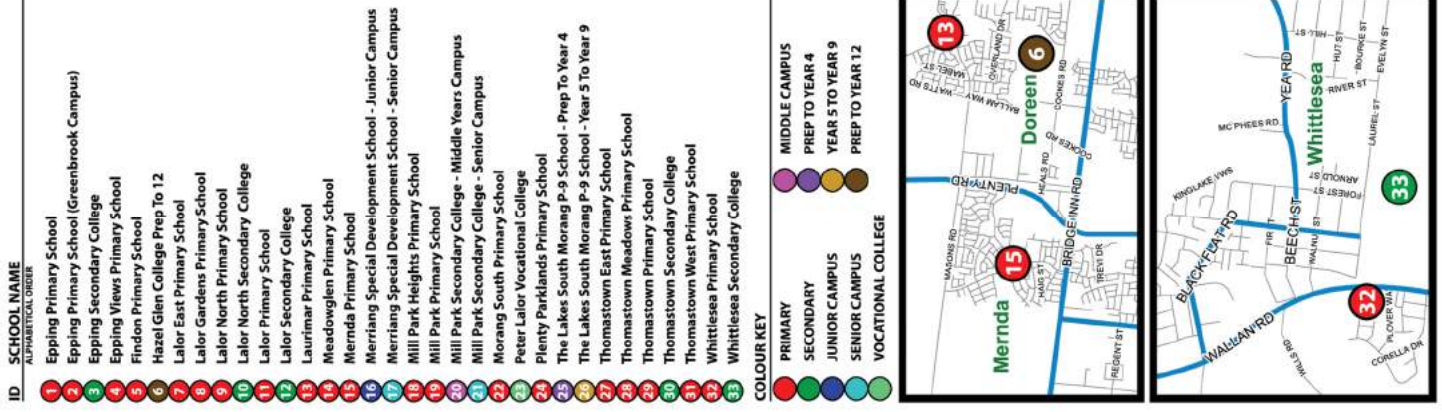
All schools require students to attend at least 90% of classes and have implemented policies that support this goal.

Wellbeing:

All schools within the Whittlesea network have a deep interest in the wellbeing of their students. The primary focus of schools is learning. This occurs best when students' mental, emotional and physical health are supported. Every school within the Whittlesea network provides a range of programs which ensures that students are able to develop positive relationships, character traits and a constructive understanding of themselves as learners and as people. These programs vary from school to school but often take the form of wellbeing days, motivational speakers, pastoral care or mentoring programs, excursions and explicit instruction within the classroom. Such programs are intended to build and nurture positive mental health and social relationships and protect against mental illness.

In addition to these programs, all schools also offer more focused services as needed by individual students. Most schools will have a Student Wellbeing Coordinator (or similar position), who oversees the allocation of school counsellors, psychologists, chaplains and youth workers to students in need. Students therefore have access to a range of services as required by their specific circumstances.

SCHOOLS IN THE WHITTLESEA NETWORK



Choosing a Secondary School

Your child will usually go to the secondary school closest to where your family lives, if they are attending a government school. You can choose to send your child to another government secondary school that has a different curriculum or focus, such as music or sport, if there are places available, or a Catholic or independent school.

To make your child's transition from primary to secondary school a happy and positive experience, it is important to choose a school that will best benefit your child's learning and development.

Keep in mind that some secondary schools need to restrict their enrolments – and the number of students they can take – to a particular area or zone around the schools.

Things to consider:

When choosing a secondary school for your child, you will need to think about your family circumstances and needs. For example:

Your child's interests and needs

- Will the school cater for your child's interests and all aspects of their development, including social, emotional, physical and cognitive needs?
- How does the school support children with additional needs?
- How important is it to you that your child knows other children at the school?

Your family circumstances

- Does your family have a connection to a particular school?
- Do you have older children already attending a secondary school? If so, will your child benefit from going to the same school as their brother or sister?
- How far do you want your child to travel each day?
- Are any schools that are close to home and/or your work suitable for your child?
- What extra curricular activities does the school offer?
- Does the school offer scholarships?

School philosophy and organisation

- Is the school welcoming? You'll know this as soon as you walk in the door.
- Does the school have both primary and secondary students (is it a P-12 school)?
- How many campuses does the school have? Do students move between campuses?
- Do you agree with, or at least like, the way the school approaches teaching?
- Does the school's policy on homework and discipline reflect your own values and expectations?
- How does the school deal with bullying?

Specialisation

- What educational programs does the school offer?
- Does the school specialise in any particular area?
- * Merriang School, Middle & Later Years Campus (11 Duncan Road Lalor) caters for students with an intellectual disability and an IQ below 55. Please contact the Principal or the administration office for enrolment applications or further information:

Principal: Helen Halley-Coulson

Email: halley-coulson.helen.h@edumail.vic.gov.au

Phone: 9464 3011

Website: <http://www.merriangds.vic.edu.au/index.html>

Partnerships and involvement

- Does the school have active partnerships with other organisations within your community?
- Does the school have active parent clubs, working groups or fundraising activities?

Finding out about prospective schools

Finding out about a school will give you a better understanding of how comfortable your child might be there. You can start by visiting a school's website or attending a parent information session or open day.

Principals or other school staff can also provide tours, classroom visits and information about their school. Most schools welcome enquiries and will organise a time for you and your child to visit.

In 2017, there will be three new Schools in the Whittlesea Schools Network:

- Mernda South Primary School
- Mernda Central P-12
- Epping North Primary School

More information and details about the new schools will be made available later in the year.

Consider asking these questions:

- Are there places available?
- What are the fees? Are there any other costs I'll be asked to pay over and above the fees?
- What educational programs are offered?
- What are the teacher's/school's values and philosophies around educating students?
- How does the school support children with special needs?

Information taken from:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/secondary/pages/choosing.aspx>

Epping Secondary College

School Profile:

At Epping Secondary College the core values of Commitment, Respect, Honesty, Fairness and Perseverance guide our behaviours.

We seek to balance firm discipline with a caring culture that values individual differences and encourages both personal and academic growth. We have a strict uniform policy and a 'zero-tolerance' bullying policy which means that all students respect each other and their school and can feel safe and secure at all times. ESC is a member of the 'Positive Education Schools Association'. This means that within our curriculum and programs are a number of research-based strategies that have been proven to enhance students' resilience, motivation, mental health, social ability and academic performance. Our Accelerated Cluster Education (ACE) program caters for our many gifted and high achieving students. These students are given the opportunity to accelerate through the curriculum at a faster rate completing years 7–10 in some subject areas within three years rather than four and can access VCE studies one year earlier. The college values and provides for all career pathways by offering both VCE and VCAL courses. The VCE Program is extensive and students are supported with study groups, mentors, tutors and exam preparation programs.

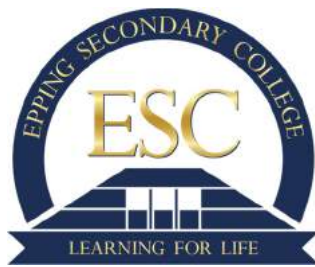
Facilities available at Epping Secondary College:

- A variety of different learning areas with audio-visual facilities in every classroom
- Lots of open spaces and a friendly, 'small school' atmosphere despite our growing numbers
- Over 800 computers / digital devices
- State-of-the-art science rooms with practical and theoretical capacity in every classroom
- Art exhibition hall and specialised art rooms
- Large library and resource centre
- Music and dramatic performance areas
- Excellent Sport and Gymnasium Facilities



Special or Extracurricular programs offered at Epping Secondary College:

- ACE (Accelerated Cluster Education) program - a special program for gifted and high achieving students.
- Extensive Student Leadership program - at ESC students lead and run many of the school programs.
- Catch Up Class - a compulsory class for students who have not completed work, every day at lunch time.
- Community Electives - a dynamic Year 9 elective program in which students give back to the community.
- Musical Futures - a practical music program enabling all students to learn instruments and perform.



Supporting Year 7's at ESC:

- An extensive transition program is provided for Year 7's at ESC, which includes at least two visits to the school in grade six, a 'starting out' program in the first week of Year 7, buddies and a peer support program conducted by Year 10 student leaders, and a Year 7 camp in Term 1.
- All Year 7 home-group teachers teach their home-group for at least two additional subjects which provides students and parents with a consistent 'go-to' person if there are any questions or concerns.
- Year 7 students have their own dedicated space in the school. Year 7 classrooms and lockers are located within the Year 7 unit, right next to the junior staff room and are supported by two Year 7 Coordinators, an Academic Achievement Leader and the Junior School Assistant Principal.
- All Year 7's are provided with a Year 10 buddy, hand-picked from our peer support leadership team.
- Students are asked to take an aptitude test in Grade 6 which allows us to make preparations to target specific learning needs prior to the beginning of Year 7, whether that be extension or extra support.



FAQs:

Q: Can I speak to my child's teachers, coordinators, or principals if I have any concerns?

A: Yes! We believe that education is a team effort between parents, students and the school. We therefore encourage you to keep in contact with us by phone, email, or in person by appointment.

Q: What happens if my child is being bullied at school?

A: We have a zero tolerance bullying policy at ESC which means that any reports of bullying will be dealt with seriously and immediately. We also teach students ways to avoid and overcome negative behaviours of others when they occur, so that all students are more confident and happy at school.

Q: How will ESC support my child in choosing a career pathway?

A: From Year 7 onwards students start planning for the future. Career action plans are completed every year, intensive counselling is offered, and all students are encouraged to choose pathways that reflect their abilities, passions and desires. Both VCE and VCAL options are available in Years 11 and 12.

Contact Details

Principal: Helene Alamidis

Assistant Principal (Junior School): Russel Dyer

Year 7 Coordinators: Kylie Caton / Peter Kaskamanidis

Phone: 9401 2599 **Email:** epping.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au **Website:** <http://www.eppingsc.vic.edu.au>

Hazel Glen College

School Profile:

Hazel Glen College provides a challenging, secure and harmonious learning environment which meets the needs of students at all levels of their school life.

Our Motto is 'Learners Today, Leaders tomorrow'. Our aim is to challenge students to be the very best they can be. Our role is to help every student reach their full potential. We actively embrace 21st century learning which supports a love of learning that goes beyond the classroom.

Hazel Glen College offers a unique opportunity to attend one College for your entire schooling life in state of the art 21st century facilities. We recognise the importance of individual difference in learning styles and fully embrace the ever evolving world of technology.

Our College emblem reflects a seamless pathway for students from Kindergarten to Year 12. This pathway is defined by the stages of learning: Kindergarten, Junior School (F-4), Middle School (5-8), and Senior School (9-12), all on the one site at Hazel Glen College.

Facilities available at Hazel Glen College:

- Science Lab and Art Studio 2015
- STEM Centre:
(Science Technology Engineering Maths) 2016
- Double Gymnasium 2016
- Performing Arts Centre / 300 seat auditorium 2016
- Food Technology Centre 2015
- Commercial Kitchen 2016
- Extensive outdoor play area / Cafeteria 2015



Special or Extracurricular programs offered at Hazel Glen College:

- Comprehensive extra curricular Visual and Performing Arts Program
- College Production
- Fitness Club (2016) High Performance Training Program
- Dance groups, Debating, ICT groups, Lego groups, Sport groups
- Asian School Partnerships
- Instrumental Music Program
- Choir
- Social Justice



Supporting Year 7's:

- Programs and strategies we utilise to support year 7's include: Team teaching, Comprehensive second semester transition programs, Head of House, Student Wellbeing Leaders, Year Level Leaders, Heads of Domains.
- Leadership: School Captains, House Captains, Sustainability Captains, Music & Performing Arts Captains, House Captains, Debating Captain.
- Year 7 Space/seating area: External passive and active seating areas including cafeteria and grassed areas. Access to outdoor fitness equipment.
- Camp: Grampians, Halls Gap
- Lockers: Safe access to supervised locker areas, with CCTV surveillance.
- Year 7 process for transport: There is a School bus available, walk / ride or drive.



FAQs:

Q : Will my child get lost in a big school?

A : Ongoing transition, social / emotional support development programs throughout the college will help personalise your child's educational experiences. There are many levels of support for every child throughout their day. Home group teachers will be the initial contact daily for many students and their parents. They are strongly supported by a Student Wellbeing and management team. Home group teachers and Year Level Leaders will play a major role in supporting each child's holistic development at Hazel Glen College.

Q : As parents, will we be able to be involved in the Middle School and Senior School programs?

A : Parent input, participation and consultation will be actively sought and maintained. There will also be many opportunities for active roles in school Council and auxiliary committees.

Q : If my child is struggling in an area, what support will be available?

A: Initial and ongoing testing programs will provide valuable information to ensure detailed tracking and provision of ongoing support programs in academic and social growth.

Contact Details

Principal: Darryl Furze

Phone: (03) 9717 7500

Email: dfurze@hazelglencollege.com

Year 7 Level Leader: Emma Bodycoat

Email: ebodycoat@hazelglencollege.com

Website: <http://www.hazelglenps.vic.edu.au>

The Lakes, South Morang P-9 School

School Profile:

The Lakes South Morang P - 9 School is a vibrant place with an innovative approach to curriculum, student learning and student wellbeing. Our school enjoys purpose built facilities with a learning street that provides a focal point for 21st Century approaches to education.

The design of the school makes great use of flexible spaces, provides for indoor and outdoor learning opportunities and allows for ICT capabilities throughout the buildings. The utilization of flexible practices in an open classroom environment maximizes the strengths of individual staff members as a collective whole. The Middle Years Campus caters for students from Years 5 to 9 and includes an administration area with a professional learning centre, general purpose learning spaces, a performing arts precinct, gymnasium, food technology and science and technology precincts. It is the intention of each team at The Lakes to maximize the use of the school facilities, in particular the usage of ICT, to support student achievement and improved student outcomes. As part of the Powerful Learning model, the demand for high expectations and the implementation of Higher Order Thinking skills and strategies from P - 9 across all domains, lead to the achievement of improved student outcomes.

Facilities available at The Lakes South Morang P-9 School:

- Flexible Learning Spaces
- Indoor & Outdoor Learning Environment
- Gym & Fitness Precinct
- Sporting Oval and Soccer turf
- Food Technology & Kitchen Gardens
- Science & Technology Precinct
- Multimedia Precinct
- Canteen
- Student friendly outdoor landmarks
- High Quality Digital Technology
- Performing Arts Precinct: Dance, Music & Drama



Special or Extracurricular programs offered at The Lakes South Morang P-9 School:

- Music and Dance Academy (MAD) including instrumental music
- Fast Track Sports Academy 7 - 9
- SANE - "Science And Nothing Else"
- Hands on Learning—Targeted Technology Student Engagement and Wellbeing program
- Student Negotiated Inquiry Learning
- Technology, Arts, Health & PE Student Elective Options 8-9
- Student Representative Council (SRC) & Young Leaders - aspirational leadership program
- Big Better Buddies—peer support program



Supporting Year 7's:

- On Day 1: Student and Parent Meet & Greet Interviews occur. This is an opportunity for families to provide information to Year 7 Home Group Teachers and supporting Year 7 staff
- Two Home Group Teachers designated to every Year 7 class
- Intervention and Extension programs offered to support and allow for differentiation of student learning needs
- Student Lockers located in Year 7 learning space to reduce movement and disruption
- Open communication with parents each term in the form of interim and academic student reports and parent interviews
- Year 7 Outdoor Education Camp encourages students to build new relationships
- Easy access to public transport - bus and train



FAQs:

Q: What happens after Year 9 ?

A : Year 9 Staff work in conjunction with students and parents throughout the year to provide the best Senior Schooling options for the continuation of student learning and pathways.

Q : How does Open Plan learning work ?

A : Staff work in teams to determine student groups and provide programs that are specific, targeted and allow for differentiation. Students work with a range of staff which provides them with a range of learning options and allows for student negotiation.

Q : Why should I choose The Lakes South Morang P-9 School ?

A: The Lakes is a dynamic and contemporary learning environment that provides students with differentiated curriculum, leadership opportunities and ongoing social and emotional support in a positive and rewarding environment.

Contact Details

Principal: Kerrie Heenan

Phone: 94013919

Email: lakes.south.morang.P9@edumail.vic.gov.au

Year 7 Coordinator: Nicole Watt

Phone: 94013919

Email: lakes.south.morang.P9@edumail.vic.gov.au

Website: www.thelakes.edu.au

Lalor Secondary College

School Profile:

Lalor Secondary College is a co-education school for students in Years 7 to 12. The school has provided the communities of Lalor, Thomastown and Epping with educational opportunities that prepare our students for their chosen pathway – be it tertiary study, trade or workforce. Our mission is to provide opportunities in a caring and supportive learning environment so that our students improve their capacity to become socially responsible, caring and confident contributors to the 21st century. Due to the high demand in our local community, in 2016, the school will continue to have a ceiling at Year 7 for 170 to 180 students. The school's student population ranges from 1000 to 1050 students and is made up of over 40 different language backgrounds. The school's core values of Pride, Achievement, Caring, Cooperation and Honesty are embedded in our welfare and teaching practices as well as our Student Code of Behaviour. Our extensive student well-being programs range from promoting safe behaviours, esteem programs to managing expectations and pressures. The school has a strong pathways program that ensures a high retention and assures all students in Years 9 to 12 receive counselling in choices of study.

Facilities available at Lalor Secondary College:

- Online Parent portal for easy communication between home and school
- Individual locker for all students
- Year 7 only locker area
- Canteen/Cafeteria
- Extensive sporting facilities
- State of the art Science Centre
- Uniform shop on site



Special or Extracurricular programs offered at Lalor Secondary College:

- Wide ranging Year 7 student leadership opportunities through our House System and SRC.
- Pre-orientation program for students anxious about starting secondary school.
- Peer support program involving Year 12 students working with Year 7 students.
- Year 7 Orientation Camp.
- Net Book Program at Year 7.
- Year 7 High Potential class.
- After School Homework Club.
- Extensive lunchtime club and activity program.



Supporting Year 7:

What programs or strategies do you utilise to support year 7's?

- At Lalor Secondary College we have structured our junior school to allow for maximum support for the transition of students from Grade 6 to Year 7.
- There are two Year 7 Student Managers, a Year 7 Sub School Leader and an Assistant Principal who work specifically with the Year 7 Students. To provide further services and support our Student Programs Leader and Welfare Staff also work closely with the Year 7 cohort.
- We have strong relationships with our primary feeder schools which enables us to more effectively support the transition of all Year 7 Students into Lalor Secondary College.



FAQs:

Q : Can I visit Lalor Secondary and see the school in action?

A : Yes. You can arrange a tour of the school at any time it suits you. The tour will be conducted by the Assistant Principal in charge of Year 7. There will also be a 'Discovery Night' held each year, which provides a forum for prospective parents to talk to staff and students and see the school facilities.

Q : Do you have an anti-bullying policy at the school?

A : Yes. Bullying is not tolerated and student safety is paramount at Lalor secondary College. The college has implemented a widely communicated and understood Student Code of Behaviour which outlines the school's approach to bullying.

Q : Will my child have access to a computer at the school?

A : In 2015 we introduced netbooks for Year 7.

It is expected that all Year 7s purchase one of three pre determined netbooks from our provider. The School has 8 computer labs, 5 netbook trolleys for portable use of netbooks and our library has approximately 30 computers for student use. All classrooms have multimedia facilities with our Science Centre having interactive whiteboards.

Contact Details

Principal: Silvana Sena

Phone: 03 9463 7300

Email: lalor.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au

Year 7 Student Managers: Luke Carey & Lana Siryani

Website: www.lalorsc.vic.edu.au

Lalor North Secondary College

School Profile:

At Lalor North College we aim to equip all our students for lifelong learning in a respectful, calm and safe environment.

The overall goal that drives the values and vision at LNC is to enhance student learning outcomes. The vision 'Inspire, Believe, Achieve' is enacted in the values of respect, meeting challenges and working together. At LNC students and staff will behave in a way that supports the vision and values of the school – our culture.

Student culture:

- **Behaviour:** treating others with respect, respecting other's property, respecting the right for teachers to teach and for students to learn.
- **Classwork:** arriving to class on time, bringing the correct materials, attempting all work and maintaining an organised workbook/folder.
- **Homework:** recording all homework in the student-planner, attempting all homework and meeting deadlines.

Facilities available at Lalor North Secondary College:

- Flexible Learning Centre which is an open learning space
- A state of the art music centre including a recording studio
- A full size gymnasium
- Separate areas and courtyards for each sub-school
- Education Resource Centre
- Specialist classrooms in science and technology
- Outdoor sporting facilities including athletics track, oval and two Astroturf courts



Special or Extracurricular programs offered at Lalor North Secondary College:

A comprehensive formal student leadership program involving approximately 10% of the student cohort. Year 9 and 10 students work in partnership with local feeder primary schools as cross age tutors and in a leadership program facilitated by the YMCA. Year 11 leaders are involved in a peer support program where they mentor year 7 students and year 12 students work as mentors for cohorts of year 8 students.

A comprehensive camps and study skills program is provided at each year level. Year 7 students attend a transition camp; Year 8 students attend a transition to middle school camp; Year 9 students attend city school; Year 10 students undertake work experience and all Senior students attend study skills camps.



Supporting Year 7's:

- Year 7 students are supported by a sub school leader and two year-level coordinators.
- Year 7 students are assigned peer support leaders. These are year 11 students who assist in the transition to secondary school. An on-going study skills program also occurs throughout the year.
- Year 7 students and their families are invited to a BBQ early in the year to give parents the opportunity to meet with teachers.
- Year 7 students have free access to instrumental music classes.
- Year 7 students have their own locker bay and courtyard area.
- All students receive progress reports twice a term. Extra tutoring is available at homework club.
- Year 7 students attend a transition camp early in the school year.



FAQs:

Q : How does LNC celebrate success?

A. Regular whole year level & school assemblies where student leaders play a significant role in leading these. LNC has annual award ceremonies where parents are invited to celebrate student achievement in all facets of school life.

Q : What is the reading-block?

A. 2015 has seen the introduction of a daily 20 minute reading block for all teachers and staff in the school. The school day consists of 4x70 minute periods and a 20 minute reading block.

Q : How does LNC cater for diverse learners?

A. LNC is a boutique learning environment where teachers are able to differentiate instruction to meet the complex needs of educating the whole child. This involves documenting a viable curriculum where regular assessment data is used to inform teachers about progressing each child.

Contact Details

Principal: Denise Veltre

Phone: 94013888

Email: lalor.north.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au

Junior Sub-School Leader: Phil Adams

Website: <http://lalornthsc.vic.edu.au>

Mill Park Secondary College

School Profile:

Mill Park Secondary College is a dual campus school with approximately 1600 students. The Middle Years Campus for years 7 - 9 in Mill Park has around 700 students while the Senior Campus for years 10—12 in Epping has nearly 900. The Middle Years Campus allows students to make the transition to secondary school in a dynamic, creative and supportive learning environment, while our Senior Campus allows students the opportunity to specialise in the widest range of VCE and VET subjects in the north. Mill Park Secondary College operates on a set of four agreed values: Respect, Responsibility, Achievement and Enjoyment. These values form the basis for all interactions between staff, students, parents and the broader community as collectively we work to support our students through their education. Ultimately our aim is to ensure our students enter the world as well-educated and well-rounded individuals who have achieved everything they are capable of. Mill Park Secondary College also has a strong Pastoral Care program which starts in year 7 and goes right through to year 12. Pastoral is an integral part of the overall approach to student well-being and development. The Pastoral teacher is the first contact person for parents wishing to discuss the progress of their child.

Facilities available at Mill Park Secondary College:

- Specialist Science and Technology classrooms
- Two gymnasiums with basketball courts
- Two outstanding library facilities
- 8 Computer Labs and over 1000 laptops
- Data projectors in every classroom
- Year 12 supervised study area
- Synthetic sports ground bigger than MCG
- Tennis Courts
- Access to Mill Park basketball stadium
- Fully equipped music rooms



Special or Extracurricular programs offered at Mill Park Secondary College:

- SEAL Program for Gifted students—Only DEECD accredited school in City of Whittlesea
- Extension and Enrichment Program
- BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) program for students
- Instrumental Music Programs in guitar, drums, keyboard, voice, woodwind and brass
- Scholarships for year 7 and 9 students
- Strong Performing Arts Program including annual School Musical Production and Concert performances
- Sporting teams including tennis, cricket, soccer, basketball, football, golf, netball, softball and baseball
- Strong Debating and Public Speaking Programs
- Involvement in Music competitions including Kool Skools recording and Royal South Street competition



Supporting Year 7's:

Mill Park Secondary College provides a range of transition activities to support new Year 7 students and their families such as Parent Information Evenings, including a workshop on using the school's Parent Portal, a Year 7 family BBQ and the Year 7 Orientation camp. Year 7 students are encouraged to get involved in leadership opportunities by joining the SRC, applying for captain positions and getting involved in extra curricular activities. As well as the Home group teacher, your child is also supported by a Program Leader and two Year Level Coordinators. They help resolve welfare issues, coordinate year level learning activities such as camps and excursions, and promote positive relationships and values. The Year 7 Orientation Camp usually happens in February and all students are encouraged to attend as part of their transition. Students are provided with a locker which is located with students from their Home Group near their Home Group room to help with organisation.



FAQs:

Q : How do I apply for the SEAL or Extension Program?

A : Students interested in applying should fill in an application form in Term 1 of grade 6, and sit a test during term 2. Offers will be made once test results are in.

Q : The school has two campuses. What does that mean?

A : We are the same school, just with two locations. Students are enrolled in the College for years 7—12. When students finish at the Middle Years Campus in year 9 they don't have to re-enrol to attend the Senior Campus, they just move to the senior location. Ms Horner is the Principal of the whole College and many of the teachers teach on both campuses.

Q : How do you deal with bullying?

A : Bullying happens in every school. At MPSC we deal with bullying proactively through teaching positive relationships and anti bullying in Pastoral classes at each year level. Classroom teachers, Year level coordinators and Principals also deal with incidents of bullying as they arise, and provide appropriate consequences.

Contact Details

College Principal: Trish Horner

Middle Years Campus Principal: Karen Eastlake

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Peter Lalor Vocational College

School Profile:

Whilst Peter Lalor Vocational College is not an option for Year 7 students, it may be a school to consider from Year 10. Peter Lalor Vocational College is a secondary college offering high quality vocational education for students in Year 10 through to Year 12. Currently there are approximately 140 students with relatively small class sizes to ensure quality hands-on programs. The college is emerging as one of the leaders in the applied learning through contemporary education programs.

The college's aim is to get its students job-ready and offers the Victorian Certificates of Applied Learning (VCAL) and Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses that focus on specific trades.

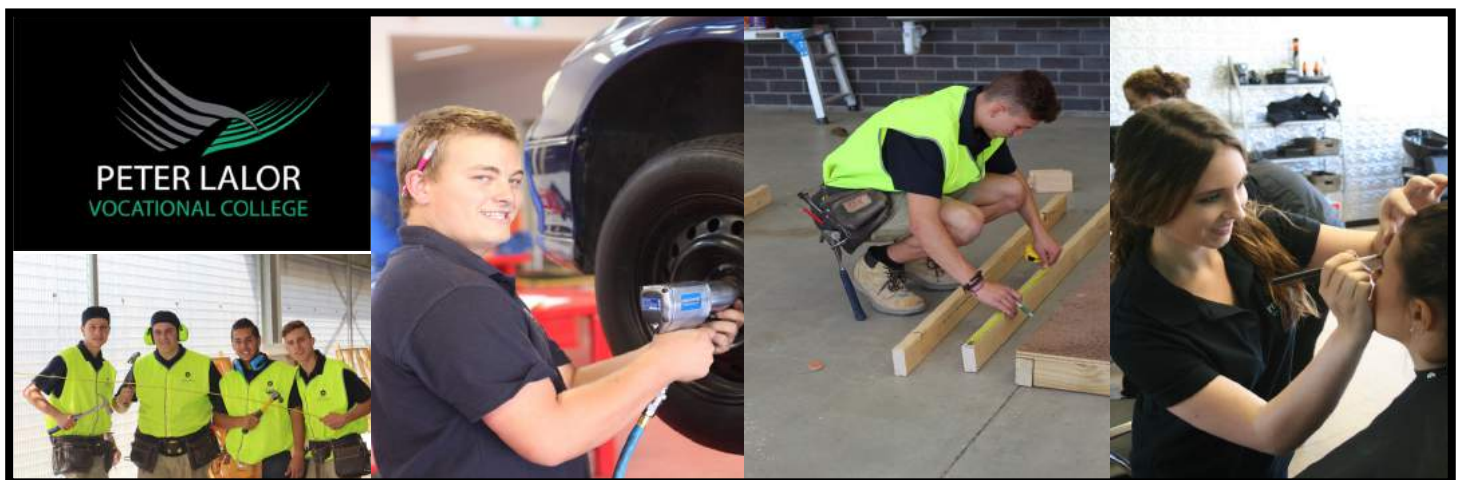
Students study an integrated curriculum that includes literacy, numeracy, work-related and personal development skills.

Additionally, students choose a vocational trade course. They attend VCAL classes three days a week, a VET class one day a week and work with an employer one day a week.

The college incorporates an adult education learning model to help raise students' confidence and build resilience by focusing on the skills required to succeed in the workforce. These include proper communication, teamwork, problem-solving and self-management.

Facilities available at Peter Lalor Vocational College:

- Outer Northern Trade Training Centre onsite
- Commercial Kitchen
- Hairdressing Training Salon
- Beauty Training Salon
- Digital Media Computer Rooms
- Fashion Design Studio (2016)
- Flexible learning space
- Wellbeing services access
- Gymnasium
- Excellent public transport access
- Careers Counselling



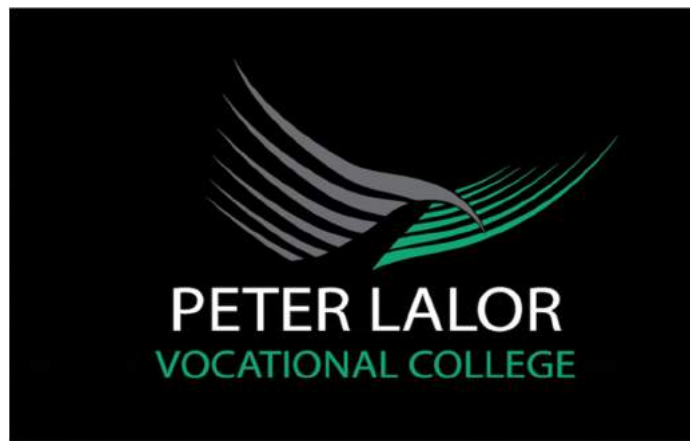
Specific Trade Courses:

Automotive, Building & Construction, Childcare, Hair & Beauty, Multimedia, Photography, Hospitality, Horticulture, Plumbing, Bricklaying, Community Services, Telecommunications Cabling, Sport & Recreation, Allied Health, Electrotechnology and Fashion Design (New in 2016)



Supporting Year 7's:

- Peter Lalor Vocational College is only an option for students who are entering Year 10, 11 or 12.
- A Year 7 student would need to enrol in another secondary school until completing Year 9 if they wish to follow this trade pathway for their senior years of education.
- Students and parents are encouraged to attend open nights and tours of the college to ensure that this pathway is suitable for their career pathway aspirations.



FAQs:

Q : Can I enrol at Peter Lalor Vocational College before Year 10?

A : No. The college only offers a senior secondary education from Years 10-12. Students must be 15 years of age to be eligible for VET course entry.

Q : What pathway would be available to me after completion of a VCAL & VET course at Peter Lalor Vocational College?

A : A usual pathway from the college would be either continued study at a TAFE or employment. If a university pathway was desired, this college is not suitable.

Q : What subjects are taught at Peter Lalor Vocational College?

A : Literacy, Numeracy, Personal Development and Work-Related Skills and a VET (Trade) course. Students also undertake a work placement day each week.

Contact Details

Principal: Paul Ryan

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Assistant Principal : Rod Sheehan

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Thomastown Secondary College

School Profile:

Thomastown Secondary College has a unique and proud history. Designed on a mini-school model with a strong focus on engagement and student voice, we have retained our core values while responding to the changing needs of our community and that of the broader society.

The College mission is to empower students to develop strong social, emotional and academic skills, essential for all citizens in this global world. We foster a spirit of mutual respect and support, where every student is expected to strive to reach his or her potential. Our motto 'Individual Excellence' is embedded in our rich learning environment which values and supports diversity, excellence and teamwork.

Founded on the understanding that effective schools are centred on the individual as a learner and as a person, the vertically structured curriculum and distinct teaching teams in each of the year 7 - 10 mini-schools, allow enrichment at all year levels and in all learning areas.

Facilities available at Thomastown Secondary College:

- State of the art gymnasium
- Multi purpose grass courts
- Dance studio, Theatre, Music recording studio
- School Canteen
- Art Gallery
- New Language Centre
- Food Technology Centre
- Well resourced Library
- Science Laboratory



Special or Extracurricular programs offered at Thomastown Secondary College:

- A Home Group structure which provides each student with the same teacher mentor from year 7 - 10.
- Home Work Club two nights a week between 3.30pm - 4.30pm.
- Enrichment programs that enable year 10 students to undertake a selection of VCE subjects.
- Participation in a wide range of interschool sports at all year levels.
- Interschool debating competitions at all year levels.
- Annual College Performing Arts Concert ('VISIONS').
- Individual instrumental music lessons (guitar, drums, piano/keyboard, saxophone, violin).
- Telescope Club including regular observation nights throughout the year for students and parents.



Supporting Year 7's:

- A mini-school structure which provides students with a strong sense of identity and belonging.
- A unique Pastoral Care Program, that enables students to remain with their Home Group teacher from Years 7-10. Older students in the Home Group take on the role of buddies and support the year 7 students.
- Orientation Day program that introduces year 7 students to life at the college.
- All Year 7 students receive their own laptop, diary and locker with individual combination padlock.
- Two information evenings for students prior to commencing their secondary education. Students meet their new Home Group teacher at the second of these events.
- Year 7 students have access to the After School Homework Program for assistance with homework.



FAQs:

Q : What happens to your students at the end of VCE?

A : The majority of our students continue with further education and/or training. Over 80% go on to study at university or TAFE, while others undergo apprenticeships in a specific vocational area of their choice or enter the employment market.

Q : What leadership opportunities exist for students at Thomastown Secondary College?

A : There are many opportunities for our students to take on leadership roles. These are made available through Home Groups, Unit Forum, SRC , the i-Track online Mentoring Program, Primary School Reading Program, Red Cross Blood Donation and a range of other offerings.

Q : What languages do you offer ?

A : At Thomastown Secondary College we offer students the opportunity to study the following languages: Arabic, Italian, Macedonian and Vietnamese.

Contact Details

Principal: Leonie White

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Assistant Principals: David Smith and John Retica

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Whittlesea Secondary College

School Profile:

Whittlesea Secondary College is situated on a 30 acre site in the heart of the Whittlesea township. It's treed lawns, landscaped garden areas and comfortable leisure zones provide a stimulating environment for study, sport and recreation. Our student population is currently at 940 students and applications for Year 7 places have increased in the past few years. The College is serviced by an extensive bus network and draws students from all points of the compass. Our College aims to equip students for an ever-changing world. Together we will challenge students to gain personal, social and academic skills that will inspire them to be successful members of our global community.

TEAMWORK • RESPECT • EXCELLENCE • INTEGRITY • COMMITMENT • KNOWLEDGE

The values of Whittlesea Secondary College underpin its cultural and moral framework enabling it to set clear and resolute behavioural codes. These codes, once adhered to, enable the members of the school college community to function in a safe, mutually respectful and highly energised learning community.

Facilities available at Whittlesea Secondary College:

- New Junior School Precinct
- Double-Court Basketball Stadium
- Trade Training Centre
- Building and Construction Centre
- Café & Hospitality Training Centre
- 230 seat Performing Arts Centre
- Music Centre with rehearsal rooms and Digital Recording Hubs
- Access to two ovals, outdoor basketball courts, town tennis courts and weights gymnasium
- Over 500 computers for students to use, plus a dedicated Mac Lab for high-end digital media creations.
- Community Garden
- Spacious VCE Centre



Special or Extracurricular programs offered at Whittlesea S.C

- Performing Arts Program: This is a two year opportunity in Year 7 and 8. Students will attend a timetabled band class and an individual/small group lesson each week. Students will attend a term each of vocal, drama, dance and performance classes each year, with regular performances.
- LEAP (Learning Enhancement & Acceleration Program): This program supports students who have been identified as possessing the right aptitude and attitude in wanting to blossom and grow intellectually.
- Student Leadership - There are opportunities for leadership: School Captains, Year Level Leaders, Music captains, Student Representative Council, Peer Mediation, Library Assistants and Administration Couriers.
- Camps Program - Year 7: Orientation Camp at Camp Howqua. All Year Levels: International tour every second year
- The Sport Program - House Athletics Sports Day, Interschool Athletics, trials in Swimming and Cross Country, Cricket, Basketball, Netball, AFL Football, Tennis, Soccer, Table-tennis, Golf, Baseball, Softball, Hockey, Badminton, and Volleyball, and lunchtime activities in various sports and games.



Whittlesea
SECONDARY COLLEGE



Supporting Year 7's:

The first two years of secondary schooling are about 'Establishing the Foundation.' The Junior School program enables students to experience success as they progress through the College. They develop skills, knowledge and a positive attitude to learning. The College has dedicated and committed teachers who aim to support our Year 7 students in their transition from Primary to Secondary School life. From the moment they enter the College they form a strong bond with their Personal Development teacher, Year 7 Student Manager and Junior School Manager.

We provide a number of opportunities for Parents to make an informed choice when selecting a Secondary College for their children. Some of these include: Grade 6 Information Evenings, Open Days, Orientation Day, Parent Transition meetings, Year 7 Numeracy Evenings for students and parents, Year 7 BBQ/Awards Evening and Student Support Groups. Tours at other times can be arranged through the general office. Group or individual appointments can also be arranged through the general office.



FAQs:

Q : How do we apply for LEAP and Performing Arts Programs?

A : All Primary Schools receive a transition pack to distribute to grade 6 students when their choice of secondary school is confirmed. In this pack, we will provide parents with a LEAP application form which will detail the entry criteria, dates and processes. Similarly, we provide information about the entry process for the Performing Arts Program in our school transition pack.

Q : Will my child have the opportunity to experience a range of subject areas?

A : The programs at Whittlesea Secondary College is diverse and extensive. In addition to engaging core curriculum, students in Year 7 experience Robotics, Visual Art, Integrated Studies, Textiles, Food Technology and Classroom Music. (Refer to the Junior, Middle and Senior School Handbooks on the college website under the Curriculum tab).

Contact Details

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LEAP Coordinator: Ms. Sheena Cuthbert		
Website:	http://whittleseasc.vic.edu.au	
Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/whittlesea.secondary.college	

Schools in the Whittlesea Network are Great Schools!



Thomastown East PS



Thomastown Meadows PS



LALOR EAST PRIMARY

