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DONCASTER
SECONDARY COLLEGE

COLLEGE CONTRIBUTIONS

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Department of Education provides funding for a standard curriculum program, delivery of instruction and other associated costs for running the College. Funding from the Department of Education does not fully cover the costs of the range of programs or facilities provided by our College. This funding falls short of what our College community expects for educational provision. The College provides additional services, equipment and facilities beyond those we receive funding for. These additions range from the provision of a fulltime nurse (in addition to first aid provision), additional welfare support, remedial support programs, computer technician through to self-funded building projects such as the sport stadium, VCE Centre and Performance Centre.

The College Council is responsible for developing and approving the parent payment policy. Parents are required to pay for items that have been designated by the Department of Education as **Essential Education Items** such as: the eBook text bundle, consumables in Art/Technology subjects, Compass fee, DiSCovery, student planners, photocopied booklets, compulsory excursions, locker hire and affiliation fees.

Parents may choose to access **Optional Educational Items** on a user pays basis. These items are beyond the provision of a standard curriculum and examples include: extracurricular activities, academic competitions, optional camps or tours, instrumental music, and hire of instruments, external lectures, special events such as the Presentation ball, College magazine and Year 12 Lecture series.

Parents are invited to make a donation in the form of a **Voluntary Financial Contribution**. These contributions are used to support a number of areas such as: Building Fund, Library Fund, College Wellbeing, Information Technology Support and additional classroom support materials. As an example, the College currently has a significant financial commitment through a Co-op loan for our self-funded sport stadium. We have also introduced two Therapy dogs. Therapy dogs in schools have been shown to increase student attendance to school, create positive changes toward learning and decrease anxiety behaviours, resulting in improved learning outcomes.

The College also has in place a plan of a self-funded building project to include fourteen new classrooms a staffroom and amenities. These contributions are outside the requirements of The Education and Training Reform Act 2006 which provides for the 'free delivery' of instruction and a standard curriculum.

Yours sincerely,

ÉVA McMASTER
Principal

SOFIA GEORGIU
College Council President