

Dear parent/guardian,

Fountain Gate Secondary College is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Fountain Gate Secondary College's voluntary financial contributions for 2023.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. Nevertheless, the ongoing support of our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education and support for our students. We want to thank you for all your support, whether that's through fundraising or volunteering your time. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

Within our school this support has allowed us to have a wider offering of subjects and special curriculum experiences; enhanced digital learning opportunities; the upgrade of our college's learning spaces; faster WIFI and internet.

For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached.

Financial Support for Families

The College understands that some families may sometimes experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options and payment arrangements.

These include:

- The Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund - **Parents who have a current Health Care/Pension card as at the 31st January 2023 will qualify for this fund which can be used for all students from Years 7 – 12.**
- Scholarships - <https://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/scholarships/register.aspx>
- State School Relief

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact:

Marica Distefano or Lisa Wilson

Ph: 03 8762 6839 | Email: fountain.gate.sc@education.vic.gov.au

Payment methods

- CompassPay – all payment plans are completed via CompassPay and any payments can also be made via Compass
- Payments may be made by cash, cheque, credit card, EFTPOS, Direct Credit, Centrepay (Centrelink) or BPay
Please make cheques payable to Fountain Gate Secondary College.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Jo Cucchiara
Acting Principal



Mrs Ana Skaliaris
School council president

| Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum | Amount |
|---|---------------|
| Subject Consumables, Choice Subject Consumables, classroom materials, Online subscriptions, Student ID Card and Planner. Enter an amount you wish to contribute. \$250.00 is just our suggested contribution. | \$250.00 |
| Year 7 Whole school events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athletics carnival - entry and transport CSEF can be used for this. | \$20.00 |
| Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities | Amount |
| School Sports Victoria affiliation | \$10.00 |
| Student and parent communication tool-Compass | \$20.00 |
| First aid and hygiene costs-first aid consumables required to treat students | \$10.00 |
| Enhanced Wellbeing Support | \$20.00 |
| Tax deductible contributions | |
| Building fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure. (Any amount you wish to contribute) | \$ |
| Library fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support book purchases and other equipment that sustain the library as a valuable resource. (Any amount you wish to contribute) | \$ |
| Total Amount | \$ |

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Fountain Gate Secondary College offers a range of items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides in order to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

If you would like to purchase an item or activity for your child, please indicate on the table below and return this to the school by 10th February 2023.

| Extra-Curricular Items and Activities | Amount | Purchase (Please tick) |
|--|----------|---------------------------|
| School magazine | \$25.00 | |
| Combination Lock | \$15.00 | |
| Optional Interschool Sports program – Cost \$10.00 per event. All events will be on Compass. CSEF can be used for this. | TBA | |
| Optional Year 7 Instrumental Music Lessons for all Year 7 students including High Achievers. | \$160.00 | |
| Optional Year 7 Instrument Hire – High Achievers Only. | \$50.00 | |
| Optional Year 7 Instrument Hire and Maintenance for all Year 7 students not in the High Achievers Program. | \$100.00 | |
| Optional Year 7 excursions to be scheduled. CSEF can be used for this. | TBA | |
| Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities | | \$ |

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’s Parent Payment Policy and Guidance, Financial Help for Families Policy and any other relevant information.

| Category | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Curriculum Contributions | \$ |
| Other Contributions | \$ |
| Extra-Curricular Items and Activities | \$ |

PARENT PAYMENTS POLICY

ONE PAGE OVERVIEW



FREE INSTRUCTION

- Schools provide students with free instruction and ensure students have free access to all items, activities and services that are used by the school to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements in Victorian Curriculum F-10, VCE and VCAL.
- Schools may invite parents to make a financial contribution to support the school.



PARENT PAYMENT REQUESTS

Schools can request contributions from parents under three categories:

Curriculum Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.

Other Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides for free to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

- Schools may also invite parents to supply or purchase educational items to use and own (e.g. textbooks, stationery, digital devices).



FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

- Schools put in place financial hardship arrangements to support families who cannot pay for items or activities so that their child doesn't miss out.
- Schools have a nominated parent payment contact person(s) that parents can have a confidential discussion with regarding financial hardship arrangements.



SCHOOL PROCESSES

- Schools must obtain school council approval for their parent payment arrangements and publish all requests and communications for each year level on their school website for transparency.