



Dear Families,

Forest Hill College is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of the College's voluntary financial contributions for 2025.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements 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 thank you for your contributions which make a valuable difference to the resources and programs that our school can offer.

This support allows us to continue our commitment to the high quality delivery of the standard curriculum, and compliment this with other activities and initiatives.

These include our Enrichment and Extension programs, study skills sessions and the continued development of our Aspire centre, as well as Homework Club, Student Leadership, Presentation Evening and various sub-school activities.

Our excellent facilities provide optimal learning environments for each student, allowing for greater engagement.

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

Nicky Buckingham
Principal (Acting)

Robert Nash
School Council President



Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<p><i>Subject consumables, classroom materials and activities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>paint and art supplies, printing supplies</i> • <i>general subject consumables and classroom materials</i> • <i>teacher curriculum resources, eg practice exams</i> • <i>food ingredients, 3D laser printer consumables, kitchen class sets of utensils and equipment, science chemicals and equipment, sporting equipment</i> • <i>class sets of equipment across learning areas</i> • <i>Printing and copying of learning materials</i> • <i>Student ID card</i> 	\$315
<p><i>VET Program (for students enrolled in a VET subject)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Contribution to support the provision of our VET program offerings</i> 	\$75
<p><i>Whole school events</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Athletics carnival – entry and transport</i> • <i>Swimming carnival – entry and transport</i> 	\$TBA per event
Total Curriculum Contributions	\$ 315 plus additional as relevant

Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
<i>First aid equipment</i>	\$20
<p><i>A voluntary contribution to support the delivery of activities and initiatives (whole and sub school) that enhance a student's journey with our College including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Presentation Evening and Award</i> - <i>Year 7 Welcome BBQ</i> - <i>Activity Days</i> - <i>Year 12 Assembly and Morning Tea</i> - <i>Basketball Marathon</i> - <i>Enrichment and Extension activities</i> - <i>School Production</i> - <i>Guest Speakers</i> - <i>Locker maintenance</i> - <i>Student Parliament Initiatives</i> - <i>Breakfast Club</i> - <i>Tribes Events</i> - <i>Student wellbeing support</i> - <i>Parent portal communication system and other third party software</i> - <i>College facilities and grounds maintenance</i> 	\$200
Total Other Contributions	\$220

Tax deductible contributions	
Building fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure.	\$parent/ guardian to determine
Library fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support book purchases and other equipment that sustain the library as a valuable resource	\$parent/ guardian to determine

Educational items for students to own

Following is a list of items that the College recommends you purchase from third party providers for your child to individually own and use:

- Notebooks from Edunet – see School Preferred Device Program
- Textbooks, digital subscriptions and stationery (including locker padlock) – see Campion Books booklist

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities – provided on a user-pays basis

Forest Hill College offers a range of optional items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides to deliver the Curriculum.

The cost of extra-curricular items and activities will be advised throughout the year.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount
School formal	\$TBA
Camps and excursions to be scheduled	\$TBA per event
Year 12 Valedictory	\$TBA
School Sports Victoria Affiliation	\$15 one off charge for students who participate in an SSV Event
SSV Interschool Sports Events	\$25 per event
Student Library photocopier/scanner access	\$50
Instrumental Music Tuition – per instrument (per semester minimum fee applies)	\$600 per year
Instrument Hire – per instrument (per semester minimum fee applies)	\$400 per year

FHC Basketball and Soccer Academies – Optional elite coaching provided by third party provider	As charged directly to the family by the third party provider
Steam Academy	\$100
FHC AFL Academy	\$50
FHC Performing Arts Academy	\$50
Year 12 Student Bomber Jackets	\$97
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities	\$ per items and activities accessed

Financial Support for Families

The College understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)
- Personalised payment arrangements
- Second-hand options, eg second hand book sale
- State Schools Relief (SSR)

In 2025, families will also have access to the School Saving Bonus for each of their enrolled students.

For a confidential discussion about accessing these support options, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact the General Office Administration Team via email at fhc@fhc.vic.edu.au or 03 9814 9444.

Total

Category	Total
Curriculum Contributions	\$315 plus additional as relevant
Other Contributions	<i>(Non-tax deductible)</i> \$220 <i>(Tax-deductible)</i> \$parent/guardian to determine
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	\$per items and activities accessed
Total	\$as determined per above categories



Payment methods

Payments for 2025 can be made from November 2024.

We request families' support in making payment on or before **13 December 2024**. Payment may be made via Compass, BPAY, cash, EFTPOS or credit card. Instalment plans may also be arranged directly through Compass.

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 Payments Policy and Guidance, Financial Help for Families Policy, and any other relevant information.

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 requirements of the Curriculum. This includes the Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- 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	Other Contributions	Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.	Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.	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.