EMERALD SECONDARY COLLEGE
425 Belgrave-Gembrook Road, Emerald 3782
Phone: 03 5968 5388
Email: emerald.sc@education.vic.gov.au

December 1st 2025

Emerald Secondary College is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and are pleased to advise you of Emerald Secondary College's voluntary **Year 8** student financial contributions for 2026.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and all parent/guardian 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.

Within our school this support allows us to:

- *Invest in subject-specific materials for Food Technology programs, Visual Arts, Vis Comm Design, Woodwork and Outdoor Education*
- *Run additional programs such as school productions, music concerts, art shows, sporting events and competitions*
- *Enhanced digital learning opportunities*
- *Provide a wider offering of subjects and special curriculum experiences*
- *Maintain the refurbishment of school grounds and improvement to school facilities*

Please find following Emerald Secondary College's voluntary financial contributions schedule for 2026, which includes an overview of what your contributions will provide.

Department of Education guidelines now mandate that schools are UNABLE to provide parents with a statement of fees. Parents are asked to please review the recommended voluntary financial contributions schedule below for an indication of contributions for your child/ren. For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached.

Yours sincerely,

James Barut
College Principal

Jacinta Woehl
School Council President

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Curriculum Contributions
Items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum, including:

- Materials for students to use in the classroom to learn the essential curriculum such as art supplies, science equipment, cooking ingredients, SAC and Exam documents

Other Contributions
- **General School Levy** – this levy is distributed to each Subject Domain to support classroom materials and to update equipment, as well as supporting the College Library and maintaining our Sick Bay to provide student care
- Victorian Sporting Schools Levy
- Student ID Card

Optional/Extra Items and Activities
Emerald 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 to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis

- District and Regional School Sports events
- Camps, excursions and other activities
- Working Bee (Grounds) Contribution

Tax Deductible Contributions
- Building Fund Contribution (to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure)

Educational items for students to own
The College booklist is available via the Campion Books online portal. Links can be found on the College website.

Financial Support for Families
Emerald Secondary College understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) for qualifying families
- Payment Instalment Plans

For a confidential discussion about accessing State Schools' Relief services, contact the Wellbeing Coordinator on 5968 5388, or email emerald.sc@education.vic.gov.au

Payment methods
Parent contributions towards the requested payments is essential to maintain the quality of education that we provide at Emerald Secondary College.

COMPASS	Payments can be made via the Compass Portal using credit card and payment plans are available
BPAY	Payments can also be made electronically via BPAY Please contact the office for your BPAY Reference number
CASH & EFTPOS	Payments can be made directly at the finance office or by credit card over the phone
PAYMENT INSTALMENT PLANS	Please contact the school office to arrange

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. For more information, please refer to the college Refund Policy which is located on the college website.

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2026 YEAR 8 CONTRIBUTION SCHEDULE

STUDENT NAME:	

CURRICULUM CONTRIBUTIONS *Classroom consumables, materials & equipment that students use or participate in*	**$**
· *Year 8 Core (and SEAL) English*	$20.00
· *Year 8 Core (and SEAL) Mathematics*	$35.00
· *Year 8 Core Health Education*	$25.00
· *Year 8 Core Physical Education*	$20.00
· *Year 8 Core Science*	$25.00
· *Year 8 Core Humanities*	$20.00
· *Food Studies - Recipe ingredients*	$160.00
· *Visual Communication - Paper, paint, perspex, wood, textas*	$40.00
· Year 8 *Drama - scripts*	$20.00
	$365.00
WHOLE SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS	
General School Levy *Used to directly support student learning programs – Wood Technology, Food Technology, Health Education, Physical Education, English, Maths, Humanities, Library and Sick Bay supplies*	*$160.00*
Wellbeing Program *To help supplement the Wellbeing Program and activities throughout the year, including student awards*	*$60.00*
IT Support Levy *Student and whole school IT support and additional support for maintaining and repairing of laptops onsite.*	*$50.00*
School Sports Victoria membership	$25.00
Student ID Card	$12.00
	$307.00
OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS	
Working Bee Fund *The College does not currently run Working Bees, this contribution is used to maintain and enhance the College grounds*	*$30.00*
Building Fund *Upgrades to buildings and facilities, including air-conditioning (not funded by Dept of Education)* *** All contributions to the Building Fund are Tax Deductable***	*$100.00*
Combination Lock *Calculator* *College Student Yearbook (Parawena)* *Instrumental Music Lessons (Optional)*	*$20.00* *$27.00* *$25.00* *$400.00*

Curriculum Contributions:	**$365.00**	
Whole School Contributions:	**$307.00**	**$ 672.00**
Other Contributions:	**$**	**$**
TOTAL PAYMENT:		**$**

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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 7-10, VCE and VET.
- Parents are invited 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.