



**Essendon
Keilor College**

NIDDRIE: YR 7-9 & ESSENDON: YR 10-12

MID TERM 1 UPDATE

Welcome to the Mid Term update!

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for 2026.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new students and families, alongside our school community, and thank you for your commitment throughout the first five weeks of the academic year.

Recently, at our Parent Information Evenings, we spoke about the importance of connection. We want our students connected to the areas they are passionate about, as the skills they develop through their passions are transferable to their learning.

As an example, I recently attended a rehearsal for our upcoming showcase and had the opportunity to speak with the 42 students involved in the production. The excitement was visible, and the sense of connection was building, with students from Years 7 to 12 coming together and engaging in an area of shared passion. We encourage our students to get involved, particularly at our Middle Years campus, with the wide range of opportunities available.

Within this edition of the newsletter, you will see our EKC Learner Model. This model was developed in partnership with our students and staff as part of our 2025 school review in preparation for 2026.

Our aim is to make it explicitly clear what is expected of both our students and teachers when it comes to preparedness and engagement for learning. Our teachers and support staff hold high expectations of our students within a supportive and engaging learning environment.

It is important that our students attend each day prepared for learning and actively engage in the steps that will provide them with the greatest opportunity to achieve their personal best.

At assemblies, and whenever I have the opportunity, I speak to our students about connecting in and striving to be the best version of themselves each and every day. Our role is to support them in this journey and provide guidance and assistance whenever required. I encourage our students to lean in when they need support and to work closely with their teachers to achieve positive outcomes.



I would like to commend our Year 7 students for the great start they have made to the school year, and I look forward to attending the Year 7 camp, where these connections will continue to grow. At the Senior Campus, our Year 12 students have also made a very positive start to the year. With key assessment periods approaching, it has been impressive to see the way students are preparing in the Year 12 Study Centre, working collaboratively in teams and supporting one another.

Finally, as parents and carers, I encourage you to stay connected to our school community wherever possible. There are a range of events and opportunities available to help you engage and best support your child. One key way to remain connected is by regularly viewing your child's General Performance Assessment at the end of each three-week cycle and reaching out if you require support or clarification.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our end-of-term Parent and Student Interviews, where you will have the opportunity to meet key staff and gain a clear understanding of where your child is at in their learning journey.

We are looking forward to the second half of this term and again I want to acknowledge the positive start to the academic school year.

We are passionate about progress for every student within our school community.

Kind regards

Adam Potter
Principal



Why is it important to connect with the content of our newsletter?

- 1. Stay Informed:** The newsletter will provide you with valuable information about past and upcoming events, important dates, and school announcements. By staying informed, you can actively participate in school activities and support your child's education. Please also ensure you download our Term 2 calendar that has been sent out via Compass to stay connected and informed.
- 2. Celebrate Achievements:** Our newsletter will highlight the accomplishments of our students, teachers, and staff. Celebrating achievements fosters a sense of pride and motivation within our school community.
- 3. Program Outlines:** You will gain insights into our various programs, curriculum updates, and educational initiatives. Understanding these outlines can help you better support your child's learning journey.
- 4. Community Engagement:** The newsletter serves as a platform for community engagement. We encourage you to share your thoughts, feedback, and ideas with us. Your input is invaluable in shaping the direction of our school.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF



Anna Almburg - Science - Essendon

Rocco Catalano - Mathematics - Essendon

Juan De Castro - Visual Communication & Design/Media - Essendon

Gus Mather - English/VCE VM - Essendon

Amy Milledge - School Nurse - Whole School

Daniel Orfali - English/Humanities - Niddrie

Emily Rilen - Health & PE - Niddrie

Louqmaan Saad - Mathematics - Niddrie

Matthew Scannell - Science - Niddrie

NEW STUDENT LEADERS

Year 7 Year Level Captains



Moses Taylor



Kierly Cook

Year 10 Year Level Captains



Chloe Babatsikos



Blake Bassett

Year 11 Year Level Captains



Antonia Yanez



Jamie Kho

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT & WELLBEING

Arriving Ready: How Being Prepared Sets Students Up for Success

At the heart of our Student Engagement and Wellbeing focus this term is a simple but powerful idea – that being prepared to learn is the foundation of everything that happens in the classroom.

Our School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) goal of Arrive to School Prepared to Learn reflects a shared belief that success doesn't start when a student sits down in class – it starts before they even walk through the door. When students arrive with the right materials, a tidy organised space, and the right mindset, they are positioned to engage fully from the very first moment of the day.

This goal aligns directly with the first element of the EKC Learner Model: Prepared for Learning. Being a prepared learner means coming to school ready – mentally, physically, and practically. It means having your books, stationery, and materials at hand, knowing what's expected, and being in the right headspace to participate, contribute, and grow.

ESSENDON KEILOR COLLEGE

LEARNER MODEL

PREPARE for

STUDENTS WILL.....	TEACHERS WILL.....
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Arrive on time, prepared to stay the whole lessonWait patiently adjacent to their classroom, keeping the doorway clearEnter the learning space calmly and move to a position that is best for their learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Direct students to seating best for learningHave the lesson learning goal continuously displayedFront load students upon entry with a 'Do Now' task that activates prior knowledge

ENGAGE with

STUDENTS WILL.....	TEACHERS WILL.....
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Commence set work unpromptedWhen given the opportunity, willingly demonstrate their understandingSeek and apply feedbackRespect the learning opportunities for themselves and othersUse resources as intendedDemonstrate a growth mindset	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduce key vocabulary in line with learning goalExplicitly teach new content.Provide opportunities for all students to respond and check their understanding of new knowledge or skillGive students feedback to support their learning growth

CONSOLIDATE

STUDENTS WILL.....	TEACHERS WILL.....
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reflect on their understanding of the learning goalRemain at their desk until dismissed by their teacherAssist with resetting the learning environment at the end of the lessonAfter the lesson, utilise strategies that embed new knowledge and skillsCatch up on missed work and come prepared for next lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review the learning goal and check for levels of student understandingAssign homework or revision tasks on a regular basis and communicate these on Google classroomEnsure the learning environment is reset to its original conditionAdjust future lesson plans based on lesson data

One of the most visible and meaningful ways we support this is through our locker organisation initiative. A well-maintained locker might seem like a small thing, but it reflects a student's broader approach to their learning. Neat, organised lockers mean students can quickly access what they need, reducing stress and wasted time – and that sense of order often carries into the classroom itself.

Each Personal Development class, students' lockers are checked by their Personal Development teacher as part of a regular and supportive routine. This isn't about catching students out – it's about building habits that serve them well now and into the future.

These checks are reflected in our 3 weekly Progress Reports, ensuring families are kept informed and can celebrate the students who are consistently showing up prepared and ready to give their best.

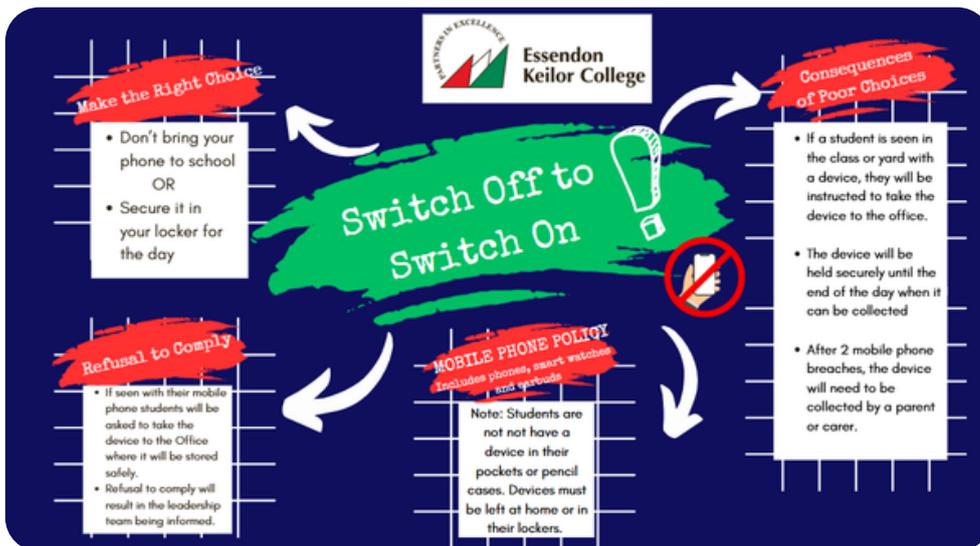


ESSENDON KEILOR COLLEGE SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOURS

	Our Community	Wider Community
BE RESPECTFUL	We... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use good manners Follow staff instructions Arrive to class prepared to learn Work cooperatively with peers and staff Use technology responsibly and safely at all times 	We... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appreciate diversity and treat all others as equals Represent the College with pride Behave in a safe manner Consider how our actions impact on others Use technology responsibly and safely at all times
BE ENGAGED	We... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask questions and regularly act upon feedback Make positive contributions Bring digital devices charged everyday Participate in school events 	We... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are responsible for our actions Engage in learning opportunities outside of school Demonstrate EKC Values in accordance with College policies
BE ASPIRATIONAL	We... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put effort into every task and challenge ourselves Strive for academic excellence Set and evaluate learning goals Attend all classes 	We... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are considerate of the public Travel to and from school with care Aim to become accomplished citizens who contribute, live meaningfully and succeed
BE A LEARNER	We... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to others Let others learn and teach Use devices appropriately for learning 	We... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage and support others Maintain appropriate noise levels Support our community

SWPBS

Our SWPBS framework is designed to both support the development of, and recognise when students display the positive behaviours in classes and around the yard and in the community. Parents will be notified when REAL rewards and positive acknowledgements are issued to students.



MOBILE PHONE POLICY

The Education Department's policy on the use and storage of mobile phones for students during the school day is clear. We ask for family support with reinforcing this policy. The general offices are available for families to contact students and we ask that parents do not make or take calls/texts from students during the school day.



ATTENDANCE AT ESSENDON KEILOR COLLEGE

If a student misses....	that equals...	which is....	and over 6 years of school that's....
1 day a fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	24 weeks
1 day a week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Nearly 2 years
3 days a week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	3.7 years

Every Day Counts

- At EKC, we understand that school participation maximises life opportunities for young people by providing them with education and support networks.
- 100% attendance in every class for every student
- If needed, our student engagement and wellbeing team will put supports in place with your family so we can work together to maximise your attendance

ATTENDANCE

Essendon Keilor College values students attendance every day of the week. It allows for consistent learning and for development of positive relationships with their peers and teachers. Parents are asked to notify the general office or year level coordinator if your child is absent and provide medical certificates where applicable.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS



Over the past few weeks, Essendon Keilor College has proudly hosted our annual Start of Year Parent Information Evenings across all year levels. These sessions are an important opportunity to strengthen the partnership between home and school, ensuring families feel informed, connected and confident as we begin the academic year together.

Our Year 7 Family Information Night was our opportunity to warmly welcome our newest students and families into our college community. A key highlight of the evening was the opportunity for parents and carers to meet and connect with their

child's Personal Development teacher, who plays a vital role in supporting student wellbeing, organisation and transition into secondary school. Establishing these relationships early helps ensure every student feels supported as they settle into Year 7.

Our Year 8 and 9 combined Information Evening provided families with an overview of learning expectations, student wellbeing supports and the important developmental focus of the middle years. These sessions reinforced the shared responsibility between school and families in supporting students to develop independence, positive learning habits and strong engagement with their studies.



The Year 10 Parent Information Evening focused on preparing students for the transition into senior pathways. Families received valuable information about subject selection, future pathways and the decisions that begin shaping students' senior secondary experiences.

Our Year 11 and Year 12 Information Evenings were particularly important milestones for senior students and their families. Students and parents were guided through VCE requirements, gaining a clear understanding of assessment expectations, study commitments and strategies for success. The sessions also explained how ATAR scores are calculated and provided an overview of the tertiary entry application process, helping families better understand the journey from secondary school to further education, training or employment.



We thank all parents and carers who attended across the various evenings. Your engagement demonstrates the strong partnership that exists within our college community and plays a significant role in supporting student success. For any families who were unable to attend, presentations from these nights are available on your Compass newsfeed.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On **February 16th**, all of our enthusiastic **Year 7 students**, along with a select group of talented Year 8 and 9 students who qualified through the swimming trials, headed out for an exciting day at Oak Park Aquatic Centre for the annual **Year 7 Swimming Carnival**.

The competition in the pool was **ultra-competitive**, with some outstanding performances across all age groups.

A special congratulations goes to our standout swimmers who have progressed to represent the school at the upcoming **District Swimming Carnival**:

- **Torian Firth** – U13 Female Freestyle and Backstroke Champion
- **Mason Unanteene** – U13 Male Freestyle and Backstroke Champion
- **Ethan McCarthy** – U14 Male Freestyle and Backstroke Champion
- **Lucas Manunzio** – U15 Male Freestyle Champion
- **Callan Prescott** – U15 Male Backstroke Champion
- **Abby Cristallo-Foo** – U15 Female Backstroke and Freestyle Champion

These students demonstrated exceptional determination, skill, and sportsmanship in the pool. We wish them the very best of luck as they prepare to compete in the next round.

Beyond the competitive races, the carnival was a wonderful opportunity for students to connect with friends, show house spirit, and simply enjoy being active together. The water slides were certainly a highlight for many, with plenty of laughter and excitement throughout the day. Between races, students made the most of the chance to splash around, relax poolside, and support their peers.

Most importantly, all students represented the school exceptionally well. Their behaviour, encouragement of one another, and positive attitudes made the carnival a great success.

Well done to all students who participated – it was a fantastic day of competition, fun, and school spirit!



YEAR 11 VCE VM & VET STUDIES

Year 11 Students Step Up with Real-World Safety Credentials

The class of Year 11 VCE Vocational Major students recently completed two important industry certifications – First Aid and the Construction Induction White Card – marking a significant milestone in their hands-on learning journey.

The training saw students move well beyond the traditional classroom setting to develop practical skills that employers across a wide range of industries genuinely value. Far from a box-ticking exercise, the sessions challenged students to think on their feet, work as a team, and take responsibility for the safety of those around them.

During the First Aid component, students learned how to manage a range of emergency situations, including performing CPR, applying bandages, responding to anaphylaxis, and handling suspected fractures and burns. Many students admitted the mannequin CPR practice was tougher than expected – a reminder of just how physically demanding real emergency response can be.

The White Card training introduced students to the fundamental safety requirements for anyone entering a construction site in Australia. Covering hazard identification, risk management, and legal responsibilities under workplace health and safety law, the course gave students a clearer picture of what it means to work safely in one of the country's largest industries.

For students enrolled in VCE VM, which blends literacy, numeracy, personal development, and work-related skills, certifications like these carry real weight. They can be included on a résumé immediately, opening doors to part-time work, apprenticeships, and traineeships before students have even finished school.

Teachers noted the enthusiasm and maturity students showed throughout the training. "They rose to the occasion," said one staff member. "You could see their confidence grow with every scenario."

Our Vocational Education and Training students have also commenced their studies with brand new offering **VET Community Services** joining our current **VET Sport & Recreation** offering. These in-house VET subjects are offered to both VCE and VCE VM students.



With their new credentials in hand, these Year 11 students are already one step ahead!

SENIOR VOLLEYBALL & CRICKET

Senior Men's Cricket: Big Hearts in a Tough Contest

Our Year 11 and 12 Senior Men's Cricket team recently took to the field for the Maribyrnong Senior Interschool Cricket competition at Fairbairn Park, facing off against Maribyrnong College and Strathmore Secondary College in what proved to be a challenging but character-building day of cricket.

Perhaps the most impressive part of the team's effort was simply getting the game played – the squad arrived with just 11 players, leaving absolutely no room for error or substitution. Fielding a full side with no reserves is a test of commitment in itself, and our boys met that challenge head-on.

While the results didn't fall our way on the day, the spirit shown throughout the competition was something to be proud of. The team competed hard in every over, encouraged one another through the tough moments, and represented the school with integrity and sportsmanship against two strong opponents.

Days like these – competing at a disadvantage, staying united, and refusing to drop their heads – build the kind of resilience that extends well beyond the boundary rope. We look forward to seeing this group back on the field and building on the experience. Congratulations to the team - Charlie, Leo, Levi, Josh, Zion, Lawson, Kartik, Kabir, Devon, Nash & Ryan.

Senior Volleyball: School Pride on Display at Vic Uni

Our Senior Men's and Women's Volleyball teams both competed with distinction at the Maribyrnong Division Interschool Volleyball competition, held at the Vic Uni Community Stadium.

The Women's team delivered a standout performance, battling their way through the competition to earn a well-deserved semi-final berth. Despite narrowly missing out on a grand final appearance, their run through the competition was a testament to their skill, determination, and teamwork. They left everything on the court and should be enormously proud of what they achieved.



The Men's team also competed strongly throughout the day, showing great heart and effort against quality opposition. While the results didn't go their way, they carried themselves with pride and represented the school with real class.



Across both teams, the commitment and school spirit on show was fantastic – a brilliant effort from all involved.

WOMENS: Matilda, Sienna, Brooklyn, Ruby, Sienna, Marley, Mikayla, Nikki, Diana & Grace

MENS: Richard, William, Jude, Angus, Riley, Ali, Gab, Keanu & Patrick

BASKETBALL

After 2 weeks of trials our Basketball training groups have been set for 2025. This year our Wednesday morning Elite group will be jointly coached by Mike and our partner coach Nic Banon from Keilor Thunder. Nic will bring a focus on tactical play to elevate our students on coach performance in preparation for the upcoming Basketball Vic 3x3 cup season.



AFL & AFLW

Premier League training has kicked off for both our senior AFL and AFLW groups with coaches Ben Clifton and Steph Wales taking their squads through their paces in preparation for upcoming practices matched against PEGS at the end of this term.

There has been a huge increase in interest in our junior AFL program with two weeks of trials needed to get the final squad size to 35 students. Coaches Ryan Allan Lachie Hogan invite all students who were unsuccessful this Semester 1 to re-trail for Semester 2 as space will become available as some of our more developed Year 9 students have the opportunity to train up with the senior squad in preparation for the 2027 season.



NETBALL

It's with great pleasure that we welcome Jenna Astwood to the coaching team at EKC, as our head Netball coach for 2026. Jenna brings years of experience in elite level playing and coaching. You can see Jenna's work in action through social media @astwoodnetball. Our netball program will officially launch after the long weekend.



NEW FOOD TECHNOLOGY ROOM



The Essendon Food Technology room has undergone major renovations over the summer holidays and in the first couple of weeks of term 1. The space has been completely overhauled and modernised with brand new stainless steel benchtops, new sinks, cupboards, Smeg ovens and induction cooktops.

Having state-of-the-art learning facilities for our students is a major priority and the year 10, 11 and 12 Food Studies students have all appreciated these upgrade works.



YEAR 12 STUDY CAMP

Lillie Wilson – Year 12 Coordinator

We had a busy, energetic and genuinely rewarding Year 12 Camp that gave us the chance to step out of the classroom, spend time together and focus on both learning and life beyond school.

We based ourselves at Queen's College and launched straight into our program across the city. Some of us headed out on foot, navigating Melbourne and exploring new spaces, while our VCE English and EAL groups made their way to ACMI to watch the film we are studying on the big screen with surround sound. The follow-up lecture helped sharpen our understanding of key characters, ideas and themes before we all regrouped for lunch in the city.

Back at Queen's, we settled into our rooms (with plenty of excitement around double beds and couches) and took part in sessions focused on what comes next. We explored tertiary pathways, supports available after school and practical ways to approach study in a demanding Year 12 schedule. We spent time thinking about how we study, setting realistic goals for the weeks ahead and reflecting on what we might change or continue as the year unfolds.

Our VM students had a powerful experience in the city, including a visit to the Salvation Army, which challenged assumptions around homelessness and encouraged us to think about how individuals and communities can make a difference. This was followed by a city challenge that had us working in teams, navigating transport and discovering parts of Melbourne many hadn't seen before.

Outside the formal sessions, camp life was full and lively. We ate well, played plenty of basketball and soccer, ran laps of the oval, competed fiercely in trivia, chatted late into the night, spotted possums and made the most of being together. One particularly keen group even managed an early-morning gym session, while the rest of us focused our energy elsewhere.

We wrapped up with a relaxed movie night watching Ferris Bueller's Day Off, a perfect way to wind down after two full days.

Overall, the camp was a valuable opportunity for us to connect, look to the future and set our paths for a big year ahead.



YEAR 12 STUDY CAMP



STRENGTH & CONDITIONING SESSIONS

The Strength and Condition program has commenced for 2026 at the Essendon Campus. We have again engaged the expertise of Essendon AFL Strength and Conditioning coach **Jake Giannakis** to work with our student athletes before school on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. We have already seen great commitment from our student athletes, particularly as they tackle the pre-season with goals and purpose. The students have benefitted from the extended size of the gym space with additional new equipment including ski ergs, rowers and treadmills. For more information, contact Ben Clifton at the Essendon Campus.



BREAKFAST CLUB

BREAKFAST *Club*



THURSDAY MORNINGS 8am

*Niddrie & Essendon
Food Rooms*

Join us every Thursday morning in the Food Rooms for a healthy breakfast with friends. What better way to start the day than with toasties, milk, cereal, juice and hot chocolate!!

Everyone is welcome and we encourage students to join the volunteer roster to help with preparation, set up and clean up of the event. See Ms Caluzzi or Ms Anastasiou if you have any questions.



Essendon Keilor College



AFL
Academy

www.ekc.vic.edu.au



Essendon Keilor College



HIGH ACHIEVERS
Program

www.ekc.vic.edu.au



Essendon Keilor College



BASKETBALL
Academy

www.ekc.vic.edu.au

For more information:

Year 10-12 AFL Program -
Ben Clifton
Year 7 - 9 AFL Program -
Ryan Allan

For more information:

Adele DiVirgiglo
Cory Duker

For more information:

Sport Adademies
Coordinator:
Will Mollross

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PROGRAM

A huge welcome to two of our new students Mao and Ryutauro! Both students join us from our sister school, Honjo High School, in the Saitama Province Japan. Both students have settled in well and have been supported by year 11 International Student, Fumika.

We always welcome new families who wish to host students in their homes for the duration of their stay with us. If you are interested in hosting an international student, please contact International Student Coordinator, Carmela Aldridge.



SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE



Follow us on Instagram & Facebook for information and updates on our students, programs and activities, and don't forget to check our website for further information and details.



<https://www.facebook.com/EssendonKeilorCollege/>

@ESSENDONKEILORCOLLEGE

<https://www.ekc.vic.edu.au/>



TERM 1 2026 KEY DATES

Thursday March 5 th	International Womens Day
Thursday March 5 th	Division Swimming Competition
Thursday March 5 th	Year 9 Grand Prix Excursion
Thursday March 5 th	Niddrie Primary School 'Come & See EKC'
Friday March 6 th	Professional Development day - No classes
Monday March 9 th	Labour Day Public Holiday
Tuesday March 10 th - 13 th	Year 11 Outdoor Education Camp
Wednesday March 11 th - 16 th	Naplan
Thursday March 12 th	School Council Meeting
Tuesday March 17 th	Year 9 'Try a Trade' Day
Wednesday March 18 th - 20 th	Year 7 Camp
Wednesday March 18 th	Keilor Heights Primary School 'Come & See EKC'
Thursday March 19 th	Keilor Primary School 'Come & See EKC'
Friday March 20 th	Year 9 Outdoor Ed Cable Park Excursion
Friday March 20 th	Harmony Day
Wednesday April 1st	Western Metropolitan Region Swimming
Thursday April 2nd	End of Term 1 - 2:30PM finish
Friday April 3rd	Good Friday public holiday