

PARENT CONTRIBUTION ARRANGEMENTS 2027

Date: 6th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

This letter provides information about Voluntary Contributions you can make to support Pakenham Secondary College for 2027 and other payments you can choose to make.

Victorian Government Schools provide free instruction. This means all students have free access to all items, activities and services that schools use to deliver the curriculum, including reasonable adjustments to support students with disability.

Some families choose to make a Voluntary Financial Contribution to support the school, and we are very grateful for this support. Making a Voluntary Contribution is your choice. There is no expectation or pressure for families to contribute.

Pakenham Secondary College offers a range of items and activities that are additional to the free instruction provided to all students at our school. Financial help is available for extra-curricular items and activities if you are experiencing financial hardship (see further details under Financial Help for Families in the attached information). For a confidential discussion about how to access the financial help available, please contact: Business Manager: Meagan Baguley on (03) 5945 1433 or email pakenham.sc@education.vic.gov.au Any further enquiries concerning Parent Contribution Arrangements for 2027, please call the Department of Education.

If you need an interpreter, please contact [03 9605 3053](tel:0396053053) and give our school's phone number (03) 5945 1433. An interpreter can help you speak with us. This service is free. For more information, please see [How to use an interpreter to contact your school](#).

For more information on the Department of Education's Parent Contributions policy please see the information attached. You can read the full policy at [Parent Contributions: Policy | education.vic.gov.au](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parent-contributions-policy).

Yours Sincerely

Department of Education (Victoria)

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

If you are the carer of a student in out-of-home care or hold a financially means-tested card (such as a healthcare card), please ignore the invitation to make voluntary contributions.

We encourage any family experiencing financial hardship to contact the school for information about the financial help available for extra-curricular activities like camps and excursions.

Voluntary contributions	Suggested amount – parents can contribute more or less
Voluntary contributions to enhance our school's range of programs, resources and environment for Years 7-12	\$250

Extra-curricular items and activities

Pakenham Secondary College offers a range of optional items and activities that are additional to the free instruction provided to all students at our school. Accessing these items and activities does require payment, but financial support is available (see further details under Financial Help for Families below).

Example extra-curricular items and activities include:

- optional activities, camps, excursions and programs

We have provided confirmed or indicative costs of known extra-curricular items and activities below.

Extra-curricular items and activities	Indicative cost	Confirmed cost (where known)	Parent/carer to select
Locker Combination Lock (Year 7 only)		\$15	
Year 7 Camp 2027	\$450		
School Magazine Hard Copy (digital version is free)		\$26	
Year 12 Valedictory Dinner	\$95		
2027 Central Australia tour	\$2984.30		
Excursions priced per event and advertised with at least 2 weeks to pay	TBA		

LEARNING MATERIALS FOR STUDENTS TO OWN

Booklist items:

You can choose to buy learning materials for your child to individually use and own. These items can be bought from any supplier.

Pakenham Secondary College has an arrangement with the following supplier for the materials that you can buy:

CAMPION

If you do not buy these items, your child will still be provided with what they need, however they may not be provided with these items to own, or keep, on an individual basis. If you wish to buy items through the supplier, please see **the recommended list that will be provided and published on our website when finalised.**

Digital subscriptions:

Pakenham Secondary College uses the below digital subscriptions for learning. You can buy a subscription directly if you want:

- Essential Maths can be purchased from Campion booklist for \$15 Years 7 - 9 only

If you do not buy a subscription, your child will be provided with access to what they need for their learning.

Digital devices:

Pakenham Secondary College uses digital devices to support learning. You are able to buy a device for your child to own. If you do not buy a device, your child will be provided with access as they need for their learning, but it may not be one-to-one, to take home, or to keep.

You can find information about the digital devices our school recommends, including minimum device specifications, at <https://www.pakenhamsc.vic.edu.au/laptop-program>

You can buy the digital device from Edunet Technology for \$879.76. You can also buy a device meeting these specifications from any other retailer.

FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

Pakenham Secondary College understands families can experience financial difficulty. Help is available, including:

- **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund** – this program provides funding for eligible students, including those in out of home care, and holders of eligible financially means-tested cards (such as health care cards), to attend activities like camps, sporting activities, excursions and incursions that are offered on a user-pays basis.
- **Affordable School Uniforms** - delivered by State Schools Relief, this program helps cover costs such as school uniforms, shoes, and other essential school items where families are experiencing financial hardship or short-term crisis.
- Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Applications for support from the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and State Schools Relief are submitted by the school - please contact us to discuss these and other financial help.

For a confidential discussion about how to access financial help, please contact:

Business Manager – Meagan Baguley

Ph: 03 5945 1433 | Email: Pakenham.sc@education.vic.gov.au

PAYMENT METHODS

Pakenham Secondary College offer the following payment methods

Compass Pay
EFTPOS
Bpay
Centrelink
Cash

If you want to make voluntary contributions throughout the year, you can:

- decide when to make each contribution
- choose the amount of each contribution.

If you would like to pay for extra-curricular items and activities through instalments, please use the following payment plan/s:

Compass pay instalments

Contact Accounts receivable via email : 8223-excursions@school.vic.edu.au to arrange your payment schedule

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 of Education's [Parent Contributions](#) policy and guidance, [Financial Help for Families](#) policy, and any other relevant information.