



COBDEN TECHNICAL SCHOOL

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Committed to Students, Committed to Success

Be sure to check out the website for our school
<https://www.cobtech.vic.edu.au/>

Term 4 Week 9

December 2023

We are committed to find and celebrate successful outcomes for students, whether that is in the pursuit of high-level academic achievement, or the development of specific vocational skills.

The values we strive to develop and promote through our interactions with students, parents and other members of our community are Honesty, Excellence, Accountability, Respect and Trust - HEART

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School Council Parent/Student Representatives: Jedda Couch (President) Liz Roberts (Vice President)
Anita La Franchi Rebecca Armistead Mardi Foster Madison Osborne Fleur De Groot

In the spirit of reconciliation, Cobden Technical School acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this country the Djargurd Wurrung and Kirrae Whurrung peoples of the Eastern Maar nation. We pay our deepest respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the tradition, the culture and identity of the Indigenous peoples of Australia.

Farewell Cass, our Assistant Principal

Recently some staff gathered to farewell our Assistant Principal Cass and wish Amanda Camp well on her impending new arrival. Staff had many laughs getting their creative juices flowing and produced some spectacular art! Thanks to Stacey William artist for running the event.

We will miss our Assistant Principal Cass. She is kind, caring, calm, compassionate and considerate. Everyone sincerely wishes Cass all the best with her new role and thank her for all of her contributions to CTS.



Assistant Principal's Desk

Cass Crevola – Assistant Principal

It's been a busy few weeks at school as our senior students complete their **Upgrade and Careers programs**. Students got an advance taste of their 2024 subjects, with course details and holiday tasks shared with classes. We encourage all students to make sure to engage with these tasks over the summer break so that they can make a smooth start into the new year.

The Careers program involved an exciting schedule of visiting speakers, excursions and mock job interviews. It was delightful to see smiles on students' faces as they emerged from these interviews proud of their efforts - and probably a bit relieved to be over the nerves! We were also delighted to hear that the **Melbourne Orientation Camp** was a fantastic success - thanks to Narelle Holliday, Jason Beveridge and Sarah Cook running this fantastic program, over recent weeks, and also for attendance at the camp along with Spike Matthews.



Our **End of Year Program** is fast approaching - we encourage families to make certain to return permission forms early for these exciting days ahead. The final week of activities for our Year 7-9 students involves a **student free day on Monday 11 December**, then concludes with the three days of activities and the Presentation Afternoon on Friday 15 December. We look forward to an exciting week to celebrate a fantastic year.

We are delighted at the moment to once again be hosting Associates training under the **Teach for Australia program**. Students will be benefiting from three Associates joining in the teaching and learning activities in their classrooms as they continue their early teacher education.

This Thursday, we had all of our Year 7-9 classes heading off to **Treetop Adventures** to scale the ropes courses. We're delighted that the efforts of our Health and PE staff have enabled us to run this excursion for students at no cost. We also look forward to the **Summer Sports day on Monday**, involving all of our students in a range of activities on- and off-site. Best wishes to all of the teams!

The **planning for our potential building program** continues, with plans for the location of key school facilities and spaces currently being finalised. We're very excited about the way that this project allows us to consider carefully the way that we offer programs and courses and we're eagerly awaiting the 2024 budget in hopes of learning that the actual build will be funded.



As I reach the end of my time with Cobden Technical School, **I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the school community** for all of the wonderful ways that they support our students and staff. From the amazing efforts of our Parents Committee in getting events and fundraisers up and running, to the involvement of our community organisations and businesses in supporting work experience and student activities and excursions, I have been constantly impressed by the way in which Cobden supports its young people and its school. I have enjoyed a fabulous time working and teaching here and I look forward to hearing about the exciting developments in store with the proposed building project. Though it's just a little early, as I head off this week I wish all of our families a delightful festive season and a safe and relaxing summer break.

Senior Sub-School Report

Sarah Cook – Senior Sub-School Leader

Congratulations to our Class of 2023

What a beautiful evening celebrating this group of young adults. Families, staff and students gathered at the Bistro on Neylon to share a delicious meal, take lots of glamorous photos and listen to some thank yous and congratulations from staff and students as well as some parting words of wisdom.



UPGRADE

During our Upgrade program students worked hard learning about their new subjects, the requirements and getting stuck into some course work. Parents should check with their students what they need to enable them to be set up for success in 2024 and make sure that the holiday homework is completed.

Students that were absent should contact the school to arrange work collection.

Booklists are available now on the school website for students to organise the necessary textbooks and equipment for 2024.

ELEVATE EDUCATION

On the Friday Elevate Education presented some workshops on time management and study skills and goal setting. All year 2024 Year 11 and 12 students attended these workshops as we see VCE and VM pathways as being equal and it was important for all students to learn these important life skills. 100% of students recommended this program to other students and believe the program was time well spent on their feedback sheet.

The overwhelming response was that it was engaging, and good to have a young presenter who ensured he balanced the presentation about academic success but also the skills being important for students lives outside of school including sport, work and leisure.



Students said they learned the following

“How to be more effective with work , how to be better motivated, how to study, importance of belief, how to set up a planner, not to be overwhelmed, effective use of time, task is more important than time, managing work and life, taking breaks between study, celebrate small wins.”

MINI GOLF and TEAM BUILDING

Students then walked over and enjoyed a game of mini golf. There were a few holes in one with students winning themselves a new drink bottle. Students were also very interested in the noise of the go karts, with many unaware that we had a go cart track so close by so we wandered by for a look. Following that we enjoyed a pizza lunch.

The afternoon gave students the opportunity to choose their own activities to build relationships and have fun. Uno, air hockey, volleyball were just some of the choices and it was wonderful to see students making new connections and enjoying the equipment we have at school.

Overall students had a great week and it is a reminder of the importance of attending school every day, especially when events such as these are organised to support our students.



Junior Sub-School Report

Jen McLennan – Junior Sub-School Leader

I can't believe how quickly the year has gone. This time last year our year 7s were nervously preparing for life at secondary school; now they have settled in and ready to move onto year 8, as I start to welcome our new students.

As always as things wind down for the end of the year, they also ramp up in terms of end of year activities and celebrations.

Students in year 7-9 have had the opportunity to participate in range of sporting events, including the surf and kayaking day in Warrnambool; Mountain bike sessions during HPE, and most recently a trip to Treetop Adventures. We also have the Summer Sports on this Monday, a great chance for students to play sports with students from other schools, in a relaxed and casual environment. A big thank you to the staff who organise and supervise these wonderful opportunities, especially Neal Simmonds, Spike Matthews and Belinda Savage.



Our presentation afternoon will be held on Friday afternoon, and we welcome all families to join us and celebrate the end of year and students' achievements. Letters will be sent out to families to inform them if their child will be receiving an award. Please note that for students receiving an award, full school uniform-including plain black shoes and plain socks- is required for your child to collect an award. There will be uniform checks on the day. If you need any assistance with uniform, please contact the school.

Careers Report

Jason Beveridge – Careers coordinator

As our senior students finish their studies for 2023, their eyes start to turn towards 2024 and what the future may bring. As such, the careers office has been busy helping students solidify their plans for next year. Considering tertiary options for those in Year 12, choosing classes for those in Year 10 and 11, discussing work placements for VM students and, for some, organising school based apprenticeships. The end of the year is a busy time where students need guidance and support to help alleviate nerves heading into 2024.

Year 10 and 11 students have also just completed a full week of careers activities. Students were given time and support to create a resume and to write a cover letter for a mock job application. Nicky Suter, from Deakin University, delivered 'Future Ready' workshops designed to help students complete their resume, helping them to reflect on what information about themselves may be of value to an employer. We then supported students to create, edit and fine tune these documents. Students submitted these mock job applications and then participated in mock job interviews. We would like to thank Kelvin White, Annette Hickey, Bryan Ward, Michael Absalom, Melanie Askew, Rochelle Garlick, and Katie P. for giving their time to support our students and act as interviewers. Feedback from the interviewers was extremely positive, confirming what we already know, they are a great bunch of young adults!



Students were visited by Jacob Rhodes from Westvic who spoke about apprenticeships and school based apprenticeships and provided general job seeker advice. Students were also lucky enough to undertake an extensive tour of the Fonterra plant in Cobden. Fonterra were especially generous with their time, and students spent 2 hours observing the variety of activity that takes place, the range of employment opportunities and meeting staff and learning their career pathways. It was also great to run into some ex CTS students and other family and community members we recognised and we all got the sense of how much the staff loved working at Fonterra and the passion they had for their individual roles within such a large organisation. We thank Fonterra sincerely for their support.



The week was completed with a two day immersion camp in Melbourne. Students completed a number of tasks and activities that necessitated that they navigate Melbourne's public transport system. Year 11 students were able to solidify their knowledge learnt during their week of work experience and share this understanding with the Year 10's, who now feel more confident about going to Melbourne for a week of work experience in 2024. Students in Year 10, upon returning to Cobden, embarked on a week of work experience to finish their year.



The Year 9 students also completed the Future Me program, delivered by Deakin University. The program is designed to help students consider the skills they need to be employable in the future. This day had been planned for term 3, but due to cyclonic winds terrorising Warrnambool, it was necessary to re-schedule. This program is one-part of our on-going relationship with Deakin University that allows us to access a variety of activities, programs and support.

The careers year will finish by completing Career Action Plans for junior students, planning Melbourne Work Experience for 2024 and contacting the class of 2022 to offer them support twelve months on from finishing school.

Leading Teachers Report

Narelle Holliday & Sarah Cook – Leading Teacher coordinators

We are delighted to share highlights from recent school activities and updates in this edition of the newsletter.

Year 10 and 11 Melbourne Orientation Camp: Our Year 10 and 11 students embarked on an enriching journey during the Melbourne Orientation Camp. Departing on Thursday via train, they immersed themselves in a variety of orientation activities on trams and trains in the vibrant city of Melbourne. The experience included a fascinating tour of the MCG and an evening visit to the BBC World exhibition. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to DOXA for their invaluable support in making this and other camps possible throughout the year.



Subject Selections for Year 9 and 10 Electives: For our Year 9 and 10 students, the process of selecting electives is a crucial step in shaping their pathway. We want to express our gratitude to those who diligently returned their selections by the due date. While some classes proved highly popular, we've worked to accommodate everyone, even making adjustments to ensure that students who are placed in their second choices are still in for an exciting and rewarding experience.

Hands-On Shed Transformation: A special thank you goes out to the dedicated Hands-On Team, who have been hard at work clearing and organizing their space. This effort is part of our ongoing commitment to enhance the learning environment for all students. The upcoming addition of a pottery kiln and VM tools during the Hampden School redevelopment should progress easily because of your work.

Wellbeing

Wellbeing team: Liv Williams (Student Counsellor), Mel Benson (School Nurse), Kelsea Sillar (Mental Health Practitioner)

As we approach the end of the academic year, the past few weeks have seen our senior students engaged in a myriad of tasks, both within and outside the school premises. These endeavours have not only prepared them for the upcoming academic year but have also marked the commencement of their journey into the workforce. Congratulations on successfully navigating through another year!



For the remainder of this term, Breaky Club will be in full swing every morning, ensuring our students kick-start their day with a nutritious boost. The offerings include toasties, fruit cups, muesli bars, fruit, and mini milks.

Our school nurse, Mel, in collaboration with Jen Goddard, have been conducting Teen Mental Health First Aid® (MHFA™) training for our current year 10 students over the past 2 weeks. This course equips teenagers with the skills to recognise and address mental health challenges and crises in their peers, facilitating prompt adult intervention when needed.

The Hands-On Learning Program has been bustling with activity this term, overseen by our senior staff. The task was set to clean out our shed to make space for the new buildings despite the dust and tediousness, we discovered some hidden gems! Recent accomplishments include refurbishing nine workstations, demolishing outdated projects, sorting materials, assembling seven new shelving units, and nearing completion of our new kitchen bench. Additionally, a community member noted the presence of bird nests in our bird huts around the Cobden Dam—a very cool way to end our year! We head off to Warrnambool for our end of year trip, creating several puzzles at Lake Pertobe with some lunch, on the way home spotting some whales and a quick sandcastle competition!



As students approach the final weeks of the academic year, with juniors immersed in various activities and seniors participating in work experience week, it's crucial to acknowledge the significance of both physical and mental well-being. In the midst of the year-end rush, remember to check in with loved ones, as this period can be challenging for many.



Food hampers will be available for every family at the end-of-year assembly, with additional support available at the front office for those who have accepted it. All information remains private and confidential. Contact the school promptly if you require a hamper.

This term has kept the Wellbeing team on their toes as they prioritise students' well-being, ensuring they possess the necessary skills and tools to navigate the summer break successfully. Recognising that every student requires support at some point, it's essential to appreciate the importance of school, its routines, and boundaries for our students.

The SSLs and the Wellbeing team continue to support students in their learning and overall well-being, ensuring they are well-prepared to face the challenges of the holidays and ready to learn at the outset of 2024. The team is currently planning new events and training modules for the upcoming year.

A heartfelt farewell to Cass, with immense gratitude for her contributions. We will miss her as she embarks on a new adventure. Best wishes, Cass.

Thank you for your unwavering support throughout the year.

Have a safe, and happy Christmas and New Year.

Liv Williams, School Counsellor

Uniform

UNIFORM

It is wonderful to see many of our students wearing our school uniform correctly. However, recently it has been noted that items that are not permitted in the uniform policy are being worn. **Our Presentation Afternoon to be held on Friday 15th December requires all students to be in full school uniform to be able to accept their award on stage.** It is also a reminder to ensure parents/guardians buy the correct uniform ready for next year.

Here is a reminder of our permitted items of uniform.

Trousers: Black tailored trousers

Dress: Traditional style in designated school fabric

Shorts: Tailored, black, knee length no logo

Skirt: Green, black and white checked pleated skirt

Shirt: White polo shirt

Socks: Plain white or black socks

Jumper: Green V neck jumper, green polar fleece top, or green jacket, with School logo. Year 12 students may wear the rugby jumper.

Hat: Cobden Technical School bucket hat – As we are a sunsmart school all students must wear a hat outside during Term 1 and 4.

Shoes: All students will wear enclosed **black** leather footwear.



PE – Students are required to wear the Cobden Technical School green sport shirt and black shorts or black pants without pockets (due to safety)

NOTE: Students must not wear their PE uniform to and from school.

They must bring a change of PE clothes to put on and change out of including runners.

******Tracksuit pants, jeans and leggings are not permitted uniform attire, even with a note. Peak caps are not permitted at any time.**

Parents can support the students by:

- Ensuring students have access to all required uniform items including enclosed black leather shoes.
- Making sure students leave home each morning in full school uniform.
- Providing students with a note should an item of uniform be unavailable for a short period of time explaining why and making sure students dress in appropriate alternative clothes on this occasion.
- Communicating with the school should they require financial assistance with the uniform.

Students are encouraged to comply by:

- Engaging in supporting conversations around uniform in mentor time and their classes.
- Providing an explanatory note from parent/carer when out of uniform.
- Being prepared to cooperate with necessary consequences for uniform infringements.
This includes: removing any extra items of clothing or inappropriate pieces and collecting from the office at the end of the day. Being provided with appropriate pieces, where possible, to replace the out of uniform item.
- Understanding that they will not be able to attend excursions, including sports days, when not in uniform (unless it is explicitly stated that casual clothes may be worn)

School staff will support the students by:

- Ensuring students are in full school uniform when they arrive to Mentor session and subject classes.
- Requesting notes from students who are out of uniform.
- Ensuring students are in full school uniform for excursions and activities
- Managing students who are out of uniform by arranging for student to change into uniform items where appropriate.
- Documenting uniform concerns on compass and further communicating with parents and carers around uniform issues as needed , this may be requesting parents bring in appropriate uniform items or collect students who will not comply with the uniform policy.

Reichas is our uniform supplier and they are open on the following days and times:

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 11am- 4pm

If you are unable to attend during opening times, please contact Reicha's or the school and alternative arrangements can be made.

The Leadership and Wellbeing team appreciate your continued support. If you require any support with uniform, please call the school 5595 1202.

We are also seeking donations of uniform items no longer required so that we can continue to support those in need. Please drop into the office or call the school to arrange collection.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$150 for primary school students
- \$250 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



Calendar 2023 & 2024

TERM 4 2023

WEEK 10	DATE	EVENT
Monday	1 December	➤ HSSSD Sports Day Year 7-9
Tuesday	5 December	➤ School Council meeting @ 5:00pm
WEEK 11	DATE	EVENT
Monday	11 December	➤ STUDENT FREE DAY (Staff completing first aid training)
Tuesday	12 December	➤ Final day Year 7-9 classes
Tuesday	12 December	➤ Statewide Transition Day
Wed-Fri	13-15 December	➤ End of Year program Year 7-9 (Wednesday, 14 th Dec - Geelong Adventure Park 9:00am-5:00pm) (Thursday, 15 th Dec – Port Campbell swimming, bushwalking & beach activities)
Friday	15 December	➤ Presentation afternoon

TERM 1 2024

WEEK 1	DATE	EVENT
Monday	29 January	➤ Staff resume
Tuesday	30 January	➤ Mentor interview day
Wednesday	31 January	➤ Year 7, 11 & 12 students return
Thursday	1 February	➤ Year 8-10 students return
WEEK 2	DATE	EVENT
Friday	9 February	➤ CTS Swimming Sports (sessions 3-6)
WEEK 3	DATE	EVENT
Monday	12 February	➤ HSSSD Senior Boys Cricket (at Timboon)
WEEK 4	DATE	EVENT
Friday	23 February	➤ HSSSD Swimming (at Warrnambool)

COBDEN SWIMMING CLUB

Cobden Swimming Club will be up and running Monday to Thursday nights between 5:00pm-6:00pm from Monday 27th November. Feel free to come every night or just once a week. David Robertson (Robbo) and Matthew Coverdale are our experienced coaches who volunteer their time to teach our children and adults.

People can have three Trial swims before full membership is due. Please come along and see if you enjoy it. We aim to provide a fun learning environment with games also featuring highly in training (water polo, volleyball etc.). Diving from the blocks is a huge highlight for the kids leading into school sports. Please note that we are a stroke development club and it is preferred that swimmers be able to swim one length of the 33m pool.

We will have a break over the Christmas and New Year period. This season will also see the return of our Swimming Carnival in Cobden. A fantastic event people from around the district compete in what is a great opportunity to put their swimming skills to the test.

Swimming Club fees (including Swimming Victoria & National membership)


- Swimmer 8 years and under - \$140.45
- Swimmer 9 years and over - \$151.45
- Dry member (parents) - \$15.46 (One parent must be signed up per family)



Please note normal pool entry fees also apply .

Any questions contact Matthew Coverdale 0417 650 026 or Wendy Bailey 0439 694185.

See you in the water!



"LETS LEARN GOLF"

We want our Juniors to learn the game at the Cobden Golf Club

Coaching dates from 10:00am
Sunday Nov 26th, Dec 3rd, 10th & 17th
Christmas break
Sunday Jan 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th

Coaching by Michael Bainbridge - PGA Golf Pro and Sam Rix current Cobden Golf Club Champion.

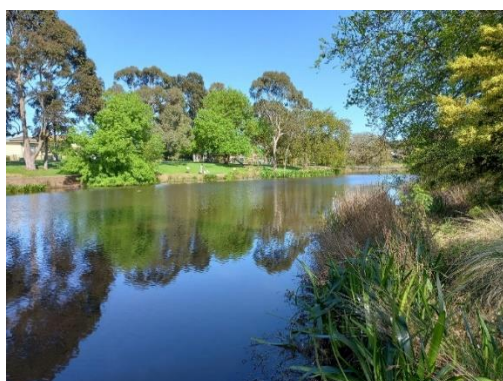
All junior golfers are welcome to attend our FREE Golf Coaching Clinics - All equipment supplied
Phone Cobden Golf Club (03) 5595 1393 to book in

Junior Golf at Cobden Golf Club is supported by the Frank Hodgson bequest

Volunteers needed at Cobden Lake on Wednesday, 6th December

Our lake needs a polish-up. **Anytime from 4pm** on Wednesday 6th, we're asking for help to tidy up areas within the Lake Cobden precinct. Bring any gear to assist you to give the lake a **Christmas Make-over**, a bit of beautification so our jewel can continue to glisten over the holiday period. Make it a family event, bring your club, your staff, your kids, your mother-in-law

Yes, there will be a **free BBQ about 6.30 to 7pm** so we can debrief and count our blessings. Many hands will make a huge difference in a short amount of time. **If you can't make it on the 6th, please look at doing a bit on another day at another time.** The old lake would certainly appreciate your TLC.



COBDEN ★
NEW YEAR'S EVE
From 5pm
★ *Family friendly*

Mini Trains

Mini Golf

Pioneer Park ★

