



COBDEN TECHNICAL SCHOOL

47 McKenzie Street, Cobden Vic 3266
P ♦ 5595 1202
E ♦ cobden.ts@education.vic.gov.au

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 11

December 2025

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 Teamwork - HEART

Inside this Issue

Principal's Desk.....	3
Assistant Principal Report	4
Junior Subschool Report.....	5
Sports Report.....	7
Social Media Restriction Information.....	10
Free Driving Lesson Available!	12
Calendar.....	17
Community News	18

School Council Parents: Anita La Franchi ♦ Rebecca Armistead ♦ Fiona Dobbins ♦ Amanda Weel ♦ Simone Hayes ♦ Greg Suter

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.



Presentation Awards Afternoon

This event is a highlight in which we proudly celebrate the academic, sporting and citizenship achievements of our students.

We would like to sincerely thank our community sponsors for their generous support. Your continued commitment to our students and school community helps encourage excellence, confidence and pride in learning and leadership. These awards would not be possible without your involvement.

Congratulations to our newly announced 2026 School Captains Zoe Buck and Adam Jopling who will be assisted by Vice Captains Alyvia McLean and Felix Nguena Nguena.

Whilst we are proud of each and every one of our students and their individual achievements, we would like to acknowledge the following students who achieved the most awards for each category in their year level.

Endeavour Awards

These awards recognise students who consistently demonstrate our HEART values, Honesty, Excellence, Accountability, Respect and Teamwork in their daily learning and interactions. Class teachers nominate students who embody these values and all students who are nominated receive an Endeavour Award.

Year 7 Endeavour Award	Cooper B, Sophie H & Tyson O
Year 8 Endeavour Award	Sophie M
Year 9 Endeavour Award	Audrey W
Year 10 Endeavour Award	Marli P
Unit ½ Endeavour Award	Hayden C
Unit ¾ Endeavour Award	Phoebe H



Academic Awards

Academic Awards are presented to the highest-achieving student in each subject across every year level or VCE unit. These awards celebrate outstanding academic excellence. The following students received the most Academic Awards for their year level.

Year 7	Cale R
Year 8	Eveleen Chloe M
Year 9	Jeromy L
Year 10	Kayley M & Ewen R
Unit 1 & 2	Adam J & Alyvia M
Unit 3 & 4	Tabitha P



Special Awards

Special Awards highlight exceptional contributions and accomplishments within our school community. These may include recognition for significant academic achievement, citizenship, leadership, sports excellence and community involvement. These awards are presented by representatives from sponsors and community organisations.

ADF Future Innovators STEM Award Year 10	Clancy W
ADF Future Innovators STEM Award Year 12	Phoebe H
ADF Long Tan Leadership Award Year 10	Olivia B
ADF Long Tan Leadership Award Year 12	Tabitha P
AMPOL All Rounder Award	Zoe B
Camperdown Clock Tower Quilters Textiles Award	Marli P
Cobden Miniature Railway Junior Technology Award	Kai S
Cobden Quota Friends of Rotary Elsie Denney (OAM) Memorial Encouragement Award	Aarion C
Cobden Technical School Music Award	Eveleen Chloe M & Ethan D
Cobden Technical School Sports Champion: Sponsored by the Cobden Football Netball Club and Evan Savage Plumbing	Riley B
Corangamite Shire Citizenship Award	Bradey F
Deakin University VCE DUX Award	Phoebe H
Emily Rylance Memorial Encouragement Award	Will K
GreenCon Senior Technology Award	Ewen R
Leura Lodge Award Citizenship Award	Audrey W
Lions Club of Camperdown Award	Sophie H
Olympic Change Maker	Tabitha P & Bradey F
Progressing Cobden Award	Kayley M
Rotary Club of Cobden Citizenship Award	Adam J
School Sports Victoria Medal	Lenny D
South West TAFE VET Excellence Award	Ryan F
TJ & SL Clarke Curdie Car Care Senior VCE VM Award	Alyvia M
Westvic Staffing Solutions VCE Vocational Major Award	Imogen E



We also thank the following sponsors for their generous donations towards our Heart & Academic awards:

Campion Education	Cobden Men's Shed
Cobden Coaches Pty Ltd	Office National Warrnambool

Congratulations to the 2025 Cobden Technical School VCE Dux Phoebe Harris.



We would like to share some of Phoebe's speech she presented.

"When people hear the word Dux they often imagine someone with a perfect score but for me, this achievement isn't about a number, it's about growth, effort and the journey I took to get here. Behind this number isn't perfect exam scores, but the 13 years getting to know the people around me and myself. It's not about perfection but persistence.

Being at a small school means we learn more than what's in the textbook. We learnt how to push ourselves without the competition of others, how to connect and engage with the community and get to know the people around you better.

One thing the teachers always told me is that life, especially school, is a roller coaster; they were right. There were highs where you thought everything is possible and there were lows where it felt like the ride wasn't going to stop dropping.

This place has taught me that success isn't about how smooth the ride is, it's about finding your people along the way and keeping an open mind.

Any score you get does not define you. Your character does. Your effort does. Always keep an open mind and follow your heart and take advantage of every opportunity. No matter what anybody tells you, words and ideas can change the world!"



Principal's Desk

Narelle Holliday – Principal



As the school year draws to a close, it's a great time to pause and reflect on the challenges, growth and achievements that have shaped 2025 at Cobden Technical School. Across the year, our students and staff have taken on new opportunities, supported one another and continued to make our school a positive place to learn and belong.

In the final weeks of term, students enjoyed a great range of end-of-year activities, including Adventure Park, Colac's cinema and bowling, and a fun visit to the local Rotary mini golf, before coming together for the Presentation Award Afternoon. These activities rely on the goodwill and commitment of staff, and I sincerely thank everyone who helped supervise and organise these experiences. If you haven't already, I encourage you to visit the Cobden Technical School Facebook page to see some of the highlights.

Back at school, staff were also busy preparing for Presentation Award Afternoon and creating a wonderful display of student work in the library. Taking the time to walk through this display was a real highlight for me and a strong reminder of the many different ways our students have achieved and grown throughout the year.

Tuesday, 9 December, was another special day as we welcomed our 2026 Year 7 students for their orientation. Seeing these seventeen students begin their secondary school journey is always exciting and a reminder of the learning and opportunities that lie ahead for them.



We also celebrated the achievements of our graduating Year 12 students, along with award recipients from each year level, at the presentation assembly. Recognising these achievements is always a privilege and reflects the important role Cobden Tech plays in supporting students as they plan for their futures. Congratulations to Phoebe Harris, our 2025 VCE Dux, for her commitment to her studies, and to our 2026 School Captains, Adam Jopling and Zoe Buck, who will be well supported by Vice Captains Felix Nguena Nguena and Alyvia McLean.

I would also like to extend a personal thank you to Sarah Cook for her work this year. Sarah consistently goes above and beyond to ensure our students are ready to learn and that the day-to-day running of the school is smooth and well organised. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

Finally, thank you to our students, parents and staff for contributing to such a welcoming and supportive school community. We look forward to welcoming new students in 2026 and continuing to support all students as they work towards their goals.

Wishing everyone a safe and restful summer break, and a very Merry Christmas.

Assistant Principal Report

Sarah Cook – Assistant Principal

It has been another productive and positive year at our school, marked by strong collaboration, continued improvement and a shared commitment to supporting every student to achieve their personal best.

Acknowledgment of Sub-School Leaders

I extend my sincere thanks to our Sub-School Leaders, Jason and Jen for their outstanding work throughout the year. Their dedication to supporting student behaviour, wellbeing and attendance has ensured that students receive the individualised programs and adjustments they need to thrive. Their leadership has contributed significantly to creating a safe, supportive and engaging learning environment for all.

Junior School Highlights

The Junior School team has continued to strengthen transition support and early secondary engagement. Key achievements include:

- **Transition Programs:** Smooth and supportive processes for incoming Year 7 students, helping them settle confidently into secondary school life.
- **Camps Program:** Valuable experiential learning opportunities that build teamwork, resilience, and independence.
- **Mentor Classes & RRRR Education:** Mentor sessions focused on building relationships and delivering the Respectful Relationships (RRRR) curriculum, promoting emotional literacy, positive relationships and help-seeking skills.

Senior School Highlights

The Senior School has had a strong focus on preparing students for their pathways beyond school. Significant achievements include:

- **Careers Activities:** Comprehensive careers education and engagement in subject and pathway planning.
- **Work Experience Program:** Authentic opportunities for students to explore industries, develop employability skills, and refine future aspirations.
- **Leadership & Personal Development:** Support for students taking on leadership roles and participating in programs that develop confidence, teamwork and responsibility.

Wellbeing Team Contributions

Our Wellbeing Team has played a crucial role in promoting inclusion, safety and student health. Thank you to Kayla, Mel, Sharon and Kelsea alongside the Sub-School Leaders. We have lots of exciting initiatives and events planned for 2026.

Targeted Support Programs

This year saw the successful implementation and expansion of several specialised programs designed to support engagement and wellbeing for small groups of students. These included:

- **One Day Studio**
- **Art Therapy**
- **Bands and Music Therapy**

These programs have provided students with creative outlets, therapeutic support and opportunities to connect with peers and staff. We aim to continue these programs next year with some adjustments made.

School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS)

A key milestone this year was staff completing training in **Tier 2 SWPBS**, strengthening our consistent and proactive approach to behaviour support. We are proud to have received our **Bronze Recognition Certificate**, acknowledging our school-wide commitment to positive behaviour systems and structures.

End-of-Year Activities

We were excited to finish the year with a celebratory week of engaging activities last week including:

- **Adventure Park Excursion**
- **Year 7/8 Melbourne Zoo trip**
- **Year 9 Movie and Bowling Day**
- **Bands Performing to our new 2026 Year 7**
- **End of Year Presentation Day**



These activities recognised the hard work of students and staff and provide positive shared experiences to finish the year on a high. Thank you to the staff that organised and supported these events. **Please see the report on Presentation Awards to acknowledge our sponsors and award winners.**

Looking Forward

As we move into the new year, our focus will continue to be on:

- Strengthening personalised learning and wellbeing support
- Enhancing transitions and pathway programs
- Expanding opportunities for student voice and leadership with the Teach the Teach program and the Student Upstander Program
- Building on our SWPBS framework as we work toward Silver recognition
- Continuing strong communication and partnership with families and the wider community

Welcome Interview Day 2026

As part of our commitment to ensuring a positive and successful start to the 2025 school year, the school will once again be implementing our **Interview Day**. This initiative has become an important component of our transition processes and supports strong, proactive communication between families, students and staff.

The Welcome Interview Day is designed to create a smooth and settled beginning to the school year by providing dedicated time for meaningful conversations before regular classes commence. The key aims include:

- **Building Relationships:** Offering families the opportunity to meet their child's Mentor Teacher and relevant staff in a calm, personalised setting.
- **Understanding Student Needs:** Discussing each student's academic, social, behavioural and wellbeing needs to ensure appropriate supports and strategies are in place from day one.
- **Strengthening School–Home Partnerships:** Encouraging open and transparent communication that enables staff and families to work collaboratively throughout the year.
- **Completing Documentation:** Finalising any required forms, medical updates, learning plans, or consent documentation to ensure the school has accurate and up-to-date information.

Please access Compass to book your appointments.

Finally, thank you to all staff, students, families and the community for their ongoing support and commitment. Together, we look forward to another year of growth, learning and achievement.

Junior Subschool Report

Jen McLennan – Junior Subschool leader



As we conclude another long, productive, and rewarding term, I would like to acknowledge the commitment and resilience shown by our students throughout the year. Their willingness to engage, strive for improvement, and support one another has been evident, and it has been a privilege to work alongside them.

This term has been particularly significant as we welcomed our incoming Year 7 cohort for 2026 through our transition program. It has been encouraging to see so many enthusiastic primary students exploring our learning spaces, meeting staff, and beginning to form a sense of connection with our school community. Their confidence and curiosity give us every reason to look forward to a smooth and positive start to next year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share that I will be stepping down from the Subschool Leadership Team next year. It has been an honour to support our students and families, and I am deeply grateful for the trust and collaboration shown during my time in the role. I look forward to continuing my work within the school in a different capacity, and I wish all students the very best as they move forward into 2026 and beyond.

Thank you to our staff, students, and families for your ongoing support. I wish everyone a safe, restful, and enjoyable break.

Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

Jen McLennan



It has been wonderful to be involved in the Senior Citizens Lunch program throughout the year, and an absolute privilege for our team to serve the Christmas lunch to our local community. This year's festive menu included roast turkey, ham, seasonal vegetables and traditional Christmas puddings, all prepared and served by our dedicated students and staff.

Their hard work and enthusiasm made the event a success and helped strengthen our connections with the wider community. Well done to everyone involved, and we look forward to continuing this valued opportunity next year.



Sports Report

Belinda Savage – Sports Co-ordinator



IMPORTANT 2026 DATES TO NOTE – TERM 1

Tuesday	Feb 10th	CTS Swimming
Tuesday	Feb 17th	HSSSD Cricket Senior Boys (at Timboon)
Monday	Feb 23rd	HSSSD Swimming (at Camperdown)
Tuesday	March 3rd	CTS Athletics
Tuesday	March 17th	HSSSD Athletics (at Camperdown)
Tuesday	March 24 th	GWR Lawn Bowls (at Ararat)
Wednesday	March 25th	GWR Swimming (at Horsham) (need to qualify)

Wow, what a very busy sporting year here at Cobden Technical School, with many outstanding efforts, participation and results over numerous sports. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and remember to stay healthy, active and looking forward to a bigger and better sporting experience in 2026.

Wannon Sports and Volunteer Awards - 2025

Congratulations to Lenny D (Clay Target Shooter) who was recently nominated and received an award from Wannon MP Dan Tehan in Colac at an awards ceremony. Nominations are called from across the electorate and the awards are an important opportunity to recognise the dedication, talent and passion that drive sport in the region. Participating in sport helps to build strong communities, boosts confidence, and fosters a sense of belonging and connection. Lenny was recognised through these awards because of people like Lenny who excel, give, lead and inspire others through their sporting achievements.



Lenny was recently recognised for his outstanding achievements and dedication to sport. Lenny has had an exceptional year, excelling in clay target shooting at local, state, and national levels. His rapid rise from C Grade to A Grade in 2025 reflects remarkable talent, discipline, and determination. Among many highlights, Lenny was the overall winner at the South West Zone School Person's Shoot and achieved multiple podium finishes at both Commonwealth and National Championships. Beyond his individual success, Lenny exemplifies fairness, sportsmanship, and teamwork—always encouraging others and representing his school with pride, integrity, and unwavering commitment.

Summer Sports Day – (Year 7 – 9) - Monday 1st December

On the first day of summer unfortunately our Summer Sports Day was cancelled due to the wet weather. Thank you to all the students for selecting a sport to play on the day but let's hope next year we do get a summer sports day and be able to hold the event.



VCE VM Project – New Arbors for Rail Trail

One of the Year 11 Vocational Major class community development projects this year, in partnership with the Cobden Progress Association was to build two Arbors for the rail trail. The student's toiled away in the Ag Shed cutting, routering and fitting together 216 mortise and tenon joins before staining and assembling the Arbors. As the students had finished school for the year some community volunteers set up the Arbors and concreted them into position on the rail trail in Grayland and Bond Streets.



SchoolTV



SPECIAL REPORT: Embracing Change & New Beginnings

Change is a natural part of growing up. Whether it's the start of a new school year, moving between year levels, or stepping beyond the school gates for the final time, each transition brings a mix of emotions, presenting both opportunities and challenges. These shifts call on young people to adjust to new routines, navigate unfamiliar environments and develop emotional flexibility. While some may embrace these changes, others may find the disruption unsettling and struggle with the loss of predictability.

Research shows that periods of transition are often linked to heightened anxiety, reduced academic engagement and changes in peer relationships. For families, these periods can also bring added stress. Recognising the emotional and psychological impact of change helps us respond more effectively and supportively.

While change can feel daunting, it also offers valuable opportunities for young people to learn and grow. By normalising uncertainty and encouraging open conversations, we help young people face new beginnings with curiosity rather than fear. When children are surrounded by guidance, encouragement and consistent structure, they're far better equipped to manage life's transitions with confidence and resilience.

[Ctrl + Click here for your Special Report](#)



Wellbeing

Kayla Horan (Wellbeing Coordinator)



As 2025 ends I would like to acknowledge all the hard work of the wellbeing team, and the activities and wellbeing days that were observed. It is a team effort to ensure that we are able to support a diverse range of students with a variety of situations, building resilience, self-esteem and autonomy while supporting students to reach their own goals.

This year we have been lucky to be able to provide a variety of supports, events and have several speakers attend to support the needs of our students. Some of our highlights have been:

- Project Rockit - Bullying
- Resilience Project
- Ben Harkin - Motivational speaker
- Pat Cronin - One Punch, Say no to Violence
- Carmen's Legacy - Road Safety
- One Day Studio Program
- Music Therapy with Liam Barling
- Headspace onsite and telehealth
- Art Therapy Program
- Bands Program with Stephen Gill
- WRAD Health (Western Region Alcohol and Drug Centre)
- Some of the days that our school recognised this year are:
- Do It for Dolly
- Mental Health Month
- IDAHOBIT
- International Women's Day
- Men's mental health
- Reconciliation Week
- NAIDOC Week
- R U OK? Day
- Gastrointestinal Cancer Awareness Day
- Good Friday Appeal
- Friendship Day
- Wear it Purple Day

The Wellbeing Team looks forward to being able to provide similar and improved programs for 2026 to support our young people to be the best they can be while they are here at Cobden Technical School.

We wish everyone a safe Christmas and holiday. Please don't forget you can access a list of resources and supports on our school website



Social media age restrictions: A guide for parents and carers



From 10 December 2025, age-restricted social media platforms will have to take reasonable steps to prevent Australians under the age of 16 from creating a social media account or continuing to use an existing account. The new social media age restrictions are intended to keep young people safe from digital harm. While this is a popular decision among many parents and carers, ReachOut research shows that the majority of young people aged 12-15 (72%) disagree with the restrictions or have mixed feelings about them.

Many young people may struggle with accepting the restrictions and could find it difficult to manage the period of transition away from social media. This guide is designed to help you better understand how this change may affect your teen's emotions and wellbeing, and to suggest some ways you can support them to navigate the transition.

REACHOUT



Understanding the impacts

While there are many expected benefits to staying off of social media, your teen may only be considering what they are set to lose.

Social media is a core element of teen friendships today. It's the most common way to chat with friends, to make new friends, and to keep up to date with each other's lives. Many teens also find connection and comfort in digital spaces.

These benefits are especially valued by teens from marginalised backgrounds, who may struggle to see themselves represented in the physical world around them.



Hear how teen content creator George uses social media to celebrate his sexuality and connect with his community

Our research shows that teens also use social media as a way to discover mental health information, often using these platforms as frequently as they would use a search engine like Google.

Delayed access to social media may mean that your teen feels they are losing access to their standard way of communicating with their friends, learning about themselves and connecting with the world around them. They may feel left out, or uncertain about where they fit in, and this could affect their confidence and overall wellbeing.



Browse our Social Media and Teenagers resources

Helping teens cope with this change

Change is a normal part of life. It can even help us to develop strengths such as courage, flexibility and resilience. But change can also be overwhelming and confusing. Negative emotions around losing access to social media may not disappear overnight. Talking about things with them will help your teen to process and accept what's happened.

Here are some quick tips for supporting your teen during this time of change:

1. Listen closely, and with empathy, to what they have to say.
2. Don't dismiss or minimise their feelings about the situation.
3. Help them to practise acceptance by discussing what they can and can't control.
4. Encourage positive wellbeing behaviours such as exercise or journaling.
5. Support them to build offline friendships to prevent isolation and loneliness.
6. Find ways to spend positive time offline together as a family.



More tips on helping teens to cope with change



Supporting lonely or isolated teens

Navigating tension and behaviour change



Having the freedom to make your own choices and decisions is an important part of growing from a teen into a capable adult. These restrictions may feel like a big loss of freedom, and your teen may respond by rebelling or blaming you. Teens with older siblings who can still access social media might also feel they're being treated unfairly, which could cause tension within the family.

You might also notice some behaviour changes in your teen during this time. If they've become dependent on social media for their sense of wellbeing, they may experience some withdrawal-like symptoms. This could look like frequent mood swings, withdrawal from family life, disrupted sleep, poor eating habits, or issues with communication (e.g. they might become impatient or short-tempered).

The first step if you notice tension or a behaviour change is to speak openly about it with your teen. Approach the conversation with empathy and patience, and practise active listening so they feel heard and understood.

If your teen is unresponsive or uncooperative, try to have the chat again after they've had some time to reflect. If they are really struggling, it might be time to seek professional help.



Tips for having a difficult conversation with your teen

Professional support for teens

If you're worried about your teen's mental health and wellbeing, a visit to their GP is a great first step in getting help. You could also explore counselling or therapy.

Your teen may be feeling a lot of uncertainty about whether a professional can help them, how to talk about what they're going through, or whether they even need to see someone. A good way to support your teen through this

process is to make sure they're prepared for their appointment. Sit down together and help them write out what they're feeling and experiencing. Encourage them to refer to this list during their appointment.



More information on seeking professional help for teens

Further information and support



Visit the eSafety social media age restrictions hub for practical information



Explore more of our resources on raising teens



Visit our Parents and Carers Coaching service for one-on-one support

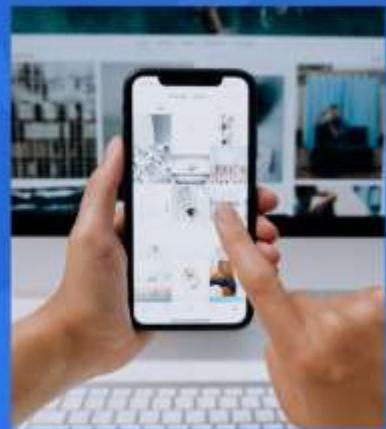


Support and resources for teens available via the ReachOut website

Tips for preparing for the

Social Media Age Restrictions

Click on QR codes to access information



GET READY GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



HOW TO TALK ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA AGE RESTRICTIONS WITH UNDER-16'S



SOCIAL MEDIA AGE RESTRICTIONS AND YOUR FAMILY



ONLINE SAFETY BASICS



SCREEN TIME



PRIVACY AND YOUR CHILD



Free Driving Lesson!

The myLearners free driving lesson is funded by the Transport Accident Commission and delivered in partnership with the Department of Transport and Planning to provide learner drivers and their supervising driver a free lesson with an accredited professional driving instructor.

The myLearners Free Driving Lesson program offers a FREE 60-minute Lesson with a professional driving instructor for learners aged 16–19 who have completed 10–30 hours of driving practice.

The lesson is taken alongside their supervising driver, helping both the learner and supervisor build safer, more confident driving habits together.

This program supports families by making the learning experience more positive and less stressful. It aims to reduce crash risks for young drivers, strengthen supervising skills, and encourage safer driving behaviours early on all at no cost to participants.

Find out more go to - <https://mylearnersdrive.com.au/>

Scan QR Code



The Safe Migration Project

Starting Secondary School

As a school community, we're committed to supporting safe travel habits from the very beginning of secondary school. Through the TAC's Safe Migration Project, we'll be sharing practical tips and resources with families to support you and your children and teenagers to travel safely to and from school - whether they're walking, cycling, using public transport, or being driven.

We encourage you to take a look at the fun and engaging resources on offer, designed to spark important conversations about safe travel to and from school.

You can watch the [TAC's Safe Migration video here](#).

[And click here to read the fact sheet](#) (available in multiple languages) for easy to follow safe travel tips.

Ensure your child travels safely to secondary school with these important tips.

Slow down when driving

Children and teenagers can be easily distracted and unpredictable when using the roads. This makes young people among our most vulnerable road users.

- Slow down and take extra care when driving around school neighbourhoods to protect young people.
- Driving below the sign-posted speed limit helps make children and school environments safer.

Plan the safest route

Whether walking or riding to school, it is important to:

- spend time with your child planning a safe route - **the quickest way isn't necessarily the safest**
- travel the route together before the school year begins to become familiar with the path and ensure it is safe
- help your child plan to avoid potential hazards, such as busy, high-speed roads and complicated intersections on their way to school
- plan to travel on streets and roads with lower speed limits (ideally 40 km/h or less).

Encourage walking safely

Walking is a great form of active travel to school because it improves health and wellbeing and is better for the environment. If walking:

- encourage your child to eliminate distractions, such as using a mobile phone, especially when crossing roads
- remind your child to always cross at pedestrian crossings, pedestrian lights, pedestrian refuges, and places where drivers can clearly see them.

Smart public transport use

Travelling to secondary school often involves using public transport. To do so safely:

- plan and practise using public transport with your child before the school year starts
- when waiting for trains, buses, and trams, encourage your child to stand behind the yellow line on train platforms and away from the roads at bus and tram stops
- remind your child to get off buses and trams onto the nearest footpath - never cross the road in front of or behind a bus or tram.



COBDEN TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Bushfire season commenced Monday, 8th December 2025

School preparations for the bushfire season

Each year, to prepare for bushfires and grassfires, schools and early childhood services complete a range of activities.

The Department of Education runs an annual fire risk assessment of schools and early childhood services. They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 4) and are published on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR).

All schools and early childhood services listed on the BARR and Category 4 list will also close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district.



When the Bureau of Meteorology provides public fire danger rating forecasts or fire weather warnings, they use fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries. Our school is in the **South West fire district**.

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and conducted regular maintenance of vegetation around our site.

What does this mean for our school?

Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a Category 4 school.

Our school will **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in the **South West fire district**.

What is the department's policy?

The department's [Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy](#) requires all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 list to close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

When will our school be closed due to Catastrophic fire danger?

Our school will **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in the **South West fire district**.

Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day. Any information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by Compass, SMS, CTS website and a letter sent home with students.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, even if the weather forecast changes. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

Families are encouraged to action their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. **On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by checking COMPASS or checking our website.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school closed due to a Catastrophic fire danger. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](#).
- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are actioning your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to [them about bushfires](#) and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can find more information on emergencies, warnings and preparedness actions here:

- VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

TERM 1 2026

WEEK 1	DATE	EVENT
Tuesday	27 January	➤ Staff Resume/School Office re-opens
Thursday	29 January	➤ Welcome Interviews (bookings are open in Compass)
Friday	30 January	➤ Classes resume for all students (except VCE VM)
WEEK 2	DATE	EVENT
Monday	2 February	➤ Classes resume for VCE VM students
Tuesday	3 February	➤ Geelong CATS visit CTS
WEEK 3	DATE	EVENT
Tuesday	10 February	➤ CTS Swimming Carnival
WEEK 7	DATE	EVENT
Tuesday	3 March	➤ CTS Athletics Sports
WEEK 8	DATE	EVENT
Monday	9 March	➤ Labour Day Public Holiday
Wed-Mon	11-23 March	➤ NAPLAN
WEEK 9	DATE	EVENT
Monday	16 March	➤ School Photos
Monday	16-20 March	➤ Neurodiversity Week
WEEK 10	DATE	EVENT
Friday	27 March	➤ Timboon P-12 Presentation Ball
WEEK 11	DATE	EVENT
Thursday	2 April	➤ Last Day of Term 1 (2:25pm finish)

COBDEN ROTARY CLUB PRESENTS:
TIM MASON'S
NEW
MAGIC
Show

THURSDAY
8TH JAN
1PM

Adults: \$12
Kids: \$8
Bookings: TryBooking
Cobden Civic Hall

ARES Australian Renewable Energy Services

B Bendigo Bank Community Bank Cobden & Districts and Camperdown

Amplitud energy



GEELONG CATS

YOU'RE INVITED

AFL and Geelong Cats Super Clinic
Ages 5-12 – Boys and Girls

Come down and meet AFL & AFLW Players from the Geelong Cats as part of their AFL Community Camp. Show off your skills, have some fun and get involved in this Free Play AFL Super Clinic.

Session details
Tuesday 3 February, Reid Oval, Werribee

Session times
Super Clinic Event: 4:30pm-5:30pm
Fan Engagement and Signings: 5:30pm-6:00pm


Register Now



Timboon Entertainment Arts & Music

TRA CKS

perform on the
AMPLIFY
YOUTH STAGE

SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2026
12 PM - 1.30 PM
Timboon Natural Amphitheatre

For artists aged 12-25

SUBMIT YOUR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AT
CORANGAMITE.VIC.GOV.AU/AMPLIFYSTAGE

AMPLIFY 

A Victorian Government Initiative. All-ages event, with and without. Drug, alcohol and smoking free.

