Quality education for the future.
Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Neerim District Secondary College. We are pleased to invite you to join us in a learning partnership. Our College is focused on achieving success for all students. We seek to give particular support to everyone who aims high in their personal learning goals, giving opportunities for all students to improve and excel.

Transition from primary school is always a challenge for parents and students. Our College is large enough to offer students a broad range of subject choices, while being small enough to allow teachers and students to work together closely. Your child will be well known in our school community and supported throughout each step of their educational and development journey.

In terms of education for life, we believe that success is about the quality of the journey - the nature of the experiences along the way - and not just the end point. Our aim is to send our students into the world as well-rounded, capable, caring young men and women.

As a small Year 7 - 12 school we are able to offer a range of leadership and personal development opportunities that is second to none in Gippsland. In 2013, over 30 leadership positions were awarded. These arise through sporting teams, Home Groups, the Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) Framework, The Students Representative Council (SRC), Peer Support Program and as leaders on school buses, as well as the possibility of becoming a School Captain or a House Captain in later years.

Our school encourages all students to adopt the college vision of:

- **Show Respect** — to show proper regard for your own learning and well-being, while demonstrating courtesy and thoughtfulness towards others, as well, showing responsibility in terms of property;
- **Be Committed** — to work hard so as to achieve your very best in your learning and in all other positive endeavours;
- **Work Together** — to work constructively within all your classes, so as to learn, while also contributing positively to improving the College and the outside community

Welcome to Neerim District Secondary College, whether you are new to the school or returning here — may you each achieve success in all your positive endeavors.

Michaela Cole
College Principal
Neerim District Secondary College is a small stand-alone Years 7-12 secondary college with approximately 140 students, located in the rural township of Neerim South in Baw Baw Shire. The College is set among the beautiful and prosperous hills of West Gippsland, serving a diverse community of farming, forestry, tourism, professional and business families. The ski resort of Mount Baw Baw is relatively close to the town. Established in 1961, Neerim District Secondary College believes strongly in seeking to build and maintain good relations between students, staff, parents and the community.

The College maintains a high quality education program designed to enable all students to achieve successful outcomes in learning. The school places a special emphasis on meeting the needs of individuals. We recognize that successful outcomes for students will include:
- Maximizing academic achievement.
- Developing learning skills and the love of learning.
- Building social competencies alongside the ability to work successfully with others.
- Becoming independent thinkers and well-rounded, confident, responsible individuals.

We take pride in providing the broadest possible curriculum choices, valuing diversity and excellence in learning in an environment that is safe, tolerant, supportive and friendly. Building literacy skills among students is a special focus for the school. All NDSC students participate in a comprehensive range of studies, allowing them to experience the full breadth of the curriculum. Our increasingly flexible program in Years 9 & 10, involving core and elective subjects, challenges students to reach high standards through choice. English is compulsory at VCE level and students are otherwise able to select from a range of pathways. These include Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Technology, Physical Education/Outdoor Education and the Fine Arts. Valuable experience and training in industry is accessible through VET and VCAL courses at VCE level, as well as through Work Experience placements at Year 10.

A key focus for the college is to develop learners who are confident in facing a challenging future where school is only one step along the education journey that will last a lifetime. The College is able to offer consistent individual assistance to students to support learning in basic skills of literacy and numeracy. We are proud of our achievements with students with disabilities. Our dedicated and professional staff are constantly considering new ways to extend classroom activities and engage students in learning.

At Neerim District Secondary College, all students have opportunities to become involved in College-wide programs such as the concert band, House sports and public speaking competitions. Leadership roles include School and House Captains, SRC and Peer Support. The school offers extra-curricular opportunities such as the debutante ball and musical productions. Students are encouraged to build their leadership skills, through participation in decision-making and community events, as well as through taking part in school and house assemblies. Acknowledgement of student achievement is given a high profile at assemblies, as well as through awards, including those given out at the Presentation Night at the end of each year.

Learning is supported by excellent facilities, with all students having networked netbook computers, an open-plan flexible learning centre, a new Music room, a shared indoor recreation centre, an integrated wood/metal technology area and a community library. Our science facilities will be upgraded to state of the art science rooms by the beginning of 2014. Our canteen is open daily. A College priority to improve classrooms and facilities will ensure that students will to continue learn in a well-resourced and pleasant environment.
This is a friendly and caring school where you will have the opportunity to achieve in many different areas. We want you to participate enthusiastically in all aspects of school life. We hope that you can aim to do - and be - your very best at all times.
YOU WILL BELONG TO...

A COMMUNITY
You are now a member of Neerim District Secondary College Community – a school of approximately 140 students.

A HOUSE
KURNAI
MONASH
STRZELECKI
TARAGO
You will be placed in one of these four Houses, which hold regular meetings. When the school has swimming or athletics days, and runs cross-country sports or public speaking competitions, you will be expected to represent and support your House.

A HOME GROUP
You will be placed in a Home Group with other Year 7, 8 and 9 students from your House. Home Groups meet briefly at the start of each day and a longer 20 minute meeting one day a week. Your Home Group teacher will provide support and can be contacted by parents.

A CLASS
Core (compulsory) classes are with Year level only. Some programs - such as Math - involve Years 7, 8 and 9 working together.
HOW DO I…?

STORE MY BELONGINGS?
A locker will be allocated to you early in the year. You are expected to keep your locker clean and tidy.
If you have any problems with your locker, see your Home Group Teacher or Assistant Principal.
Students who misuse or damage lockers will have the privilege withdrawn.
Students are expected to use a lock provided by the school at the beginning of the year.
Valuable items should not be left in unlocked lockers or in school bags - these can be left at the office for safe-keeping.

CATCH THE BUS?
At the end of the school day, move quickly to the bus loop area – stay on the school side of the fence at all times.
To catch a different bus, you will need a note from home (giving details about where you travel and with whom) to gain a bus pass from the Assistant Principal.

ORDER MY LUNCH?
To order your lunch, write your name, order and the amount of money enclosed on a lunch bag and pass it through the Canteen window during recess. Collect change when you pick up your order. Please remember your manners at all times in the Canteen.

FIND OUT WHERE I SHOULD BE?
The timetable shows the subject, teacher and room where you should be each period.
Timetables are pinned up in different parts of the corridor.
Your Coordinator or Home Group Teacher will help you read and understand the timetable.
If you get really confused, go to the main office or the Coordinators’ office and someone will help you.

TIMETABLE—EXAMPLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FORM</th>
<th>PERIOD 1</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8N</td>
<td>ENGL</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>LC</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROOM</th>
<th>TEACHER</th>
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| SUBJECT | |
|---------| |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERIOD</th>
<th>BELL TIMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warning Bell</td>
<td>8.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Group</td>
<td>9.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 1</td>
<td>9.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recess</td>
<td>10.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 2</td>
<td>10.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changeover</td>
<td>12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 3</td>
<td>12.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>1.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 4</td>
<td>2.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of Day</td>
<td>3.20</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERIOD</th>
<th>BELL TIMES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warning Bell</td>
<td>8.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Group</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 1</td>
<td>9.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recess</td>
<td>10.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Group</td>
<td>10.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Period 2</td>
<td>11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changeover</td>
<td>12.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 3</td>
<td>12.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>1.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 4</td>
<td>2.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of Day</td>
<td>3.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**WHAT HAPPENS...?**

**IF I BECOME ILL OR INJURED?**
If you become ill at school you should inform a teacher immediately and he or she will allow you to go to Sick-Bay. You will need to see the library staff, who will check you into the Sick-Bay and keep an eye on you. If need be, your parents will be contacted and asked to pick you up from school. A number of the staff are trained in first aid and will assist you if you have an accident at school.

**IF I AM LATE?**
Go straight to the General Office on arrival at school. Record your name and reason in the late book. If you are late for a good reason (for example a doctor's appointment), you must bring a note to show to your Home Group Teacher. In such a case, collect your books quickly and go straight to class.
It is important for our duty of care and emergency services that any student arriving after Home Group/the start of Period 1 signs the late book. Most of all, aim to be on time for school/each class.

**IF I NEED TO LEAVE SCHOOL DURING THE DAY?**
Bring a note from your parent and hand it in to your Coordinator or Home Group Teacher before school. You will be given a pass. Sign the Early Leavers book before you leave.

**Remember:** you must not leave the school grounds without permission.

**IF I LOSE SOMETHING?**
Firstly, you must retrace your steps and search hard. If you still cannot find your property, see your Coordinator, Home Group Teacher or the school cleaner. Avoid bringing valuables to school first of all, but if you do need to bring valuable items, such as money, CDs, a cricket bat, etc., ask for them to be looked after at the office. Make sure that all your possessions are clearly labelled.

**IF I AM OUT OF UNIFORM?**
Before school, report to the Library with a parental note and you will be given a Uniform Pass. Do not go to class until you have it.
**Note to Parents:** If your child is going to be out of uniform for an extended period of time, please contact your child’s Home Group Teacher.

**IF I HAVE ANY PROBLEMS?**
See the Coordinator, Welfare Coordinator, School Nurse or Home Group Teacher.

**IF I HAVE A MOBILE PHONE and/or iPOD/ MP3?**
Items like these are not encouraged at school. Mobile phones are to be off and within sight and only used during class as an educational tool if given permission by the teacher. Students may use their phone before school, recess, lunchtime and after school. For more information, see the NDSC Mobile Phone Policy.
At Neerim District Secondary College there are expected ways to behave which are a very important part of living and working together in a community of learners and teachers.

NDSC uses Positive Behaviour Support as a framework to ensure that the learning environment of the school is focused on creating and maintaining a culture based on positive regard and engagement.

What does this mean for NDSC?

It means NDSC does not focus on a system of rules but instead on expected behaviours. An expected behaviour matrix was developed by students for students. It focuses on both the school values – respect, commitment and community, classroom settings plus non classroom settings such as the yard and corridor.

It means staff explicitly teach these behaviours to students to ensure that all students are fully aware of the expectations and what they look like and mean. Even in the toilets. These behaviours are consistently reinforced and revisited.

It means NDSC staff positively acknowledge students expected behaviour. The most common reward used is verbal praise. In PBS there should be 5 positive comments to 1 corrective comment. NDSC also has other reward systems such as tokens for prizes and Good News postcards to be sent home with messages outlining the appreciated and acknowledged behaviour.

It means that PBS leadership team which consists of staff, students and community members, continually refer to data to determine areas of the school which require further focus and improvement. Data is gathered from many sources including Attitude to School surveys, Bullying surveys, student behaviour referral forms and PBS specific data surveys.

Students who find it difficult to work with the whole school expectations may be supported in specialised groups or individually.

The College’s Student Engagement Policy outlines actions or penalties for serious breaches of expected positive behaviours.
# Neerim District Secondary College Expectations Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Show Respect</th>
<th>Be Committed</th>
<th>Working together</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Classroom**  | • Be on time.  
• Be prepared.  
• Bring appropriate equipment.  
• Use our time well.  
• Work together.  
• Share.  
• Use positive language.  
• Look after our school. | • Do your best.  
• Have a go.  
• It’s okay to make mistakes and learn from them. | • Help others to do their best.  
• Work well together.  
• Include others.  
• Welcome visitors. |
| **Corridor**   | • Wait your turn.  
• Be aware of others.  
• Keep left.  
• Walk, not run.  
• Make way for others. | • Help others.  
• Avoid being late. | • Keep corridor clean.  
• Be courteous.  
• Care for displays and notices. |
| **Yard**       | • Listen and follow teacher’s instructions.  
• Use appropriate language.  
• Avoid aggressive behaviour and play fighting.  
• Have fun.  
• Be polite.  
• Accept others.  
• Allow people space. | • Getting to classes on time after breaks in an orderly manner.  
• Remain on school ground.  
• Avoid corridors in breaks.  
• Return equipment in the same condition as you borrowed it.  
• Take care of your school environment. | • Help others.  
• Talk nicely to one another.  
• Use provided bins.  
• Let others have a go.  
• Include everyone. |
| **Assemblies** | • Listen and learn from presentations and speakers.  
• Look at the person speaking.  
• Avoid talking to people around you.  
• Ignore distractions from others.  
• Avoid distracting other people.  
• Stand quietly during National Anthem. | • Be involved in assemblies.  
• Prepare speeches when required.  
• Turn up on time. | • Walk to and from assembly quickly and sensibly.  
• Enter and leave assembly quietly.  
• Sit in your proper place.  
• Applaud together.  
• Assist with packing up. |
| **Canteen**    | • Put rubbish in bin.  
• Write thank you on your lunch order.  
• Say please and thank you.  
• Clean up after yourself.  
• Use a quiet and calm voice. | • Pay off tabs.  
• Complete canteen duty without being reminded.  
• Put rubbish in the provided bins. | • Stand in line.  
• Wait patiently.  
• Take your turn.  
• Offer to help. |
| **Library**    | • Be as quiet as you can.  
• Be polite to everyone.  
• Use a quiet and calm voice and speak respectfully. | • Listen to and follow instructions.  
• Use library time constructively.  
• Return books and resources by the due date.  
• Leave the library tidy. | • Share resources.  
• Work with staff and peers to find resources.  
• Return resources to the appropriate place.  
• Be welcoming to the public.  
• Avoid disturbing others. |
| **Bus**        | • Care for and consider primary students who share bus.  
• Take care not to distract the driver.  
• Use a quiet and calm voice and speak respectfully. | • Behave appropriately on the bus | • Wait patiently when at the bus stop.  
• Get on the bus in an orderly manner.  
• Allow people to sit next to you.  
• Sit down when the bus is moving. |
| **Toilets**    | • Respect other people’s belongings.  
• Respect people’s privacy.  
• Use facilities appropriately. | • Go to the toilet before school starts, at recess or lunch as needed.  
• Flush the toilet.  
• Clean up after yourself.  
• Use paper appropriately. | • Report graffiti, damage or disturbances to a staff member. |
Students in Year 8 participate in a number of subjects. The delivery of curriculum and the assessment of performance are measured against the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) and AUS VELS.

YEAR 8

FULL-YEAR SUBJECTS

English
Humanities (History & Geography)
Mathematics
Physical Education/ Health/ Sport
Science
Language other than English (LOTE) - Mandarin (Chinese)

HALF-YEAR SUBJECTS

Art
Music
Home Economics / Textiles
Wood/Metal Work

Some of these units or subjects will run for the whole year.

Some other units or subjects listed will run for a semester (i.e. half a year.).
ENGLISH

In Year 8 English we will work with students to recognise the purpose of the text and identify issues and themes in the chosen texts. Students will be asked to justify their opinions and interpretations. They will be asked to analyse their values and compare the way texts are presented.

Students will be using novels, film as text, newspaper articles and current affairs items.

SEMESTER 1
☑ Read, view, respond to and discuss a range of imaginative, informative and persuasive texts in multimodal formats.
☑ Recognise that texts can be produced for multiple purposes.
☑ Display comprehension through identification of themes and issues, intended purposes of texts and by justifying their interpretation with supporting evidence.
☑ Identify different interpretations, explain why these arise and infer unstated information including cause and effect.
☑ Describe and explain how authors use techniques to engage an audience and influence the roles and relationships in texts.
☑ Evaluate texts in terms of how well an author positions a reader to accept their point of view.
☑ Gain meaning when using an expanded vocabulary, comparison, review and consolidation and inferring main ideas.

SEMESTER 2
☑ Read, view, respond to and discuss a range of imaginative, informative and persuasive texts in multimodal formats.
☑ Recognise that texts can be produced for multiple purposes.
☑ Use literal, inferential and evaluative comprehension of texts including identifying similarities and differences and motives of characters.
☑ Explain the ways in which texts can be interpreted from multiple perspectives and identify and infer some of the techniques used to influence a particular interpretation.
☑ Evaluate and justify different interpretations using evidence from the text.
☑ Locate key ideas by skimming, scanning and use of topic sentences.
☑ Use text consolidation strategies including reviewing and integrating what has been read.
FULL YEAR SUBJECTS

JUNIOR MATHEMATICS
Junior Maths at Neerim District Secondary College is organised so that Years 7, 8 and 9 classes are timetabled at the same time. The students work in groups on work set to their own ability, according to their VELS levels. These levels are reflected in testing which is done for each topic area (based on the VELS Domains), generally as a pre-test prior to a new topic.

Students are therefore not necessarily in the one group for the entire year and their pre-tests essentially determine where they should be at any stage.

The work they cover is much closer to their ability levels, and students are encouraged to achieve their best. Students who are more capable can move faster through their Maths, while those who have difficulty with the subject are catered for by covering the basics, generally in a smaller group.

This method of organising our maths classes has shown great results for our students - our NAPLAN results have shown significant improvement by our students over the years.

The topics studies are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER 1</th>
<th>SEMESTER 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Whole number</td>
<td>• Decimal and percentages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Angles and shapes</td>
<td>• Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Algebra - patterns</td>
<td>• Algebra - equations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fractions</td>
<td>• Measurement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Statistics</td>
<td>• Probability - chance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SCIENCE
In Year 8 Science, students will learn about elements and compounds. They will observe chemical reactions and write simple word equations to represent the reactions. They will investigate factors that will change the rate of a reaction.

Circuits, conductors and insulators will be studied when learning about electricity. Students will learn what a simple machine is and how the machine makes work easier.

Changes in the earth’s crust will be investigated. They will learn how the three main types of rocks are formed; about movement of continental plates; about folding and faulting and how volcanoes are formed.

Students will learn how plants and animals obtain, transport and use nutrients. They will identify living and non-living things that effect survival. They will draw food webs.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
A healthy, physically active lifestyle is conducive to more effective participation in all that society has to offer and greater levels of success within and beyond school. This requires students to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours that enable them to:

☑ Maintain good health and live a healthy lifestyle.
☑ Understand the role of physical activity in ensuring good health.
☑ Engage in physical activity.

Students will perform confidently and efficiently in a range of environments (indoor, outdoor, aquatic). They will refine basic and complex motor skills and apply these skills to increasingly complex games and activities. Students will be required to work independently to improve performance and be able to evaluate and provide feedback to a partner.
HUMANITIES:

HISTORY
In this unit students investigate a city in the medieval world. It examines the location, physical organisation and human perspectives of the city. Students are encouraged to understand the role of medieval cities as the foundation of modern cities and city life by relating their study of the past to their present experiences. Students will investigate the origin of a medieval city, the way in which it was governed, its economic basis, its social and cultural features and the daily life of its inhabitants. Concurrently, a comparison between its main characteristics and those of cities in the modern world will be made.

DESERTS
Students investigate the physical features of hot deserts, the adaptations of plants and animals which are indigenous to hot deserts, the ways in which different groups of people have used hot deserts and what impact human activity has had on hot desert lands.

This unit develops students’ respect and care for the environment, along with the need to sustainably manage, protect and conserve the environment into the future.

ANTARCTICA
Antarctica is the coldest, driest and windiest place on earth. It is the largest of the polar land masses and retains a mostly pristine environment. In this unit students investigate the characteristics of Antarctica and how they interact as a system. They examine the changes in the uses of Antarctica by people and the consequences of human impact on the environment.

The global contribution of human activities such as ozone depletion and the enhanced greenhouse effect on Antarctica are also explored.

Students investigate different views on the management of Antarctica, with particular reference to tourism, and develop a management proposal. Students also investigate and consider the effectiveness of ownership and control of Antarctica as outlined in the Antarctic Treaty.
LOTE
(Languages Other Than English)

In Year 8 LOTE - Mandarin, students will explore the language within the world of their own experience, including the world of learning, with some topics drawn from other domains. They participate in activities where they practise exchanging simple personal information. They will acquire and use new information and language, and recycle previous learnt language skills and knowledge in new contexts. The following topics will be covered:

**My Family**
In this unit students will study key vocabulary relating to the family, recognise key family members in their character forms, and respond to simple questions about their families. They will also learn to be aware of how the terms for some family members are different between China and Australia.

**My Pet**
In this unit students will explore key vocabulary relating to pets, such as the words for animals and some adjectives and colours to describe them.

**I Like Sport**
In this unit students will understand key vocabulary relating to sport. They learn to say what sport they like and acquire the vocabularies, grammar and phrases to have short conversations with others about sport.

**Food**
In this unit students will study key vocabulary relating to food. They learn to state likes and dislikes of food. They look at the three principles of Chinese food preparation, the various utensils and Chinese seasoning.

**Date, Day and Time**
In this unit students will explore key vocabulary relating to date, day and time. They learn how to say the date and the time of the day. They look at the Chinese zodiac, its legend, the lunar calendar and the solar calendar.

**Weather**
In this unit students will learn to talk about weather and weather forecast and write simple linked sentences.
HALF YEAR SUBJECTS

- Art
- Music
- Home Economics / Textiles
- Wood / Metal work

INTEGRATION

The school has a very well managed Integration program, with strong support provided by Teacher Aides in classrooms, that includes help to other students who may require additional assistance. At Neerim District Secondary College we are proud of the Integration program. Through it, we ensure that all children can succeed.

Note for parents: Please contact the College if you would like to talk about access to special programs for your child.

SPORT

JUNIOR AND MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORT

For Years 7 and 8 students, sport occupies two lessons each week. The program emphasises participation by all students. The community Recreation Centre is regularly used. Students play and learn skills in a number of sports including softball, netball, basketball, football, tennis, hockey and cricket. Teams in all sports involve both boys and girls. The school’s sport program aims to develop teamwork, cooperation and a sense of fair play. Students select a sport to develop skills in and then use these skills in Round Robin competitions that involve other schools from around West Gippsland.

HOUSE SPORT

The sporting competition within the school is organized on a House basis. Four houses – Kurnai, Strzelecki, Monash and Tarago – compete in Athletics, Swimming and Cross Country. As well as providing motivation through competition, the school has a trophy which encourages sportsmanship.

INTER SCHOOL SPORT

Students take part in inter-school sporting competitions against Warragul Regional College, Drouin Secondary College, Trafalgar High School, and Round Robin events are held at Lowanna College during Terms 1, 2 & 3, covering the major team sports. The College also sends a team to the athletics, swimming and cross-country carnivals held each year in the West Gippsland area. Successful students in these events are selected to compete at higher levels of competition. The College has a very successful record and has been represented at the higher level on many occasions.
Students will have access to the following programs:

**ENGLISH:**
- Writer’s Camp, Debating, Tournament of Minds
- UNSW (University of New South Wales) (EAA)
- Spelling, Writing, English

**HUMANITIES:**
- Constitutional Convention, The Share Market Game, ADFA
- History Essay Writing Competition

**MATHEMATICS:**

**LOTE:**
- LOTE Competition

**VISUAL ARTS:**
- NDSC Café

**FOOD TECHNOLOGY:**
- The Long Lunch

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORT:**
- West Gippsland - SSV
- Badminton, Baseball, Basketball, Cricket, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Hockey, Netball, Softball, Squash, Swimming and Diving.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORT:**
- Table Tennis, Tennis, Track and Field, Volleyball

**ROUND ROBIN:**
- Baseball, Softball, Tennis, Volleyball, Cricket, Football, Netball, Football, Badminton, Hockey, Table Tennis, Squash, Basketball.

**ICT COMPETITION:**
- UNSW (EAA) ICT
ART
ART/GRAPHICS

This unit is designed to meet the needs of students who wish to specialise in one particular studio form, or who wish to try a variety of studio forms.

Students may choose one or more of the following studio forms:

- Drawing
- Ceramics
- Painting
- Print-making
- Photography
- Sculpture
- Leatherwork
- Air-Brushing
- Technical Drawing
- Visual information
- Rendering

Where students begin will be dictated by the level of previous experience and skill development that they have attained in their chosen studio form or forms.

Students will be expected to show development and use of specialised skills and techniques associated with their chosen studio form/forms.

The student’s ability to use the elements and principles of art when producing their work will play a significant part in the unit.

Students will begin developing the ability to use studio works by other artists as resource material for inspiration and technical development, through the use of analysis and discussion.

Students will have the chance to negotiate projects based on their area of interest at selected times during the unit.

This elective leads to VCE Studio Arts, VCE Art, VCE Visual Communication.

Assessment will be drawn from the pool of activities undertaken and student application, attitude etc.
Year 8/9 Music is all about playing music. Students will work on building skills on an instrument of their choice, which include, vocal, guitar, drums, bass guitar, keyboard/piano and more. These skills are then applied to the following focus areas:-

- **Group Performance** - Students will work together and rehearse songs as a group. They will gain the necessary skills to play together as a band.
- **Solo Performance** - This gives the individual student the opportunity to develop greater musicianship on their chosen instrument.
- **Theory** - Students will build an understanding of the mechanics of music and how music is created. As part of theory, students will also play the keyboard/piano to emphasis the link between theory and practice.

Students will also have the opportunity to negotiate songs of interest at selected times throughout the unit.

This unit will lead to VCE Music Performance.
TECHNOLOGY STUDIES:
WOOD & METAL

The material focus of this unit is Wood, Metal and Acrylic. Students may choose to work in one or both material areas if they wish. Students wishing to specialise in one or more of these material areas can extend their skills and abilities. All students address at least one set design brief and a variety of theoretical/design tasks.

The development of safe working habits and practices is a priority.

These units extend students’ experiences with skills they have been introduced to in Years 7. New construction techniques and machinery are introduced as well as the consolidation of those already learnt. The design process and the presentation of these takes on increased importance as students pursue more difficult tasks and grapple with more complex processes. The emphasis is on individual design solutions to set and self-generated design briefs. This gives students the opportunity to investigate, plan and pursue their own ideas and realise these in a practical form.

Evaluation of products and processes is the forth phase of the ‘Technological Process’ undertaken.

Many aspects of Materials Technology can be studied. Jewellery making, casting, forge work, sheet metal, soldering arc/oxy welding and lathe work are an example of processes available in the metal workshop. Routing, joinery techniques, cabinet work, carving, lathe work, pyrography, scroll saw, furniture construction, toy and clock making and other products and processes are examples of what may be undertaken within the woodwork room. Work with acrylic and resins may be taken independently or included with the use of other materials. Students will be allowed to work on projects and design briefs of their own choosing, but must realise that they may be asked to provide their own material for such work. Assessment will be drawn for the pool of activities and practices undertaken and will include both practical and theoretical exercises.
TECHNOLOGY
Home Economics

This unit is designed to follow on from Year 7 Home Economics. The importance of safety, hygiene, preparation techniques and skills continue to be emphasised. Students will have a major focus on cookery methods and will be able to make decisions related to the appropriate use of each method. Convenience Foods, Fast Foods, Packaging and Labelling will be examined and how they impact on an individual’s food choice will be examined. The students will be required to participate in exercises where they investigate, design, produce and evaluate foods.

Assessment in this unit will be based upon:
- Classroom participation, including homework.
- Practical work.
- A major design exercise practical - Lunch for a Group
FURTHER FEATURES

CAMPS
Year 8 students can attend a camp at Rubicon. This offers many exciting outdoor adventure activities, promoting team interaction and providing opportunities for developing leadership skills.

The success of the camping program depends primarily on support from the parents and students and their appreciation of the value of such a program to a child's development.

COLLEGE/ COMMUNITY LIBRARY
Our busy school/community Library at Neerim District Secondary College is the focus of much learning activity. The fiction section contains a selection of books suitable for all ages, ranging from children's picture books through to teenage fiction and adult novels. The College's own fiction supply is supplemented by stock from the West Gippsland Regional Library. Regional Library stock is changed on a regular basis.

The non-fiction part of the Library houses a very large range of books and general reference material. Library staff can also provide easy access to the stock of the Regional Library and the Victorian inter-library loan network. The library catalogue is simple to use on 3 public access computer terminal or by asking Library staff.

In addition to printed material, there are DVD’s, CD’s, MP3’s and Music CD’s. Students needing to do word processing are able to use computers and printers. The library has ready access to the Internet, yet only approved Internet sites may be accessed by students using school facilities.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS
If interested in your local environment, you are encouraged to join in various school-based programs:
✓ Go on the Rubicon Camp in Year 8;
✓ Elect to study Outdoor Education in senior years.

RECREATION CENTRE
The Recreation Centre provides a valuable sporting facility for the College. The multi-purpose design of the center enables the Physical Education classes to use the facility for a range of sports. The mezzanine floor provides additional space for activities such as table tennis and aerobics. Students are regularly supervised with extra sport at the Recreation Centre at lunchtimes.
STUDENT WELFARE ACTIVITIES
Peer Support is organised and run in the school on a weekly basis for the first part of the year. Year 11 students who have completed Peer Support training conduct the sessions with the Year 7 students. The Year 11 students meet regularly with Peer Support teachers. Students may arrange to see the Student Welfare Coordinator, the School Nurse or Chaplain concerning any difficulties they are having. With parental consent they may also access Student Support Services.

Other student welfare activities are organised throughout the year.

STUDENT CAREERS OFFICE
SOUND CAREER CHOICE INVOLVES STUDENTS:

☑ Getting to know YOURSELF, what your interests and abilities are.
☑ Trying out possible career options by participating in the College’s Work Experience Program.
☑ Making subject and course choices that are realistic and meet your future needs consistent with your interests and abilities.
☑ Knowing what courses need to be undertaken at tertiary level to gain entry to your chosen careers.

The College has an extensive careers library, which is available for students and parents to use. The careers library enables students to learn about the world of work. It provides information on career trends, plus tertiary and TAFE courses available and their prerequisites. Counselling of individual students on careers choice and developments in the VCE is available. Information on preparing individual resumes, letter writing skills and telephone techniques are available and the College organise, with the local community, work experience for students in Year 10.

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The Recreation Centre provides a valuable sporting facility for the College. The multi-purpose design of the centre enables the Physical Education classes to use the facility for a range of sports. The mezzanine floor provides additional space for activities such as table tennis and aerobics. Students are regularly supervised with extra sport at the Recreation Centre at lunchtimes.
## INDEX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A PARTNERSHIP</th>
<th>24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PARENT SUPPORT—COLLEGE COUNCIL/P. &amp; F.</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOMEWORK</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSESSMENT</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHOOL FEATURES</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIFORM</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINANCIAL MATTERS</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNICATION</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUS ROUTES</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TERM DATES &amp; CONTACT DETAILS</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**PARENT INFORMATION...**
We know that supportive parents who take a strong interest in how their children are learning and who get involved in schools make a difference to students feeling connected to school and achieving well.

There are many ways in which you can help your child to make an effective transition into Neerim District Secondary College:

As parents, you bring a great deal to the partnership between school and home in developing a student’s ability to:
- Learn to make responsible decisions.
- Manage themselves: their schoolwork, belongings, friendships and feelings.
- Become effective problem-solvers.
- Develop flexible coping skills.
- Communicate well with peers and teachers.
- Listen respectfully to the views of others.

There is a wide variety of activities offered at Neerim District Secondary College where your contribution is welcomed. These include checking that homework is completed, signing student diaries, making sure uniform is correct or notes provided, helping on sport days, attending performances and working bees, being available for the canteen, joining College Council or Parents & Friends, and coming to Student/Parent/Teacher interviews. Most importantly, it will help if you can feel confident about contacting the College when you have a concern or need support with an issue.

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO GET INVOLVED IN THE LIFE OF YOUR CHILD’S COLLEGE
PARENT SUPPORT

COLLEGE COUNCIL
Membership of the College Council is as follows:
- Parent Elected members 6
- Staff Elected members 3
- Principal 1
- Co-opted members 2
The College Council is served by three sub-committees:
☑ Buildings and Grounds
☑ Education Policy Committee
☑ Resources

PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
The College has a hard working group of parents and friends who make up this vital part of the school community.

Meetings
This group meets regularly at the school, usually at 7.30pm, in the staff room, on the first Monday or Tuesday of the month. Meetings are advertised in the school newsletter (News and Views). Our meetings are very friendly and informal. Everyone is most welcome to come along and join us for a cuppa and a chat. We are always looking for new faces.

Meetings also offer an opportunity for parents to voice any suggestions or concerns they may like to express about the school. Parents and Friends may then take the suggestions or concerns further on your behalf, if you so wish.

Fundraising
One of our main sources of money raised for our children is the Debutante Ball which is open to Year 10 - 12 students at the College. We have also been involved, with the School Council, in the successful organising of a School Ball, which is always great fun. Other fundraising activities occur throughout the year. All money Parents and Friends raise is spent on items that will benefit our children, either in the school ground or to facilitate their curriculum.

Second Hand Stall
Each year, around the time of Year 7 Orientation, we hold a second hand stall. This is a great opportunity for parents to purchase required items (books and uniforms) necessary for school at greatly reduced prices.

We welcome you to our school and look forward to working with you next year.
**HOMEWORK**

*Homework is set by teachers so as to encourage and assist the development of good study habits and to ensure that students complete all work necessary to maximise their learning.*

- Each student will be assigned homework by classroom teachers on a regular basis.
- Home Group teachers have the responsibility to make regular checks of students' diary usage in relation to homework. These diaries are issued by the school for this purpose - they should be treated with respect and need to be taken to each class, as well as to Home Groups.
- Students in Years 7 - 9 are required to have their homework diary signed regularly by parents or guardians.
- Students in Years 7 – 9 whose diaries are not signed, or not maintained and used as required, may be required to do a lunchtime detention.
- When the homework is assigned it will be made clear to the students when the homework is to be completed and handed in. This should be recorded in the student's diary by the student.
- Teachers and parents should be mindful of the fact that students need to learn that deadlines for the completion of work should be met.
- Students should be given a reasonable amount of time to complete their homework, keeping in mind the requirements of other subject areas.
- Class teachers will be responsible for the reviewing of each child's level of application homework.
- The class teacher will be responsible for following up on any homework that is not completed, as well as notifying parents if concerned about a lack of work from any student.
- Repeated failure to hand in homework will be dealt with in line with the Student Management Policy.
- Parents are encouraged to check that homework is completed. Homework can take the form of set tasks, completion of unfinished work, revision of work already covered prior to a test, or extension work.

Generally it is suggested that Years 7 - 8 students work for the following minimum periods of time per night:

- **Year 8** – 1 hour

A full copy of our Homework Policy is available from the Secondary College.
The wider community rightly expects schools to aim for high standards for all students. Neerim District Secondary College provides regular information to parents about the progress of their children. Teachers of Year 8 draw on a range of assessment procedures linked to the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). Within each subject, there is a curriculum focus and standards for student achievement. It is important to note that every child will progress at different rates in various subject areas in VELS, according to their own level of understanding.

All Years 7 and 9 students sit the NAPLAN tests and results are forwarded to parents as soon as they are available.

Student performance in each subject is assessed continuously. Assessment will be based on such tasks as classroom tests, projects and completed models. Teachers will provide ratings and comments on areas such as achievement, attendance, behaviour, effort, home study, punctuality and participation in group activities. Formal examinations will be conducted in Years 10, 11 and 12.

**REPORTING**

There are two main ways in which the College reports to parents:

a) **Student/ Parent/ Teacher Interviews/ Interim Reports** – these are conducted twice yearly, towards the end of terms one and three.

b) **College End-of-Semester Reports** – these are issued twice yearly, towards the end of terms two and four, providing more detailed and specific written information about student progress.

**STUDENT/ PARENT/ TEACHER INTERVIEWS**

Parents and students are strongly encouraged to attend Student/Parent/Teacher interviews, so as to meet teachers and to discuss progress being made in each subject area. It helps teachers enormously to be able to share in a conversation about how best to meet each student’s learning needs with the people who know them best; their family. The school encourages parents to meet as many teachers as possible during these sessions to get a feel for each student’s strengths and weaknesses – talking about where students are showing greatest promise can often provide the clue to future direction.

Parents are always welcome to phone the College at any other time during the year to arrange an appointment to discuss the progress of their child.
COMPUTERS & INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

The College promotes the use of ICT across all areas of the curriculum. The use of ICT is designed to enhance student engagement with their learning. All Year 8 students will have a Netbook Computer as a part of the College’s 1 to 1 Netbook Program. Desktop computers are also available in specialist classrooms to allow access to a range of software programs such as Graphics and Video Conferencing. All students have individual computer network, internet and ultranet accounts which is their responsibility to manage appropriately. All students, upon enrolment at our college, will be given a Safe Computer Usage Policy and will be expected to adhere to it.

MUSIC & SINGING

Instrumental tuition is available to all students interested in Guitar, Woodwind, Brass and Percussion. A small annual fee is charged to cover costs for materials. Private instrumental teachers also come to the school to teach a number of selected instruments. Students involved in the music program are expected to contribute to school bands, with regular performances at school assemblies, Presentation Night and other school events. These bands rehearse at lunchtime, and provide an opportunity for students to perform as a group. It is preferable for students to buy their own instruments for many reasons but the school does have a limited number for hire.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

The College enjoys an active Student Representative Council that is made of students who are interested in being leaders and representing their peers.

At the beginning of the year, the newly elected group appoints a President, Secretary and Treasurer. There are regular meetings, run by the group and chaired by the President. The meetings provide a forum for student discussion of issues and concerns expressed by the school body and other matters raised by the school community.

The SRC arranges a variety of fund raising activities for the school and money raised is used to provide additional facilities for the school.

Involvement in the SRC is an additional educational experience in decision making and leadership.
All students in the College are required to wear school uniform at school, to and from school, and on excursions unless a specific exemption is given.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
Jumper Royal Blue College Jumper
Footwear Plain black leather school shoes (NOT runners, skate shoes etc.)
Jacket A college jacket is recommended for all students.
Hats Navy broad-brimmed hat. Students must wear a navy broad-brimmed hat outside, during Terms 1 & 4

GIRLS UNIFORM
SUMMER Dress in prescribed material and pattern, plain white socks OR navy shorts in prescribed brand and style, pale blue polo shirt with logo and plain white socks.
WINTER College skirt as prescribed OR navy blue pants (as supplied in the school uniform shops), pale blue school shirt or a long sleeved pale blue polo shirt, plain grey or navy blue socks or tights. (A T-shirt or skivvy either pale blue or white may be worn underneath the school shirt for extra warmth with winter uniform).

BOYS UNIFORM
SUMMER Regulation grey school shorts (as supplied in the school uniform shops), a pale blue short-sleeved school shirt or pale blue polo shirt, plain grey socks or plain white socks.
WINTER Regulation grey school trousers, pale blue school shirt or blue polo shirt (long or short sleeved), plain grey socks. (A plain pale blue or white T-shirt may be worn underneath the school shirt for extra warmth with winter uniform.)

PE/SPORT Required for all Year 7-10 students, and for participation in interschool sports teams. Royal blue polo shirt with navy blue collar and printed logo, NDSC sport shorts. College NDSC Rugby jumper and NDSC track pant also available

JEWELLERY and MAKEUP
Any jewellery worn must be inconspicuous and discreet. These requirements may be changed for specific classes or occasions where safety is an issue, e.g. sport, woodwork. Any make-up and nail polish worn to school must also be discreet

A second-hand book and uniform stall is held in December. Uniform items are available from ‘Beleza’ of Warragul (Williams Square, Ph. 5622 2930)
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE / FINANCIAL MATTERS

STUDENTS UNDER 16

Education Maintenance Allowance
The EMA provides financial assistance for families on low income to help with the cost of essential educational items such as textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions. The EMA is means tested – parents must hold a Centrelink / Veterans Affairs concession card to be eligible.

In 2013 the EMA has been reconstructed to increase the focus on direct support to parents. Year 7 students will receive $300 annually while other eligible secondary school students up to the age of 16 will receive between $235 - $250 annually. The EMA is paid in two instalments, 70% in March and 30% in August. In 2013 parents will have a choice of directing their payments directly into the schools account so that it can be used towards the school charges. Any EMA not spent during the year can then either be refunded, if requested, or rolled over to cover charges for the following year.

If you think you are eligible for this assistance, forms are available from the general office. Parents wishing to apply must complete an application form and hand it in to the office before the 28th February 2014.

Students 16 – 25
The rules for students in this age bracket to receive Youth Allowance have now changed and it is not automatically a follow on from the EMA. Residency requirements and parental means test apply, so a visit to your local Centrelink office will determine your eligibility.

Conveyance Allowance
A conveyance allowance may be available for students who travel more than 4.8km from home to a bus stop (or more than 4.8km to school where there is no bus route) and where they are attending their closest school. Please contact the college for more information if you think you may be eligible for this allowance.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION
While the School Global Budget provides basic funding, our capacity to offer all the resources needed for high quality education in the classroom depends upon parents paying the College Improvement Voluntary Contributions. All families are encouraged to contribute towards improving the resources available for students in the College by paying the voluntary levies detailed in the booklists.
The College is keen to keep parents informed as to what is happening at school. We use different ways to communicate with families:

- News & Views - A fortnightly newsletter (sent home with the youngest child in each family).
- Phone calls home.
- Student/Parent/Teacher Nights.
- Student Reports.
- Information Evenings.
- Social Functions.

The school has a policy of easy access. If there is any matter causing concern, please don’t hesitate to telephone the school on 5628 1455, making an appointment if necessary to speak with a Coordinator about any matters relating to student behaviour or well-being. For matters relating to learning in particular subjects, please feel free to make an appointment with the relevant classroom teacher or subject area coordinator. If there are any other matters causing concern, please contact the Assistant Principal or the Principal.
1. **BULN BULN - Mizpah Settlement Road — Buln Buln — Crossover**
   Beginning at Neerim South, along the Mizpah Settlement Road, on to Buln Buln, then back to Neerim South via Crossover. Stops are: McIntosh Road, McDougall Road, Whitelaw’s Track, Mizpah Settlement Road, Mizpah Settlement Road & Old Sale Road; Ryans Road, Factory Street, Buln Buln Primary School, Old Telegraph Road West, Old Telegraph Road, Cnr Old Telegraph Road & Bloomfield Road, Crossover Bridge Road, Old Holiday Camp and Sawmill at Bloomfield Road onto Neerim South.

2. **JINDIVICK**
   Jindivick, Drouin West and via Main Neerim Road to Neerim South. Stops are Gleesons Road, Jindi Store, Stoll Road, West Jindi Road, Drouin West Primary School, Old Telegraph Road, Main Neerim Road, Rokeby Service Road, Rokeby and Joyner’s Driveway.

3. **NAYOOK**
   Beginning at Nayook, via Neerim Junction Hill (service Road), turning into Neerim East Road, stopping Sheffields Road, McKenzie Road, McCulloghs Road, Rendells Road, Cnr Fraser Spur Road & Vesey Road, Corner Neerim East Road & Fraser Spur Road, Latrobe River Road and Wattle Lane travelling to Neerim.

4. **NOOJEE**
   Beginning at Noojee Shop and travelling (stopping) via the Noojee Roundabout, up the Old Noojee Road, turning into Neerim North Road on to Main Neerim Road, Neerim Junction; stopping at Hamono Road, Neerim, Elton Road, Service Road and Sawyers Road to Neerim South.

Bus travel is available free to students who live over 4.8 km. from the school and who are in our normal catchment area. Students outside these areas should contact the Assistant Principal about bus travel.

For further details please contact Mr. Stuart Nicolson, Assistant Principal.
## 2014 TERM DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>DETAILS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TERM 1</td>
<td>28 January - 04 April</td>
<td>Staff commence&lt;br&gt;Years 7, 11 &amp; 12 Commence&lt;br&gt;All students required at school on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TERM 2</td>
<td>22 April - 27 June</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TERM 3</td>
<td>14 July - 19 September</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TERM 4</td>
<td>06 October - 19 December</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRINCIPAL:** Mrs Michaela Cole

**VICE PRINCIPAL:** Mr Stuart Nicolson

**MIDDLE YEARS COORDINATOR:** Jeff Locklier

**ADDRESS:** Neerim District Secondary College<br>Neerim East Road<br>NEERIM SOUTH VIC 3831

**POSTAL ADDRESS:** Neerim District Secondary College<br>PO Box 18,<br>NEERIM SOUTH VIC 3831

**PHONE:** 5628 1455

**FAX:** 5628 1629

**EMAIL:** neerim.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au

**WEB ADDRESS:** http://new.ndsc.vic.edu.au

**ANSWERING MACHINE:** 56281 201