Mount Eliza
Secondary College

Where Every Individual Excels
Our Purpose

At Mount Eliza Secondary College we encourage, support and enable all students to achieve their personal best. Our students enjoy a quality education delivered by dedicated and committed teachers in a safe, well-ordered and nurturing environment. Ultimately, our aim is to develop individuals to become active, responsible and caring members of society.

Established in 1975, Mount Eliza Secondary College is a co-educational, single campus secondary college. The College enjoys a history of academic excellence with many of our students consistently achieving excellent VCE results and entering a diverse range of tertiary pathways. It is the combination of creating a happy, stimulating learning environment and our ability to ensure all students are able to identify an appropriate and effective pathway beyond school that makes Mount Eliza Secondary College the College that achieves consistently high results across all levels of schooling, year in year out.

To focus on the personalised learning needs of students, the Year 7 sub-school is located in its own Learning Centre, with a dedicated team of coordinators, who ensure that our students make a smooth transition from primary to secondary school and are able to immediately commence work on a program tailored to each student’s individual learning needs. A similar structure exists at Year 8 and Year 9, while in upper levels, Year 10 students have been incorporated into the Senior School to encourage them to focus on a pathway leading to continued learning beyond the secondary school environment. All year levels are supported by a Welfare Team that ensures an environment that provides our students with the best possible learning opportunities.

This supportive structure provides each student with the guidance necessary to achieve personal success and has directly contributed to the College’s strong record of academic success.
Mount Eliza Secondary College has created a supportive community in which our students flourish because they feel they belong. To further engender College pride and strengthen the sense of belonging, the College has adapted a very clear Uniform Policy to which every student is expected to strictly adhere.

Mount Eliza Secondary College offers a wide variety of quality learning programs — such as our innovative Mindware program and our well recognised International Program.

**Mindware**

Our innovative Year 9 Mindware program is based on students setting and meeting challenging goals and, through the process, learning how to learn and function successfully in tomorrow’s society.

**An International Perspective**

Life at Mount Eliza Secondary College is enriched by a strong International perspective, one which values the harmonious diversity of cultures within the College. The College Languages programs of Indonesian and German are available at all year levels and are fully supported by excellent resources within an inclusive College culture. We have strong ties to our sister school in Germany providing opportunities for student and teacher exchange and we conduct regular trips to Indonesia and Malaysia. In addition, we are currently developing a relationship with a school in Timor L’Este.

Mount Eliza Secondary College is proud to be an accredited provider for International Students who are important contributors to the College’s culture and ethos. The result of exposing our students to diverse programs is a deepened sense of community and global awareness and a greater level of preparedness for an exciting future in a globalised world.

**Student Leadership**

The College strongly encourages all students, from Year 7 through to Year 12, to participate in our excellent Student Leadership Program which provides many exciting opportunities for further personal development.

The program provides students with the opportunity to be included in the shaping of College policy and other initiatives. It also provides students aspiring to senior key leadership roles, such as College and House Captains, with the relevant experience to actively pursue these opportunities. The College Student Leaders build and strengthen relationships with the wider community by working together with key community representatives to raise funds for charity and to focus on environmental issues.
The College’s motto of “Protect, Nurture, Grow” deeply informs our philosophy and practice and has resulted in high student outcomes, retention rates and quality of relationships. In particular the College is proud of our students’ success in finding effective pathways beyond school.

The breadth and flexibility of curriculum across all areas of learning and our extensive co-curriculum, promotes students’ ability to find paths of learning to which they can respond. This also gives them a sound understanding about learning and themselves that serves them well into the future. This is underpinned by the work done over many years on improving teaching practice to ensure that a challenging and rigorous personalised learning program is delivered in an effective manner. The College is committed to structuring learning opportunities within ICT rich environments. This has produced strong results in broad student learning as reflected in the NAPLAN data, in successful pathways for all students, and particularly in the performance of students in the VCE.
Mount Eliza Secondary College is well-equipped with interactive whiteboards, digital projectors and College-wide netbook provision so that teachers and students have access to this technology every period of every school day. Students have access to their own personalised netbook and both internal and external digital networks 24/7.

Students and parents are able to access the College Portal from home ensuring both effective communication and access to learning documents at all times. In such an ICT rich environment, technology is embedded in the curriculum, which encourages independent thinking and develops team skills, essential for success in a global and internationalized world.
At Mount Eliza Secondary College it is a priority for all staff to ensure the transition from Primary to Secondary School is a positive, challenging learning experience that provides our students with an immediate sense of achievable success and a challenge to extend themselves to the utmost of their personal ability.

**Year 7**
The Year 7 students are well supported in their transition with a comprehensive induction program that quickly familiarises them with their new College and physical surroundings, including a dedicated Year 7 Learning Centre. Our Teams Small Groups or TSG program in Year 7 ensures the students experience fewer teachers than at other year levels. In many cases, one teacher may teach several subjects, allowing closer relationships to form between our students and teachers in their first year of high school.

We have a commitment to using inquiry-based learning in the Year 7 program and are continually developing and refining this program in conjunction with regular feedback from local primary schools in relation to developments in student learning at upper primary school levels.

In recognition of outstanding effort, Mount Eliza offers a scholarship program in Year 7 with scholarships available in the categories of Languages, The Performing Arts, and Leadership and Community Involvement.

**Year 8**
Our Year 8 students continue developing close relationships through our Mentoring Program and also play a more active leadership role within the College. A highlight of the Year 8 program is the Victorian Police Youth Development Corps and the associated Victorian Police Cadet Band, which provide opportunities for students to experience a range of activities that are not usually part of the traditional academic curriculum.
Years 9
We recognise that Year 9 students need to explore, to take risks, make mistakes, get out and get involved. Our Mindware program is structured to gradually increase the challenge to the student throughout the year. On their Mindware journey, Year 9 students learn how to learn, how to work in a group and strengthen interpersonal relationships and are required to record their progress in a journal. They prepare a portfolio of their work and learn how to recognise excellence in effort and attainment.

Mindware continues to provide a challenging and supportive framework from within which students can reach out to follow their passions and forge meaningful relationships with others, to sustain them through their transition to adulthood.

Years 10
As a result of their inclusion under the umbrella of the expanded Senior School, students at Year 10 have an even greater number of curriculum opportunities compared to previous years of schooling. Some of these opportunities relate to the College’s view that this is a very important preparatory year for VCE, while others are linked to the broadening of curriculum offered and the extension of the application of independent learning.

An important aspect of the Career Orientation Program delivered by Teachers, Mentors and our Pathways Coordinator encourages students to transfer their learning between subjects and beyond the classroom to work within the community. This program is pivotal in ensuring that students are well prepared for Work Experience and their future career choices. The Year 10 timetable is seamlessly interwoven with the VCE timetable, allowing all Year 10 students the opportunity to accelerate into any VCE subject offered at the College and to access the wide range of VET subjects available at Units 1 and 2 level.
**Senior Years**

**Years 11 and 12**

Year 11 and 12 students focus on either a VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education) or VCAL Program (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) and may select a VET (Vocational Education and Training) subject. They work closely with their Mentor Teacher, the Pathways Team and the Senior Sub School Team to develop their aspirations and design personalised learning plans that meet their needs and the College’s expectations. Students in both VCE and VCAL have the opportunity to undertake a range of vocational courses run in conjunction with local TAFE providers.

**Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)**

For those students seeking an applied learning environment, VCAL provides an appropriate pathway. VCAL allows students to undertake TAFE based courses and school based new apprenticeships, develop work options and undertake a course of study built around literacy, numeracy and personal development.
Beyond the Classroom

Sport
Students are able to participate and compete in a comprehensive range of team and individual sports. Every year the College holds an intra-school athletics carnival and a swimming carnival. We take pride in our successful history of sporting involvement and achievement and enthusiastically compete against other district schools in the interschool round robins held across the school year. Successful teams from all year levels then move through to the Southern Zone and then the State Finals where our students consistently achieve above-average levels of success.

Camps Program
The promotion of student independence through attendance at school camps and participation in overseas or interstate trips is greatly encouraged. Students from Year 7 to Year 12 gain invaluable knowledge as they attend year level, outdoor education and study camps, which introduce them to new experiences and environments and challenge their status quo.

Language students are provided the opportunity to undertake trips to Malaysia and Germany and there are plentiful opportunities for students to enter into an exchange arrangement with our sister school in Germany.
Mount Eliza Secondary College has a long and proud history of involvement in The Visual and Performing Arts and is recognised for its achievements over many years in musical productions, Rock Eisteddfods, instrumental music programs, College bands, dance performances and the VET Music Industry Skills Program. The Visual and Performing Arts are extremely popular upper secondary areas of study for students at Mount Eliza Secondary College and have been for some years. Dance and Drama are a compulsory component of the Junior School Curriculum and are offered to students from Year 7 right through to Year 12.

In addition to the numerous courses offered at VCE level in the Visual and Performing Arts at Mount Eliza Secondary College, there is a wide range of extra-curricular programs that provide opportunities for our students to perform publicly within the local area, on tours throughout Victoria, interstate and even overseas.

For the last four years a touring party of performers made up of Mount Eliza Secondary College students and their teachers have performed “Romeo & Juliet: A Rock Opera”, “The Tempest: A Rock Opera” and “Ned Kelly: A Rock Opera” to audiences in towns across Italy, Germany, Austria and France. The shows are written and produced by the teaching staff and performed by students from all years.

The College also puts on its own Musical Production every year which involves our students in acting, singing and backstage roles. There are also three College Bands that support the Musical Production and tour Victoria performing to audiences made up of all age groups.
Three separate dance groups have also been running classes at the College for a number of years. A dance aerobics squad rehearses three times a week and the Helen O’Grady Dance and Drama School also conducts classes on-site. These groups are open to members of the local community as well as our own students from Years 7 to 12.

Mount Eliza Secondary College is also the base school for the provision of VET Music Industry Skills which encompasses study streams in both performance and technical production. Our VET Music Industry Skills program provides a Year 11 and Year 12 pathway for students drawn from twenty-one secondary schools on the Peninsula, including Government, Catholic and Independent schools and colleges. There are also opportunities for Year 10 students to accelerate into this program. Enrolments are consistently well over 100 students with enrolments growing every year. Eric Powell, a well-known international DJ with his own record label, is one of the presenters of this two year course. Eric was also one of the innovators of utilising the internet for publishing and recording. Upon completion students graduate with a Certificate III in Music Industry Skills.

This course provides our students with access to industry contacts and exposure that positions them well for future careers in the Music Industry.
Our College

Located on the pristine coastline of the beautiful Mornington Peninsula, Mount Eliza Secondary College is set on spacious grounds and offers excellent facilities. Our students are privileged to enjoy:

- An extensive library with networked computers and on-line research facilities;
- 1:1 Netbook provision from Year 7–12
- Learning areas and specialist classrooms equipped with up-to-date ICT facilities and interactive whiteboards, notebook computers with wireless internet access;
- An expansive Gymnasium and Drama complex;
- Plentiful outdoor sporting grounds;
- A Creative Arts complex which houses studio arts, photography and ceramics studios, woodwork and metalwork studios and fabrics and textiles studios;
- Food and Technology kitchens;
- Music practice and recording rooms;
- A VCE study centre and Careers Centre and;
- A dine-in College Cafeteria.