

About Our School

School context

Foster Secondary College (Foster SC) is situated in Foster and is part of the Corner Inlet Community of South Gippsland. Dairy Farming and agriculture are key industries in the area, along with retail, health, construction and tourism. There is a vibrant cafe culture and we are lucky to have skilled artisans throughout the community. Foster is approximately 175km from the centre of Melbourne.

Our College motto is 'Nihil Sine Labore' which means nothing without hard work.

In 2022 Foster SC had approximately 260 students ranging from Year 7 - 12. Our Primary feeder Schools are Foster PS, Fish Creek PS, Toora PS and Welshpool PS. We employed around 40 staff, including teachers, teacher aides, education support, maintenance and office staff. The staff are very cohesive and united in the aim to develop a strong college community where every individual student is provided with a positive and encouraging environment in which to succeed.

Foster SC, through individualised career pathway counselling and skills education, aims to prepare students for a successful life after school. Our school celebrates student achievement but also student productivity. In 2022, Foster SC achieved the best VCE results for Government Schools in Gippsland. While we are a small school, we offer a broad range of VCE subjects to suit most students, and make Year 10 a Pre-VCE year in which we raise the level of expectation for students, preparing them for the processes and programs they will encounter in Year 11 & 12.

We are the lead school of the South Gippsland Trade Skills Alliance, a very successful VET program that dramatically broadens the career opportunities for current and future students.

Foster SC has collaborated extensively with our area's Primary Schools to develop a highly regarded Transition Program from Grade 6 into Year 7 to ensure students are nurtured and prepared for secondary school.

Progress towards strategic goals, student outcomes and student engagement

Learning

Individual Education Plans (IEPs) were completed in Semester 1 for all students who require them. The IEPs were used to assist with career / pathways development plans. Modified programs were created to support Year 9 and Year 10 Numeracy development.

NAPLAN data indicates that Year 7 and Year 9 students are a band below State levels. As these students did not do NAPLAN during COVID lockdowns when they were in Grades 5 and 7 respectively, there is no growth data. Triangulation with teacher judgment and Progressive Achievement Testing (PAT) / on-demand testing validates NAPLAN results with a few exceptions. Datawise cycle on feedback has been successful in identifying the qualities of Targeted and Timely feedback. Evidence from student surveys indicated a whole school improvement from 64% in Semester 1 on the key question: "Has the feedback improved how you answer questions on Learning Tasks" to 77% in Semester 2. Growth across all year levels (except Year 9: 80% to 77%) with significant increases in positive responses in Year 7: 79% to 95%, Year 8: 41% to 72% and Year 12: 58% to 100%. All staff trialled the FSC Feedback exemplar model for written feedback in at least 1 Compass Learning Tasks in Semester 2.

The class of 2022 included three ATARs in the 80s, two ATARs in the 90s, with an average ATAR of 70.82. Students achieved 18 study scores of 36+ (top 20% in the State) and 4 study scores of 40+ (top 9% in the State). These results are on par with the College's 7-year average for VCE measures.

Perhaps the most satisfying result, was that the class of 2022 achieved above the State average (30.3) in the all studies score. This score is often used in the media to compare schools as it is an indicator of the quality of classroom instruction across all subjects offered at the VCE level. For the second year running, students from FSC have achieved this meritorious result. We are proud to celebrate the class of 2022 for this outstanding VCE achievement and commend them, their teachers and their parents for the culmination of 6 years of hard work at FSC.

Wellbeing

In 2022, FSC mobilised available resources effectively to support students' wellbeing and mental health, especially the most vulnerable using the weekly Wellbeing for Learning Surveys (data provided by PIVOT).

The Live4Life Mental Health First Aid for Teenagers Program was delivered to over half the staff of FSC. These staff members can now recognise the signs that teenagers are battling with wellbeing and mental health issues. Students were educated to become familiar with wellbeing language and were able to articulate their issues with greater accuracy. All students successfully completed a Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships (RRRR) program. Our Wellbeing team recorded a reduction in students presenting with relationship issues. Coordinators/Wellbeing were better able to identify students in need due to increased training. Students are more comfortable and able to access Wellbeing support through internal and external support groups (Wellbeing Team, Youth Assist Clinic, Mental Health Plans, Headspace).

Data: Attitudes to School Survey showed a greater connection to peers and school, particularly with the girls' data. PIVOT Wellbeing Survey baseline data completed weekly showed an improved level of connectedness to school. Less students presenting to the Wellbeing Team during class time.

Engagement

FSC continues to improve and consolidate its approach to providing a engaging and challenging program. Our Year 7 Program has strengthened connections with local primary schools and enables a stepped approach to having students transition to FSC. Our Year 8 program focuses on engaging students in teamwork and completing programs in the local community, particularly with Parks Victoria through the Broadening Horizons program. Year 9 is a year to challenge students physically and mentally through the Community Program, where students complete a bushwalk in Semester 1 and then choose to work with local organisations (eg Lifesaving Victoria) to gain a certificate. Year 10 focuses on Pathways, with more student choice in the curriculum and a camps program based around work experience and exposure to career opportunities. Finally our VCE and VCAL program at Year 11 and 12 aimed at supporting students to specialise in their chosen pathways.

The 2022 Student Attitudes and School data for FSC was very strong, with our results consistently significantly higher than our network schools and state averages. An example of this is Stimulating Learning, where our positive rating of 65% compared to the Network score of 46% and state average of 51%.

Other highlights from the school year

The highlights for Foster SC in 2022 consist of our excellent VCE results explained earlier. Our school culture ranks in the top echelon of schools in Gippsland but also all of Victoria. Staff felt connected and positive about the whole school improvement programs and the teaching and learning environment we have created. Students felt safer than most schools across the state as well as having confidence that their teachers care about them and help them to achieve success. Students from FSC have experienced success in academic, artistic and sporting fields in 2022. FSC had schools from a range of areas visiting to learn what we are doing to consistently record excellent VCE Mathematics results. In 2022 we continued to maintain positive community relationships and contribution through the Year 9 Community Program in which students gain their Surf Bronze Life Saving qualifications and then go on to volunteer over the summer at local surf clubs and beaches. Year 9 students also create local artworks and socialise with residents of the Aged Care facility in Foster. FSC's Music and Art departments regularly show their talents and skills for the community. The Music Department is the most regular 'face' of the college, gaining high praise for its achievements and performances.

Financial performance

Foster Secondary College completed 2022 with a surplus in our Student Resource Package (SRP). The school received Tier 2 funding for 2023 which allowed us to employ a Disability and Inclusive co-ordinator as well as increasing the time allowance for our Numeracy and Literacy co-ordinators to develop individual student education plans.

Foster Secondary College will receive school mental health funding for 2023. We have successfully appointed a Student Wellbeing Support co-ordinator to educate students and help teachers run the Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships curriculum.

The outlook for 2023 is looking promising with an increase in year 7 enrolments and carrying forward a surplus from 2022 which allows for more money to be spent on subject specific curriculum programs. The school will also be in a financial position in early 2023 to upgrade our security camera system and carry out maintenance work such as painting and new carpet in our Admin area.

For more detailed information regarding our school please visit our website at <https://fsc.vic.edu.au/>



Department
of Education

Foster Secondary College