



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Foster Secondary College is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of the voluntary financial contributions for 2024.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard curriculum and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. Nevertheless, the ongoing support of our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education and support for our students. We want to thank you for all your support, whether that is through fundraising or volunteering your time. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

For further information on the Department’s Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached.

Yours sincerely,

Dean Duursma
Acting Principal

Lisa Barham-Lomax
School Council President

| Total Contributions which includes the following:- | \$400.00 |
|---|----------|
| Senior Curriculum Contributions (Yr 10 – 12) - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum | |
| <i>Subject consumables, classroom materials and activities</i> | \$280.00 |
| <i>Student ID Card</i> | \$10.00 |
| <i>Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials</i> | \$10.00 |
| <i>Whole school events</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletics carnival • Swimming carnival | \$20.00 |
| Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities | |
| <i>School Sports Victoria affiliation</i> | \$5.00 |
| <i>Student wellbeing programs</i> | \$20.00 |
| <i>First aid equipment</i> | \$5.00 |
| <i>School grounds maintenance and improvements</i> | \$50.00 |

Financial Support for Families

Foster Secondary College understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- State Schools Relief (SSR) for uniforms
- Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
- For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact: Letitia Bullen

Ph: 03 5682 2066

Email: letitia.bullen@education.vic.gov.au

| Extra Curriculum Items are mandatory payment based on participation (user pays) | Estimate Only |
|--|---------------|
| Instrumental Music Fee for individual instrumental music lessons | \$308.00 |
| Second Instrument Lesson | \$154.00 |
| VCE Music Instrument double lessons (on top of the base fee of \$308.00) | \$154.00 |
| Instrument Hire | \$150 |
| Year Level Camps | TBA |
| Other noncurricular activities - prices vary depending on activity e.g. end of year activities, formals, whole year level activities | TBA |

PARENT PAYMENTS POLICY OVERVIEW



FREE INSTRUCTION

- Schools provide students with free instruction and ensure students have free access to all items, activities and services that are used by the school to fulfil the requirements of the Curriculum. This includes the Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- Schools may invite parents to make a financial contribution to support the school.



PARENT PAYMENT REQUESTS

Schools can request contributions from parents under three categories:

Curriculum Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.

Other Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides for free to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

- Schools may also invite parents to supply or purchase educational items to use and own (e.g. textbooks, stationery, digital devices).



FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

- Schools put in place financial hardship arrangements to support families who cannot pay for items or activities so that their child doesn't miss out.
- Schools have a nominated parent payment contact person(s) that parents can have a confidential discussion with regarding financial hardship arrangements.



SCHOOL PROCESSES

- Schools must obtain school council approval for their parent payment arrangements and publish all requests and communications for each year level on their school website for transparency.