



Blackburn HIGH SCHOOL

15th November 2023

Parent Payments VCE - Year 11 and 12 - 2024

Dear parent/guardian,

Blackburn High School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Blackburn High School's voluntary financial contributions for 2024.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements 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 financial support. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

Within our school this support has allowed us to provide a wider offering of subjects and enhanced curriculum experiences; wider digital learning opportunities; and the upgrade of our facilities and grounds. During 2023 we transformed our VCE Centre and Arts Precinct with major building renovations, expanded the Music staff/Melba House facilities, and added three more locker bays for Melba, Dunlop and Hollows Houses. We are excited to announce that in 2024, we will also have a new Wellbeing Centre and a new Pathways/Careers Centre.

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

Yours sincerely,

Joanna Alexander, Principal

Geoff Hugo, School Council President

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<i>Classroom Consumables</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Subject consumables, classroom materials and activities</i> 	\$100
<i>Digital technologies - provision of devices, software, and system support</i>	\$60
<i>Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials</i>	\$60
<i>Whole school events</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Athletics and Swimming Carnivals - entry and transport</i> 	\$30
<i>Assessments (eg standardised tests, revision packages, prac exams printing, external exam marking)</i>	\$60
Total Curriculum Contributions	\$310

Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
<i>School Sports Victoria affiliation</i>	\$13
<i>Student wellbeing programs</i>	\$20
<i>Student and parent communication tools – Xuno</i>	\$40
<i>First aid consumables</i>	\$10
<i>School grounds maintenance and improvements</i>	\$100
<i>Maintenance of specialised facilities (eg gym equipment, musical instruments)</i>	\$30
<i>Locker maintenance and hire, Faster Wi-fi, Library Resources</i>	\$55
Total Other Contributions	\$268

Tax deductible contributions	
<p>Building fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure – Donations most welcome.</p> <p>Suggested Amount - \$150 \$200 \$300 Other \$_____</p> <p>A tax-deductible receipt will be issued.</p>	<p>\$</p> <p>[parent to complete]</p>

Educational items for students to own

Attached is a list of items that the school recommends you purchase for your child to individually own and use.

New

- Textbooks and digital resources – from Champion
- Uniforms – from Dobsons
- Booklists and Uniform requirements and contact details are also available on our website.

Second-hand

- We also offer the option for buying and selling second-hand uniforms, textbooks and other items. Visit www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au for further details.

School-operated shop for donated second-hand uniforms

We offer quality second-hand uniforms in our school-run shop at very reasonable prices. Donations of good quality clean uniforms are welcome. Contact the school via email blackburn.hs@education.vic.gov.au or 8804 6464 for opening times or check on our website.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities – provided on a user-pays basis

Blackburn High School offers a range of optional items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides to deliver the Curriculum.

The cost of extra-curricular items and activities will be advised throughout the year.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount (Approx)
<i>School magazine/yearbook</i>	\$16
<i>Academic competitions – ranging from \$4 to \$9 per entry</i>	\$9
<i>Excursions/activities to be scheduled and confirmed throughout the year</i>	TBA
<i>Interschool Sport – cost per event, includes cost of transport</i>	\$25
<i>Instrumental Music Lessons – per year</i>	
<i>Group Lessons (first instrument) (includes ensemble)</i>	\$915
<i>Individual Lessons (includes ensemble)</i>	\$1600
<i>Individual lessons (for VCE music subject students)</i>	\$915
<i>Group Lessons (second instrument)</i>	\$500
<i>Ensemble only (for students having lessons outside of school)</i>	\$450
<i>Second Ensemble</i>	\$380
<i>Instrument Hire</i>	\$365
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities	\$

Financial Support for Families

We understand that some families may experience financial difficulty and offer a range of support options, including:

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)
- State Schools Relief (SSR)
- Payment plans for some Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment plan arrangements, contact Andrea Julien:

Ph: 03 8804 6464 Email: blackburn.hs@education.vic.gov.au

Total

Category	Total
Curriculum Contributions	\$310
Other Contributions <i>(Non-tax deductible)</i>	\$268
Building Fund Donation <i>(Tax-deductible)</i>	\$ <i>[parent to complete]</i>
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities – will be invoiced separately via Xuno throughout the year	\$
Total	\$

Payment methods

Our preferred method of payment is through the Xuno Parent Portal. If you are **not** paying via Xuno, please return a copy of this completed form with your payment to the General Office.

Refunds

Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the school and made on a case-by-case basis. Refunds will be provided where the school deems it is reasonable and fair to do so, taking into consideration whether a cost has been incurred, the Department’s Parent Payments Policy and Guidance, Financial Help for Families Policy, and any other relevant information.

PARENT PAYMENTS POLICY

ONE PAGE 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	Other Contributions	Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.	Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.	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.