



20<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Monbulk College is looking forward to another exciting year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Monbulk College's Year 8 voluntary financial contributions for 2025.

At Monbulk College, our unwavering commitment to excellence drives us to continuously innovate our educational programs, tailored to meet the unique needs and interests of each of our students. We take great care to keep the costs associated with various school items and activities as low as possible, ensuring affordability for all parents in our community.

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 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.

Within our school, this support has allowed us to provide an outstanding committed wellbeing team available to all families and students, purchase a school bus to ensure small groups of students can attend class level excursions, provide additional curriculum resources for classrooms and landscaping including yarning circles.

It is important to stress that the viability of our innovative programs in 2025 relies on your support through voluntary parent contributions. We understand the financial challenges faced by families, and we want to assure you that all contributions are valued and go directly toward student programs, specialist staff, and facilities that benefit everyone. By working together and contributing what we can, we create a powerful collective impact.

Parents can also make tax deductible contributions to our Building or School Library funds. Contributions to our building fund are helping realise exciting projects such as the science and food technology facility upgrade and theatre refurbishment and to our library fund to innovate and create an inviting environment for the students.

#### **Payment methods**

Our preferred method of payment is via Compass Course Confirmation. Payment can also be processed at the office using credit/debit card or cash.

#### **Payment Plan Options**

- 5 monthly payment plan through Compass Course Confirmation commencing 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025.
- Tailored payment plan Eg. \$20 fortnightly contributions (please contact office for this option)

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

Yours sincerely,

Mark Quinlan  
Principal

Naomi Hammett  
School Council President



Year 8 Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum.	Amount
<p>Core subject classroom consumables, materials, and equipment for: Arts, English, Health, Humanities, Technology, Japanese Language, Maths, Science and Physical Education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Classroom consumables, materials and equipment</li><li>• Art and Technology materials for take home projects and in class materials</li><li>• Printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials</li><li>• Teaching and learning enhancement software</li><li>• Literacy/Numeracy: additional learning materials and digital subscriptions</li><li>• Whole school activities programs: Student Leadership, lunchtime activities and clubs</li><li>• Whole year level event materials and resources</li><li>• Digital technologies - provision of devices, software, and system support</li><li>• Whole school sporting events: Athletics carnival, swimming carnival, cross country</li></ul>	\$250
<b>Total Curriculum Contributions</b>	<b>\$250</b>

Other Contributions		Amount * Suggested amount per student
Non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school’s functions and objectives. All contributions received towards these funds directly enhance the school’s ability to provide a high-quality learning environment and resources for every student.		
<b>Student Wellbeing Program Contribution</b>	<p>Monbulk College employs fully qualified Health Professionals, a full time Mental Health Practitioner and a full time Wellbeing Coordinator to work collaboratively with the school community to provide a proactive and preventative approach to wellbeing and mental health. The team work directly with students to support brief intervention and establish supports within school as well as supporting access to external services to ensure all our students can thrive.</p> <p>The team focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overseeing health and wellbeing of all students attending the wellbeing centre.</li><li>• Providing counselling, support and mediation for students and their families, including behaviour management plans, social and organisational skills.</li><li>• Consulting with external agencies for additional student support programs.</li><li>• Providing support to staff to assist students with school wide positive learning behaviours.</li><li>• Providing workshops for the whole school, year levels, student groups and individuals.</li><li>• Overseeing all health needs for injuries, excursions and camps including consultation with staff, parents, students and camp/excursion organisation.</li></ul>	\$100



<b>Grounds Maintenance and Improvements Contribution</b>	Parents are invited to contribute in lieu of attendance and/or to support the costs associated with working bees, grounds maintenance/improvements, the purchase of plants and landscaping materials. In 2025, we intend to use these funds to continue developing our whole school grounds.	\$50
<b>School Technical Support Contribution</b>	Student Technical Support provides funding for additional technical support required to maintain all student computers (including, but not limited to, access to College network and student drives, email, software support) and other ICT/e-learning equipment (including, but not limited to, student photocopiers, data projectors, interactive whiteboards and specialised media equipment) and resources throughout the College. Monbulk College also provides short-term loans devices to students as required.	\$40
<b>Total Other Contributions</b>		<b>\$190</b>

<b>Tax Deductible Contributions</b>		
<b>Building Fund</b>	To support the purchase of a bus shelter for students. Sun safety is a crucial aspect of ensuring the health and well-being of students in schools. Using steel structures is a great way schools can protect students from direct sunlight. By creating shaded areas within the premises, schools can provide a safe and protected environment for students to engage in outdoor activities while minimising the risks associated with excessive UV exposure.	\$100 * Suggested amount
<b>Library Fund</b>	A tax-deductible contribution to innovate the space for students and to support book purchases and other equipment that sustain the library as a valuable resource.	\$50 *Suggested amount

### 2025 Year 8 Parent Contributions Total

<b>Category</b>	<b>Total</b>
Curriculum Contributions	\$250
Other Contributions (\$190 suggested amount)	\$
Tax-deductible Contributions (\$150 suggested amount)	\$
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	User pays via Compass
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>



### School Saving Bonus

The Victorian Government is making life that little bit easier for families by providing a one-off \$400 School Saving Bonus. The School Saving Bonus is in addition to existing and continuing means-tested supports for Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF). The details of the School Saving Bonus will be provided to schools and families in Term 4, 2024. You can decide how to best use the School Saving Bonus for your family's needs. You can choose how to allocate the \$400 in the online system. At Monbulk College in 2025, your bonus can be used towards school costs, which include text books, excursions, and incursions, swimming program and school uniforms.

### Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Monbulk College offers a range of 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. These are provided on a user-pays basis via compass events. Activities include Excursions, Incursions, Swimming, Camps, Sporting etc. All events will be managed through the Compass portal. A notification will be sent to parents at the time of the event. CSEF is available to qualifying families or the School Saving Bonus if families chose to allocate an amount for activities on the portal.

### Financial Support for Families

Monbulk College makes every effort to ensure parent payments are affordable to all parents. Monbulk College understands that some families may experience financial difficulty. We have a range of support options, payment plans, including second hand uniform sales, Camps, Sports, and Excursions Fund (CSEF) and access to States Schools' Relief. For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact Hollie Serollo, Business Manager Ph: 03 9751 9000 Email: [hollie.serollo@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:hollie.serollo@education.vic.gov.au)

### Payment methods

Our preferred method of payment is via Compass Course Confirmation. Payment can also be processed at the office using credit/debit card or cash. If you choose to pay in full via compass, the full amount will be deducted on the same day that you process your payment on Compass.



Payments for all Curriculum Contributions and Other Contributions can be made either in full or 5 equal monthly instalments using Compass Course Confirmation and Payments.

1. Open Course Confirmation and Payments and select the payments that you would like to make.
2. Either pay in full or **via 5 monthly instalments** (commencing 27/02/2025) in Compass Course Confirmation.
3. Complete payment using your Debit/Credit Card details and submit.

### 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

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.