PARENT CONTRIBUTIONS ARRANGEMENTS

INCLUDING VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Dear families,

This letter provides information about voluntary contributions you can make to support Thornbury High School for 2027 and other payments you can choose to make.

Victorian government schools provide free instruction. This means all students have free access to all items, activities and services that schools use to deliver the curriculum, including reasonable adjustments to support students with disability.

Some families choose to make a voluntary financial contribution to support the school, and we are very grateful for this support. Making a voluntary contribution is your choice. There is no expectation or pressure for families to contribute.

Thornbury High School offers a range of items and activities that are additional to the free instruction provided to all students at our school. Financial help is available for extra-curricular items and activities if you are experiencing financial hardship (see further details under Financial Help for Families in the attached information). For a confidential discussion about how to access the financial help available, please contact: Amanda Salama, accounts@thoornburyhs.vic.edu.au or call the general office on (03) 9480 4066.

If you need an interpreter, please contact 03 9605 3053 and give our school's phone number (03) 9480 4066. An interpreter can help you speak with us. This service is free. For more information, please see How to use an interpreter to contact your school.

For more information on the Department of Education's Parent Contributions policy please see the information attached. You can read the full policy at Parent Contributions: Policy | education.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Lars Andersson

Principal

Cassandra Riley

School Council President

Thornbury High School 2027
PARENT CONTRIBUTIONS ARRANGEMENTS

THORNBURY HIGH SCHOOL

Voluntary contributions

If you are the carer of a student in out-of-home care or hold a financially means-tested card (such as a healthcare card), please ignore the invitation to make voluntary contributions.

We encourage any family experiencing financial hardship to contact the school for information about the financial help available for extra-curricular activities like camps and excursions.

Voluntary contributions	Suggested amount – parents can contribute more or less	Amount – parents to complete
Voluntary contributions *to enhance our school's range of programs, resources and environment.*	**$695.00**	**$.....**
Tax-deductible voluntary contributions		
Voluntary - Building fund: a tax-deductible contribution to support renovations and upgrades of school infrastructure	**$250.00**	**$.....**
Voluntary - Library fund (opening date TBC): a tax-deductible contribution to support library maintenance and enhancements	**$250.00**	**$.....**

Extra-curricular items and activities

Thornbury High School offers a range of optional items and activities that are additional to the free instruction provided to all students at our school. Accessing these items and activities does require payment, but financial support is available (see further details under Financial Help for Families below).

Example extra-curricular items and activities include:

- optional activities, camps, excursions and programs
- class photos
- social events like formals.

We have provided confirmed or indicative costs of known extra-curricular items and activities below.

Payment for extra-curricular items and activities with a confirmed cost can be made now or later. Payments can also be made via instalment.

Please contact the school for advice on financial help available for extra-curricular items and activities.

Extra-curricular items and activities	Indicative cost	Confirmed cost (where known)	Parent/carer to select
School Yearbook	**$30.00**	**TBC**	
Year 7 Melbourne Zoo	**$55.00**	**TBC**	
Year 7 First Nations Incursion	**$35.00**	**TBC**	
Year 7 Camp	**TBC**	**TBC**	
Year 8 Medieval Day incursion	**$30.00**	**TBC**	
Year 8 Sport Day	**$35.00**	**TBC**	
Year 9 Edendale Farm	**$25.00**	**TBC**	
Year 9 City School Experience	**$150.00**	**TBC**	
Year 7-9 Funfields -End of Year Excursion	**$65.00**	**TBC**	
Year 10 Kokoda	**$35.00**	**TBC**	
Year 11 Camp	**$995.00**	**TBC**	

Central Australia Camp	**$3,115.00**	**TBC**	
Italy trip	**$8,000.00**	**TBC**	
Year 12 Graduating Formal	**$150.00**	**TBC**	
Year 9 - 12 Instrumental Music - group or individual lessons or part of a school band (does not include instrument hire)	**$250.00**	**TBC**	
Music instrument hire (does not include lessons)	**$250.00**	**TBC**	
Sports Academy	**TBC**	**TBC**	
Interschool sports excursions	**TBC**	**TBC**	
Other activities as advertised on Compass	**TBC**	**TBC**	

Learning materials for students to own

Booklist items:

You can choose to buy learning materials for your child to individually use and own. These items can be bought from any supplier.

Thornbury High School has an arrangement with the following supplier(s) for the materials that you can buy: Campion | Education Solutions for Australian Schools

If you do not buy these items, your child will still be provided with what they need, however they may not be provided with these items to own, or keep, on an individual basis. If you wish to buy items through the supplier, please go to: Campion | Education Solutions for Australian Schools OR recommended list will be provided and published on our website when finalised

If you would like to buy items to own that are not from this supplier, you can contact thornbury.hs@education.vic.gov.au for information about editions of textbooks and/or calculator specifications that will be used.

Digital devices:

Thornbury High School uses digital devices to support learning from year levels 8 – 12. You are able to buy or lease a device for your child to own. If you do not buy or lease a device, your child will be provided with access as they need for their learning, but it may not be one-to-one, to take home, or to keep.

You can find information about the digital devices our school recommends, including minimum device specifications, on the Thornbury High School website.

You can buy or lease the digital device from ***Learning with Technologies (LWT) or JB HiFi Education (JB Edu) portals*** for pricing information from the two listed providers please visit the Laptop purchase portal on our website. You can also buy a device meeting these specifications from any other retailer.

Financial help for families

Thornbury High School understands families can experience financial difficulty. Help is available, including:

- **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund** – this program provides funding for eligible students, including those in out of home care, and holders of eligible financially means-tested cards (such as health care cards), to attend activities like camps, sporting activities, excursions and incursions that are offered on a user-pays basis.
- **Affordable School Uniforms** - delivered by State Schools Relief, this program helps cover costs such as school uniforms, shoes, and other essential school items where families are experiencing financial hardship or short-term crisis.
- Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
- Second-hand book sales [BUY & SELL second hand textbooks, uniforms, calculators, musical instruments and more] Sustainable School Shop - Second hand Textbooks, Uniforms etc
- Second-hand uniform store / sales Sustainable School Shop - Second hand Textbooks, Uniforms etc
- For additional support options please email accounts@thornburyhs.vic.edu.au and we can provide you with a list of alternative options.

Applications for support from the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and State Schools Relief are submitted by the school - please contact us to discuss these and other financial help.

For a confidential discussion about how to access financial help, please contact:

Thornbury High School's Accounts Team Ph: 03 9480 4066 (Option 3) | Email: accounts@thornburyhs.vic.edu.au

Payment methods

- **(Preferred method)** Login to the Compass portal. Once you have logged in, head to the payment centre (top-right on the homepage) and follow ***the contributions link***
- Visit the general office in person during term time (office hours 8:30am - 4:30pm)
- Call the General Office (03) 9480 4066
- Email accounts@thornburyhs.vic.edu.au for assistance

If you want to make voluntary contributions throughout the year, you can:

- decide when to make each contribution
- choose the amount of each contribution.

If you would like to pay for extra-curricular items and activities through instalments, please use the following payment plan/s:

Option		Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
1	Pay via single contribution	08-Feb-27	01-Feb-27	02-Feb-27	03-Feb-27	04-Feb-27	05-Feb-27
2 Two contributions:	Contribution 1	09-Feb-27	09-Feb-27	09-Feb-27	09-Feb-27	09-Feb-27	09-Feb-27
	Contribution 2	27-Apr-27	27-Apr-27	27-Apr-27	27-Apr-27	27-Apr-27	27-Apr-27
3	Alternative contribution arrangements contact - accounts@thornburyhs.vic.edu.au						

Refunds

Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the school and made on a case-by-case basis. As a general rule, onsite activities and incursions will not be refunded in the case of absence or withdrawal.

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 of Education's Parent Contributions policy and guidance, Financial Help for Families policy, and any other relevant information.

Refunds will not be processed for amounts under $20. Credits (not including CSEF) will be held for a maximum of 12 months before being transferred as a donation to the school.

To discuss further please contact our Accounts Team – accounts@thornburyhs.vic.edu.au or phone the school on (03) 9480 4066.

Department of Education

Parent Contributions policy

Information for families



FREE INSTRUCTION

Schools give students free instruction in the curriculum. This includes:

- Free access to all items, activities and services that schools use to deliver the curriculum, including reasonable adjustments to support students with disability.
- The Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major, and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- Free access to all subjects, including elective subjects.
- Free access to select-entry and accelerated programs.



FAMILIES CAN CHOOSE TO CONTRIBUTE

Schools can invite 2 types of voluntary contributions:

Voluntary contributions	Tax deductible contributions
Used towards enhanced educational programs and school environment, and additional resources and opportunities offered by schools	Used towards building and/or library fund (for those schools who have such funds)

Schools must advise the carers of students in out-of-home care and parents and carers who hold a financially means-tested card (such as a healthcare card) that the invitation to make voluntary contributions does not apply to them.

In addition, schools can invite parents and carers to pay for optional:

- Extra-curricular items and activities that go beyond the curriculum - for example, school photos, some excursions and some camps.
- Learning materials for students to individually use and own - for example, textbooks, stationery, and in secondary schools only, digital devices. If these items are not bought or provided from home, schools will provide students with free access to what they need for curriculum delivery.



FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

Each school has a contact person who can discuss with parents and carers the financial supports that are available.

Schools must publish their Parent Contributions arrangements on their school website, along with a link to the department's Parent Contributions policy.