Sunshine College
Creating futures









GROWTH LEARNING RELATIONSHIPS WELLBEING

Year 7 Handbook
2027

North Campus
Northumberland Road, Sunshine North
(03) 8311 8500

West Campus
25A Lachlan Road, Sunshine West
(03) 8311 5200

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WELCOME TO SUNSHINE COLLEGE!

We are delighted to welcome you and your child to the Sunshine College community.

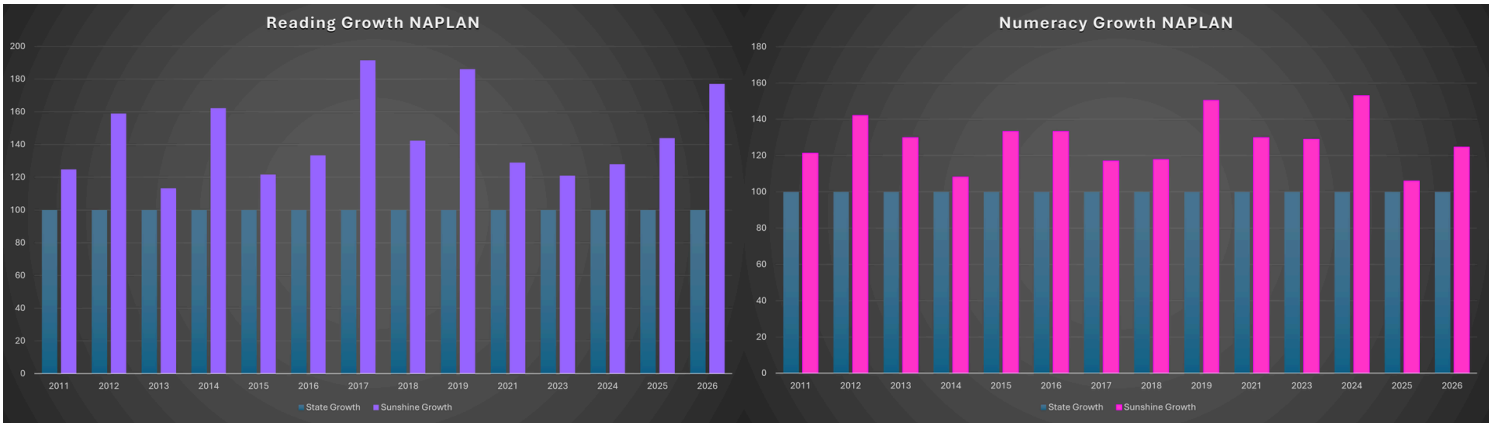


We hope to work with you to create a future for your child by providing an inclusive, collaborative, and aspirational environment where learning, growth, well-being, and relationships are valued.

Our very proud principal Tim Blunt would like to share some of our school highlights with you.

Did you know?

- **VCE**: 90% of year 12 students secure a place at University or TAFE every year. Our top students in the last 5 years are studying Biomedicine, Medical Radiography, Commerce/Law, Science and Accountancy.
- **NAPLAN**: Every year better than state growth for Numeracy and Reading.



- Our highly successful literacy program: **SunLit**, has inspired teachers to visit us from all over Australia to learn how our program works, so they can replicate what we do.
- Our **Maths Futures** team won two Victorian Education Excellence Awards, including the very prestigious Lindsay Thompson Award for outstanding work. This program has been adopted by many schools across, Australia, UK, New Zealand, Indonesia, and the USA.
- Student Attitudinal Survey consistently places Sunshine College in the top 10% of schools in Victoria, that means our students are happy and connected to school.

To see daily life at the college, visit our Facebook page through the link or search sunshinecollegevic

Let's Work Together

Tim Blunt
College Principal

Sunshine College is committed to creating and maintaining a child safe organisation, where children and young people are safe and feel safe.

You can find our Child Safe policies on our website: sunshine.vic.edu.au/policies

BELL TIMES

8.50am - 9.00am	Locker bell music
9.00am - 9.48am	Period 1
9.48am - 10.36am	Period 2
10.36am - 10.55am	Recess
11.00am - 11.48am	Period 3
11.48am - 12.36pm	Period 4
12.36pm - 1.19pm	Lunch
1.24pm - 2.12pm	Period 5
2.12pm - 3.00pm	Period 6

There is music played 5 minutes before the bell before school, and after recess and lunch to help students move between classes and not miss out on any valuable learning time.

Hot Day Timetable:
If the radio forecasts a temperature of **35 degrees celcius or more**, students will be dismissed at **2.40pm**, regardless of whether the forecast temperature is reached.

YEAR 7 & 8 SUBJECTS

Year 7&8 core subjects, (each period is 48 minutes):

English/EAL	5 periods/week
Mathematics	5 periods/week
Sunlit/Literacy	4 periods/week
Science	3 periods/week
History/Geography	3 periods/week
Health & Physical Education	3 periods/week
Connect	1 period/week

Additional 4 subjects (2 per semester) at Year 7 are:

Art and Foods	3 periods/week
Music and Drama	3 periods/week

Additional 4 subjects (2 per semester) at Year 8 are:

Art and Foods	3 periods/week
Music and STEM	3 periods/week

Health & Physical Education note:
Students are required to change into school PE uniform when doing practical HPE.

GETTING READY FOR CLASS

We believe that providing consistent structures and maintaining high expectations empowers every student to achieve their best. Your child's learning will be structured around their timetable. It is important that students and families develop a habit of checking their timetables. This should be done after school as well as checking for homework, and before leaving home to confirm the correct equipment is packed. A student's timetable can be found on **Compass.** Students will also be asked to write their timetables in their planners, so they can check on the run at school.

Some of these names and codes will seem strange at first, but over time they will become natural ways to identify people, places and subjects! As their daily routine becomes more familiar, students may not need to check as regularly.

Knowing the timetable is a fundamental skill so that students arrive at class on time and ready to learn.

LOCKERS

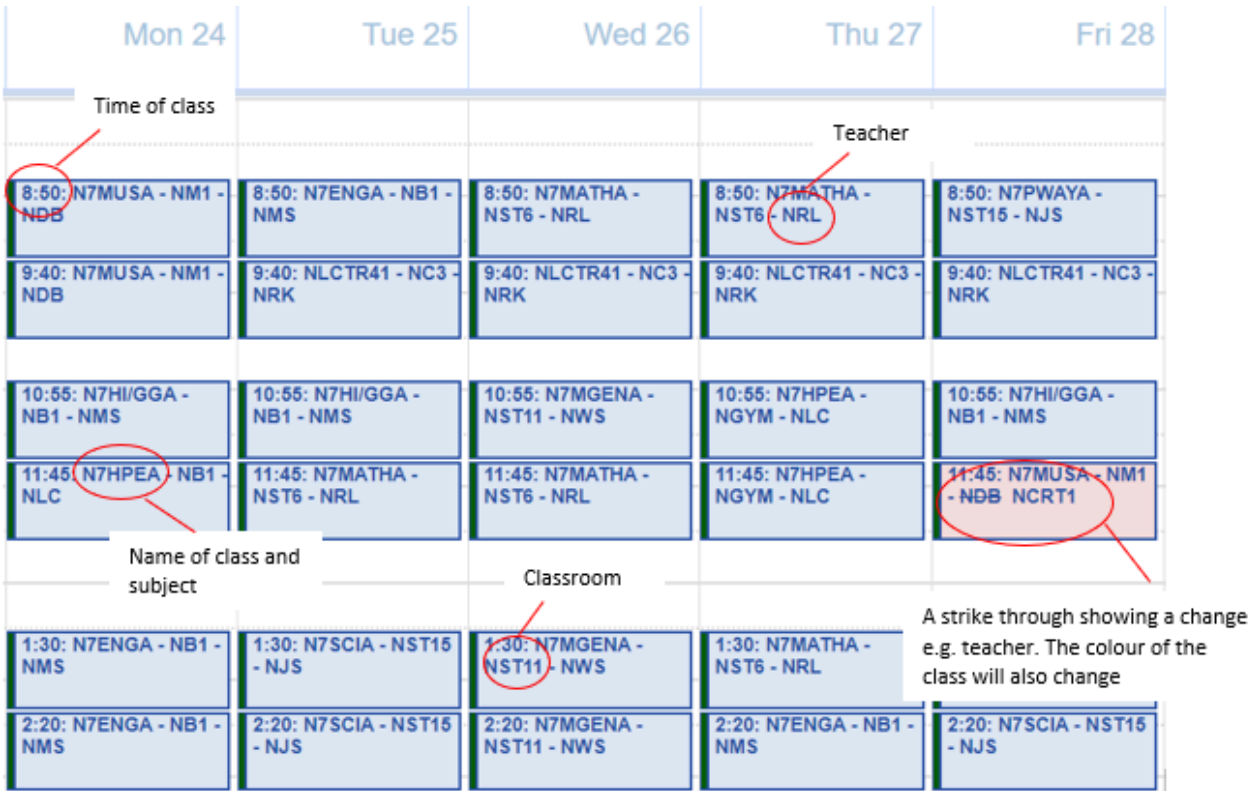
Every student at Sunshine College is issued with a locker. Students leave all bags, and snacks and belongings, including **mobile phones and wearable electronics**, in their lockers for the whole day.

Music or bells signal when students can visit their lockers. This happens 6 times per day and students do not visit the lockers outside of these times.

When can you visit the lockers?

1. Before school to collect the books and resources they need for periods 1 & 2.
2. At the beginning of recess to collect their snack and deposit books.
3. At the end of recess to collect books for periods 3 & 4.
4. At the beginning of lunch.
5. At the end of lunch to collect the books they need for periods 5 & 6.
6. At the end of the day students go back to lockers to collect bags before heading home.

A typical timetable on compass will look like this:



MOBILE PHONES

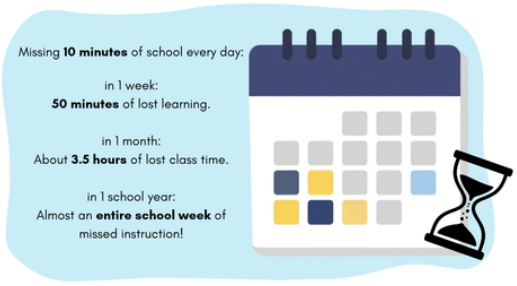


The Department of Education & Training Victoria has a policy of **no mobile phones or wearables for students in all schools.** This means that students are not allowed to have a phone on their person during school hours. The policy has been recently updated to include wearable devices such as smart glasses and ear buds. For further information please see our Mobile Phones and Personal Electronic Devices Policy on the school's website: www.sunshine.vic.edu.au/policies

Please contact your child's Campus office if you need to contact your child during the school day.

ATTENDANCE

Students achieve greater educational outcomes when attending school every day. We want to maximise student learning by ensuring your child attends school every day.



When they cannot attend, please let us know through your Compass account:





STUDY PLANNER

All students are given a study planner. This should be taken to **every class** and used to keep track of the work you need to complete and other important things to remember for your classes, like to bring a container for your food class!









Growth

We aim high, give our best, and take pride in personal improvement.

- Be ready to learn and give our best
- We arrive on time
- Wear the correct uniform
- Bring all materials (books, pencil case, diary, etc.)

Wellbeing

We look after ourselves, our learning environment, and each other.

- Keep our classroom clean and organised
- Chairs in, rubbish in bins
- Tables straight, whiteboards wiped
- Devices returned, plugged in
- Dividing walls are closed
- Shared spaces respected
- Use recess and lunchtime wisely
- No eating in class (water bottles only)

the Sunshine way





Learning

We respect our learning environment and make the most of every opportunity.

- Everyone has the right to learn
- Teachers have the right to teach
- Disruptions stop learning. We stay focused and support our peers
- Follow teacher instructions the first time
- Use lockers appropriately



Relationships

We build respectful, inclusive, and supportive relationships.

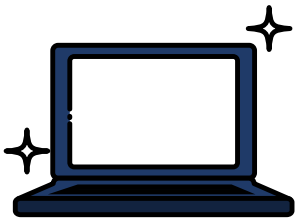
- Listen when others speak
- One voice at a time
- Respect everyone's ideas and opinions
- We put up our hand to contribute







HOMEWORK



We know when you want to become an expert in something you need to practice. Great basketball players do not just bounce a ball once and think that's it, I'm good enough.

Musicians do not become great unless they practice regularly, and the same thing is true for all the things students learn in school. **If you want to become really good at something, you need to practice!** At Sunshine College, all homework set by teachers is purposeful, designed to help students develop as independant learners and balance with other studies to avoid unreasonable workloads.

Study and homework clubs run in the library every week during lunch and after school, why not go along! And remember to keep track of your homework in your diary.



Help for students:
If you become worried about something at home or at school you should let us know so we can help you.

Please talk to any staff member you feel comfortable with when looking for help, usually you would speak to your **Connect Teacher** or **Coordinator** first. The school has a number of **well-being staff** that you can be linked to for additional support and help.

UNIFORM

We are very proud to belong to Sunshine College. Our school culture is inclusive, ensuring that everyone feels like they belong. One way we achieve students feeling included is by proudly wearing our school uniform.

Our **school uniform and dress code policy** can be found on the school's website.

If you are experiencing financial hardship, **State Schools Relief** may be able to assist you with uniform. You can find information and an application form at the back of this brochure.

Our uniform can be purchased from **DCS uniforms.** Non-logo items can be purchased elsewhere. A current price list and details of uniform items can be found in your parent compass account.

Sunshine College uniform

With school logo:

- White shirts
- School jumper
- School jacket /blazer
- PE top
- PE shorts (optional)
- School winter scarf

No school logo:

- School dress
- School skirt
- Grey formal trousers
- Grey formal shorts
- Navy shorts for PE
- Navy, black or white headscarf
- Black leather shoes
- Navy, black or white socks
- Runners for PE
- School tie (optional)
- Navy or black or white socks/tights
- Black leggings for under skirts (optional)

TEACHING & LEARNING AT SUNSHINE COLLEGE



At Sunshine College we strongly believe that social, emotional, and academic development are equally important to the learning process.

We know students learn best when they are supported by effective teachers, high quality resources, and rich learning experiences.

Our curriculum is carefully designed to engage students in their learning and build strong foundations in literacy and numeracy. It also supports the growth and learning of all students. Our teachers work together to create differentiated curriculum.

The best curriculum is collaboratively designed, and evidence based.

TEXTBOOKS

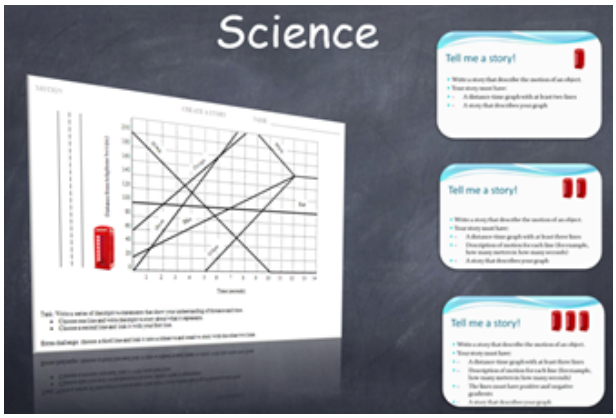
Unlike other schools our curriculum is not driven by textbooks. Instead, our curriculum is created by skilled practitioners who work collaboratively to design engaging learning tasks based on best possible teaching and learning practices.

This type of teaching has been shown to support highest growth in student understanding.

Our teachers work closely with students to identify gaps and misconceptions in their learning and address these using research philosophies. At Sunshine College we do not 'teach to the middle' in the hope that most students will have their learning needs met, instead our teachers differentiate classwork. In place of textbook costs, we apply a resource charge.

Our resource charge is cheaper than textbooks – but more importantly the resource charge supports the effective delivery of our curriculum including award-winning mathematics, literacy, and pathways programs.

'JUST RIGHT' TASKS

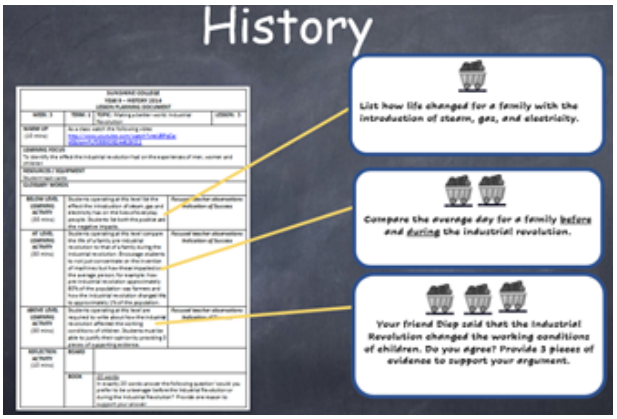


Students are active in their learning. In conjunction with their teachers, students select tasks which will have the biggest impact on their learning – 'just right' tasks.

A 'just right' task refers to a learning activity that provides an appropriate amount of challenge for each student's current level of skill and understanding.

Students who work on tasks that are too easy for them are quickly bored, disengaged, and most importantly, not learning.

Similarly, students working on tasks that are too difficult are quickly put off, restless and lose confidence in their ability, and make little progress. All students work on a similar learning intention but at a level that maximises their opportunity to learn.





YEAR 7	
	48 minute periods
SunLit	4
English	5
Science	3
Mathematics	5
Pathways - Connect	1
History/Geography	3
Health & PE	3
Visual Arts	3
Music	3
Food Technology	3
Drama	3



ELECTIVES PROGRAM

As our students grow towards maturity and independence their curriculum options begin to be determined by personal choice.

In years 9 and 10 students undertake core studies in The Arts, English, Mathematics, Science, Health and Physical Education, and Humanities. Students personalise their learning experience through the selection of a semester-based elective subject.

Over the two-year program students are encouraged to experience a wide range of learning areas. Elective subjects are designed to challenge and develop critical and creative thinking and build confidence. In year 10 eligible students may apply to participate in the Advanced Electives Program (AEP). The AEP allows students to select from a range of VCE and VET subjects to complete instead of the regular elective options.

SUNLIT PROGRAM

SunLit is the Sunshine College whole school reading program. We established the program in 2007 and it is based on evidence from extensive research, by Queensland academic, Dr. Carol Christensen.

A distinguishing feature of the program is that it caters for readers of all abilities. Every student can develop their reading skills-from the beginners to highly skilled readers.

Every student who enrols at Sunshine College can expect to receive targeted reading lessons designed to match and enhance their reading expertise.

All teachers in the college teach in the SunLit program. Our students receive constant reinforcement on the value and pleasure of reading throughout their daily school lives. Students from years 7-10 participate in the SunLit program four times a week and reading age is determined by the student's result from PAT (Progressive Achievement Tests) reading tests conducted twice a year.

SunLit students are then placed in one of four strands. They will progress to other strands according to both mid-year and end of year PAT results.



The 4 SunLit Strands:

Decoding Strand
Comprehension Transition Strand
Comprehension Strand
Strategies Strand

Each strand has a tailor-made timetable of reading activities based on Dr. Christensen work developed by our innovative Sunlit team at Sunshine College.

You can find more information about our literacy program in our **SunLit brochure**.

Students have 4 periods of SunLit lessons each week and the school provides all of the resources need for your student to learn and take part in these lessons

MATHS FUTURES PROGRAM



The Sunshine College approach to teaching and learning mathematics is a well-known, respected, and effective way to teach maths.

The team have been developing, refining, and sharing our differentiated model since 2008. In our classes, students are empowered to make decisions on their learning and teachers work together in the same lessons to ensure every child is challenged with work that is *"just right"* for them.

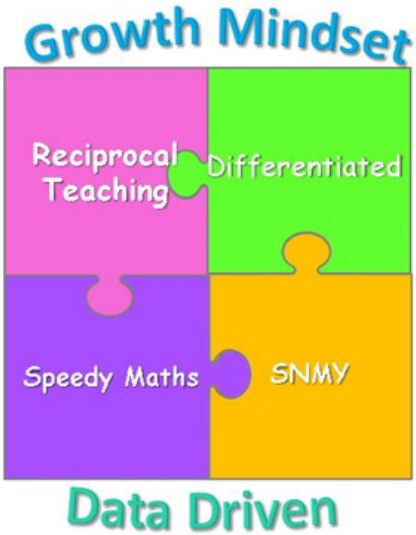
Students are formally assessed at the end of each term to track their progress. When students reach a year 11 level of mathematical understanding, there is the opportunity to complete an early VCE subject in maths.

Every student requires a calculator and a grid book, grey lead pencils and whiteboard pens for their maths lessons.

Students have 5 periods of maths each week and the 4 different parts of the program look something like the timetable below:

1	2	3	4	5
Diff	Diff	RT	SNMY	Digital Literacy

Instead of purchasing a textbook, part of the Resource Charge pays for all books, school created resources. The **Maths Futures brochure** gives more information about the program.



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

The Instrumental Music program is an optional addition to weekly lessons of the students. It is designed to complement other areas of learning within the College.

Through instrumental lessons and ensemble performances, the program is intended to enhance student learning, teamwork, personal development, and community interaction.

Our music teachers provide students with instrumental lessons catering for the individual student with the future goal of performing in one of the College's bands, and our annual performing and visual arts festival, MADD Day Out (held at the start of Term 4 every year).

Involvement in the Instrumental music program is a very enriching and rewarding experience for students prepared to exercise their sense of responsibility.

Lessons occur weekly on a rotating timetable so that students miss one period of normal lessons each week.

If you would like your child to be considered for the Instrumental Music program, please complete the **application form** at the back of this brochure **and** return to the school on or before your child starts school.

DEAF FACILITY

Sunshine College is an inclusive school and we believe that all deaf students are entitled to have access to a mainstream curriculum. The Sunshine College Deaf Facility operates at the West campus for students in years 7-12.

Our 'high support/high expectations' philosophy allows all of our students to achieve their personal best within a diverse and inclusive learning environment.

COMMUNICATION

At Sunshine College we value relationships and believe that a positive partnership between home and school is essential to the success of every child. We have a number of methods of communication to facilitate the partnership between school and home.

These include text messaging, email, phone calls, messages on the school website and written messages from teachers in your child's study planner. Every student has their own Compass account, and their parent or guardian has a separate account. Where students live between two parents in separate homes, each parent may have a different account.

Student and Parent accounts are different!

Your login details for your Parent Compass Account are emailed to you or sent in an SMS after we have received your completed enrolment form.

If you have not received your login details yet, please contact the school.

PARENT COMPASS

The parent portal of Compass has many functions including the ability to:

- Keep up to date with what's happening at school via the News Feed
- Access your child's assessments from each teacher
- Book your Parent/Teacher conferences
- View class and school attendance information
- Approve or enter upcoming or past absences for your son/daughter
- Complete your child's course information
- Access information regarding upcoming events and news
- Update your registered email and mobile number (used for SMS alerts) details
- Download, print and approve upcoming excursions
- Pay school fees, charges, and contributions

We encourage you to log in regularly to ensure you stay up to date with your child's progress at school and to access the other functions listed above.

You can start using Compass by accessing the link from the school's website, or alternatively, you can download the Compass School Manager app on your smart phone or device.

Not all functions are available from the app, so you made need to use the browser version from time to time.

Visit the Compass page on our website to find out more, and how to get help if you need it:
sunshine.vic.edu.au/compass

STUDENT COMPASS

It is important that students use their own login details as students access different functions compared to their parents. These include the ability to submit work and contact teachers.

Please contact the school office if you have any issue with Compass.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Sunshine college has lots to celebrate and we share examples of both our successes and our daily life as a school on our **Facebook page**.

Please follow us on Facebook to keep informed of everything we are doing as a school by scanning the QR code or following @sunshinecollegevic



RESOURCE LIST

At Sunshine College we have an aspirational and collaborative culture. Our skilled teaching teams have created the most effective resources to ensure all students achieve the success they deserve. Please visit your **Parent Compass** account to see the resource and booklist for your child.

PARENT PAYMENTS

All College Charges and Voluntary Contributions can be paid to the College via any of the following options:

BPAY
Family Statements show your BPay details. If you would like your payment to be allocated to a specific charge, please advise the school by email: sunshine.co@education.vic.gov.au (attention of Bernie Thatcher).

EFTPOS/CREDIT CARD
Parents wishing to make payments in person via card may do so at the Administration Office of our North and West campuses. Payments via credit card can also be taken over the phone by contacting the campus office.

Alternatively, if you wish to email us with your payment information you can do so by emailing **sunshine.co@education.vic.gov.au** with your card details, your name, your child's name and the charge that you would like your payment to be allocated to.

CASH
Cash payments can be made at the Campus Front Office during the hours of 8:30am to 4:00pm on school days.

Families who are experiencing financial difficulty are invited to contact your Campus to discuss options

CAMPS, SPORT & EXCURSION FUND (CSEF)

You may be eligible for additional financial support which is available to families who are holders of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder OR are a temporary foster parent.

More information and an application form can be found on our website:
www.sunshine.vic.edu.au/school-camps



HEALTHY EATING

At Sunshine College we value well-being, and we are working towards healthier options in the food we offer to our students.

We hope that you will support our move to a healthier way of life for students by encouraging them to make choose healthier options when purchasing and not supplying fast food for school lunches. For students who want to heat up lunch from home we have microwaves available for them to use.

There is also breakfast club for students who left in rush! From 8-8.40am students can fuel up for their day of learning. See Campus staff for more info.

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Facebook: facebook.com/sunshinecollegevic