mentone girls' secondary college

November 2026

Dear parents and carers,

This letter provides information about voluntary contributions you can make to support Mentone Girls' Secondary College 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.

Mentone Girls' Secondary College 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: Cheryl Shea 03 9581 5200

If you need an interpreter, please contact 03 9605 3053 and give our school's phone number 9581 5200. 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

Linda Brown

Principal

Mark Murray

School Council President

175 Balcombe Road Mentone Ph 9581 5200
PO Box 52 Mentone 3194, mentone.girls.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au

Mentone Girls' Secondary College PARENT CONTRIBUTIONS ARRANGEMENTS
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 2027 Year 7	Suggested amount – parents can contribute more or less	Amount
Voluntary contributions to enhance our school's range of programs, resources and environment.	**$ 890**	$

Tax-deductible voluntary contributions	Suggested amount – parents can contribute more or less	Amount
Voluntary - Building fund: a tax-deductible contribution to support renovations and upgrades of school infrastructure	**$ 300**	$

Extra-curricular items and activities
Mentone Girls' Secondary College 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
Year 7 Camp -Term 1 2027		$ 485	

Financial help for families

We understand 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 and Activities
- Second-hand book sales through Sustainable School Shop – Second-hand books and uniforms – www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au
- MGSC Second-hand uniform store

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:
Cheryl Shea, PH 9581 5200, mentone.girls.sc@education.vic.gov.au

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

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

Making Payments

Payments are made through the Compass Portal. They can be made in a lump sum or by an instalment option of your choice, please contact the general office Ph 9581 5200 to set up payment instalments.

COMPASS PAYMENTS CENTRE

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.

Please see the MGSC Refund Policy on the College website