

# In Focus



*Your Coeducational School - To Create, To Prepare, To Achieve. Make a Difference.*

## From the Principal

Two weeks ago we held our first whole school assembly, and I would like to share some excerpts from the speech made by our School Captains Maddie and Remy:

*Welcome to our new Year 7s - you are really lucky to have joined such an amazing school! RHS is a school where you'll get countless opportunities to try out clubs, classes, sports, camps and international trips over the years. We are so excited to have you all here at Richmond High School and if you ever have any questions, worries, or just want to chat, please feel free to come find us anytime!*

*We also wanted to talk about how proud we are of the students at RHS, and your contributions to make our school such a positive environment. We have great pride in the school community that we have here at RHS, all the strong friendships that have been formed, and the highly supportive environment that has been created over the years through the efforts of students and teachers alike. We're also so proud of the school's academic excellence. Last year, our dux, Darcy, achieved an ATAR of 99.45, 7% of our students achieved an ATAR of over 95, and 16% achieved an ATAR of over 90. We also had great success in STEM subjects, with 1 in 4 students achieving a study score of 40 or above in Chemistry and 1 in 3 accomplishing this in Specialist Mathematics. We also had students achieve perfect study scores for*

*the first time in our school's short history in Biology and Revolutions. Overall, 2024 was a massively successful year for us in both community and academics, and we know that 2025 is going to be even better. Sometimes taking a leap forward means leaving a few things behind, but I know that we have so many events to look forward to this year, such as the Generations in Jazz Music Festival, the China Study Tour, debating competitions and also the many sporting events Interschool Sport days. We're sure that RHS will perform incredibly well, but most importantly have fun with all these events, representing our school with pride.*

Our whole school assembly has been one of the many elements that has contributed to the great start we have made to 2025.

## ■ Post school pathways - Class of 2024

It has been wonderful to work with our pathways leader around some of the exciting pathways our 2024 Year 12's have achieved. We are proud to say that more than 80% of students received one of their top preferences with courses ranging from Aviation, Architecture, Forensic Science, Screen Production, Engineering, Journalism, Marketing and Communications, Sports Science, International Studies, Social Work and the Navy to name a few. The rich and diverse range of preferred post-school pathways secured by the vast majority of our 2024 Year 12s reflects both the sustained focus

and effort of the students over the course of the secondary schooling and the breadth and depth of learning opportunities that Richmond High School offers.

## ■ Year 7 camp

Last week, our Year 7's headed to the Summit camp where they faced their fears on the high ropes course and made many new friends. We were so impressed with their positive attitude to challenge themselves out of their comfort zone. Even more impressive was the encouragement and kindness they showed to each other. Some highlights were the teamwork and problem-solving skills students applied during the monster course and the dinner time sing-a-longs. Thank you also to the students for consistently putting their best foot forward - the camp organisers were extremely impressed with the positive attitudes and behaviour that they saw from our Year 7's and they can't wait for us to visit again next year. Thank you Ms Withers, the year 7 team and to all the staff that helped to make this camp such a memorable start to our students' time at Richmond High School.

## ■ Celebrating Lunar New Year at Richmond High School

Richmond High School embraced the Lunar New festivities with a variety of engaging activities led by our Enhanced Chinese

Program (ECP) students. Our **Year 7 ECP students** showcased their creativity by making traditional Chinese crafts, adding vibrant decorations to our school environment. **Year 8 ECP students** took part in a poster-making activity, where they designed festive posters highlighting different aspects of the Lunar New Year, including its traditions and cultural significance. **Year 9 ECP students** worked together to decorate the school with symbolic ornaments, creating a lively and festive atmosphere. They participated in a hands-on dumpling-making session, where they prepared, cooked, and enjoyed three types of dumplings: steamed, boiled, and pan-fried. For our **VCE Chinese students**, the celebrations included making traditional lanterns, symbolizing good fortune and prosperity in the new year. The celebrations not only provided students with an immersive cultural experience but also fostered a deeper appreciation for Chinese traditions within our school community. We are also very pleased to have launched a new ECP subject this year in Year 9 - Food Technology, taught in Chinese.



■ **Enhanced Chinese Program – Tour and Experience March 25th**

On Tuesday March 25th from 9am-10.15 am and 11-12 pm we are running an event showcasing our Enhanced Chinese Program (ECP) at RHS for future students and families of RHS. As the only Government Secondary School offering Bilingual

Chinese Learning, we are inviting families to join us to discover the richness of our Enhanced Chinese Program. Led by our Principal team and our esteemed teacher, Yin Zhang, an expert in Chinese language education and CLIL teaching. Yin has co-founded the Intensive Chinese Network and works to upskill teachers from all over Australia in the teaching of CLIL. She has also produced research and scholarly articles on Chinese language teaching in school settings, the event showcasing the Enhanced Chinese Program (ECP) at RHS. The event will include a school tour, a captivating mini-lesson, and a Q&A session with our students and staff.

Bookings can be made under the 'Enrolments – Book a tour – Events' tab on our website. Please read the event descriptions before selecting the time. <https://rhs.vic.edu.au/enrolment/boo-k-a-tour/>

We also wish members of our school community who are celebrating Ramadan this month Ramadan Mubarak!

**Andrea Thompson**

**Principal**



■ **Key dates coming up**

**Term 1 Key dates**

- March**
- 3rd Curriculum Day (student free day)
- 5th Year 11 Psychology Excursion to Richmond PS
- 6th Intermediate Sport/School Tour/CSIRO Maths Extension Program
- 7th Year 12 Physics Excursion to Luna Park
- 10th Labour Day Public Holiday
- 11th 12PE Excursion – Ice Hockey
- 13th School Tour
- 19th CSIRO Maths Extension Program

- 20th 11LS - Magistrates Court of Victoria Excursion
- 21st Year 8 Sport
- 25th School Council Meeting/ECP Tour
- 26th Whole School Athletics Day Debating Competition
- 27th Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
- 30th China Study Tour
- 31st Year 7 Sport

**April**

- 3rd School Tour
- 4th End of Term 1

■ **About us**

Richmond High School is a bespoke, multi-level co-educational learning space created to serve the local community. We are welcoming and inclusive, embracing difference and diversity in its many forms. We offer a strong academic focus that encourages creativity and original thinking.

We have high expectations of our students, balanced by care and support whenever it is needed. We hope to equip the students in our care for an ever-changing world, encouraging them to embrace learning for life and the desire to make a difference.

■ **Contact**

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■ **Respectful acknowledgment**

Our school is located on the land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, we pay our respects to them. They are the Traditional Custodians of our Land.

We would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present of the Kulin Nation and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians.

As a school, we aim to embrace difference in its many forms. In culture, gender and religion. We ask you to respect everyone, yourself included.



