

2022 Annual Report to the School Community

School Name: Brauer Secondary College (7395)



BRAUER COLLEGE
WARRNAMBOOL

- All teachers at the school meet the registration requirements of the Victorian Institute of Teaching (www.vit.vic.edu.au).
- The school meets prescribed minimum standards for registration as regulated by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) in accordance with the Education and Training Reform (ETR) Act 2006. This includes schools granted an exemption by the VRQA until 31 December of the previous calendar year from the minimum standards for student enrolment numbers and/or curriculum framework for school language program.
- The school is compliant with the Child Safe Standards prescribed in Ministerial Order No. 870 – Child Safe Standards, Managing Risk of Child Abuse in School.

- This 2022 Annual Report to the School Community has been tabled and endorsed at a meeting of the School Council and will be publicly shared with the School Community.

About Our School

School context

Brauer College promotes excellence in every individual. Student learning and individual student growth is our core educative purpose with values of respect, responsibility and participation underpinning our work.

The dynamic relational approach to learning promotes an environment that enables all students to develop academically, socially, physically and emotionally. The College provides an innovative Year 7 curriculum program with an enhancement program to cater for students with a desire to learn and be challenged.

A total of 857 students were enrolled in 2022: 3 percent of students had English as an additional language and 4 percent were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders. Brauer College's English As additional Language (EAL) program supports these students in their academic endeavors. Likewise, several indigenous programs such as KAKAI girls and CLONTARF continue to support our Koorie students establish their links with culture and form positive relationships.

The implementation of a vertical curriculum structure enables students to accelerate in their preferred areas of strength, a goal-setting approach to our senior pathways programs also encourages students to follow their desired outcomes in a post-secondary setting.

Brauer College rolled out a new leadership team structure which saw school leaders work with staff to build their capacity to use a variety of pedagogies in their teaching practice. Our Professional Learning Communities Strategy aims to improve teaching practice by enabling teachers to work together through an evidence-based approach. A consistent Instructional Model based of the gradual release of responsibility was developed as a result of this initiative in 2022.

Brauer College also invested heavily in the professional development through The Berry Street program which highlights the strategies employed by teachers for students in class to monitor and support them to engage with class work in a positive manner.

Assistant Principals oversaw student management programs with Year Level Coordinators. The development of a new Student Management process saw the management of day-to-day activities that supported our students re-engage with face-to-face learning after two years of the disruptions caused by the global pandemic.

Student support is provided through a strong and positive Pastoral Care program, enhanced by the "Big Life" program and a student Wellbeing Centre which includes a Social Worker, a provisional Psychologist and a number of social workers all supported by a Student Wellbeing Coordinator.

These supports are among the many social and emotional development programs implemented to ensure our students remain connected to the school and that their wellbeing is managed to ensure success for individuals.

Students have an extensive co-curricular program to engage them, including a highly acclaimed Music program, an extensive array of sporting academies, public speaking, and leadership opportunities. There is significant interest in our post-compulsory programs with strong enrolments in VET and VCAL.

Brauer College has extensive facilities including (but not limited to) a Performing Arts Centre, Technical Training facilities, a dedicated exercise and fitness center and an Outdoor Education Centre at Dunkeld. Our staffing profile is : FTE: Principal Class – 3, Teachers 70 and 43 ES Staff.

Progress towards strategic goals, student outcomes and student engagement

Learning

Brauer College prides itself in the wide ranges of support for students in their academic endeavours. Brauer College has seen a slight decrease in student achievement over the 2022 academic year although it is worth noting that the College has ranked above similar schools in many of the criteria outlined in the 2022 school performance report.

Our school maintains a calm and academically rigorous learning environment. Brauer College provides supports ranging from Maths and English tutoring at lunch time for student extension as well as a learning hub to support students with their academic challenges.

Our teacher judgement of student achievement shows that from Year 7 to 10 in English, Brauer College has seen that 71% of our students are at or above age expected standards outperforming many of our similar schools. Likewise, our Reading year 9 NAPLAN results showed 45.7% of students at or above age expected learning, above other similar schools but below our state average. Areas of improvement in our Year 7-10 Mathematics and Year 9 NAPLAN results are being addressed through a number of strategies which include our PLC initiative focused on Algebra and the use of targeted and explicit teaching activities in areas such number and geometry within the classroom. Our 2023 strategic plan has also identified strategies to improve writing may see further improvements in these areas.

Brauer College has been the second highest performing school in VCE in the Warrnambool area with an average study score of 28.3 well above similar schools (26.4). In 2022, 96% of our students undertaking VCE achieved their certificates, our careers and pathways team placed 97.5% of our students in either tertiary education, traineeships, or further employment.

Wellbeing

Brauer College maintained a high level of support for student wellbeing in 2022. Our students were supported with a number of Tier 1 proactive wellbeing activities with the team from Big Life and our Wellbeing team rolling out inclusive and proactive activities to promote life-skills and resilience in our students.

While the sense of connectedness in our 4-year average remained high (51.6%) we noted a decrease in this area. We believe that the return to face-to-face learning and the social-emotional challenges faced by our community has had an effect on our student population. We have seen a decrease in many of these key areas which were identified by our recent School review. Improvements in these areas will be tackled by our teams in rolling out explicit strategies to create a more confident and resilient student population. Brauer College students have a very strong positive sense of identity with the College. Our teams will work through 2023 to ensure that this is reflected through our gathering of evidence to this effect. Brauer College is also working on re-structuring wellbeing across the school, we are currently rolling out a series of consultative initiatives with staff and students to ensure our programs remain robust and continue to deliver a high level of support to our students.

Engagement

Brauer College was very successful in managing the first year of face-to-face learning with minimal disruption to our programs. Our attendance rate is well above similar schools (27.1 absent days versus similar schools 33.7 absent days). Anecdotally our students felt that Brauer College was able to provide a stable and calm structure which enabled students to return to the routine of day-to-day schooling with relative ease. Our attendance rates, all of which are well above 80% indicate the work our teachers have put into building positive relationships with our students.

Our parental engagement was identified by our 2023 review as one of the opportunities for improvement over the next 5 years. The College is working on initiatives to further engage parents in an innovative and proactive manner.

Brauer College's retention rates are well above state and similar schools. This indicates that many students (and parents) who start at Brauer College will entrust education with our College through to the final years of secondary education. We believe that the diversity and range of opportunities offered to our students stand out. This is further evidenced by our percentage of students exiting to further studies and full-time employment which in 2022 was well above state average and above similar school's average.

Brauer College is currently reviewing ways in which our senior school can further improve its performance by preparing students for Year 7 and preparing them for the academic challenges in their education.

Financial performance

Brauer College has a wide range of programs which are geared towards supporting students and offering a wide range of opportunities to expand their experiences beyond the classroom. In 2022 the College received \$343,852 in equity funding, these funds went to finance supports for students' academic and wellbeing programs. The school also has an extensive camps program for which almost \$430,000 was devoted. The school sees that this is an investment towards the development of socio-emotional and life skills which the students reported are a significant point of difference with other Colleges.

Our students believe the opportunities offered through the diversity of programs is very important. These programs also include a very comprehensive trade program which is being utilised by many of our students. Many of these facilities are out of entitlement and the school believes these are invaluable investments which benefit the community as a whole.

The school saw an operational financial deficit of \$246,269, these funds were reconciled through a combination of our high yield investment account and our official account. These accounts maintain a very healthy balance which will buffer our school's finances over the next few years. Our school is now looking at ways these operating deficits can be reduced in future years through an audit of subject offerings.

For more detailed information regarding our school please visit our website at
<https://www.brauer.vic.edu.au/>