

International Student Program

Information Handbook



RINGWOOD SECONDARY COLLEGE

Department of Education and Training
CRICOS provider number: 00861K

Ringwood Secondary College was established in 1954. It is located in the outer eastern suburbs of Melbourne at the gateway to the Yarra Valley.

The school has approximately 1550 students from years 7 to 12.



Three sub schools coordinate the learning, safety and wellbeing of students.

A core program is undertaken at years 7 & 8 and students in year 9 participate in the year long CHALLENGE program which incorporates a core curriculum and a weekly interGREAT day.



From Year 10, students choose from a diverse range of subjects to develop a pathway aligned with their interests and career aspirations. Students are supported by a strong team of experienced and committed teachers, in both traditional academic and vocational studies.

CURRICULUM

Ringwood Secondary College offers the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), Vocational Education and Training (VET) and the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL).

VCE subjects offered:

ENGLISH

English, English Language, Literature, English as an Additional Language

MATHEMATICS

General Mathematics, Mathematical Methods, Specialist Mathematics

SCIENCES

Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics, Psychology

VISUAL ARTS

Arts Creative Practice, Media, Visual Communication Design

PERFORMING ARTS

Dance, Drama, Music (Units 1 & 2), Music Contemporary or Repertoire Performance (Units 3 & 4)

TECHNOLOGY

Food Studies, Product Design and Technology (Textiles, Wood), Applied Computing (Units 1 & 2), Software Development (Units 3 & 4)

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health & Human Development, Physical Education

HUMANITIES

Classical Studies, Geography, History: Modern History (Units 1 & 2),

History: Revolutions (Units 3 & 4), Philosophy

BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

Accounting, Business Management, Economics, Legal Studies

LANGUAGES

French, Indonesian

Chinese First Language, Vietnamese First Language, Japanese Second Language, Korean Second Language (in conjunction with the Victorian School of Languages)

COLLEGE FACILITIES & EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

- Performing Arts Centre
- Instrumental Music Centre
- Large hall with multi-tiered seating
- VCE study centre (2020)
- Resource Centre with iMac computer lab
- Newly Built STEM Centre (2023)
- Automotive & Engineering facility

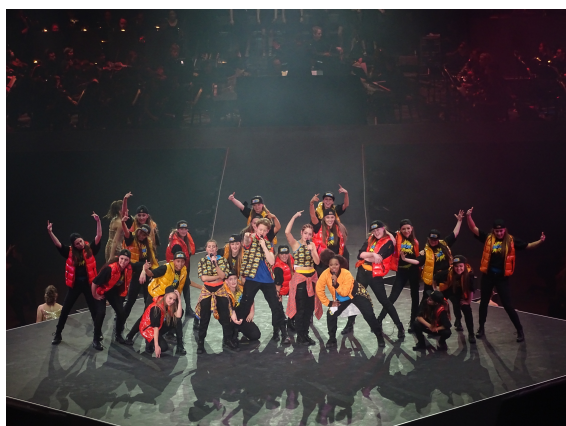


WELLBEING SUPPORT PROGRAMS AND ENGAGEMENT

- Staffed by youth workers, social worker, guidance officer, nurse, coordinators, attendance officer and school chaplains
- Proactive programs – Wellbeing days, Mental Health Awareness Week, Anti-bullying, Supportive Friends, Standout Group, Respectful Relationships Group
- Student Leadership – Ambassadors, year level leaders, College Prefects and Student Representative Council
- Transition Program for year 7
- Orientation events for incoming students

PERFORMING ARTS AND MUSIC

- The College has 16 groups across Stage Bands, Ensembles, Choirs, Orchestra, Strings and Bands
- Training Band is part of Band Tour and Jazz combos exist along with Symphonic Orchestra and Touring Band.
- World Tour – every 3 years a group travels the globe to Canada, US, England, France, The Netherlands, the Czech Republic and Thailand.
- The major annual production is performed over 8 nights and involves staff and students in all theatrical areas.



SPORT

- Opportunities exist in Aerobics, Equestrian, Athletics, Hockey, Basketball, Netball, Volleyball, Tennis, Table Tennis, Touch Football, Cricket, Swimming, Golf, Football, Lacrosse, Cross-Country and other individual and team sports

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- Since 1998, Ringwood Secondary College has welcomed students from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds as full time, fee paying members of our College community. Students from China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Japan, United Kingdom, Korea, Iran and Hong Kong, make up our International Student Program.
- We provide a friendly and caring environment in which differences are applauded and global citizenship is valued.
- The College has a policy of maintaining a small proportion of international students, to ensure a strong Australian focus during their Ringwood experience.
- Our international students are supported by highly experienced staff, including the Director of Admissions & Marketing and the Assistant Principal, Homestay Coordinator and in class Multicultural Education Aide.



EDUCATION OBLIGATIONS AND ENTITLEMENTS

The College expects students to achieve high standards of learning and personal excellence and fully expects all students to attend every lesson every day. Condition 8202 on states *'Overseas students must remain enrolled in a registered course and satisfy attendance requirements for the school's academic term. In this case, students must also achieve satisfactory academic results for the duration of the course.'* If a student's attendance falls below 80% the school is required by DIAC to report the student for unsatisfactory attendance and similarly academic standard. This may result in the cancellation of the student visa.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students must have 80+ academic results. IELTS score of 5.5 required for direct entry. IELTS score of 6.0 required for direct VCE entry.



HOMESTAY

Being part of a family is always important and our Homestay program gives students the support of a local family and a place to call home.



The Homestay program at Ringwood Secondary College is fully coordinated and managed by the College, as we believe that establishing close, ongoing relationships

with our international students and homestay families is key to the success and wellbeing of the program.

Homestay families play an important role in providing a nurturing and supportive environment that assists in adjusting to the Australian way of life.

It allows students to participate in family life, share cultural and language experiences, whilst strengthening their English skills in order to reach their full potential.



EXCHANGE PROGRAMS AND SISTER SCHOOLS

A student exchange provides students with the opportunity to exchange their school, culture, family and possibly language for a selected time period in another country.



It is far more rewarding than simply being a tourist, as students live like locals and acquire knowledge not available to the general traveller. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity to travel and study at an overseas school with the support of a volunteer host family.



At Ringwood Secondary College we are extremely fortunate to enjoy exchange opportunities with our sister schools, Montfort College in Chiang Mai, Thailand, Lycee Tessier in Bitche, Northern France and Trafalgar Castle School in Canada.

2024 SCHOOL DATES

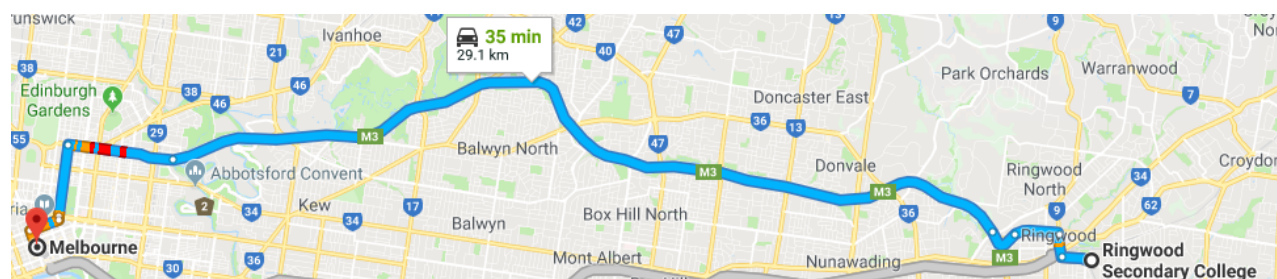
Term 1	Tuesday 30 January	Thursday 28 March	9 weeks
School Holidays	Friday 29 March	Sunday 14 April	2 weeks
Term 2	Monday 15 April	Friday 28 June	11 weeks
School Holidays	Saturday 29 June	Sunday 14 July	2 weeks
Term 3	Monday 15 July	Friday 20 September	10 weeks
School Holidays	Saturday 21 September	Sunday 6 October	2 weeks
Term 4	Monday 7 October	Friday 20 December	11 weeks
School Holidays	Saturday 21 December	Wednesday 29 January 2025*	

*The first day of Term 1 is a student free day, so students return a day later than staff.

Year 11 and Year 12 students may have different finishing dates in Term 4 each year.

LOCATION

Ringwood Secondary College is located approximately 25 kms from the Melbourne CBD.



LOCAL AREA INFORMATION

Ringwood is a suburb of Melbourne, Victoria, 23 km (14 mi) east of Melbourne's Central Business District. Ringwood has a population of approximately 17,500. Ringwood has many parks and reserves, most notably, Ringwood Lake.

Go to <http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Home> and click '*Explore*' to find out more.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Ringwood station is located 5 minutes walk from the school. Buses and trains depart at regular intervals. A Myki ticket is required for travel and concession is available for students. Visit www.ptv.vic.gov.au.



Front



Back

If you are caught travelling on public transport without a validated ticket, you will be fined.

SHOPPING

Eastland Shopping Centre is located 5 minutes walk from the school. For shopping hours and store information visit <https://www.eastland.com.au>



MELBOURNE

Melbourne is the capital city of the State of Victoria and is the second largest city in Australia, with a population of 4.8 million.

It is a relatively safe, clean and tolerant city which is home to communities of immigrants and visitors from all parts of the world, including a large number of overseas students studying at schools and universities.

Melbourne is renowned throughout Australia for the richness of cultural life and for its excellent food options, offering cuisines from around the world.

Melbourne is known for several major sporting events including the Melbourne Cup (horse racing), the Australian Formula One Grand Prix (motor racing) the Australian Open (tennis), the AFL Grand Final (Australian Rules football) and the MotoGP Motorcycle Grand Prix.

GENERAL COSTS

Entertainment

Cost of student ticket to the cinema	\$21.50
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Cost of one game of ten pin bowling	\$20.00
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Travel – Cost of student train ticket to the city

2 Hour	\$2.50
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Daily	\$5.00
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Eating Out

Cost of a Big Mac meal at McDonalds	\$13.00
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Cost of a large pizza at Pizza Hut	\$20.00
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HEALTHCARE

Students who enter Australia on a student visa 500 must be covered by Medibank Private (or similar provider) for the duration of their student visa. This is at the cost of the student and is paid prior to commencement at school. Students may claim some of their medical expenses at their local Medibank office or online. More information is available at <https://medibank.com.au>.

Maroondah Hospital is the nearest public hospital to Ringwood Secondary College. Services include emergency medicine, general and specialist medicine, general and specialist surgery, critical care services, ambulatory and allied health services.

MONEY AND BANKING

Australia has a decimal system with 100 cents to the dollar (AUD\$). Coins have values of 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents, and \$1 and \$2. Notes have values of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100. Prices are rounded up or rounded down to the nearest five cents of the total bill when you pay by cash.

Melbourne's banking hours are generally Monday to Thursday 9.00am-4.00pm and Friday 9.00am-5.00pm. Some banks in major shopping centres are also open on Saturdays. All major banks are equipped to exchange foreign currency, but depending on the currency and the size of the bank branch, it may need to be arranged in advance.

Several international banks have branches in Melbourne. Major credit cards – Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Diners Club and their affiliates – are widely accepted throughout Victoria. Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) are found in many convenient locations and allow you to withdraw money at any time, day or night.

For your safety, you should use caution when accessing funds at night or in isolated locations. Always protect your Personal Identification Number (PIN) when using an ATM.

SAFETY

Melbourne is a relatively safe city but you should take precautions to ensure your own safety, just as you would in your own home city.

- Whenever you can, travel with at least one other person. If you are travelling alone after dark, consider travelling by taxi or have someone meet you so that you don't have to walk alone
- Be alert at all times. If you feel uncomfortable in any situation, find a way to leave safely. Seek out the nearest safe public place such as a restaurant or café, or find the nearest security guard / police officer
- Plan your trips carefully and tell someone when you expect to return home, especially if you are travelling to unfamiliar places or after dark
- Stay in areas that are well lit, especially when waiting for public transport. At train stations there is always a marked safety zone with an emergency call button
- At night, always stay in well-lit streets and busy areas as much as possible
- Keep your mobile phone close. Memorise a few phone numbers (relative, homestay, ISC) in case your mobile phone is lost/stolen
- Remember that 000 is the free emergency number for Police, Fire and Ambulance services
- Keep handbags, purses or wallets on or close to your body
- Be aware of who is around you. Be as quick as you can at ATMs / Ticket Machines and make sure no one can see you entering your PIN

TAXIS

All registered Victorian taxis are yellow and clearly marked. Victorian taxi drivers must wear a uniform and have their Taxi Driver ID on display in the taxi at all times. You should also be able to see the meter, which should always be turned on. For information about taxis, including bookings, go to <http://cpv.vic.gov.au>

You can hail taxis on the street, wait at a designated taxi rank, or call one of the taxi companies: Yellow Cabs 132 227 or Silver Top Taxis 131 008.

There is also a booking service available with a free phone app called 13CABS. Most taxis accept cash, EFTPOS and credit cards.

In Melbourne you must prepay for all taxi trips between 10.00pm and 5.00am but you should still make sure the meter is running. If the amount you pay at the beginning is different to the metered amount when you arrive, you pay the extra amount or are refunded the difference. Taxis often attract additional charges like a late night surcharge, a fee for phone bookings, using a tolled freeway and a fee for taxis waiting at the airport rank.

TIME ZONES

Australia has three time zones:

- Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST) is GMT +10 hours and covers the eastern states of Queensland, New South Wales (with the exception of the town of Broken Hill), Victoria, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory
- Australian Central Standard Time (ACST) is GMT +9.5 hours and covers the state of South Australia, the town of Broken Hill in western New South Wales and the Northern Territory
- Australian Western Standard Time (AWST) is GMT +8 hours and covers Western Australia

Daylight Saving (AEDT)

In Victoria, Daylight Saving runs from the first Sunday in October to the first Sunday in April. Clocks are moved forward one hour in October to allow the daylight to last longer into the evening and back again in April.

WEATHER

Melbourne's weather can be very hard to predict and it is not unusual for the temperature to change dramatically over the course of a single day.

Melbourne weather during the year

Season	Months	Average Minimum	Average Maximum
Autumn mild, can be windy	March, April, May	11°C	20°C
Winter often cold and wet	June, July, August	6°C (below 0°C in some outer areas)	14°C
Spring mild and wet, but can be windy	September, October, November	10°C	20°C
Summer hot	December, January, February	14°C	26°C but can be as high as 40°C

The UV danger in Australia is very high. The Cancer Council of Australia suggest that when you go outside you should always wear clothing that shields your skin from the sun as much as practical; wear a broad-spectrum Sun Protection Factor (SPF) 30+ sunscreen, and reapply it every two hours, wear a wide-brimmed hat, stay in the shade as much as possible, and wear UV protection sunglasses.

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) provides detailed weather forecasts and updates for all areas of Australia online. The BOM also has an app available that will enable you to access this information on your phone. Hourly weather updates and weather warnings for Melbourne can be found at

www.bom.gov.au/vic/forecasts/melbourne.shtml.