

**EAST DONCASTER SECONDARY COLLEGE
SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2023**

Monday 6 February 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

One of the challenges of secondary schools is gaining involvement of parents. After significant time spent in school based activities in primary schools, it is not uncommon for parents to step back from similar activities at secondary school. In recent years parent involvement in our Parents and Friends Association and School Council has been very strong. We hope to continue this growth of engagement.

Today we are calling for nominations for our College School Council.

Who is on the school council?

There are four possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected parent category.** More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be parent members at their child's school.
- **A mandated elected DET employee category.** Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- **A mandated elected student category.** In 2018 The Department of Education mandated changes to the formation of all secondary School Councils. As of mid-2018, all Victorian government Secondary School Councils with students in Year 7 and above must conduct a Student school council election process to elect two students for Council membership.
- **An optional community member category.** Its members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be community members.

The term of office for members is two years. It is an expectation that School Council members are available for every scheduled meeting. Meetings commence at 7.00pm.

The tentative dates for the 2023 School Council meetings are:

Wednesday 8 February

Wednesday 8 March– AGM and Public Meeting – First meeting for new council members

Wednesday 10 May

Wednesday 14 June

Wednesday 12 July

Wednesday 9 August

Wednesday 13 September

Wednesday 11 October

Wednesday 8 November

Wednesday 13 December

In the 2023 School Council Elections there are:

- **Four vacant parent category positions**
- **Two vacant DET positions**
- **Two student category positions**

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council often find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Please give this your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

John Roberts
Principal