

## **EAST DONCASTER SECONDARY COLLEGE SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2024**

5 February 2024

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 (DE) employees can be parent members at their child's school.
- **A mandated elected DE 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. DE 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 6.30pm.**

The tentative dates for the 2024 School Council meetings are:

Wednesday 27 March – AGM and Public Meeting – First meeting for new council members  
Wednesday 8 May  
Wednesday 12 June  
Wednesday 14 August  
Wednesday 11 September  
Wednesday 16 October  
Wednesday 13 November  
Wednesday 11 December

**In the 2024 School Council Elections there are:**

- **Two vacant parent category positions**
- **Two vacant DE (employee) positions**
- **NIL student category positions**

Nominations forms can be provided in either hard copy to Reception or emailed to [east.doncaster.sc@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:east.doncaster.sc@education.vic.gov.au)

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,

Karen Boyle  
Acting Principal