



2021

SCHOOL CHARGES

TOGETHER WE THRIVE



YEAR 12

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL & SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT

12 October, 2020

Dear Families,

Re: Year 12 School charges and payment arrangements for 2021

Students in our school community, your child(ren), are privileged to be part of one of Victoria's best public high schools, where they enjoy an extensive range of programs and services beyond those solely provided by government funding.

The financial support of families is one of the key factors underlying the success and quality of Northcote High School's wide-ranging academic and co-curricular programs. Your financial support ensures we have the resources (materials and facilities) to successfully run programs to meet the diverse needs of our 1850 students.

Working closely with the school leadership team, the School Council has set recommended fees that meet the budgetary requirements of the school and allow us to deliver essential education resources and equipment whilst making every effort to keep the cost of items and activities to a minimum and affordable for all families.

The school has three parent payment contribution categories:

1. Essential Student Learning Items (ESLI)
2. Optional Items
3. Voluntary Financial Contributions & Donations: *Northcote Thrive Fund*

The below diagram outlines the three parent payment contribution categories including the structure of the 2021 ESLI for Years 7-12.

Essential Student Learning Items (ESLI)					
YR 7 \$615.00	YR 8 \$630.00	YR 9 Common Program \$640.00	YR 10 Common Program \$520.00	YR 11 VCE Common Program \$345	YR 12 VCE Common Program \$395.00
		Variable Program 3 Courses \$75 - \$120	Variable Program 4 Courses \$100 - \$160	Variable Program up to 5 Courses \$175 - \$300	Variable Program up to 4 Courses. \$160 - \$280

*ESLI estimates do not include VET programs or Outdoor Ed/Duke of Ed Programs

<h3>Optional Items</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co - Curricular Programs <i>(Instrumental Music & Volleyball Programs)</i> • Camps & Tours • Excursions • Clubs • Formals 	<h3>Voluntary Contributions & Donations</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspire Fund • Build Fund • Empower Fund • Innovate Fund 
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1. Essential Student Learning Items

Essential Learning Items (ESLI) are items, services or activities that the school deems essential to support the course of instruction in the standard curriculum program that parents or guardians are expected to pay the school. At NHS the ESLI comprises of a 'Common Program' charge and a 'Variable Program'.

All students in Year 7-12 are required to pay a 'Common Program' charge. This charge is the same for all students in that year level. Students in Years 9-12 are also required to pay a 'Variable Program' charge. This charge is different for each student and is based on individual student's course selections.

The 2021 ESLI payment for Year 12 students ranges between \$555.00 - \$675.00. Please refer to Page 3 for further information regarding the different parent payment contribution categories and items for Year 12 students specifically.

2. Optional Items

Optional Items are those that are provided in addition to the standard curriculum program, and which are offered to all students. *Optional Items are provided on a user-pays basis.*

At NHS optional items, activities or services include: Instrumental Music tuition and ensemble program, Volleyball program, Debating program, camps and tours, and some excursions and incursions.

3. Voluntary Financial Contributions & Donations - Northcote Thrive Fund

These are items and services that parents and guardians are *invited* to make a donation to the school, to any of the *Northcote Thrive Funds*.

In recent years, direct government funding to Northcote High School has decreased in line with an increasingly affluent family demographic. As a result, we are more dependent than ever before on the financial contributions of families to adequately resource academic and co-curricular programs.

Donations **in addition to the ESLI payment** allow us to fund innovative programs, improve school spaces and resources and provide our students, including those in need, with opportunities that would not otherwise be possible. In 2019 we spent this money on fitting the school out with LED lights, repairing the western wall in the Design Building, and finishing the Performing Arts Building, to name just a few. In 2020 committed to projects like constructing shade sails over the PAC outdoor area and purchasing additional outdoor bench seating for students.

Northcote Thrive Funds: There are four ways you can donate to support a vibrant school and our young people:

BUILD: Donate to improve learning and social spaces for our students - (*Building Fund tax deductible*)

INSPIRE: Donate to acquire library resources and fund student clubs / activities - (*Library Fund tax deductible*)

EMPOWER (Necessitous Circumstances Fund): Northcote High School is the first school in Australia to be granted tax deductible status for donations which allow us to purchase essential items such as uniforms, books, lunch vouchers, and travel cards for students in need. From 2019-2020 nineteen families have benefitted from this with students receiving laptops, uniforms, books and food vouchers, so they can participate in their schooling on an equal footing. *Donations to our Empower Fund are tax deductible.*

INNOVATE Donate to support innovative ideas and projects for/by students and staff, via a grant process. (*Not tax deductible*)

Incidentally, we also have a non-financial, fifth branch of the Thrive Fund call **CONTRIBUTE** that provides an avenue for community members to volunteer their skills and expertise to assist us to be the best school possible for the young people in our care. This year we have benefitted from literary, legal and risk management expertise.

Payment Options

Our School Council is committed to ensuring we have a fair, accessible and equitable payment system, with our parent payment arrangements developed in line with the Department of Education and Training (DET) guidelines. The DET Parent Payment Policy can be accessed on our website – <https://www.nhs.vic.edu.au/enrol/fees-and-charges/>

We have tailored three payment options so that you can choose the option that best suits your family, as outlined in the **Payment Request Form** and in further detail on Page 4.

Support for Families

For a confidential discussion regarding parent payments or alternative payment arrangements please contact Sarah Burns - Business Manager on 03 9488 2300 to discuss further. Please also refer to Page 4 for further information on other financial support options for families.

A quality learning experience and environment requires continual investment. We look forward to partnering with you to deliver excellent experiences for all students at Northcote High School – Together we Thrive.

Yours sincerely,



Sue Harrap
Principal



Liza Grage-Perry
School Council President

EXPLANATION OF 2021 SCHOOL CHARGES YEAR 12

Family financial contributions are essential in maintaining the quality of our school's wide-ranging academic and co-curricular programs. NHS does not charge for the teaching of the standard curriculum. In line with DET Parent Payment Policy, the School Council requests 2021 parent payments as follows:

1. Essential Student Learning Items (ESLI): Ranges between \$555 - \$675 per student in Year 12 <i>These are items, activities, or services that the School deems essential to student learning of the standard curriculum. ESLI items and activities are not funded by the government.</i>	
School Resources and Services Includes essential consumables, services and activities that enhance student learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student planner, locker and student identification card • Maintenance of Library services and resources • 24/7 online access to curriculum and learning materials, and assessment and feedback reporting • Whole year level programs and workshops/guest speakers* (<i>Graduation, La Trobe Day and Sonja Karris</i>) • Student and VCE Handbooks • Printing and photocopying allowance • Connect Program consumables ** <i>*Traditionally families have had to pay for these on top the ESLI during the year.</i> <i>** Items or materials which students take temporary or permanent possession of</i> Parents may request information about elements of the ESLI that could be provided in an alternative manner.	\$395
Common Program Includes essential consumables** courses which students must undertake in particular learning areas during Year 12 to meet the breadth requirements of the Northcote Model. In Year 12 this comprises: 1- English	
Variable Program Includes essential consumables** and resources of courses which students undertake in Year 12 which may come from a range of learning areas depending on their individual program. The school is not funded by the Government to provide these programs. For Year 12 students this is 4 courses. The Variable Program cost is calculated for students at Course Confirmation.	Between \$160 - 280
2. Optional Items These are items provided in addition to the standard curriculum program on a user-pays basis. Examples include: excursions, incursions, formals and socials, camps and tours, school photos, VET subject materials, Outdoor Ed and Duke of Ed Programs, school photos and co-curricular programs including Instrumental Music Program, debating, volleyball and sports programs	
3. Voluntary Contributions & Donation - NHS Thrive Fund All donations to our Thrive Fund are gratefully received. <i>If you would like to donate larger or ongoing amount to a specific fund, please contact our Business Manager.</i>	
BUILD <u>Tax-deductible donations</u> to our Building Fund will realise support upgrades to buildings and social spaces and larger Campus Master Plan projects, supporting current and future generations of students. In 2020 we committed to projects like constructing shade sails over the PAC outdoor area and purchasing additional outdoor bench seating for students. We are unable to rely on government funding to support future facilities development. The Campus Master Plan Information and blueprints are available on our website.	Consider \$450 per student or \$700 per family or any amount
INSPIRE <u>Tax-deductible donations</u> to our <i>Library Fund</i> help us to acquire library resources and fund student clubs and activities.	
EMPOWER <u>Tax deductible donations</u> to purchase essential items such as uniforms, books and travel cards for <i>students in need</i> . From 2019-2020, nineteen families have benefitted from grants with students receiving laptops, uniforms, books and food vouchers.	
INNOVATE - Donations to this fund are <i>not</i> tax deductible The Innovate Fund grants resources to students and staff for innovative ideas and projects, who successfully apply to implement via a grants process. In 2020, we funded 10 successful projects by staff and students.	Consider \$50 or any amount

COURSE CONFIRMATION DAY

Course Confirmation day for Year 12 students going into Year 12 is: **Friday, 27 November 2020**

2021 course information will be provided to students at Course Confirmation Day. Any inquiries regarding course allocations can be discussed with their Tutorial Teacher.

Each student is individually counselled in Term 3 as part of the course counselling program and all students were encouraged to consider their subject selections carefully in terms of their strengths, current results, interests and pre-requisite studies for their chosen pathway.

2021 course selections are used to determine the ESLI 'Variable Program' charge for each student, based on the courses students are enrolled in. The 'Variable Program' must be paid on Course Confirmation Day via one of the three payment options along with the ESLI 'Common Program' if not already paid prior to Course Confirmation Day.

Payment of the ESLI 'Common Program' can be paid prior to Course Confirmation Day on Compass. Payment of the 'Variable Program' will be available to pay on Course Confirmation Day when students receive their courses. Payment of the Variable Program will be unable to pay on Compass until this date.**

Prior to Course Confirmation Day:

1. Make payment of the ESLI Common Program on Compass or at the General Office
2. Indicate below your preferred payment option of the ESLI Common and Variable Program
3. Complete the provide credit card payment details if required
4. Sign the acceptance section of this form

On the day of Course Confirmation:

1. Please ensure your child attends with this form completed, with credit card/payment details and signed
2. Full payments of the ESLI fee payments will processed on the day and receipts mailed. All payment plans set up by the School will be processed by the 18 December (first instalment date)

ESLI Variable Program 2021 - Year 12 Course Costs

Course costs include the essential consumables and services required for delivery of the course in which students take temporary or permanent possession of. *NHS does not charge for the teaching of the standard curriculum.*

Learning Area Courses	Examples of essential consumables	Cost of Courses per Learning Area
Design	Wood, metal materials, safety equipment, hardware items (nails, screws etc.), supplementary exam preparation materials (practice exams)	\$ 70.00
Food	Cooking ingredients (eg: flour, eggs, butter, milk, meats, fruit and veg etc.), supplementary exam preparation materials (practice exams)	\$ 70.00
Visual Arts	Paints, canvas, specialised paper and other materials (eg: clay, film, folio items etc.), supplementary exam preparation materials (practice exams)	\$ 70.00
Performing Arts	Prop materials, costumes, make up, music/drama licences, supplementary exam preparation materials (practice exams)	\$ 60.00
Science	Chemicals and materials, lab coat, safety glasses, supplementary exam preparation materials (practice exams)	\$ 70.00
English	Writing materials, paper and posters, audio book services, supplementary exam preparation materials and services (practice exams, third party feedback)	\$ 50.00
Health and PE	Sporting tops and bands, health and sports subscription, writing materials, supplementary exam preparation materials (practice exams)	\$ 45.00
Humanities	Writing materials, paper and posters, clip board, supplementary exam preparation materials (practice exams)	\$ 40.00
Languages	Writing materials, paper and posters, dictionaries, translate licences, supplementary exam preparation materials (practice exams)	\$ 40.00
Maths	Graph paper and writing materials, maths program licence, supplementary exam preparation materials (practice exams)	\$ 40.00

Course changes and payment of the ESLI 'Variable Program'

Once students receive their courses for 2021 at Course Confirmation Day, if students wish to request a change in course they can do so as part of the course change request process. Any inquiries regarding course changes can be discussed with their Tutorial Teacher.

Course changes are requests only and are not confirmed until late Term 4 in December. Due to this, students with course change requests will have their ESLI 'Variable Program' charge calculated on the confirmed courses provided at Course Confirmation Day. If students are granted a course change, family accounts and existing payments or payment plans will be adjusted by the Finance Team early in February 2021 and any refunds or credits processed where required.

HOW TO PAY

Please find the **Payment Request Form** attached for payment of the **2021 Year 12 School Charges**.

Year 11 students going into Year 12 are required to return their completed and signed Payment Request Form on Course Confirmation Day - Friday, 27 November 2020.

The preferred methods of payment is on Compass or debit/credit card, however cash and cheque payments are accepted.

We have tailored three payment options so that you can choose the option that best suits your family, as outlined in the Payment Request Form:

A: Full Payment

1. Compass Payment Portal; or
2. Cash/ EFTPOS / Cheque / Credit Card at the General Office; or
3. BPay (Contact the General Office for your Family Reference Number)

B: 10 Instalments

10 equal monthly instalments will be deducted every 4 weeks commencing Friday, 18 December 2020.

C: Other Payment Plan or Arrangement

1. Please call Jade Coco from the Finance Team on 03 9488 2300 to discuss alternative payment arrangements including requesting fortnightly payment instalments instead of monthly
2. Please call our Business Manager, Sarah Burns on 03 9488 2300 to discuss the range of financial support options available to you if you are experiencing financial hardship

Please Note: If you are wanting to pay the ESLI Common and Variable Program together in one payment plan please wait until after Course Confirmation Day to do this on Compass or request the Finance Team to do this for you on the ESLI Payment Request Form.

Payment of Optional Items and Donations to Northcote Thrive Fund

Optional Item charges can be paid on Compass, including payment of Instrumental Music and Volleyball Program charges, Duke of Ed and Outdoor Ed Program charges, VET material charges and payment for camps and tours and excursions and incursions. Information regarding Optional Item charges will be provided to families directly by the Coordinator of that program or event.

Donations to Northcote Thrive Fund can be made at any time throughout the year and for any amount. All donations are gratefully received by the School. Families can also make donation payments during payment of the ESLI at Course Confirmation, on Compass or at the General Office.

Payment plans are also available to families for Optional Items charges, Voluntary Contributions and Donations. To set up a payment plan please contact the General Office on 03 9488 2300.

How to make payment on Compass

STEP 1	To access the Compass Portal , enter this link into web browser: https://nhs-vic.compass.education/Login.aspx
STEP 2	Login to the Compass Portal using your family Compass ID and Password
STEP 3	In the Compass Portal , click School Payments
STEP 4	Follow the Compass instructions to make Payment or select any one of the options (A, B or C) on the Essential Student Learning Items Payment Request Form and return at Course Confirmation

For assistance with payment of school charges on Compass please contact the General Office on 03 9488 2300.

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Families in need of support to meet the educational expense of their child(ren) have a range of options available to them including:

- **Applying for the Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF)** – this fund contributes \$225 per year which can be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursions expenses.
- **Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients** are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents so please register your interest at the school. Please contact the General Office for a copy of the CSEF application form.
- **Trading in second hand items** through the school uniform or book supplier. **Please note** in 2021, only students in Years 10 -12 will have the option of purchasing second-hand uniform, as we are transitioning to a new uniform, and all Year 7s - 9s will be expected to wear the new school uniform. 2021 is the last year of the transition, which was extended for a further year due to the impact of COVID-19.
- Online platforms, such as:
 - **State Schools' Relief clk2sell app**
 - www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au
 - Trading websites (e.g. gumtree) or social media networks (e.g. private Facebook groups)
- **Northcote High School – Thrive Fund - Empower branch.** Make an application to this fund for support with the essential items. Please contact our Student Services team to make an application. Contact: **Leanne Petroff** or **Katie Archibald** on 03 9488 2300
- **Accessing State Schools' Relief** – which covers the cost of new school uniforms, shoes, books and more for disadvantaged students. State Schools' Relief only responds to requests from school principals, assistant principals or welfare coordinators. Parents or Carers who are struggling need to make an appointment with Leanne Petroff or Katie Archibald to discuss their situation.
- **Applying for Student Scholarships** These are generally awarded on the basis of academic achievement, participation in the school and local community, or financial need, but are not limited to these. The Department of Education and Training administers 35 different student scholarships, equating to approximately 250 scholarship awards as some scholarships have more than one award.
- Finally, discussing your circumstances with our Business Manager, and coming up with an alternative payment arrangement, as outlined in Option C of the How to Pay section.