

**EAST DONCASTER SECONDARY COLLEGE  
SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2025**

7 February 2025

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.

**In the 2025 School Council Elections there are:**

- **Four vacant parent electorate positions**
- **Two vacant school employee electorate positions**
- **Two vacant student electorate positions**

Nominations forms can be submitted in either hard copy to Reception or emailed to [east.doncaster.sc@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:east.doncaster.sc@education.vic.gov.au) by the closing date of 4.00pm Monday 17 February 2025.

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.

**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 2025 School Council meetings are:

**Scheduled 2025 Meetings:**

Wednesday 26 March – Special Meeting, First meeting of new School Council and Public meeting

Wednesday 14 May

Wednesday 11 June

Wednesday 13 August

Wednesday 10 September

Wednesday 8 October

Wednesday 12 November

Wednesday 10 December

## Who is on the school council?

There are three separate electorates within a school community:

- **Parent electorate** - The parent electorate includes each parent of a student at the school, except those who are department employees engaged in work at, and for, the school. A parent of a student at the school, who is a department employee but does not work at or for the school is included in the parent electorate. These parents are recognised on council as 'department employee parents'. 'Parent' includes a guardian or person who is liable to maintain or has the actual custody of a student of the school. If a student ceases to be enrolled at the school having completed the normal school year for the student's year level and that student's parent is a parent member of the school council, the parent may continue to be a member of the council until the next council election, at the beginning of the next year. If a department employee is elected to the parent category (department employee parent) council of the school where their child is enrolled but where they do not work, they are counted as department employees for school council meeting quorum requirements. Parent members generally comprise more than one third of the council's total membership.
- **School employee electorate** - The school employee electorate of the school includes the principal of the school and school employees engaged in work at, and for, the school.
- **Student electorate** - All government schools with a Year 7 cohort and above are required to have two student members on council. The student electorate includes all students enrolled at the school in Year 7 and above. Student members of school council have the same rights, responsibilities and terms of office as other council members including full voting rights. However, student members are not eligible to hold any office bearer position. Student members are counted as non-department employee members for quorum. If a Year 12 student, who has been elected to the student member category, has completed the normal school year and ceases to be enrolled at the school, that student may continue to be a member of the council until the next council election, at the beginning of the next year.

In addition, there is an optional community member category, and for a small number of school councils, nominee member category.

Please give this your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries about nominating for school council.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Boyle  
Principal