College Goals

The College aims to provide an engaging learning culture that promotes diversity, personal achievement and innovation. We aim for and value:

- caring and supportive relationships between students, teachers and parents
- the health, safety and wellbeing of all members of our school community
- the positive behaviours for learning and life - respect, responsibility and resilience

Curriculum

Wanganui Park Secondary College offers a broad and comprehensive, discipline-based curriculum aligned with the framework of the Victorian Curriculum for Years 7-10 and VCE/VCAL in Years 11-12.

The College offers flexible programming in a Vertical Modular Grouping (VMG) structure from Years 8-10 which allows for student choice and acceleration/remediation. Year 10 students have the opportunity to undertake an Early Entry VCE subject.

The College works collaboratively with the other Shepparton state secondary colleges in the Better Together Alliance and has well established partnerships with GOTAFE and LaTrobe University (Shepparton).

The College has an excellent and growing music program, with ensemble, stage and concert bands. These bands perform in competitions, assemblies and productions and at community events. The Arts program provides a broad experience in both visual and performing arts with a dedicated film festival, visual arts exhibition, performances and productions. There is a strong Languages program with Italian and Japanese offered from Years 7–10 and VCE. Two sister school arrangements exist and overseas trips are organised every second year.

The school also maintains a strong co-curricular program of sports, camps and excursions.

The Home Group program is an important part of college life and promotes wellbeing, social skills and connectedness between peers.

Our Wellbeing team also assists students with personal counselling and provides small group programs for social skills e.g. Boys’ Talk/Girls’ Talk, and peer mediation.

Continuous Improvement

A guaranteed and viable curriculum is important to the school, and particularly to our students. We have high expectations about the content we teach, the way in which we engage students in learning, and the means by which we assess their level of understanding. This is supported by the SHAPE teaching and learning policy, an instructional model based on the four part accelerated learning cycle and embedded formative and summative assessment approaches.

A systematic curriculum planning process has been developed by the school that allows us to make decisions about the range of learning experiences offered to our students. The curriculum planning process ensures:

- a mechanism for continuous improvement through collaborative planning and review
- an understanding of the scope and sequence of knowledge and skills within and across learning areas
- consistency between the curriculum and other school plans.
Time Allocation:

**Year 7**

- English: 4 periods per week
- Mathematics: 4 periods per week
- Health/P.E: 4 periods per week
- Humanities: 4 periods per week
- LOTE: 3 periods per week
- Science: 3 periods per week
- Arts/Technology: 2x2 periods per week rotation
- Music: 2 periods per week
- Learning to Learn: 2 periods per week
- Home Group/RAPS (Reading and Private Study)

**VMG Years 8-10** 6 blocks x 5 periods per week (plus Home Group/RAPS)

VMG stands for Vertical Modular Grouping. VMG structures are different from horizontal structures in which students study at year levels, for example years 8, 9 and 10. In a vertical system, students of any year level (8, 9 or 10) are often in the same class. This arises because in VMG there are four levels from which to choose. Students are guided into the level which is appropriate to their ability in a given subject area.

Unlike Year 7 where students take a common course over the whole year, VMG allows students to select units twice a year (each semester) from the eight different learning areas.

By offering a VMG system, students are given the opportunity to:
- work at a level appropriate to their abilities
- choose from a wide range of subjects
- pursue an area of interest
- choose specialist studies
- participate in single sex classes in some domains

Students are also able to select an early entry VCE subject in Year 10.

Students’ progress is monitored by Home Group teachers, House Leaders and the VMG Coordinator.

Our Year 8 to 10 VMG offers a balanced and comprehensive curriculum based on school philosophy, policies and the Victorian Curriculum.

Units are organised under the following learning area headings:
- Arts
- English
- Health and Physical Education
- Humanities
- Languages
- Mathematics
- Science
- Technologies
- Multi-domain

**Years 11 and 12** - 6 blocks x 5 periods a week (plus Home Group/RAPS)

Students are able to select subjects from the VCE or VCAL programs. They may also include a VET (Vocational Education and Training) subject, School Based Apprenticeship or work placement as part of their course.
What is a VCE Program?
The VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education) is a single certificate which will normally be completed by school students over a minimum of two years. For successful completion of the VCE, students will need to satisfactorily complete sixteen units of study, including: three units of an English (English, English Language, English as a 2nd Language or Literature) and three sequences of Units 3 and 4 studies other than English. Up to eight of the units of study may be VCE units obtained across two VET Programs.

At Wanganui Park Secondary College, there are some selected students who will complete VCE Unit 1 and 2 subjects during their last two semesters of VMG and they will complete some Unit 3 and 4 units during their Year 11 year. We encourage students to attempt some level 3/4 units in their first year of VCE as it gives them an extra unit to include in their ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank). This should be discussed with parents and counsellors when choosing Units 1 and 2.

Year 11 VCE students usually select 5 subjects plus a block of private study. Some Year 11 VCE students will choose 5 Unit 1-2 subjects and 1 Unit 3-4 early entry subject (with no private study), Year 12 VCE students select 5 subjects plus a block of private study.

What is a VCAL Program?
The Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) is a hands-on option for Year 11 & 12 students. VCAL provides a pathway to further training, apprenticeships and employment, rather than to university study. Its focus is on practical and work related skills.

There are three levels of VCAL: foundation, intermediate and senior. Students will start and finish their VCAL at a level appropriate to their abilities and needs. Most students will be awarded a VCAL certificate in one year, however there is the option of working towards one certificate level over more than one year.

VCAL is a flexible course allowing students opportunities to gain work experience through work placement, part-time employment and school based new apprenticeships as well as VCAL subjects. A VCAL program needs to be made up of units from the four strands of Literacy and Numeracy, Work Related Skills (Industry & Enterprise), Industry Specific Skills and Personal Development.

To be awarded a VCAL Certificate at any level, a student must gain 11 credit points including: at least one unit in literacy and one in numeracy, a VCAL Work Related Skills unit a VCAL Personal Development unit, and at least one unit in each of the remaining strands.

The College has extensive programs in counselling for subject selection, careers and post-school options. Students are encouraged to explore the many pathways available to them through all of Years 7-12 and beyond.

Home Group
All Year 7-12 students are organised into vertically structured Home Groups which complete administrative tasks e.g. roll marking, subject counselling as well as pastoral and social activities. Home Groups meet each day and have two scheduled sessions per week for games, activities, competitions and learning tasks such as goal setting and special issues.

RAPS
Three supervised sessions of Reading and Private Study (RAPS) are scheduled each week. These provide opportunities for students to study or complete set homework or to read for pleasure and relaxation.

Students may also meet regularly as year levels during RAPS for information sessions with their House Leader or Junior School Coordinators.

Wanganui Park Secondary College
- innovative, caring, passionate and proud.