

Respect | Perseverance | Integrity | Creativity



VICTOR HARBOR HIGH SCHOOL

NEW STUDENT HANDBOOK



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Document Reference:
550-A-02

Version:
2023-01

Version Date:
23 May 2023

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PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

Welcome to Victor Harbor High School

Thank you for making the decision to enrol with your local public school. Victor Harbor High School (VHHS) students, staff and families extend a warm welcome.

We are proud to offer the personalised learning of a small school with the curriculum richness of a larger school.

Our School Vision Statement

Our students will leave us as proficient writers and speakers, great leaders when they can be, good followers when they should be, creative no matter their field, and positive team members when required.

As global citizens they are aware their behaviour makes a difference, and above all they are generous of spirit.

Our School Values

RESPECT – For others, yourself and your environment

INTEGRITY – Through sincerity, fairness, honesty and trust

PERSEVERANCE – In trying your personal best and striving for excellence

CREATIVITY – To think 'outside the square' and developing imagination and curiosity

We look forward to sharing the journey of secondary education with your family..

Adie Conley

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*"The beautiful thing about learning is that nobody can take it away from you."
B.B. King*



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

All students are encouraged to develop their leadership skills and let their voice be heard as part of our Student Leadership Team. Being elected to represent your peers is a prestigious position in the school and allows you to have influence on school and community based decisions.

Student Leaders represent their year level and house while participating in a range of leadership activities and programs that support students and the community. They also take a primary role in co-coordinating and organising activities which help develop school and house culture.

Student Leaders are expected to:

- be ambassadors who embody the school values
- be approachable, reliable and trustworthy with high expectations of themselves and others
- Speak publicly – including introducing guest speakers, assemblies and other functions
- work with students, teachers, parents and the community
- ensure their year level and house's voice is communicated
- take an active role in the school community
- provide input into school decisions
- join committees and groups throughout the school



SCHOOL VALUES

RESPECT

For others, yourself and your environment

INTEGRITY

Through sincerity, fairness, honesty and trust

PERSEVERANCE

In trying your personal best and striving for excellence

CREATIVITY

To think 'outside the square' and developing imagination and curiosity

Top Tips for Surviving High School

Jessica Holsman - Psychology Graduate
Youtube Channel - Study With Jess

1. Relax and embrace the change
2. Don't be afraid to ask questions
3. Remember teachers are there to help
4. Don't use exams to measure your self-worth
5. Strike a balance between study and socialising
6. Try reaching out to new classmates
7. Try different activities and embrace school spirit

YEAR 7 to 11

HOUSE LEADERS:

FINNISS - Ms Lauren Dart

HINDMARSH - Mr Ryan Shaughnessy

INMAN - Mr Ian Milne

MURRAY - Ms Rebecca Morrison



We offer an innovative, leading-edge learning program designed for young adolescents in purpose-built learning spaces. To encourage a successful transition to Secondary School we implement individualised methodology in Years 7, 8 and 9 that caters for the specific needs of young adolescents.

Our curriculum provides the skills, knowledge and experiences that enable students to develop 21st Century skills of the 6 C's (Communication, Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Creativity, Citizenship and Character). This will enable students to plan appropriate pathways into the senior school, tertiary study and vocational options. Central to our successful pre SACE program is the commitment to establishing positive relationships with families.

We are proud to offer the personalised learning of a small school with the curriculum richness of a larger school, with areas including Technology, The Arts, Language - Ngarrindjeri and Indonesian, Health and Personal Development, Vocational Learning and Personal Learning.

Victor Harbor High School has four houses – Finnis (red), Hindmarsh (yellow), Inman (green) and Murray (blue), named after the regions which encompass the school.

The house system is in format of year 7/8 and year 9/10 groupings for house time and year 11 and 12 students remain in their separate year levels. Attendance at house time is compulsory. The house system promotes and supports:

- School culture
- A sense of belonging and tradition
- Building team spirit and cooperation through friendly rivalry and competition
- Increased opportunities for peer mentoring and support
- Improved leadership opportunities for students
- Greater opportunities to strengthen student/staff connections
- Increased participation and engagement which broaden and enrich student growth
- Recognition of student effort and achievement in wide range of activities



House time is each day for 20mins after recess. On Wednesdays House Time is an additional 50-minute lesson before recess where classes break off into Year level House Groups and take part in the Resilience Project (year 7 to 10). This focuses on Emotional Literacy, gratitude, empathy and Mindfulness with the overall goal of improving student wellbeing and resilience. On Thursdays house time runs for an extended time after the short-house time to provide ability to focus on growing school culture through goal setting, team building, house competitions and various other activities.

HOUSE SYSTEM

SACE LEADERS:

Stage 1 - Ms Angie George

Stage 2 - Ms Jen Leske



Individual Personal Project

Students undertake research and skill development in an area of passion. They connect with a community expert in their chosen field to assist in this process. Students then produce a research paper or create a product or artifact that demonstrates their learning.

Our SACE students are able to select from broad and diverse curriculum options across a range of learning areas. The support of student learning is characterised by individual counselling and personalised learning programs.

SACE students are able to access subjects according to their readiness rather than their chronological year. This individual readiness can vary across subjects so that a student may be ahead of their peer group in one area while remaining with that group for other subjects. See the school's website for further curriculum information.

SACE READINESS

VHHS provides opportunities and pathways for students to develop lifelong learning skills. We engage with students to prepare them with the skills required to live active and successful lives once they move to the next chapter in their development.

A key area for development is the study of the SACE developed capabilities to live, learn, work, and participate successfully in an ever-changing society. These capabilities of Literacy, Numeracy, Information and Communication Technology, Critical and Creative Thinking, Personal and Social Capabilities, Ethical Understanding and Intercultural Understanding are embedded throughout the teaching methodologies within the school and are explicitly taught and assessed during the students progression through the Personal Learning Plan (PLP), Individual Personal Project and into the Stage 2 Research Project.

STAGE 1 & 2



FUTURE READY

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING (VET)

Targeted Vocational courses are offered at VHHS
- please refer to Curriculum Guide for latest offerings.

Students who are in Year 11 and turning 16 can also access a range of vocational courses across our region through the Southern Adelaide and Fleurieu Secondary School Alliance (SAFSSA).

Visit SAFSSA for further information:
www.safssa.sa.edu.au

School Based Apprenticeships

Students can get a head start with their careers by beginning an apprenticeship while still at school. An Australian School-based Apprenticeship (ASBA) provides students with hands-on industry experience, and the ability to work towards or complete a nationally recognised qualification, while they complete their SACE.

An Australian School-based Apprenticeship is an Apprenticeship which is undertaken part time while the apprentice is at school. The apprenticeship arrangement combines paid employment as an apprentice or trainee, trade school vocational training and senior secondary school studies.

Students have previously undertaken apprenticeships in areas such as baking, hairdressing, mechanical, retail, carpentry and hospitality.

The formal training that students undertake can count for between 40 – 120 SACE credits in both Stage 1 & 2, dependent on the field of training. The students training plan is created in partnership between the school, employer and student to balance school (SACE) and work commitments. A Group Training Company manages the formal training and VHHS manages the students' timetable and accreditation for SACE.



Government
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 **TRADE**
Schools
for the Future

SPECIAL EDUCATION



HARMONY IN DIVERSITY

At Victor Harbor High School we strive for a culture that truly values individual difference. In the case of the students in the Special Education Sub School (SESS), that means understanding that they learn differently from others and that the teaching and support staff need to try another way to engage students to the best of their abilities.

Our students are involved in whole school events such as assemblies, sports day, presentation evenings and Student Voice. Access to mainstream classes is negotiated on a case by case basis between a students' house teacher, the mainstream teacher and the family. Considerations may include student interests/skill level, the number of SESS students to access the class and the amount of support that will be required to give the student(s) the best possible chance of succeeding.

Senior students are provided with opportunities to access work experience or placement in environments covering a wide range of individualised support options. The site has positive and strong relationships with service providers in the Fleurieu region. We aim to strengthen our connections with the local community to ensure that our students move on to a post school option that will bring them success.

WELLBEING FOR LEARNING

Educators are currently experiencing a revolution in our understanding about the neurology of learning. We understand that our students first and foremost, require a safe environment in which to learn. As VHHS staff develop a shared understanding of emotional regulation and its positive effect on student learning, we explicitly teach these and other mindfulness techniques that are designed to support students' ability to self regulate their behaviour and emotions.

The Sensory Garden includes at least two spaces in which students can engage in learning and wellbeing. The design of the space allows for maximum opportunity for age appropriate self regulation.

Student house time focuses on the development of "social and emotional skills" such as those embodied in our school values: Creativity, Perseverance, Integrity and Respect.

ONE CHILD ONE PLAN

All students in the SESS have a One Plan (formerly the Negotiated Education Plan or NEP) document that is developed in consultation with families and other major stakeholders in the lives of students.

For year 7 students, the One Plan focus is on developing their sense of identity and belonging in their new school environment. From year 8, the focus is shifted to developing the skills that the student will require in order to be successful in his/her post school environment.

WELLBEING & TRANSITION HUB

At Victor Harbor High School, we understand that for students who, for a variety of reasons have not been engaging fully in their education for some time, it can be quite a daunting task to engage in SACE subjects and even know where to start to fill the gaps in their learning. There are many reasons that students may require a more individualised approach to learning and the Wellbeing and Transition Hub was created to serve the needs of those students.

This hub was developed to identify students' strengths and interests and then assess what skills they need in order to be able to achieve their desired goals. Staff would then support the student to map out a SACE or transition pathway plan that allows the student to learn in a way that is appropriate, and tailor made for their personality and learning style. This plan would support them in a clear path forward into further education or employment.

The Hub offers a suite of programs that are designed to support students to achieve a meaningful education or employment pathway well beyond their decision to re-engage.

The Wellbeing and Transition Hub is a skilled multidisciplinary team that has qualified educators, case managers, Support staff and industry specialists to support their holistic journey of preparedness for life after school.



"A lot of the new programs this year have been amazing. They have been so helpful with my mental health, my physical health, and learning about the World of Work.

I do both Vitalise and Tenacity and they are both about mental and physical health and Word on Work is another class that I do. While doing this class I have learnt lots of new things about myself. I can now list my top qualities.

Learning all of this has made me more aware and prouder of the person I am, and I see my qualities and skills. My skills include being organised, perseverance, being strong-willed, and a high awareness of emotional intelligence. I will finish my certificate and my SACE this year. I am so grateful to have this opportunity. The program absolutely changed my life and I have felt so supported across the few years that I have had this support."

Alexandra Munday
Graduate Student VHHS

CURRICULUM



At VHHS we build the curriculum around the needs and aspirations of each individual student.

In the pre SACE all students complete a set curriculum in Year 7 and 8, providing them with a taste of all of the required learning areas.

In Year 9 students are provided with choice for some of their subjects and are able to select more specialist courses in areas of interest. At both Year 8 and 9 levels, students are able to apply to be part of our Specialist Arts or Special Sport focus programs.

When students enter the SACE they select curriculum options that build towards individual learning goals based upon interests, skills and strengths. Curriculum options are designed to support students future career choices, be these: direct entry to University or TAFE pathways to apprenticeships or employment.

Victor Harbor High School's innovative approach to secondary education allows students in Year 10 to be able to access SACE subjects through our vertically integrated timetable structure. This means that students may apply to select subjects from higher year levels. The subjects that a student selects are determined by their future pathway options, any pre-requisites that exist, and their personal readiness for particular subjects.

Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do.' Pele

Specialist Sport Program

The Specialist Sport AFL Program is a mixed gender program allowing both male and female students an opportunity to pursue their interest in playing, refereeing, managing and/or officiating the sport.

The school will compete in a variety of Interschool Competitions and expose students to AFL pathways (state and national).

This program includes:

- training/accreditation opportunities
- a career path component in the Sports Industry
- strong community links with the South Adelaide Football Club (SAFC) and SANFL



Ngarrindjeri Yr 9-12

Students participate in a range of Ngarrindjeri language and cultural activities, including:

- developing skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening to Ngarrindjeri
- enhance knowledge and appreciation of Aboriginal Perspectives across the curriculum
- connections to real world scenarios, places, objects and artworks by building spoken language
- regular practice with members of the wider community

'You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose.' *Dr Seuss*

Marine Studies

Students who have an interest in the local marine environment and the plants and animals that live in the sea and on the beach. The course gives students the chance to learn about the ocean and its creatures and take part in contemporary marine issues about which people hold different views.

It develops a range of concepts and skills to meet the SACE requirements and involves a lot of interesting practicals, several worthwhile projects, enjoyable field trips out of the school and interesting topics, including but not limited to:

- Snorkelling, marine aquariums, whales and whaling, boat licence



Performing Arts - Music

Students with a Music Focus can enrol in Instrumental Music lessons and choose from Percussion: Drums or Guitar; Woodwind: Flute, Saxophone or Clarinet; or Brass: Trumpet or Trombone. Instrumental lessons are available free of charge during school time.

There are a mixture of courses for students interested in undertaking music. Some are designed for those with an interest in developing their musical talents and abilities including history, composition, responding to music, performances, musicianship. Maestros is course consisting of 100% practical music making.

Performing Arts - Drama

Students with a Drama Focus can expect to develop skills, understanding, and general communication plus audience skills.

There are opportunities to be involved in the School Musical and other public performances.

Visual Arts and Design

Students learn in and through visual arts practices, both individually and collaboratively and explore a range of materials/methods such as drawing, charcoal, chalk pastels, acrylic and watercolour paint, digital media, hand building clay, printmaking and construction sculpture.

In Design and Craft, students create original artworks based on themes that are personally relevant and have been inspired by both contemporary and historic artistic styles, such as graphic design, product design, fabric printing and textile work.

SPECIALIST CURRICULUM

STUDENT WELLBEING



Student wellbeing is central to learning. During your time at Victor Harbor High School we will make sure that you are feeling supported. We do this because we understand that if you are feeling good about yourself and confident about what you are doing then you will be able to concentrate more on your learning and be successful at school.

STUDENT SERVICES

Student Services is the starting point for a lot of our support services. Here you can find people who will help you around a range of issues.

We have Wellbeing and Engagement Leaders who you can talk to if you need someone to discuss anything with.

We have a VET/SACE Leader who can support in the area of work including apprenticeships, traineeships and generally any information you need about your future pathways.

Student Services also provides support for the more simple things in life like first aid and phoning home if you need to. You can get the information you need about things like Bus Passes, where to find teachers and other essential information.

Another area of support is the Nunga Room for our Indigenous Students.

An Aboriginal Education Coordinator and Aboriginal Secondary Education Transition Officers (ASETO) are there to offer programs, advice and support for you and your family.

If you are Aboriginal, someone will get in touch with you once you start at VHHS and let you know how you can get any support that you might need.

SCHOOLS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

The School Mental Health Service has been established to help support the increasing number of students who experience mental health concerns that impact on their wellbeing and learning. It is designed to complement – not duplicate – the range of existing mental health and wellbeing services already available in schools, including Student Wellbeing Leaders, Student Support Services and SWISS.

VISITING PROFESSIONALS

If you or your family feel you need some extra support with your wellbeing we have visiting support services and mental health professionals who can give students expert professional help.

Talk to a Wellbeing Leader about an appointment..

NUNGA ROOM

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

VHHS offers a range of extra-curricular activities and programs including:

- Student Leadership
- Volleyball
- Surfing
- Sailing
- Knockout Sports
- Sustainability Group
- School Concert Band
- Instrumental Music Lessons
- Makerspaces
- School Musical



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

REGIONAL STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

Victor Harbor High School offers the following fee paying international programs to overseas students:

Regional Study Abroad Program

This program provides international students with an opportunity to experience the Australian lifestyle and education, and to improve their English.

International students come as fee paying students, usually for 1 to 4 terms and live in local, school approved Homestay accommodation. VHHS manages its own homestay program. Host families are carefully screened and selected by our International Program Manager who ensures that the best quality of care and safety is provided at all times.

Regional Study Abroad Program students can choose from academic and or experiential programs suitable for their interests and needs. Students choose VHHS for subjects such as Outdoor Education, Marine Studies, Photography, and Food & Hospitality.



If you would like to know how to become a Host Family, please contact:

Reena Cavouras-Hyde (International Education Program Manager) or

Michelle Sweet (International Education Administration)

on 8551 1900 or email

dl.0799.info@schools.sa.edu.au



TECHNOLOGY



The use of Technology as a tool for learning is a vital skill that all students need to develop whilst they are at school. Government's predict that 75% of new jobs will require students to be innovative and use entrepreneur skills which requires them to use technology to help solve problems and be collaborative. At Victor Harbor High School we will teach students how to explicitly use a range of technology that will help our graduates be well prepared for the new world of work.

SUPPORT

If you need any help with your login, computer issues or support in connecting to our BYOD network, please see the helpful staff in the IT helpdesk office at any time throughout the school day.



BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD)

BYOD allows students to bring their own computing device to all of their classes. Students can bring a device of their choice (laptop, tablet etc), excluding Chromebooks and connect to the school network and have free access to Office 365. The advantage of a BYOD strategy is that it provides students with the flexibility of having their own device, one with which they are comfortable and familiar and suits their home requirements. All students are highly encouraged to have their own Accidental Theft and Damage Insurance. Please refer to our school's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) brochure on our school website under Learning/New Families for more information and to ensure that your device will be suitable to use on our system.

MICROSOFT OFFICE & ONE NOTE

Students are able to download up to four free copies of Office 365 onto their device(s). This gives them access to a 1 TByte One Drive storage account. OneNote Class Notebook will be used by teachers to collaborate and deliver teaching resources to students and provide feedback about their learning.

All students are required to sign these documents to be able to use our network and download their free copy of Office 365.

COMMUNICATION

DAYMAP

Daymap is a web-based learner management system that provides students and families with real time information about timetables, attendance, assessment tasks, marking of summative work and student reports.

Daymap is accessible 24/7 from anywhere with internet access. It's a secure system which requires a unique username and password. Parents can access Daymap through the Parent Portal available from the front page of our school website www.vhhs.sa.edu.au

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

All students and families have the opportunity to take part in Parent/teacher interviews where they review their learning with family members and teacher. This discussion is focused on learning goals set by students and encourages family contributions and connections.

REPORTS

Parents are kept updated on student progress via a regular cycle of checks and reports that are available on Daymap for both students and parents to view. Students receive regular Progress Checks in all of their subject areas, which indicate how they are travelling in regards to their Attendance, Achievement and Behaviour (AAB). Students are graded at above satisfactory, at satisfactory or below satisfactory, depending on their progress over this period. Reports grading of A-E are provided for every class at the end of each semester (end Term 2 and 4).



COMMUNICATIONS

Latest School News is published on our website and Facebook as it occurs, and is available here: <https://www.vhhs.sa.edu.au/news>

Our website also contains information about many different things including coming events, key dates, student achievements, school directions, Governing Council and Old Scholars.

Students and families can also access news and notices through Daymap.



UNIFORM



By choosing to attend Victor Harbor High School, students are choosing to follow the school's Uniform Policy.

VHHS uniforms are available from Totally Workwear, 1A Lincoln Park Drive, Victor Harbor. Please refer to the School Uniform Guide listed on the school's website for more information.

TRANSPORT

All students wishing to travel by bus need to complete an Application to Travel on Department for Education School Bus' Application Form.

Once verified, students will be issued with a bus pass for travel if they are deemed eligible.

Buses provide travel to and from Victor Harbor High School for the following locations:

- Back Valley
- Currency Creek
- Goolwa Beach (South Lakes)
- Goolwa North
- Hindmarsh Island
- Hindmarsh Valley
- Inman Valley
- Middleton / Port Elliot
- Waitpinga

LESSON TIMES

8:50am Lesson 1

9:40am Lesson 2

10:30am RECESS

10:55am House Time

11:10am Lesson 3

12:00pm Lesson 4

12:50pm LUNCH

1:35pm Lesson 5

2:25pm Lesson 6

3:15pm DISMISSAL

FACILITIES

RESEARCH CENTRE

The Research Centre Staff are more than happy to assist you with your research questions, computer and printing needs. We have a vast array of digital and print resources to meet your research and leisure needs.

Resources and services include fiction and non-fiction digital and print books, online databases and encyclopaedias, including ClickView (educational documentaries and movies), Equipment and printing facilities.

During lunch breaks we have various makerspaces activities to partake in, including: Scribblers and Scrawlers

Opening hours are from 8.45 am - 10.30 am, 10.50 am – 12.50 pm, and 1.00 pm – 3.15 pm.

CANTEEN

The Victor Harbor High School canteen caters for a wide range of dietary requirements and freshly prepares food on site daily

Student are encouraged to place lunch orders before recess to avoid long waits..

An up-to-date canteen menu can be found by visiting www.vhhs.com.au

SPECIALIST LEARNING SPACES

Your student will have opportunities to take part in exciting learning utilising our specialist areas.

These include:

Media Arts/Film Media

Outdoor Education

Design and Technology

Home Ec and Food Preparation

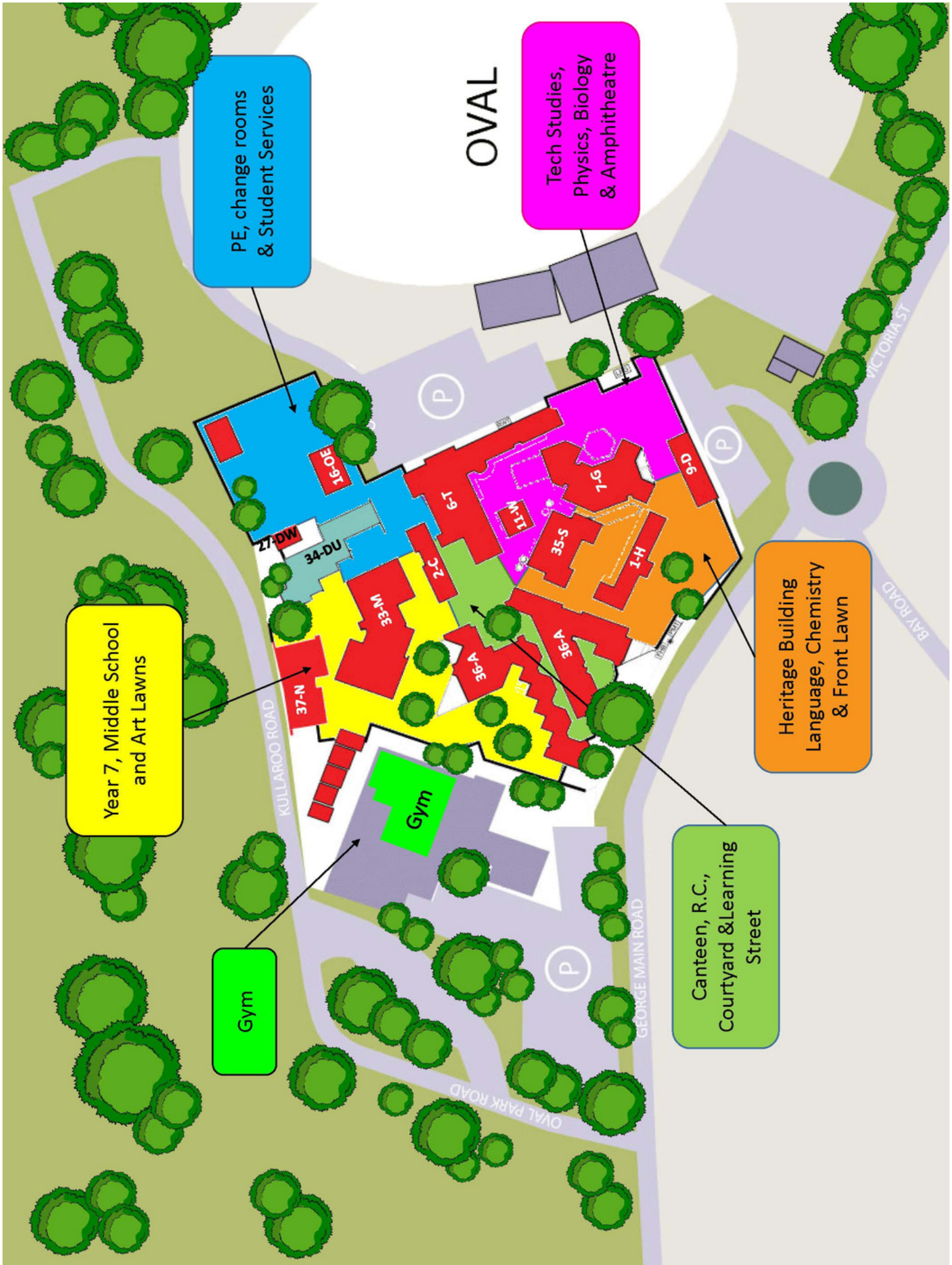
Performing and Visual Arts

Science Laboratories

Health and Physical Education

Marine Studies





PE, change rooms & Student Services

Tech Studies, Physics, Biology & Amphitheatre

Year 7, Middle School and Art Lawns

Heritage Building Language, Chemistry & Front Lawn

Canteen, R.C., Courtyard & Learning Street

Gym

OVAL

P

P

P

37-N

33-M

36-A

36-B

35-S

1-H

1-G

0-9

2-C

6-T

16-OE

27-DW

34-DU

A1-T1

Gym

KULLAROO ROAD

OVAL PARK ROAD

GEORGE MAIN ROAD

VICTORIA ST

BAY ROAD

FEEDBACK & PARENT INVOLVEMENT

We value the importance of open and transparent forms of communication with our school community and look forward to continuing to share the great work of both our students and teachers. Your feedback is so important to us, and remains an essential component in forging successful educational outcomes for our children. We encourage our local and school community to continue the great work by interacting via our social media channels, providing constructive feedback direct to the school, through attendance and involvement at school events and by maintaining open lines of communication with your child's educators.

'Every student can learn, just not on the same day, or the same way.'

George Evans

ABSENCES

Please report absences to the school before 10am by phoning Student Services on (08) 8551 1912.



GOVERNING COUNCIL

Victor Harbor High School encourages participation by families in the school's decision making processes. Our Governing Council is an example of strengthening the partnership between families and the school working together to improve the learning outcomes of all students.

We need your support. Please consider volunteering your time to be a part of our school Governing Council.

Involvement in the Governing Council includes the opportunity to serve on various Task Groups. It is the forum where parent, staff, student and community representatives provide support and direction for a range of school activities, including finance, grounds and facilities, uniform and the canteen.

Meetings for Governing Council are held twice a Term on Wednesday evenings, 6:30pm to 8.00pm.

For more information about joining our Governing Council please see our school website www.vhhs.sa.edu.au