

School Newsletter FEBRUARY 2024

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome to the 2024 school year.

On behalf of the Casterton Secondary College community, I welcome returning students and their families and extend a very warm welcome to our new Year 7 students, our new enrolments and their families.

I would also like to welcome our new staff members-

Mr Kynan Baker (English/Humanities)

Ms Gillian Russell (Agriculture/Horticulture)

Mr Malcolm Jones (Product Design Technology)

Although it has been extremely busy, it has also been a wonderful positive start to the year! I have enjoyed walking around the school chatting to students and seeing almost all of them in correct uniform.

There is a feeling of optimism and students are engaged with their learning programs, participating in the school's silent reading and writing programs, setting individual learning goals, attending Year 12 interviews with their parents/carers and Year 11/12 information evenings, enjoying House Swimming Sports, and practising the fire drill.

Staff have engaged in professional learning including anaphylaxis update, curriculum planning, completing e-learning modules to comply with government requirements, analysis of data and lesson planning to ensure all students are receiving instruction at their point of learning.

I take this opportunity, on behalf of the school community, to congratulate the Year 12 students of 2023 who gained entry into their preferred course at University, TAFE or entered the workforce. We wish them all the best for their futures

The mean VCE study score for 2023 was 31, an outstanding achievement and one the community can be proud of!

Special congratulations to 2023 VCE DUX: Amber Spratling. Staff are extremely proud of Amber, who reflect the school's values of Respect, Accountability and Persistence, and the school mantra "High Expectations- No Excuses".

High expectations for every student promotes intellectual engagement and self-awareness. At CSC, we have high expectations of our students to be confident learners, continuously improve and to reach their goals in a supportive and optimistic environment where students are nurtured and taught at their point-of-learning.

The success of our students is a reflection of their focus, resilience and strength, their teachers' knowledge
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and commitment and of the support provided by their parents/carers. The strength of the relationships between staff, students and parents/carers is critical to the wellbeing of our students as they navigate through their secondary years.

2024 School Captains

Captains: Chelsea Hulm and Alex Hornibrook

Vice Captains: Phoebe Carlin and Aaron Jeffrey

Positive Relationships

Casterton Secondary College follows the principles of Restorative Justice to build a culture of mutual respect through the building of positive relationships by *accepting responsibility for decisions made, establishing trust with and between people and repairing any harm that may have been done.*

It is vital that **every member of the school community embraces these principles** and work together to build a positive culture of mutual respect.

<u>Family involvement</u> is an important and welcome part of Casterton Secondary College. It leads to a richer and more cohesive environment for both students and staff. There are many ways parents/carers can be involved, both on a formal and an informal basis. We welcome any assistance you can give.

Informal involvement activities include - Helping with classroom activities, helping out with sports teams and events, assisting on excursions.

Formal involvement with the college includes:

- Becoming a member of the College Council or one of its sub-committees
- Responding to formal questionnaires / surveys, requests from the school.

School Improvements

During 2024 we will be finalising the following projects:

- School funded project
 - o renew the driveway, create a staff carpark, instal safety bollards, landscaping
 - o provide wheelchair access between Block A (Administration) and Block B (toilet/locker area)
 - o create landscaped outdoor eating area which includes seating and cantilever shade, between Block B and Block C (canteen, technology)

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Effective communication reduces misunderstanding, provides a link between the home and school to relay information, and relies on all members of the school community to play their part in the process.

If you have any concerns regarding the welfare of your children, please contact the appropriate person. Below is a list of reasons for contacting the school and the **person to speak** to in the corresponding column.

Concern	Who to contact	
Absences	For absences where there is no exemption in place, a parent / carer must provide the school with an explanation on <u>each occasion</u> .	
	Parents / carers should notify Casterton Secondary College of absences by:	
	 Contacting the front office via phone, XUNO message or email. Sending a note to the front office with the student on their return to school 	
	If a student is absent on a particular day and the school has not been previously notified by a parent / carer, or the absence is otherwise unexplained, Casterton Secondary College will: • notify parents by phone or XUNO message.	
	attempt to contact parents / carers as soon as practicable on the same day of the unexplained absence, allowing time for the parent to respond.	

CSC Late Arrival/Early Leaver Process:

- All students who *arrive late* to school will present a signed note (or the school has been notified), from their parent/carer *to the front office* on arrival before they sign in and before the first period.
- All students who need to *leave* school *early* will present a signed note, from their parent/carer to the *front office* on arrival before the first period.

Bullying/Harassment	Years 7-9 Leader – Carina Barton		
Classroom issues	Years 10-12 Leader – Chelsea Carter		
Yard issues			
Finance, school fees	Business Manager – Renee Jukes		
etc.			
Careers advice	Relevant sub-school leader- Carina Barton (7-9) or Chelsea Carter (10-12)		
	Careers Coordinator – Delma Fidler		
Curriculum	Director of Teaching and Learning – Jo McKenzie		
Staff and general	Principal (Meridith Walker)		

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Council Elections

An election is to be conducted for members (parents/carers and students) of the School Council of Casterton Secondary College.

All parents/carers and students are encouraged to consider nominating to be a parent/carer or student representative on our Governing Council.

Please refer to the information attached. Information for students is available at the front office.

I thank all members of council, who have been passionate advocates of Casterton Secondary College within the school, local and broader communities.

2024 Pupil Free Days

The following pupil free days for 2022 have been ratified by the College Council.

29 January (Monday)	2024 Preparation / Curriculum Development
15 April (1 st day Term 2- Monday)	Professional Practice Day
17 June (Monday)	Assessment/Reporting
15 July (1 st day Term3- Monday)	Curriculum Development
4 November (Monday)	Curriculum Development

Please refer to XUNO, website, newsletter and Facebook for information about what is happening at the college.

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The mantra "high expectations – no excuses" will continue to underpin our daily business. Teachers will have high expectations of themselves and every student and accept no excuses; students will have high expectations of themselves and offer no excuses.

Maintaining high standards and "living" the school values of *Respect, Accountability and Persistence* are integral elements of our mantra.

As soon as our students step into the buildings, there will be an orderly, respectful and focussed approach to learning.

Classrooms will reflect rigour, quality teaching and learning, respect and engagement.

There is a partnership between the school and home; one that shares a responsibility to ensure every student at Casterton Secondary College is receiving a high quality education in a safe and secure environment. Staff provide support and guidance during school hours whilst parents/carers provide support and guidance beyond school hours. We value this partnership.

Casterton Secondary College is a successful school, a school that uses a cycle of continuous improvement to ensure the success of every student in the pathway of their choosing; a school that uses innovative methods to engage students with their learning, in an applied way; a school that provides students with the skills, knowledge, attitude and strategies to thrive in a fast-changing world.

Casterton Secondary College is a school that I'm proud of and every member of staff is proud of.

Why would anyone want to attend another school?

Meridith

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STUDENT DROP OFF & PICK UP

IMPORTANT - Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Many of us never give a second thought as to which side of the road we should drop off or collect our children.

It is much safer for your children and other motorists if your children leave the car from the rear kerb side door.

This prevents children getting out of the car into oncoming traffic or walking between buses and not having a clear view of oncoming traffic – thereby reducing their risk of being injured.

Casterton Secondary College fronts onto a very busy main road used by B-Doubles, other trucks, farm machinery and cars which places children who have to cross the road at unnecessary risk. Unfortunately, because of the bus zone and staff car park, parents are unable to legally stop on the school side of the road.

Some students have been observed taking unnecessary risks crossing the road and putting themselves and others at risk of injury.

Parents/carers are asked to use the Stadium car park to drop-off and pick-up their children before and after school. This is a safe place to deliver and collect your children.

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EVERY DAY SPENT AT SCHOOL COUNTS

EVERY DAY COUNTS

Secondary School Attendance

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things are school every day—missing school puts them behind.

Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Students develop good habits by going to school every day – habits that are necessary to succeed after school, whether in the workplace or in further study.

Missing school can have a big impact on students academically and socially. It can affect their test results, including VCE, and, just as importantly, it can affect their relationships with other students, and lead to social isolation.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with falling behind in subject topics and assessment tasks, and lead to fewer subject choices and may impact on achievement in years 11 and 12.

Getting in early

It's never too late to improve attendance – going to school more often can lead to better outcomes. Even at Year 9, when attendance rates for all students are lowest, going to school more often can make a big difference. Every day counts.

Schools are there to help – if you're having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address those issues.

What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

"Day off" – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy; the best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

While all absences are bad for academic performance, unexcused absences are a much stronger indicator of lower reading and maths achievement.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Speak with your home room teacher or year level coordinator and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your home room teacher or year level coordinator as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your year level coordinator, principal or other relevant staff member know so you can work together to get your child to school every day.

Further information

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:

www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/st udentattendance.aspx



Every Day Counts - Students MUST strive for 100% attendance

1 or 2 days absent a week doesn't seem much but

He / She is only missing just	That equals	Which is	and over 13 years of schooling that's	Which means the best your child can perform is
l day per fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years	Equal to finishing in year 11
l day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years	Equal to finishing in year 10
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over <u>5 years</u>	Equal to finishing in year 7
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years	Equal to finishing at year 4

Being On Time to School and Class Counts

Just a little bit late doesn't_seem much but

He / She is only missing just	That equals	Which is	and over 13 years of schooling that's
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly <u>Half a year</u>
20 minutes per day	l hour 40 minutes per week	Over 2.5 weeks per year	Nearly <u>1 year</u>
Half an hour per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 and a half years
I hour per day	l day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 and a half years

Did you know your child's best learning time is the start of the school day?

That's when every minute counts the most!!

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Child Safe Standards

At Casterton Secondary College we are committed to the Care, Safety and Welfare of our Students.

As such, we have a number of policies, all of which have been approved by our School Council, which demonstrate our commitment to the Care, Safety and Welfare of Students.

These policies are on our website in the Policy section under the heading Child Safe Standards

I recommend that you periodically visit our website to read these and other policies and information about your college.

J. Webb

WELCOME TO OUR 2024 YEAR 7'S

Ann Hirst



We extend a warm welcome to our year 7 students of 2024 and their families, we look forward to working with you and hope you all enjoy being a part of Casterton Secondary College for the next 6 years.

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HOUSE SWIMMING SPORTS

Carina Barton

Wannon experience swimming success.

Friday the 2nd of February was the start of the sporting season for Casterton Secondary College with our annual swimming sports taking place at the Casterton pool.

The pool looked fantastic in the early morning sunshine thanks to the efforts of the pool staff and Casterton swimming club who continue to be enthusiastic and much appreciated supporters of our swimming sports.

The day kicked off with the trials which are a fun and relaxing way to start the day. Everyone had the chance to jump in the pool, particularly important given the temperature was climbing quite rapidly. Regardless of ability the students did their utmost to gain valuable house points.

Once the trials concluded the swimmers who qualified for the finals showed their competitive spirit and fought hard for the chance to bring home a blue, red or green ribbon. The wonderful house spirit we have at Casterton shone through time and time again, with many students swimming out of their age group just to make sure they could add to their respective house tallies.

When attending a Casterton SC sporting event, it never fails to impress how dedicated and enthusiastic many of the students are which is shown in the way they approach sporting opportunities. Several students even swam two legs of a relay just to make sure their house was represented. The two houses fought hard all day however Wannon managed to break away from Glenelg to take the overall championship win.

Thank you to all the volunteers, school staff, house leaders, swimming club, pool staff and parent supporters who contributed to the 2024 swimming sports success.

The age group champions were: 13 years: Zoe McDonald, George Robbins and Brody Davis 14 years: Ylana Grigg and Ayden Nolte 15 years: Rachel Forbes and Nate Longhurst 16 years: Kirby Vise and Jedd Rhook: 17-21years: Indi Longhurst, Phoebe Carlin and Alex Hornibrook. Next, we move to the House athletics carnival to be held at Island Park on the 1st of March where Glenelg will be making a bid to even the score with Wannon. All community members are welcome.



WANNON

Senior House Leaders

Jedd Rhook, Matilda Thompson, Kirby Vise, Indi Longhurst, Riley Hutchins.

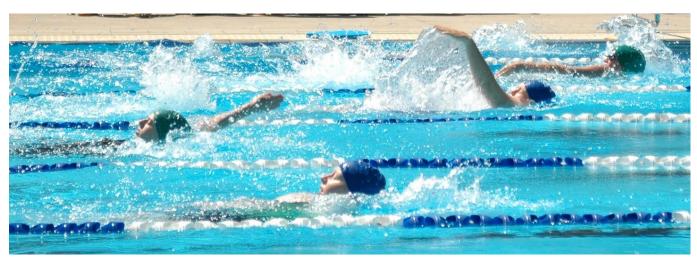
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AGE GROUP CHAMPIONS

Back, L-R, *Nate Longhurst, Jedd Rhook, Brody Davis, Phoebe Carlin, Ylana Grigg, Ayden Nolte, Kirby Vise* Front, L-R, *George Robbins, Indi Longhurst, Zoe McDonald, Alex Hornibrook, Rachel Forbes*





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SCIENCE

Brett VanAs

The start of a new year brings exciting times in Year 7 Science. Our new students have been learning about Lab Safety and obtaining their Bunsen Burner licence.

Year 8 students have been studying Energy – the different types and energy transfers and transformations.

Year 10 have been learning about chemical bonding. They have also had an introduction to the applied side of the chemistry topic which is the wine making program. Many thanks go to Mr Goodwin for pruning the vines with the tractor attachment.

Year 12 Chemistry and Biology students have had to hit the ground running, learning about combustion and genetic engineering respectively.















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INTRODUCING NEW & RETURNING STAFF

Ann Hirst



We are excited to announce the addition of three new and one returning teacher to the College, bringing fresh perspectives, passion, and expertise to our school. As we embark on a new academic year, let's extend a warm welcome to these dedicated professionals who have joined our school and community. From Left to Right we have Gillian Russell who comes to us from Katherine NT. Gill is teaching Agriculture, Food Studies & Personal Development Skills. Then we have Malcom Jones and his family from Queensland. Malcolm comes to us with 20 years teaching experience. He will be teaching Product Design & Technology, Health & Physical Education and Work-Related Skills. Kynan Baker joined us toward the end of last year and he will be taking English, Humanities and Indonesian. We also have Faith Roper returning to the College to resume teaching Art. We are certain they will enjoy the College and community spirit of Casterton.

HEADSTART APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS

It's the start of 2024 and the Head Start program is kicking back into gear!

Guy Seviour is the Head Start Coordinator for Casterton SC and will be working with any Year 10-12 students looking to find the right school-based apprenticeship or traineeship across a broad range of career areas.

Whether it's traditional trades, agriculture, or green energy, Head Start provides students with the opportunity to start learning crucial work skills, all while completing their senior schooling.

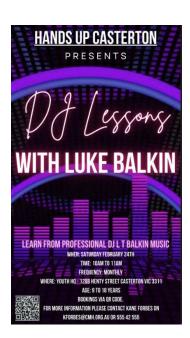
If you want to learn more about the opportunities available through the Head Start Program, please speak to your careers coordinator to find out more.

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ACTIVITIES RUN THROUGH THE YOUTH HUB







FOOTY TIPPING IS BACK FOR 2024

FOOTY TIPPING IS BACK

The time of year has rolled around again with The Football Tipping With a Difference Competition about to start. This is the only fundraiser for the College and also the cheapest footy tipping competition to enter. We are hoping the community gets behind this competition again.

Half the pool is distributed as prize money to the first three place getters and the remainder goes to the College. This money is used to purchase school bags for our enrolling Year 7s.

You will receive a Tipping Sheet in the mail and spare sheets can be found at Foodworks or at the College.

Entries must be in by 5:00pm on Thursday March 7 – the Opening Round. Entries can be left at the College, Foodworks or with Ann Hirst or John Webb.

The results are printed out weekly and placed in businesses throughout the town so people can have some friendly rivalry as to who is the better tipper.

Good luck to those who enter.

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SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION PROCESS & TIMETABLE 2024

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION PROCESS AND TIMETABLE 2024

Name of the school: CASTERTON SECONDARY COLLEGE

	EVENT	DATE
a)	Notice of election and call for nominations	Tuesday 13th February 2024
ь)	Closing date for nominations	Tuesday 20th February 2024
c)	Date by which list of candidates and nominators will be posted	Thursday 22 nd February 2024
d)	Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed	On or before Tuesday 27th February 2024
e)	Close of ballot	Tuesday 5 th March 2024
f)	Vote count	Thursday 7th March 2024
g)	Declaration of ballot	Friday 8th March 2024
h)	Special council meeting to co-opt Community members (the principal will preside)	Monday 18th March 2024
i)	First council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside)	Monday 18th March 2024

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Appendix A

Fact sheet 1: school council elections - information for parents

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad direction of a school, in accordance with Ministerial Order 1280 Constitution of Government School Councils, and the Education and Training Reform Act 2006. In doing this, a school council may directly influence the quality of education for students.

Who is on the school council?

For most primary school councils, there are several possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected parent member category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department employees can be parent members at their child's school providing that they are not engaged in work at the school.

A mandated elected school employee member category – members of this category make up no more than one-third of membership. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experience. Department employees are not eligible to be community members.

A small number of school councils have **nominee members**.

For all schools with a Year 7 and above cohort, there is an additional category of membership:

A mandated elected student member category, two positions.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills and a range of experiences and knowledge that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

Each member brings their own valuable skills and knowledge to the role, however, in order to successfully perform their duties, councillors may need to gain some new skills and knowledge.

It is important to have an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

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Code of conduct for school councillors

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the Public Administration Act 2004.

School councillors must comply with the Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to:

- **act with honesty and integrity** be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty.
- act in good faith in the best interests of the school work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds.
- **act fairly and impartially** consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self-interest.
- **use information appropriately** respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available.

exercise due care, diligence and skill – accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school. **use the position appropriately** – not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage.

act in a financially responsible manner – observe all the above principles when making financial decisions.

comply with relevant legislation and policies – know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law.

demonstrate leadership and stewardship – set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable.

Indemnity for school council members

School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in:

- a. the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or
- the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council.

In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

How can you become involved?

By participating in, and voting in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might consider:

standing for election as a member of the school council encouraging another person to stand for election.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for nominations in Term 1 of each year. Council elections must be completed by 31 March, unless varied by the Minister for Education.

If you stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or, you can nominate yourself in the parent member category. You can only be nominated by another member of the same electorate that you are eligible for (e.g. a member of the parent electorate may only nominate another parent of that electorate)

Department employees with a child enrolled at a school where they are not engaged in work, are eligible to nominate for parent membership at that school.

Return your completed nomination form to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt via post, email or by hand delivery.

Generally, if there are more nominations than vacancies a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

Consider standing for election to school council.

Ask the principal for instructions if you are not sure what to do.

Be sure to vote if the election goes to ballot.

Contact the principal if you are unsure about what is required at any stage of the election process.

Tuesday 12th February 2024

Notice of Election and call for Nominations - Parents

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Casterton Secondary College.

Nomination forms are available from the front office from Tuesday 13/02/2024 and must be lodged by 4:00pm on 20/02/2024.

A ballot (if required) will close at 4:00pm on 27/02/2024.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

Membership category	Term in office	Number of positions
Parent member	2 years from the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2024 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2026	2
Parent member	1 year from the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2024 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2025	2

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Meridith Walker

Principal

Casterton Secondary College

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Notice of Election and call for Nominations - Students

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Casterton Secondary College.

Nomination forms are available from the front office from Tuesday 13/02/2024 and must be lodged by 4:00pm on 20/02/2024.

A ballot (if required) will close at 4:00pm on 27/02/2024.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

Membership category	Term in office	Number of positions
Student member	1 year from the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2024 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2025	2

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Meridith Walker

Principal

Casterton Secondary College

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