Casterton Secondary College

School Newsletter

JUNE 2026

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

With the start of holidays just around the corner, you have finished reading your children's reports. It's time to reflect on their achievements, successes and the areas that need improvement. Support your children with their learning by supervising homework and developing strategies to improve in the areas highlighted by their teachers.

"Confidence and motivation are two critical ingredients for young people's success. Supporting your child to help nurture these qualities allows them to believe in their abilities and navigate life's challenges with resilience and a positive outlook."

Dr Michael Carr-Gregg

Building confidence and motivation in children is one of the most impactful roles parents and caregivers can play in their child's development. Confidence is the belief in one's abilities, while motivation drives the effort to pursue goals, even in the face of challenges. These qualities, when nurtured from an early age, help children develop resilience, a positive self-image, and the courage to take on new challenges. Parents can create an environment where their children feel supported by offering consistent encouragement, praising effort over outcomes, and helping them set achievable goals. When children feel confident in their abilities, they are more likely to be motivated to try new things and persevere through setbacks. By fostering both confidence and motivation, we can equip young people with the tools to face life's challenges with self-assurance and a growth-oriented mindset, laying the groundwork for long-term personal and academic success.

1. **Praise effort, not just outcomes:** Focus on praising the effort your child puts in rather than the result to emphasise the value of hard work and persistence.
2. **Set achievable goals:** Help your child set small, realistic goals that they can accomplish, and celebrate their progress along the way.
3. **Encourage problem-solving:** Instead of solving problems for them, encourage your child to think of solutions, fostering independence and confidence in their abilities.
4. **Allow for mistakes:** Teach your child that mistakes are part of learning by normalising setbacks and focusing on what can be learned from them.
5. **Provide opportunities for success:** Give your child tasks or responsibilities that are within their capabilities so they can experience the satisfaction of accomplishment.
6. **Encourage autonomy:** Allow your child to make age-appropriate decisions to build independence and boost their self-esteem.
7. **Teach a growth mindset:** Help your child understand that abilities can be developed through hard work, practice, and learning from challenges.
8. **Celebrate progress, not perfection:** Focus on the steps they take and improvements they make, rather than expecting perfect results, to encourage continued effort.
9. **Use positive affirmations:** Teach children to use positive self-talk to reinforce their self-confidence and resilience in challenging situations.

10. **Support their interests:** Encourage children to pursue activities they enjoy, as being passionate about something often fuels motivation and confidence.

Please take the time to visit SchoolTV (on the school website) – ***Confidence and Motivation*** – and watch the videos of specialists talking about:

- Key facts that influence a young person's level of confidence.
- How can we help boost a child's self-confidence?
- What strategies can help young people overcome self-doubt and develop confidence?
- How does technology, including social media, impact confidence and motivation?

The partnership between students, parents/carers and staff is vital in ensuring successful learning outcomes for your children. If you have any concerns or need support, please contact the relevant Sub-School Leader (Year7-9: Mrs Carina Barton and Year 10-12: Mrs Chelsea Carter).

IMPORTANT – Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Casterton Secondary College faces onto a very busy Mt. Gambier Road used by B-Doubles, other trucks, farm machinery and cars which places children who have to cross the road at unnecessary risk.

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 kerb side door on the school side of the road.
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.

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

It has also been observed that some parents/carers are driving onto school grounds via the White Street entrance to drop off their children. This is an OHS issue. Please do not drive your car onto school grounds unless invited to do so.

Parents/carers are asked to encourage their children to practice safe behaviour.

Using the Stadium car park to drop-off and pick-up their children before and after school models safe practices.

It is a safe place to deliver and collect your children.

Curriculum Development Day – Monday 13th July

The school will be closed on the first day of Term 3, Monday, 13th July.

Staff will attend a "Healthy Minds" refresher course, unpack PAT test data, and finalise Term 3 planning.

Congratulations to the students who have successfully completed semester one.

Casterton Secondary College students value the learning opportunities and support provided to them by their teachers and support staff; they participate in a rigorous and engaging learning curriculum and receive careers advice that prepares them for life beyond school.

Well done everyone on a great term!

On behalf of Casterton Secondary College staff, I wish everybody a happy and relaxing holiday!

Meridith

NOORLA Year 11 EXCURSION

Rebecca Richards

On Monday the 18th of May 8 Year 11 students attended Noorla Yo-Long as part of the wellbeing program. They were challenged to think differently by completing the blindfold obstacle maze where one person must complete the maze blindfolded while the other person directs them where to go. The students are not allowed to use the words, left or right, or anything that starts with the letters L or R. They had to make up their own system to overcome this challenge before they entered the maze. Some groups handled it well, others found it more challenging.

The group also took part in low ropes activities in which they all needed to work together to solve the problems that were posed to them. With such a small group, it was sometimes difficult, but with consistent teamwork conquered each activity with patience and resilience. The triangle activity was the best example of this. There was a 20-minute time limit, which they didn't quite meet, but instead of giving up, they pushed through and managed to complete it in 26 minutes.

Year 8 excursion to Budj Bim

Claire Kilmartin

Lake Surprise

Kurtonitj

Lake Surprise

Taerak eels

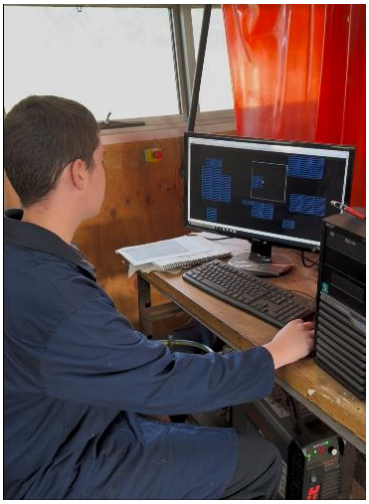
Lookout

Smoking tree

Twenty-five Year 8 students and three teachers enjoyed a memorable and educational day at Budj Bim National Park. Upon arrival, the group was welcomed by our guide, Jayden, and Tania from the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (GHCMA), who shared their extensive knowledge of the area's unique cultural and environmental significance.

Throughout the day, students explored the landscape and learned about the rich history of the Gunditjmara people and the remarkable aquaculture systems that have made Budj Bim a World Heritage-listed site. The excursion offered students a valuable opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world experiences

Product, Design & Technology in action



GREATER WESTERN REGION cross country run for Riley

Congratulations to Riley Gorman who competed in the Greater Western Region cross country in Warrnambool on the 26th of May. He finished a very respectable 26th in a field of over 60.

AROUND THE SCHOOL

PARTNERSHIP DAY for grade 6

Carina Barton

The first of our 2026 partnership days took place on Friday the 22nd of May.

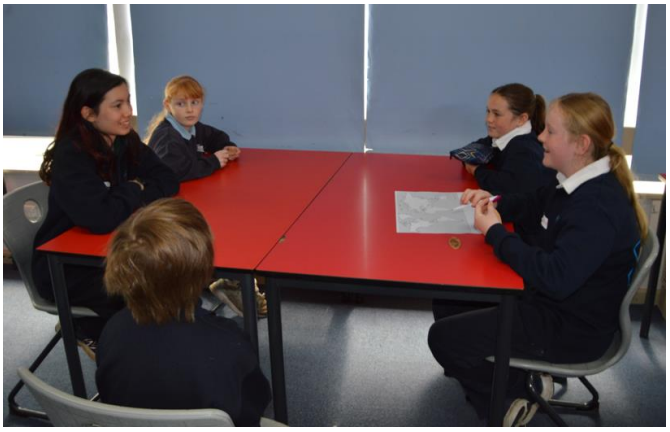
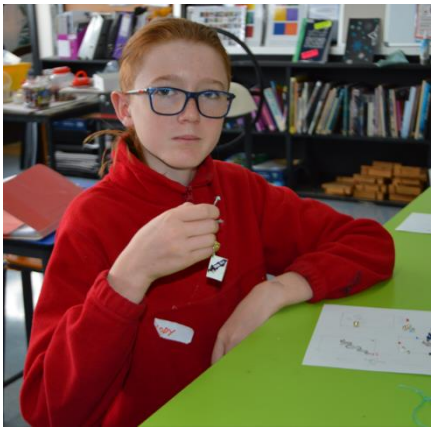
18 grade six students made their way to Casterton Secondary College on a cold autumn morning. The first class was a tour of the vineyard and farm with Ms Russell and Ms Cleary. Students were able to select vegetable seeds to take home. Next our Maths faculty headed by Mrs Carter and ably assisted by Mr Webb and Ms Richards took the students for some fun maths games.

Product design with Mr Rathmell had the students making and decorating surfboards, followed by Mr Baker challenging students to travel the globe and name continents, countries and cities.

Finally, Mrs Roper took Art class where the student designed and made their own bag tags or key rings. The students applied themselves to every task always with a smile on their faces. This was close to, if not, the most enjoyable partnership day that I have had the pleasure to be involved in.

Thanks to the partnership schools and the grade six students, our student helpers: April Henty-Anderson, Ylana Grigg, Skye Kurzman and Bailey Carlin. Ms Cleary helped in every class and made sure the key rings were 'cooked' to perfection. Thank-you to all staff that managed buses, food and helped with the meet and greet.

The grade five partnership day is only a few weeks away, we are looking forward to another successful day.

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Year 10 SCIENCE

VCE FOODSTUDIES

JOBS & SKILLS CAREERS EXPO

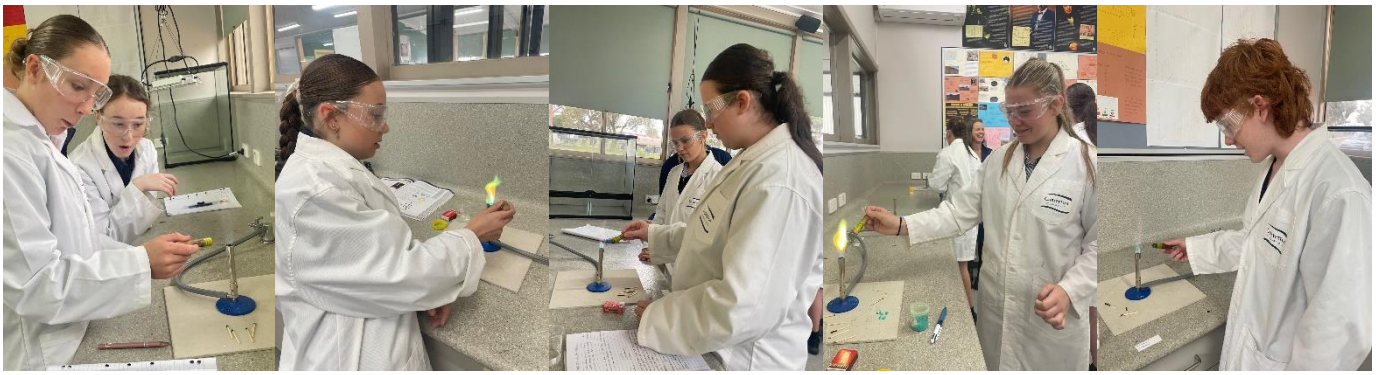
Delma Fidler

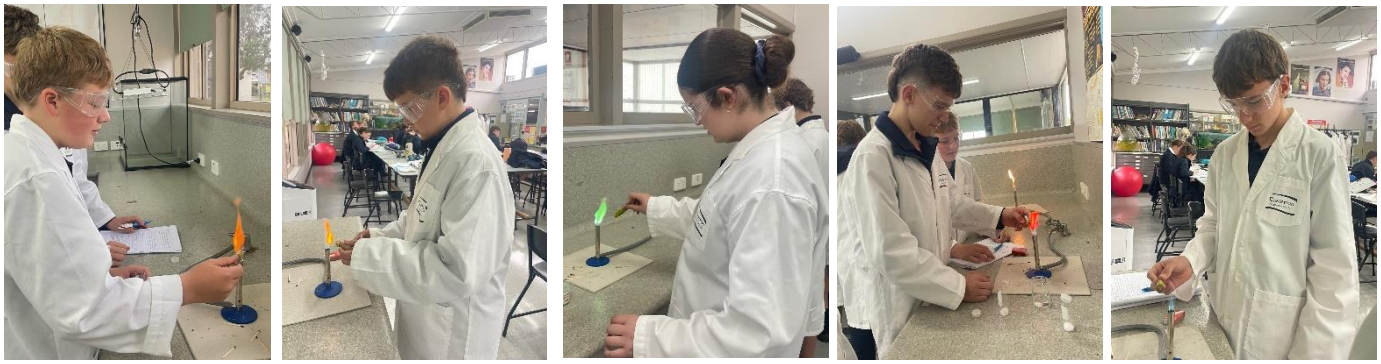
The year 9 students attended a very informative Jobs and Skills Expo on the 27th of May at the Hamilton Showgrounds. There was a wide range of stakeholders in attendance, ranging from local industries to members of the Police Force and Australian Defence Force.

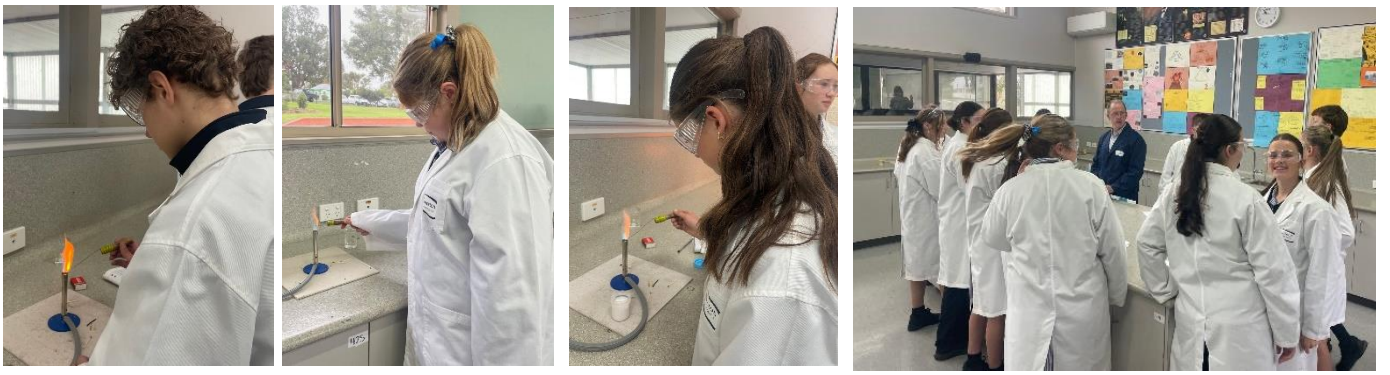
Students were able to approach representatives and collect information as well as ask questions about their field of expertise, what their job entailed, how they started, alternative pathways and levels of employment within our region. Our students made the most of their opportunities to speak with Jodie from the Hamilton District Skills Centre and Stacey Gill the Schools Partnership Leader from South West TAFE about potential courses in 2028.

It was a pleasure to hear the career-based conversations on the bus as we travelled back to school. The students are to be commended on their maturity, level of questioning and engagement whilst exploring their future pathways.

Year 8 SCIENCE







The Year 8 students conducting a flame test experiment in science this week.

Year 10 WORK EXPERIENCE WEEK

Delma Fidler

During the week of the 27th- 29th of May, the year ten students participated in a very successful work experience program. Our students had the opportunity to gain valuable insight into a wide range of work environments including retail, building, education, mechanics, tyre-fitting, agriculture, hairdressing, agronomy, veterinary care and maintenance.

By participating in the work experience program students can:

- develop their skills.
- clarify career pathways.
- gain on the job experience.
- develop their interpersonal skills.
- secure future part time employment or placements

This program relies on the generosity of businesses who are willing to host a student and help them to explore the ever-changing world of work. We are grateful for the time and effort the employers invest in our work experience program.

April at Merino Consolidated School

Ayden at Josh Norris Carpentry

Marlee at Sacred Heart Primary

Ylana at Wando Hills

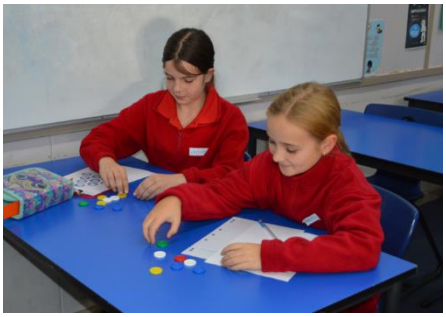
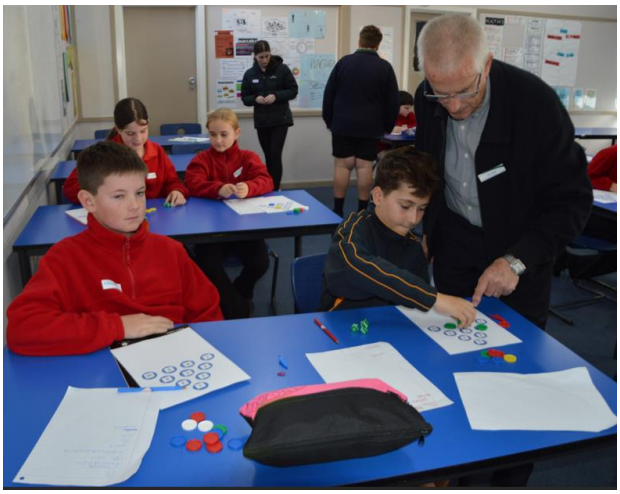
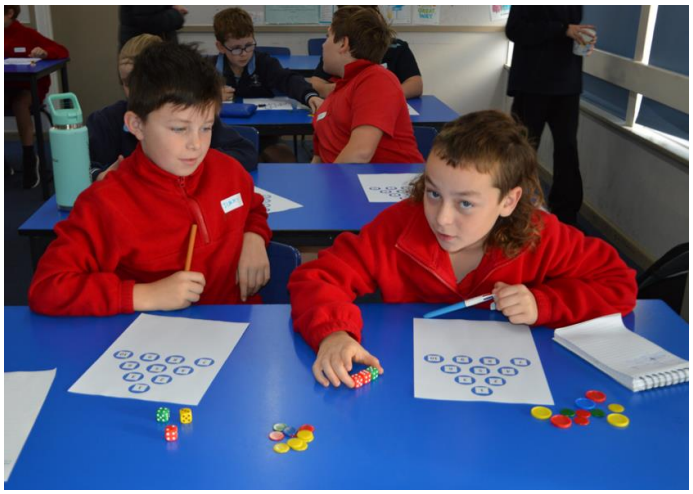
Zoe at Meridian

Renee at Hairwize

PARTNERSHIP DAY for grade 5

Carina Barton

Friday the 5th of June was our latest partnership day at Casterton Secondary College.
The day was another successful event with the grade five students engaged in several classes. They participated in Agriculture, Maths, Food Technology, an IT scavenger hunt, English and Humanities, which involved a tour right around Australia...luckily, they were all back from their trip in time for buses! Thanks to the students for their excellent behaviour, the participating primary schools, all staff at CSC who helped contribute to the day and of course our wonderful student helpers; Caitlyn, April, Skye and Bailey.
The next partnership day will be in term three with the grade four students

KELPIE FLOAT WINNERS- COMBINED SCHOOLS

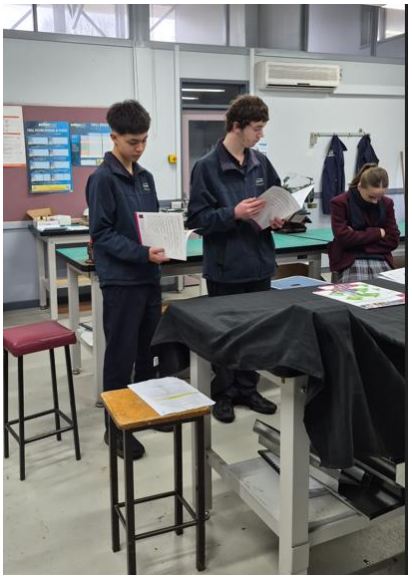
After a wet week, the start of the Kelpie weekend was blessed with sunshine. Our community came together for the annual Kelpie Weekend celebrations. Students, staff and parents from the two junior schools and our senior school, all combined to create an outstanding float for the parade, where creativity and teamwork were on display as schools worked together to bring their ideas to life. Their efforts were rewarded with an impressive First Prize win, a fantastic achievement, Congratulations to all students, staff and volunteers who helped make the float such a success & represented our schools and our community.

with pride.

CAREERS VET TASTER DAY- HAMILTON

Delma Fidler

The year 10 students travelled to Hamilton on the 16th of June to participate in the regional VET Taster Day. Students had the opportunity to participate in pre-selected mini lessons that illustrated the content, expectations and outcomes of their choices. There was a wide range of offerings across three campuses:
SWTAFE Hamilton presented: Agriculture, Electrotechnology, Early Child Care and Education, Health Services, Horticulture and Active Volunteering.
Monivae presented Engineering
Hamilton District Skills Centre presented: Automotive, Building and Construction, Music, Cookery, Sports Coaching, IT and Salon Assistant
Students were able to participate in four sessions; the experience may help them later in the year when they make their course selections for.



HANDS ON SHEARING EXPERIENCE for Year 10

Gillian Russell

Our Year 10 students recently had the opportunity to learn the art of sheep shearing through a practical workshop led by experienced instructor Nathan Fidler.

Throughout the session, students were introduced to the skills, techniques and safety practices involved in the shearing industry. Nathan shared his extensive knowledge and provided demonstrations before students had the chance to gain hands-on experience themselves.

The workshop offered insight into an important part of Australia's agricultural sector, while helping students develop practical skills and an appreciation for the hard work involved in livestock management.

We thank Nathan Fidler for once again taking the time to work with our students and for providing such an engaging and informative learning experience.

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

FREE

School Holiday Program

GLENELG SHIRE

JUNE/JULY 2026

Glenelg Shire Youth

LIFE HACKS – Intro into Hospitality (3 hour sessions)
Come along to 'Life Hacks', a workshop introducing café skills including food handling and front of house.
Casterton @ Elements Cafe Monday 29th June 2026 – 10.00am
Portland @ Bayside Cafe | Ages 14-25 years* | Monday 6th July 2026 – 9.00am & 1.00pm
To register: contact youthservices@glenelgvic.gov.au or Scan QR code.

PORTLAND

Glenelg Shire Youth

LIFE HACKS – SIMPLE MECHANICS (1.5 hour session)
Come along to learn basic automotive skills, tool safety, and vehicle maintenance.
Portland | Ages 14-25 years* | Tuesday 30th June 2026 – 1.00pm
To register: contact youthservices@glenelgvic.gov.au or Scan QR code.

CASTERTON

Glenelg Shire Youth

BATTLE OF THE JAMS IS BACK!
Compete for your chance to win.
Prizes up for grabs include 2 x $300 for bands of 1-3 members and $500 prize for bands of 4+ members. Think you have what it takes, apply via email contact youthservices@glenelgvic.gov.au.
Portland Yacht Club Fri 10 July 2026, 10 spots available for all types of musicians **Ages 12 – 25 years.**

MECHANICS

Glenelg Libraries

MINUTE TO WIN IT
Race against the clock in our Minute to Win It challenge. Test your speed, teamwork, and creativity through a series of games and fun activities!
Casterton Library, Wed 1 July, **Heywood Library**, Thurs 2 July, **Portland Library**, Fri 3 July
11:00am – 12:00pm | **Ages 5 + | Phone to book**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!
Bookings essential
* Children 12 and under MUST be accompanied by an adult for all sessions.

MORE EVENTS OVER PAGE