

# HUNTINGTOWER

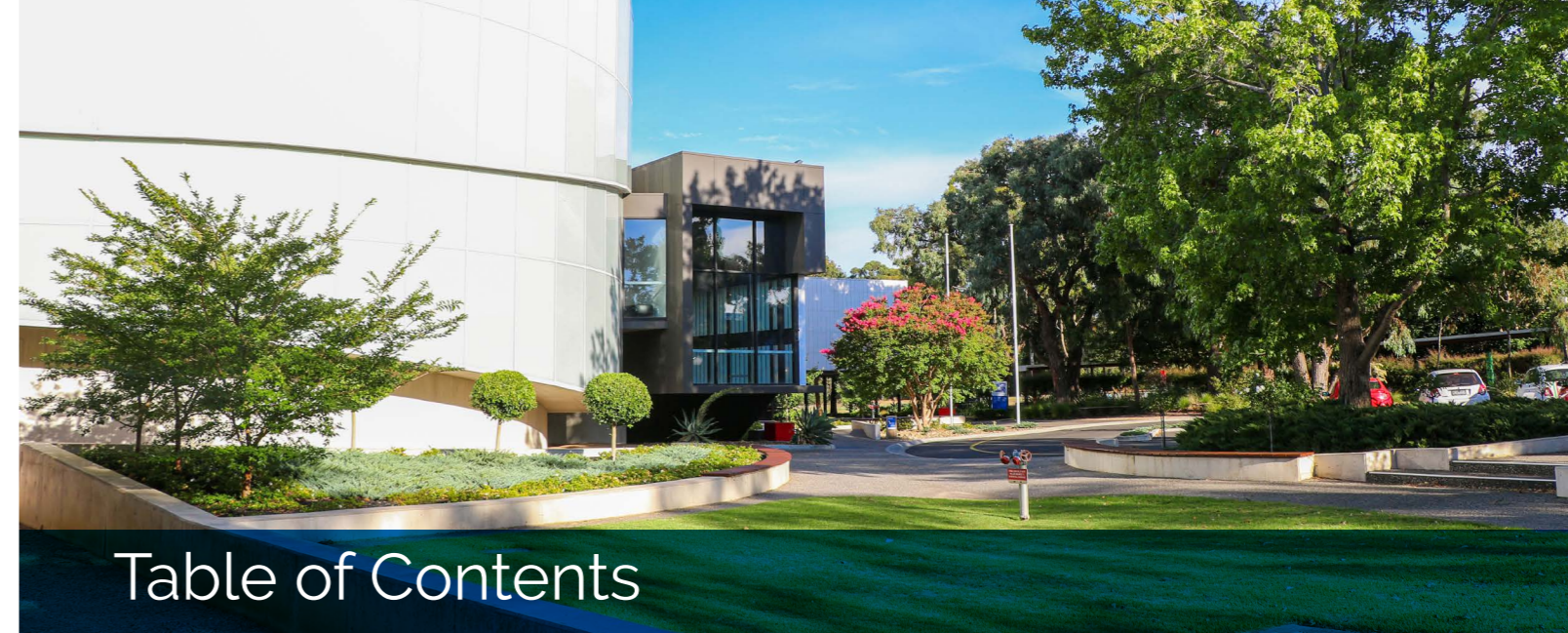
Early Learning to Year 12 Co-Educational School



Huntingtower School Association

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# 2023 Annual Report



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**Updated 30.04.2024**

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No. 1267 CRICOS Provider No. 00145E



# A Message From the Principal



## A Message From the Principal

*"If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.*

*If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.*

*If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing."*

1 Corinthians 13:1

Last year, Huntingtower's focus was 'Valuing Connections'. At each point we sought to work together to build a community that is Huntingtower. As a community we owned the belief that 'other people matter' and demonstrated that the whole is indeed greater than the sum of its parts. I closed my Speech Night address with reference to *The Good Life and How to Live it* by Robert Waldinger and Marc Schulz. Waldinger and Schulz address an 80 year research project, spanning 3 generations and more than 2,000 people that sought to determine what it is that gives us satisfaction in life. Regardless of income or profession, it was 'social fitness'- the quality and depth of our relationships, that mattered most. The 'good life' is not a destination, rather it is a journey and the people who are walking it with you count.

At Huntingtower, our aim is to nurture the many connections we share and in turn, build on the community we are all a part of. One of the ways we embraced this challenge was through the implementation of our new Learning Management System, HT Connect. This initiative paved the way for meaningful interactions and

collaborative efforts across all grades, from the ELC to Year 12. The shift to continuous reporting meant that parents received regular feedback on their child's progress across a range of subjects. This shift in reporting has been warmly received by our parent body.

Thanks to the hard work and creative genius of our Maintenance team, we have continued to develop our beautiful School grounds. The numerous plant beds and lovely walkways that unite the various areas of our campus bring beauty to purpose. The recent landscaping of the area between the Middle Years Centre, the oval and the senior library, has created a seamless and inviting space. It is a place where fun, relaxation and gatherings thrive, serving as a physical representation of our commitment to valuing connections. Over the course of last year, we undertook a number of building projects including the restoration of the Senior School Gymnasium, the refurbishment of the Science preparation room, the refurbishing of new Science labs and the soon to be completed, Science lift and bathrooms.

The connections forged extended beyond the boundaries of our School, as we reached out to fellow Christian Science schools in the US - Principia, Berkeley and Clairbourn. With these renewed relationships, we aim to foster a global community to build on in the coming years. Once again, our European Music tour, Indonesian cultural tour and New Zealand Geography trip provided opportunities to broaden the horizon of our students.

Closer to home, we witnessed the strengthening of bonds through a myriad of activities from our Productions, *The 39 Steps* and *Cats the Musical*, to Spring and Winter Concerts and the creation of an inhouse Art Gallery. The Music Department continues to be a hive of activity with



more than 11 Orchestras or Ensembles and 7 Choirs for students to participate in across the School. House competitions remain strong with active participation in the Athletics, Swimming, Performing Arts and Cross Country carnivals. Similarly, the many celebration days hosted by our Wellbeing Team, be they on Inclusivity, Kindness or Building Resilience, brought us together to promote the vibrant and dynamic spirit that defines our School.

Our VCE results in 2023 were exceptional. We achieved a Median Study Score of 37 and median ATAR of 93.5 which placed us 3rd among all Schools in Victoria. Last year 12% of our cohort placed in the top 1% of the State and two of our students graduated with the highest possible ATAR of 99.95. Our students achieved 15 perfect Study Scores spanning subjects such as English, Chemistry, Psychology, Economics, Physics (2), Business Management (2), General Maths (2), Specialist Maths, Sport & Recreation, Art Making & Design, Physical Education and Dance (ext). Our students have also been invited to showcase their pieces in VCAA Top Designs for VCE Visual Communication Design work and VCAA Top Class Theatre Studies. I am grateful to everyone for the incredible work that went into these impressive results.

Huntingtower continues to offer a diverse range of extra-curricular activities at which our students excel. Our Senior School production, *The 39 Steps*, received a total of 14 Lyrebird nominations, taking out the Lyrebird Award for Best Comedic Performer. Once again we were finalists in the International Youth Silent Film Festival, STUFFit Film Festival and Bufta National competitions. Chess is growing in popularity and our Chess teams continue to compete at a State level. This year we entered the International Bebras Problem Solving competition at which 4 of our

students achieved High Distinctions. Huntingtower also sent a contingent to the Worldskills Australian National Championships where the country's best trainees, apprentices, and VET-in-Schools (VETiS) students go head-to-head in high-pressure skills competitions. Team Victoria, of which 3 Huntingtower students were members, were announced Australian Champions. Once again, we took part in the Maths Olympiad where Huntingtower School was awarded "Outstanding Team Achievement". Two of our students achieved perfect scores, placing them in the top 5% of the Nation. In the EdStart National competition, cash prizes were awarded to two of our students, one for winning the Technology and Innovation section, and the other for runner-up in the Entrepreneurship category.

Debating and Public speaking continues to thrive at Huntingtower with success across a range of competitions. In 2023, our C Grade Team made the State Final and 2 of our debaters earned Swannie Awards (A & C Grade). In September last year Huntingtower hosted the AISPSC National competition. After 88 heats, more than 2000 ballots and 100 hours of collective speeches, Huntingtower was awarded AIDPSC Winning School with a team of students set to represent Australia in April 2024. Similarly, Huntingtower was identified as the Top Performing School in the Speakfest Competition (Years 8-10). Our British Parliamentary team were runners-up in the Grand Final and we had a National finalist in the Australian Parliament's My First Speech competition.

Huntingtower continued to field highly competitive teams in the EISM Sporting Competition. In Middle School we are EISM Girls Table Tennis and Volleyball Champions, while for Senior School we hold Boys Table Tennis, Boys Volleyball, Girls Hockey, Senior Girls Table Tennis and



Senior Girls Volleyball titles. In the Junior School we won the Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics carnivals for our division. The Junior School also came together to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Ball Games, a gala event that brought generations of competitors together.

None of the many achievements listed would be possible without the incredible support of our staff and parent community. Our Parent & Friends association continues to be a vibrant space with initiatives like Carols in the Quad, Honey Drive, Mothers' Day Breakfasts and more, serving as much-valued opportunities to bring us together. Similarly, the constant and considered support provided by the School Board who so generously give their time and expertise to facilitate the many operational matters that govern a school, strengthens us all.

It is not, however, just about making connections. It is the support these relationships provide us all with that is important. The bonds we forge are central to our view of ourselves and the place we have in our world. May we continue to cherish and nurture them. It is our hearts and actions that make a school, and I am very grateful to be part of such a giving community.

*"When angels visit us, we do not hear the rustle of wings, nor feel the feathery touch of the breast of a dove; but we know their presence by the love they create in our hearts."*

Mary Baker Eddy

**Shan Christensen**  
Principal



Who  
We Are



## We Are Huntingtower

Huntingtower was founded in 1927 as an independent, co-educational school for children of Christian Science families and has a mission to provide a quality education based on firm spiritual and moral principles. Situated in the suburb of Mount Waverley, we cater for students from Early Learning to Year 12 of all denominations.

Our warm, friendly environment, which is underpinned by Christian spiritual values, enables people of all faiths to express their beliefs with confidence. Our teachers are friendly but firm and a rich learning environment has been created so students can be the best version of themselves.

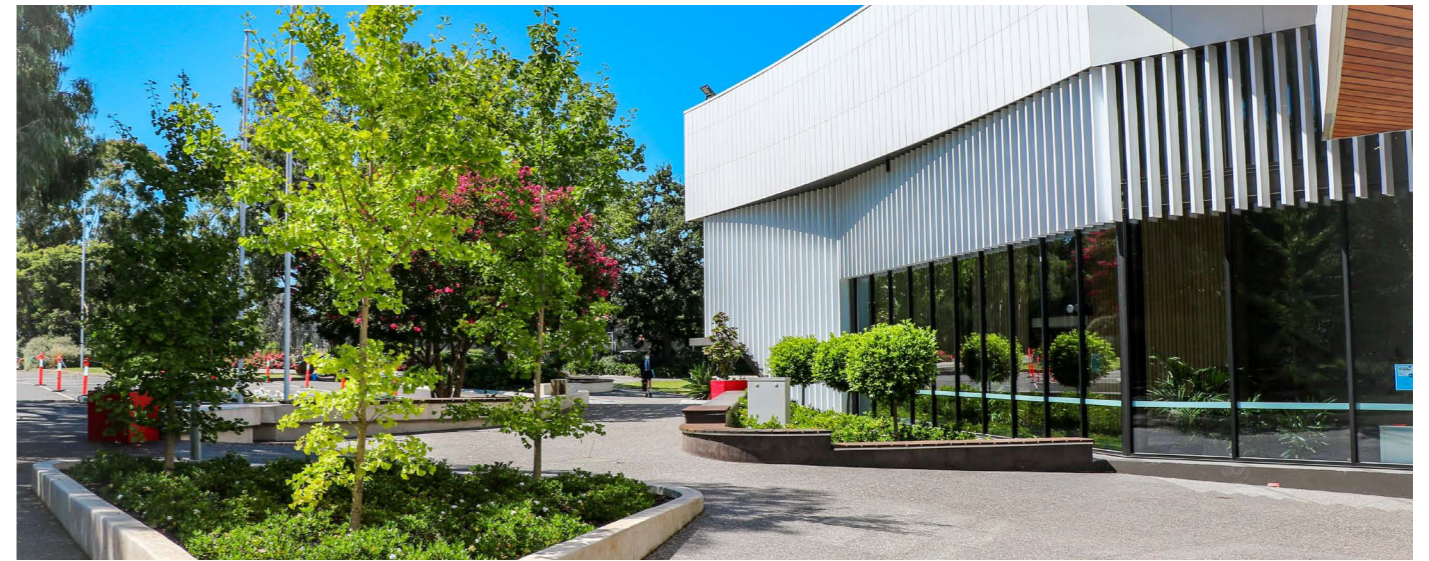
Our school motto is “Nosce te Ipsum” or “Know thy true self”. Huntingtower is a school committed to building community and encouraging students to understand who they are while embracing their unlimited potential. Each student is encouraged to recognise and demonstrate his or her spiritual nature. They are encouraged to express their freedom from limitation and to achieve their best through the power and love of God. This results in very high standards of education at all levels, sub-primary, primary and secondary.



Know Thy True Self



# Huntingtower Governance



## Huntingtower Board

The Huntingtower Board plays an important role in ensuring the school meets the expected standards of social and financial accountability. In addition, they set the strategic direction of School and ensure the School upholds its values and culture.

## President's Report 2023

This annual report is an opportunity for the Board to express its collective gratitude to the many people who make Huntingtower such a shining light. I recently read in a Christian Science Sentinel,

“Expressing gratitude is a conscious acknowledgment of the presence of goodness and as such, the presence of God”

And the presence of goodness at Huntingtower is ever present.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Mr Houghton for his contribution during his three years as Principal. Mr Houghton demonstrated an enormous commitment to Huntingtower. We are deeply grateful for the work he did in guiding us through the COVID years and having the wisdom to allow our very capable Executive team to create and implement online learning programs that were the envy of many other schools. We wish Mr Houghton all the best for the future.

The 2023 VCE and NAPLAN results were outstanding. Many of our sporting and debating teams won their respective divisions and our music and theatre performances showcased some amazing talent.

Thank you to the teachers who put in so much extra time to ensure our students are reaching their true potential, the administration staff who so lovingly keep the wheels turning so effortlessly, the grounds staff who make it such a delight for staff, students and parents to come to school every day and see such beauty, and to all our volunteers: our vibrant Parents and Friends committee, classroom representatives, sports volunteers, parents who help out at school, and our Huntingtower Foundation members who manage the school's bursaries and investments.

I would like to specifically thank two key groups.

Firstly, the Huntingtower Executive whose role it is to run the school. I would like to thank them for stepping up so admirably in the absence of Mr Houghton. The Huntingtower Executive is made up of Mrs Christensen, Miss Beal, Mr Owens, Mrs Parkyn and Mrs Swan.

Secondly, I would also like to thank my fellow Board members. Nigel Hutchinson Brooks, Amy Hayes, Chris Backman, Amanda Dunsmore, Lynn Bruce-Clash, James Younger and Chloe Beattie-Hood. All serve as volunteers and do so, because of their love for education, for Huntingtower and for Christian Science. Thank you for making the time and guiding the school with grace, wisdom and prayer through a challenging few months.

The most important role of the Board is to appoint the Principal. Following Mr Houghton's resignation, the Board was extremely pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Christensen, the 10th Principal of Huntingtower. Mrs Christensen had done a remarkable job as Acting Principal since August 2023, stepping into the role with no notice and demonstrating unwavering dedication, strong leadership qualities, and a deep commitment to Huntingtower's values and vision. Her extensive expertise and experience, coupled with a clear understanding of our community's needs, made it an easy decision for the Board.

Over the last few months, the Executive has been very active in planning for the future. A proposal was put forward by Mrs Christensen, Mrs Swan and supported by the School Executive to expand the Junior School by double streaming Years 5 and 6. This was approved by the Board. Over the years, we have seen an increasing demand for enrolment in our School, particularly in the primary years. The expansion will commence with adding an additional Year 5 class in 2025, with double streaming in Years 5 and 6 by 2026.

The Board has endorsed this plan with careful consideration of the best interests of our students and the future of our School.

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We firmly believe that this decision will enable us to provide an even better educational experience and expanded social opportunities for the students in the Junior School.

In conjunction with the Executive, the Board has started work on developing the Master Building plan for the next 10 years. This is based on the infrastructure requirements in the Strategic Plan. Already, we have started on a refurbishment of the Science building which will incorporate a lift.

Future plans include major works on the Junior School to accommodate the extra Year 5 and 6 classes, new administration facilities and new senior school classrooms.

Thank you to all who made 2023, one of our most successful years in academic, sporting, artistic and community endeavours. The Board looks forward to 2024 as we near our 100th year in 2027.

#### **Peter Thompson**

President – Huntingtower School Association  
Chairman of the Board of Huntingtower School

## Board Member Biographies



#### **Mr Peter Thompson** Board President

Peter Thompson brings extensive business experience in tourism, manufacturing and fashion. He currently owns a men's fashion business with operations in Australia, New Zealand, the USA and Canada, and his work regularly takes him to China where he has travelled extensively. Career highlights include receiving the NSW government's highest achievement award for services to Tourism NSW and the establishment of the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse.

Peter is a former student of Huntingtower and has four children who are either students or past students. Family contact with Huntingtower goes back to the 1940s. He is the current president of the Huntingtower Old Students Association (HOSA) and has produced, directed and acted in many HOSA theatrical productions.



#### **Mr Christopher Backman** Board Member

Christopher studied at The University of Melbourne and obtained bachelor degrees in both Property & Construction (Construction Management) and Commerce (Finance). His passion for building led him to forge a career in construction management and development management. During Chris' career as a construction professional, he has been involved in both the commercial and residential sectors, working on projects ranging from \$0.5m through to \$300m in value. He has project experience from both builder-side and developer/client-side perspectives, having been employed by large commercial construction companies, development management companies and also as a Director of his own company specialising in small to medium property developments and construction projects.

Outside of work, Chris loves spending time with his wife and three boys. He grew up attending Christian Science Sunday School and now takes his boys along as well. He has a love for all sports and his hobbies include cycling, running and supporting his footy team.



#### **Ms Chloë Beattie-Hood** Board Member

Chloë Beattie-Hood has a Master of Architecture equivalent, and experience working in educational and residential architecture in four states of Australia. She has a passion for Environmentally Sustainable Design, and for rich learning environments where the imagination is ignited in both work and play. Chloë now works as a Journal-listed Christian Science Practitioner. She delights in inclusive connections with others about well-being, peace, healing and inspiration. Chloë was educated both publicly, and privately at Huntingtower; she lived on campus as a boarder in the 1990s; she later worked in the same Boarding House. She and her husband have two children who have attended both Huntingtower and public school.

On top of her experience as a former Huntingtower student, parent, and staff member, she brings her architectural and Christian Science perspectives to her involvement in the school's Governance. Chloë also enjoys family bike rides, playing violin, learning French, and traveling extensively around the world.



#### **Ms Lynn Bruce** Board Member

Lynn's background is in art and design. She trained at RMIT as a Textile Designer and more recently as a Graphic Designer creating brands, exhibitions and marketing material. Lynn has been moving into a caring role, currently training as a Christian Science nurse, and finding it very rewarding.

Lynn Bruce is a former student of Huntingtower whose daughter is now also attending. Lynn's association with Huntingtower goes back two generations and she is always keen to see Huntingtower flourish especially in the arts, sustainability and wellbeing areas.



#### **Ms Amanda Dunsmore** Board Member

Amanda Dunsmore is the Senior Curator of International Decorative Arts and Antiquities at the National Gallery of Victoria. She was educated at Huntingtower before studying for her BA (Hons) and MA (Research) at Monash University.

Trained as an Egyptologist, she worked for 16 years on archaeological projects in Egypt where she specialised in ancient Egyptian ceramics.

Amanda now works in the field of European decorative arts and when she has the time, she is a keen gardener and cellist.



#### **Ms Amy Haynes** Board Member

Amy is the Managing Director and Chief Marketing Officer of the HelloFresh Group in Australia and New Zealand. Amy grew up in Brisbane and was educated at Brisbane Girls Grammar School, the University of Queensland, Lund University and Harvard Business School.

Amy started her career as a business consultant at McKinsey in Melbourne, and worked for an early-stage startup in New York City before joining HelloFresh. She has worked for HelloFresh for nearly seven years, across operations, product development, strategy, marketing and analytics across three continents. While she has spent most of her career in business, Amy has had a long term interest in education, and as a university student, enjoyed teaching science, mathematics and engineering subjects to primary, high school and university students. She is the daughter of a former Huntingtower student. In her spare time, Amy enjoys traveling to new places, yoga and board games.



#### **Mr Nigel Hutchinson-Brooks** Hon. Treasurer

Nigel Hutchinson-Brooks was educated at Huntingtower's sister school, Claremont Fan Court, and at Reading University. He held senior executive positions in the State Government and in the Transport, Banking, Property and Aviation industries.

Nigel served as a Councillor at the City of Waverley and as Councillor and Mayor of the South Gippsland Shire Council. He has run his own property consulting business since 1992. He joined the Huntingtower Board in 1987, serving as Chairman from 1999 – 2002. He has served as the Hon. Treasurer since 2003.



#### **Mr James Younger** Board Member

James Younger is a group executive with a background in Technology Programs, Financial Services and M&A Consulting. He was educated at Brisbane Boys' College and QUT. He has many years' experience in leadership roles at a number of leading international organisations, leading teams across Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, India, China, Philippines and the United States. Currently his focus is on digital strategy, supply chain process improvement and technology program delivery.

James has three children currently attending Huntingtower and he is married to Gabriel, an ex-school captain. His parents-in-law are also retired teachers from the school, so Huntingtower runs in the family. James has been a boarding house parent and has served on the HOSA committee. Outside of Huntingtower and work, James plays basketball and drums.



# Our Students



## Demographic

Huntingtower had 774 students in 2023 from Kindergarten to Year 12. Our student body comprised 50% boys and 50% girls. There were no aboriginal students who attended the school in 2023 and we had 1 international student in the school. English is the primary language spoken at home for 48% of our families followed by Mandarin/ Chinese/ Cantonese for 22% of our families.

## Retention Rate

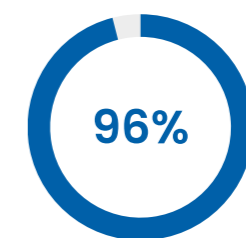
The student retention rate from Year 9 to 12 was 96%. There were 95 students enrolled in Year 9 in 2020 and of these, 91 were present in the Year 12 graduating class in 2023 (retention rate in 2022 was 100%). In addition, 80% of the 25 students in the Huntingtower Junior School Year 6 class in 2017 were present in the Year 12 graduating class in 2023.

The retention rate from Foundation to Year 6 was 68%. Of the 22 children who started in Foundation, 17 were still present in Year 6 in 2023 (retention rate in 2022 was 63%).

## 774 Students



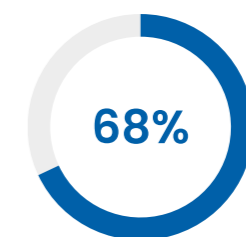
**Gender**  
50% Male  
50% Female



**Years 9 - 12**  
Retention Rate



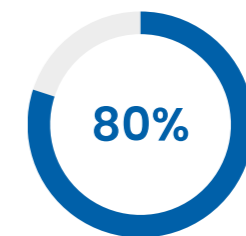
**Home Language**  
48% English  
22% Mandarin/Chinese/  
Cantonese  
30% Other Languages



**Foundation - Year 6**  
Retention Rate



1 International Student



**Grade 6 - Year 12**  
Retention Rate





## Student Wellbeing

Throughout 2023, Huntingtower continued its commitment to holistic education, focussing on the development of students not only academically but also socially and emotionally. We prioritised the implementation of various programs and initiatives aimed at nurturing the whole child and fostering a safe and supportive learning environment.

A significant aspect of this was the successful launch of the Mentor Program, which was developed to instill Christian Science values and principles of positive education while teaching social-emotional learning skills. Through regular group activities and reflective exercises, the program has been instrumental in fostering a sense of belonging, empathy, and resilience among students. By integrating Christian Science values such as love, kindness, and forgiveness into our mentoring sessions, we were able to cultivate a culture of compassion and understanding within the school community.

Feedback regarding the newly formed program has been positive, with many reporting increased confidence, improved communication skills, and a deeper sense of purpose. We remain committed to expanding and refining our Mentor Program to ensure that every student receives the support and guidance they need to thrive academically, socially, and spiritually.

In response to the evolving needs of our students, we provided targeted workshops and seminars focussing on study skills, exam preparation, organisation and time management, peer relationships and cyber safety. These were designed to equip students with the tools and knowledge necessary to excel academically while staying safe and responsible in online environments.

Students were provided with practical strategies for effective time management, note-taking, and exam revision, empowering students to become more self-directed learners. Additionally, our exam preparation workshops offered valuable tips and techniques for managing exam stress, maintaining focus, and performing at their best under pressure.

In collaboration with an external expert, Susan McLean, we also delivered workshops to students and the school community on cyber safety, raising awareness about online risks and promoting responsible digital citizenship. By educating students about the importance of privacy, security, and respectful online behaviour, we aim to empower them to make informed choices and navigate the digital world safely.

Furthermore, external professionals delivered dedicated sessions to many year levels on ways to develop positive peer relationships. This included enhancing their understanding of communication, respect, labelling others and using appropriate language, and consent and associated laws.

As part of our ongoing commitment to child safety and wellbeing, we intensified our efforts to uphold and enforce rigorous child safe standards and staff code of conduct. Through comprehensive training, audits, and transparent communication, we reaffirmed our zero-tolerance approach to any form of misconduct or abuse.

We conducted thorough reviews of our policies and procedures, ensuring alignment with best practices and regulatory requirements.



## Student Wellbeing (Continued)

Additionally, we provided staff with ongoing support and resources to promote a culture of accountability, integrity, and professionalism. By prioritising child safety and wellbeing, we reaffirm our commitment to creating a nurturing and protective environment where every child feels valued, respected, and empowered to thrive.

The successful implementation of HT Connect incorporated a new pastoral care database. This streamlined and enhanced our pastoral care initiatives, providing a centralised platform to monitor and address students' social, emotional, and academic needs more effectively. The user-friendly interface has also empowered our educators and staff, fostering collaboration and ensuring a holistic approach to student care.

## Student Survey 2023 - Summary

The 2023 student surveys (Year 12 Exit Survey and 2023 Student Survey) provided invaluable feedback that has helped guide our efforts to tailor support and initiatives to enhance learning experience, wellbeing, and overall success within our educational community. Of note, the student body identified key priority areas they wish to develop, shedding light on their academic and personal needs. These include:

- Exam Preparation
- Study Skills and Techniques
- Procrastination
- School/Life Balance
- Motivation
- Time Management
- Organisation

Additionally, data collected via student surveys provided information on key aspects that influence student engagement.

The overall results painted an exceptionally positive view of the holistic experience that Huntingtower offers, with strengths surrounding:

- Support for the newly introduced Mentor Program
- An overall sense of connectedness and belonging to the Huntingtower community
- A sense of safety and positive wellbeing
- Positive connections to peers
- Availability of a range of co-curricular activities and events
- Feeling safe and valued
- A school community with a welcoming culture
- Relevant and detailed advice provided on future pathways

Students also identified a range of opportunities that can be developed to enhance their experience that include:

- Greater opportunities for spiritual development
- Increased student voice and agency
- Continued development of strategies to deal with incidents of bullying
- Senior students being provided greater levels of autonomy and independence
- Assisting students to balance their academic and co-curricular activities more effectively.

In 2023, Huntingtower prioritised holistic education, introducing the successful Mentor Program instilling Christian Science values. Targeted workshops on a variety of topics empowered students for academic success. The commitment to child safety was strengthened through policy reviews and staff support, and the implementation of HT Connect's pastoral care database centralised support initiatives. The 2023 student surveys highlighted numerous strengths while also identifying opportunities for development.



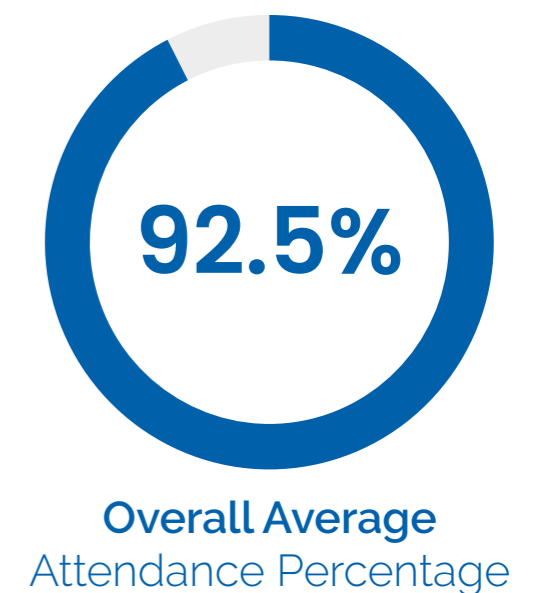
## Student Attendance Rates

The following procedures are in place for monitoring student attendance:

1. Parents/Guardians are requested to notify the School of their child's absence and the reason via HT Connect or phone.
2. Information received from parents is promptly entered into the School's database.
3. Teachers mark an electronic roll each period (during online learning the number of periods being marked for attendance was varied to align with the online learning program).
4. Unexplained absences are followed up by an SMS to parents, this process is automated.
5. Responses from parents are entered directly into the School's database.
6. Pastoral care staff liaise with parents if there are concerns about student non-attendance.



## Student Attendance Rates





# Community Voice



## Our Community

Huntingtower is committed to listening to the views and expectations from the community, parents, and students. Each year the School sends out various surveys to parents and students to provide feedback on a wide range of related education, community and wellbeing issues.

The feedback from these surveys has greatly assisted the School with its strategic planning and enabled continual improvement of the educational and co-curricular experience offered to the students.

In 2023, 173 parents and 328 senior students participated in surveys and provided their views on various topics including:

- The value and format of Speech Night and parent teacher interviews
- The School's new communication platform HT Connect
- Webinar topics of interest for the community
- The benefits and logistics of After School Care in Junior School

The results were very informative and have been used to inform the planning and ongoing strategic direction of the School.

The Parents and Friends Committee at Huntingtower also receives information, ideas, and concerns from parents in the school community. This committee plays an important role in gathering feedback and suggestions, which are then passed on to the Principal for further discussion at the executive level. Through open communication and collaboration, the committee helps ensure that the

voices and needs of parents are heard and considered in decision-making processes, ultimately contributing to the overall well-being and success of our school.



# Staff & Professional Development



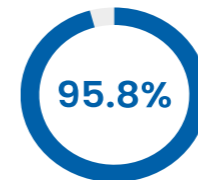
## Our Staff

Huntingtower teachers are one of the School's most valuable assets. In 2023 our staff comprised of 69% teaching (including teaching aides) and 31% general staff. There are no staff members that identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.

## 127 Staff Members



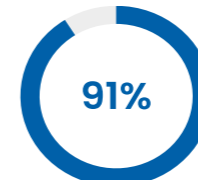
**Gender**  
38% Male  
62% Female



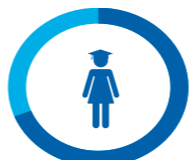
**Employee**  
Average Attendance



**Employment Type**  
71% Full-time  
29% Part-time



**Employee**  
Retention Rate



**Staff Department**  
69% Teaching Staff  
31% General Staff

## Professional Learning

In 2023 the School embarked on a whole school policy of embracing 'Positive Education' as the foundation of its Wellbeing approach. As such, it chose to focus its professional learning on this area in 2023.

The structure of small professional learning groups meeting weekly to discuss readings, clips and completing activities is a very successful model used at Huntingtower. As it was the first year that Junior School and Senior School shared a timetable, the School could facilitate mixed groups for the first time.

The focus of each session was to reflect on an aspect of positive education in terms of each teacher's experience and understanding. This ensured that each teacher had a personal understanding of the concept before being expected to develop it with students.

The five areas teachers investigated were; character strengths, positive emotions such as gratitude, positive accomplishments using grit and a growth mindset, health and resilience and positive relationships.

Each teacher developed an understanding of each aspect of positive education through their discussions and participation in the activities within their professional learning group. One aspect that was commented on by many participants was how much they enjoyed and appreciated working across the two schools and getting to know colleagues that they don't usually work with.

The culmination of the learning occurred in fourth term where each teacher had to develop an action project whereby they put at least one of the ideas they had learnt into practice. This project was then presented during one of the final professional learning days at the end of the year.

The projects were very varied and covered a wide range of positive education aspects. It was really a celebration of the learning that had occurred during the year and an opportunity to support and learn from each other.



# 2023 School Achievements



## Music

The Music Centre continued to thrive with increased participation in various musical endeavours. Students displayed their talents in ensembles, choirs, classroom music and private lessons making it a year filled with engaging rehearsals and joyful performances. An exciting highlight of the year was the journey to Italy, where 49 students and 6 staff members delivered 10 spectacular concerts.

A new addition to the School's Year 7 classroom program, the Band Class, allowed students with no prior experience with orchestral instruments to explore woodwind or brass instruments during their classroom music semester. Meanwhile students with prior experience formed a class orchestra, delving into challenging repertoire.

The School's musical journey featured various performance highlights, including the Winter Concert, Choral Concert, Instrumental Concert and the Spring Concert. Throughout the year, various ensembles participated in the Monash Youth Music Festival (MYMF) and the Victorian Schools Music Festival (VSMF). The School received accolades for these performances with the Huntingtower Symphony Orchestra earning 2nd place at MYMF, the Senior Concert Band attaining a Gold Award at VSMF, the Middle School Strings achieving an Honourable Mention at MYMF, and our Senior Chamber Choir (Grazioso) receiving the highest award - Platinum.

Our success is a testament to the positive energy from our students and the dedication of our music staff, who have made music an integral and vibrant part of education at Huntingtower.

## Theatre

The Huntingtower Theatre department had an exceptional year filled with creativity, talent and memorable performances. A highlight was the Year 12 Theatre Studies production of 'Absent Friends' as well as the Year 10 Drama class, who tackled the final scene from Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible'.

In Semester 1, the Year 9 Drama class took on Louis Nowra's 'Cosi' delivering a fantastic rendition that captivated audiences and demonstrated their dedication to their craft. Semester 2 saw Year 9 dive into the world of murder mysteries with scenes from 'Clue'. Meanwhile our Year 8 Drama class explored Fractured Fairy Tales bringing classic stories to life in a fun and imaginative way.

## Sport

### Junior School

At the SDSSA Swimming carnival, the Junior School swimmers once again showcased their exceptional talent, securing victory overall. The School had 13 individuals & 7 relay teams represent the SDSSA in the highly competitive Mt Waverley Divisional Championships (MWD), where they emerged triumphant yet again with one individual and the 11yo Girls 4x50m Relay team progressing to SSV Eastern Metropolitan Regional Championships (EMR). At the meet, the Relay Team improved their time by 11 seconds and only finished behind MLC, who won the state final a few weeks later. Congratulations to our outstanding students, dedicated coaches, and supportive staff for this remarkable achievement.

The Junior School Athletics teams continued to dominate in SDSSA after being crowned victors in all three sporting carnivals, the sixth year in a row Huntingtower has achieved this. Success also for the Cross Country team have won the interschool cross country 15 times since 2006 including the last seven in a row.



## Sport

### Secondary School

Another incredible year was had in Senior Sport at Huntingtower. From House Carnivals and EISM tournaments to individual achievements and an exciting Hosa Sports Day, our students were fully immersed in sporting activities.

The swimming season commenced in week 4 with the annual House Swimming Carnival at MSAC. Rayner secured victory for the fifth consecutive year. Just a month later, our exceptional swim team dominated the EISM Swimming Carnival, breaking five records and clinching victory for the fifteenth year in a row.

House Athletics was held in April and in what was the closest Athletics Carnival in years; Mather House took home the spoils. The athletes carried this momentum to the EISM Athletics Carnival where they not only won the U15 Girls Pennant but also secured an impressive overall fourth-place finish.

House Cross Country wrapped up the sport season at Jells Park and the EISM Cross Country Team achieved a commendable 5th place overall.

There were an array of other sporting achievements and tournaments highlighting the talent of our students including Boys and Girls Badminton Champions, All Schools Road Relay Championships, EISM Tennis and Soccer Galas. Notably, the Senior School EISM interschool sport teams were crowned champions.

## Chess

An exciting year was had in the chess program with teams competing for the first time in the much tougher Chess Victoria League. Students participated in three zonal tournaments and finished in the top 2 in all three tournaments which qualified students for three five-player teams for the State Finals in October.

Both Senior Secondary and Middle Years teams once again successfully retained their EISM Champions title this year.

## Tournament of Minds

Tournament of Minds involves a team of 7 students from Years 5 and 6 working together to solve a long-term challenge for 6 weeks to present to a panel of judges at the Regional Finals. This year, The Arts long term challenge involved research before developing a creative interpretation in response to the challenge presented to them. There were plenty of opportunities for artistic expression in the form of dance, song, musical instruments, theatre and all forms of the visual arts.

At the regional finals, the Arts team placed first in their division and went on to compete at La Trobe University at state the championship final. The team was given a challenge on the day that they had to solve in 3 hours using cooperative learning, risk taking and creative thinking. We congratulate both teams for their persistence, effort and teamwork throughout the finals.



## Debating & Public Speaking

2023 saw a huge turnout over all competitions and many great personal achievements. There was also the addition of a new junior competition with Avila, with dozens of senior debaters also training as adjudicators and judging the entire competition ourselves.

Debating success included State Champions in Junior division of the DAV British Parliamentary competition and two teams of grand finalists and a runner up in the Intermediate competition. Huntingtower is very proud of their achievements and for upholding the School as British Parliamentary champions.

2023 saw many individual successes in public speaking including national finalist in the Australian Parliament's My First Speech Competition, a state finalist for Rostrum Voice of Youth competition and multiple finalists and a third place in the state grand final of the Rotary Ainger Peck Award. We also had State Champions in both the DAV Junior and Intermediate Public Speaking competitions and we took out all three podium places in the DAV Senior Online competition.

The School had great success in the Australian Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships with a national champion in Persuasive Speaking and all four of our speakers finishing in the top 10 of the AIDSPC competition which earned them a place in the 2024 World Championships.

In Speakfest our contestants won Persuasive Speaking and Interpretive Reading and dominated the top 10. We are pleased to announce that Huntingtower was the 2023 AIDSPC Championship Winning Team.

## Media

Awards in Media this year included:

### STUFFit Film Festival:

Best Documentary  
Best Runner Up Documentary  
Highly Commended Senior Live  
Highly Commended Animation

### Monash Youth Film Festival:

Best Drama  
Best Animation  
Best Comedy  
Best Acting  
Finalist

### International Youth Silent Film Festival:

Finalist

### ISV Student Arts Festival:

Finalists

### BUFTA - QLD/National

Best School 2023

### Yale Student Film Festival - USA

Finalist



# Academic Success



## National Benchmarks (NAPLAN)

National Benchmarks Annual testing at Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 assesses student levels of achievement in Reading, Writing and Mathematics with school results being benchmarked on a National scale. The table below summarise this data for the two years 2021–2022. From 2023, NAPLAN results are reported against 4 proficiency levels. This replaces the previous numerical NAPLAN bands and national minimum standards.

In the score equivalence tables linked below, proficiency levels are coded with numerical values:

- 1 = Needs additional support
- 2 = Developing
- 3 = Strong
- 4 = Exceeding.

<https://www.acara.edu.au/assessment/naplan/naplan-score-equivalence-tables>

### Percentage of Students Achieving at or above the National Minimum Standard

Year	Reading		Writing		Numeracy		Spelling		Grammar & Punctuation	
	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
3	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
5	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
7	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
9	100	99	97	97	100	100	100	100	99	97

### Percentage of students in the Strong or Exceeding proficiency levels.

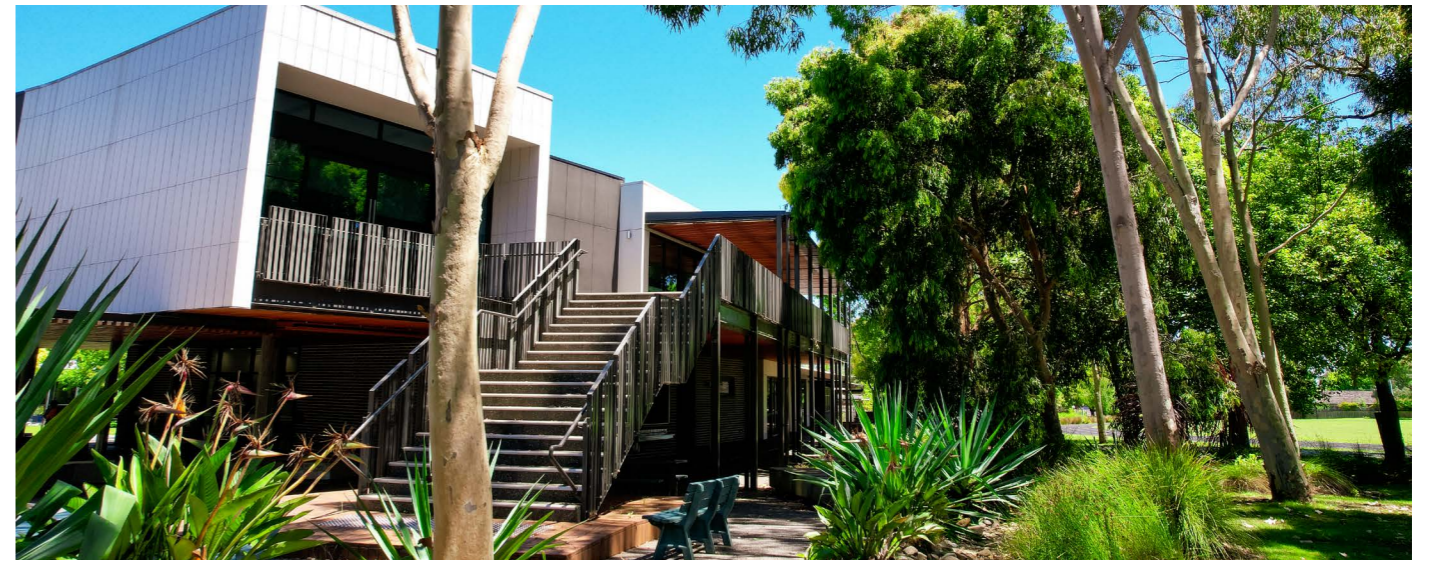
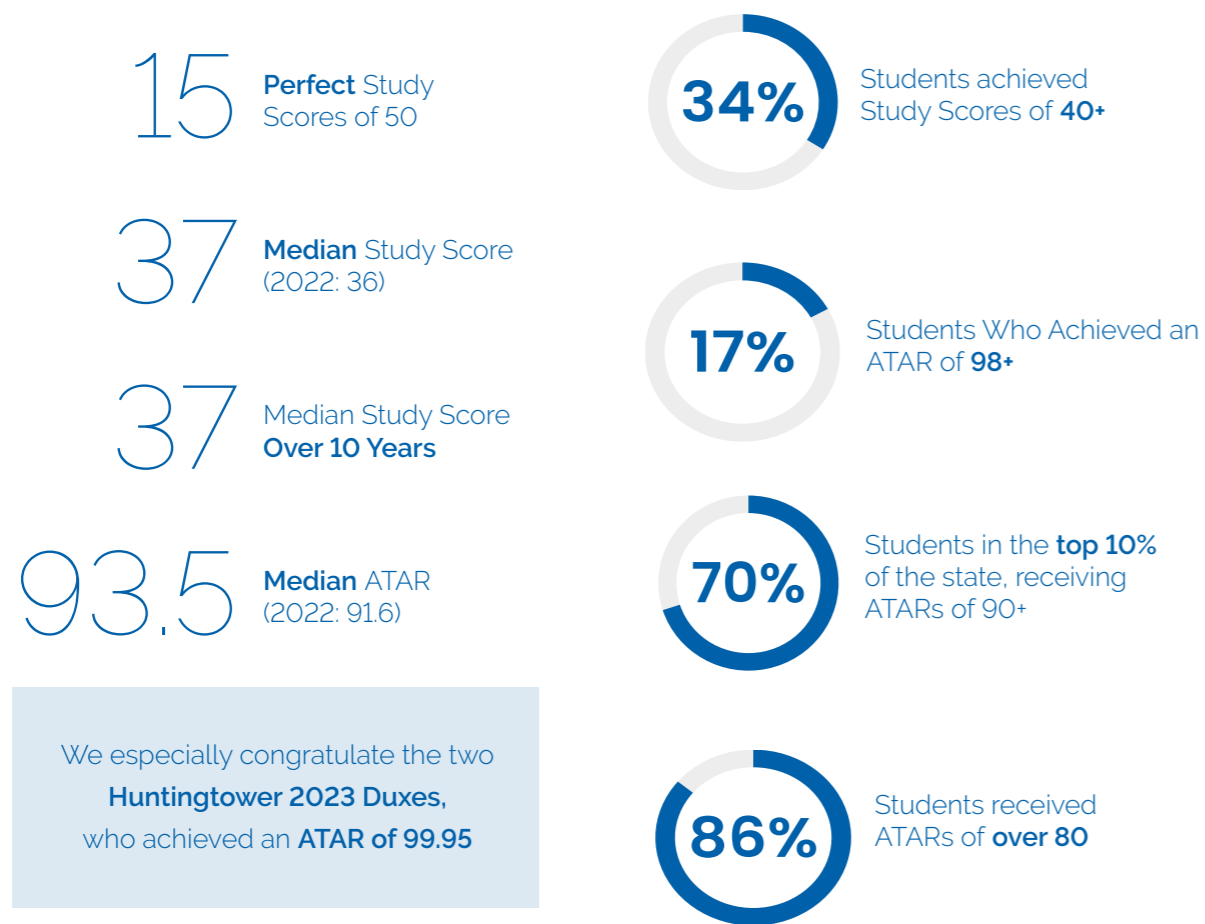
2023	Reading	Writing	Numeracy	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation
3	96	100	96	92	96
5	100	96	96	100	96
7	99	96	97	94	94
9	99	94	99	100	94



## VET Performance



## VCE Performance



## Summary of VCE Results

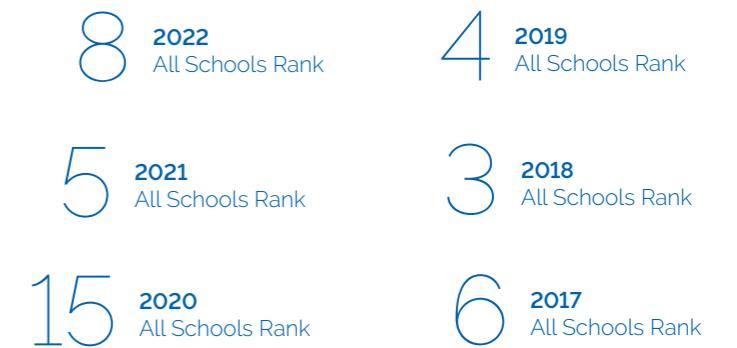
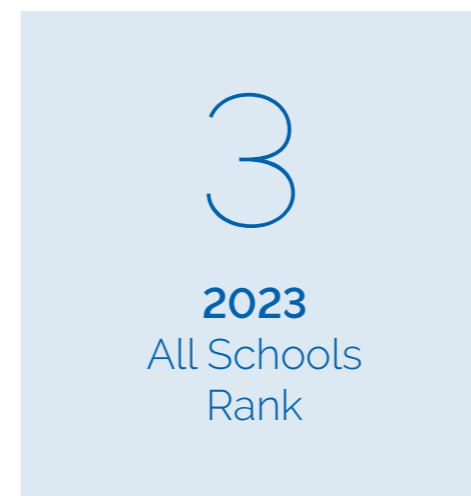
### Percent Above 40



### Median Study Score



## Victorian All Schools Rank







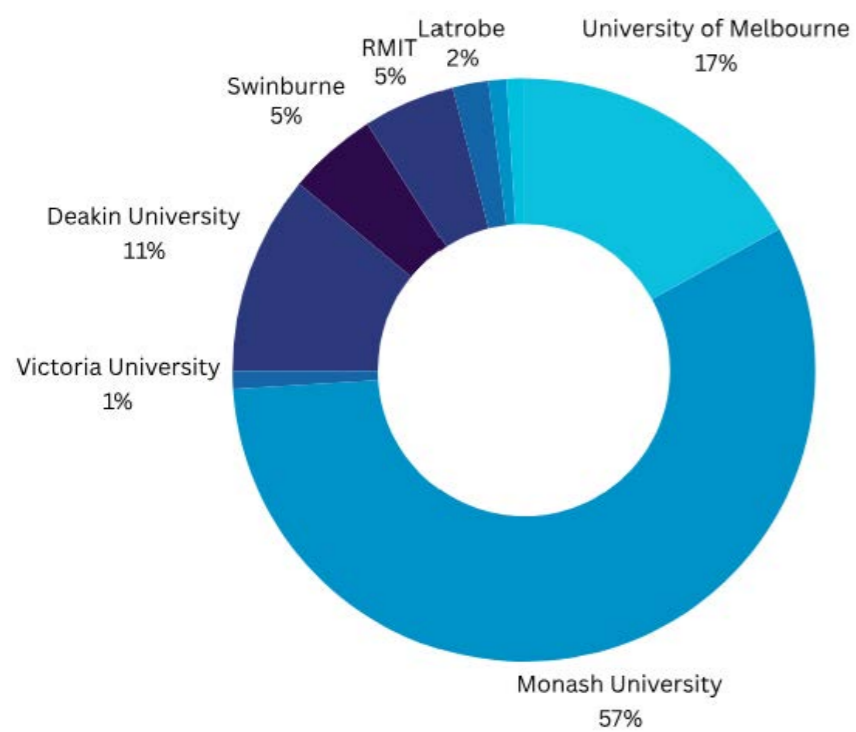
## Tertiary Destinations

Huntingtower continues to have a very high placement of students in tertiary education. Huntingtower students all received tertiary offers via the December and January relevant Tertiary Admissions Centre Round Offers.

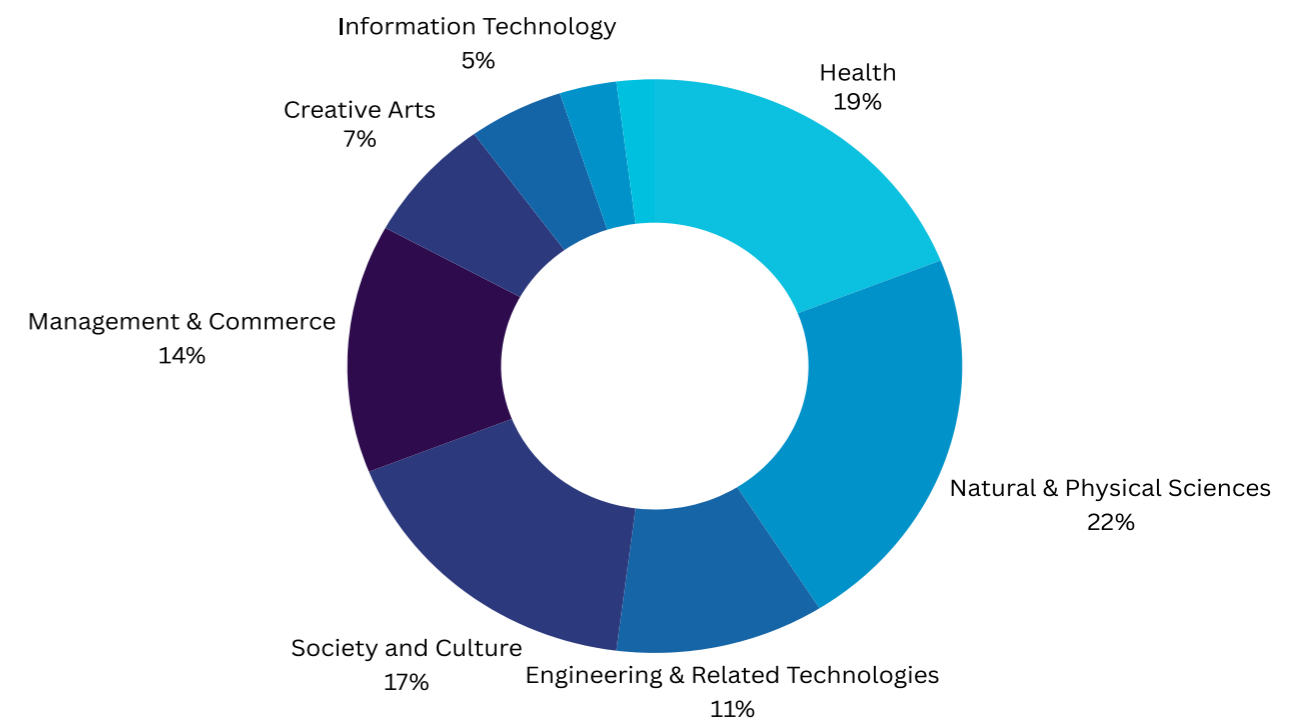
The most popular university choice is Monash University which accounted for 57% of the offers received. Natural & Physical Sciences was our most popular career category with 22% taking up this option. Health attracted 19% and Society and Culture 17% of our students.

## Course Destinations

### Institute Destinations



- 57%** Monash University
- 17%** University of Melbourne
- 11%** Deakin University
- 5%** RMIT University
- 5%** Swinburne
- 2%** Latrobe
- 1%** Victoria University
- 1%** ACU
- 1%** JMC



- 22%** Natural & Physical Sciences
- 19%** Health
- 17%** Society and Culture
- 14%** Management & Commerce
- 11%** Engineering & Related Technologies
- 7%** Creative Arts
- 5%** Information Technology
- 3%** Architecture & Building
- 2%** Education



# Financial Overview



## Finances in 2023

Huntingtower School is a not for profit organisation with all funds being used to operate and improve the school. The school is in sound financial condition with its accounts being independently audited annually.

The Finance and Administration team is responsible for providing information and processing systems to all layers of the School. It continually strives for efficiencies to best utilise the resources available to the School whilst meeting all statutory and compliance needs.

Huntingtower recorded a financial result for 2023 with a surplus of \$3.92m (2022 \$2.99m). This surplus result reflects the receipt of additional grant money associated with previous years, a significant increase in investment income, increased activity in the school's operating centres and a sizable donation to the School.

Over the course of 2023, the School maintained student numbers close to 774 with most year levels at or near capacity. The School has been in a strong financial position for many years and 2023 held this position. The School's auditors Saward Dawson have issued an unqualified audit opinion for the year ended 31 December 2023.

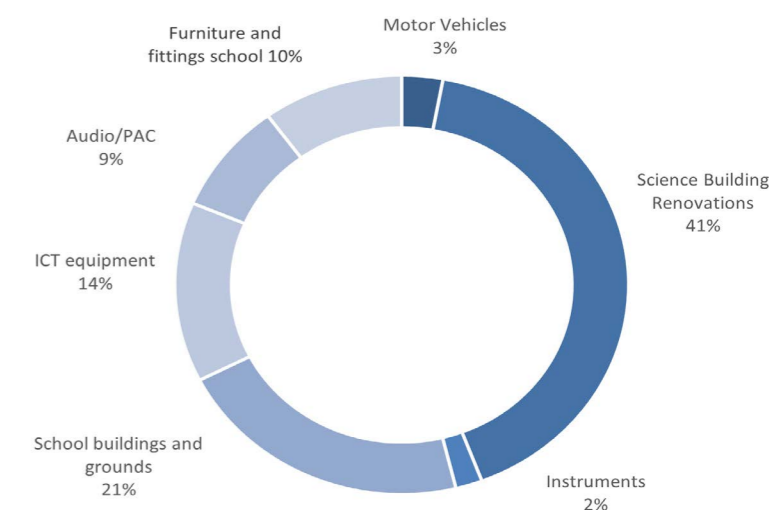
The School generated \$5.6 million in net cash from operations during 2023. (2022: \$4.6 million). This operating cash flow has allowed the School to fund some capital and refurbishment projects. In addition, the school still provided the students with a high level of educational opportunities and resources.

## Capital Works

The School spent \$1.3m on capital works during the year. Some of the key expenditure items included:

- Commencement of the refurbishment of the Senior Science building
- Ongoing updates of the ICT server and switches
- Landscaping and equipment for the new Year 7 and 8 outdoor area
- Sound and light equipment for the PAC

The continued investment ensures both students and staff have access to well maintained and safe spaces for educational programs.



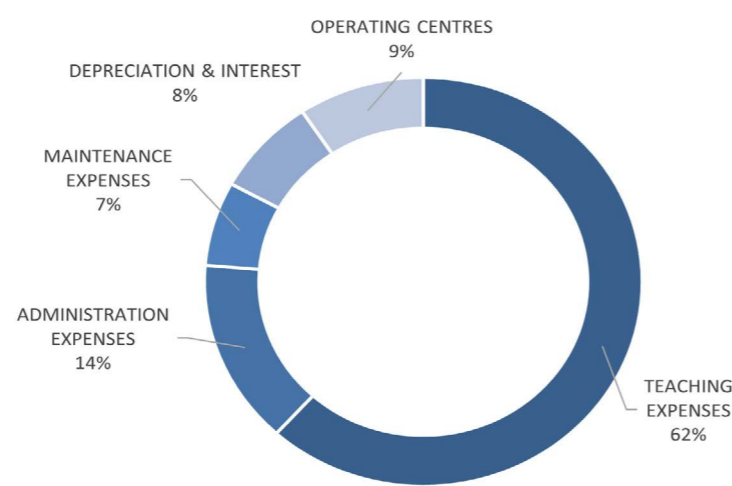
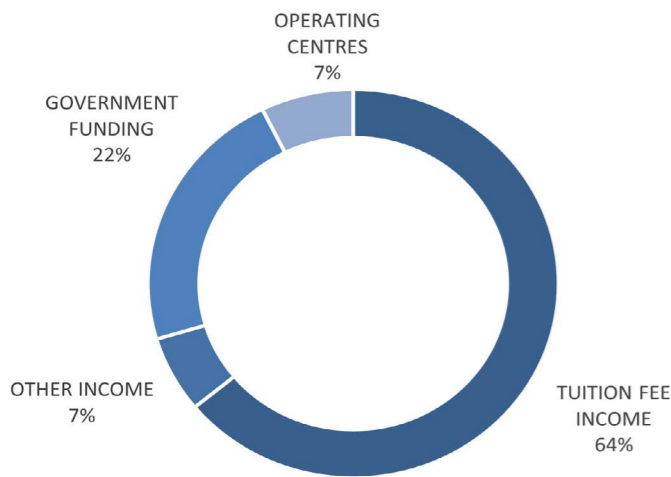


## Income

Tuition fees account for 64% of the School's total income. Government grants comprise 22% with the balance coming from other income such as investment income, donations, and income from operating activities such as the HSAC pool and HT Uniform shop.

## Expenditure

Expenditure was managed effectively and efficiently through established processes.



	2023 (\$m)	2022 (\$m)
Fee Income	17.7	16.3
Other Income	1.7	1.0
Government Grants	6.1	5.5
Operating Centres	2.0	1.9
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>24.7</b>

	2023 (\$m)	2022 (\$m)
Teaching Expenses	14.6	13.6
Admin Expenses	3.5	3.0
Maintenance Expenses	1.5	1.5
Depreciation & Interest	1.8	1.7
Operating Centres	2.2	1.9
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>21.7</b>

# Staff Register

### Principal

Mrs S Christensen BA(Hons), DipEd  
 Mr A Houghton MIL, BEd, DipT, MACE, AFIML, MACEL  
 (Resigned Nov 2023)

### Deputy Principal

Mrs S Christensen BA(Hons), DipEd

### Vice Principal

Ms M Beal BA, DipEd

### Head of Wellbeing & Learning Enrichment

Mr D Owens MEd, GDipEd, BSc

### Head of Junior School

Mrs S Swan BEd MEdStud

### Director of Business Operations

Mrs T Parkyn BBus(Acc), CA, GAICD

### Secondary School Teaching Staff

Miss R Anstee BFoSciTech, Mtch  
 Ms T Ardiyanti BA, MTch  
 Mr T Barlow BA(Hons), MA, MTch  
 Ms B Baynham BEd(Sec)  
 Ms C Benavides BSc, DipEd  
 Mr T Bockman BPerfArts, PGDipEd(Sec)  
 Mrs L Bos BSci(Hons), DipEd MACE  
 Ms M Busby BEd  
 Ms N Chesson BA, DipEd  
 Mr C Cheung BScIT, MTch(Sec)  
 Mrs J Deubel BEd  
 Mrs J Dickson BEd  
 Mr T Do BSc, MTch  
 Ms J Douglas BEd  
 Mr A Drennan BA(Hons), DipEd  
 Ms S Gavillucci BLaw, MTch  
 Ms A Gavas BSc, MTch  
 Mrs E Georgakopoulos BCom, MTch  
 Ms T Goddard BSc, MTch  
 Mr N Hamer BSci(Hons) PGCE  
 Mr G Hellard GradDipEd(Sec) MEngSc BE  
 Mrs B Hender BSc, GradDip(Est), GradDip(SpecEd)  
 Ms A Howard GCCarDevPract, BAppSci, BTch  
 Mr R Jones BA, HDE, BEd, MSocSc  
 Mr D Lees BVisArts, Med

Mr J Levey MTch, BA  
 Ms M Lopez BA(Hons), MA DipEd  
 Mr M Mazzaferri BEd GradDip Computer Science  
 Mr M McDonald BA(Hons) LLB(Hons) MTeach  
 Ms M Mill BBus, GDip(Sec)  
 Ms O Morazzani BA, BTch  
 Mr T Morgan-Richardson MTch, BSc  
 Mr D Mowat DipArts(Mus), GDipEd  
 Ms T Nguyen BEd, BSc  
 Ms A Oates BPschSc, MTch  
 Ms A O'Hanlon BSc, DipEd  
 Ms C Ohlert BA, MTch  
 Mr L Parsons BA, DipEd  
 Ms J Pavey BA(Hon), DipEd GradCert TESOL  
 Mr B Pearce Bsurv, DipEd  
 Mr A Phillips BBus, GDipEd(Sec)  
 Ms C Platt MTch, BA, MEd  
 Mrs M Power BEd, GCert (GraphicDesignPractice)  
 Mrs A Raiden BTch, BA, MEd  
 Ms T Reynolds BSc, BEd  
 Ms S Rossiter BSc, BEd, MEd  
 Ms S Reedy BPharm, MEd  
 Mr J Ryan MEd, BEd, BSc  
 Mr S Sakellaridis BA(Hon)  
 Mr R Sappideen BIndDes, BTch  
 Ms A San Martin PGDipEd(Sec), PGDipTchEngSecL, BA  
 Mr A Sankey BA, BSc, DipEd, MA MBusAdmin  
 Ms K Sharp MEd, BSc, DipEd  
 Mrs T Sheehan BEd  
 Ms K Sims GDipEd, BMu  
 Mr A Smale BSc, MEd  
 Mr J Smart BEd, BSc  
 Mrs C Smith BSci(Hons), DipEd  
 Mr D Smith MPOL, BBioSci, GCert(Humanities), GDipEd  
 Mrs S Storey BA(Hon) PGCE Dip Theology  
 Mr T Survi BEd, Dip CLIL  
 Mr S Tan BSc  
 Mr C Warner BA, MTch  
 Ms K Williams BTeach(Prim) GCeLearning, GCTESOL, MICTED  
 Mrs S Wilson BEd, Dip Arts (Theatre Technology)  
 Mr A Wroe BSci(Hons), PGCE

### Junior School Teaching Staff

Ms C Bateman	DipEd(Prim) GDip (Health)
Mrs M Cole	BEd
Ms S Cummins	BEd(Prim)
Mr N Dinnison	BPe
Ms D Handby	BEd(Prim)
Ms A Ho	BA, BTch(Prim)
Mrs R Jenkin	MEd, DipEd GCertSpecEd
Ms J Knight	BA, BTch, MSchLdship
Mrs S Kouvelis	BEd
Ms C Major Gough	BEd, BMu
Ms C Mowat	DipTch(Prim), GCertEd, GCert(ASD)
Mrs G Nix	BA(Hon), PGCE
Ms K Prince	BEd
Mrs C Schokman	GDip(Sec) ADCC, DipRE, ASoc&Pol
Ms R Sinclair	BEd
Ms R Wallace	BEd(Prim)
Ms K Watson	BBioSci, PGDipEd(Prim)
ELC Teaching Staff	
Mrs G Cutler	BA, DipEarlyChEd
Ms C Flood	DipTch & EC, GDipSpecEd

### Secondary School Teaching Aide Staff

Ms M Anderson	BAFineArts, CertEd
Ms G Emerson	
Ms E Womersley	BEd, MAppSci

### Junior School Teaching Aide Staff

Ms K Eastham	AssocDipSocS
Ms N Halihinga	GDipELC
Ms E Mavridou	DipChServ
Mrs S Whitrod	DipTch, BEd, MEd

### Wellbeing Staff

Mrs V Close	BSW, Cert RT, Cert SFBT
Ms J Gorander	BBSc, GDipAPsy, RegPsychologist

### Library Assistant Staff

Ms J Barlow	BSocSci GCertInfoTech
Ms M Mullan	DipLibIS
Ms J Willow	DipLibIS

### Performing Arts Centre / AV Staff

Mr J Harper	
Mr T Jansen	

### Maintenance Staff

Mr D Bortoli	
Mr G Di Rienzo	
Mr R Moran	
Mr M Withers	

### After School Care Staff

Ms G Kitchingman	
Ms S Thompson	

### ICT Staff

Mr B Gardiner	
Mr D Sheppard	
Mr D Subasinghe	

### HSAC Staff

Ms H Aden	
Mr B Mansaray	
Ms K McIntosh	
Mr B Powell	
Mr K Roach	
Mrs M Rogers	
Mr D Sotomayor Salazar	

### Canteen Staff

Mrs J He	
Mrs M Hunt	
Ms M Irving-Gee	
Mrs J Wijaya	

### Administration Staff

Mr C Doyle	
Ms S Franklin	
Ms D Goodsall	
Mrs S Goodwin	
Mrs J Growse	
Mr G Hardcastle	
Ms J Hetherington	
Mrs A Hou	
Mr I Key	
Mr J Kitchingman	
Mr R Kitchingman	
Ms L Koffyberg	
Mrs J Lean	
Ms J Lovel	
Ms D Maddaford	
Mrs S Nuroo	
Ms J Prudon	
Mrs E Rulton	
Mrs V Schwab	
Ms G Thompson	

# Staff Register

### HT Uniform Shop Staff

Mrs C Bradwell	
Mrs L Forbes	

### Instrumental Music Staff

Ms C Berlin	
Ms M Berlin	
Mr L Carbon	
Ms M Bramble	
Mr J De Graaf	
Mr A Efron	
Mr S Falk	
Mr M Guerrini	
Ms S Hatton	
Mr M Kneale	
Mr S Lee	
Mr D Levit	
Ms SJ Lewendon-Lowe	
Mr C Nolan	
Mr L Sasson	
Ms K Sellmer	
Ms S Thiagarajah	
Ms J Tsai	
Mr M Tsotsos	



**Know Thy True Self**

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**Business Details**

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No. 1267 CRICOS Provider No. 00145E