

BSSC Parent/Carer Information Evening

20th July 2020



The following are many of the questions and answers that were discussed at our Parent/Carer information evening. If you have any further queries, please contact us on enrolments@bssc.edu.au or call our Enrolments Officer on 5443 1222.

How to I access course counselling support and help choosing subjects?

Course counselling will be provided by BSSC staff at all local 7-10 Government colleges in the coming weeks. If enrolling from beyond these colleges, please request a 1:1 Zoom appointment with one of our Student Engagement Coordinators by visiting www.bssc.edu.au ('Enrolments' tab) during our Virtual Open Day, this Sunday 26th July, between 11am-2pm.

What is the day structure at BSSC?

Each day begins at 9.00 and concludes at 3.35pm. We have a recess break from 10.50-11.10am and a lunch break from 1.00-1.45pm. Each day is comprised of a mixture of single (55 mins) and double (110) periods.

Do you have a Home Group system at BSSC?

Every student at BSSC is assigned an Advisor, who is almost always one of the student's teachers. The Advisor is responsible for overseeing the academic progress, attendance and wellbeing of approximately 18 students. The Advisor meets with their Advisor Group each Monday to discuss matters such as study skills, wellbeing initiatives and pathway goals.

Can students wear whatever they want to school?

Although we do not have a uniform, all students are expected to wear clothes that are not offensive to others (eg. no slogans that are racist, lewd, etc) and footwear that is safe (eg. work boots or closed in shoes in practical classes).

Is there a bus that takes students from the train station to BSSC?

There are some buses which travel up Mitchell and View Streets, in the direction of BSSC. However, most students find that it is quicker to walk the 1.3kms to the school.

Am I able to choose six subjects in my VCE?

A student is able to fit six subjects within their timetable, however many find this workload unmanageable. Successfully completing six subjects per semester would give a student 24 credits, whereas 16 are required for certification. We recommend students complete five subjects per semester, giving them 20 credits across the two years. If a student wants to select six subjects, they can do so by emailing their sixth preference to enrolments@bssc.edu.au.

I have heard I can go into town for lunch, is this true?

Our students are able to leave the college grounds during their breaks, if they need to attend the CBD for any purpose. However, it is an expectation that students utilise their study periods by engaging in study and class preparation, preferably onsite. Students are expected to attend every timetabled class, so if they do leave the site, they must be punctual upon their return. All of our students have access to Ulumbarra Café, open from 7.30am-2.30pm daily, serving a variety of affordable hot and cold food (can order and pay online to save wait times).

Can I change my subjects later in the year?

We encourage all students to carefully consider their subject selection as there will only be very limited opportunity to change later in the year. Changing is dependent on the room within your timetable and space being available within the class you are hoping to change into.

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I am currently living out of Bendigo? Can I enrol at BSSC?

Students who are coming from outside our neighbourhood are able to put in an Expression of Interest to enrol (found under the 'Enrolments' tab on the BSSC website – www.bssc.edu.au). This EOI will be considered, based on what is in the best educational interest of the individual student. The time it will take to travel to BSSC needs to be factored into the student's likelihood of success. If currently enrolled at a Government school, families should speak to their current Principal about their intention to enrol at BSSC.

I am from outside Bendigo. When will I find out if my student has been accepted into BSSC?

Once you have completed the EOI and subject selection, you will be contacted for an interview within 2-3 weeks. The decision about whether the application has been successful, will be made during this interview or very shortly afterwards.

Can I do my VCE without doing exams?

A fundamental component of the VCE is the exam assessments. Exams generally comprise 50-60% of the overall assessment within a subject area. Although it is possible for a student to complete the VCE without sitting exams, this would result in the student receiving a significantly reduced study score (or no study score at all) and would only be permitted in extenuating circumstances.

Will doing a VET effect my ATAR?

Many of the VCE VET subjects are scored, meaning they contribute to the ATAR calculation in the same way as any other VCE subject. If a VET is unscored, then this can still contribute to the ATAR, but as 10% of the lowest study score of the primary four. If a student is completing an unscored VET subject, it is important to ensure that they have at least four other scored subjects, in order to be eligible for an ATAR.

How many study periods will I have?

At BSSC, we run a seven-block timetable, with each 'block' consisting of 220 mins (1 x 110 min, 2 x 55 mins). A student who completes five subjects (recommended) will have two 'blocks' available for study periods. A student who completes six subjects, will have one 'block' free. All Year 11 students are enrolled into our Study Centre from the beginning of the year, where they will spend time each week receiving support with their studies and completing supervised private study. As the year progresses, students who do not require this additional support are able to use their study periods for independent private study in one of our many study areas around the college.

What camps and international trips does BSSC offer?

In addition to the camps associated with curriculum areas such as Outdoor Education, in most years BSSC has offered both domestic and international trips on a voluntary basis to our students. These have included trips to Tasmania, Kakadu, China, Indonesia, France, Germany, Greece and Italy. Obviously, this year has been very different and we have not been able to offer these, but we hope to be able to add in more trips as the COVID situation settles globally.

How much are the school fees for BSSC?

There are no compulsory school 'fees', as such, to attend BSSC. Each subject does have a levy, to cover things such as the consumable materials used in the class. Most subjects also require textbooks. Therefore, the total cost of the booklist will be dependent on the subjects chosen. We do request, that where families are able, that they consider contributing a voluntary fee of \$200, which would go towards our Library or Building Funds. Any voluntary fee to one of these funds is fully tax deductible.

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What support services do you have in place at BSSC to help students?

In addition to our teaching staff, we have an extensive Education Support team who support students throughout various services. These include our Wellbeing Team, which consists of a Wellbeing Coordinator, Wellbeing Advisor, Mental Health Practitioner and First Aid Coordinator (all onsite full time), as well as access to Department of Education Psychologists, Social Workers and Speech Pathologists. We have a very experienced Careers and Pathways Team who can support our students with all pathways, regardless of the aspirations. Students with additional learning needs can access Student Support, Literacy and Numeracy staff, either in class or within our Redemption Classes. These are only some of the extensive support that is available for our students, should they need it.

How do I apply for the Specialist Sports program?

Students who are competing in their chosen sport at an elite level are able to apply for our Specialist Sports Program. This program allows students to coordinate their timetable around sporting commitments (where possible) and provides the support to excel at their sport and reach their academic goals. Interested students should contact Dean Sheldrick on sheldrick.dean@bssc.edu.au.

What sports teams does BSSC have and how do I join one?

The college offers a wide range of sporting activities which provide opportunities for our students at both an elite and social level. BSSC competes in athletics, basketball, netball, football, cycling and swimming, with our teams often making it through to State Finals. Almost every sport can be catered for, where there is adequate interest. Sporting opportunities are advertised through Compass and on our Facebook page, or you can contact our Director of Sport, Drew Cathcart on cathcart.drew@bssc.edu.au.

Where can I get information about school buses?

Country buses operate from the surrounding rural areas to transport students to BSSC and other secondary colleges. All students travelling on these buses must apply online through Public Transport Victoria: schoolbusapplication.ptv.vic.gov.au. To speak to someone in person, please visit the PTV Hub at the Bendigo Marketplace.

Can I go to university if I have completed VCAL?

VCAL does not provide a direct pathway to university, as the VCE does, however it doesn't mean that a VCAL graduate can never attend university. Students who study VCAL could possibly still go to university via a TAFE Pathway, however it would take longer than direct entry to university. It should also be noted that VCAL is not intended to prepare students for tertiary study, but rather for entry to the workforce.

For additional information, please:

- Attend our Virtual Open Day, this Sunday 26th July from 11am-2pm: <http://www.bssc.edu.au/news/bssc-virtual-open-day/>
- Read the Program and [Subject Selection Guide](#)
- Read the [Parent/Carer Information Booklet](#)
- Read the more detailed [Parent/Carer Handbook](#)

If you have queries at any point throughout the Transition process, please email enrolments@bssc.edu.au or call our Enrolments Officer (Jan Tilburn) on 4408 6290.

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