

Brighton Secondary College
7650

**2008 Annual Report to the
School Community**



School Overview

Brighton Secondary College (BSC) is a Year 7 to 12 family oriented, co-educational provider to over 1200 students. Established in 1955, the College is set in spacious grounds in the City of Bayside, situated in Marriage Road, Brighton East. BSC has a tradition of excellence and aims to provide a high quality education for all students in a secure environment with firm but caring discipline.

In 2007 the College restructured its traditional Junior-, Middle- and Senior-school structure to form a Year 7 to 9 Junior-school and a Year 10 to 12 Senior-school, each with its own Assistant Principal and support staff. This was part of a larger response the College has made to the changing needs of students as they move through secondary school: the Junior-school, through its STRIDES¹ and Discovery programs, aiming to develop in students the skills and attitudes needed to become life-long learners; and the Senior-school then giving them a solid grounding for life after school.

The College has an extensive welfare program that includes form teachers, year level coordinators, a student welfare coordinator, and a chaplain, and is largely pitched at the prevention and early intervention phases of support. In the Junior-school it is complemented by the Year 7 and 8 STRIDES program and in Year 9 by the Discovery program. Both programs seek to build and reinforce what is an integral part of the BSC philosophy, namely that a strong positive relationship should exist between students and teachers. Another aim of STRIDES is to make the transition from primary to secondary school as trouble-free as possible for students.

The College provides a comprehensive curriculum at all year levels, including: at Year 7 to 10 all VELS² disciplines; at Year 11 and 12 a broad offering of VCE³, VET⁴ and VCAL⁵ studies, including the opportunity for Year 11 students to undertake Unit 3/4 VCE studies; at Year 10 a selected offering of Unit 1/2 VCE studies; and various special programs to support and extend students in Literacy, Numeracy and Integration. Also, any student who excels in a particular learning area may be offered acceleration in that area and, at a more formal level the College has been a SEAL⁶ provider to the Bayside Network since 1998.

A number of co-curriculum initiatives, both government and locally driven, are also offered by the College to further engage students in their learning, including: House Chorals; Debating; 'Kool Schools'; 'Night of the Notables'; Science Drama; the Advance Program (Outdoor Education); World Team Challenge; international exchange and study tours to France and Japan; 'Why Try' in Year 8; and the School, Transition and Resilience Training Program.

Parental involvement in the College sees the majority of support coming from the Parents and Friends Association and the Friends of Music. A number of links with community organisations also exist, including: Brighton, Brighton Beach and Brighton North Rotary Clubs and the Sandringham Hockey Club.

Through the Strategic Plan, the College sought to:

- improve student achievement in English and Maths at Years 7 to 10
- improve students' attitudes to school especially their sense of community at Years 7 to 10
- ensure the foundation of students for secondary schooling
- to further develop the transition from year level to year level
- improve real retention from Years 7-12

The key improvement strategies of the Annual Implementation Plan for 2008 were:

- Enhance teaching practice across the college.
- Development of teaching strategies for all interdisciplinary learning domains including ICT.
- Improve assessment practices and reporting to maximise consistency across the college.
- Develop strategies to increase student engagement and peer connectedness
- Introduce Learning to Learn CULTURE into the STRIDES Program.
- Improve school's pathway and planning services to students

Student enrolments – The College draws students from Brighton, Caulfield, Moorabbin, Bentleigh, Elsternwick, Elwood and Hampton and surrounding suburbs. In 2003 a formalised neighbourhood enrolment area was adopted to manage the burgeoning enrolments. 2008 saw the college maintaining the student population confirming parental and community general satisfaction (*Chart 1*)

The current student population of BSC is about 40:60 female to male, a ratio that has changed little since 2000. About a third of our students are recipients of EMA/AUSTUDY⁷, and about a quarter come from families where a language other than English is spoken at home. BSC also has a large number of international fee paying students.

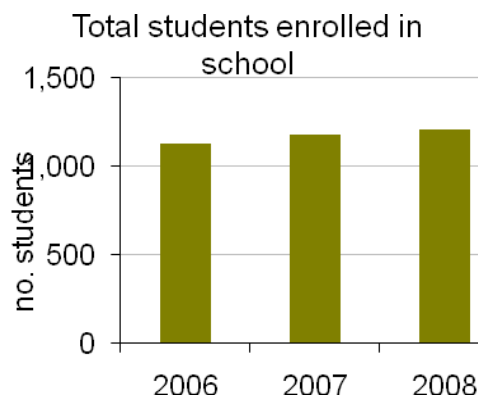


Chart 1

Parent Satisfaction – The average score for parent satisfaction rose to 5.4 in 2008 on a scale of 1 to 7, where seven is the best possible score (*Chart 2*). This saw a return to similar figures of 2007. Better communication with parents including the introduction of the college SMS system has contributed to parent satisfaction.

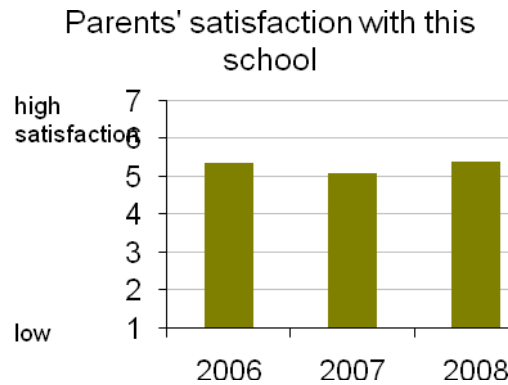


Chart 2

Commonwealth Requirements

Teacher Satisfaction - The average score for teacher satisfaction (morale) at this school was 65 on a scale from 0 to 100 where 100 is the best possible score. This is above the state mean for secondary schools and in the top 20% of state schools.

Teacher Absence – The average number of days absent per teacher was 9.35 days. The way in which sick leave data are calculated changed in 2008. As such, data from 2008 cannot be compared with previous years.

Teacher Retention - Of the 113 teaching service staff at the school in June 2007 (including those on leave without pay), 104 or 92% were still at the school at June 2008. This figure across all Government schools was 84%.

Teacher participation in professional learning – All teaching staff have participated in professional learning throughout the year such as VCE, VELS, NAPLAN analysis, assessment for learning, differentiating learning, information and communication technology, timetabling, leadership, and various subject related conferences. A comprehensive induction and mentoring program was provided for beginning teachers and teachers new to the school.

Teacher Qualifications – All teachers in Victorian Government schools are registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching. The requirements for registration with the Victorian Institute of Teaching can be found at; http://www.vit.vic.edu.au/content.asp?Document_ID=241.

Principal's Report

Summary of the School Year

The 2008 school year began well with 1217 students, which includes 93 international students, and five new staff, which included four graduates. The year was characterised as always by hard work and on-going success in a wide variety of exciting programs.

Highlights and Achievements for 2008

The VCE results were good, with the following outcomes:

- 161 Year 12 students successfully completed their VCE.
- 2 students scored a 98 plus ENTER score
- 10 (7%) students attained a score of 90 or better
- 22 (13%) students attained ENTER scores in the 80's
- 12 students completed VCE but did not seek an ENTER score
- There were 41 study scores of 40 or better (including 1 x50),
- 21% of our International student cohort attained scores of 80 or better, with 3 students scoring 90 or better
- Hiroki Akama was Dux of the College with an ENTER score of 98.80

Year 12 Destinations

The following is a snapshot of where our 2008 Year 12 students have gone.

As has been the case in recent years Monash University was the most popular choice for our students, with 22 of them receiving an offer. Eight students received offers from The University of Melbourne. RMIT University offered 12 students a place. Victoria University made 15 offers and Swinburne University made 14 which was a significant increase on the numbers in the previous year. ACU made 5 offers, Deakin 6 and La Trobe 3. Holmesglen TAFE offered 14 of our students a place with the rest of the students accepting places at a range of TAFE institutes and Private Providers.

The most popular tertiary area of study chosen by students was Management and Commerce. The other two areas that were popular with our students last year were the Creative Arts and courses in Society and Culture. At this stage 90.8% of students who applied for a tertiary institution have received an offer. Several of our students have gone straight into employment, some of our international students have returned to their home country and a small number of students have taken up an apprenticeship.

Some of the highlights of 2008 included:

- The election of Hayley Tagell and Chris Tagle as College captains, with Daniel Pollock and Ilana Gelbart as Vice Captains and Mook Sutadwanich as International Captain
- A visit of 20 students from our sister school in Tokoname Japan
- A further growth in our Overseas Students program, which sees us as one of the top four schools in the state.
- The SRC made a big statement with the student-lead Blue Day in support of Student Well-Being and Resilience
- In the sporting arena we have reached state level in swimming, athletics, cross country, junior girls hockey, junior girls basketball and golf

- Jarret Williams represented us in China this year on a Tour with Sandringham Secondary College to Cuxi
- We will step up a pace in 2009 with no less than 8 students undertaking exchange programs, 4 students, which is a massive number, are heading out on Rotary Exchange: Dean Marshall Y9 to Denmark, Ella Clement Y9 to Sweden, Caitlin Brooks Y10 to Germany, Melinda Heap Y9 to France. As well as this we have Nick Ormond in Y9 to France, Eaden Rountree Y10 to France, Owen Walker Y11 to France and Hugh Davis Y10 to Japan

Instrumental Music

The Instrumental Music program again grew under the leadership of Greg Stone supported in the classroom by Paul Varney. We had an unprecedented number of students wishing to undertake an instrument in 2008. Some superb performances were held during the year to showcase a stunning growth in the talent pool across a wide variety of instruments including vocals.

Performing Arts

The Performing Arts Learning Area, under the able leadership of Paul Varney presented a very entertaining home-grown production of Ten Things I Hate About the Shrew, the musical, set in set in Winterbottom High the antithesis of Summer Heights High, of course.

Curriculum

More work was done in 2008 refining and testing coursework tied to implementation of VELS (The Victorian Essential Learning Standards) and the newish assessment and reporting requirements. The reporting system requires an immense amount of work and a longer time line to prepare and we trust that parents are benefiting from the information delivered about their children. Students need to enter their own goals and there is a capacity for parents to respond in writing to the report.

Occupational Health & Safety

Brighton Secondary College is committed to the Occupational Health and Safety of its staff and students. The committee at BSC comprises three members of staff, Lynne Jepson, elected staff representative, Julie Podbury, Principal and Sal Gargano, Facilities Manager. The committee dealt with a series of issues across the year as listed below;

- Term internal and external inspections of facilities both to fix minor hazards.
- Analysis of accident reports
- Removal of trees (allergies) replaced with wooden shade panels
- Removal of signs around outdoor gym equipment (tripping hazard)
- Safety anchor points installed on gym roof to safely access cooling systems
- Policing of students not wearing bike helmets.
- Updating of training of Technology staff in the safe use of machinery.
- Implementation of record keeping in regard to students passing safety tests before using the technology equipment to comply with the new DEED rules.
- Creation of a new office for ICT staff so they are not working in the server room. Office to be built in 2009.

The most significant issue dealt with across the year was the issue of air quality in the library. Testing showed that there was very little air movement and temperature was very hard to control. A new high quality heater/air conditioner was installed in November 2008, which has eliminated the problem, making the staff working in this area considerably happier.

International Student Program

We started 2008 with 38 new students:

Brazil.....3	Italy..... 1	Mexico 1
China20	Japan 5	Thailand..... 1
Germany.....3	Korea.....2	UK..... 1

This gave us a total of 90 students providing us with 30% of our income.

At the end of the year 70 students exited the program:

- 21 completed Year 12,
- 12 transferred to other secondary providers
- 28 returned home at the end of their contracts
- 9 changed visa status to either a 167 Business visa, a precursor to permanent resident status, or became permanent residents.

We filled the vacancies through direct liaison with agents in China and agents from other countries that Linda Ward visited through the marketing trips. In 2008, with the approval of College council, Linda visited China, Vietnam and Germany meeting parents of our current and new students.

As in 2007 the results for the International students were excellent with the top overseas students coming from China (Guangzhou, Shanghai and Beijing). Of the International students 21% scored 80+ and three of those were above 90. The highest score was 98.65.

Thirteen students took up tertiary places:

- 3 Melbourne Uni,
- 3 Monash Uni
- 5 RMIT and
- 1 Deakin University
- 1 Swinburne University.

Council Participation

Many thanks to the members of the 2008 Brighton Secondary College Council for their contributions and support! Once again Council has dealt with many varied issues always in a constructive and harmonious atmosphere with the best interests of the students always uppermost in consideration. In particular, I would like to thank Council President, Mr David Marshall for his outstanding leadership at Council and for his support for me as Principal.

I wish to record my thanks to other office bearers and subcommittee conveners:

Keith Davidson	Treasurer
David Hawe	Buildings and Grounds

Pat Gargano Education, Policy and Planning
Ken John Sports Grounds Management Committee

Finally I would like to thank my leadership team: Linda Ward, Pat Gargano, Kaye Sentry, Jean Hunter, Robert Timmer-Arends, Brenda Welsh, Andrew Hill, Gerry Cameron, Mary Morgan, Rob Fuller, Richard Minack, Sam Haines, Cindy Twyford, Andrew Watson, Mary Horrocks, Judith Hawes, Roger Dammers and Richard Impey for their unstinting support and outstanding collective and individual contributions during 2008.

School Council President's Report

This has been an excellent year in the history of the college. This Annual Report allows us to record and celebrate the achievements of the College and students during 2008.

Brighton Secondary College has moved through 2008 undertaking more change and continued development in all areas of the college including management, curriculum, resources and environment.

We completed the third year of our four year Strategic College Plan, with our 2008 Annual Implementation Plan.

The college has faced a variety of challenges in 2008 and met them all head-on with successful outcomes. The greatest of these challenges was the further development and implementation of VELS and the new Report Card. We have successfully achieved this goal and improved our data in many target areas. We should all be very proud of what we as a community have been able to achieve. In this we should acknowledge the clear vision and driving force of our Principal, Mrs Podbury and her leadership team. The staff at Brighton Secondary must once again be congratulated for their commitment and their preparedness to respond so willingly to the changes we are enacting and new directions the college is pursuing and the State is requiring.

In concluding my report, I sincerely thank my fellow council members for the time they have spent, their support, their enthusiasm, their forbearance and their constructive criticism of matters brought before the College Council. I also warmly thank the members of the Parents and Friends Association (PFA) and all our other support groups who tirelessly work for the school, often unnoticed and unacknowledged.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the College Council, to thank, the Principal Mrs Podbury and Acting Principal in term two, Mr Gargano as well as the Assistant Principals Ms Ward, Mr Gargano, Mrs Hunter, Mrs Sentry, Mr Minack and Ms Twyford for their outstanding leadership; The students for their unstinting hard work and personal best efforts; The parents for their endless support of the college; Mrs Kim Hoogerwerff, President of PFA and members of the Parents and Friends Association for their tireless efforts to support the college in so many ways; And last but not least, I wish to thank both the teaching and support staff for the immense commitment, concern and effort they have shown in the care for and enrichment of our children.

Finally, as always, I remind our students of the importance of what they are doing in preparing themselves for either the working world or for further education: make the most of your time at school and achieve your 'personal bests' in every aspect of the curriculum and co-curricular.

I commend this annual report to all members of the college community.

David Marshall
President
Brighton Secondary College

Student Progress & Achievements

Student Learning

The main aims for the College for 2008 were to improve student outcomes VELS English and Maths (Years 7 to 10) and to improve learning and teaching by:

- Enhance teaching practice across the college.
- Development of teaching strategies for all interdisciplinary learning domains including ICT.
- Improve assessment practices and reporting to maximise consistency across the college.

Percentage of students achieving at or above the National Minimum Standards

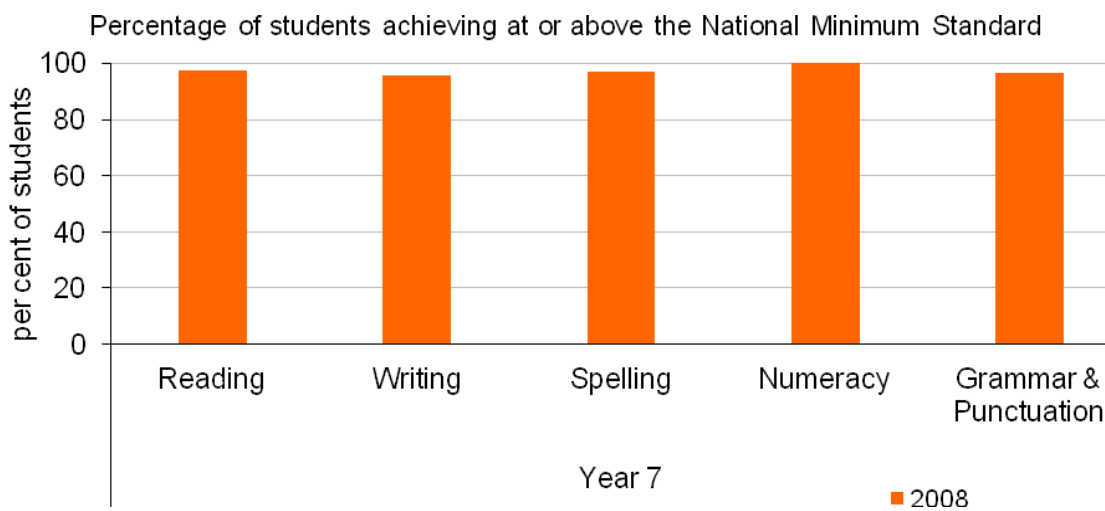


Chart 3

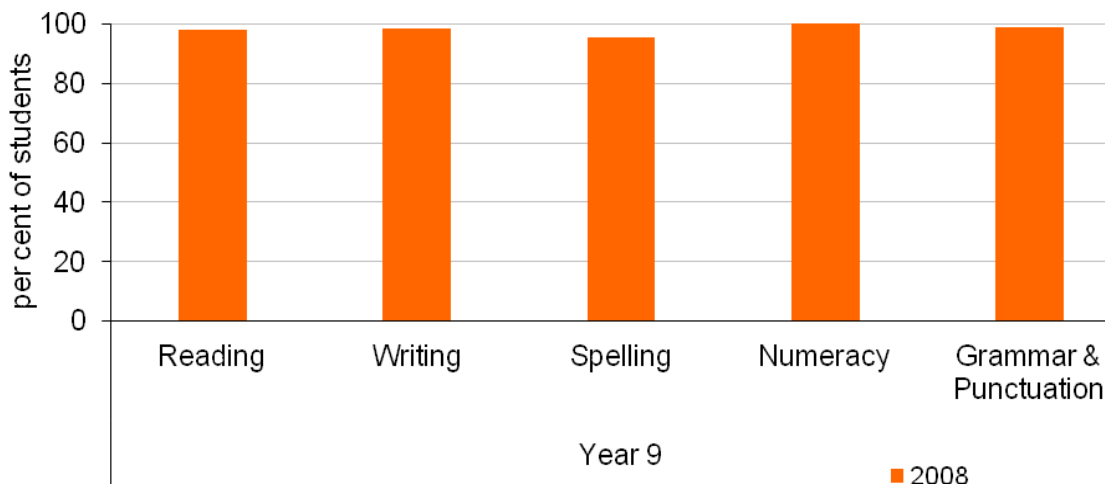
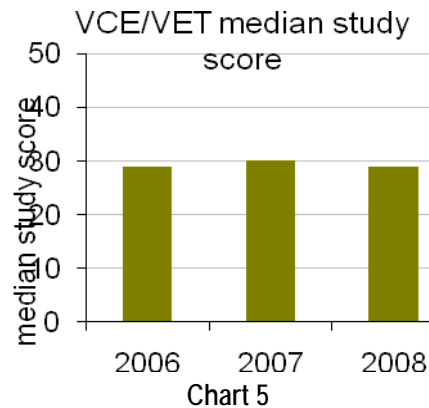


Chart 4

Charts 3 and 4 above show the results of the NAPLAN¹⁰. At both Years 7 and 9 the college has in excess of 95% of the students above the National Minimum Standards in Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy.

VCE/VET median study score: Median study scores for all VCE studies (Chart 5) show consistency over the last three years. The SLR shows the college continues to have an All Study median score above the state mean.



Satisfactory completion rates – Chart 6 below shows completion rates for the three pathways students can take through BSC Senior-school with an increasing trendline in all three areas:

- VCE – The satisfactory completion rate continues to be very high at around 99%.
- VET – The satisfactory completion rate continues to increase in VET and was 91%.
- VCAL - Integration of the VCAL program into the Senior School seems to have had the desired effect on the satisfactory completion rate with it dramatically increasing from about 59% in 2006 to about 90% in 2007 and then 100% in 2008

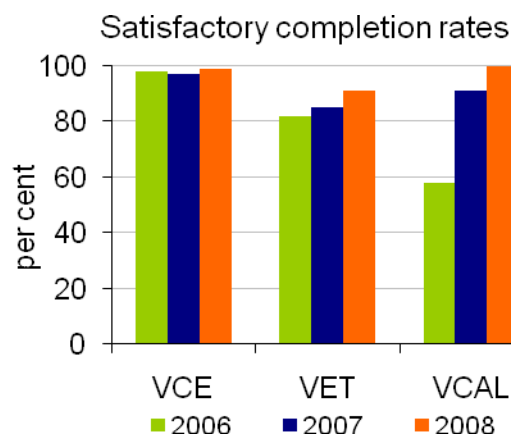


Chart 6

Student Engagement and Wellbeing

The main aims for the College for 2008 were to:

- Develop strategies to increase student engagement and peer connectedness
- Introduce Learning to Learn Culture into the STRIDES Program

Average number of absent days per student: As Chart 7 below shows there was a dramatic decrease in the average number of days absent from 15.8 in 2007 to 11.8 in 2008. The state mean in 2008 was 16.3 days per student. The new subschool structure with each subschool having its own secretary able to follow up absences promptly and the introduction of the college SMS system alerting parents of their child's absence each day has had a significant impact on lowering the absence rate at the college.

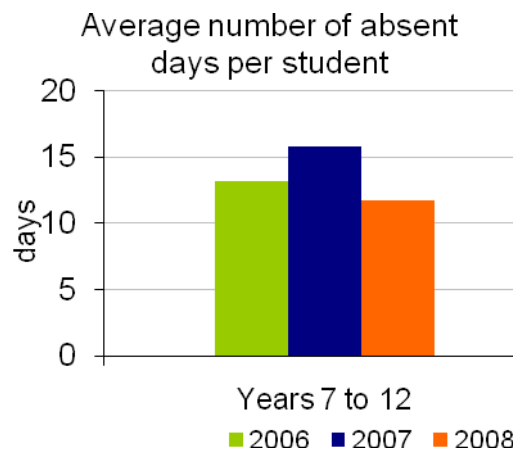


Chart 7

Students' school connectedness – Chart 8 below suggests that our Discovery and STRIDES program continue to engage our students. This is supported by other evidence such as the increased attendance at the after-school tutoring program. More students across all year levels are attending this program necessitating the provision of additional teachers. Student attendance at extra curricula activities such as swimming sports, choral festival, college production and athletics competition has also increased showing students are engaging in college wide programs.

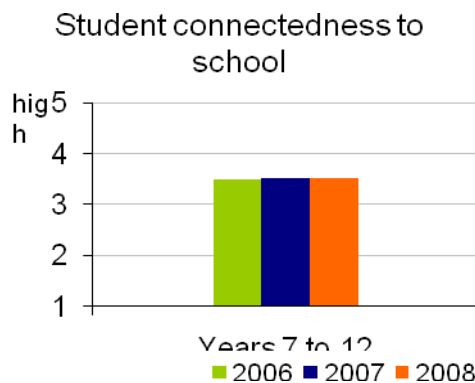


Chart 8

Student Pathways and Transitions

- The main aims for the College for 2008 were to improve student pathways and transitions by Improve school's pathway and planning services to students by enhancing the VCAL program and continue to develop the college subschool structure.

Student destination data - Chart 9 below shows the different destinations of BSC Year 12 students upon leaving school. On-track data shows that most of our students are continuing education and training, at universities and TAFE Colleges or taking on apprenticeships. There is an increasing number of tertiary deferrals both indicating a high number successful in attaining a tertiary entrance and also reflecting the statewide trend of students taking a break from studies.

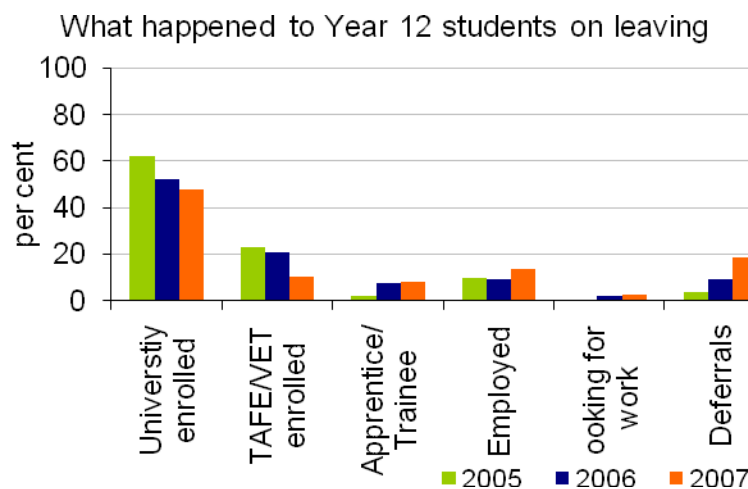


Chart 9

Retention rate between Years 7 & 12 – Chart 10 shows that 2008 has seen the Apparent Retention figure (83.2%) for BSC still well above the state mean of 77.5% although lower than 2007. However, the increased Real Retention of 53.4% from the college 2004 baseline figure of 46.4% indicates that more students remain at Brighton SC until completing Year 12. The lower apparent retention therefore suggests that less students transferred into our college.



Chart 10

Future Directions

2009 will see:

- The college enhance teaching practice across the college by making greater use of NAPLAN and VELS data to improve student learning outcomes. NAPLAN testing management will be improved to ensure students are given the best opportunity to achieve
- Action Learning Teams at Year 7 and 8 developing cross-curricula tasks that incorporate ICT in an effective Teaching and Learning Framework
- Assessment practices and reporting procedures improved to maximise consistency across the college.
- Each learning area consolidate VELS implementation for their discipline by coming to a common 7 to 10 understanding of the relevant standards.
- Enhanced Personal Learning by:
 - implementing the Brighton Secondary College Code of Practice and Minimum Expectations ('Brighton Basics')
 - incorporating Learning to Learn across the Junior School Program,
 - utilising Student Goal Setting as part of teaching and learning practice
- Reduced number of under-achieving students at Years 10, 11 and 12 by conducting a pilot Student Mentoring Program

Financial Performance and Position

The Financial Performance Operating Statement Summary for 2008 indicates that the college has a net operating surplus of \$1,088,568.

The system used by DEECD is a receipts and payments system with an accrual overlay, which does not give an accurate picture of the actual surplus as you would expect in a normal business statement.

This figure includes additional funds raised from International Student Program, hire of school facilities, interests and commissions as well as outstanding invoices for unpaid subject charges for both previous and future years.

We believe the more accurate figure for 2008 is \$436,683 which will all go to the building fund to improve facilities for the children.

Financial Performance – Operating Statement Summary for the year ending 31st December, 2008	
Revenue	2008 Actual
DE&T Grants	1,817,004
Commonwealth Government Grants	67,355
State Government Grants	17,270
Other	448,391
Locally Raised Funds	2,041,082
Total Operating Revenue	4,391,102
Expenditure	
Salaries and Allowances	160,687
Bank Charges	7,218
Consumables	421,054
Books and Publications	28,641
Communication Costs	64,681
Furniture and Equipment	297,741
Utilities	68,382
Property Services	676,626
Travel and Subsistence	19,584
Motor Vehicle Expenses	77,418
Administration	51,350
Health and Personal Development	6,175
Professional Development	68,438
Trading and Fundraising	75,232
Support/Service	156,240
Miscellaneous	1,123,068
Total Operating Expenditure	3,302,534
Net Operating Surplus/- Deficit	1,088,568
Capital Expenditure	210,293
Please note that the above amounts do not include any credit revenue or expenditure allocated or spent by the school through its Student Resource Package	

Financial Position as at 31st December, 2008	
Funds Available	2008 Actual
High Yield Investment Account	\$756,346.83
Official Account	\$ 68,782.37
Building Fund	\$ 10,213.77
<i>Cooperative Account</i>	\$ 22,340.57
<i>MECU No. 1</i>	\$158,255.41
<i>MECU No. 2</i>	\$539,970.37
<i>Bendigo Bank Term Deposit</i>	\$1,000,000.00
Total Funds Available	\$2,555,909.32
Financial Commitments	2008 Actual
School Operating Reserve	\$ 100,000.00
Co-operative Bank Account	\$ 6,500.00
Assets or Equipment Replacement < 12 months	\$ 60,000.00
Revenue Receipted in Advance	\$ 619,260.00
Building/Grounds including SMS < 12 months	\$1,204,649.32
Region /Clusters Funds/School Based Programs < 12 months	\$ 76,500.00
Provision Accounts < 12 months	\$ 40,000.00
Repayable to DEECD	\$ 409,000.00
Other Recurrent Expenditure (Accounts Payable)	\$ 0.00
Assets or Equipment Replacement > 12 months	\$ 25,000.00
Building/Grounds including SMS > 12 months	\$ 0.00
Region /Clusters Funds/School Based Programs > 12 months	\$ 0.00
Provision Accounts > 12 months	\$ 0.00
Co-operative loan >12 months	\$ 15,000.00
Beneficiary/Memorial Accounts	\$ 0.00
Total Financial Commitments	\$2,555,909.32

School Contact Information

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This report contains summary data extracted from the School Level Report. If you would like to access the School Level Report, please contact Pat Gargano or Robert Timmer-Arends

Glossary of Abbreviations

STRIDES	Students & Teachers Resourcing Innovative Discovery in Education in School
VELS	Victorian Essential Learning Standards
VCE	Victorian Certificate of Education
VET	Vocational education and training
VCAL	Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning
SEAL	Select Entry Accelerated Learning
EMA	Education Maintenance Allowance
DEECD	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
ENTER	Equivalent National Tertiary Entrance Rank
NAPLAN	National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy
SLR	School Level Report