



# MILDURA SENIOR COLLEGE

## NEWSLETTER

VOL 1 - JANUARY 2021

## KEY DATES

Jan 22	College Office Opens 9:00am
Jan 19	Book Collection from Collins Booksellers 10:00am – 7:00pm
Jan 20	Book Collection from Collins Booksellers 9:00am – 2:00pm
Jan 29	Year 11 Students return to College
Feb 1	Year 12 Students return to College
Feb 2	School Photos
Feb 7	Last day of Subject Changes
Feb 8	School Photo catch up day
Feb 9	Welcome Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences - PST 5:00pm – 7:30pm
Feb 17	Parent Info Session 5:30pm - 6:30pm
Feb 25	Commencement Ceremony
Mar 1	SLP1 (Student Progress Report 1) Available to Parents Via Compass Parent Portal
Mar 8	Labour Day Holiday
Mar 16	Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences - PST 5:00pm – 7:30pm
Mar 22	SLP2 (Student Progress Report 2) Available to Parents Via Compass Parent Portal
April 1	End of Term 1 – Classes conclude at 2:30pm

*We would like to respectfully acknowledge the Wemba Wemba People and the Millewa-Mallee People and their Clans; Latje Latje, the Nyeri Nyeri and Ngintait, the Traditional Custodians of the Lands on which we meet today and pay our respects to the Elders past present and emerging. We would also pay our respects to those Aboriginal people with us today.*

# PRINCIPALS REPORT

## Welcome to Mildura Senior College 2021

Welcome to our approximately 500 new students and their families & welcome back to our returning students & families.

This year we will be continuing our focus on individual growth for every student at our College. We are continuing to develop partnerships across our community to provide improved pathway and employment opportunities to our students.

Our Newsletter is published online on our Compass Parent Portal. We use Compass to provide information to families, please familiarise yourselves with the site. It is also a great place to easily communicate with teachers. We encourage students to also follow us on Instagram.

## Staffing for 2021

The following is a list of staff with key positions of responsibility in the College. Parents may find this list useful when contacting the College:

### Assistant Principal

Ben Milson  
Andrew Banks

### Business Manager

Jade Jackson

### Sub-School Leaders

Kate Bouchier  
Nicole Hynes  
Anne Symes  
Karen Boyce  
Rob Sinclair  
Ineke Rogers  
Brooke Summers

### Learning Specialists

Kerrie Banks  
Tim Rix

### Student Wellbeing Coordinator

Martha Maiorana

### VETIS Coordinator

Linda Snoxall

### Careers & Tertiary Advisor

Lavina Hamilton

### School to Work Coordinator

Nick Goodieson

### Student Representative Council Coordinator

Kevin Maunder

### Sport Coordinator

Emma Broadbent

## Student Leaders for 2021

We would like to congratulate our nominated and elected student leaders for 2021. We place a great emphasis on student leadership within the College, and with what I have witnessed so far we have an outstanding group of young adults this year to provide that leadership.

### College Captains 2021

Lily Milson and John Nghiem

### Deputy Captains 2021

Alejandra Retamoza-Modoo and Connor Fitzpatrick

I look forward to working with you for a successful 2021.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at the College if I can assist in any way.

### Belinda Hudak

Principal

# Assistant Principals' Report.

A warm welcome to all students and parents of Mildura Senior College who are new and returning to our learning community.

We would like to wish everyone all the best with their studies for 2021. We are confident that you will adapt to the new routine/s at our College. Your time here is a great opportunity to prepare yourself for life beyond secondary schooling.

To those students who are returning, build on your progress from last year and make the most of the opportunities that Year 12 provides. Time passes very quickly in Year 12 and students must ensure that they are up to date at all times.

We have very high expectations of our students and these will be outlined in coming Newsletters and at assemblies.

We hope you all have a great start to the year!

## Parents as Partners at Mildura Senior College

At Mildura Senior College, we recognise that family support and involvement plays a major part in a young persons ability to achieve success. We recognise that success looks different for each and every one of our young people and would like to be involved as partners with our parents in the journey of all of our young people to their chosen pathway. On Wednesday 17th February, we will be hosting a Parents as Partners information session for all of our 2020 families. This event will be held in the College GYM from 5:30 - 6:30pm. If we can do anything in addition to support your young person throughout 2020 please contact the College at any time.

## Welcome Parent Student Teacher Conferences - PST

On Tuesday 11th February we will be holding our first Parent Student Teacher Conference for 2020. This will be held at the College from 5:00pm - 7:30pm. Further information regarding this event is included in this mail out. Please save the date. We thank you in advance for taking the time to attend this important upcoming event. We look forward to meeting with you all to gain valuable information on your Son/Daughters Pathway and to discuss possible support that we are able to offer to all of our students throughout their time at the College.

Our second Parent Student Teacher conference will be held at the College on Tuesday 10th March. This will be an opportunity for all families to book appointment times with individual subject teachers. Pathways teacher and Sub School Leaders will also be available for appointment bookings if required. Appointments can be made via the Compass Parent Portal and will be open for bookings from Tuesday 25th February.

## Student Pathways, Transition and Well-Being

As a quick reference guide, parents and students are reminded that the following points will ensure a smooth start for students in 2020:

- The College has a minimum attendance requirement of 90% for all classes, including Pathways. Rolls are marked each lesson and parents will receive an SMS notifying them of an unexplained absence.
- Students must bring correct materials to all classes – this includes appropriate footwear for practical classes.
- Mobile Phones are to be kept in lockers throughout the day, including recess and lunch
- Students should not access their lockers between classes – this is disruptive and wastes time.

- The College has very high expectations of student behavior – first impressions count!
- Access to local shops during the school day is only permitted at lunch and recess only. Students are not permitted to stay at the shop after their purchase
- Smoking is not permitted on College grounds or in the vicinity of the College. This rule is strictly enforced.

If you have not already done so throughout the enrolment period, please supply the College with a current email address and mobile phone number so that we are able to contact you in regards to your Son/Daughters progress at the College.

## Student Support

The Student Services Centre is a great place for students to gain help and assistance. Sub School Leaders (formerly Student Coordinators), Student Administration and the Attendance Officer can all be found there.

## Teacher Assistance

Many staff have been scheduled into classrooms to give students individual help on Wednesday mornings.

Please encourage your student to attend school from 9am until 10.30am every Wednesday to gain this extra support.

## Homework Club

Homework Club is held in the Library after school until 5.30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday each week.

Students will benefit by attending and forming small study groups or completing individual homework and study.

## 2021 Daily Start and Finish Times

Day	Classes Start	Classes Finish
Monday	9:00am	2:20pm/3:05pm
Tuesday	9:00am	2:20pm/3:05pm
Wednesday	11:00am	3:10pm
Thursday	9:00am	3:10pm
Friday	9:00am	3:10pm

On Monday and Tuesdays, students will be required to be available until 3:25pm when a SAC (School Assessed Coursework) is scheduled. All students must attend their scheduled SAC's during this time.

## Tips for Success

Students can ensure a smooth start to the year by following these tips:

- Enter all due dates/important dates on a calendar
- Familiarise yourself with the rules as quickly as possible
- Arrive punctually to class with the correct materials
- Settle into a routine of homework, revision and study as soon as possible
- Keep up to date with all classwork
- Hand work in on time
- Ask for help
- Use Homework Club and Wednesday mornings to seek teacher help.
- Attend Parent Student Teacher Conferences (PST) (This is an opportunity for parents to meet teachers and gain assistance to improve your student's learning)

## Students Driving Cars to School

As a number of our student body are at the stage of life that enables them to be licenced drivers, it is important to point out the Mildura Senior College Student Code of Conduct stipulates the following in accordance with DET guidelines:

*"Students are not permitted to transport other students while in daily attendance at the college, or to and from any College function or event".*

This means that students cannot transport other students to and from school or during the school day. *Parent permission does NOT exclude students from this rule.*

*This rule is DET policy which the College is mandated to follow. There are no exceptions to this rule.*

*"Drivers can only park in the gymnasium carpark or on 14th Street."*

There are designated areas where students can and cannot park their car. Students who drive to school must complete a permission form and indicate where they will usually park their car. Students are not permitted to park in Havilah Crescent or on the private land between Havilah Crescent and Deakin Avenue.

*"Any licensed student wishing to drive a vehicle to school must register their details with the Assistant Principal".*

The College is required to have a list of drivers and their vehicle details in case of an emergency or accident.

*"Failure to observe this rule and to drive with adequate care in the vicinity of the College may lead to suspension and Police involvement".*

There are strict consequences for students who drive dangerously and erratically. The area in and around the College is particularly busy between 8.30am - 9.00am, 1:00pm - 2:00pm, and 3.00pm - 4.15pm and all drivers should proceed with care. **At all times**, students must observe the speed restriction zones (40km/h) in Deakin Avenue and 14th Street.

## Reports

Parents will receive regular updates (every 4 weeks) on student progress either by mail or through our Parent Portal, as well as contact details for class teachers, Pathways Teachers and Sub-School Leaders.

## School Canteen

We are currently seeking parental involvement in our school canteen. If you are available on a school day between the hours of 8:30am - 2:00pm to volunteer any amount of time to assist in our College Canteen, please contact Jade Jackson on [jacksonj@milsen.vic.edu.au](mailto:jacksonj@milsen.vic.edu.au)

## Parent Portal

Parents have received information regarding access to and use of our Parent Portal during the enrolment process. This portal will provide parents with access to a range of information, including student attendance information, timetables and reports. If there are any issues accessing the portal, please contact the College on 5021 2911 or [ictsupport@milsen.vic.edu.au](mailto:ictsupport@milsen.vic.edu.au)

We look forward to working with you all to support student success in 2021.

### Ben Milson and Andrew Banks

Assistant Principal Team

## College Council Elections

Please find attached in this Newsletter, details of the election of Parent Representatives for the next 2 school years.

## Student Injury Personal Accident Protection

Parents should be aware that the College does not provide comprehensive insurance cover for students. Parents requiring information about student insurance regarding accidents or personal items bought to school are advised to contact an insurance retailer.

## Book Collection & Fee Payments

Due to Covid-19 Restrictions our Book Collection and Fee Payment sessions will not be held at the college on 19th & 20th January 2021.

The following arrangements have been made in their place;

## Book Collection - Collins Books

Ordered books will be available for collection from 62 Langtree Avenue (former Priceline store) in the Langtree Mall during the following times.

Tuesday 19th January 10.00am to 7.00pm

Wednesday 20th January 9.00am to 2.00pm

## 2021 School Fees

Fee Statements will be emailed and posted in Mid-January. Upon receipt of your statement, fees should be paid by one of the following methods;

- Bpay - using your unique biller code & reference number on your statement
- Direct Debit - Using reference number supplied on your statement e.g. ABC123
- Credit Card by calling the College on 5021 2911 (from 22nd January 2021) and providing your students name.
- In person - The College office will be open from Friday 22nd January

If you require assistance with school fees, payment plan options may be available. Please call the college to discuss.

Essential Student Learning items such as kits and uniforms should be paid for prior to students taking possession. Excursions and activities should also be paid for prior to the student attending.

## Uniforms

Mildura Senior College uniform is available to order from Laser Signs and Print.

You can visit their online store [www.lasersp.com.au](http://www.lasersp.com.au) or their store front at 3a Andriske Court Mildura.

Collection available from Wednesday 20th January.



**MILDURA SENIOR COLLEGE**  
*a pathway to the future*

## All absences must be verified by one of the following:

- Compass: Parent Portal ([www.milsen.vic.edu.au](http://www.milsen.vic.edu.au))
- Compass: Parent App (*Compass School Manager*)
  - Email: [attendance@milsen.vic.edu.au](mailto:attendance@milsen.vic.edu.au)
  - Phone: 5021 2911 (*option 1*)
  - Medical Certificate
  - Appointment notification
- A signed and dated note with student full name

## 2021 VET Information

### 2021 School-based Apprenticeship & Traineeship (SBAT) Information

Students are to confirm their SBAT program and days out of school with the team in the VET office (located at Deakin TTC) on their first day of school. This will ensure the student's timetable and attendance are correct.

If you have not provided the VET team with your Training Plan and details from your Training Contract please do so as soon as possible.

If you have further questions please email [vet@milsen.vic.edu.au](mailto:vet@milsen.vic.edu.au) or contact Linda (VET Coordinator) on 5002 0212 or Melissa (VET Administration Officer) on 5021 2911.

**Linda Snoxall**  
VET Coordinator

## Melbourne University VCE Summer School Residential Program

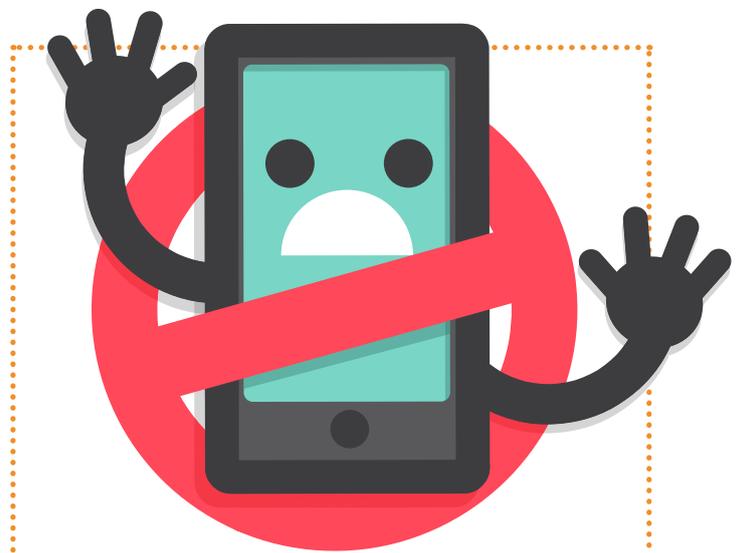
Congratulations to Jack Bennet and Elana Parnis for their acceptance into the Melbourne University VCE Summer School Residential Program.

The program is a two week tutoring program which aims to help them to get a Head Start in their Year 12 subjects of English, Chemistry, Maths Methods, Software Development, Biology and Physics.

The tutors will teach and provide many tips, tricks and pointers to achieving best results in VCE. The students will be residing at St Hilda's College. This placement is designed to give Jack and Elana a taste of University life, as well as the opportunity to explore the city of Melbourne. Fun activities include trivia, a scavenger hunt and carnival day.

We wish them all the best on their successful application to the Summer School.

**Ineke Rogers**  
Science Teacher



## Mobile Phone Not Permitted at School in 2021

Mobile Phones are not permitted at school. If students bring their phones to school they must be locked in their lockers for the day. They are not permitted to be used during the school day on school grounds, this includes recess and lunch time. Students who cannot self-manage their phones can sign them in to the office at the start of the school day and sign them out when they leave.

Parents and employers are asked that if they need to contact students during the school day they will need to leave a message at the College office or leave a voice/text message for students to respond to when school is finished. We ask that students speak to employers about this.

Attached to this Newsletter is the DET Media release provided to all families at Enrolment about the Mobile Phone Ban.

Students with medical conditions can apply for an exemption. This form can be collected from the front office. Students must display their exemption card on their phone at all time, Students with exemptions must still have phones on silent and out of sight unless otherwise permitted.

Mildura Senior College is committed to students' success. To help achieve this, we try to create environments where you are best able to engage with, absorb and retain vital knowledge.

Did you know that by simply having your phone nearby, your concentration and retention drops?

Research released by the London School of Economics in 2015 found that student performance increased by 6.4% in schools that banned mobile phones. 1

A US study found that, 'even when people are successful at maintaining sustained attention—as when avoiding the temptation to check their phones—the mere presence of these devices reduces available cognitive capacity'.3

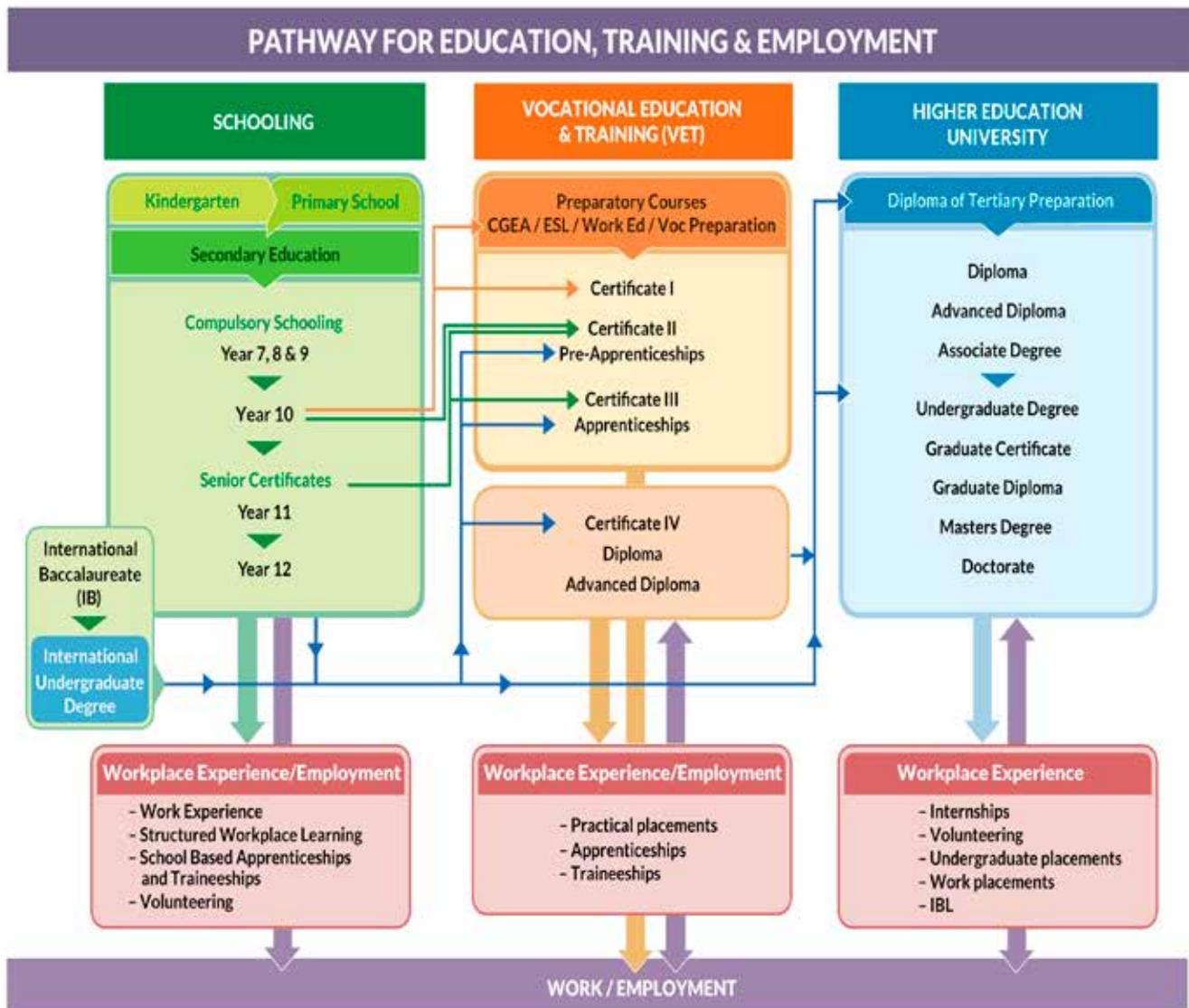
An education expert recently said he believed mobile phone-related distraction was a main reason for Australia sliding down an important international education ranking.2

1. <http://cep.lse.ac.uk/pubs/download/dp1350.pdf>
2. [www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/28/what-do-five-experts-think-about-mobile-phones-in-schools](http://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/28/what-do-five-experts-think-about-mobile-phones-in-schools)
3. [www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/691462](http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/691462)

# Future Options for Students

There are many ways for our students to find a future pathway.

Below is a chart of the many pathways possible.



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*Staff will be onsite at Mildura Senior College on Wednesday 30th December to assist students from 9.00-3.30pm to assist with job inquiries.*

Look for Tertiary courses by following link <https://www.courseseeker.edu.au/>. It lists all possible courses in Australia in your student's area of interest and also lists the lowest ATAR required.

## 50 Jobs in 50 Days EMPLOYMENT Opportunities

Mildura Regional Development and partners in economic recovery locally, have set a target of creating 50 Jobs in 50 Days, to provide opportunities for our community to STAY LOCAL and BE EMPLOYED LOCAL..

Students can register and apply for jobs using the link: <https://www.milduraregion.com.au/resources/industry-employment/> and by clicking on the "Job Seekers" button.

SMGT Sunraysia Murray Group Training also have job and training opportunities for our students.

The link is <https://www.smgmt.com.au/>

# School Council Elections - Information for Parents

## WHAT IS A SCHOOL COUNCIL AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

## WHO IS ON THE SCHOOL COUNCIL?

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

- A mandated elected Parent category - more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
- A mandated elected DET employee category - members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category - members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. Department employees are not eligible to be Community members.

A small number of school councils have Nominee members.

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

A mandated elected Student member category, with two positions.

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

## WHY IS PARENT MEMBERSHIP SO IMPORTANT??

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

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

## DO I NEED SPECIAL EXPERIENCE TO BE ON SCHOOL COUNCIL?

Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role. Councilors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

## HOW CAN YOU BECOME INVOLVED?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term one each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might consider

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

## WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO TO STAND FOR ELECTION?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term one each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

Department employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed

## REMEMBER

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections



**FOLLOW US TO  
KEEP UPDATED!!**



**Mildura Senior College**

Respect. Resilience. Responsibility. Independence. Success.

## SCHEDULE 4: NOTICE OF ELECTION AND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of ***Mildura Senior College***

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on **Monday, 15th February 2021**.

The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on **Monday, 1st March 2021**.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school.

The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	TERM OF OFFICE	NUMBER OF POSITIONS
Parent member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2021 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2023	6
DET employee member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2021 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2023	2
Community member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2021 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2023	3

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

***Belinda Hudak***

Principal