

**EAST DONCASTER SECONDARY COLLEGE  
SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS – STUDENT CATEGORY 2019**

Wednesday 6 February 2019

Dear Students,

The Department of Education recently mandated changes to the formation of all secondary School Councils. As of mid-2018, all Victorian government Secondary School Councils with students in Year 7 and above must conduct a Student school council election process to elect two students for Council membership.

Student members of School Council will have the same role and responsibilities as other Council members, including full voting rights. Student members will be expected to prepare for and attend all council meetings, in line with the requirements for school councillors.

To be eligible to run in the Student member category, that person must be a student enrolled in Year 7 or above at the school where they are seeking to be on council. There is no minimum age requirement.

From 2019, students will be elected to council for a two-year term of office. Student Councillors are not permitted to share their role and are elected to council on the expectation they will attend all meetings (held monthly) and serve their full term of office.

At East Doncaster Secondary College, we have (for the past ten years) had such representation on our School Council and it has been a very important and valued aspect of our College operations. Our School Captains have undertaken this role.

Moving forward our School Captains will remain as voting members of School Council in the Community Member category. Our Council has undertaken to further discuss the student composition of the EDSC School Council but it is permissible to allow four students on Council. Today we are calling for nominations for Council.

**Who is on the College school council?**

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.
- **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.
- **A mandated elected student category.** In 2018 The Department of Education mandated changes to the formation of all secondary School Councils. As of mid-2018, all Victorian government Secondary School Councils with students in Year 7 and above must conduct a Student school council election process to elect two students for Council membership.
- **An optional community member category.** Its members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be community members.

The term of office for members is two years.

The indicative dates for the 2019 School Council meetings are:

Wednesday 13 February

Wednesday 13 March – AGM and School Council Meeting (Welcome to new members)

Wednesday 8 May

Wednesday 12 June

Wednesday 14 August

Wednesday 11 September

Wednesday 9 October

Wednesday 13 November

Wednesday 11 December

**In the 2019 School Council Elections there are:**

- **Six vacant parent category positions**
- **Two vacant DET positions**
- **One vacant student category position**

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

Please give this your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

John Roberts  
Principal