



# FACT SHEET

## ORBOST REGENERATION

From the 2021-22 State Budget, Orbost Secondary College received \$7.271 million.

This funding will support the college, Orbost North Primary School and Orbost Primary School to come together to create a new P-12 college on the existing school site.

We are supporting two local primary schools and one secondary school to come together to form a new P-12 college in Orbost. The new school will be located on the existing Orbost Secondary College site.

The merger, which includes Orbost Primary School, Orbost North Primary School and Orbost Secondary College, aims to provide all students with greater opportunities in first-rate facilities.

The Victorian Government aims to make sure every student has access to excellence in every government school and classroom by building pride and confidence in each local education community.

The Orbost regeneration is the result of years of work between three school communities. A working party, which consists of Principals and school council representatives across each of the three schools, was formed in 2019. It will continue to identify, develop, and explore all options to ensure the best possible educational opportunities are available to all students in the Orbost area.

The key areas of focus will be:

- developing an educational facility that provides for all students and families in our community
- improving the quality and consistency of teaching and wellbeing practices boosting our ability to attract and retain quality staff
- improving our schools' ability to provide a guaranteed and viable curriculum across a range of subject areas.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Who is in the working party and what do they do?**

The working party consists of Principals and school council members representing their three school communities. It was formed in 2019, but the schools have been working together for many years and meeting regularly to discuss the current and future needs of their students and schools. The working party developed the proposal for the schools to merge as its conversations focused on the best use of current facilities, the retention of staff and the curriculum available to all students.

### **Why was this decision made?**

By coming together on one site, and building on the already strong, collaborative relationships of the schools, students will have access to more subject choices and teachers, and educators will receive more opportunities for professional learning and development. We can build on the work already achieved to create a new P-12 college and support the local community to see greater educational outcomes for students.

The merger was driven by the schools and school councils and proposed after significant consideration. This included multiple site visits to other P-12 schools throughout 2019. The three school councils passed a motion for the merger at the end of 2019.

### **Why was the Orbost Secondary College site chosen?**

The site was chosen by the working party in partnership with the Department for its size, location, and centrality for the school community. The site is the largest of the three schools in the regeneration project and will provide all students with access to more subjects, a wider range of facilities and will support the transition between primary and secondary learning by building earlier, closer relationships between students, staff and educators.

### **Will the school be able to fit all three schools' students?**

Funding allocated from the 2021-22 State Budget will provide facilities for students across Orbost Primary School, Orbost North Primary School and Orbost Secondary College to come together and operate from the secondary school site.

### **What does this mean for students?**

Students will receive greater access to subjects that weren't available due to lower student numbers or lack of resources, facilities, and staff. It means being part of a wider network and school community, improved transitions and wellbeing support as students move from primary to secondary learning and closer connections between students and staff.

### **What does this mean for staff?**

Staff will gain opportunities for greater professional learning and development and earlier access to teachers of new students to better understand their learning needs. A shared approach to teaching and learning supports staff, teachers, and educators to learn and grow from one another.

### **What does this mean for our community?**

The merger was driven by three school communities working together to ensure Orbost students and families had access to greater educational opportunities. Having primary and secondary years on the one site will encourage parents, families, and carers to come together across multiple age ranges and help build a stronger school community. Families will gain a greater understanding of their child's learning and achievements through a unified curriculum and have closer access to staff and teachers.



## NEXT STEPS

In partnership with the Department, we will continue to support the three schools and the working party to understand these next steps and provide the community with clear communications and updates. This will include communicating timelines of events during development of the P-12 College. We will ensure all staff, students, parents, families, and carers are involved throughout this merger and will soon release a business plan developed by the working party.

We will work with each school community to ensure we capture its history and bring its identity to the new P-12 College.

Now that funding has been announced, the schools will take part in the Asset Management Planning process through the VSBA. This work will support the development of a masterplan for the school. This work will involve the support of staff, students, parents, families, and carers to shape the future of the school.