



SCOTCH  
COLLEGE  
MELBOURNE

FOUNDED 1851

# Timetable Reform

2025/2026



# Timetable Reform Overview

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## Background

From 2025, Scotch College will be implementing a series of important timetable reforms aimed at enhancing student learning outcomes. These innovative reforms will be introduced over a two-year period and aim to improve academic rigour and offer the highest standard of educational practice.

These enhancements support the school's strategic plan and commitment to being a world leader in boys' education and teacher development. The School Council and Executive are dedicated to ensuring Scotch remains at the forefront of best educational practice and develops powerful learners who are equipped to thrive in an ever-changing world.

## Why we are reforming our timetable

As part of our strategic planning process and subsequent timetable review, we have identified the opportunity to create greater efficiency in our timetable to reflect best practice in education. The timetable has not been reviewed in over 18 years, and these reforms are designed to ensure it supports the very best learning experience for our boys.

In the Parent Information Sessions in Week 2 of Term 3, senior members of staff will provide detailed information on the necessary timetable reforms that will be made in 2025 and 2026.

In summary, these changes:

- Increase focused learning time for core subjects
- Improve efficiency and intentionality in the current timetable
- Foster a culture of service, character development and personal growth
- Provide dedicated time for teacher collaboration and professional development focused on improving student outcomes

## Key reforms

### Timetable cycle and period length:

- Moving from a 6-day cycle to a 10-day cycle, providing a simplified structure for students and staff.
- Increasing period lengths from 45 to 50 minutes.

### **Additional Junior School reforms:**

- Creating a simplified timetable to assist each student with self-organisation and improve the flow of their day.
- Introducing greater intentionality to the academic structure, ensuring every subject receives adequate and consistent time across all year levels to achieve better uniformity in curriculum delivery.
- Redistributing lessons to front-load more intensive learning periods in the morning when students learn best, with one key lesson scheduled after lunch.
- Allocating all learning time to specific subjects to ensure consistency, increasing meaningful teaching and learning time by approximately 75 minutes per week.

### **Additional Senior School reforms:**

- Removing 35 minutes of transition time between lessons each day.
- Providing equal curriculum time to VCE subjects by reducing time allocations to Christian Education and PE (currently, some VCE subjects have five periods per cycle while others have six). Under the new timetable all VCE subjects will have nine periods per cycle.
- Increasing time for core units such as Maths, Science and English across the senior years.
- Introducing a new program on Thursday afternoons and, from 2026, a more meaningful service program on Wednesday afternoons. These programs will mean less disruptions to classroom time and provide integrated service and learning opportunities, fostering new skills development, community involvement and personal growth.
- Providing a specific time for scheduling of SACS to avoid clashes with other scheduled classes.
- Changing start and finish times for Years 7-12 to an 8.50am start and 3.30pm finish, aiming to ease congestion, and improve safety and efficiency during peak traffic hours. A later start time for academic classes will also allow additional training and music sessions to take place before school.

### **Staff development:**

- Establishing a dedicated Staff Professional Learning & Collaboration program focussed on improving student outcomes.

## **Changes to Learning Hours by Subject**

Graphs showing changes to learning hours for each year level, by subject, are available at the links below.

- [Prep to Year 6](#)
- [Year 7 to Year 12](#)

## Information sessions

Scotch is holding Parent Information sessions on Tuesday 23 July, Wednesday 24 July and Thursday 25 July to provide further details of the reforms.

Further details, including registration links and an opportunity to raise questions will be included in this week's edition of *The Torch*. Please note that we will do our best to answer as many questions as possible during the sessions, and any not covered in the session will be addressed in follow-up communication. A recording will be available for parents unable to attend.

## Further consultation

The timetable reforms were informed by consultation with staff, families and students. We will continue to refine specific elements in the new programs and will invite further input over the coming terms.