

**University High School
8405**

**2008 Annual Report to the
School Community**



School Overview

Environmental Context

The University High School caters for approximately 1,200 students, most of whom reside in the local area. A proportion of the school's enrolment comes from further afield, either to participate in special programs like music and the gifted education program, or because of sibling claims. The school population has broad socio-economic, cultural and ethnic diversity and the school has a genuine commitment to nurturing this diversity. The school is constantly evolving, valuing the rich traditions of the past and the challenges of the future. The school acknowledges a dynamic community of staff, students and parents, who focus on the school with active partnerships. We value a sense of individual worth and achievement, the comprehensive well being of the whole person and the pursuit of excellence.

Mission

The University High School is a state government secondary school within a knowledge precinct, providing outstanding education for local students while achieving excellent academic results and appropriate student pathways. The school is a leader in educational debates and is a specialist provider of educational programs in gifted education and music education. It is also a partner in providing biotechnology education at a statewide and international level.

Vision

The school will be a large secondary school with a supportive student centred learning program and with significant student teacher partnerships. The school curriculum will continue to be discipline based but with an increased use of rich tasks and enquiry based learning. Teachers will be learners and researchers. Students will be able to achieve excellence in learning across the broad curriculum and outcomes will continue to be outstanding. An extensive co-curricula program will continue to engage students. The school will be a stimulating, safe and well resourced learning environment, where all students are maximising their potential. The individual well-being of each student will be supported, and students will develop

emotionally and intellectually through engagement in dynamic programs and tasks which are challenging and relevant. The school will be part of a knowledge precinct with clear links to nearby research institutions such as universities, hospitals, medical research institutes and neighbourhood primary schools. The school will be a statewide, specialist music school and an international leader in both biotechnology education for students and gifted education. The challenge for the school will be to extend its outstanding record of local education to become a leader in key educational issues.

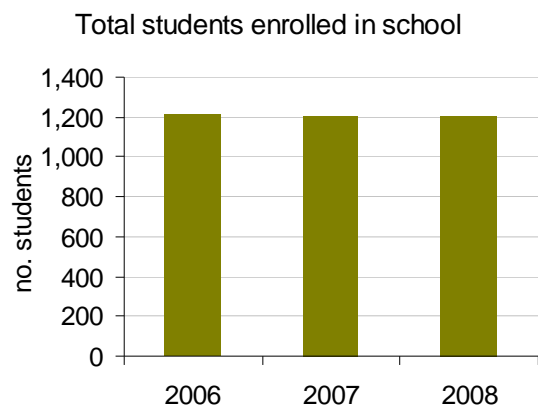
Values

These are the confirmed values originally developed and agreed to by the school community in 2003.

The University High School values:

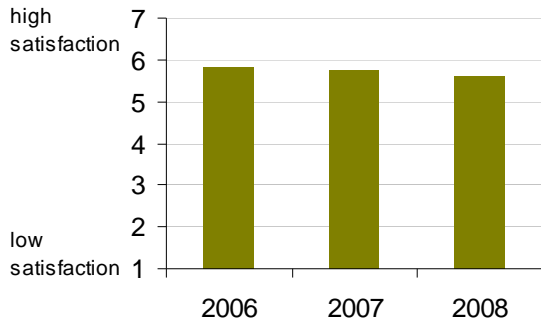
- A culture of excellence in learning and teaching
- The diversity brought to the school by students, teachers and parents.
- Programs which cater to a range of learning styles and which foster independent thought, critical thinking and collaborative learning.
- Development of social responsibility and personal qualities such as integrity, resilience, respect for oneself and for others.
- Students who have gained a wide range of skills and the self confidence to participate effectively in society and meet future challenges in the world.
- Policies and practices which promote enrichment and extension in both the formal curriculum and co-curricula activities.
- Active partnerships between students, staff, parents and the wider community to enrich educational opportunities.

Student enrolments



Parent Satisfaction

Parents' satisfaction with this school
(average score on scale of 1 to 7, where 7 is best possible score)



The average score for UHS parent satisfaction is 5.62 on a scale of 1 to 7 where 7 is the best possible score. This is marginally below the average score in 2007 as shown in the table above.

Commonwealth Requirements

Teacher Satisfaction

The average score for UHS teacher satisfaction (morale) was 3.5 on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 is the best possible score.

Teacher Absence - The average number of sick leave days per teacher in 2008 was xx days. *(insert xx when data is made available on April 4)*

Teacher Retention - Of the 110 teaching service staff at June 2007 (including those on leave without pay), 97 or 88% 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 the VCAA seminars, DEECD courses and conferences, Post Graduate studies and the Induction and Mentoring program for beginning teachers.

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 www.vit.vic.edu.au

Student Progress & Achievements

Student Learning

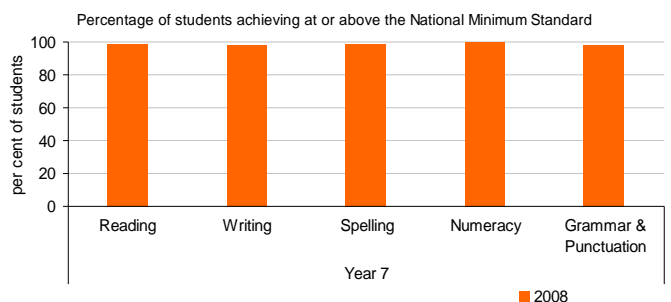
As outlined in our strategic plan we are focusing on the improvement of VCE All Study mean, student outcomes for all students, student engagement and motivation, transitions into and during secondary school, student wellbeing and parent relations with the school.

Our other targets included maintaining the percentage of students completing VCE or its equivalent, and maintaining real retention of students at all year levels.

The key improvement strategies for 2008 and detailed action plan are outlined in the annual implementation plan.

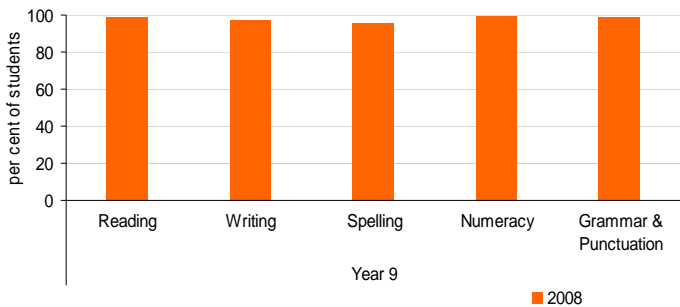
UHS has been progressing towards achievement of the goals and targets as outlined in the school's strategic plan in the three student outcomes areas – student learning, student pathways and transitions and student engagement and wellbeing.

Percentage of students achieving at or above the National Minimum Standards – Year 7



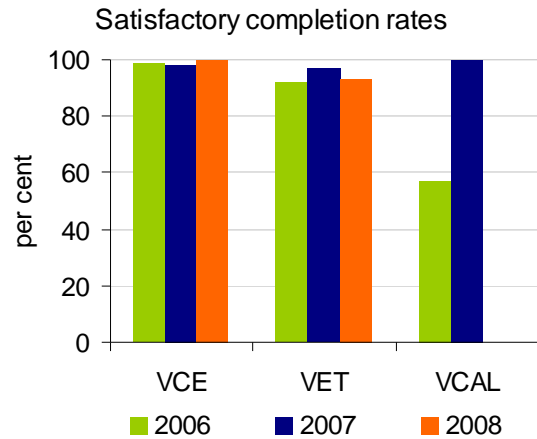
The percentage of Year 7 who, according to their NAPLAN results, are achieving at or above the National Minimum Standard is at 100% for Numeracy and above 98% in Literacy in 2008 at University High School.

Percentage of students achieving at or above the National Minimum Standards – Year 9



The percentage of Year 9 who, according to their NAPLAN results, are achieving at or above the National Minimum Standard is at 99.5% in Numeracy and above 95% in Literacy in 2008 at University High School.

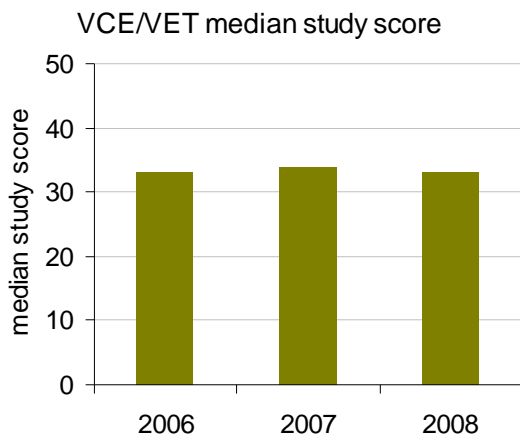
Satisfactory completion rates



The table above presents the satisfactory completion rates for UHS. In 2008:

- 100% of eligible VCE students completed VCE.
- 93% of VET units completed in a year.
- UHS did not have any students undertaking a VCAL course in 2008.

VCE/VET median study score



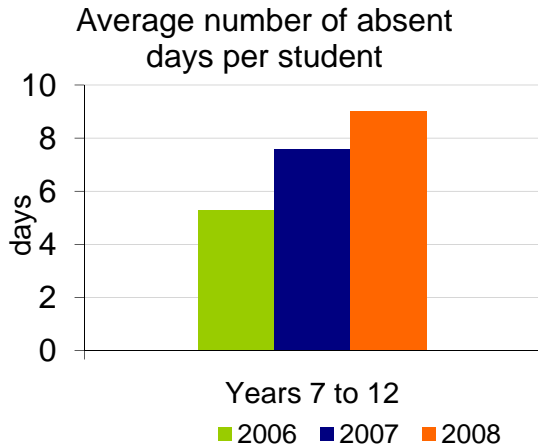
In 2008, 18.2 % of students at UHS received a VCE study score of 40 or more, with the mean for all state government schools at 5.9%. The 2008 All study mean for UHS was 33.2

The following key improvement strategies and professional learning activities have been particularly effective in improving student outcomes:

- Professional learning teams in each of the VELs Domains and in the areas of: Literacy and special projects
- Performance and Development culture: Successful accreditation as a Performance and Development Culture school in 2008.

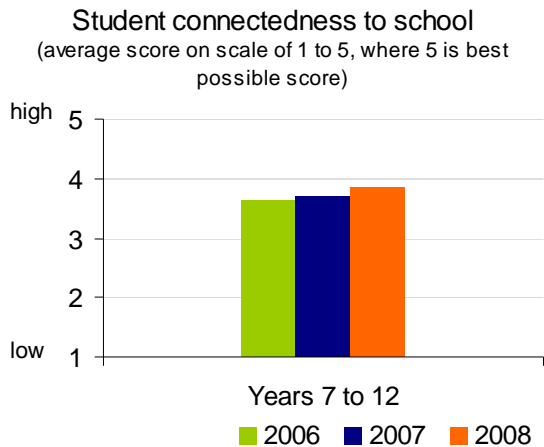
Student Engagement and Wellbeing

Average number of absent days per student –



With a whole school average of 9.0 days in 2008 UHS is still significantly below the state-wide average of 16.3 days.

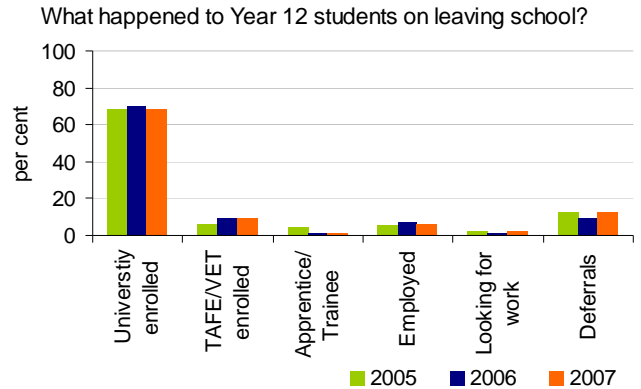
Students' school connectedness



Year 7 to 12 students were asked to what extent they agreed with each of the five statements (I feel good about being a student at this school, I like school this year, I am happy to be at this school, I feel I belong at this school, I look forward to going to school) on a scale where 1=strongly disagree and 5=strongly agree. The students' connectedness to school score is at an average of 3.83 where 5 is the best possible score.

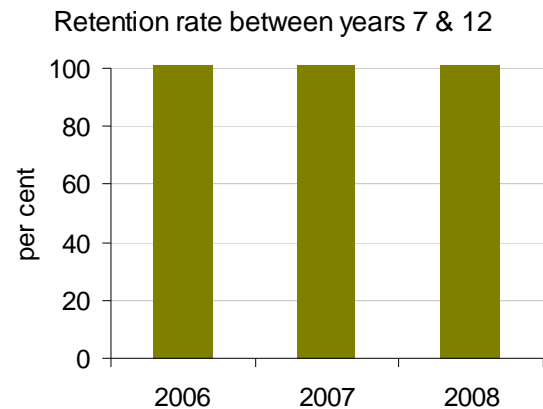
Student Pathways and Transitions

Student destination data –



This data is sourced from the On Track survey and indicates 2007 completers of UHS.

Retention rate between Years 7 & 12



The retention rates remain stable at technically 100% over the last three years. In fact apparent retention rates are 120% as more students enter the school than leave.

Future Directions

In 2009, the school will be in the final year of the DEECD Strategic Plan cycle and will undertake a Self-Evaluation and Review. The next Strategic Plan for University High School will begin in 2010.

The current strategic plan includes five goals for improvement in Student Learning, Student Pathways and Transitions and Student Engagement and Wellbeing.

The Key Implementation Strategies for 2009 are detailed in the 2009 Annual Implementation Plan. They are:

- Implement the Victorian Essential Learnings
- Enhance the teaching in the various stages of learning by means of professional learning teams which respond to student needs and school values.
- Develop and implement action plan that reflects policy and strategies for continuation of a Performance and Development Culture post Accreditation
- Track all students and develop individual pathways for all year 10 to 12 students.
- Communicate to the school community framework and codes of Well Being for students and staff; supported by our mission, vision and values
- Continue to develop and implement Wellbeing Program Years 7 - 12
- Continuously improve our provision of education for local students, whilst providing outstanding programs for gifted, music, and biotechnology education. Extend our links to the Knowledge Precinct.

Our plans for improvement are always guided by our school values and reflected in the Strategic Plan.

Financial Performance and Position

Financial Performance – Operating Statement Summary for the year ending 31st December, 2008	
Revenue	2008 Actual
DE&T Grants	\$1,134,661
Commonwealth Government Grants	\$47,049
State Government Grants	\$21,069
Other	\$656,367
Locally Raised Funds	\$1,658,627
Total Operating Revenue	\$3,517,773
Expenditure	
Salaries and Allowances	\$709,429
Bank Charges	\$7,441
Consumables	\$254,824
Books and Publications	\$74,837
Communication Costs	\$51,629
Furniture and Equipment	\$328,124
Utilities	\$82,763
Property Services	\$856,499
Travel and Subsistence	\$12,238
Motor Vehicle Expenses	\$438
Administration	\$56,397
Health and Personal Development	\$1,515
Professional Development	\$92,426
Trading and Fundraising	\$211,987
Support/Service	\$258,878
Miscellaneous	\$397,625
Total Operating Expenditure	\$3,397,050
Net Operating Surplus/- Deficit	\$120,723
Capital Expenditure	\$209,974
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	\$761,029.43
Official Account	\$473,755.55
Building Fund	\$643.86
Library Fund	\$1,875.72
Co-operative Account	\$36,461.19
Term Deposit – Bequest	\$25,000.00
VTU Term Deposit	\$200,000.00
Term Deposit NAB	\$550,000.00
Centenary Building Fund	\$100,423.59
Bequest Robertson	\$2,500.00
Bequest – Jordan	\$12,700.00
Bequest – McDonald	\$2,000.00
Bequest – Sharman	\$8,000.00
Bequest – Keane	\$1,000.00
Bequest – Langford	\$10,000.00
Bequest – Searby	\$3,000.00
Bequest – Parent Assoc	\$1,100.00
Bequest- H. Tinter	\$1,500.00
MS Sharman Memorial	\$40,850.00
Total Funds Available	\$2,231,839.34
Financial Commitments	2008 Actual
School Operating Reserve	\$473,798.20
Co-operative Bank Account	\$37,512.00
Assets or Equipment Replacement < 12 months	\$158,202.41
Revenue Received in Advance	\$503,067.30
Building/Grounds including SMS < 12 months	\$400,961.43
Region /Clusters Funds/School Based Programs < 12 months	\$305,595.00
Provision Accounts < 12 months	\$24,993.00
Repayable to DEECD	\$99,082.00
Other Recurrent Expenditure (Accounts Payable)	
Assets or Equipment Replacement > 12 months	
Building/Grounds including SMS > 12 months	\$99,082.00
Region /Clusters Funds/School Based Programs > 12 months	
Provision Accounts > 12 months	
Co-operative loan >12 months	
Beneficiary/Memorial Accounts	\$129,546.00
Total Financial Commitments	\$2,231,839.34

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 Heather Thompson, Assistant Principal, phone 9347 2022.