



---

# SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2023

---

+61 3 9497 4777

[info@ags.vic.edu.au](mailto:info@ags.vic.edu.au)

Old Heidelberg Road Alphington 3078

[www.alphington.vic.edu.au](http://www.alphington.vic.edu.au)

ABN 11 007 434 362

CRICOS 01376D

# Alphington Grammar School is unique in Melbourne's educational landscape

Situated on 3 hectares of attractive parkland abutting Darebin Creek, just 7 kilometres from the CBD, Alphington Grammar School has been designed from its inception to be an academically strong, non- denominational, school that embraces and promotes Teaching and Learning excellence.

Alphington Grammar School is within easy reach of the inner, Eastern and Northern suburbs and accessible by public transport and major commuter corridors. The school also has a number of private bus services throughout the suburbs that bring students to our school. Alphington Grammar School also boasts an abundance of open space, shaded by native fauna and flora and mature landscape making it an idyllic learning environment.



# From the Principal

The school welcomed 2023 with a sense of optimism open to new challenges, adventures, risks and opportunities. As educators we encourage children regularly to embrace change, challenge themselves, to be curious, to ask questions, to dig deeper, to pursue opportunities and explore new interests, and grow. We ask the same of ourselves as educators. After the last few years 2023 afforded us the chance to reevaluate and reset. It was a real joy to see students and families reconnect as one big community and witness firsthand the genuine desire to contribute fully to school life and seize the opportunities presented to them.

Our school is bursting with opportunities to learn and grow both in and out of the classroom. In 2023 students were involved in Sports Teams, Musical Ensembles, Productions and Concerts, Debating, Leadership opportunities, Chess Competitions, Camps, House Events, Community Service, Fundraising, and Visual Art Exhibitions. Students had the benefit of over 60 Clubs and Societies across the school, participated in Work Experience but to name just a few of the opportunities open to them in our School, however, amongst the greatest of opportunities was the ability to travel overseas again which saw over 100 students and staff visit London, Rome, Sicily and Greece in 2023 which included a physical trek through the Samarian Gorge in Crete.

The opportunities did not stop there, and our achievements were many. The STEM faculty proudly celebrated their best effort in the Computational Algorithmic Thinking (C.A.T) Competition with four of our students receiving distinctions placing them in the top 10% of the state. Our Debaters did us proud with 2 of our Year 12 students **Adam Patane** winning the best speaker in every one of this debates and **Chloe Portoglou** being invited to participate in the State Debating Competitions.

Our Greek language program continues to receive State Government recognition in the Early Years following the successful expansion of our **Greek Immersion Program**. Our commitment to our Greek founding forefathers and our multicultural underpinnings saw our students participate in Public Speaking and Film Festivals, writing and online language competitions with Alphington being awarded *First in Greek in the World* in the **Education Perfect** Competition.

The Interactive Exhibit showcased “Heros, Myths and Monsters” in both Chinese and Greek with many linked language activities, art competitions and even a seminar for parents raising children bilingually. Street performances, assemblies and multiple community events helps demonstrate to our students how interconnected and multicultural our world is.

Our **Sports** Faculty saw multiple successes: In Swimming seven students were placed third out of twenty one schools. Strength was evident in the Athletics with strong results in the 100, 200 and 400 metre events as well as shot put, discus and long jump. Our Primary School equally excelled in Junior Boys Soccer and Boys Tee Ball, and our Middle Years Boys and Girls Softball Teams. All made Grand Finals. The main issue for us as a school is that we must urgently build capacity with sporting infrastructure.

For a School our size I am proud to showcase the strength of the **Music and Performing Arts** faculties. 2023 has been the strongest year for the Private Instrumental program with 222 students participating. The largest cast successfully delivered the Secondary School Production “Into the Woods”, the Prep to Year 4 production of Pirates versus Mermaids and Sea Fish was a sellout event and the Years 5 and 6 Production certainly showcased the incredible talent of our students. Multiple Soloist evenings, the Annual Music Concert, and visiting international musicians have all provided incredible performance opportunities for

our students. Equally, one only has to walk around the school to see the incredible creative talents of our students in **Art and Design** pieces proudly displayed everywhere.

Developing leadership opportunities for all year levels has been a real focus for us at Alphington, the **Student Leadership Team** both: the Primary and Secondary School Student Leaders of 2023 have gone above and beyond in so many ways to demonstrate “Servant Leadership” becoming a welcoming face and being visible in all aspects of school life. Aside from their individual portfolios our leaders have contributed as key pastoral care support agents to new students and those needing more support throughout their educational journey. They implemented a variety of fundraising events and introduced fresh ways to give back to the broader community. “Shave for a Cure” and the “Disability Soccer Players Exhibition Match” as well as the great work of our Environment Club are worthy community contributors. They have run school tours leading with both their Head and their Hearts. I thank all school leaders for their extraordinary contribution in 2023.

### **School Council**

All our School Council members give much of their time voluntarily to help ensure good governance, the financial health of the School, determine strategy and commit to the infrastructure needs of our school. I have been fortunate to have shared my time as Principal with wonderful Chairs of School Council, most recently **Associate Professor Marinis Pirpiris** from 2017 to 2023. Alongside an incredibly busy professional life as a leading orthopaedic surgeon, who gives much time to training other surgeons here in Australia and overseas, Professor Pirpiris has stood by the School during our recent periods that saw a new administration block, STEM and Library added to the School. Alongside this, Professor Pirpiris was an immeasurable support to our School during the COVID years that saw the steady avalanche of locked down periods. His intimate knowledge of the medical world, his work in our leading hospitals meant we had up to date and relevant information on which we could base our decisions on. Professor Pirpiris has served our School incredibly well throughout his term in office however his very busy professional life makes it difficult to continue in the role. I thank Professor Pirpiris for his professional and personal support of me and our School.

In 2023 we welcomed our new Co-Chairs of School Council **Mr Michael Karamitos** both a past parent of our School and member of the Greek Community Board and **Ms Angela Georgalis** (currently on maternity leave). It has been wonderful to work with Mr Karamitos on the school’s next stage of growth and development and the new strategic plan. I thank Michael for his enthusiasm, energy and hands on approach to matters that affect our school.

Running a school cannot be done in isolation and, I take this opportunity to thank the Heads of Campus, **Mr Lukas Silver** and **Mrs Tracey Nicholson** and, the staff of Alphington Grammar School who give tirelessly of themselves supporting our students in and out of the classroom.

The financial health of our school is due to the checks and balances the School Finance Department has in place. I thank **Mrs Pippa Birch** for her stewardship for the last 3 years especially during the difficult COVID years and wish her well in her retirement. In 2023 we welcomed **Mrs Louisa Johnstone** our new Business Manager and **Ms Claudia Callero** our new Finance Manager as together they steer us through the next stage. 2023 presented them with more challenges than we could have imagined including the cyber attack which took up much of Mrs Johnstone’s time and energy while still working on upgrading the financial systems she has inherited.

To the **Administration staff** whose support we are indebted to, I thank you all for what they do throughout the year to ensure all operational levers are well oiled and work efficiently.

As we have entered our 35<sup>th</sup> year since the School opened I look forward to all that 2024 will bring and continuing to build and strengthen our school.



# The school's vision, values and mission

## Vision Statement

The school's vision is to be recognised throughout Melbourne as providing an exemplary total learning experience in a uniquely rich, international and inclusive secular environment.

## Values



## Mission Statement

1. Inspire and equip all students to strive for excellence in their academic, creative and sporting pursuits and to reach their personal best in all fields;
2. Nurture and promote the unique qualities and personal well-being of all students and their respect for the individuality of others;
3. Equip all students with the knowledge, skills and attributes to participate successfully in Australian Society, and to develop lifelong learning skills that will prepare them for a multitude of futures in a globally mobile workforce;
4. Promote students' understanding and appreciation of our culturally diverse society, including the teaching of Greek language and culture, and of the contribution of the Hellenic intellectual tradition to the development and progress of human society.



# Staffing Matters

## Senior Management Team

Led by the Principal, **Dr Vivianne Nikou**, the Senior Management Team (SMT) of Alphington Grammar School has overall responsibility for the strategic daily management of the whole school, from Pre-Prep to Year 12. Each member of the SMT has their specialist areas of expertise, whilst also working cohesively as a group to be proactive and responsive to the changing demands of the educational landscape.

### **Principal**

Dr Vivianne Nikou B.A, Dip.Ed., M.Ed Pol Admin, D.B.A, AMACEL., MACE., AFAIM

### **Assistant Principal—Head of Primary**

Tracey Nicholson Dip.Teach.Prim

### **Assistant Principal—Head of Secondary**

Lukas Silver BA, Dip Ed, PGCE (School Leadership)

### **Business Manager**

Louisa Johnstone B.Com (CPA)



## School Council Members 2023

The Governing Body of Alphington Grammar is the School Council. School Council is responsible for ensuring the good governance and financial health of the school.

Ms Angela **Georgalis** -Co Chair of School Council

Mr Michael **Karamitos** -Co Chair of School Council

Mr George **Doukas**

Mrs Louisa **Johnstone** – Business Manager

Ms Voula **Kallianis**

Mr Nick **Koukouvitis**

Ms Vicki **Kyritsis**

Mr Peter **Nikolakakos**

Dr Vivianne **Nikou** – Principal

Ms Danielle **Permezel**

Associate Professor Marinis **Pirpiris**

Mr Steve **Siolis**

Mr Manuel **Tsirmiris** – Finance, Risk and Audit





# A Growing Tradition of Academic Success

## Staff Professional Development

Developing our staff professionally is as important as ensuring our students grow. The staff appraisal system we operate here is based on self-reflection, peer and student surveys which informs a targeted and relevant carousel of professional development. Our teachers collaborate with their Faculty Leaders during the staff appraisal period and based on; personal and academic targets, self-reflection, and constructive feedback we determine the most beneficial course of professional development.

We are very proud of our 'team' approach here at Alphington led by strong academic and pastoral professionals – collaboration is a defining feature of our academic success.



## Staff 2023

### **Principal**

Dr Vivianne Nikou B.A, Dip.Ed., M.Ed Pol Admin, D.B.A, AMACEL., MACE., AFAIM

### **Assistant Principal, Head of Secondary**

Lukas Silver BA, Dip Ed, PGCE (School Leadership)

### **Assistant Principal, Head of Primary**

Tracey Nicholson Dip.Teach.Prim

### **Business Manager**

Pippa Birch, BCompt (Honours), CA (Semester 1)

Louisa Johnstone B.Com (CPA)

### **Executive Assistant to the Principal**

Maria Rozanitis B.Ed

### **Finance Manager**

Claudia Callero B.Bus (Acc)

### **Accounts Payable**

Dino Andreou

### **Registrar**

Stacy Scott Dip Tourism & Events

### **Operations and Compliance Manager**

Carol Hanna B.Sc

### **Director of Marketing, Events and Communications**

Adellea Greenbury B.A

### **Marketing Assistant and Alumni Coordinator**

Zoe Zapantis B.Com, B.HSc

### **School Office Manager**

Marguerite Roberts

## **Heads of House**

### **Head of House – Aristotle**

Toula Terezakis B.A. Dip.Ed

### **Head of House – Byron**

Andrew Diviny B.Health and PE

### **Head of House – Pericles**

Trevor Adams M.Bus (IR/HR) B.Ed (Secondary/Adult)

### **Head of House – Socrates**

Anna Milburn B.A (Hons), PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate of Education)

## **Primary Coordinators**

### **Deputy Head of Primary & House Coordinator Years 3 – 6**

Luke Barnewall B.A and B.Teach (Primary)

### **ELC Educational Leader**

Danielle Munroe B.Ed (Early Childhood/Primary) Dip. Children's Services

### **Primary Greek Coordinator**

Effie Bindevis B.Ed, Post Grad. Dip A. (Modern Greek), M. Ed. (Lang. Learning)

### **Primary S.T.E.M. Coordinator**

Dianne Downey B.A B.Ed (Post Grad)

### **Primary Literacy Coordinator**

Pippa Ross B.A., MEd, Grad Dip Ed, Grad Dip IT

### **Visual Arts Coordinator (Primary)**

Ourania Katsambanis Dip. Ed. B.Ed

### **Primary Learning Support**

Jill Thompson Dip.Teach.Prim, Grad.Dip.(Spec.Edu)

## **Secondary Heads of Faculty and Co-ordinators**

### **Deputy Head of Secondary**

Deirdre Grealish B.A.in English and History; PGCE in English

### **Careers Practitioner**

Helen Mallis B. A, B.Com.Dip.Ed.Grad.Dip.Acc.,Grad Cert.Car. Dev & Couns.

### **International Student Coordinator**

Mary Kontosis B.A.Dip.Ed.M.Ed.St

**Head of EHASS**

James SMITH B.A, MTeach (Secondary), MEd (Student Wellbeing)

**Head of Primary Sport and P-12 Outdoor Education Coordinator**

Blair Runnalls B.App. Sci. PE

**Head of Library**

Angela Mare B.A, Grad Dip Ed Studies, Grad Dip Librarianship

**Head of LOTE**

Denise Diakodimitriou B.A.Dip.Ed

**Acting Head of Maths**

Katrina Du B.Bus, MTeach

**Acting Head of Science**

Samantha Hockey BSc (Hons), PhD, PGCE

**Head of Music and Performing Arts**

Priya Wilson B.A. (Hons) Performing Arts, Grad Dip Ed

**Head of Secondary PE, Sport and Health P-12 and School Timetabler**

Olivia Rahme B.App. Sci. PE

**Campus Administrator**

John Savopoulos B.Sc (Hons) B.Ed

**School Nurse**

Jessica Orreal B.J, M.N (Semester 1)

Kate Butler B.Nurs

Bianca Westerveld B.Nurs; Cert IV Training and Assessment

**School Psychologist**

Max White MPsych (Ed and Dev)

Elyse Nash-Ferry B.A, B.Psych (Hons), MTeach, MPsych (Ed and Dev)

**Senior Tutor**

Michelle Yarnton B.A, B.Ed (Spec.Ed), Dip.Ed

**Visual Arts Coordinator**

Michael Grigoriadis B.VisCom, Grad Dip (Education)

## **Teaching Staff**

**Voula ALLIMONOS** B.A.Dip.Ed

**Archie ARGYROPOULOS** B.A, Dip.Ed,

**Stephanie ATWA** B.Mus, B.Ed (Hons)

**Dean BETTIOL** B.AppSci (Physics), Post Grad Dip.Teach

**Effie BINDEVIS** B.Ed, Post Grad. Dip A. (Modern Greek), M. Ed. (Lang. Learning)

**Lauren BRAZZALE** B.App.Sc. PE

**Emma BYLSMA** B.Sc (Hons), MTeach (Primary & Early Childhood)

**Kara CASAMENTO** B.Prim.Teaching, B.A.(Psychology), Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care

**Drew COX** B.Ed

**Louis DIAMANDIKOS** B.Sc.Dip.Ed.M.Ed.St

**Zoe ELLIOTT** B.Ed

**Matthew GREEN** B.Ed; B.EXCSc

**Kate GREENE** Dip. Teach (Prim), GradDip (SpEd), M.Ed

**Luke HOLLOWAY** B.EXCSc, MTeach

**Shirley KE** B.Ed (Hons), GradCert TESOL

**Nicole KITSAKIS** B. Dance, B.Tch (Prim)

**Liana KITSOU** B.AppSci (PE and Health)

**Anita KOLAITIS** B.A (Hons) Modern Greek, B.A, Dip of Lang (Italian) MTeach (Semester 1)

**Anthea KOLOSKOPIS** B.Bus(Human Resource Management), Grad Dip in Ed (Prim)

**Maria KOUTROUZAS** B.E.C.S., Post Grad Dip. Ed (Prim)

**Ming LEI** B.A, MTeach, M.ED, Adv Dip (Translation & Interpretation)

**Dorothy LIAPIS** B.A, M.Ed

**Jillian LYNCH** B.Ed, Dip Early Childhood

**Helen McCAUGHEY** B.Ed, Post Grad (FA), MArts

**Nicole McCULLOCH** B.Ed.(Prim)

**Mikeyla MA** B.Sc, MTeach

**Thomas MARUSKANIC** B.A (Hum), B.Ed

**Anna MILBURN** B.A (Hons), PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate of Education)

**Shelby MORWOOD** B.A, MTeach

**Danielle MUNRO** B.Ed (Early Childhood/Primary) Dip. Children's Services

**Pat O'SHEA** B.App.Sc, Grad Dip Comp, Grad.Dip Edu

**Vicki PATRIKIOS** B.App.Sc Dip.Ed

**Robert PANARA** BMedia, MTeach

**Joseph PAPAS** B.Ed (Prim)

**Con PAPOULIS** B.A. Dip.Ed, M.Ed.St.

**Lily POTOCHNIK** BSc, PGCE, Cert III Early Childhood

**Pippa ROSS** B.A., MEd, Grad Dip Ed, Grad Dip IT

**Gurparvin (Pari) SIDHU** B.Ed, B.Com, M.Com

**Janet STEWART** Dip.of Teaching (Prim), Grad Dip.Lib.

**Cameron STONE** B.App.Sc, Grad Cert (Special Needs Education)

**Lauren TAFTE** B.Ed, M.Ed

**Helen THEODOROPOULOS** B.A. Dip. Ed. Post Grad. Dip.Ed.(TESOL)

**Stavroula TOURANAKOS** B.A, Dip.Ed

**Georgia VRAKAS** Dip Tch, B.Ed

**Anna VAYENAS** Dip T.,B.Ed

**Mikahl VENNARI** B.Mus, MTeach

**Anneke WACKROW** B.A, MTeach  
**Felicity WALLACE** B.A BMus(Hons) Dip.Ed  
**Eva WANG** B.Com, MTeach  
**Joanne WHIFFIN** B.Ed, Dip Prim Teach

### **Administration**

Janine Andrews  
Susie Gizdimidis  
Natalia Hanna  
Giovanni Kalansooriya  
Debbie Kirmos Cert of Edu Supp  
Brooke Koutroulis Dip Mrk, Dip Adv, Cert IV Bus Sales  
Eddie Mohammadian  
Christine Newell B.CA (Music)

### **Learning Support & School Assistants**

Nikki Bardakos  
Emma Bardon  
Monica Bardon - Dip. Learn. Supp.  
Sally Binotto B.A, GradDip (Early Childhood)  
Andrew Bunton  
Tahlie Denovan B.Sc  
Mikaelie Evans  
Jan Haldon BSc (Hons) Nursing Studies, Cert IV Education Support, Cert III Early Childhood and Care  
Josie Iuele  
Rachel Kenny  
Nana Kerasiotis Cert of Edu Supp  
Frances Lee-Archer  
Priya Palachandra B.Eng, Cert IV Workplace Training, Cert IV Edu Supp  
Julia Shea Cert III Edu Supp  
Wendy Roussety Dip Lib Tech, Cert III Lib and Info

### **Instrumental Music Staff**

Ewen Baker  
Evgney Chebykin  
Ceri Hills  
Nicholas Kapralos  
Kristina Lang  
Amy Lynch  
Ollie Rolfe  
Andrew Rousch  
Carla Tomisich  
David Tomisich  
Adrian Whyte



# Academic results – Class of 2023

## A Summary of Results

### Summary of 2023 VCE Results

It is with great pleasure that I record the results of the Class of 2023. They attained the best results the school has ever achieved. A sign that the lingering effects of the Covid lockdowns might finally be dissipating.

### Summary of 2023 Results

<b>Top ATAR</b>	<b>98.75</b>
<b>Median Study Score</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Average ATAR</b>	<b>79.5</b>
<b>ATARs &gt; 80</b>	<b>57.5%</b>

### A Summary of 2022 Results for Comparison:

<b>Top ATAR</b>	<b>98.70</b>
<b>Median Study Score</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Average ATAR</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>ATARs &gt; 80</b>	<b>51%</b>

### The Highlights

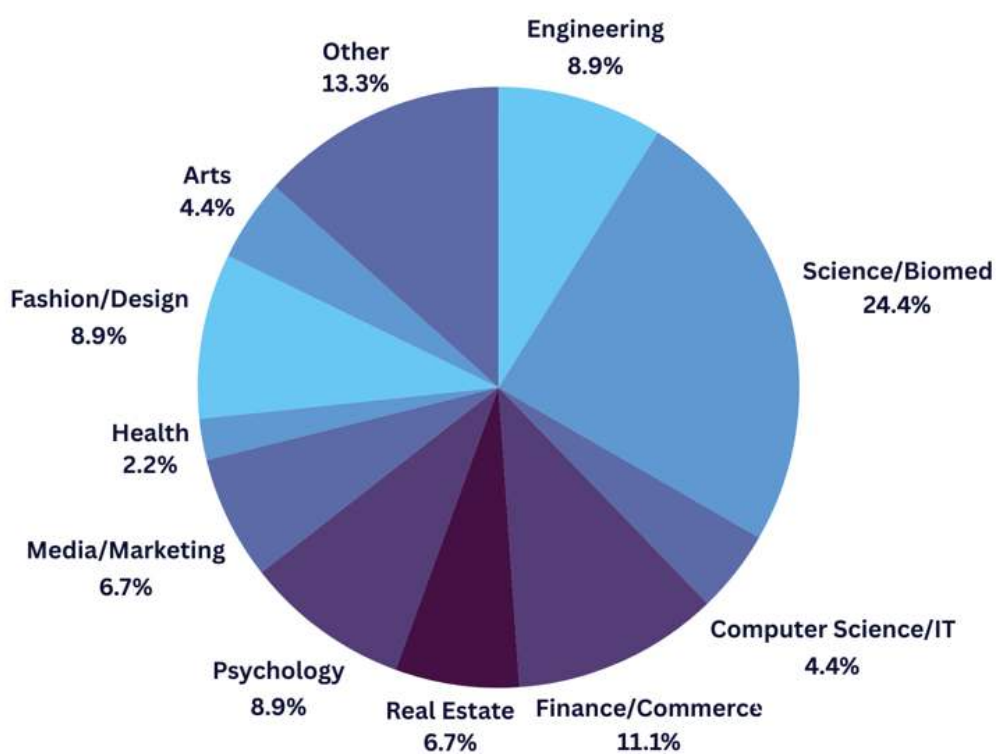
There is an impressive range of individual results, with many students doing exceptionally well. These results are a testament to their commitment, resilience, and perseverance. We saw an increase of 6.5% in the ATARs above 80 averages from 51% in 2022 to 57.5% in 2023. The high standards our students have been able to achieve as a cohort is most noteworthy and a credit to the students and their teachers' commitment and skill.

Our students have performed strongly achieving a Median Study Score of 33. Our average ATAR has increased from 74% in 2021 to 79.5% in 2023, which well exceeds the State average of 69. In the League Tables AGS is now ranked 59 in the state out of all Victorian schools – up from 74<sup>th</sup> in 2023.

The Dux for 2023 was **Costa Magiris**, who achieved an ATAR of 98.75 placing him in the top 1.25% of all students in the State. Costa, achieved outstanding results in English, Maths Methods, Physics, Greek and Data Analytics. Congratulations to Costa on his wonderful results.

# Year 12 Student Destinations

## Areas of Study



# Student Attendance Information

School Year	% Attendance
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Year 6</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Year 7</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Year 8</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Year 9</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Year 10</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Year 11</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Year 12</b>	<b>94</b>

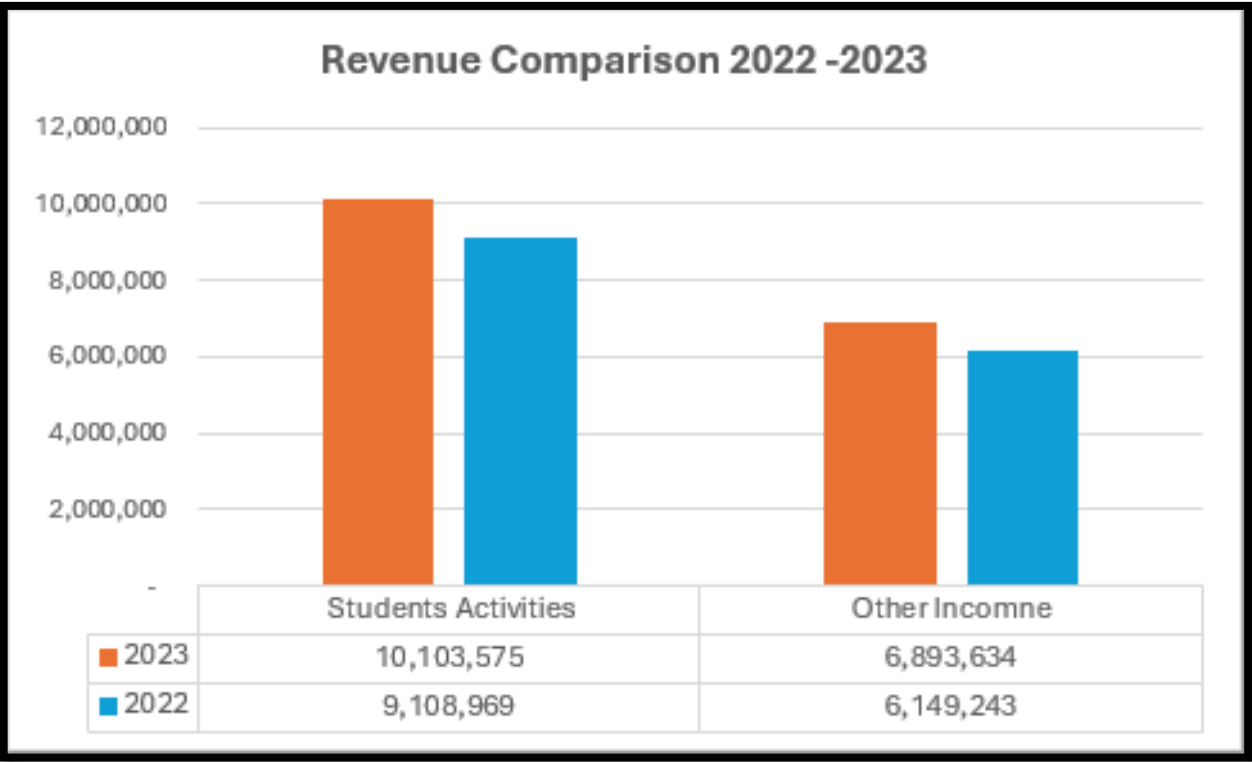


# Financial Operations

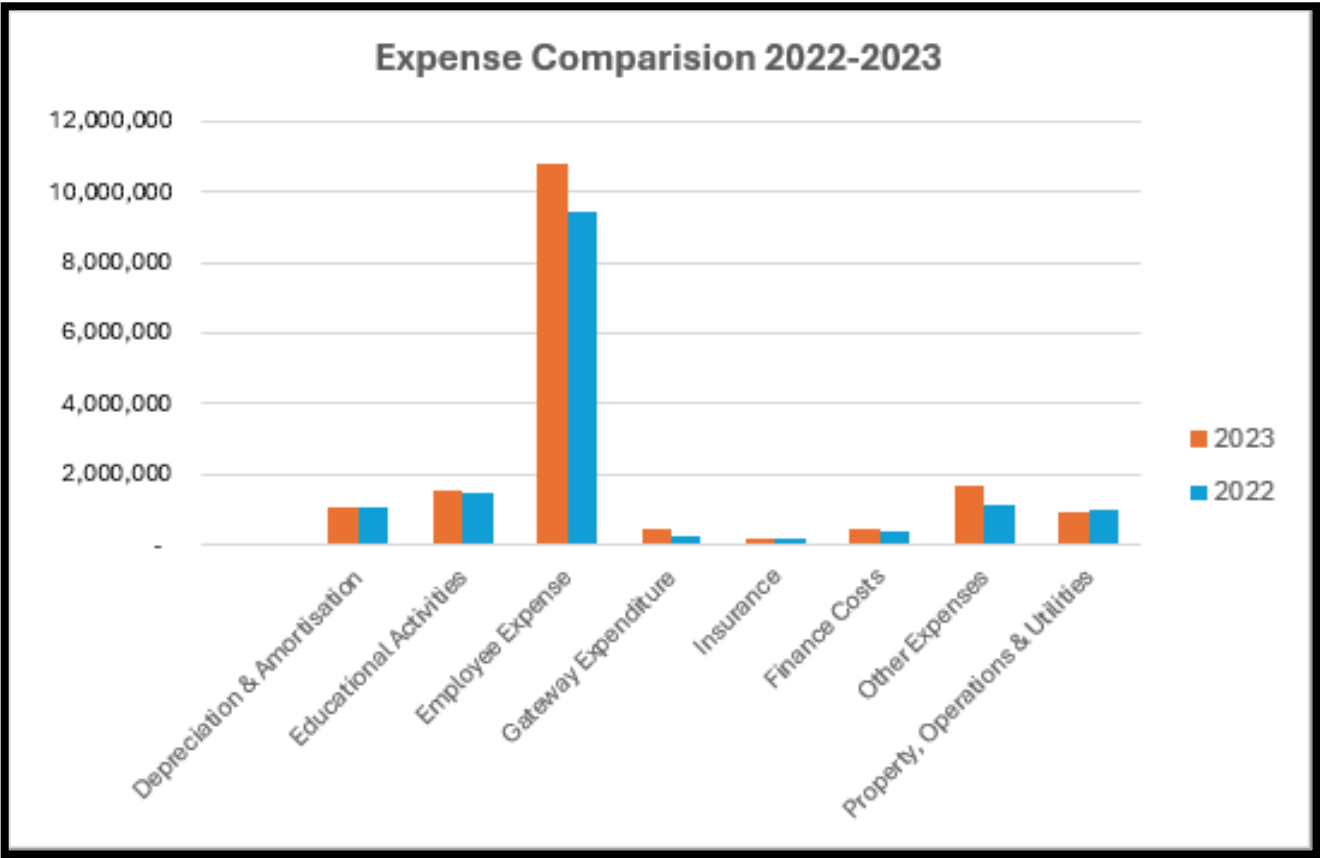
Alphington Grammar School is a not-for-profit organisation. As an Independent School we adhere to contemporary commercial business practices to ensure the financial health of The School and its resources are effectively and efficiently managed. Any end-of-year surplus is allocated to facility and program development and/or repayment of borrowing. The following charts indicate sources of income and expenditure for the 2023 calendar year.

## SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS 2023

### INCOME 2023



EXPENDITURE IN 2023



# Learning Technologies

- AGS saw the biggest laptop program signed off for all Year 7 students in 2023. The laptop price was built into school fees (Model HP ProBook increased to 16GB RAM for better performance).
- 30 new HP ProBook's were distributed to staff as part of our 3-year rollout.
- Schoolbox upgraded to version 23.1.10 was signed off to go fully cloud hosted to provide better security and unlimited storage.
- Upgraded all staff to A5 (from A3) licensing with Microsoft which has a great security presence and includes the Microsoft Defender product. This has allowed us to remove the Mimecast product for email filtering.





**Alphington Grammar School**  
**18 Old Heidelberg Road**  
**Alphington VIC 3078**

**Telephone:** (03) 9494 4777

**Fax:** (03) 9497 3479

**Email:** [info@ags.vic.edu.au](mailto:info@ags.vic.edu.au)

**Website:** [www.alphington.vic.edu.au](http://www.alphington.vic.edu.au)

**CRICOS:** 01376D