



Bayside P-12 College in Action

Key Priority Areas: **Supportive School Environment and Active Recreation**

Type of Funding: **Active Schools**



School Overview:	Altona North is one of 3 campuses that form Bayside P-12 College. As a large multi-campus coeducational college situated in the City of Hobsons Bay in Melbourne's west. The college has a total student population of approximately 1050 with Altona North's current enrolment at 373. Catering for both primary and secondary students on one site presents the challenge of timetabling indoor and outdoor PE spaces. With competing student interests, these spaces are highly contested and require ongoing negotiation.
Project Goal:	Altona North's overarching goal was to provide a broader range of movement and extracurricular opportunities for students across the school through recess and lunchtime activities. They focused on better utilising current spaces to provide quality recreational spaces and to provide structured opportunities to support active movement outside class time.



The College set out to achieve several objectives including revamping or re-instating the sporting equipment borrowing system. It was evident that following remote and flexible learning, this system required some serious attention. While historically it had operated successfully, the current student cohort needed some reminders on how best to access and utilise equipment. Through data collected via a student voice survey, it was identified that students were seeking a structured approach to lunchtime physical activities and a range of recreational opportunities were desired. Staff input and support was sought, and with the student leadership team promoting the active lunchtime schedule, activities such as futsal,

volleyball, basketball, badminton and soccer were offered.

When perusing the College grounds through a visitor's lens, outdoor spaces were identified as having potential to promote physical activity and engagement. One location identified was behind the gymnasium - an underutilised space which had proven to be difficult to supervise. This space was earmarked initially for a grass volleyball court. As the Active Schools project gathered traction with students and staff, and with the support of leadership, the volleyball court initiative gained momentum. Staff pitched for a synthetic court to create a new and inviting environment and that is what they installed. Never underestimate what can be achieved when you dream big,



have leadership support, and ensure student outcomes are at the forefront of your pitch. Suffice to say, the school found additional funding to supplement the cost of the court and a new era of physical activity for the students has begun.

Active School Strategy	Impact
Supportive School Environment: To better utilise current spaces to provide quality playground structures and opportunities to support active movement and recreation during break times.	<i>The number of students actively utilising the revamped area during breaks has increased. The court has provided students with the opportunity to engage in exploration, play and develop their skills in a supportive social setting.</i>
Student Voice and Agency: Engage student voice in deciding how extracurricular activities would be run. Empower student leaders to promote lunchtime activities via activity design, role modelling & announcements.	<i>The student design and ownership has seen peers encouraging each other to 'try' something new without a competitive bias. Students have taken ownership of the program and are keen to have further input into future activities. They have a new awareness of their ability to influence College decision making on resources and infrastructure.</i>
Community Links: Regularly communicate and actively promote links to local sporting bodies and to create a listing of local sporting organisation's contact details for interested students.	<i>A visual display has been created in the gym foyer where students can easily access details of the sport or recreational pursuit of their interest. This has prompted curiosity among students in activities previously untried. Extracurricular basketball participation has grown significantly with students either playing at Altona or Werribee stadium.</i>

Want to know more? Contact activeschools@achper.vic.edu.au or access our online community [here](#).