

# College proves a class act

## Beaumaris Secondary College has been open less than two months but is already thriving

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Beaumaris school leaders Hollie, Jordie, Alice and Finlay with Principal Debby Chaves. Picture: Penny Stephens

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A total of 149 Year 7 students have made history as the first cohort at Bayside's newly constructed Beaumaris Secondary College.

Previously a campus of Sandringham College, it was closed in December 2015 and demolished last August due to ageing infrastructure and low enrolments.

But Beaumaris Secondary principal Debby Chaves said this year was the start of a new era.

"It all started seven years ago when the community was really desperate to have an amazing community school that met the needs of local students," she said.

"Now here we are with 149 enrolments and that is just fantastic.

"I think it confirms that if you build it, they will come and I really think they have."

Ms Chaves said the new school aimed to reflect what modern education should look like.

"I was appointed when the designs were already in place and when I saw them, for me it was like a match made in heaven," she said.

"It suited my education philosophy that schools should be for our young people, a place which helps create critical global citizens."

The school is still under construction, but students have access to two sports ovals, an indoor activities centre, theatre and music facilities and a food technology space.

Ms Chaves said the school's next major building would open in Term 2, and a multipurpose space also remained under construction.

College council president Steve Pearce said the school's development to its current state proved it would be an asset to the community.

"The way we've progressed in the first year with such a good-sized and engaged student body and engaged families and parents just proves beyond all reasonable doubt this school was needed," he said.

A group of objectors protesting the planned felling of nearly 250 trees at the site temporarily halted construction.

Builders then promised to replace the removed trees with about 500 new ones.