SFX NEWS



WHAT'S ON

26 June Year 10 Learning in Focus Day

Year 10 Sport and Recreation

Excursion

Year 9 Sport and Recreation

Excursion

27 June Year 10 Sport and Recreation

Excursion

30 June - 2 July Year 10 Road Ready

1 July Year 7 and 8 ThinkUKnow AFP

Presentation

Production Crew - Theatre

Working Bee

Year 9 Sport and Recreation

Excursion

2 July Last day of Term 2

Calvary Aged Care Concert

Excursion

4 July Pupil Free Day

7 - 18 July Semester Break

21 July Pupil Free Day

22 July First day of Term 3

25 July NAIDOC Mass

5 August Senior Awards Ceremony

Junior Academic Awards

Ceremony

6 August Legally Blonde The Musical -

Opening Night

7 August Legally Blonde The Musical -

Show 2

8 August Legally Blonde The Musical -

Show 3



9 August Legally Blonde The Musical -

Closing Show

11-13 August Year 12 Retreat

14 August Moderation Day - Pupil Free Day

19 August Year 12 Life Skills - Session 3

ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

Monday

Junior Band

Maths Tutorial

Musical Rehearsal

Production Crew

Tuesday

Maths Tutorial

Musical Rehearsal

Percusssion Ensemble

Philosophy and Ethics Club

String Ensemble

Wednesday Cal Bruton Basketball Program

Choir and Karaoke
Dance Troupe
Maths Tutorial
Musical Rehearsal
The Reading Room

Thursday
Guitar Ensemble
Maths Tutorial
Musical Rehearsal
Production Crew
Robots and Rocketry

Sustainability Club Theology Club

Friday Strategic Games Club

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

17 June 2025

Dear parents and friends,

As we approach the final weeks of Term 2 I wish to extend my very best wishes to all students as they compete their examinations and finalise their assessments and projects. Our classrooms, workshops, studios, laboratories, and sports fields are being very well utilised by enthusiastic engaged learners who are a great source of pride to their teachers, themselves and to you.

We believe that effective learning for all students between Year 7-12 is achieved with a complementary focus on personal wellbeing. Last week the Senior pastoral team developed Senior Wellbeing morning prior to the beginning of senior examinations which included a range of curated wellbeing activities which were very well received by our senior students. The College received media attention again this year and you can read the Catholic Voice article at Taking time to breathe: SFX prioritises student wellbeing during exam season - Catholic Voice.









FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As you know our student leaders choose a number of College charities for which they raise money during the school year. These activities include bake sales, lolly jar guessing competitions, sports competitions and the like. I was delighted to hear that Year 7 showed great leadership recently and ran a Jersey Day during which they raised \$1900. This was a great achievement for our Year 7s and augers well for their leadership and confidence as a Year group. Well done Year 7!









Our Year 7, 2026 enrolment enquiries continue to be extremely healthy and reflect community confidence in the College, our junior school learning agenda, and an outstanding teaching Faculty. I am also delighted by the number of events and activities that our Year 10 students have been offered this term by our teaching faculty to prepare them for Year 11 in 2026 at the College. On Thursday evening Year 10 students and their parents will join senior staff for course counselling sessions designed to provide them with expert advice about course selection in our senior school. This event too exemplifies the confidence of our Senior School and St Francis Xavier as an outstanding Catholic post-secondary pathway in Belconnen.

You will receive Semester 1 reports at the end of Week 20 and Dylan Fox, Assistant Principal Teaching and Learning (acting) will write to you with explanatory information to accompany these. Last year, I reinstituted our Semester 1, Awards Ceremony as an opportunity to honour the academic and community leadership and endeavour of students and received very positive feedback from staff parents and students and the ceremony will occur again this year early next term.

Thank you most sincerely for the wonderful support you give to our boys and girls in their academic and extracurricular endeavours. It is a joy to me that St Francis Xavier College has such invested and supportive parents, and I wish each of you and your families my very best wishes for the weeks ahead and for a restful mid semester break.

Yours sincerely

Sandra Darley College Principal

LEARNING COMMONS - BOOK WEEK 2025

Book Week 2025 is taking place in Term 3, Week 5 presenting the theme: 'Book an Adventure'. The Learning Commons will be hosting a multitude of fun events and competitions as well as the annual (optional) book character dress-up day, occurring on Friday, 22 August. Live music and performances will run all week by the school's talented performing arts students alongside a fundraiser book swap raising money for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. Good condition book donations are more than welcome.

Several competitions will also be running throughout the week including: daily pastoral quizzes, best dressed on the dress-up Friday and a creation competition responding to the prompt: 'If you could adventure to any fictional place, where would it be?'.

The Learning Commons team cannot wait to celebrate the love of literature with the SFX community once again. Happy reading!

Amy Purcell Library Assistant



DONATE TO OUR ILF FUNDRAISER HERE:

FUNDRAISING.ILF.ORG.AU/SFXLEARNINGCOMMONS











DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES!







Across Years 7-12, students engaged in hands-on, creative, and critical learning experiences that built essential skills for the digital world.

In Years 7 and 8, students designed and built their own playable games using game design documents to carefully plan their ideas. They developed valuable planning and design skills that formed the foundation for their game development projects. Students also created engaging Digital Citizenship animations to promote safe, ethical, and responsible technology use. Later in the semester, students built their first Al-powered ChatBots using Python coding, gaining practical experience with Artificial Intelligence and how it is shaping modern technology.

In Robotics and Game Design (Year 9), students learned how to plan, code, build, and evaluate their own robots and games. In Term 1, students explored the new LEGO Spike Robotics kits and programmed them using Python to complete a range of specific challenges. In Term 2, students designed and built 2D games using a game development engine, creating unique, interactive journeys filled with fun and adventure!

In Computing Studies, students developed interactive websites using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript whilst applying computational thinking to define and break down real-world problems. Students also explored the ethical challenges involved in web design, including issues of accessibility and the responsible handling of user data.

Our senior students analysed complex systems and their interconnected components, using advanced computational thinking strategies to deconstruct and solve challenging problems. They created innovative, high-quality digital solutions for real-world applications and demonstrated their ability to think like industry professionals.

Semester 1 Digital Technologies saw creativity, critical thinking, and exciting digital learning.

We look forward to seeing what students will achieve next in Semester 2!

Sam Beattie Head of STEM and Digital Technologies

ACHIEVEMENTS

TOUCHDOWN SUCCESS ON THE WORLD STAGE

It has been a huge month for our Year 9 athlete **Zara Nicholson** who was selected as the Australian quarterback for the U15 Girls Team at the Junior International Flag Football Championships in Los Angeles, USA.

Zara threw an impressive 15 touchdowns—the highest of any Australian male or female player across both U15 and U17 divisions. The team finished 7th in the world, secured a strong 20–6 win over Korea and narrowly missed out on medal contention, with just one-point losses to both Japan and Monterrey.

Congratulations on this impressive achievement, Zara! We cannot wait to see what you do next!



LANGUAGES IN SEMESTER 1















The SFX Languages Team warmly welcomes Mrs Ai Sephora to the Languages teaching team in the Japanese space. Languages at SFX in Semester 1 has been an exciting journey marked by incursions, Capstones and online visits from The Japan Foundation.

In Year 8 Spanish, we have been studying how to express our preferences and opinions and how our preferences impact how we view ourselves and others. We have studied connections between Spanish-speaking countries and our own and reflected on the inter- and intra-cultural relevance of forming and expressing opinions. In Year 7 Spanish, we have been exploring weather from Indigenous perspectives and comparing it with Spanish seasons in both the northern and southern hemispheres through an experiential five senses nature incursion. Year 7 Spanish classes have benefitted from the peer tutoring and support from senior student David Andrés Murillo Mendivelso (Year 11) who is a native Spanish speaker and want to thank him for his contribution to the program.

In Japanese, our Year 7 classes practised their hiragana writing with chalk outside and created some beautiful designs. Year 7s also participated in a Furoshiki incursion led by The Japan Foundation to discover the traditional Japanese eco-friendly art of gift wrapping with colourful material. Senior Japanese students prepared for their final exams by participating in Socratic seminars, speaking entirely in Japanese which was exciting to witness!

The entire Languages teaching team wish the SFX community a restful break and look forward to more learning adventures in Semester 2.

Kate Kitson Languages Teacher

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH FUNDRAISING FUN IN YEAR 7!

It has been a busy and exciting term for our Year 7 students, with a strong focus on building community and supporting our House Charities through SRC fundraising events.

The term kicked off with Jersey Day, a whole college celebration that saw students and staff proudly wearing jerseys to show support for their favourite teams. Participation was outstanding across all year levels, especially our staff getting involved alongside the students. The day created a fantastic sense of unity and school spirit.

Following Jersey Day, we hosted our first annual Mini Missions Morning—and what a success it was! Blessed with perfect weather, the morning brought together Year 7 students for a fun-filled community experience. Our incredible Canteen Team treated everyone to delicious food, setting the tone for a morning of connection and creativity. The event was coordinated by our dedicated SRC team, with support from their pastoral teachers, and it was clear from the smiles and laughter that everyone involved had a wonderful time. Students (and a few enthusiastic teachers!) took part in a wide variety of activities including dancing, chalk drawing, games on the Oval, origami, colouring in and board games.

At the heart of both events was our goal of building community, a core value that we aim to nurture and grow over the next six years of our students' journey through the College. These opportunities for students to connect, collaborate and contribute are key to shaping a supportive and engaged year group.

Thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of our students, staff, and families, Jersey Day and Mini Missions Morning together raised an incredible \$3,150.48 for our five house charities. This amazing result reflects the spirit of compassion and community that we are so proud of in Year 7.

Abbey Kennedy Year 7 Coordinator















SPORTING SUCCESS CONTINUES AT SFX







We recently had a small number of students compete at the ACT Cross Country Championships and they all produced some outstanding results. A special mention must go to two particular students Elsie Hamilton (Year 7) and Riley Stanworth (Year 8). Both came first in their respective race and are now ACT Champions. Well done to those two students on their outstanding achievements!

The 7/8 and 9/10 Girls Oztag teams competed at the ACT Oztag Gala Days. Both teams competed with tremendous spirit and played with great skills throughout the day, winning a number of games. Congratulations to both teams!





The College had teams compete in multiple Volleyball Gala Days. The 9/10 Girls and Boys teams competed hard and showed improvement throughout the day. This saw both teams secure some victories towards the end of the day.

The College Mixed Netball teams competed at a recent ACT Netball Gala Day. All three teams competed with great determination and teamwork and saw some outstanding results! A special congratulations to one of the teams who made it to the semifinals on the day. Well done to all on such great result.

As always, if you have made a representative team please let a PE teacher know so the College can acknowledge and celebrate your success.

Tim Sloman Health and PE Teacher



ACHIEVEMENTS

SEMESTER 1 PAT CHAMPIONS

Over the first few weeks of Term 2, students from Years 7 to 10 participated in diagnostic **Progressive Achievement Testing (PAT)** in the areas of Mathematics, Reading and Spelling.

The College wishes to acknowledge these students in each year group who attained the highest aggregate score in the Mathematics and Reading adaptive tests for Semester 1.



Year 7
Afrah Hassan (Mathematics)
Liam Gibson and Sam Harvey (Reading)



Year 8 Benjamin Ubrihien (Mathematics) Ishak Hadjar (Reading)



Year 9
Jack Pinkerton (Mathematics)
Max Morrison (Reading)



Year 10 Lachlan Sammons (Mathematics) Phoebe Czumak (Reading)

Another round of PAT diagnostic testing will be conducted at the beginning of Term 4.

Tom Klekner
Data Analyst and Mathematics Teacher

STUDENT VOICE

For this edition of *Student Voice*, our Communications Captain, Amelia, spoke with our Year 12s on their preparation for Senior Exams.

How do you usually prepare for exams? Do you have a strategy that works best for you?

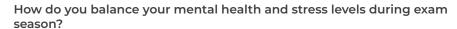
Bryce: "I work best when I study with my friends. I love the environment and helping each other out to do our best."

George: "I make flashcards and complete any revision sheets."

Amelia: "I enjoy working alongside my friends in activities like flashcards and active recall."

Lual: "I typically study by revising the practice test or things of similar nature until I am confident enough to enter the test."

Estella: "I like to plan out my days and weeks leading up to exams very specifically and carefully. Allocating time for each part of revision while also allocating social and work time. The planning in advance gives me a schedule to work off which makes me more productive."



George: "I balance my mental health and stress levels by spending time with family and friends, as well as playing sports."

Amelia: "I try to keep a healthy routine which includes taking breaks, getting enough sleep, and making time for things I enjoy."

Estella: "During the busy times of exams, I like to keep everything at a balance. Often if I study for a few hours I take a break and get some exercise so I can come back to my school work with an open, fresh mind."



Amelia: "I try to focus on my goals, what I am working towards and why I started in the first place. Sometimes stress also motivates me to continue studying."

Lual: "I motivate myself by thinking about what the future holds past the exam."

Estella: "My motivation usually comes after long periods of procrastination. Realistically, I go on social media and search for videos that motivate me to study well or I pretend that I'm on a tv show like Gilmore Girls and study like I am Rory Gilmore."

Have your teachers or friends given you any advice that has really stuck with you?

Bryce: "My teachers encouraged me to do practice tests which really helps." **George**: "Revise earlier and don't be afraid to ask questions!"

Amelia: "To use the resources around you, this can include teachers, classmates and the Learning Commons. They are there to help."

What advice would you give to a younger student preparing for their first exams?

Amelia: "Time management is vital during exam time, give yourself time to properly study and focus on topics leading up to exams."

Lual: "Try not to stress too much and manage your time wisely, think of it like any other assignment or test."

Estella: "My advice would be to plan it out. Plan it into bite-size pieces because that way it will not be as scary as it seems."

Well done to our seniors on completing their Semester 1 exams!



Lual Costa



Amelia McNeilly



George Kamara



Estella Sutherland



Bryce Cover

NOTICES



Squash ACT Kids Come and Try Day

When: Saturday 12 July 2025

Where: Woden (4 Launceston St, Phillip) & Dickson (79 Dickson PI, Dickson) Squash Courts

- Primary School (Ages 6–12): 10:00 AM 11:00 AM
- High School/College (Ages 13–18): 11:30 AM 12:30 PM
- · Free Fun for Kids!
- · Learn squash with qualified coaches
- Gift bag for every child (squash ball, wristband, more!)
- · No need to register just show up
- · Rain, hail or shine squash is always on!

Squash Hits the 2028 LA Olympics! It's the perfect time to take up squash and aim for the stars!





St John Ambulance ACT are excited to be running two First Aid for Teens courses during the Term Two school holidays.

St John ACT believe in the importance of everyone feeling prepared and confident to act in an emergency, and young people are no exception.

The course is available to students aged 13-17 and is fully accredited. Students will finish the day with a new set of life skills, as well as a tangible qualification they can add to their resume.

Date: 8th July or 14th July

Time: 8.30am – 5.00pm

Location: 14 Thesiger Court, Deakin

Cost: \$190.00

Students from SFX are able to access a 15% discount when booking the course by using the code SCHOOL15.

Courses can be booked online here: stjohnact.org.au/courses/sjxpfat



NOTICES



options available from Garmers Place.

John us at Worden Youth Center, for a Pock Competition, prizes for the winners You don't vised to play Pool to joen the program to chance to hang out and connect at Worden review to the Center with other young people. Namport options available from Centers Wales.

Gompetin our table terms competition or come leasy port in the youth year, and play a game of good air hockey, or jump onto the Niterrado withch Prizes for the winners, funch unfaddled the Amazoptic options available.

Active discourse of Qualification of Qua

Open to young people aged Systs - Zysrs If you're an ACT resident booking to get your lost licence, book no Arthert the ACT Pre-Learner Locence Course is a manifactory course for suryone who wants to obtain their L's. Our briendly youth workers will deliver the course, including testing and all resources, friee of charge over two full days. No transport options available.





Emotionally Intelligent Parenting

An eight-session parenting program for parents of teenagers aged 12-18 years

Would you like to learn how to:

- · better talk with your teen?
- better understanding your teen?
- help your teen learn to manage their emotions?
- help to prevent behaviour problems in your teen?
- · teach your teen to deal with conflict?

Tuning in to Teens® shows you how to help your teen develop *emotional* intelligence. Adolescents with higher emotional intelligence:

- are more aware, assertive and strong in situations of peer pressure
- have greater success with making friends and are more able to manage conflict with peers
- . are more able to cope when upset or angry
- have fewer mental health and substance abuse difficulties
- · have more stable and satisfying relationships as adults
- have greater career success

Emotional intelligence may be a better predictor of academic and career success than IQ!

Where: Marymead CatholicCare, 255 Goyder Street, Narrabundah, 2604 When: Wednesdays; 30 July to 17 September @ 4pm - 5.30pm

Contact: Marymead CatholicCare Intake: Intake@mccg.org.au or 02 6162 5800

Cost: Free



NOTICES

The Lake Tuggeranong Lions Club is pleased to announce the return of Operation Formal Wear in 2025!

Started in 2023, this initiative provides graduating students with free access to a wide range of formal clothing and accessories – including dresses, suits, shoes and bags – to help make formal season stress-free and affordable for families.

Shopping days are expected to take place in October (exact dates to be confirmed).

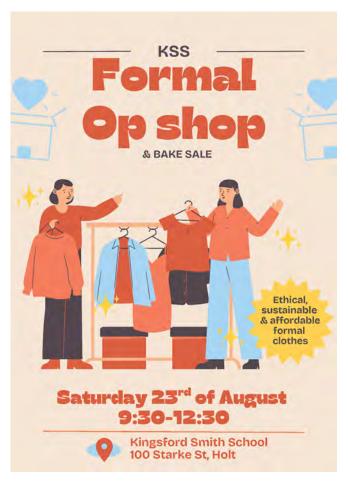
If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Chris Rogerson on 0468599850.





We'd love anyone interested to come along to our new members night to find out if Brindabella Chorus is the singing experience you have been looking for.

For more details and to register head to https://www.brindabellachorus.org.au/joinusinjuly





Proudly Sponsared by Capital Chemist Group:



Volunteers will help repair toys, jewellery, small furniture, small electrical items (we also test & tag), lawn mowers, leather goods, jewellery, bikes, clothes/fabrics, garden tools, tool sharpening and more

Assistance with apple devices and software

Recycling Station - Lids 4 Kids Zero Waste Warrior Tub Swap and Go exchange

Justice of the Peace (JP) available to witness documents

New and used Electric Vehicle display with information and test rides

Made-local Market (over 25 stalls)

Eco friendly handmade gifts, toys, jewellery, textiles, quilts, pottery, garden ornaments, home produce, artisan soaps, pre-loved tools, artworks, plants, books, puzzles, bric-a-brac, buy nothing group clothes exchange, and more

Watch our local jeweller and weaver in operation

Find out how to save seeds to grow plants

Sausage sizzle, cakes, hot food and drinks

SUNDAY 15 June 2025 10:00AM TO 1:00PM

Gold coin donation at the gate

Where: Hawker International Softball Centre, Wallhallow Street, Hawker

Check us out (and get the dates for upcoming events)

Facebook: @Hawker Community Repair Cafe or @Hawker Mensshed

Web: www.hawkermensshed.com.au
Email: hawkermensshed@gmail.com







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