

17 SEPTEMBER 2025

SFX NEWS

ISSUE 6



Truth and Courage

WHAT'S ON

18 September	Year 10 Maths Day Year 10 RE Incursion Parent Teacher Interviews
19 September	Floriade Concert Performance She Leads Conference Year 9 Volunteering Year 10 Sports and Recreation Excursion
22-24 September	Year 10 Sport and Recreation Camp
22 September	Senior UC Vision Screening Program Year 9 Sport and Recreation Excursion Year 9 Volunteering Year 12 PE Excursion
23 September	AFP ThinkUKnow Parent Presentation Year 7 Talent Show Year 9 YAM 2025 Year 9 Sport and Recreation Excursion Year 12 PE Excursion
24 September	Year 7 Inclusive Education Excursion Year 11 Senior PE Excursion Year 12 Hospitality Cafe
25 September	Senior Wellbeing Disco Year 8 Inclusive Education Excursion Year 12 PE Excursion
26 September	Senior PE Excursion Year 8 Inclusive Education Excursion
27 September - 12 October	Term break
13 October	Year 12 PE Excursion
14 October	College Leadership Speeches Year 11 PE Excursion
15 October	Year 12 Hospitality Cafe
16 October	College Follow-Up Photo Day Senior Media Excursion Year 10 Sport and Recreation Excursion Year 10 Photography Excursion
17 October	Year 12 Physics Excursion
20 October	Year 12 PE Excursion
21-22 October	AST Second Sitting
21 October	Year 8 Incursion Year 11 Biology Excursion College Leadership Assembly



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TERM 2
HOUSE SPIRIT CUP WINNER, PINDARI!**

22-24 October	Year 10 Sport and Recreation Camp
22 October	Year 11 Senior PE Excursion Year 10 Sport and Recreation Excursion Year 9 Sport and Recreation Excursion Outdoor Education Excursion
23 October	Year 8 Inclusive Education Excursion Year 10 Sport and Recreation Excursion
24 October	Grandparents and Grandfriends Day
27 October	Year 12 PE Excursion
28-29 October	Year 7 Immunisations
28 October	Dance Festival Performance Year 11 Senior PE Excursion
29-31 October	Year 9 Sport and Recreation Camp
29 October	Year 9 Sport and Recreation Excursion Year 11 Hospitality Excursion Year 12 Hospitality Cafe Parent Dinner
30 October	Year 10 Sport and Recreation Excursion
31 October	World Teachers Day Year 10 Sport and Recreation Excursion
1 November	All Saints Day
2 November	All Souls Day

ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

Monday	Dance Troupe Green Club Junior Band Maths Tutorial Production Crew
Tuesday	Maths Tutorial Percussion Ensemble Philosophy and Ethics Club String Ensemble
Wednesday	Cal Bruton Basketball Program Choir and Karaoke Maths Tutorial The Reading Room

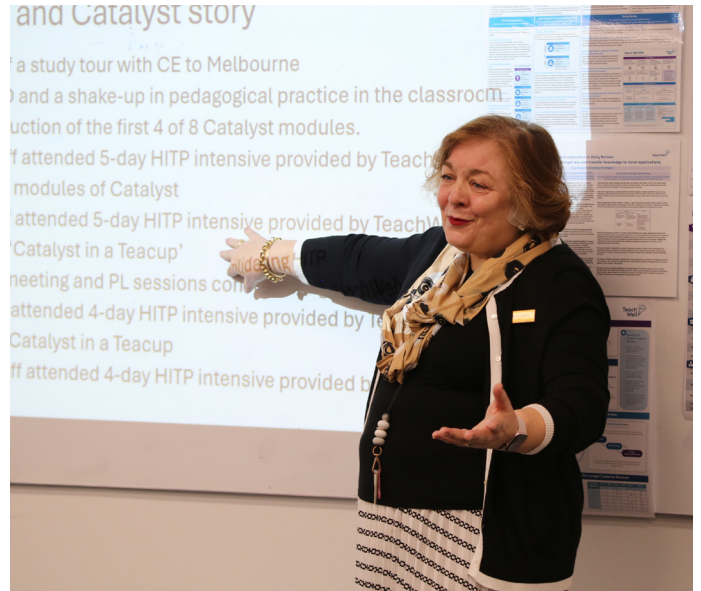
Thursday	Dance Troupe Guitar Ensemble Maths Tutorial Production Crew Robots and Rocketry Sustainability Club Theology Club
Friday	Strategic Games Club

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

15 September 2025

Dear parents and friends,

Recently a delegation from Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) schools QLD visited the College to view our pedagogical practice and to speak with teachers and students about their experience of College life. They were very impressed and remarked about on the quality of practice and relationship they observed in each of the classrooms they visited.



Last Friday our Executive Director of Catholic Education David de Carvalho spent the day with us. He was very complimentary of the College, the dedication of our teachers and their work and care for our students, and of the sense of calm and confidence he observed in classrooms and in conversation with our students. He was particularly complimentary of the students he spoke to remarking on their pride and enthusiasm for the success of the College.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



This week the College will be involved in a process of Registration. This process which occurs every 5 years in all schools will seek to examine our documentation and practice to ensure that there is alignment with these against our legislative obligations as a school. The Panel will provide a report later in the year, but I am very confident that this will be very affirming. I wish to commend to you the work of my Executive team and teaching Faculty who have worked with such dedication and precision to prepare this documentation for Registration.

By now you may have noticed that we have a new College website which was long overdue and which I hope will provide a much more contemporary interface for the College in the future. I am delighted with the feedback you have provided already and if you wish to make any recommendations, please do at principal@sfx.act.edu.au.

As the Term draws to a close, I wish to thank you for your confidence in the College and the support you provide for our girls and boys in their learning and extra curricular activities. They are a credit to you. I wish you and your families a restful break.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Sandra Darley
College Principal

YEAR 8 UNWRAPPED

Year 8 Pastoral Day - A Day of Connection

Our Year 8 students came together recently for their Pastoral Day, which was a celebration of community, teamwork and friendship. The day offered students the chance to reflect, connect and enjoy shared activities as a year group. Students also met Brett Lee, a cyber safety expert.

"On June 24th, Year 8 had a fun Pastoral Day. Each pastoral group performed in the talent show, showing off magic, acting and dancing like the Nutbush, just dance, the macarena and knee dance. Also, a cyber safety expert came to talk to use about how to be safe online and gave us a few tips. We even got a sausage sizzle and soft drink for lunch." – **Kirrily Nemeth (8K2)**

"A cyber safety expert named Brett Lee who has been a detective for 16 years and worked for the FBI in cybercrime came to the school to talk to us about how to be safe behind a screen. Brett gave us five main tips, which are; protect your personal details online, treat everyone you meet online as a stranger, the Internet always has rules and responsibilities, set boundaries and be careful." – **Jett Sureda (8D1)**



Sporting Success – Riley at Nationals

We are proud to share that **Riley Stanworth (8P1)** (first left) secured 6th place at the national level Cross Country in Ballarat and again on the Gold Coast. This is an outstanding achievement and we congratulate Riley on this well-deserved success. Of course, Riley is not our only talented sportsperson — keep an eye out for our swimmers, basketballers, hockey players, indoor cricketers and many more who continue to make us proud both locally and beyond.



Manga Magic with Kenny Chan

Students of Japanese were treated to a special creative workshop with Kenny Chan, who shared his skills in drawing manga. From expressive faces to dynamic action poses, students had the chance to learn techniques that brought their ideas to life on the page. This workshop was a wonderful opportunity to explore new artistic skills.



Dullugal Wins the OzTag Competition

A big congratulations to Dullugal for taking out this year's OzTag competition! Their consistent attendance and commitment on the field paid off. Well done to all who participated, not only for your skill but also for the excellent sportsmanship displayed across the competition.

Silly Sock Day

Year 8 will be leading a **Silly Sock Day** on **31 October** to raise money for our House Charities. Please come wearing your silliest sock combination and bring a gold coin donation.

Natalie Bakonji
Year 8 Coordinator

AROUND THE COLLEGE

SOCIAL SCIENCES WEEK

This term, there were a number of exciting events taking place around the College to celebrate Social Sciences Week. This event takes place every September and is intended to help appreciate and demonstrate how the Social Sciences assist us in understanding humanity, society and the institutions which govern our daily lives.

These events included a very tightly contested daily pastoral trivia competition (won by **11K1**), a geo-guesser challenge (won by **Charles Kellam, 8D2**) and our Big HASS Trivia event which had a record turnout. Over 70 students from across Years 8-12 competed to have their names added to our Big HASS Trophy. Our winning team will be announced at a future assembly.



Thank you to everyone who participated in and contributed to our events. The HASS department is looking forward to next year's Social Sciences Week already!

Dmitry Dubovitsky
Head of HASS

ACHIEVEMENTS

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SUCCESS



We are so proud of Year 11 student, **Violet Nichols (11P1)**, who recently travelled to Kawasaki, Japan to represent Australia at the 2025 World Jump Rope Championships.

The event brought together more than 2,000 athletes from 35 countries, giving Violet the chance to compete against some of the very best in the world. Taking on athletes up to eight years older, Violet found the competition tough but incredibly rewarding.

One of her standout moments came when she competed in an event with over 35 athletes, finishing 12th despite using the wrong rope and having little preparation. The event tested her resilience and focus under intense pressure, but she rose to the challenge.

Reflecting on her experience, Violet shared: "It was the hardest competition I've ever competed in, but I learnt so much about myself and what it means to compete internationally. I'm more motivated than ever to keep training and improving."

Violet has her sights set firmly on the future as she works toward qualifying for the 2027 World Championships in Norway. She and her team also celebrated an impressive result, finishing 6th overall.

Congratulations, Violet!

ACHIEVEMENTS

2025 ACT ROBOCUP STATE COMPETITION

Congratulations to our Year 9, 11 and 12 Robotics students for their fantastic achievements at the 2025 ACT RoboCup State Competition! It was a highly competitive event, but our teams shone through with innovation, perseverance and teamwork.

Our Year 9 students impressed in the Soccer Robots Challenge, showcasing excellent programming and strategic play, whereas our senior students excelled in the Maze Challenge, demonstrating creativity and problem-solving under pressure.

Both teams, along with another team from Year 10, have qualified to compete nationally over the coming months. A special thank you to Mr Elias and Mr Cerone for their support and engagement with our students throughout this journey.

We are incredibly proud of their hard work and we look forward to seeing them excel on the national stage!

Sam Beattie
Head of Digital Technologies



(L-R) Oliver Vincent (9K1), Oliver Sedgwick (9K2), Evan Maddox (9P2) and James Bates (9K1)



(L-R) Sean Beaven (12P2), Hamish Larner (12I2), Caitlin White (11G1) and James Overton (12I2)

GYMNASTICS EXCELLENCE

Well done to our Year 7 athlete **Nikita Kostenko (7K2)** for his participation at the AIS Arena in August!

Nikita competed in the Level 6 Open, showcasing not only his athletic ability but also his determination and sportsmanship.

The event brought together competitors from a range of schools and clubs, providing Nikita with the chance to test his skills against a diverse group of athletes.

We look forward to seeing his continued growth and achievements in gymnastics!



ACHIEVEMENTS

CAT COMPETITION



Every year, students across Australia compete in the Computational and Algorithmic Thinking (CAT) Competition run by the Australian Maths Trust.

This year we had 12 students participate across Years 7 to 11 providing them with an exciting opportunity to develop their problem-solving skills through algorithmic thinking. The competition incorporates unique 'three-stage tasks' that encourage students to develop informal algorithms and apply them to test data of increasing size or complexity.

Congratulations to all involved, and an extra shout out to **Finley Howard (8G2)** and **Max Morrison (9P2)** for receiving a Certificate of Distinction.

SFX Awardees

Year 7
Chloe Wong

Year 8
Alexander Andrews
Isabella Herbert
Finley Howard
Allieah Liefing
Nathaniel Pakkianathan
Alaina Singh
Isabella Teoh
Ruban Varman

Aine McAuley
Head of Maths

Year 9
Max Morrison

Year 10
Pranav Kumar

Year 11
Thomas Fonhof

2025 ESSI MONEY CHALLENGE – ACT CHAMPIONS

The ESSI Money Challenge is an annual competition run by the Suncorp Bank and the Financial Basics Foundation. It is open to all high school and college students from across Australia. ESSI stands for Earn, Save, Spend, Invest and through this online financial literacy game, participants are required to make informed, thoughtful and prudent decisions around employment, bank accounts, credit, investments, etc. over a set amount of time to accrue the maximum amount of money in their bank balance. Those students with the highest totals in each state and territory, in the age groups of 12 – 15 and 16 – 18, are crowned champions and awarded a \$250 pre-paid VISA card.

This year, 31 students from SFX College registered to join the 2025 edition of the ESSI Money Challenge. Of those, two students performed exceptionally well and managed to achieve the highest scores in the ACT. Winning the 12 – 15 year category was **Daven Martinez** from **9D2** and winning the 16 – 18 year category was **Mia Givens** from **12K2**.

Congratulations to these two students and all the students who participated. Hopefully next year, SFX can get an even higher number of students competing and retain the top spot in both age groups in the ACT.



Tom Klekner
Data Analyst and Mathematics Teacher

ACHIEVEMENTS

COLLEGE SPORT HIGHLIGHTS: FINALS, CHAMPIONSHIPS AND BEYOND

Our College teams had a fantastic performance at recent sporting carnivals, displaying skill, teamwork and plenty of enthusiasm across netball and soccer. Both our boys' and girls' competitive netball teams battled hard, coming away with mixed results but plenty to be proud of.

The 7/8 Girls Netball side were outstanding, storming through the pool and semi-final stages before falling just short in a thrilling final against Merici. The 9/10 Girls Netball team also impressed, going undefeated in their group stage before bowing out in an extremely competitive semi-final clash with Belconnen High.

On the soccer field, our 7/8 boys' and girls' teams represented the College with pride. A special mention goes to the 7/8 Boys Soccer team, who not only progressed through to the ACT finals but went on to claim victory on the day — an incredible achievement! Our 9/10 boys' and girls' soccer teams also participated eagerly at the Northside events, showing determination and school spirit in every match.

Beyond these competitions, our 7/8 Boys Futsal team had the unique opportunity to travel to Sydney to compete in the NSW Futsal Championships, gaining valuable experience on a big stage. The boys showed great determination against highly rated opponents.

As this piece is being written, we have a large number of students competing at the North Region Track and Field. We can't wait to share their results with the wider community.

A special mention to a few individuals who have achieved outstanding results. **Jett Sureda (8D1)**, **Lucas Manning (9I2)** and **Lily Paterson (9P2)** who represented the ACT in the National Hockey Championship held recently in Canberra. All students represented themselves and the College with distinction. As well as that we have a number of students competing in the National Cross Country Championship in QLD. We wish **Elsie Hamilton (7K1)**, **Max Greenhalgh (7K1)**, **Riley Stanworth (8P1)** and **Flynn Stanworth (7P2)** all the best. **Kobe Brown (7K2)** has made the U12 Touch team and will travel to Ballarat to play. Continuing on the Year 7 theme, the College will have 4 students, **Ethan Balthazar (7I1)**, **Aaron Gray (7P1)**, **Mounir Jbeili (7P1)** and **Kai McRae (7P1)** representing the ACT in the U12 School Sport Soccer Nationals. I'm sure everyone will join me in wishing these students the best.

Congratulations to all students involved for their effort, sportsmanship, and commitment in representing our College.

Tim Sloman
Health and PE Teacher



STUDENT VOICE

In this edition of *Student Voice*, our Communications Captain, Amelia, chats with some of our 2025 Student Council on their learnings, legacies and hopes for the future.

What leadership skills have you developed through being part of the Student Council and how do you use them in everyday school life?

Brodie: "I've learned how to work well with people from different backgrounds and in different situations, which I think is really important. For me, leadership is about building good relationships with the people I work with."

Phoebe: "Being on the Student Council has made me more confident and assertive. I've learned how to work collaboratively with students from different year groups and I feel more comfortable speaking up about issues that affect me and other people around the school."

Jett: "For me, it isn't just about leading, it's also about being trusted to represent others. People rely on you, just like in Parliament, to share their views. That sense of responsibility doesn't stop at school — it carries into other areas like sport, where the same values apply. Being part of the Student Council also shows other students where they bring their ideas and proposals."

Violet: "I've gained the confidence to share my voice and listen to others, even perspectives I might not normally hear as a senior. For me, leadership means having the confidence and be willing to speak up, not always waiting for others to do it and learning to stand up for myself and others."

How does working with students from different year groups make the Council more effective?

Brodie: "Working with different year groups extends the scope of what we can do and helps us focus on what really matters. It could feel isolating if each year group worked on its own. Having one Council allows us to share a clearer message and achieve stronger outcomes. It also helps younger students connect with older ones and know they have support."

Phoebe: "It improves communication about the changes we're making and helps us see the bigger picture. If we only talk within our own Student Representative Councils (SRCs), we only see our own issues. Working together shows us the main challenges across the whole school and helps us spot patterns that affect multiple year groups."



(L-R) Violet Nichols (11P1), Jett Sureda (8D1), Brodie Schorsch (12K2) and Phoebe Baulch (9G2)

Jett: "Each year group brings a different perspective. For example, new Year 7 students can feel nervous moving from being the oldest in primary school to the youngest in high school. Having their voices represented is important. Younger students might focus on physical activities and settling in, while older students are often more focused on study. Combining these viewpoints makes the council stronger."

Violet: "It helps us focus on both the bigger issues and the smaller ones that affect students across year levels. Sometimes Year 7s and older students share similar concerns, and if we all agree on what's most important, it shows us what we need to act on quickly."



STUDENT VOICE

How can the Council help provide more opportunities for students to develop leadership, creativity or school spirit?

Brodie: "It comes down to how approachable the Council is. If we have members from different friendship groups and backgrounds, more students will feel comfortable coming to us. We need a wide range of people on the Council and should promote it as a real opportunity for leadership. The goal is to be more personal, visible and accessible so that everyone feels included."

Phoebe: "The activities and initiatives we run as a Council help promote leadership across different year groups. They also give us opportunities to bring students together and encourage more people to get involved."

Jett: "It's not only about the Council leading, it's also about giving students the chance to share their ideas and push for change. Our role is to encourage participation, hold ourselves accountable and build students' confidence to come forward and tell us what matters to them."

Violet: "The Student Council and SRCs are a great way to hear students' opinions, whether they're repeating common concerns or bringing up new ideas. We can go back to them and ask what issues they'd like us to advocate for, or what changes they'd like to see. Even students who aren't in leadership roles still get a say — we can include everyone by listening and asking for their input. It's about creating a space where students feel comfortable speaking up, almost like talking to a friend."



Looking ahead, what type of legacy or positive impact would you like this year's Student Council to leave behind?

Brodie: "I think it's important to build a strong foundation for next year's Council to build on. If we set up a solid base now, it makes it much easier for future councils to work efficiently and really make an impact."

Phoebe: "I'd like us to create a support system for the next group of leaders. The initiatives and issues we've started can hopefully be carried forward and developed further. I want the next Council to see that we've been advocating for students and for them to feel inspired to do the same. It's also about showing that real change can happen, that the Council does have an impact on the school."

Jett: "Our focus doesn't have to be on making huge changes all at once. What matters is making sure the school is a happy, safe and fun place where students can learn and connect with each other. That's something we want to last, not just for this year but for the years to come."

Violet: "I think it's important to show that leadership is something positive. Even when we talk about things that could change, it's always in a constructive way. We want to encourage confidence in the next group of leaders so they know it's okay to share their opinions. Whether it's with the Council, teachers or staff, students should feel they can speak up and be heard."



NOTICES



LOST PROPERTY REMINDER

We have accumulated a significant collection of lost property over the past year, including items such as AirPods, keys and jewellery. If you believe you may have misplaced something on campus, please check the Lost Property area located outside the gym or contact our Front Office for assistance.

Please remember: all lost property is kept until the end of each school year. During this time, the Front Office will make every effort to identify and return items to their rightful owners. Any unclaimed property remaining at year's end will be disposed of appropriately.

To give everyone the best chance of recovering lost items, we encourage you to report them as soon as possible and provide detailed descriptions.

NOTICES



Hawker Community Repair Café

Proudly Sponsored by Capital Chemist Group:



Volunteers will help repair clothes / fabrics, small electrical items, small furniture, small household items, toys, jewellery, leather goods, bikes, lawn mowers, small motors, garden/shed tools, tool/knife sharpening and more.

Justice of the Peace (JP) available to witness documents

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

Used **Electric Vehicle** display *with information and test rides*

Let the kids learn how to weave springtime suncatchers.

Made-local Market (over 25 stalls)

For friendly handmade gifts, artworks, textiles, quilts, toys, jewellery, pottery, jams, artisan soaps, garden ornaments, jams, bric-a-brac, books, puzzles, plants, pre-loved tools, 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 - 21 September 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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