

12 DECEMBER 2025

SFX NEWS



ISSUE 8



Truth and Courage

WHAT'S ON

2026 ACT SECONDARY STUDENT ATTENDANCE DATES

Term 1	2 February – 2 April 2 February – Year 7 commence 3 February – Years 8-12 commence
Term 2	21 April – 1 July
Term 3	20 July – 25 September
Term 4	13 October – 11 December 11 December – Final attendance date for Years 7-9

2026 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

1 January	New Year's Day		
26 January	Australia Day	25 April	ANZAC Day
9 March	Canberra Day	1 June	Reconciliation Day (ACT only)
3 April	Good Friday	8 June	King's Birthday
4 April	Easter Saturday	5 October	Labour Day
5 April	Easter Sunday	25 December	Christmas Day
6 April	Easter Monday	26 December	Boxing Day (observed on 28 December)



ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

Monday

- Dance Troupe
- Green Team
- 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

12 December 2025

Dear parents and friends,

Our end of year events and occasions have been a celebration of an exceptional culture of learning, achievement and aspiration for our students. We have most recently marked and honoured the graduation of the class of 2025 at their Mass and Formal, and the academic achievement and community leadership of Years 7 – 10 at their Presentation ceremony and Awards assemblies. Congratulations to all of students for an exceptional year, and for their many achievements in so many spheres of the College. They are a credit to themselves and to their families.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Thank you to my staff whose generosity and commitment to our students has been integral to their success this year. Thank you also to our parents. Your trust and confidence in the College and your willingness to partner with my staff in our joint aspiration for and commitment to the success of the young people in our care is very much appreciated.

I wish you and your extended families peace and a joyful and blessed Christmas and I look forward to working with you and your sons and daughters again in 2026.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Sandra Darley
College Principal

ACHIEVEMENTS

PROGRESSIVE ACHIEVEMENT TEST (PAT) RESULTS

The College wishes to acknowledge and congratulate the following students who achieved the highest scale score in the recent Progressive Achievement Test (PAT) for the Maths Adaptive and Reading Adaptive testing in their year group.

PAT - MATHS



Afrah Hassan (7P1)



Ishak Hajdar (8K1)



Cooper Dermody (7D1)



Ella Moody (8I2)



Max Morrison (9P2)



Star Ho (10D2)



Nathaniel Pakkianathan (8K1)



Emily Anderson (9P1)



Sophie Kelly (10G2)

Tom Klekner
Data Analyst and Mathematics Teacher

ACHIEVEMENTS

H COURSE SUCCESS



Congratulations to **Olivia Monaghan**, one of our 2025 Pindari House Captains, who has completed her H Course through the University of Canberra's Accelerated Pathways Program!

Olivia is one of many students in our graduating Class of 2025 who juggled higher education studies with senior classes, setting herself up for success as she prepares for university life next year.

We wish Olivia and our Class of 2025 all the very best!

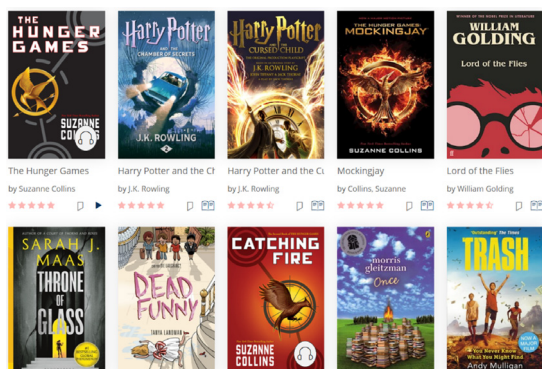
LEARNING IN THE LEARNING COMMONS



In Week 17, our Learning Commons team had the pleasure of hosting three Year 10 students for their Work Experience (WEX) placement. Throughout the week, they gained valuable insight into the daily operations of a busy Learning Commons, from supporting classes with book borrowing to learning the skills involved in shelving and organising resources. They also covered more than 200 books, ensuring they are ready for next year's Year 7 and 8 English classes. Their enthusiasm, teamwork and willingness to learn made a wonderful contribution to our space. We thank them for their hard work and dedication.

November is always a lively time in the Learning Commons as we farewell our Year 12s, welcome Year 10 work experience students and juggle the stockpiles of books pouring through the returns chute.

A highlight this term has been our Year 7 Learning Commons 'Break Out' lessons. Students had to draw on their knowledge of Ancient Rome to solve the challenges created by our very own research guru, Amy. Students worked in teams of four to solve puzzles, decode using Roman numerals, utilise timeline and mapping skills and used their knowledge of Roman society and Roman Gods to unlock each stage of the activity. The room buzzed with collaboration, problem-solving and plenty of creative thinking as students raced against the clock to "break out." This hands-on experience not only deepened their understanding of Ancient Rome but also strengthened teamwork and resilience.



A holiday reminder: Before you head off on summer break, don't forget to download the Wheelers app onto your phones and log into the SFX audiobook platform. Whether you're road tripping, cooking dinner or lying on the beach, Wheeler's audiobooks will sweep you into fantasy epics, laugh out loud rom coms, and wild true tales with no cost or fuss.

Download the Wheelers app on your phone, press play and fill your holidays with tales that enrich vocabulary, increase concentration, enhance memory and entertain all at the same time.

COLLABORATIVE READING PARTNERSHIP



During Semester Two, several of our Year 7 and Year 8 ELT classes had the opportunity to take part in a wonderful program facilitated through Inclusive Education. As part of this initiative, our students visited St Michael's Primary School and St John's Primary School to read with Kindergarten and Year 1 students.

The Collaborative Reading Program allows SFX students to develop their leadership skills, confidence and communication abilities. Using their knowledge of the 3Ps technique; pause, prompt and praise, our students support and encourage their young reading buddies in a nurturing and engaging way.

The benefits of this program are wide-ranging: fostering a love of reading, strengthening reading-aloud skills, building empathy and nurturing strong connections with our neighbouring primary schools. It has been a joy to watch our SFX students shine as they interact so positively, gently and enthusiastically with their buddies. The sessions have been filled with laughter, learning and many moments of celebration.

We extend our sincere thanks to St Michael's Primary School and St John's Primary School for welcoming us so warmly.



AROUND THE COLLEGE

Please read some student reflections:

"When we visited St John's for the first time, I was very excited – but nervous at the same time. The Kindy kids were shy at first but built up the courage to talk to us. They really enjoyed us helping them read and do activities despite them being a little bit cheeky. Every two weeks we go and visit them and every time we have gone, they became more comfortable and we started to build friendships. The strategies we used to make them feel safe and comfortable were listening to them, getting down on their level and using the 3Ps to help them read. Two things I learnt is that they really value you and look up to you. I really value visiting them too!" - Amaya



"This term we went over to St John's to help the kindies learn how to read. We also helped them with communication skills. When I went over, I felt happy to meet them. During this time, I helped the students and just listened. I used the 3 P's - pause, prompt and praise when reading with them. They were very talkative and loved telling me about themselves. I learnt they were very energetic." - Charlotte

"When our class went to St John's we helped the kids read, build connections and use their communication skills. All the kids were energetic and they are talkative – it's hard to keep their attention! The class was warm and welcoming so the nerves went away fast. We had to get down to their level to help them as much as possible. I am looking forward to going back." - Elyse

"When our class went to St John's the Apostle Primary School, I wanted to make an impact on them because when I was in that class, I had a buddy who helped me with reading. This made me start applying myself more and that made a big change in my life. Even if I was only getting better by a small amount, he kept supporting me with reading and other skills. Now I want to do the same for my buddy." - Lucius



"When we went over to St John's, the kindies were so easily influenced and I felt thrilled to be there. I found it hard to keep their attention. They were very talkative." - Anakin



Karen Garrity, Katharine Harding and Amber Rebecca
Inclusive Education Department

THE YEAR THAT WAS

As we reach the end of our school journey, it's hard to believe how quickly Year 12 has flown by. It feels like only yesterday we were walking through school on our "last first day," filled with excitement, nerves and the bittersweet realisation that we were stepping into the beginning of the end of something truly special.

From that moment on, we made it our mission to make this year count. At our final Community Day and Athletics Carnival, we showed up with everything we had: shouting, cheering and laughing until we lost our voices. It wasn't just about winning, but about celebrating who we are as a year group – spirited, united and full of life.



As the months went on, reality started to set in. We began thinking about the future, with some of us applying to universities, others joining trades and some dreaming of travelling the world. The future suddenly felt so close and although it was scary at times, we had each other to lean on. Every conversation, every piece of advice shared and every laugh in between made the uncertainty a little easier to face.

And along the way, there were the unforgettable highlights that only our year could pull off – the Staff v Students sports competitions (which of course the students won), the SLT sleepout in the Year 10 Locker Bay, and all the bake sales, sausage sizzles and Spirit Week activities that brought us together and reminded us just how strong our community really is.



AROUND THE COLLEGE

Then came camp – a few days none of us will ever forget. Away from school, routine and deadlines, we had the rare chance to just be together. The Burn Bright sessions brought us closer in ways we didn't expect and the trivia night – which had the most creative costumes ever seen – was pure chaos in the best possible way. In those moments, the walls came down and we saw each other not just as classmates but as friends who had shared something truly special. Camp didn't just give us memories but deepened the bond that carried us through the rest of the year.



Now, standing at the finish line, we can look back with full hearts. This year wasn't perfect, but it was real and it was ours. It was a year full of growth, resilience, friendship and finding out who we are.

As we move forward, ready to take on the next chapter, we'll carry with us the lessons, the laughter and the love that shaped our year. Because even though this chapter is ending, our story is only just beginning.

Here's to the year that was!

Amelia Hodgson
2025 Communication Captain



STANDARD 1: Leadership, Culture and Governance

Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in our organisational leadership, governance and culture.



STANDARD 2: Participation and Empowerment

Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them, and are taken seriously.



STANDARD 3: Family and Community Involvement

Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety.



STANDARD 4: Equity and Diversity

Equity is upheld and diverse needs are respected in policy and practice.



Truth and Courage

We are committed to implementing the Child Safe Standards at St Francis Xavier College



STANDARD 5: Human Resource Management

People working with children and young people are suitable and supported.



STANDARD 6: Child-focused Complaints Process

Processes to respond to complaints of child abuse and concerns are child focused.



STANDARD 7: Training

Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through continual education and training.



STANDARD 8: Physical and Online Environments

Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for abuse.



STANDARD 9: Continuous Review and Improvement

Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is continuously reviewed and improved.



STANDARD 10: Policies and Procedures

Policies and procedures document how our organisation is safe for children and young people.



Australian Government



eSafety
Commissioner

Social Media Minimum Age

Do you ever start scrolling on social media and realise hours have passed without you noticing? Ever felt bad about yourself because of something you've seen on your #fyp? You're not alone.

Over 7 in 10 young Australians have seen content they shouldn't be exposed to online, including sexist, misogynistic or hateful content, content depicting dangerous online challenges or fight videos, or content that encourages unhealthy eating or exercise habits.

That's why we're increasing the minimum age to have a social media account to 16.

Social media minimum age – coming 10 December 2025

Starting 10 December, if you're under 16, you won't be able to have an account on some social media platforms. If you already have an account, it should be deactivated or frozen. The law is intended to capture social media platforms like **TikTok**, **Instagram**, **Snapchat**, **X**, **Facebook** and **YouTube**.

You can still go online

You can still use **messaging services** and **online games**, as well as a lot of other apps and platforms that **support your health and wellbeing**.

How you can prepare



Talk to people you trust about how you can prepare for this change.



Start a chat about other things you and your friends can do to fill your time when you're not online.



Think about other ways to stay connected with family and friends, such as using other online platforms, meeting up in person, playing sport or joining a club together.



Save your data, photos and videos from your existing accounts. The major social media platforms have instructions for how you can do this, or you can find links on the [eSafety website](https://www.esafety.gov.au/eSafetyguide) ([eSafety.gov.au/eSafetyguide](https://www.esafety.gov.au/eSafetyguide)).



Do you need more information?

Visit the [eSafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au) website to learn more about the social media minimum age.

If you need to talk to someone about ways to deal with the change, you can contact:

ehespace: 1800 650 890 or ehespace.org.au

- Available 3pm – 10pm every day.

Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800 or kidshelpline.com.au

- Available 24/7 (phone and online).
- You can also join [My Circle](#), a private, safe and confidential social platform for 12–25 year olds across Australia, run by Kids Helpline.

ReachOut: au.reachout.com

- A safe space for young people aged 12–25 to chat anonymously, get support and feel better.

13YARN: 13 92 76 or 13yarn.org.au

- Available 24/7 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Scan to
find out more





NOTICES



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.



St Francis
Xavier
College



02 6258 1055



school.office@sfx.act.edu.au



Barnard Circuit, Florey ACT 2615



PO Box 3248 BC, Belconnen ACT 2617



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