

6 MARCH 2026

SFX NEWS



ISSUE 1



Truth and Courage

WHAT'S ON

2026 ACT SECONDARY STUDENT ATTENDANCE DATES

Term 1	2 February – 2 April 21 April – 1 July
Term 2	20 July – 25 September
Term 3	13 October – 11 December
Term 4	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

Dear parents and friends,

We have had a wonderful start to the school year and our students have settled into their learning routines and College life with characteristic confidence and energy. It is such a source of pride to their teachers and to me that they understand the significance of belonging to a learning community of trust, inclusion and wellbeing and that they work together so well to support each other and their teachers.

Our College Opening Mass was a prayerful and dignified occasion, and we are very blessed to have had Fr John Woods, Fr Mick McAndrew and Fr Tru Nguyen concelebrate this occasion for us. We were joined by local MLAs David Smith and Peter Cain, representatives of Catholic Education Office including Assistant Director Mr Dominic Braybon, Principals and student representatives from ACT Secondary and Primary schools, and importantly the parents of our 2026 student leaders who were commissioned at the Mass. I wish to thank and pay special tribute to Fr John's generous investment in and contribution to our College which is deeply appreciated by me, my staff and our students. I also wish to acknowledge and thank our liturgy team for their contribution to the planning of this occasion and to our staff and students who made it such a powerful expression of all that is precious to us as a community.

Congratulations to our 2026 College Leadership team who were commissioned at our Mass. I am delighted with the leadership and generosity of these young people and have absolute confidence that they will be outstanding leaders of the College in 2026. They are a credit to their parents and teachers!

I am very keen for the College to invest in parent community engagement with our learning agenda 7 -12, and to this end will be extending invitations for you to attend Elective and Information Evenings in our junior school, a Year 11, 2027 Information Evening and Careers Expo, course counselling sessions for our Year 10 students and the like. Last week, we invited our Year 12 students and their parents to a Progress Interview to provide them with information about the Year 12 Senior Secondary Certificate and their children's learning data. This was a new initiative and an opportunity for our ATAR and non ATAR seekers to hear feedback about their progress in Year 11, their trial AST data, their estimated ATARs and for their parents to ask questions of senior staff about senior studies. I was delighted with the feedback from parents and wish to thank those who were able to attend. Please do not hesitate to contact our Senior Studies Coordinator Felicity.Duffy@sfx.act.edu.au or Jonathan.Moyle@sfx.act.edu.au if you have any questions about the progress of your son or daughter in senior studies.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Our newest members of the College Year 7 have made a wonderful start to the year. I am delighted that this year we have welcomed students from over 35 primary schools to the College. Year 7 have been very impressive in their engagement with their teachers and peers, and we took the opportunity to ask them to stand and offer them a welcome blessing at our Opening Mass. Thank you to our parents and carers for making sure they have been so well prepared for secondary school.

We are currently preparing for our Year 7, 2027 Information Evening on Tuesday 24 March which will be from 5.00pm onwards. This is a key event in the College calendar to which we invite families not yet enrolled to view our facilities and hear from staff and students about what St Francis Xavier has to offer. You are also most welcome to join us! We will be advertising the event but please let your friends and families know about the College and our Information Evening.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can assist you at principal@sfx.act.edu.au

Yours sincerely

Sandra Darley
College Principal

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

MAKING A SPLASH AT COMMUNITY DAY!

St Francis Xavier College dove into the new year with an earlier-than-usual Swimming Carnival and Community Day extravaganza.

The day commenced with the competitive swimmers making waves across the 50m Freestyle, Breaststroke, Backstroke, Butterfly, 100m Freestyle, and 200m Individual Medley.

Congratulations to the following Age Champions, who accrued the most points across these events:

12 Years Girls:	Savannah Farr
12 Years Boys:	Henry Merchant and Lachlan Purdy
13 Years Girls:	Stephanie Arvanitis
13 Years Boys:	Hugo Pejcinovic
14 Years Girls:	Charlotte Purdy
14 Years Boys:	Nikita Kostenko
15 Years Girls:	Clara Doherty
15 Years Boys:	Oscar Yu
16 Years Boys:	Joel Martyn
18 Years Boys:	Robert Moore

Then began the Community Day activities. Students developed House Spirit by competing for house points in various activities including Water Volleyball, the Tyre Relay, Obstacle Course, Tennis Ball Champion, and relay challenges. It was a highly competitive day with the lead changing many times at the conclusion of each round of activities. The champion house for the day was Pindari, with 1538 points!

To culminate the day, the SFX population joined together to witness The Darley Dive! After an outstanding fundraising effort of \$2000 by the SLT.

Principal Darley dove into the pool at the end of the day fully clothed (hat included!) to celebrate the contributions of the SFX community.

Congratulations to all staff and students on a wonderful day. We look forward to the upcoming Cross Country competition on Tuesday 31st of March, and the Athletics Carnival on Tuesday 28th April.



DESIGNED ENVIRONMENTS - LANDSCAPE



Our Year 11/12 Designed Environments students recently enjoyed an outstanding and highly engaging excursion to the National Zoo and Aquarium. As part of their Landscape Architecture unit, students were taken on a custom behind the scenes tour exploring how enclosure design incorporates materials, substrates, barriers, viewing areas, and horticultural planning to support both animal welfare and visitor experience.

Sebastian of Year 12 shares his thoughts below:

"Our Year 11/12 Designed Environments trip to the National Zoo and Aquarium was a real eye opener in terms of the amount of precision and detail that goes into the design of the enclosures that ensure the animals wellbeing and the visitors experience. This term we are diving into our Landscape Architecture Unit, and to be able to see firsthand how enclosure design incorporates materials, substrates, barriers, viewing areas, and horticultural planning to enhance the overall experience and quality of the Zoo.

This tour of the National Zoo and Aquarium was most definitely worth it, students were provided with the opportunity to see how sustainability, environmental risk management, and safety help shape design decisions not only at zoos and aquariums but other commercial and residential spaces.

Although we were there for the design of the enclosures, we were also given the opportunity to interact with various animals and reptiles, such as a corn snake, llamas, and an emu. This experience was not only engaging and fun, but memorable and we cannot wait to go back!"

The tour was a great success, giving students the chance to see how sustainability, safety, and environmental risk management shape real world design decisions. We also enjoyed several hands on encounters, feeding alpacas and emus and even holding a snake, making the experience both immersive and memorable.

Will Charles
Design and Technology



NAPLAN TESTING

NAPLAN testing will occur in our school between 11 and 23 March 2026 for students in years 7 and 9.

Online NAPLAN tests provide more precise results and are engaging for students. The tests are tailored (or adaptive), which means that each test presents questions that may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses. This helps students remain engaged with the assessment.

Tailored testing allows a wider range of student abilities to be assessed and measures student achievement more precisely. A student's overall NAPLAN result is based on both the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions challenging; they may be taking a more complex test pathway.

NAPLAN provides valuable information to schools and parents about literacy and numeracy achievement. It supports school improvement processes by enabling teachers to monitor student progress over time and to identify areas of strength and development.

All eligible students are encouraged and supported to participate in NAPLAN testing. Visit www.nap.edu.au to see interactive versions of the test and for more information.



YEAR 12 HOSPITALITY

STUDENTS HOST SUCCESSFUL COCKTAIL PARTY

Our Year 12 Hospitality students recently put their skills into action by hosting a "cocktail party" providing real-world learning experience.

As part of their practical training, students were responsible for every aspect of the event. From welcoming guests and taking orders to preparing and serving a full sit-down menu, the class demonstrated impressive professionalism, teamwork and attention to detail.

The event was a fantastic success, with staff enjoying the opportunity to support our students while experiencing the high standard of service they delivered. Most importantly, the activity allowed students to build confidence and develop practical hospitality skills that mirror real industry environments.

Congratulations to our Year 12 Hospitality students and their teachers for creating such a memorable and successful event.



WORLD-CLASS IN THE SADDLE

MILLIE'S DRESSAGE SUCCESS

St Francis Xavier College is proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of Year 9 student Millie, who continues to make her mark on the international dressage stage.

Millie has been balancing her studies with a demanding competition and training schedule, recently taking leave from school to compete at elite events. Her dedication has paid off in spectacular fashion.

Millie recently woke to the exciting news that she is ranked 12th in the world and 1st in Australia in the FEI Junior Tour (14–18 years) — an extraordinary achievement in the highly competitive world of dressage.

For Millie, dressage is more than a sport — it's a passion driven by continual improvement.

"As a perfectionist, the fact that dressage can never truly be perfect is what drives me," she says. "Competitions aren't the main reason I ride dressage; I love the training process. Coming out of a lesson and improving movements before the next one is what motivates me."

One of Millie's most memorable moments came when she won the FEI Junior Championship at the Australian Youth Dressage Championships. The victory was particularly special because of the team that supported her along the way.

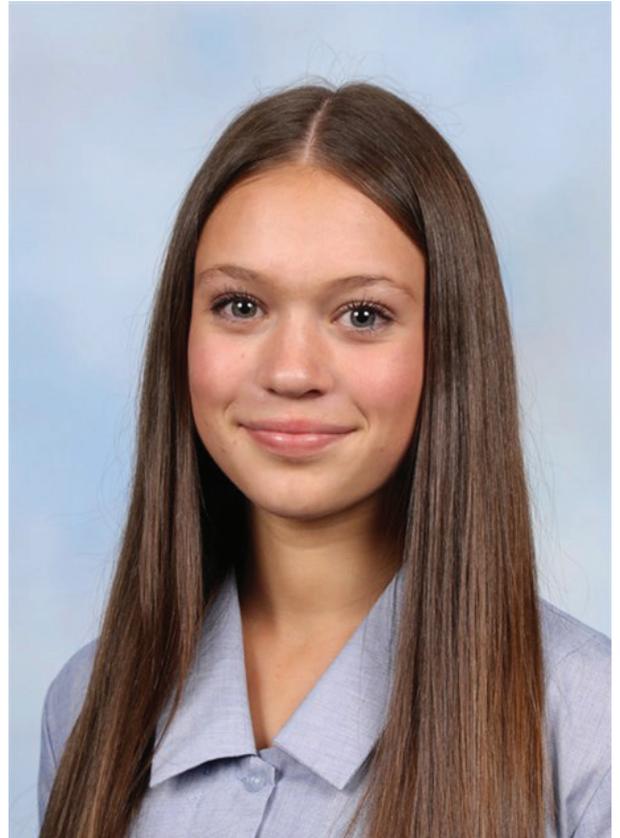
"It was a moment I'll never forget, especially because such important people were by my side," Millie said.

"I felt that the freestyle really made them proud and that all of Olivia's coaching and training truly came through in that performance."

Looking ahead, Millie has her sights set even higher. In the short term, she hopes to step up into the Young Rider division and potentially compete in the prestigious Aachen Challenge. Long term, she dreams of gaining experience on the international circuit — with the Olympics firmly on her horizon.

Despite her demanding training schedule, Millie remains committed to her studies at SFX. Her favourite subjects are Mathematics and Public Speaking, and she hopes to one day study Law or Psychology alongside her riding career.

Millie's discipline, perseverance and humility are qualities we admire deeply at SFX. We congratulate her on these remarkable achievements and look forward to cheering her on as she continues her journey on the world stage.



Amsterdam and Millie in a photo shoot with their sponsor Eloquence Equestrian.
Photo: EE Media.

NOTICES

PRO PERFORMANCE CRICKET **HOLIDAY CAMPS**

CAMP 1: 7TH - 10TH APRIL: DEAKIN MINT OVAL
CAMP 2: 15TH - 17TH APRIL: DEAKIN MINT OVAL

PHILOSOPHY

We are passionate about helping each and every player achieve their goals and reach their potential through expert coaching in a fun, challenging, positive and professional environment. Through the game of cricket we ultimately aim to help our players learn, grow and develop into becoming better people.



OUTLINE

Designed for cricketers of all ages and stages from 5-12. Players will experience up to 5 days of high quality coaching and T20 Games with specialist coaches in batting, bowling, fielding and WK focusing on the specific requirements of each player.

Players will be exposed to a variety of match scenarios and drills that aim to improve confidence, self belief, concentration, team work and leadership skills all while having a ball with their friends.

Pro performance player report with feedback provided to each player at the completion of the Camp.

\$495 - 5 DAYS
\$415 - 4 DAYS
\$325 - 3 DAYS
\$120 PER DAY

  **BOOK NOW** 

HACK CLUB

a weekend to create something *real.*

make the game of your dreams

learn new skills while working on your own ideas

ship it by sunday and win prizes for your creation

CAMPFIRE CANBERRA

Canberra's first Hack Club event
28th Feb - 1st Mar 8:30am - 7:30pm

 hack.club/cf-cbr

You are invited to Afternoon Tea



Learn more about what we have planned for 2026

Join us for an afternoon information session to discover the opportunities we offer for our participants. Find out how our programs can help build essential employment, social, and independence skills throughout the year.

Date: Wednesday, 25 March 2026
Time: 5 - 6pm
Location: Omnia Inclusive
Suite 3.01, Level 3/64 Northbourne Ave
Canberra ACT 2601
RSVP: 23 March
violet.clark@omnia-inclusive.com.au

We look forward to seeing you there!



Connect with us today.

Call 02 8459 7119

Email hello@omnia-inclusive.com.au

omnia-inclusive.com.au

GINNINDERRA

RATS

RATS JUNIOR WINTER 2026 REGO

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER VISIT
WWW.GINNINDERRARATS.COM.AU



NOTICES

quiet Mornings at the Mint



On the first Saturday of each month from 9am–10am, the Royal Australian Mint opens early for Quiet Mornings — a dedicated low-sensory session designed for people who may have heightened sensory requirements. **The next session will take place this Saturday 7 March.** Visitors can explore the exhibition space with reduced noise and smaller crowds, in a calm and welcoming environment. Sessions are free, but numbers are limited and bookings are essential.

Hawker Community Repair Café

Proudly Sponsored by Capital Chemist Group:



Volunteers will help repair: woollen/fabric clothes, small electrical household items/appliances, small furniture/household items, toys, jewellery, leather goods, bikes, mowers, small motors, garden/shed tools, tool/knife sharpening & more.

Justice of the Peace (JP) available to witness documents

An Apple Users Group rep. & IT Specialist for device/application advice.

Lids 4 Kids - Zero Waste Warrior - Swap and Go Tub exchange – (only).

Made-local Market (over 30 stalls)

Ecofriendly handmade gifts & crafts, artworks, textiles, quilts, toys, jewellery, pottery, jams, artisan soaps, garden ornaments, pre-loved tools, bric-a-brac, books, puzzles, plants, Buy Nothing table of FREE gifts and more, much of which is from reused/recycled items and material

Watch our local jeweller and weaver in operation

Make your own perfumes

Find out how to save seeds and grow plants

Sort & recycle your hard to recycle items with Hawker P & C

Sausage sizzle, muffins, cakes, hot food and drinks

SUNDAY – 15 March 2026

10:00am to 1:00pm

Gold coin donation at the gate.

Where: Hawker International Softball Centre, Wallhallow Street, Hawker

Facebook: @Hawker Community Repair Cafe or @Hawker Mensshed

Web: www.hawkermensshed.com.au



Get up to \$500 for education costs.

Achieve a savings goal for 10 months and ANZ will match it up to \$500.


saverplus



saverplus.org.au
1300 610 355

NOTICES



Our Australian Soldier Art Competition

Who do you think an Australian soldier is?

We invite students and young people to take part in Our Australian Soldier by creating an artwork that shows their own idea of what an Australian soldier looks like today. There is no right or wrong answer - this activity is about your perspective, imagination, and creativity.

Your Artwork

- Create a portrait of an Australian soldier
- This can be:
 - A real soldier
 - An imagined soldier
 - A soldier from the past, present, or future
- The artwork should show what "Australian soldier" means to you.

Art Materials

You may use any art materials, including:

- Pencil or pen
- Crayon or coloured pencil
- Text or written words
- Paint
- Collage or mixed media

Be as creative as you like!

Artwork and Artwork Description/ Consent Form

All submissions must include:

- Artwork,
- Artwork Description
- Participant details and
- Signed consent forms.

Do not write your name or details on the artwork itself!!

Artwork Requirements

- Artwork must be A4 size piece of paper only
- Hardcopy artworks must be A4 size
- High-resolution digital submissions can be submitted to cove.army.gov.au
- All digital submissions must be uploaded individually for each participant.

Celebrate the Australian Army's 125th Birthday, visit www.cove.army.gov.au for submission details, display info and downloadable pack.

Submissions can be uploaded to www.cove.army.gov.au or sent to:

Our Australian Soldier, AARC
11 Faulding Street, Symonston, ACT 2610



Veritas



Lecture:

Just and Holy War: From Augustine to the Twenty-First Century

Presented by Professor
Darius von Güttner

Wednesday 22 April 2026

ACU Canberra

(Join us in person or online)

For more information and to register, visit:
www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/events



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