

TRUTH AND COURAGE

SFX NEWS

ISSUE 4

JUNE / 2026



Truth and Courage

What's inside?

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Principals Message | 3 |
| Year 11 Report | 7 |
| Mathematics Update | 9 |
| Performing Arts Update | 10 |
| Progressive Achievement Tests | 12 |
| Ancient History | 15 |
| Legal Studies | 16 |
| Year 7 Camp | 20 |
| Year 10 Camp | 22 |
| A story of Courage | 24 |
| Meet the Teacher | 26 |
| SFX Alumni Story | 27 |
| Notices | 28 |



A message from the Principal

As we approach the final weeks of Term 2, I wish to extend my very best wishes to all students as they immerse themselves in and complete their examinations, assessments and projects. Our classrooms, workshops, studios, laboratories and sports fields are certainly being very well utilised by our teachers and students and the enthusiasm for the success of a range of new and exciting courses in both our junior and senior schools is a source of great pride.

Last week we celebrated Reconciliation Day at our College Assembly with a number of student facilitated reflections and prayers. I shared the following reflections about country with our students as part of my address.

I feel so proud that I've been able to anchor my family on our land because its so much more than just a place. It is where my heart lies, where my ties are, where our old people are. The trees, the sky, the water- they all tell a story but my connection to



the Nowendoc river, which runs into the Manning River is especially deep. One songline starts at the beginning and another finishes at the end... My family is at both ends of that journey (Latrell Mitchell Wiradjiri mob).

I went on to say to our students that Latrell Mitchells words remind us that Aboriginal culture is about the very best elements of belonging to community – heart, family, those who have come before us. Whether Aboriginal or not we have so much to learn from and share with our Aboriginal brothers and sisters if we are to be a truly united as one Australian community. And so reconciliation and the celebration of Reconciliation Week draws us to a shared responsibility, a mutual obligation to each other as members of this one great nation that we call Australia.

The benefits and success of our extra curricular programme was once again demonstrated recently when our Year 7 and 10 students engaged in off site camps with their Year Coordinators and teachers. Year 10 travelled to Douglas Park where they engaged in a range of physical and team building activities designed to build their confidence, resilience and coherence as young people and as a year group. Congratulations Year 10!

Year 7 travelled to Sydney for their Camp at Collaroy. I could not have been more impressed by our Year 7s and with the manner in which they participated in camp routines and activities, challenged themselves, made new friends and demonstrated their willingness to try new things, and care for their teachers and for each other. Congratulations and well done Year 7!

I wish to take the opportunity to thank the teachers and CSAs who accompanied our Year 10 and Year 7 students on their camps. The generosity and expertise of these men and women, and care for your children is unmatched and I am sure that you feel, as I do, indebted to them.

Each year prior to senior examinations in Semester 1 we hold our Senior Wellbeing morning which includes a range of curated wellbeing activities designed specifically for our Senior students. We believe that effective learning for all students between Year 7 -12 is achieved with a complementary focus on personal wellbeing. The morning was very successful.



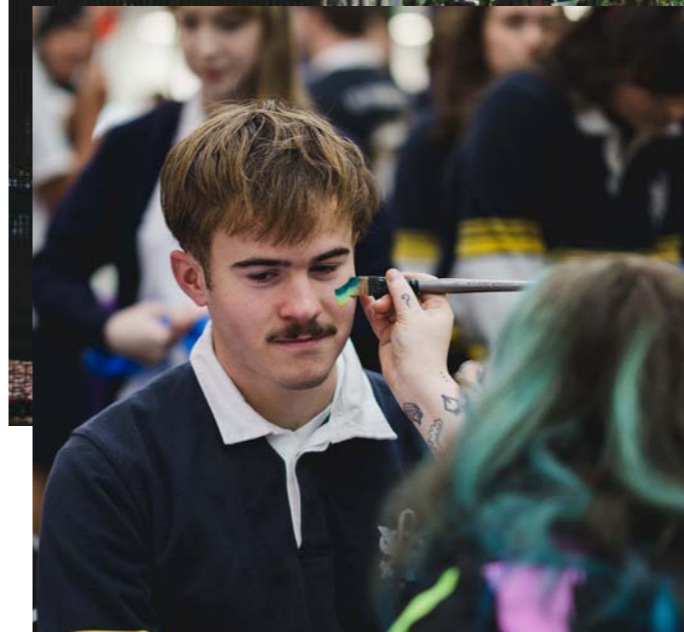
Our Year 7, 2027 enrolment enquiries continue to be very healthy and reflect community confidence in the College, our junior school learning agenda and an outstanding teaching Faculty. I am also delighted by the number of events and activities that our Year 10 students will be offered in the coming weeks by our teaching faculty to prepare them for Year 11 in 2027 at the College. This will include opportunities to view new and exciting senior courses as well as the opportunity for Year 10 students and their parents to join senior staff for course counselling sessions designed to provide them with expert advice about course selection in our senior school. These events exemplify the confidence of our Senior School and St Francis Xavier as an outstanding Catholic post secondary pathway in Belconnen.

Semester 1 reports will be sent to families at the end of Week 21 and our Directors of Junior and Senior Studies will write to you with explanatory information to accompany these. Since its successful reinstatement we will once again hold our Semester 1, Awards Ceremony early next term as an opportunity to honour the academic and community leadership and endeavour of students.

Thank you most sincerely for the wonderful support you give to our boys and girls in their academic and extracurricular endeavours. It is a great 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.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely
Sandra Darley



Year 11 Report

Throughout Semester 1, our Year 11 cohort has engaged in a wide range of experiences centered around the theme of "Drive Your Own Success." This focus has encouraged students to take ownership of their learning, set meaningful goals, and develop the habits required for success both inside and beyond the classroom.

A major highlight of the semester was the opportunity to hear from guest speakers Matt To'omua and Scott Reardon. Both speakers delivered powerful and complementary messages around leadership, resilience, and personal responsibility. Matt To'omua spoke about performing under pressure and the importance of preparation and mindset, while Scott Reardon inspired students through his story of overcoming adversity and redefining success. Together, their messages reinforced the idea that success is not given, it is built through consistent effort, reflection, and determination.

"A major highlight of the semester was the opportunity to hear from guest speakers Matt To'omua and Scott Reardon"

Students have also taken important steps toward their future pathways, with many attending the University of Canberra Open Day. This experience provided valuable insight into tertiary study options and helped students begin to make informed decisions about life after school. Supporting this, our ELEVATE Education sessions equipped students with practical strategies for effective study, time management, and exam preparation. All key skills as they navigate the increasing demands of senior schooling.

Wellbeing has remained a central priority throughout the semester. Our Senior Wellbeing Morning, held in the lead-up to exams, provided students with time to reset, connect, and engage in activities designed to support balance during a busy period. It was pleasing to see students embrace this opportunity and recognise the importance of maintaining both physical and mental wellbeing.

Year 11 students have continued to represent the College with pride across a variety of sporting pursuits. Participation has been a particular strength, with the cohort achieving the highest percentage attendance at both the Swimming and Athletics Carnivals. This is an excellent reflection of their school spirit and willingness to get involved.

As we enter the final weeks of the semester, our first round of senior exams has commenced. This represents an important milestone and an opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning and apply the strategies they have developed throughout the term.

Overall, it has been a highly positive and productive semester for Year 11. The consistent message of "Drive Your Own Success" has been evident in the way students have approached their opportunities, and we look forward to seeing this momentum continue into Semester 2.

Daniel Ryall
Year 11 Coordinator



Math Department Update

There has been plenty happening in Mathematics this term at St Francis Xavier College, with students taking part in a range of activities designed to challenge their thinking and extend their learning beyond the classroom.

One highlight this term was the participation of 21 students in the Computational and Algorithmic Thinking (CAT) Competition on 19 May. Run by the Australian Mathematics Trust, the CAT Competition is an international problem-solving event that encourages students to think creatively, apply logic, and tackle complex challenges in an engaging format. It is always wonderful to see students willing to step outside their comfort zones and test their skills in new ways.

We congratulate all students involved for their effort and enthusiasm throughout the competition. Students interested in participating in future competitions are encouraged to keep an eye out for information and expressions of interest for the Australian Mathematics Competition that is coming up in early August.

Ten Year 12 students represented the College at ANU Maths Day at the Australian National University on Wednesday, 3 June. The event brought together students from across the ACT and NSW to collaborate on challenging mathematical investigations and experience the style of problem-solving encountered in tertiary study. Throughout the day, our students demonstrated enthusiasm, perseverance and strong teamwork as they engaged with complex problems alongside their peers. We are extremely proud of the way they embraced the opportunities presented and represented the College with distinction.

It has been fantastic to see so many students engage positively with Mathematics and embrace opportunities to extend themselves throughout the year so far.



Maths Tutorials

Students are reminded that help is readily available. Maths Tutorials are available at recess in B6 every Monday to Thursday. These sessions are a great opportunity for students to seek extra assistance, revise class content, ask questions, or build confidence in specific topics. Students wishing to attend can register their interest through the



Megan Telfer
Maths Teacher

Performing Arts Update

It has been an incredibly exciting and productive time for Performing Arts at SFX, with students showcasing their talents across Music, Drama, and Dance.

Year 9 Drama – Act Up!

Our Year 9 Drama students recently participated in the Act Up Festival at the Canberra Theatre Centre. This enriching experience included workshops in puppetry, comedy, and clowning, as well as a gallery visit and a viewing of the professional production Helios.

In the evening, students performed their own original work in The Playhouse, responding to the theme renewal and decay. Their piece, Another Tuesday?, offered a creative, comedic, and thought-provoking exploration of environmental issues. It was a fantastic achievement, and the students should be incredibly proud of their work and the enthusiasm they brought to the stage.

Senior Music Showcase

A huge congratulations to our Year 11 and 12 Music students on their recent concert. The evening featured a wide range of performances, from heartfelt piano solos and acoustic duos to energetic rock bands and even heavy metal acts. It was a diverse and highly entertaining program that highlighted the exceptional talent and dedication of our senior musicians.

We also extend our thanks to our student and staff crew and music teachers, whose professionalism and hard work ensured the event ran seamlessly behind the scenes.

We look forward to hosting another Senior Showcase next term, and we warmly invite our community to come along and support our performers.

Dance Troupe – Wakakirri Preparation

Our Dance Troupe has been busy developing their skills through a hip hop workshop series with professional choreographer Sonia Raveena. They are now preparing for Wakakirri, which will take place on Thursday 6 August at the Canberra Theatre.

This marks SFX's first-ever entry into Wakakirri, and we wish our dancers the very best—chookas! We encourage our community to come along and support this exciting milestone. Tickets will be on sale via the Canberra Theatre website soon.

College Production – Much Ado About Nothing

Rehearsals for our College production of Much Ado About Nothing are underway, and the show is shaping up beautifully. Due to the outstanding level of talent at auditions,

the production has been double-cast, featuring both a junior and a senior cast, each performing two shows.

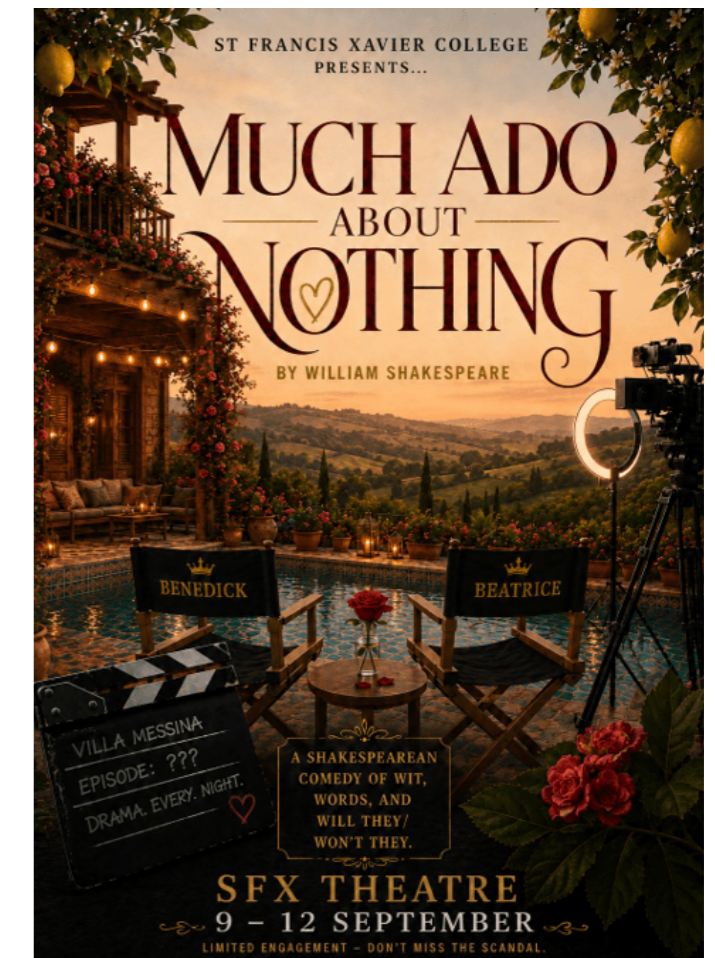
Performances will take place in our College Theatre in Week 8 next term. Tickets will be available early in Term 3, so keep an eye out for further details.

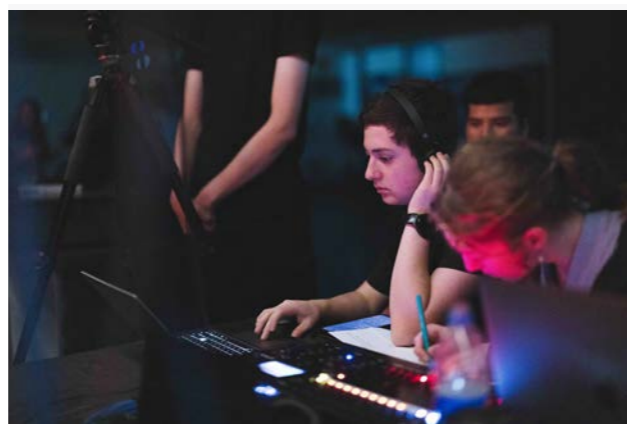
Get Involved!

There are many opportunities for students to get involved in Performing Arts at SFX. Whether through choosing Drama, Dance, or Music as an elective in Years 9-12, complemented by our co-curricular ensembles, bands, or production teams, there is something for everyone.

Students interested in participating are encouraged to speak with a Performing Arts teacher to learn more.

Hannah Carey
Head of Performing Arts





Progressive Achievement Tests

We are proud to acknowledge the outstanding achievement of a number of our Junior School students following the recent Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT) assessment period.

PAT assessments measure what students know, understand, and can do across the key areas of Mathematics and Reading. Developed to monitor student progress over time, these tests provide valuable insights into individual and year-level performance, helping our teachers tailor learning to the needs of every student.

This semester, we are delighted to name the following students as our SFX PAT Champions for Semester 1, 2026. Each of these students demonstrated exceptional performance in their respective year level and subject area, and will be presented with a certificate and a canteen voucher in recognition of their efforts.

Congratulations to all of our champions – your hard work and dedication are a credit to yourselves and to the College community. We hope your achievement inspires your fellow students to strive for their personal best.

A further round of PAT assessments will be conducted for all Junior School students in Term 4. We encourage every student to approach these assessments with confidence and a growth mindset.

Thomas Klekner
Head of Data Analytics



Andreas Koeck
Year 7 Mathematics



Ada Regan
Year 7 Reading



Cooper Dermody
Year 8 Mathematics



Liam Gibson
Year 8 Mathematics



Benjamin Ubrihien
Year 9 Mathematics



Emma Sutton
Year 9 Mathematics



Max Morrison
Year 10 Mathematics



Layla McKnight
Year 10 Mathematics



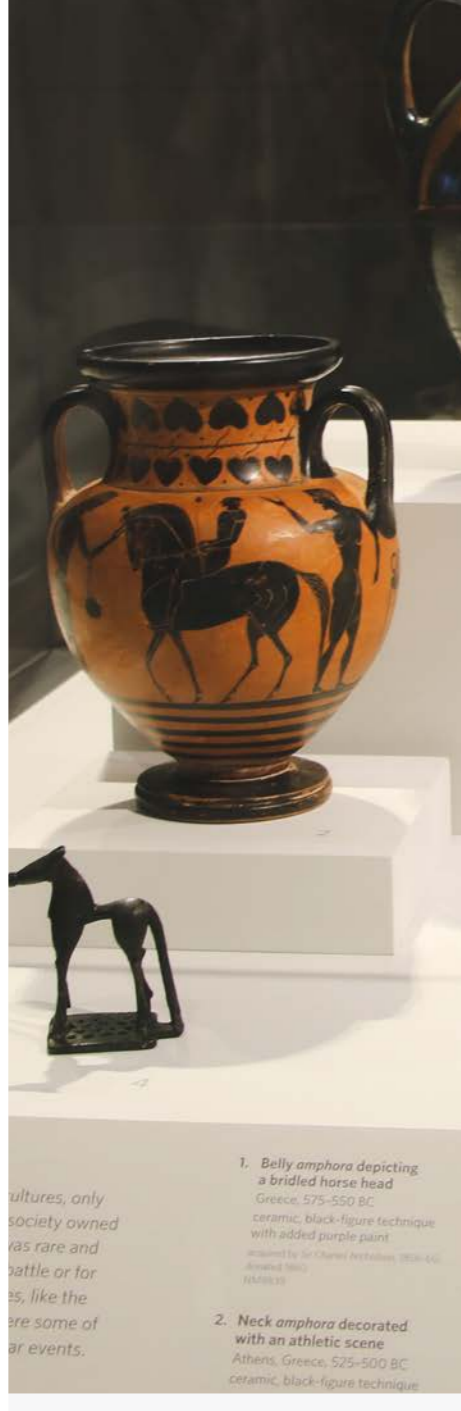
Ancient History Excursion

Last week, our Ancient History students spent the day exploring two of Sydney's finest museums — the Australian Museum and the Chau Chak Wing Museum at the University of Sydney. From Egyptian mummies to ancient Greek artefacts, it was a day of discovery that brought the classroom to life.

Moments like these are exactly why Ancient History is such a rewarding subject. It goes beyond textbooks — connecting students to real objects, real people, and real civilisations that shaped the world we live in today.

Thinking about Ancient History for senior studies? It's a subject that builds critical thinking, strong writing skills, and a genuine understanding of the past — all highly valued by universities. Speak to the History faculty to find out more.

Ece Kucuk
Ancient History Teacher



- 1. Belly amphora depicting a bridled horse head
Greece, 575-550 BC
ceramic, black-figure technique with added purple paint
Acquired by Sir Charles Petford, 1830-40
Accession 1980
HMA833
- 2. Neck amphora decorated with an athletic scene
Athens, Greece, 525-500 BC
ceramic, black-figure technique

cultures, only society owned was rare and battle or for es, like the re some of ar events.





Legal Studies Excursion

Our Year 11 and 12 Legal Studies students had a standout experience last week, visiting the ACT Law Courts in Canberra for a firsthand look at the justice system in action. Watching real court proceedings brought key concepts — adversarial process, judicial independence, and the rule of law — to life in a way the classroom simply can't replicate.

Experiences like this are a reminder of what makes Legal Studies such a valuable subject. It's not just about understanding the law — it's about seeing how our institutions shape society and the rights we all rely on every day.

Considering Legal Studies for senior years? It's a subject that develops critical thinking, strong argumentation, and real-world knowledge of how our legal system works — skills respected by universities across law, commerce, and the humanities. Speak to the faculty to find out more.

Philippa Merrick
Legal Studies Teacher







Year 7 Camp

Our Year 7 students recently packed their bags and headed to the stunning Collaroy Centre on Sydney's Northern Beaches for what proved to be an unforgettable few days of adventure, challenge, and connection.

From the moment they arrived, students threw themselves into an action-packed program designed to push boundaries and bring out the best in each other. The activities on offer were nothing short of spectacular — students took aim on the archery range, conquered their fears on the high ropes course, scaled the walls on the rock climbing wall, and caught waves out in the surf. And that was just the beginning. With a full schedule of team challenges and outdoor experiences from morning to night, there was hardly a moment to stop and catch a breath.

What made the camp truly special, however, wasn't just the thrill of the activities — it was the spirit that emerged among the year group. Students cheered each other on at every challenge, offered a helping hand to those stepping outside their comfort zone, and discovered new things about themselves and their classmates along the way. Friendships were deepened, new bonds were formed, and a real sense of community began to take shape.

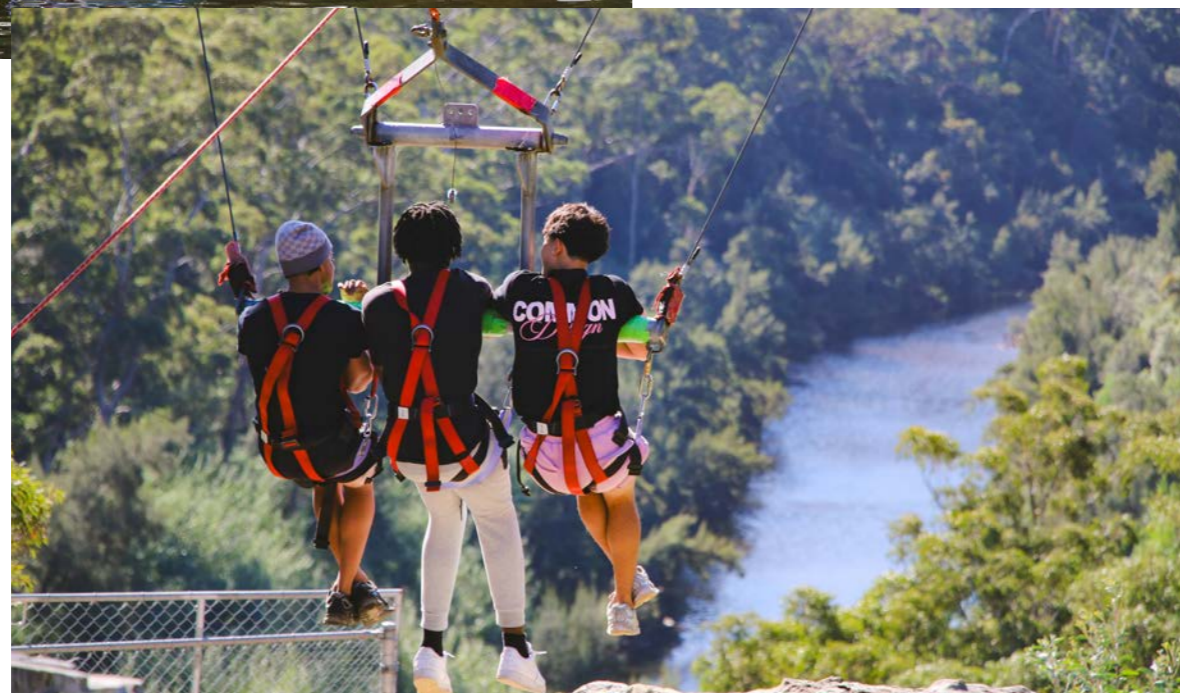
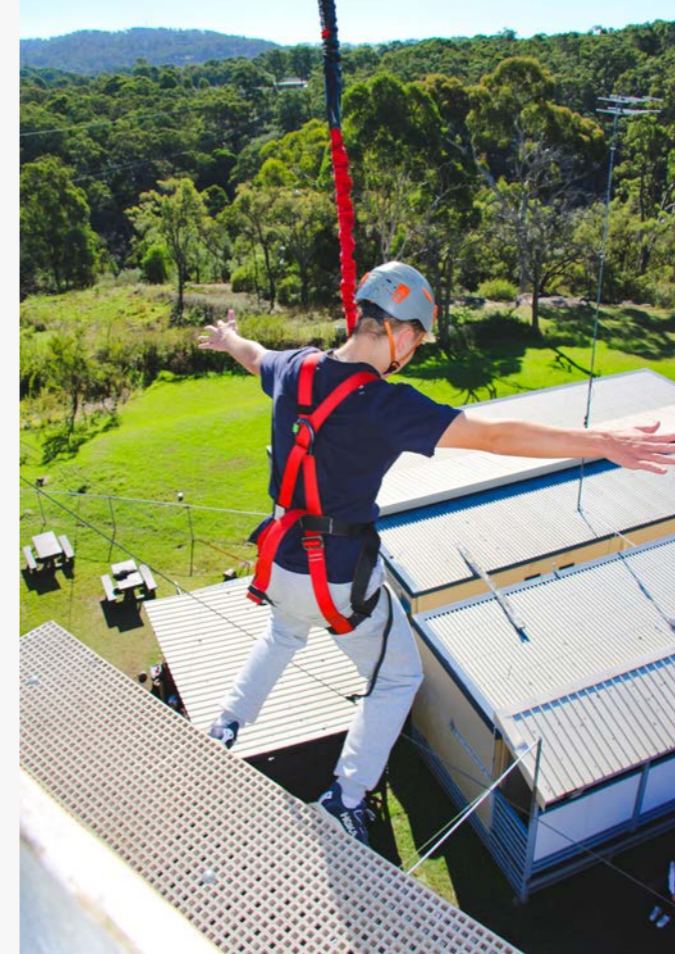
Teachers and staff were full of praise for the way students represented the school. Their enthusiasm, resilience, and kindness throughout the camp were a joy to witness.

Year 7 has returned home tired, muddy, and smiling — and all the better for it. This is only the beginning of what promises to be a wonderful year ahead for the cohort, and we can't wait to see them continue to grow together.

A huge thank you to all the staff who attended and to the team at Collaroy Centre for an exceptional experience.



Year 10 Camp





SFX Students Hear a Story of Courage

Last Thursday, students from St Francis Xavier College joined a powerful refugee advocacy presentation at Marist College as part of Refugee Week 2026, themed "Finding Freedom: Diversity in Community."

The event was a collaboration between the St Vincent de Paul Society, Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services (MARSS), and Rebus Theatre, bringing together young people from local schools to hear directly from those with lived experience of displacement and resettlement. Jo Bragg from SVDP facilitated the session, which centred on the extraordinary story of Hnin Win, a senior lawyer from Myanmar now calling Australia home.

A Life Spent Fighting for Justice

Hnin's story is one of remarkable courage in the face of extraordinary danger. Myanmar has a long and troubled political history, with the military repeatedly seizing power against the will of its people. Growing up with a father in politics, Hnin witnessed firsthand the brutal suppression of those who dared to oppose the military dictatorship.

Despite the significant cultural barriers facing women in the legal profession in Myanmar, Hnin pursued a career in law, supported by her determined mother, and went on to work for the International Commission of Jurists, a global human rights organisation. She dedicated herself to defending those who opposed the military regime: people subjected to torture, interrogation, and imprisonment simply for speaking out.

But this work came at a devastating personal cost. For her own security, Hnin could not even live with her own family. When she discovered there was a warrant out for her arrest, issued simply because she had defended these persecuted individuals, her organisation acted quickly. She was helped to flee to Thailand, later joined by her husband and young son.

Eighteen Months in Limbo

The family spent eighteen months in Thailand, largely confined indoors, living in constant fear of arrest and deportation. During this time, Hnin's son had no access to schooling. It was a period of profound uncertainty and isolation, far from family, far from home, and with no clear future in sight.

Eventually, resettlement was arranged and the family arrived in Australia on a humanitarian visa.



A New Chapter, and New Challenges

Hnin described her first weeks in Australia as bringing an overwhelming sense of relief, the simple feeling of being safe, perhaps for the first time in years. But safety brought its own set of daunting challenges:

- **Language**, communicating in daily life was enormously difficult at first
- **Employment**, her legal qualifications and years of experience are not recognised in Australia, meaning she cannot practise as a lawyer here
- **Money**, financial pressure weighed heavily on the family
- **Trauma**, the pain of being separated from extended family back in Myanmar remains real
- **Housing**, finding a stable home was another hurdle to navigate
- **Education**, getting her son enrolled in school so he could catch up on missed learning and develop his English was an urgent priority.

Despite all of this, Hnin spoke with deep gratitude for the opportunities Australia has given her family. Her story is not one of victimhood, it is one of perseverance, dignity, and hope.

What Our Students Took Away

The Refugee Week theme, Finding Freedom: Diversity in Community, came to life in Hnin's story in the most vivid way. For our St Francis Xavier College students, hearing Hnin speak was a reminder that behind every refugee visa is a person of skill, courage, and worth.

Hnin Win spent her career risking everything to defend the rights of others. She is exactly the kind of person our community is richer for welcoming. Her bravery, and the bravery of countless others like her, deserves not just our sympathy, but our advocacy, our awareness, and our action.

St Francis Xavier College is proud to stand with organisations like SVDP, MARSS, and Rebus Theatre in building a community that sees, hears, and values the stories of refugees and people seeking asylum.

Meet the teacher: Ryan Lenarcic

At St Francis Xavier College, learning is about more than gaining knowledge – it's about discovering who you are, what you value, and how you can make a meaningful contribution to the world. Few teachers embody this more than Ryan Lenarcic.



Scan the QR Code
To watch the video

Now in his fifth year of teaching, Ryan teaches Year 11 and 12 Religious Studies, helping students explore life's biggest questions through religion, philosophy, ethics and Catholic doctrine. "I love studies of world religions, philosophy and Catholic doctrine," he said. "Teaching gives me the opportunity to share that passion every day."

Encouraging Curiosity and Open Minds

Ryan values the openness of SFX students to explore new perspectives. "They're very keen to learn and willing to consider different worldviews and philosophical ideas," he said. This creates an environment where meaningful conversations thrive and students develop deeper critical thinking.

Learning Through Debate

"Classroom debates are a lot of fun," Ryan said. Students argue assigned positions, stepping into someone else's shoes and viewing issues from a different angle. The best moments come when students engage in "genuine, passionate but respectful discussions" – building not just critical thinking, but empathy, confidence and communication skills.

An Authentic Community

Ryan points to SFX's genuine commitment to student wellbeing. "What stands out is that the programs feel real – there's a lot of care, effort and time invested in helping students grow." He describes SFX students as authentic: "They're not afraid to share their perspectives. That's what makes my job so enjoyable."

"I hope students remember SFX as a time when they discovered who they are – when they grew as people and identified what's important to them."— Ryan Lenarcic

SFX Alumni Story

From the first graduating class of SFX to an internationally award-winning author.

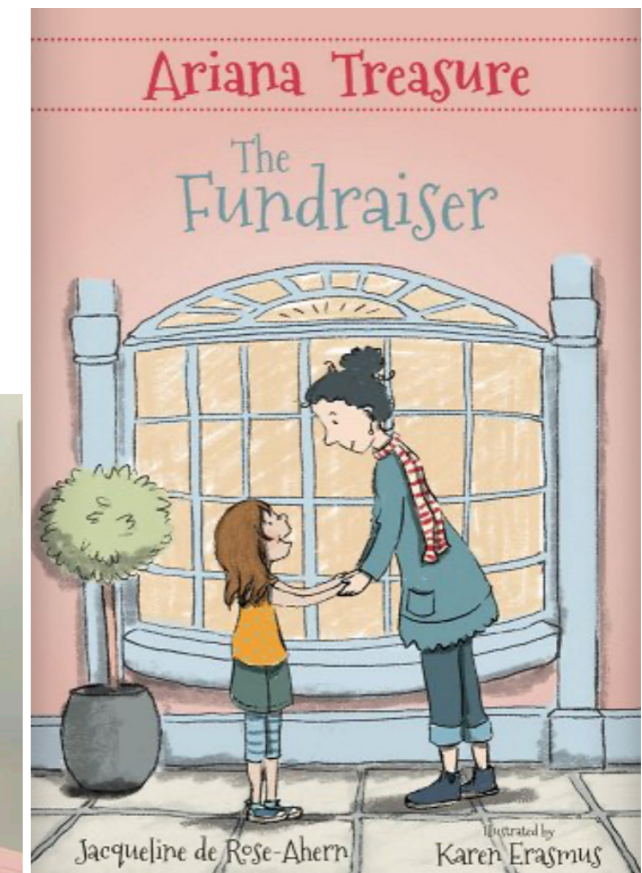
SFX alumna Jacqueline has built an incredible career in foreign affairs while pursuing her passion for writing, publishing nine children's books and inspiring young readers across Australia.

Nearly 30 years after starting Year 7 at St Francis Xavier College, her connection to the College remains as strong as ever.

Scan the QR Code below to read Jacqueline's inspiring story and discover how a passion nurtured at SFX helped shape a remarkable career.



Scan the QR Code
to read more



Notices




Save \$500 and we'll double it.

For every dollar you save, you'll receive another dollar from ANZ to spend towards educational costs, up to \$500.



saverplus.org.au
1300 610 355

“THE GOOD IS CLOSE AT HAND”

SFX POET LAUREATE 2026
POEMS DUE BY END OF TERM 2
SPEAK TO YOUR ENGLISH TEACHER



LET'S LOCATE

Canberra

LET'S LOCATE IS A GEOSPATIAL STEM SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM FOR YEARS 10 TO 12.

Let's Locate is a 4-day school holiday program where you'll get hands on with high tech equipment and explore how urban planning affects where you live. You will work with industry experts to solve a real world planning issue while using the latest geospatial capabilities in ACTmapi and the Digital Atlas of Australia.

Get hands-on with high-tech equipment, learn from industry experts, and discover how we map, survey and shape local communities.

If you're into tech, design or just want to see your world differently — this is for you!

**6 JUL- 9 JUL 2026
EVELYN SCOTT SCHOOL**

**\$100 PER STUDENT - COVERS REGISTRATION & LUNCH (DAY 4 ONLY)
16 SPACES AVAILABLE - REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 29 JUNE**



REGISTER HERE



Notices










Holiday Program

Join the fun these school holidays

We are open during the school holidays and run an inclusive holiday program with a different activity scheduled each day.

| | Week 1 (6 July-10 July) | Week 2 (13 July-17 July) |
|-----------|--|--|
| Monday | Independent Living skills  | Cooking Up Independence  |
| Tuesday | Employment Group  | Employment Group  |
| Wednesday | Retail training Mini Woolies  | Retail training Mini Woolies  |
| Thursday | Employment Group  | Employment Group  |
| Friday | Social outing  | Social outing  |

 Life Skills  Social  Employment

| Location | Date & Time | Duration | Additional Cost |
|---|--|---|--|
|  Canberra L3, 64 Northbourne Ave |  9:30-3:00 |  July School Holidays |  Varies by activity |



Connect with us today.

Call 1800 466 046
Email hello@omnia-inclusive.com.au
omnia-inclusive.com.au



HOLIDAY CAMPS

CAMP 1: 1ST - 3RD JULY
CAMP 2: 8TH - 10TH JULY
CAMP 3: 15TH - 17TH JULY

VENUE:
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 3 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.




BOOK NOW





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



facebook.com/StFrancisXavierCollege



[@sfxflorey](https://www.instagram.com/sfxflorey)



[St Francis Xavier College ACT](https://www.linkedin.com/company/StFrancisXavierCollegeACT)