TRUTH AND COURAGE

SFX NEWS

ISSUE 6

SEPTEMBER/ 2026



Truth and Courage

What's inside?

Principals Message 3

Year 7 Report 7

Learning Commons Update 9

HASS Update 10

Year 8 Pastoral Day 12

Notices 20



A message from the Principal

Dear parents and friends,

As the term draws to a close I wish to express my sincere gratitude and pride in all that we have achieved at the College. Your confidence and trust in my colleagues our teaching staff, and your support for the vast range of the academic and extra curricular endeavours in which our young people are involved and deeply invested cannot be underestimated. Thank you! Recently I reported on the progress of the College to our Community Council and at an Open Forum of parents. They were very impressed with the quality of student learning, staff professional learning and opportunities that are being provided for our young people as learners and community members of the College. They expressed their gratitude and confidence in the College, its work and future.

I am delighted to advise that following lengthy deliberations, the College has secured a grant from the AFL, our obligation being that we must meet this in kind. This will see the installation of lights on our oval, improved line marking and oval facilities in 2027 and beyond. As a result of our partnership, senior Magpies teams will train on the oval on particular evenings during the football season and we will have a first class facility for use for sport and community events. I am very pleased with this development and partnership with the AFL as it has many benefits for the College and especially our students.

Of note this term has been the long awaited production of Much Ado about Nothing which was in every way a celebration of Shakespeare and the very best in theatre. I was delighted by the quality of the production and of our senior and junior students' interpretation of Shakesperean language and comedy. Their talent, dedication and maturity were very impressive and we are indebted to the plays' Director and Producer Dale Thane and her team for their skill and expertise in leading a venture such as this. Thank you to those parents who attended the play and supported our students as members of this wonderful production.



Our Year 11 students have for a number of weeks been preparing for nomination for leadership of the College in 2027. The nomination and discernment process includes a written application, panel interview and speech to the College at Assembly. I have been very impressed by the quality, integrity and aspiration each of the nominees has brought to this process. These young people are emblematic of our College and a credit to their families and themselves. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they prepare for the next stage of the discernment process.

Finally I wish you and your families a safe and peaceful break before we return for the beginning of Term 4. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can assist you in any way.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Sandra Darley








MUCH ADO: SFX
TRY
SCENE
Booking
TAKE
Tix
Director
Camera
DAY
NITE
MOS
Date









Year 7 Report

As we conclude a busy and exciting term of learning, it has been wonderful to see our Year 7 students continuing to embrace new opportunities, building positive relationships, and contributing to our school community.

As we move toward the end of year and year 8 we are proud of out Year 7 cohort.

Year 11 and Year 7 Buddy-Up Program

A major highlight of this Semester has been the continued success of our Year 11 and Year 7 Buddy-Up Program. This initiative has provided Year 7 students with the opportunity to connect with older students who offer guidance, encouragement, and support as year 7 continue to navigate their first year of high school.

Through our weekly sessions in Pastoral Care class Year 11 buddies have shown outstanding leadership by helping Year 7 students build confidence, develop friendships, and feel connected to their school community. We thank our Year 11 students for their commitment and enthusiasm and look forward to the many activities and mentoring opportunities.

SRC Year 7 Movie Night

On Wednesday evening, the Year 7 Student Representative Council (SRC) Movie Night was a fantastic success, bringing students together for an evening of fun, friendship and community spirit. Events like these give students the opportunity to socialise in a positive environment and strengthen connections with their peers outside the classroom. A big thank you to all our SRC representatives and staff who helped organise the event.

Mixed Year 7/8 Basketball Competition

The Year 7 cohort this term has enjoyed participating in the Year 7/8 Mixed Basketball Competition, led by Mr Tom Hansen and supported by our dedicated Year 12 student leaders. This opportunity for students has led to further teamwork development, sportsmanship, and confidence while enjoying some friendly competition.

The enthusiasm shown by participants has been outstanding, and the support provided by our Year 12 leaders has created a welcoming environment where students feel encouraged to get involved.

We thank our Year 7 students and families for their continued support and look forward to continuing our Semester of learning, growth, and community engagement in Term 4.

Sam Beattie and Hayley Smith
Year 7 Coordinators





LEARNING COMMONS UPDATE

Week 6 lit up our school with Book Week celebrations under the theme Symphony of Stories. Students and staff embraced the magic of literature through imaginative costumes that brought characters to life across the campus. Characters sighted, included Medusa, the Lorax, characters from Inside Out, anime characters and Alvin and the Chipmunks. The vibrant array of costumes showed how stories from different genres and cultures continue to inspire our community.

Activities throughout the week encouraged curiosity and collaboration. Highlights included book-themed trivia challenges and the popular 'Guess the Book' glow worm competition. The strategies students used to estimate the number of glow worms demonstrated their ability to think outside the box. These strategies were entertaining and thought provoking. Thank you to the Learning Commons staff Ms Purcell and Mrs Hallaj for organising our Book Week activities.

Our Performing Arts students added a special touch with lively performances that celebrated the power of storytelling through music and voice. The lunch time performances were packed out with eager students keen to be entertained. Thank you to the students and the staff in Performing Arts for creating a fun and dynamic atmosphere.

Beyond the festivities, our Learning Commons team has been deeply engaged in supporting student achievement. This term, they have expanded their collaboration with Year 7, increasing lesson time to work alongside classroom teachers. This partnership is helping more students reach their learning goals and build confidence in research, reading, and inquiry skills.

Kylie-Anne Swan
Head of Learning Commons









HASS Department Update

This year the HASS faculty expanded to offer a range of new electives for students to explore. These included a Year 9 Ancient History course, two Year 10 Alternative Histories and Conspiracy Theories courses, and senior courses in Accounting and Economics. With the fast-paced changes brought by AI and how we access and process information, the critical thinking at the heart of all Humanities and Social Sciences classes was more important than ever, and it was great to see students engaging with their HASS classes throughout the College.

Australia also recognised and celebrated Social Sciences Week across the country, with a number of activities taking place at SFX to mark the occasion. Our daily pastoral trivia challenge was won by 12K1, who enjoyed a delicious pizza lunch as their prize. Congratulations on the back-to-back title! The showcase event for the HASS department was the 4th annual Big HASS Trophy competition, held on Thursday 24 September. Students competed in teams for the chance to have their names immortalised on the Big HASS Trophy and claim bragging rights among their friends.

Dmitry Dubovitsky
Head of HASS











Year 8 Pastoral Day

Congratulations to our Year 8 students on an incredible Pastoral Care Day!

From the energy on the field during AFL and NRL, to listening thoughtfully to our guest speakers, to quieter moments of colouring and reflection in our liturgy, students embraced every part of the day. The celebrations finished with a vibrant colour run, and it was wonderful to see so many smiles (and so much colour) across the group.

The enthusiasm and spirit our Year 8s brought to each activity is a real credit to them and a reflection of the strong sense of community within the cohort.

A big thank you to our Year 8 Coordinator Abbey Kennedy and Pastoral Care teachers for planning and leading such a fantastic day. Your care and commitment made it a memorable experience for our students.







R U OK? Day at SFX

Our Year 8 Student Leadership Team did a fantastic job running R U OK? Day activities in the Hub, selling Kit Kats and donuts to raise awareness and get students talking about mental health and wellbeing.

The theme for the day was simple: have a break, have a Kit Kat, have a chat. It was a timely reminder that sometimes the simplest conversation can make the biggest difference. Asking "Are you OK?" and genuinely listening to the answer can help someone feel seen, supported and less alone.

The stall was a hive of activity, with students and staff stopping by to grab a treat and take a moment to connect with one another. The Year 8 leaders showed great initiative and care in planning and running the day, and they should be very proud of the positive impact they had across the College.

While R U OK? Day is marked once a year, the message is one for every day. We encourage everyone in our community to keep checking in with the people around them, whether that's a friend, classmate, colleague or family member.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by, bought a treat and started a conversation. A special thank you to our Year 8 Student Leadership Team for leading the way.







Staff vs Students Netball Showdown

The gym was buzzing at lunchtime when staff and students went head to head in the Staff vs Students netball game.

The staff team came out strong from the first whistle and never looked back, holding the lead for the entire game to secure a well-earned victory. The students didn't make it easy, though, pushing hard all the way to the final whistle and keeping the staff on their toes throughout.

The game was played in great spirit, with plenty of friendly rivalry, impressive passages of play and loud support from the crowd. It was fantastic to see so much school spirit on display and to see staff and students enjoying some time together outside the classroom.

Congratulations to our staff team on taking home the win, and thank you to all the students who competed with such enthusiasm and sportsmanship. By the final whistle, the students were already calling for a rematch!











Year 9 Pastoral Day

Our Year 9 students recently enjoyed a fantastic Pastoral Care Day, filled with activities designed to build connection, encourage reflection and strengthen the sense of community within the cohort.

The day gave students space to pause and think about their faith, their friendships and the kind of people they want to be.

Students threw themselves into every part of the day with enthusiasm and good humour, supporting and encouraging one another throughout. It was wonderful to see the cohort come together, and many students left having made new connections and shared plenty of laughs along the way.

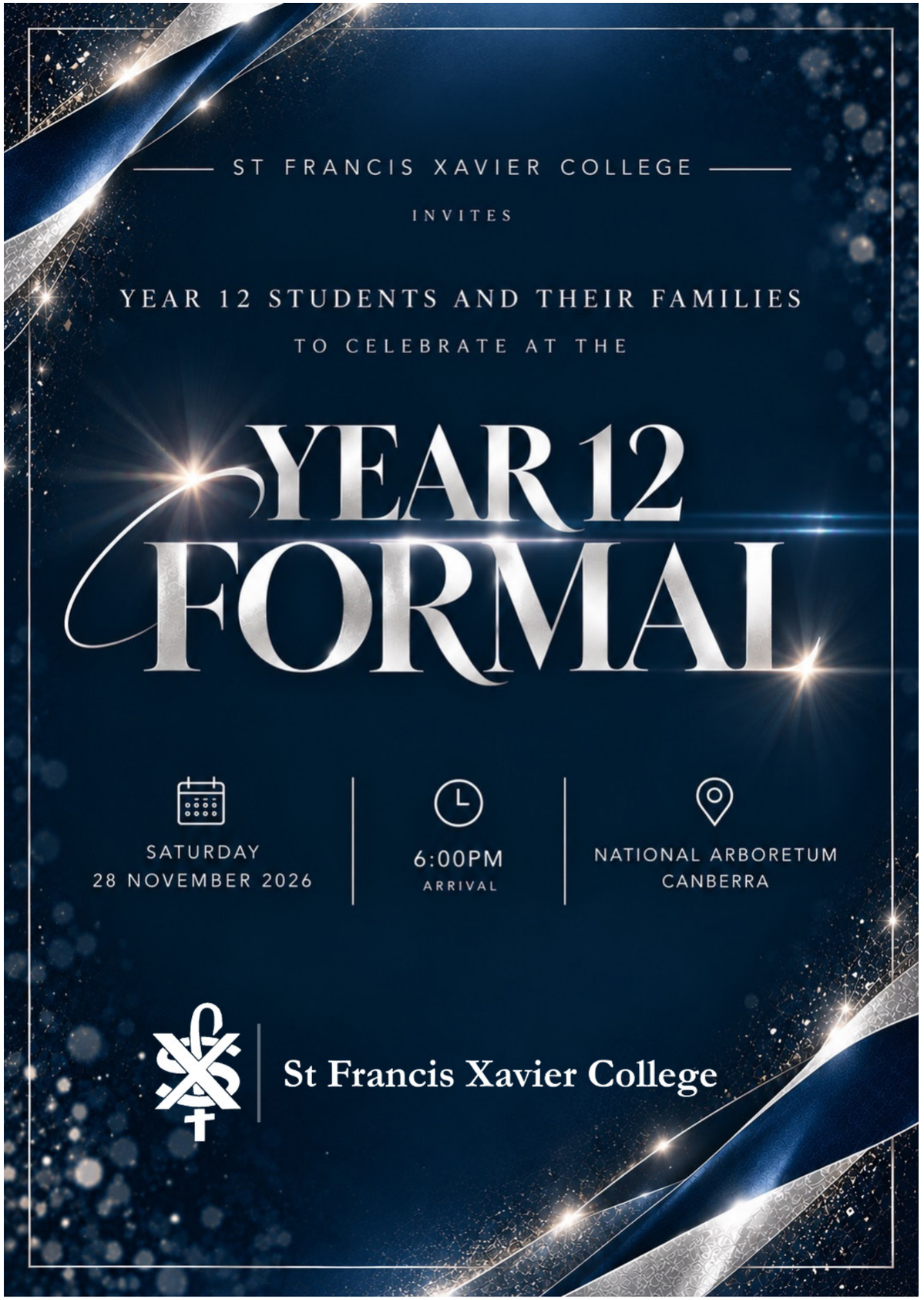
A big thank you to our Year 9 Coordinator, Natalie Bakonji, and the Year 9 Pastoral Care teachers for planning and leading such a meaningful day for our students.





Notices


St Francis Xavier College
Grandparents & Grandfriends Day
Friday, 23 October | 9.30am - 12.30pm
Morning tea provided
Please send a photo of your child with their grandparent or grandfriend to communications@sfx.act.edu.au by Friday, 18 September 2026.


ST FRANCIS XAVIER COLLEGE
INVITES
YEAR 12 STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES
TO CELEBRATE AT THE
YEAR 12
FORMAL
SATURDAY
28 NOVEMBER 2026
6:00PM
ARRIVAL
NATIONAL ARBORETUM
CANBERRA
St Francis Xavier College



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

St Francis Xavier College ACT