

CELEBRATING  
*Thirty* PEOPLE  
OF INFLUENCE



**ST JOHN'S**  
Anglican College





## FOREWORD

*Mrs Maria McIvor, Principal*

## *Celebrating 30 People of Influence*



**Mrs Maria McIvor**  
**Med (Leadership and**  
**Administration), GCertTH, BEd,**  
**Dip Tchg, MAICD MACEL**

I invite you to enjoy the first edition of our People of Influence, Celebrating 30 Years.

Instilling within each child a sense of the wellbeing that flows from a life lived in service to others will always be an integral part of the St John's Anglican College education.

Living by Faith, Leading with Service, Learning with Courage - Developing People of Character and Influence.

The majority of Australians would concur that our nation is exceptionally fortunate. Within our relative prosperity lies a freedom that creates opportunities for personal fulfilment, and this freedom carries with it a sense of duty.

For three decades, St John's has been fostering global citizenship among its students, emphasising the importance of prioritising the well-being of others and committing to enhancing the lives of others. Through initiatives focused on social justice, sustainability, and broader community engagement, students acquire invaluable skills and develop a heightened sense of empathy and compassion, deepening their understanding of those who are less fortunate than themselves.

The thirty profiles of Old Collegians highlights our College's mission and people involved in authentic and meaningful service to their communities. Reciprocal service experiences provide powerful opportunities for intellectual and spiritual growth, which fosters an enriched sense of social responsibility.

Our students develop empathy through living and sharing the experiences of others. It is the nature of service that we may never be able to measure the totality of the difference we make. However, we can rest assured that by living our values of faith, hope, love, courage, community, and justice our people are making a difference in your future and the future of our world.

I acknowledge the hard work of our Marketing and Development team working with the Old Collegians for this publication. I take the opportunity to thank our staff, both past and present who care for our students and Old Collegians in a vibrant learning environment that honours our shared vision.

## CHLOE DE NYS

### Scientist

Chloe graduated from St John's in 2016 with an impressive OP 1 score. She has become a trailblazing scientist in the field of tissue engineering, dedicated to advancing the future of biomedical research. Currently pursuing her PhD at the University of Queensland, Chloe's focus lies in the biofabrication of in vitro models of intracranial aneurysms to evaluate cellular response to haemodynamic stress. Her academic journey has been marked by exceptional achievements and a steadfast pursuit of her career aspirations.

During her undergraduate studies in Chemical and Biological Engineering and Biomedical Science, Chloe excelled, earning First Class Honours in Engineering and receiving a Dean's Commendation for Academic Excellence in 2020. She also had the privilege of participating in an overseas exchange program at the University of Wisconsin, expanding her knowledge and experiences in the field.

Tissue engineering is not a well-known field, largely still in the research and development phase with only a handful of start-up companies here in Australia. With that, when Chloe first began her studies the programs available were not well suited for her desired career path. As such pairing this with Biomedical Science was essential to ensure she gained an understanding of basic biology to take with her after graduation.

Chloe aspires to gain international experience in countries like the United States and the Netherlands, specifically exploring the cultivated meat sector, where animal cells are used to grow meat in labs!

Reflecting on her time at St John's, it was through a supportive Head of Academics that Chloe was first introduced to Tissue Engineering by attending a seminar on stem cells at UQ's Young Scholar program.



From then on, Chloe knew exactly what career path she wanted to pursue.

Looking to the future, Chloe plans to transition to industry after completing her PhD, particularly in the burgeoning field of cultivated meat production. While Chloe is mostly interested in the engineering of human tissue, looking at the production of animal tissue on a large scale is an important step toward that goal.

Chloe exemplifies the spirit of a pioneering scientist, driven by her unwavering passion to reshape the future of biomedical research. With her remarkable achievements and unwavering dedication, she is poised to make significant contributions to the field and inspire future generations of scientists.

## LAWSON WOOLFORD

### RAAF Pilot

Lawson wanted to be a pilot in the military since he was six years old and on his 16th birthday, he started seriously to pursue this dream when he called up defence recruiting and commenced his application.

His first application was unsuccessful and while disappointed he did not give up and continued to work towards his career goal. As a safety net, Lawson commenced a Bachelor of Engineering at the University of Queensland. Following one year of studies, he was successful this time around.

Lawson had to overcome further setbacks, including undergoing laser eye surgery which delayed his progress significantly in his RAAF Basic Pilots. However, he once again persevered and successfully joined the RAAF in 2019. Lawson's pilot training was a rigorous and rewarding experience. He graduated from Officer Training School and excelled in the basic and intermediate pilot courses, earning his RAAF pilot wings in October 2021. Lawson was then stationed at RAAF base Edinburgh to fly the advanced P-8 Poseidon Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

Throughout his career, Lawson has achieved numerous milestones, including operational conversion on the P-8 Poseidon and deployments to Malaysia, the Philippines, and Japan. Despite facing challenges during training and the pandemic lockdown, Lawson's determination and resilience have been unwavering.

Lawson was very much into sports and academics throughout his time at St John's. However, he was good friends with people who enjoyed the performing arts and as such was encouraged to audition for the school musical. He was lucky enough to land a role! An experience he will never forget.

2017  
*Class of*

The College also played a significant role in Lawson's journey by providing valuable networking opportunities with Australian Defence Force members and mentors, nurturing his aspirations.

Looking ahead, Lawson plans to pursue an overseas exchange with a foreign military and become a flying instructor, sharing his experiences and inspiring future aviators.





**MATTHEW HANGER**  
*Special Effects/Animation*

Matthew graduated from St John's in 2008. His love for film led him on an extraordinary journey from Griffith University to becoming an Effects Supervisor at Industrial Light and Magic.

After completing his Bachelor of Animation, Matthew immersed himself in the industry, starting with a local production studio before joining the prestigious Animal Logic in Sydney. Seeking new horizons, he ventured to Vancouver, Canada, where he now resides.



Matthew's career boasts numerous accolades, including winning an Oscar, a Golden Globe, and a BAFTA for his work on "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse." He is an esteemed member of the Visual Effects Society (VES) and has received VES nominations for his contributions to "Loki" and "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever."

Navigating the film industry proved challenging, as competition is fierce and opportunities scarce, especially in Australia. However, the tide has turned, with more local productions offering avenues for talented artists.

Matthew cherishes his time at the College, recalling engaging moments during swimming carnivals, science challenges, and musical theatre rehearsals. The College community fostered a sense of unity that continues to shape his career and life. He values the connections he made and the sense of being part of something extraordinary, regardless of distance.

Looking ahead, Matthew is eager to further develop his artistic and leadership skills, embracing new challenges in the ever-evolving landscape of film and television. He is very lucky that his career is also his passion. As such in his spare time he is often drawn to creative endeavours: watching movies, playing video games or painting.

Matthew's journey exemplifies the rewards of pursuing one's passion and pushing artistic boundaries. As he continues to shape visual marvels, his dedication to his craft inspires and captivates audiences worldwide.

## MORGAN BERRY

### School Principal

Morgan, a dedicated educator, is making a difference as the school Principal at Isisford State School in remote Western Queensland.

After graduating from St John's in 2012, Morgan pursued her passion for teaching at Queensland University of Technology, earning a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education. She began her career at Grand Avenue State School in Forest Lake, teaching Year One for three years before transitioning to Prep.

Seeking new challenges, Morgan embraced the opportunity to become the Acting Teaching Principal at remote Isisford State School. In just five days, she made the bold move from city living to embracing the



vibrant community of Isisford. Currently, in her second year at Isisford SS, Morgan provides a nurturing learning environment for the 18 enrolled students from Kindy to Year Six.

Morgan's accomplishments include securing a teaching contract in her first year, earning permanency, and being nominated for the Excellence in Beginning Teaching Award. Her dedication and capabilities led to her appointment as Year Level Coordinator and, in June 2021, Acting Teaching Principal. In June 2022, her position became permanent. Despite the initial challenges, Morgan's commitment and connections with the school and community remain strong.

Fondly recalling her time at St John's, Morgan cherishes the camaraderie experienced through sports and is grateful that the College nurtured her organisational and collaboration skills, qualities she applies in her daily profession. With her focus on professional growth and leadership, Morgan aims to become a better educator and leader for her students and school community.

Since moving to central Queensland, Morgan's lifestyle and weekend activities have changed dramatically. In her spare time, she lends a hand at a local station: mustering goats or cattle, bottle-feeding poddy calves and mending fences. On weekends, Morgan usually does a lot of driving to attend events like rodeos, races and fishing competitions or find a local waterhole to kayak. Or will be driving 1.5 hours to the nearest town, Longreach, to collect her groceries for the fortnight!

Morgan exemplifies dedication and passion in shaping young minds. With her commitment to education and adaptability, she is poised to make a lasting impact on her students and the wider community.

2012  
Class of

## ASHLEY HANGER

### Entrepreneur

Ashley, founder and director of Stripped Supply, has embarked on a remarkable journey in the health-tech start-up industry with a focus on diabetes showcasing resilience, adaptability, and a passion for making a positive impact.

Ashley wanted to pursue a career in journalism after visiting The Courier Mail factory and went on to study a dual degree Bachelor of Journalism and Communication upon graduating from St John's in 2011. Ashley interned everywhere and loved it. However, once she completed her degree there were limited career prospects which led to a strategic side step working as a Marketing Assistant at UQ Sport whilst continuing to nurture her love for writing.

In 2017, Ashley became the Editorial Coordinator at Queensland Magazines, but the chaos and commercialisation of the industry dampened her passion. It was during this time that she met Tristan, her partner, who exposed her to the challenges faced by individuals with Type 1 Diabetes. Inspired to make a difference, she co-founded Stripped Supply, Australia's first diabetes subscription box that delivers diabetes therapeutic products (like test strips, needles and continuous glucose monitors) to ensure that users never run out of supplies again.

Ashley self-taught the intricacies of starting and operating a business and went full-time in her venture in 2022. Ashley's achievements include being named UQ Entrepreneur of the Year in 2021 and winning the River Pitch Competition in 2022. She delivered a TEDx Talk titled *"Don't be a prick: what not to say to someone with diabetes"* in the same year.

Ashley has found challenges along the way, starting a pharmaceutical business with no medical experience



and transitioning from a female-dominated industry to a male-dominated startup field.

Looking to the future, Ashley aims to grow and scale Stripped Supply, redefining diabetes healthcare in Australia, the UK, and the USA. Grieving the loss of a dream was tough for Ashley. For 15 years she thought journalism was going to be her lifelong career, and making the decision to let that dream go was devastating. Ashley had to grapple with feelings of failure, disappointment and regret. However, she found that failure isn't negative if we grow from the experience and continue to move forward.

Ashley's journey is a testament to resilience, adaptability, and a passion for making a positive impact. Through her innovative startup, she strives for equal access to healthcare and raising diabetes awareness.



## **CAMERON AAVIK**

### **Software Engineer**

2014  
*Class of*

Cameron is a highly skilled Software Engineer at Microsoft, cultivating an impressive career driven by dedication and a genuine love for software development. His journey began in high school, where Cameron's passion for coding blossomed learning and writing software, including making a mod for the game Minecraft that now has over 600,000 downloads.

Cameron graduated from St John's in 2014 and went on to study a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Software Engineering at the University of Queensland.

Taking significant leaps forward, Cameron secured an internship at Redback Technologies, a local startup. Excelling in his role, he was offered a permanent position, which he adeptly balanced during his studies. He was also President of the UQ Computing Society working with industry contacts to promote internships and graduate opportunities in this field.

In 2019, Cameron joined Microsoft's esteemed team at their Redmond, Washington headquarters. Initially working with the Microsoft News team, he played a pivotal role in surfacing news across multiple platforms, ensuring a seamless user experience.

Despite the challenges of relocating to the US and the subsequent impact of the pandemic, Cameron exhibited resilience and adaptability. As a result, he was granted permission to permanently relocate to Brisbane, Australia, where he currently contributes remotely to Microsoft's endeavours.

Cameron attributes St John's for teaching him the fundamental skills that were invaluable during his university studies together with the public speaking opportunities that gave him the confidence in his professional life to be more courageous.

Looking ahead, Cameron plans to marry his partner, Jasmine, and embark on homeownership and exciting travel adventures. Professionally, he aims to continue his journey at Microsoft, aspiring to become a Principal Software Engineer.



## LISA OWEN

### Wildlife Conservation Educator

Lisa's career path has been marked by determination, adaptability, and an unwavering passion for wildlife conservation. Lisa had always been interested in marine biology or veterinary studies. However, not meeting the entry requirements (OP and pre-requisite classes) and having already commenced work in the disability sector during high school, Lisa continued on this path after graduating the College in 2000. She undertook a degree in Human Services, initially working in the disability sector following a move into mental health counselling. However, her passion for environmental conservation persisted.

Lisa pursued a graduate certificate in Animal Science and Management at the University of Queensland while volunteering with wildlife organisations. This led her to work as a fauna consultant on large infrastructure projects. Seeking a more direct impact, she became a Rescue and Rehabilitation Coordinator in Kenya, working on primate research and reintroduction efforts.



Returning to Australia, Lisa started an environmental education and consultancy, collaborating with local entities to raise awareness about wildlife conservation. She was also lucky enough to secure a short-term position with BOSF (Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation) in regional Borneo where she led a team of Bornean researchers in tracking and collecting data on released (rehabilitated/displaced) Orangutans in west Kalimantan rainforests.

In 2018, she joined the Department of Environment and Science, contributing to crucial conservation projects throughout Queensland. Since this time, Lisa has worked across several roles, including wildlife operations, ranger, environmental compliance and now threatened species operations.

Reflecting on her time at St John's, Lisa's fondest memories are of the friendships and the support that gave her in the best times and certainly tough times. One of Lisa's everyday challenges has been public speaking. Lisa was very uncomfortable with this at school and initially steered away from roles that would require any public speaking. Funnily enough, she has constantly ended up in roles where she must speak publicly, from educating the public about conservation to presenting 45-minute talks to a room full of professors. However, once she starts talking about something she is passionate about, the anxiety dissipates.

Lisa's journey was not a direct path by any means, but she's learned and experienced so much along the way. Being open to grasping any opportunities that come her way and pursuing roles that challenge her and that she's passionate about, is what gets Lisa up each morning.

## MATTHEW KEMP

### Professional Athlete

Matthew's journey from St John's after graduating in 2020 to becoming a full-time athlete at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) is a testament to his dedication and talent in the world of volleyball. Starting his volleyball career in 2015 as a young Year 7 student, Matthew's passion and height caught the attention of his coach, Rolf Vogelbusch, who encouraged him to pursue the sport further. It was from this point that Matthew dedicated himself to the volleyball craft.

A few years later his hard work paid off and he was selected for the Met West school team. From here his progress on the volleyball court skyrocketed. Matthew was selected into the U16 Queensland School Boys team following individual success at the Met West



regional competition. By the end of the Volleyball School Boys season, he was named in the Australian Schoolboys All-Star Team. Outside of the school volleyball scene, Matthew had further success being selected into the U17 Queensland State Team and Australian Junior Development Program. These achievements led to him playing in Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia, and also at home in Australia against Japan and New Zealand, all while continuing to study at school.

Through hard work and determination, Matthew's progress on the volleyball court soared. He represented various teams, including the Australian Volleyball Academy (AVA), where he won national competitions and became part of the Volleyroos Squad. However, his path wasn't without challenges. Graduating amidst the pandemic meant missed opportunities for international competitions. Additionally, Matthew faced a health scare in 2021 but made a remarkable recovery, receiving the all-clear from his specialist.

During his time at St John's, Matthew cherished the lunchtime student vs. teacher sports games, where he got to compete against the staff. The College also supported his career goals through a sports scholarship and connecting him with influential coaches.

Looking ahead, Matthew plans to sign with a professional club in Europe and hopes to continue his volleyball career overseas. Beyond his playing days, he aspires to be a coach, passing on his knowledge to the next generation.

Matthew's story reminds us that talent alone is not enough; it is the extra work, dedication, and resilience behind the scenes that truly propel athletes to greatness.

2020  
Class of

## AMY THOMSON

### Academic

At school, Amy was passionate about English and Music. She loved reading English literature and writing and thoroughly enjoyed being in the English classroom, it was one of her favourite subjects! The College also fostered her love for music, being part of the school's music ensembles, various vocal groups, bands, and orchestra. Amy loved playing the French horn.

Guided by her love of academics and the arts, Amy went on to pursue a Bachelor of Music (Honours) majoring in French horn performance, and a dual Bachelor of Arts majoring in English Literature and Writing at The University of Queensland.

Upon graduation, Amy was eager to pursue a career in teaching English and Music, continuing her passion in these fields. She enrolled in the Graduate Diploma of Secondary Education at UQ. As a Mandandanji woman, her favourite part of her preservice teacher education was the aspect of teaching Indigenous perspectives in the classroom. It was during this time that Amy

became heavily involved with UQ's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit (ATSIS Unit) as a student ambassador and tutor. She also mentored high school Indigenous students who were invited to attend the InspireU camps at the university.

Amy's teaching career took her to Sydney, where she continued to teach English and Music. However, she found she was most fulfilled and enthusiastic when amplifying the voices of Indigenous authors and privileging Indigenous texts. The experience of teaching and reading these texts with her students was transformative, inspiring her to pursue her passion for Indigenous education.

Moving back to Brisbane, Amy enrolled in a PhD program at UQ investigating how the principles of self-determination and co-design can influence subject English teachers in private schools in their embedding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories, and perspectives. Amy's achievements saw her winning the inaugural Indigenous 3MT competition and receiving the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Postgraduate Student Researcher award. She is currently involved in the "Big Mob - Stem it Up!" project, which aims to improve Indigenous representation in STEM fields.

Post PhD, Amy hopes to continue full-time teaching and to conduct research in the areas of Indigenous education, co-design, literature, and English teaching. And with her husband as Principal Bass Trombone player of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, she gets to continue to share in her joy of music.

*Amy Thomson (nee Holland) and Anna Barrientos Holland are proud Aboriginal women with maternal cultural connections to Mandandanji Country (Roma, Queensland).*





## ANNA BARRIENTOS HOLLAND

### Engineer

Anna has achieved remarkable success as an engineer since graduating from St John's in 2014.

Upon completing a dual degree in Bachelor of Electrical and Biomedical Engineering (Honours) at the University of Queensland, the doors opened for Anna who successfully secured a position in the highly competitive two-year graduate program with BAE Systems Australia.

While the journey to success wasn't without its challenges, Anna's dedication to her studies and the field of engineering paid off. She invested significant time and energy during her university years, and her efforts have been rewarded with an exciting and thriving career.

At BAE Systems, Anna has worked as an Electrical/Electronic Engineer, Hardware Engineer and Project Engineer, travelled around Australia on a variety of projects and gained a significant amount of experience in the defence industry across Battlespace and Integrated Systems as well as Maritime.

Reflecting on St John's she fondly recalls the relationships that were formed with both her peers and teachers, which were invaluable. She felt a genuine sense of community with a consistently strong support system around her. Additionally, the wide range of enriching extracurricular activities the College offered, she deemed contributed to her personal growth.

Anna credits initiatives like QCS practice tests at the College for helping her set realistic goals and make informed decisions regarding her degree and university selection. Looking to the future, she aims to expand her engineering expertise to lead a team of engineers.

*Amy and Anna are very proud to continue to champion their family's legacy of resilience in their respective fields of education and engineering. Both women strive to be role models for both Indigenous peoples and women.*

2014  
Class of

Outside of work, Anna enjoys exploring Adelaide, where she has lived for three years with her husband and their two Labradors. In 2023, Anna celebrated her marriage and moved into their first home, adding further excitement to her personal life.



**KELSEY MCCOSH**  
**Professional Dancer**

Kelsey, a passionate performer, has embarked on an extraordinary journey in the world of performing arts. After graduating from St John's in 2014, Kelsey's path has been defined by her love for dance and her determination to make her mark in the industry.

After completing her diploma in Musical Theatre and Commercial Dance, Kelsey worked at Warner Bros Movie World while pursuing a degree in Crime and Justice. At 19, she landed her first professional contract with MSC Cruise Lines, travelling to Asia, the Mediterranean, and beyond. Rising through the ranks to become a Dance Captain and Company Manager, Kelsey thrived in her career.

The pandemic brought unexpected challenges, with Kelsey stranded at sea for 75 days. However, she adapted, learned new skills, and secured a contract on Quantum of the Seas. She remains grateful for the support of family and friends during this trying time. A career highlight for Kelsey was featuring in Baz Luhrmann's movie *Elvis*!

Reflecting on her time at the College, Kelsey cherishes the camaraderie of sporting events and school musicals. She was a recipient of a St John's Performing Arts Scholarship which laid the foundation for her successful career allowing her to academically succeed whilst training and performing.

In the future, Kelsey aspires to perform on London's West End, eventually moving to London with a goal to perform in the musical *Moulin Rouge*. Beyond performing arts, Kelsey would love to continue in the Criminal Justice system and work towards a career in Forensic Science.

With her unwavering passion and adaptability, Kelsey continues to shine on stage and inspire others to pursue their dreams. Her journey exemplifies the rewards of dedication and perseverance in the performing arts.



## **NATHAN MERLANO**

### ***Landscape Architect***

Nathan, a landscape architect at LatStudios in Melbourne, embarked on a remarkable journey driven by his love for nature and design. Nathan graduated from St John's in 2012. After witnessing the impacts of the 2011 floods in Brisbane, he developed a desire to understand and contribute to climate resilience. Despite not initially meeting the requirements for an Architecture degree, Nathan pursued Landscape Architecture at Queensland University of Technology. This temporary arrangement turned into a four-year journey, culminating in a Bachelor of Design and Honours in Landscape Architecture.

Nathan gained valuable experience during his studies, working at design firms in Brisbane. Joining LatStudios as a graduate, he contributed to projects like the Victoria Park Vision and the Box Hill Master Plan, showcasing his design skills. He received recognition with the 2022 AILA Queensland Future Leaders Award and the 2020 World Landscape Architecture Merit Award for the Victoria Park Vision.

Climate change has been a constant and present challenge for Nathan. He envisions systemic changes in the building industry to address this urgent issue. Phasing out all new fossil fuel infrastructure, decoupling our economic and cultural growth from the continued use of singular and homogeneous practices and focusing on building and re-structuring communities that are circular, regenerative, and resilient to name but a few.

Nathan's fondest memories of St John's cannot be encapsulated in a single moment, as every experience holds its own unique charm. However, what truly stands out for him is the profound sense of empowerment that came from the friendships forged during his time.

2012  
*Class of*



Nearing the end of high school, Nathan found himself without the luxury of knowing what his set career path was going to be or having an objective north star to follow. The College allowed him to learn, study and explore the things he loved. With passionate and nurturing mentors and teachers surrounding him, Nathan was able to hone in on these varied interests, ultimately building a functional foundation that steered him towards the field of architecture. For that, he couldn't be more grateful.

His future plans include completing his registration with the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects and expanding LatStudios in Melbourne. Ultimately, he aspires to work internationally, advocating for climate resilience in the architecture and building industry.



**NICK BOYD**  
**General Manager**

Nick, the General Manager of Hilton Garden Inn Hotel Danang in Vietnam, has become a trailblazer in the hospitality industry. After graduating from the College in 2005, he went on to complete a Bachelor of International Hotel and Events Management at the University of Queensland.

Nick began his career with Hilton in Melbourne, as Duty Manager. Through dedication and hard work, he steadily climbed the ranks to Assistant Front Office Manager and eventually Front Office Manager.

Nick's career took an international turn when he moved to London as the Rooms Division Manager at Hilton London Kensington. His outstanding performance led to a promotion as Director of Operations at Hilton London Olympia. After achieving success in London, he embraced new challenges in Bangkok, Thailand, as the Cluster Director of Operations for Hilton and DoubleTree by Hilton Sukhumvit Bangkok.

Despite the significant challenges posed by the pandemic, Nick demonstrated resilience and adaptability. He successfully managed the closures of his hotels, dealt with team member departures, and navigated the reopening of borders. Throughout the obstacles, Nick remained optimistic, inspired by the hospitality industry's determination and ability to innovate.

There have been several career highlights for Nick over the years where he has been given the opportunity to impact not only his own hotels but hotels across the region. In London, Nick sat on a committee overseeing service and product improvements for hotels which were then rolled out across all the Hilton properties in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. He was able to drive procurement initiatives across 11 operating hotels in



Thailand that not only reduced the operating costs of the hotels but also made them more sustainable through the exclusive use of cage-free eggs or sustainably caught seafood.

Reflecting on his St John's days, Nick holds fond memories of the support and mentorship he received from the teaching staff. Mrs Hubbard, Nick's business teacher and Mrs Hinchcliffe, his hospitality teacher were able to secure him a position for work experience at the Stamford Plaza Brisbane in their room service department. Nick might not be where he is today without their guidance.

Looking ahead, Nick plans to continue his successful tenure with Hilton, seeking opportunities to lead larger and more complex hotels worldwide. With an impressive track record and a bright future ahead, he is poised to make further strides as a leader in the global hotel sector.



## AMY ARMISTEAD

### Secondary Mathematics Teacher

2009  
Class of

Amy's journey is one of passion, dedication, and a commitment to providing students with enriching experiences. After graduating from St John's in 2009, Amy pursued a Bachelor of Education in Physical Education from the University of West Alabama. During her time in the USA, Amy excelled as a collegiate soccer athlete, participating in the National Collegiate Athletics Association Gulf South Conference.

While completing her bachelor's degree, Amy also obtained national coaching qualifications, enabling her to coach junior-level soccer teams. Combining her love for education and coaching, Amy took on a role as a high school varsity coach, creating opportunities for students beyond the classroom.

Throughout her career, Amy has achieved various accolades, including state and national championships with school sports pathways. These achievements showcase Amy's commitment to nurturing athletic talent alongside her teaching responsibilities.

In Amy's third year as a teacher, she took on a middle leadership role and became the Head of Department.

This early responsibility pushed her outside her comfort zone, fostering significant growth as an educator and a leader. These challenges have been pivotal in shaping Amy's professional development and positioning her for success.

Returning to St John's in 2022 as a secondary Mathematics teacher, Amy reflects on her time as a student at the College. *"It was the connections that I made with people from participating in TAS sporting teams to the Science and Engineering Challenges, Leo's Club and engaging in yLead camps, that were the most valuable and have led to lifelong friendships."*

Amy aspires to pursue a Masters in Educational Leadership, eventually transitioning to a Senior Leadership position. She recognises that ongoing mentorship and guidance from past teachers has been invaluable in her growth as an educator as well.

Amy's dedication to student development and her passion for education continues to impact the lives of young athletes.



**ZACH RAFTERY**  
**Psychologist**

Zach's journey began with a desire to support others after feeling helpless in high school when a friend struggled with mental health. He had no idea what the 'right thing' to say was, and all he could do was to encourage them to talk to someone who did know. Zach said he didn't want to feel helpless in this situation ever again.

After graduating from St John's in 2006, Zach went on to study a Bachelor of Psychological Science and a Master of Counselling Psychology from the University of Queensland, and a Master of Clinical Psychology from Griffith University.



He began his career working as a counsellor in prisons with inmates being held on remand before becoming a registered psychologist. His diverse experience includes working in high schools, a theatre company, and with children in the care of the Department of Child Safety.

Being invited to lecture in applied and counselling psychology at Griffith University in 2019 was a moment of immense pride for Zach. During COVID, psychology was hugely impacted; the difficulties that came along with the pivot to online counselling and the huge waiting lists that blew out at that time were exceptionally challenging to manage.

Zach has many fond memories from his time at school with being appointed as College Captain in his final year as a true highlight. He was also instrumental in establishing the Old Collegians' Association (OCA) at the College and was privileged to be invited to sit on the College's Foundation Board for a few years during his tenure as President of the OCA.

One of the things that Zach felt that St John's did best was providing a range of opportunities and experiences to students, there wasn't a requirement to choose between sports and performing arts. For Zach it allowed him to narrow down things that he enjoyed and gave him a well-rounded foundation for his career and life beyond the College.

In his spare time, Zach prioritises spending time with his newborn child. While he currently enjoys consulting as a psychologist, he envisions future possibilities, including starting his own practice and continuing his advocacy for men's mental health.

## CATHERINE LO

### Corporate Lawyer

2009  
Class of

Catherine, a driven and accomplished individual, graduated from St John's in 2009 and is now Director and Counsel at American Express in New York. After graduating Catherine went on to complete a dual degree with distinction from the Queensland University of Technology in 2015 with a Bachelor of Business (Finance) and a Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours).

Catherine later embarked on a series of professional experiences that shaped her career today, starting as a Winter Clerk at Clayton Utz, she later became a Summer Clerk at Clifford Chance in Sydney, where she was offered a position as a graduate lawyer. Catherine's passion for adventure led her to backpack around the world for six months, exploring different cultures and fulfilling lifelong dreams including hiking to Everest Base Camp.

In 2017 in a bid to fulfil a lifelong dream of living and working in New York, Catherine sat the New York Bar Exam and passed! A year later an opportunity came up in Manhattan with Clifford Chance and Catherine relocated to the Big Apple. Fast forward to 2022, Catherine made the move "in-house" to American Express. As an in-house attorney, the focus shifts to deeply understanding the business you work for, understanding what your business colleagues are trying to achieve and helping them achieve those goals.

Throughout her journey, Catherine has achieved career milestones, working at esteemed law firms, and advocated for Asian and women representations. She has overcome challenges, including adjusting to a new country and working in a male-dominated industry as an Asian woman.

Reflecting on her time at St John's, Catherine treasures the camaraderie she shared with friends, sausage sizzles in The Courtyard and participating in College sporting events.

Looking ahead, Catherine plans to prioritise spending time with her family, particularly her mother, who has supported her throughout her career journey. Over the last couple of years, Catherine has developed an interest in real estate and is keen to explore this further.

Catherine's journey exemplifies ambition and success, inspiring those aspiring to make their mark in the legal industry. Her dedication, adventurous spirit, and unwavering ambition have propelled her towards professional success while cherishing the importance of family and personal growth.





**ROWAN CHAPMAN****Actor**

Rowan is an accomplished actor and army reservist carving a unique path in pursuing his passions. He knew from a young age that he wanted to be an actor, despite the scepticism he encountered. However, the unwavering support from his teachers at St John's fuelled his determination. They embraced his aspirations and guided him toward achieving his goals, instilling in him the confidence to pursue a career in acting.

Reflecting on his time at the College, Rowan reminisces about the camaraderie, memorable experiences, and the teachers who influenced his personal growth.

Upon graduating from St John's in 2005, Rowan went on to study and obtain a Bachelor of Human Movement Studies from the University of Queensland together with a Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honours in Acting from Queensland University of Technology.

Throughout his career, Rowan has achieved notable milestones, including receiving the Jennifer Blockside Memorial Award and creating 'The Long Haul,' an online wellness and industry longevity resource for actors. He has appeared in various TV productions and feature films cherishing the incredible opportunities to work alongside renowned professionals such as George Clooney, Julia Roberts, and David Oyelowo.

Rowan acknowledges the challenges inherent in his profession, including extended periods of unemployment and the toll on mental health. However, he finds solace in the unwavering support of his family and faith community. In times of downtime, Rowan immerses himself in his role as an army reservist, finding fulfilment in serving his country.

Looking ahead, Rowan's future revolves around staying true to himself, maintaining a resilient spirit, and avoiding regrets. In his spare time, he enjoys running, cycling, and spending quality moments with his family.





## THASMIKA GOKAL

### IT Marketing Manager

2015  
Class of

Thasmika has built a remarkable career fuelled by her curiosity to learn about the smallest and largest things in the universe and understand the language of how and why they work.

After graduating from St John's in 2015, with an impressive OP score of 1, Thasmika pursued two fields at university in a dual degree that she found passion for at St Johns: physics and maths.

Her university studies gave her the opportunity to challenge herself through research stints, consulting internships and working at start-ups. Breakthrough innovation in tech and research, working with people

to solve societal problems, and leveraging creativity to paint on an empty canvas cemented the career pathway in tech.

Thasmika's early experiences as a machine learning engineer at a Brisbane start-up exposed her to cutting-edge fields such as computer vision and quantum computing algorithms working with software engineers in niche areas that are now part of our ChatGPT-inspired era of AI.

Despite challenges faced by women in tech, she thrived and soon caught the attention of Microsoft ANZ, where she joined as an AI Cloud Solution Architect helping start-ups, consulting firms and specialist companies build their AI practices and product solutions. More recently, Thasmika was asked to join Microsoft Corporate Headquarters in the US as a Product Marketing Manager for the Analytics portfolio, an incredible opportunity to manage the global product marketing strategy.

Recognised for her exceptional contributions, Thasmika has received several prestigious awards, including Women in Technology in 2021 and 2022 and Microsoft's Platinum Club for Outstanding Achievement in FY22 an honour only 1% of the company receives over the course of their career.

Thasmika fondly recalls and credits her time at St John's for nurturing her analytical thinking skills and instilling a love for problem-solving whether it be writing a comparative essay on Shakespeare's plays or solving quantum physics questions. Her teachers, Mr Richards and Mr Osburn, played an instrumental role in fostering her growth mindset challenging her to "think beyond". She valued her time greatly in their classes as they helped to plant the seeds of wonder, curiosity, and resilience in her mindset.



**RENEE GREEN**  
*Photographer*

Renee, a self-employed Wedding, Portrait, and Architectural/ Interior Photographer, has built a successful career in capturing cherished memories. Graduating from St John's in 2011, Renee initially studied Interior Design and Landscape Architecture eventually transitioning into a Fine Arts degree majoring in Interactive and Visual Design.

Initially starting her own business in graphic design and event stationery, Renee was faced with a serendipitous opportunity as a wedding photographer's assistant. Although reluctant at first, this opened her eyes to the profound joy of capturing emotions on couples' special days.

Since then, Renee has become a sought-after photographer, travelling around the world to document weddings and receiving recognition as one of the top 21 wedding photographers in Australia and New Zealand. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, Renee adapted her skills and pivoted to architectural photography, expanding her income streams and continuing to grow her business.

Renee fondly remembers the sense of community fostered through sports days, musicals, and year-level camps at St John's. Attending the College from Prep through to Year 12, she attributes her creative spirit, love for learning, and confidence in her abilities to the dedicated teachers at her alma mater.

Looking ahead, Renee plans to further expand her business, offering a broader range of commercial photography services and embracing opportunities for international wedding assignments.

Renee's passion for photography, combined with her commitment to capturing meaningful moments, has allowed her to turn her late father's passion into a fulfilling career. With her creative vision and dedication, she continues to create timeless memories for clients and elevate her craft in the ever-evolving world of photography.



## THOMAS PAUL

### Corporate Finance Analyst

2004  
Class of

When Thomas commenced university, he wasn't entirely sure what he wanted to do with his career so he started studying Law and Political Science. It was after a year that he realised that as much as he enjoyed politics, he didn't see a future career pathway and transferred to Commerce where he gained more enjoyment from finance and financial modelling.

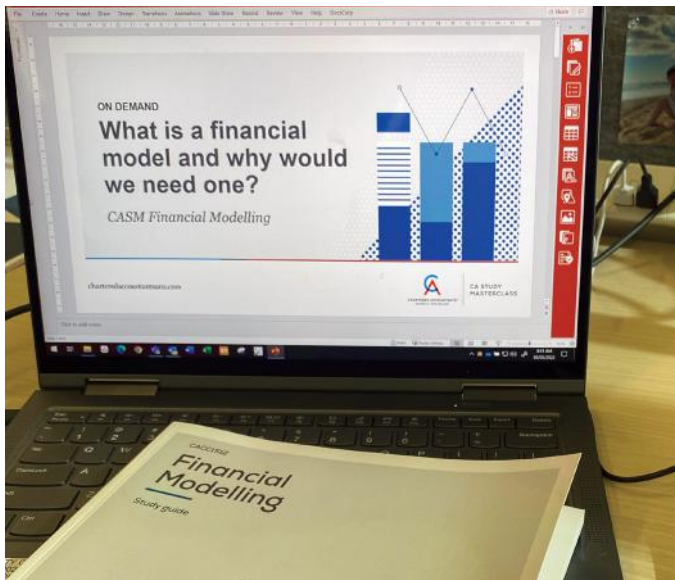
After graduating, Thomas joined Queensland Treasury Corporation in the Local Government and Universities Advisory team where he had the opportunity to work with communities around Queensland in ensuring their long-term financial sustainability while delivering infrastructure to help them thrive.

In 2019, he joined BDO in the Project and Infrastructure Advisory team, leveraging his financial modelling experience from QTC and a previous role as an Associate Director at Pilot Partners. Thomas was fortunate to provide financial modelling and advisory services on some of Australia's largest infrastructure projects in diverse

sectors including health, transport, water, education, and development precincts. In the past year, he has also established the National Financial Modelling Centre of Excellence at BDO, promoting best-practice financial modelling in Microsoft Excel.

His expertise has earned him global recognition, receiving the 2020 Financial Modelling Innovation Award for his Dynamic Scenario Manager and being shortlisted for the 2021 award for his Advanced Notification Centre. Thomas's innovative solutions aim to simplify and enhance financial modelling practices.

Thomas attributes St John's for providing him with a strong foundation for learning and critical thinking, enabling him to approach challenges with complex reasoning and different perspectives. Since finishing at the College, he has developed a passion for travelling, which he shares with his family, and is eager to explore the world and embark on new adventures together.



## CHACE ELDRIDGE

### Commercial Pilot

Chace is a rising star in the aviation industry, driven by his unwavering passion and determination. Graduating from St John's in 2017, Chace went on to study a Bachelor of Aviation at Griffith University as well as being accepted into the Qantas Group Pilot Academy. He embarked on a remarkable journey to fulfil his dream of becoming a commercial pilot.

After obtaining his Commercial Pilot's license, Multi-Engine Instrument Rating, and Flight Instructor Rating, Chace embraced opportunities as a flight instructor, allowing him to explore Australia's breathtaking landscapes while honing his skills. Currently, he holds the position of QLD Lead at a renowned aviation healthcare company and an Industry Consultation Coordinator at the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA). In these roles, he leads a team of allied health practitioners, providing crucial services to regional and rural communities and advocating for industry perspectives in shaping aviation regulations.

Chace's accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. He has received numerous awards, including academic honours, a prestigious scholarship for aviation safety, and recognition as a finalist for the Australian Aviation Young Aviator of the Year Award. Chace's graduation from pilot school during the peak of the global pandemic, in an industry that had come to a standstill, was remarkable.

Looking back, his fondest memories of St John's were the camaraderie he experienced while participating in TAS sports. Playing brought him immense joy and created a strong sense of unity, fostering deep bonds and lasting friendships. The school formal in Year 12, not only served as a memorable celebration but also marked a significant milestone; it was the catalyst that inspired him to ask Chelsea, his current partner, to be his date.

Looking ahead, Chace aspires to become a Captain flying large passenger aircraft worldwide. He also has the desire to be involved with the integration of autonomous aircraft into everyday life such as flying taxis and drone postal deliveries.

Outside of flying, Chace likes to keep fit and active utilising this passion for challenging physical activities to raise money for charity. Later in 2023, Chace will be cycling 6000km down the East Coast of Australia raising money for mental health research and education.





## PRAJNA VIDYASAGAR

### Clinical Optometrist

2014  
*Class of*

Prajna graduated from St John's in 2014 and has embarked on an extraordinary journey in the field of optometry. Post school she went on to study a Bachelor of Vision Science and a Masters in Optometry at Queensland University of Technology and is currently pursuing her PhD, driven by her passion for eye health and patient care.

While uncertain at first about her chosen career path, a visit to India to her grandfather reaffirmed that the five-year study commitment was the correct choice. Prajna's grandfather had cataracts in both his eyes and required surgery. Being a curious person and knowing that this is the industry that she was going to be working in, she chose to go into the optometry clinics with him for assessments and started realising what a positive influence this allied health profession had in the community. Prajna will never forget the emotions in the waiting area. From people crying as they were seeing for the first time, to individuals having their sight saved due to early diagnosis of ocular melanomas, made her

realise that this is where she belonged. Prajna was aware that India being a third-world country would have more severe conditions compared to Australia however, it was the overall feeling of helping the wider community that sealed the deal for her.

Throughout her career, Prajna has achieved notable accolades, including being named Optometrist of the Month by Specsavers. She also returned to the eye clinic in India where her grandfather received his treatment and did some volunteer work amongst other mobile eye clinics in India. Additionally, Prajna has actively mentored students and conducted career panels at QUT.

Reflecting on her time at St John's, Prajna cherishes the camaraderie and support she experienced during her senior year. The close-knit community and shared moments of studying and competing in school events created lasting memories. Prajna credits her success to the unwavering support of her teachers, who believed in her potential even when she doubted herself. The comprehensive education and extracurricular activities at St John's shaped her into the confident individual she is today.

Looking ahead, Prajna envisions completing her PhD and transitioning into academia, where she aspires to become a professor of optometry. In her spare time, Prajna indulges in her love for music as an Indian classical singer. She actively participates in gigs and contributes to a non-profit organisation, mentoring youth from diverse backgrounds to build their confidence.

Prajna is an emerging force in the field of optometry, driven by a commitment to providing exceptional eye care, teaching, and making a positive impact in the lives of others.



**RUTH TROMP**  
**Chemical Engineer**

Ruth embarked on a fulfilling career journey that led her to become a Reliability Engineer for Urban Utilities. After graduating from the College in 2012 with an impressive OP 2, Ruth pursued her passion for Chemical Engineering at the University of Queensland. It was during her six-month placement at the Goodna Sewage Treatment Plant that she discovered her interest in the wastewater sector and the significant role it plays in meeting the needs of the community and protecting the environment.

Ruth was encouraged to apply for the Urban Utilities Graduate Program and accepted one of six positions commencing February 2018. This program gave her exposure across three fields: Wastewater Treatment, Strategic Asset Management, and Operations and Maintenance. It was during her final rotation that Ruth was offered the role of Project Manager of the Water Network.

Becoming a mother to her son Frederick and daughter Sasha has greatly influenced her career ambitions. Ruth feels blessed to work in an organisation that supports and encourages family-centredness. She was also able to take a career break relocating to Canada for a year to join her husband as he completed his clinical fellowship.

On returning to Australia in 2022, Ruth has since taken on a part-time role as a Reliability Engineer in the Maintenance Management team shifting from chemical engineering to detecting defects in assets, applying root-cause analysis, improving maintenance strategies, and recommending risk-adverse and cost-effective solutions.

Ruth holds countless fond memories of St John's. Participating in the lunchtime running club and serving as a school captain in her final year was a humbling experience that emphasised the value of servant-heartedness. Ruth credits her high school chemistry teachers for inspiring her to pursue chemical engineering.

*"I am thankful for all the small and big opportunities to show leadership throughout high school; learning to work as a team, delegate jobs, share responsibilities, communicate clearly, know when and how to ask for help, work efficiently and be organised – these were and are useful skills in the workplace and throughout parenthood."*



## LACHLAN NUTTALL

### **Sports Marketing**

2014  
*Class of*

Lachlan has carved a thriving career in the dynamic world of sports marketing, shaped by his passion for sports and business. After graduating from St John's in 2014, Lachlan went on to study a Bachelor of Business in Public Relations at Queensland University of Technology.

During a university exchange program in Toronto, Canada, Lachlan gained valuable experience working with the Toronto Maple Leafs and attending NBA games. This ignited his interest in the business of sports. Upon returning to Brisbane, he interned with various sporting organisations, including UniSport and the Brisbane Bullets. Lachlan then secured positions at Southern Districts Basketball and Brisbane Basketball, along with contracts at the Brisbane Lions and the National Basketball League.

Currently, as the Marketing and Communications Manager at Basketball Queensland, Lachlan has achieved notable milestones. He produced a documentary series on QLD State basketball, launched a podcast with

NBA Champion Andrew Bogut, and established live-streaming partnerships. Additionally, he commentated on international basketball games and played a key role in the restoration of a flood-damaged basketball stadium.

Reflecting on his time at St John's, Lachlan cherishes his graduation year as College Captain and the lifelong friendships he formed. The College provided a diverse range of extracurricular activities that equipped him with essential skills for managing multiple projects and leading teams.

Looking ahead, Lachlan's ambition is to work in the National Basketball Association (NBA) and be among the few Australians to reach that level.

Lachlan Nuttall's success story exemplifies the power of combining passion with dedication, and his journey serves as an inspiration to those aspiring to thrive in the sports marketing industry.





**TAMEIKA GREENAWAY**  
*Clinical Psychologist*

It was at the age of 13 that Tameika realised she was destined for a career in psychology. Good at giving advice and finding genuine joy in helping people, Tameika graduated from St John's in 2008 to pursue a Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) at the University of Queensland.

After completing her Honours year Tameika applied for the Clinical Master's program at QUT and was delighted to accept an offer into the Doctorate program instead. It was during this program that Tameika stepped into more people-focused work, completing one year in one-on-one residential out-of-home care. She considered this her year in the thick of it, where she had the heartbreaking but rewarding opportunity to care directly for kids who had experienced significant trauma.



After almost 10 years of study, and having already officially started her career, Tameika landed what felt like her dream job at the time – a psychologist role in Community Mental Health. She had the amazing opportunity to work within a multidisciplinary team to help adults recover and grow from the lowest points in their lives.

Amidst COVID and some personal family tragedy, Tameika made the difficult (but ultimately ideal) decision to move away from working in public health to private practice with a focus on neurodivergence, anxiety, identity work, burnout, perfectionism, and trauma.

Of her time at the College, Tameika reflects on the great privilege of having teachers who took the time to understand and engage her in learning and connection. Having teachers who spoke to her as a real person and who seemed genuinely curious about her hopes, dreams, and internal workings helped stoke the fire of Tameika's curiosity as well as enabled her to practise engaging with people of different ages, stages, and walks of life; a skill that would come in handy in the future.

Tameika pictures the future of her business as a place that has a therapy cat or dog, rooms filled to the brim with sensory regulation tools, social groups, therapy groups, mums' groups, and probably blue walls! It is her dream to provide a place where everyone who works with Tameika shares the same passion and commitment for helping neurodivergent, anxious, and traumatised individuals. It might sound a little idealistic, but Tameika's 13-year-old self-managed to map out my life to date, so she's optimistic about her chances of getting there.



## **BRYAN HOANG** **Physiotherapist**

Bryan Hoang, a driven and passionate individual, embarked on a journey towards a fulfilling career in the healthcare industry. Graduating from St John's in 2017 with an OP3, Bryan entered Griffith University completing a Bachelor of Physiotherapy in December 2021. During his university years, Bryan discovered a genuine interest in physiotherapy and welcomed the challenges that came with it.

During his final year of study, he underwent physically and mentally demanding placements at various hospitals putting into practice his four years of study on real-life patients. However, his commitment and application of



knowledge allowed him to overcome these obstacles and grow as a professional.

Currently, Bryan works as a physiotherapist at Canossa Private Hospital and Surgical Treatment and Rehabilitation Services (STARS), affiliated with the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. Additionally, he serves as a physiotherapist for the Indoor Netball Federation Queensland and Hockey Queensland. Bryan's commitment to sports extends to his role as an ATPCA-licensed tennis coach for St John's, where he imparts his expertise to both primary and secondary students.

Throughout his career, Bryan has achieved significant milestones. Notably, he was selected as one of five physiotherapists to tour with the QLD Indoor Men's and Mixed Netball teams to the Super Nationals in 2022 and 2023.

Looking back at his time at St John's, Bryan fondly recalls playing football with his peers during lunchtime and engaging in TAS sports, which created lasting memories and fostered camaraderie.

In the future, Bryan envisions owning his own physiotherapy clinic and working with elite sports teams. He has already taken steps in this direction by co-founding the Instagram page @recoveryphysios, where evidence-based advice and educational content on various clinical conditions are shared.

*2017*  
*Class of*

## THESHAN GOONEWARDENE

### Chartered Accountant

Theshan has achieved remarkable success by forging an unconventional path and demonstrating an unwavering commitment to sustainability. As a rebellious teenager challenging societal norms, Theshan was more interested in exploring his own passions than academic pursuits. However, with the support from friends, teachers, and family, he developed a strategy and mindset that led to achieving his own goals.

It was through St John's early acceptance program that Theshan enrolled in the University of Queensland and earned a Bachelor of Business degree. This was followed by qualifying as a Chartered Accountant and furthering his education in Sustainability at NYU and Harvard University. Today, Theshan advises Fortune 100 companies on corporate-social responsibility and sustainability in his role as a Director at KPMG's New York office.

Theshan's list of career achievements includes co-authoring thought leadership pieces, moderating global conferences and delivering keynote speeches on environmental, social and governance considerations.

He has successfully led financial reporting projects for one of the largest merger and acquisition transactions in 2010 and has been an active board member of a variety of non-profit organisations.

Reflecting on his time at St John's, Theshan fondly recalls the carefree moments shared during lunch breaks and the cherished friendships that continue to this day. The College's speech and drama program played a vital role in developing his communication skills and confidence, while the music program instilled discipline and creativity. Today, Theshan is still learning how to play the guitar!

Looking ahead, Theshan plans to drive growth and facilitate professional development in the next generation of accountants. He would very much like to expand his network and influence in the humanitarian sector, supporting the causes he cares about with his amazing partner by his side.



## **AINSLEY SHERRINGTON**

### **Biomedical Science Student**

Ainsley's story is a testament to the power of adaptability, determination, and pursuing diverse passions. After graduating from St John's in 2020, Ainsley is now completing her third year of a Biomedical Science degree, expanding her knowledge and skills in the field. Alongside her studies, she is also a qualified Professional Australian Tennis Coach and obtained a Certificate III in Fitness, showcasing her dedication to sports and personal development.

Ainsley's journey hasn't come without obstacles, and she was faced with challenging choices; having her dream of studying in the USA while pursuing a passion for tennis come to an abrupt halt with the outbreak of the pandemic. However, Ainsley's resilience and determination have enabled her to overcome these challenges and thrive in her pursuit of success.

Ainsley was approached by the Centralised Assessment and Selection Program (CASP) at QUT, who offered her a full scholarship in 2021. Despite receiving the offer, Ainsley chose to study her first preference in Biomedical Science at Griffith University.

Reflecting on her time at St John's, the opportunity to participate in the Antipodeans trip to Nepal was a highlight for Ainsley. This eye-opening experience broadened her perspective and enriched her personal growth. The support and experiences provided by the College have played a significant role in shaping Ainsley's character and nurturing important life skills. St John's, leadership opportunities have cultivated her emotional intelligence, empathy, and communication abilities, which now serve them well as a tennis coach and future biomedical scientist.

2020  
*Class of*

Looking ahead, Ainsley plans to enter the Honours Program in 2024, aiming to enhance her leadership, communication, and teamwork skills while gaining a global perspective on medicine. Ainsley exemplifies the possibilities that arise when one embraces change and follows their dreams.



## JEEVAN SIVALINGAM

### Dentist

Jeevan has embarked on an inspiring career journey, and today is a successful dentist, practice owner, and co-founder of a dental software startup. Jeevan's story is one of resilience, growth, and entrepreneurial spirit.

He was part of the inaugural high school class at St John's, formerly known as Forest Lake College, where he learned to be resilient and developed an adventurous spirit. As a small cohort and the 'first' class of each year, he fostered a unique sense of determination. Jeevan went on to graduate from the College in 2000.



His journey took him to study for a Bachelor of Dentistry at the University of Queensland. After completing his dental studies, Jeevan took the opportunity to travel the world before settling in Melbourne. In 2010, he established his first dental clinic and has since expanded his business to own four large dental practices across Melbourne. Additionally, he co-founded a dental software startup called Jeeve Solutions, which is widely used by dental professionals across the country.

Jeevan's career has been marked by notable achievements, though he remains humble about sharing them. Running multiple businesses has presented its fair share of challenges. Managing a health clinic during COVID lockdowns in Victoria pushed him to new limits. Yet, through self-belief, resilience, and an unwavering passion for his work, Jeevan has successfully navigated the adversities that have come his way.

Reflecting on his time at St John's, Jeevan cherishes his involvement in the soccer team and the lifelong friendship he forged with his classmate, Paul Wilson. These memories have remained a source of joy and camaraderie.

Looking ahead, Jeevan plans to continue expanding his dental group of clinics across Melbourne and further grow his software startup, both domestically and internationally. His dedication to his craft, coupled with his innovative mindset, continues to shape his success in the dental industry and beyond.



## PIPER JEFFERIES

### Human Resources

2019  
*Class of*

Piper is an accomplished HR Coordinator at Data#3, known for her dedication and passion in the field of Human Resources. After graduating from St John's in 2019, Piper went on to Study a Bachelor of Business majoring in Management and HR Management at Queensland University of Technology.

During her time at QUT, Piper participated in the prestigious Dean's Honours program while gaining practical experience as a Continuous Improvement Specialist at Truis, a Brisbane-based IT solutions firm. Her coursework and work experience aligned, providing her with valuable skills and opportunities.



After completing her bachelor's degree, Piper chose to enter the HR industry immediately. She secured a full-time graduate position as an HR Coordinator at Data#3, a well-regarded ASX-listed company.

Although early in her career, Piper has already achieved notable accomplishments. She has driven environmental and sustainability initiatives, played an integral role in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) change, facilitated employee experience improvements, and championed process automation.

Piper acknowledges the challenges she has faced, including adjusting to remote learning during the pandemic and transitioning to full-time work. However, her determination and resilience have propelled her forward.

Piper fondly remembers her College days and credits Mr Weeks, her teacher, for inspiring her interest in business management.

Looking ahead, she aims to continue her HR journey, aspiring to reach a senior leadership position where she can positively impact workplaces, particularly in areas like DEI, engagement, and wellbeing.

She is driven by a desire to make a lasting impact in the HR industry, with her dedication and enthusiasm, she is poised to excel and bring positive change to organisations.

## ST JOHN'S OLD COLLEGIANS' ASSOCIATION

*Emma Dawson, President OCA*



As President of the St John's Old Collegians' Association and a graduate of the 2003 cohort, it gives me great pleasure to reflect on the milestones achieved by the College over the past 30 years.

St John's has indeed come a long way, from its humble beginnings as a small school with just a few hundred students to becoming one of the leading independent schools in the region.

Over the years, the College has truly transformed, undertaking several initiatives aimed at improving the quality of education on offer. By investing in modern infrastructure and implementing innovative teaching methods.

St John's has produced some outstanding graduates who have not only performed exceptionally well in their studies but also gone on to become successful professionals in various fields. From entrepreneurs to renowned artists and community leaders to celebrated scientists. The College's dedication to producing well-rounded individuals who can contribute positively to society has always been at the heart of its mission, and our Old Collegians are a testament to this.

The Old Collegians' Association has also played a vital role in the College's success story over the past 30 years. The association has been instrumental in supporting St John's vision and values, rallying our alumni to give back to the College community in numerous ways, including tutoring, mentorship programs and community outreach initiatives.

Through commitment and dedication, the Old Collegians' Association has helped to create an environment of shared values and collective responsibility, ensuring that generations after generations of St John's alumni continue to make positive contributions in their various spheres of influence and carry the College's legacy forward.

As we celebrate this significant milestone in our journey, I want to use this opportunity to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all our alumni who have been a part of this journey. Your achievements and contributions to society are a testament to the high-quality education, values and character that St John's has instilled in you. I urge you to continue to uphold these values in your personal and professional lives and to remain active members of the Old Collegians' Association, championing the causes of continued excellence and progress in our College community.

*Every care has been taken to ensure the information in this booklet is correct at the time of publication.  
The producers accept no responsibility for any errors, omissions or changes leading to such information being incorrect.  
This booklet provides general information only and may be subject to change at any time without notice.*

## St John's Anglican College

Junior School  
Kindergarten to Year 6  
Alpine Place, Forest Lake QLD 4078  
07 3372 0888

Middle and Senior School  
Years 7 to 12  
College Avenue, Forest Lake QLD 4078  
07 3372 0111

PO Box 4078 Forest Lake QLD 4078  
ABN 14 060 936 576 CRICOS Provider #01406C

[stjohnsanglicancollege.com.au](http://stjohnsanglicancollege.com.au)



**ST JOHN'S**  
Anglican College

