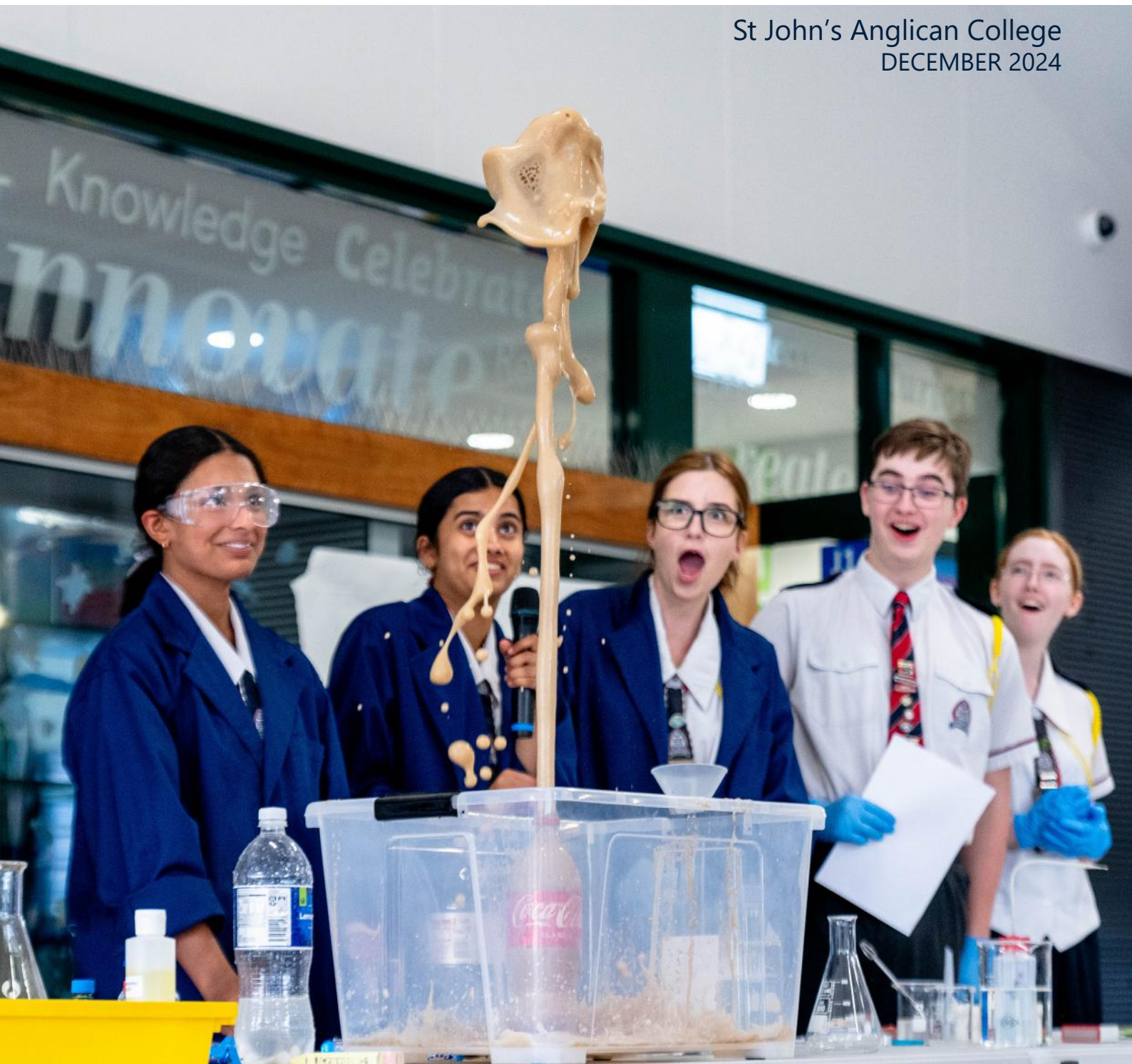


Footprints

St John's Anglican College
DECEMBER 2024



Footprints

DECEMBER 2024
EDITION

Editor

Mrs Elaine MacRae

Graphic Design

Mrs Allison Winckle

Photography

Mr Sam Luff

Queensland School Photography

Contributors

Mrs Maria McIvor

Mr Wayne Pascoe

Mr Christopher Ralph

Mr Joshua Mulligan

Mr Russell Morgan

Ms Anna-lise Walker

Mrs Maritha Youell

Ms Claire Louw

Mrs Sarah Alexander

Mr Lachlan Doyle

Mr Isuka Muthumuni

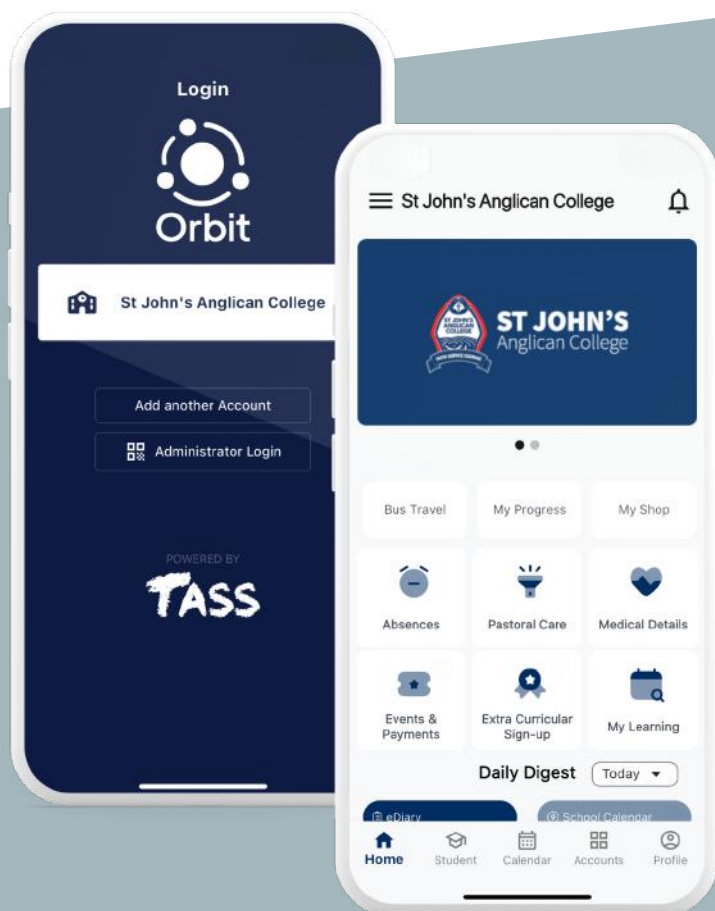
Mrs Paloma Dexter

Reverend Juliana Bate

Acknowledgement of Country

St John's Anglican College acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which we gather; the Yuggera (Jagera) people. We recognise their continuing cultural and spiritual connection to land, water and community. We pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. We are grateful for the diverse cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their contributions, wisdom and memories.

Introducing Parent Orbit: The Future of Parent-School Communication



Key Features of the Parent Orbit app:

- **Customisable Notifications:** Personalise the notification settings so you're always up-to-date with the information that matters most to you. Notifications are sent directly to your phone, keeping you connected wherever you are.
- **eDiary Access:** View your child's daily activities, assignments, and learning progress.
- **Absences and Medical Updates:** Easily update your child's absence records and medical details directly within the app.
- **Extracurricular Sign-Ups:** Sign up your child for extracurricular activities, ensuring they don't miss out on exciting opportunities.
- **My St John's Access:** Connect to the school's My St John's portal for additional resources and personalised information.
- **School Calendar & Events:** Stay on top of important dates, school events, and activities that matter to you and your child.
- **Payments & Notices:** Quickly access school notices and manage payments, including fees for various school activities and events.

We are excited to announce the launch of Parent Orbit, a powerful new app designed to streamline communication between our school and your family. Parent Orbit replaces our previous College app, offering a more secure, intuitive, and comprehensive platform that connects you to St John's.

At the heart of Parent Orbit is the goal to provide our parent community with a seamless, user-friendly interface for managing important school-related information. Through this app, you will have secure, easy access to a range of tools and resources, making it simpler to stay informed and connected.

Whether you're tracking your child's progress, keeping up with school events, or handling essential tasks like updating medical details, Parent Orbit puts everything at your fingertips.

As we move into 2025 and beyond, Parent Orbit will be your go-to tool for accessing everything you need to stay informed and engaged. The app is available to download for free from the App Store or Google Play, and parents will be able to log in using their My St John's account for easy access to all features.

We are committed to enhancing communication and making school-life management simpler and more convenient for our parent community. We hope that Parent Orbit will improve your experience and strengthen your connection to our school.



Download it today and take the next step toward a more connected and informed school journey!



From the Principal

As another school year draws to a close, it is always difficult to say goodbye to a graduating year. For the Class of 2024, we all have many rich memories of the stories and events that have led to graduation day. I remember a few tears but mostly I remember the breakthrough moments. New wisdom, new friendships and new insights go naturally with a sharing of time.

My memories of the Class of 2024 tell a story of a group of wonderful young human beings who are sincerely authentic. They have demonstrated grace in being living examples of the values of St John's; faith, hope, love, courage, community and justice. Know also that this narrative is far from finished; in fact, it is only the beginning, and this

is only the first chapter in their long and exciting stories. What a beautiful thought! At a moment when we rightly celebrate all you know, and are...yet, in this graduation moment, we pause to contemplate the beauty of the unknown still to be discovered.

We join in wondering what the future holds for this group of individuals; what will they do, where will they go, and who will they become? The fantastic thing about writing your own story is that you can do anything, go anywhere, and become anyone you dream of. Nobody can tell you the end of your story because you are the author, not them. What I can tell you is that it will be a little messy, it will get complicated, there will be surprises and there will be chapters that you never anticipated being written into your story, but this is the best part. Nothing is set in stone.

A life lived in the belief that you have been wronged will never deliver the rewards that would otherwise be your due. Surprisingly, the choice to be happy is one we control largely by our actions and our response to all that comes our way. Across life, others will be rewarded when you could have been chosen. That is ok and inevitable. Life is big enough for that to matter little if you choose to be happy. We now have enough science to support the belief of the wisdom of generations that good things favour the generous and forgiving spirit.

To the Class of 2024, you have led our College with wit, energy and wisdom. You have made us proud, and I hope you are proud of your achievements; not only in 2024, but your life so far. You will take from St John's the knowledge that ideas matter, faith matters, commemoration of the things that give us culture matters, love matters, and most of all, you matter.



*As we farewell the
Class of 2024, know
that as you embark
on the next step of
your journey, we are
proud of you, we love
you, and take solace
in the knowledge
that a small piece of
St John's will always
be with you in your
hearts. God Bless.*

Maria L. McIvor

Mrs Maria McIvor
Principal





St John's Takes the Plunge with the Aquatic Precinct Project Launch!

With great excitement, St John's began construction on the Aquatic Precinct project during the September term break, commemorating this milestone with a Turning of the Sod Ceremony in October. This significant step follows the Aquatic Precinct's concept approval in July 2021 as part of St John's Sustainability Enterprise strategic initiatives.

We were honoured to welcome Australian swimmer and reigning Olympic champion Mollie O'Callaghan as our special guest for this event, where she shared inspiring stories from her recent journey to the Paris Olympics. A true highlight of the day, especially for our excited students, staff, and parents, was the unforgettable opportunity to hold one of her Olympic gold medals!

This one-of-a-kind facility in the local area has embarked with Stage One of the project incorporating a new double-story learning hub of nine classrooms, flexible learning spaces and a heated indoor program pool offering learn-to-swim classes for babies through to our Junior School students.

By working with the highly experienced team at BSPN Architecture, a state-of-the-art Aquatic Precinct has been designed and tailored specifically to meet the needs of the St John's community. The second phase of this project will include an Olympic-sized swimming pool, a spectator grandstand and amenities.

We look forward to providing our community with regular updates as to the progress of this project and empowering our young athletes with hopes and dreams for Brisbane 2032 and beyond!



ST JOHN'S
Aquatic Precinct



Celebrating Excellence in Science

St John's Year 9 Student, Iestyn Rush, was thrilled to win the prestigious 2024 Australian Museum Eureka Prize for Secondary School Science this year.

Representing some of the brightest minds in Australian science, Iestyn's 'Fusion – The Heart of the Sun' shone through in this competitive group to take out the coveted award. Challenged to explore a scientific concept, discovery, or invention, or to test a scientific hypothesis in a short film, Iestyn created an animated piece using his own illustrations. His film explains the proton-proton fusion process occurring in the sun's core, showcasing how this powerful reaction generates the vast energy needed to drive Earth's processes and sustain life!

The Australian Museum Eureka Prizes are the country's most comprehensive national science awards, honouring excellence across the areas of research and innovation, leadership, science engagement, and school science.

Presented annually in partnership with some of the nation's leading scientific institutions, government organisations, universities and corporations, the Eureka Prizes raise the profile of science and science engagement in the community by celebrating outstanding achievement.

Battle of the Bridges 2024

Mr Wayne Pascoe
Head of Design and Engineering
Technology

Mr Christopher Ralph
DET Teacher

In 2024, Battle of the Bridges proved to be more than just a competition – it was a celebration of innovation, teamwork, and the spirit of friendly rivalry.

This annual event, which challenges students to apply their engineering and design skills, has become a highlight in the College's STEM calendar. This year, however, the event took on even greater significance with the addition of Westside Christian College to the mix, amplifying the energy and fostering new bonds of collaboration and camaraderie.

At the heart of the competition lies a deceptively simple challenge: design and build a bridge using only balsa wood, with strict limitations on materials and specifications. These parameters emphasise key engineering principles, such as structural integrity, load distribution, and weight efficiency. Students must think critically about each piece of balsa wood they place, considering how it will contribute to the overall strength and durability of their bridge. This real-world application of STEM concepts requires students to balance precision with creativity and to anticipate how forces will act upon their structure.

Leading up to the event, students engaged in extensive preparation, learning about various bridge types, testing different designs, and analysing load-bearing capacities. On competition day, excitement filled the air as teams presented

their bridges, ready to see if their designs could withstand the maximum weight load possible. Each bridge was methodically tested, with weights applied incrementally to measure its strength and stability until it reached its breaking point.

Battle of the Bridges continues to serve as a platform for our young engineers to experiment, test their ideas, and refine their skills, reinforcing St John's commitment to STEM education. Whether it's learning from a structural failure or celebrating a well-executed design, the competition is an invaluable learning experience. It's a chance for students to put theory into practice, to think critically and creatively, and to discover the satisfaction of building something that holds up under pressure.





Pictured (L-R): Lillie Turner, Ishah Gallacher, Mrs Maria Mdlvor, Karl Weidenbohm and Craig Cadman

Introducing our 2025 Student Leaders

At St John's, the power of leadership is recognised as a transformative force, inspiring students to positively influence their peers and community. Our educational philosophy centres around fostering well-rounded student leaders who practice and apply leadership skills, preparing them to become respectful, responsible, and community-focused individuals.

Developing leadership skills in students is integral to the learning experience at St John's. Student leaders are encouraged to be role models, motivating and supporting others to achieve their goals. By embracing leadership roles during their school years, students build a solid foundation

to carry forward into life, whether at home, at work, in sports, or within their communities.

The Student Leadership team at St John's, encompassing all elected student leaders, plays a vital role in upholding the College's ideals and values. Each student leader is entrusted with a specific area of responsibility, demanding a high level of individual accountability. Through this team, students refine crucial skills such as project planning, organisational and communication abilities, event management, and teamwork. They also learn essential problem-solving techniques, ultimately preparing them for a range of real-world scenarios.

At St John's, it's a tradition for the College Captains to set a theme for the year ahead, inspiring the student body to unite and embrace its message.

Our 2025 College Captains are excited to reveal this theme on the first day of Term One!

The 2025 Student Office Bearers and the Seniors of 2025 will also come together during the first week of term for a Year 12 retreat exploring wellbeing practices, leadership and growing stronger connections. This will culminate in a parent and student cocktail event where all students will be presented with their seniors' jersey, a rite of passage for our Year 12 students.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 students elected as the 2025 Student Office Bearers, who have already embraced their roles with enthusiasm and dedication. Through personal development and hands-on experience, these student leaders will become well-equipped to meet life's challenges, carrying the school's values with them as they embark on their future paths.

2025 COLLEGE CAPTAINS

Ishah Gallacher
Karl Weidenbohm

VICE-CAPTAINS

Craig Cadman
Lillie Turner

ACADEMIC PREFECTS

Valentin Anderson
Charlotte Reilly

CHAPEL PREFECTS

Boyd Gray
Zoe Hall
Leanne Mapanga
Fleur Westerberg

INTERNATIONAL PREFECTS

Minh Thong Nguyen
Yuet Winnie Yang

JUNIOR SCHOOL PREFECTS

Samantha Lythall
Benjamin White

MIDDLE SCHOOL PREFECTS

Findlay MacRae
Sophie Pham

SERVICE PREFECTS

Alexis Arnold
Kira Hurst
Aileen Noori

SPORTS PREFECTS

Mayanna Foelz
Lewis Kippen
Maddie Newham
Sophie Wells

PERFORMING ARTS PREFECTS

Bridie Kennedy
Ronan Mackay

ARCHERFIELD PREFECTS

Syamalan Bala Ganesh
Charlize Tighe

ARCHERFIELD VICE-CAPTAINS

Annabelle Kolb
Lauren McKenzie

BOW QING TIAN PREFECTS

Molly Nicholls
Niko Tuialii

BOW QING TIAN VICE-CAPTAINS

Abbey Hessel
Layla Wilson

BRAITHWAITE PREFECTS

Amara Garner
Noah Moss

BRAITHWAITE VICE-CAPTAINS

Breyanna Braithwaite
Malieha Casa

DELBETA PREFECTS

Samantha Gates
Ghurush Navarupan

DELBETA VICE-CAPTAINS

Jacqueline Tranthem
Jaxon Wong



*May you lead with wisdom, patience,
and compassion as you guide our
school community toward success and
growth. May the coming year bring
you inspiration to shape the minds
and hearts of those you serve.*



HOOKED on Creativity

Students Stitch Their Way to Fun in Crochet Club!

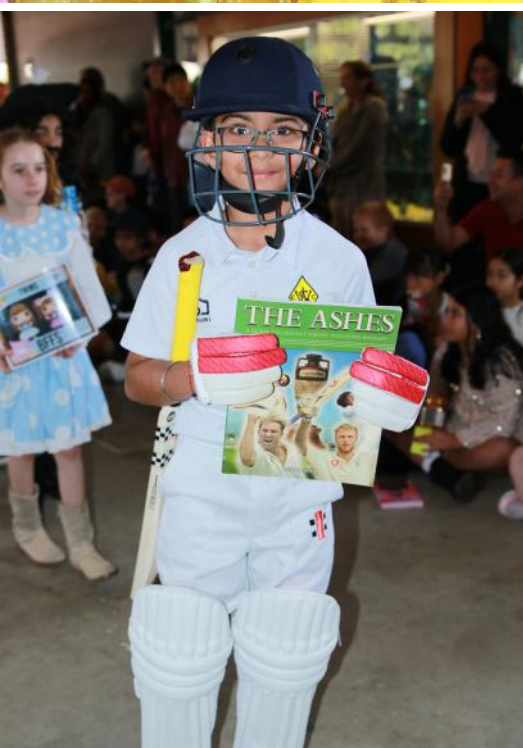
Over the past year, a growing number of teachers and students at St John's Junior School have discovered a love for crochet, sparking a wave of creativity and collaboration as they shared patterns and showcased their completed projects.

Inspired by this enthusiasm, Junior School Teacher Aide, Mrs Cheryn Shaw, launched an after-school Crochet Club, creating a welcoming space for students and staff to learn crochet skills and crafts for a cause.

One key initiative of the club has been supporting the efforts of Mr Russell Bauer, St John's Head of Instrumental Music, who works tirelessly to help individuals experiencing homelessness. The club has focused on creating crochet blankets, with students diligently crafting granny squares to be stitched together into cozy creations ready for donation before winter 2025.

Bringing an inspiring touch to the club's dynamic, St John's Principal, Mrs McIvor, an avid left-handed crocheter, has joined the group, sharing her techniques and encouraging students, especially left-handers, to master the craft. Students were thrilled to showcase their progress and proudly explain the purpose behind their efforts.

A huge thank you to Mrs Shaw for turning this creative idea into reality and fostering a sense of purpose and community through crochet. With such a strong start, the Crochet Club will return in Term One 2025, ready to inspire more students to pick up a hook and make a difference!



'Reading is Magic' Book Week Parade

Facilitated by the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA), Book Week is celebrated in August each year to ignite a passion for reading among children.

The Book Week Character Parade is a highlight in the St John's Junior School calendar with students and staff transforming into their favourite storybook characters! Embracing this year's Book Week theme 'Reading is Magic', the parade this year was a wonderful array of wizards, princesses, sporting stars and storybook heroes!





Excellence in Art Design

This year has been exceptional for artistic achievements at St John's, with several of our students earning prestigious recognitions in various statewide art competitions.

Year 12 student, Monica Waters received a Highly Commended Award in the First Nations' Category for the Independent Education Union – Queensland and Northern Territory (IEU-QNT) 2024 'Awards for Excellence in Art Design' in QLD & NT non-government schools.

Monica's 'Native Connections' is a celebration of the rich connection between the First Nations people and her ancestral lands. Through the use of acrylic on canvas and crushed glass, this visual representation is her personal narrative that contextualises her experiences of the symbiotic relationship of Mother Nature and connection to country.

Monica was also awarded second place in the state for this artwork in the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation (QATSIF) competition. This was the 7th annual Creative Arts Competition for



Title: *Silva Florum Humanorum*, 2024

Artist: Laura Ortiz, Year 12

Media: Oil on wood, plaster, paper clay, wire, watercolour, spray paint, oils, recorded sounds.

Artist's Statement:

Silva Florum Humanorum is Latin for "forest of human flowers" and reflects the concept of my artwork. Through the symbolism of national flowers (six countries, one per continent) and the elements considering four different senses (sight, touch, smell, sound) my artwork aims to symbolise different aspects of cultures. For example, the Golden Wattle is the national flower of Australia, and the Orchid is the national flower of Colombia, both flowers look different, smell different and feel different. This is a reference to the differences between cultures, like how we may look different and how our food may smell different but ultimately all the flowers are just flowers, in the same way that we are all human. The sound is intended to tie together humankind and the flora, a form of subconsciously entwining the two so that the relationship between the flowers and human society is established.

QATSIF who runs this competition in partnership with Griffith University. It is open to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Queensland secondary schools and this year they received 201 visual arts, dance, music, poetry and story-telling entries from Queensland secondary school artists.

We are also delighted to share that Year 12 student, Laura Ortiz, received a Highly Commended for her mixed

media artwork 'Silva Florum Humanorum' symbolising different cultures and Eliza Rowland, Year 11, received a certificate of participation for her piece referencing what it means to be an Anglo-Indian.

These and many other wonderful creations were showcased at our annual art exhibition 'College Creations' in Term Four.



Title: *Jolxolotl*, 2024

Artist: Jasmine Williams, Year 9

Media: Cane, wire, plaster bandage, paper clay, pastels, acrylic paint, artificial vines and flowers, beads, tap, newspaper, foil, hot glue, paper mache, glass eyes.

Artist's Statement:

The *Jolxolotl* explores the theme of human empathy and short-sightedness through its unique but gentle nature. I chose this concept to highlight how people lack empathy and judge only on first impressions without delving deeper into its character and value. This piece shows the viewer that unique creatures still need their help, making the viewer decide if they will help it. The creature is slowly dying due to not being able to swim properly because of the vine entangled around its neck and tail. This is weakening the creature, allowing barnacles to attach to it and plants to grow on its body. It looks the viewer in the eyes pleading for help. The green vines, the grey and orange barnacles, and the blue and purple mushrooms contrast with the peach skin showing that they don't belong on the *Jolxolotl*. So, will you help a suffering creature if it needs it?

Title: *Katavul (God in Tamil)*, 2024

Artist: Eliza Rowland, Year 11

Media: Oil painting and stained glass

Artist's Statement:

The lens explored in my folio was a religious one. I used this inquiry method to delve into what it means to be Anglo-Indian in a cultural and personal sense. I utilised both two-dimensional and three-dimensional media to bring forth this idea of being in a church built off colonial power and bloodshed regarding gold plundering with India. The context I explored in my folio was cultural. I did this by employing cultural symbols within the painting, these being the mass amount of gold in the piece to symbolise the plundering of India along with the dagger through the heart depicting the Catholic Sacred Heart of Mary is viewed as the embodiment of Mary's pain at the crucifixion of Jesus. The audience is pushed to "look at not through" the stained glass and the painting, looking at it as a collective of something seen in a church.





St John's Joins Walk for Awareness to Promote Mental Health

St John's proudly participated in the Walk for Awareness in Brisbane during Term Four, demonstrating the College's ongoing commitment to mental health awareness and support. A team of students, staff, and parents walked together over the Story Bridge and along the Brisbane River, uniting with the broader community to raise awareness around depression and mental health challenges.

The Walk for Awareness, organised by the Mental Awareness Foundation, has been a powerful force in mental health advocacy for 14 years. With over 25,000 participants across the years, the event has raised more than \$1.6 million to support frontline mental health services. This initiative continues to encourage essential early intervention by educating people on how to identify early signs and symptoms of mental distress, a critical step in facilitating timely diagnosis and support.

At St John's, mental health and wellbeing are core priorities. Supporting students' social and emotional growth helps them build resilience, respect, and well-roundedness, qualities that are crucial for success in both school and the broader community. The Walk for

Awareness provides students, families, and staff a unique opportunity to come together in a safe, open environment where mental health conversations are encouraged.

While the annual walk serves as an inspiring reminder to prioritise mental wellbeing, the Mental Health Foundation promotes a continuous commitment to mental health by encouraging everyone to "Spot-Speak-Support" daily. By building awareness and fostering supportive connections, the College empowers students to develop as healthy, balanced, and engaged individuals ready to contribute positively to their communities.



HPE Week Inspires Students to Get Active

Mr Joshua Mulligan
Head of HPE

St John's recently celebrated its first-ever HPE Week, an exciting initiative designed to get students moving, trying new activities, and connecting with the community. Over four days, approximately 600 secondary students embraced the opportunity to participate in physical challenges, win prizes, and explore new ways to stay active.

The week featured a 200m indoor rowing challenge, a bicep curl contest, golf chipping, an inflatable obstacle course, and the inaugural Mr and Ms HPE competition, which tested strength, skills, and health knowledge. A standout moment was the community fitness day, where local fitness businesses, including Fitstop Richlands, Goodlife Richlands, and Crown Kickboxing Seventeen Mile Rocks, joined in to promote active lifestyles, offer challenges, and provide prizes.

Students walked away with free memberships, prize packs, and even a free lunch courtesy of Goodlife Richlands. With over \$700 worth of prizes awarded to participants, the week proved to be a resounding success.

HPE Week will return in 2025, bringing even more opportunities to inspire health and fitness at St John's. Congratulations to all the winners who led the charge toward an active future!





MEET THE LEAD CAST

We are delighted to introduce the lead cast of our highly anticipated 2025 College Musical, *Mary Poppins*, set to enchant audiences in May.

This exceptional group of performers have already been hard at work during Term Four, getting ready to bring their characters to life with remarkable passion, creativity, and dedication. Their hard work and enthusiasm are already evident as they dived into rehearsals, promising a show that will captivate and inspire.

With its heartwarming story, dynamic performances, and unforgettable music, *Mary Poppins* is set to be a truly magical production, leaving a lasting impression on everyone who attends.

Tickets are on sale now! Scan the QR Code to secure your seats. Don't miss the chance to experience the magic as it unfolds on stage!



Pictured (L-R):

Ishaaya Chand is *Mary Poppins*

Ronan Mackay is *Bert*

Jade Abreu is *Jane Banks*

Elizabeth Thomsen is *Jane Banks*

Tate Morgan is *Michael Banks*

Jared Thompson is *Michael Banks*

Jhett McFarlane is *George Banks*

Neve Wintersgill is *Winifred Banks*

Disney and CAMERON MACKINTOSH's

MARY POPPINS

THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

©Disney/CML

CAST MEMBER	ROLE
Sophie Hoffard	<i>Mrs Brill</i>
Flynn Morgan	<i>Robertson Ay</i>
Layla Wilson	<i>Miss Andrews</i>
CJ Small	<i>Admiral Boom</i>
Izaak Chen	<i>Bank Chairman</i>
Mia Revelly	<i>Katie Nanna</i>
Jaida Trembath	<i>Mrs Corry</i>
Sarbani Maitra	<i>Bird Woman</i>
Joshua Lipscomb	<i>Northbrook / Neleus</i>
Noah Moss	<i>Von Hussler / Park Keeper</i>
Toby Walker	<i>Policeman</i>
Gemma Stenlake	<i>Miss Smythe</i>
Alanna Lobley	<i>Miss Lark</i>

...and countless other talented students and dedicated staff who are working tirelessly,
both behind the scenes and on stage, to bring this show to life.

The Educator's Most Influential Educator 2024



We are pleased to announce that in Term Three, Mrs Ronnelle Sanders, Lead Teacher at St John's Junior School, was included in the prestigious 2024 roundup of the Most Influential Educators, highlighting the best in the industry.

As an impartial authority in the K-12 education sector, The Educator conducted an exhaustive research study spanning four months to identify and showcase the industry's most influential leaders. In this thorough assessment, Ronnelle emerged as one of the distinguished contributors to the industry.

We are very fortunate to have Ronnelle at St John's as a passionate lead educator with a deep love for learning, particularly in literacy across all age groups, especially in the early years. With 28 years of experience as both a primary and early years teacher, as well as an English as an additional language or dialect (EAL/D) coordinator in both state and independent sectors, Ronnelle brings a wealth of knowledge and innovation to her daily work at the College.

Ronnelle has made significant contributions to the field, presenting at local, national and international literacy conferences, being actively involved in professional

organisations and co-founding the English as an Additional Language Community of Practice (EALCOP). Her involvement extends to action research projects through Independent Schools Queensland, focusing on enhancing parent engagement and developing tools to support families and their children.

One of Ronnelle's notable achievements includes co-developing innovative resources like the TalkTime Keys, designed to foster conversation and reading among families. Originally developed for the St John's community, these keys have expanded to benefit educational settings, schools and parents beyond. Through co-authoring and publishing, Ronnelle continues to share her insights widely, promoting the importance of oracy development, where students learn through meaningful conversation to deepen their understanding of curriculum subjects.

This recognition highlights Ronnelle's unwavering dedication to industry excellence and her commitment to delivering outstanding results. There's no doubt she stood out as a deserving winner, celebrated for the positive impact of her work on the sector and the lasting legacy she is creating.



ABCC Cultural Inclusion Grant

This year, St John’s ABCC received a \$500 grant from the RACQ Local Giving Program to enhance its support for cultural inclusion.

This highly valued grant has been allocated towards two key areas within the service: the introduction of bush tucker plants and the acquisition of First Nations books, toys and resources. These initiatives are crucial in fostering an environment that celebrates and respects the cultural heritage of Australia’s First Nations peoples.

One of the most exciting aspects of this grant is the opportunity to incorporate bush tucker plants into St John’s ABCC. Bush tucker plants, which are native to Australia, play a vital role in Indigenous Australian cultures and offer a tangible way for children to connect with traditional practices and knowledge. These plants help to provide a hands-on learning experience for St John’s ABCC students and provides them an opportunity to connect with nature.

In addition to the bush tucker plants, the grant has enabled the service to expand on its collection of First Nations books, toys, and resources. By integrating these materials into the learning environments, it aims to broaden children’s understanding and appreciation of First Nations cultures.

The impact of this grant extends beyond the immediate benefits of new plants and resources. By embedding cultural inclusion into St John’s ABCC service, it aims to foster an environment where every child feels valued and included. It is the hope that these initiatives will spark curiosity, promote dialogue, and encourage empathy, helping to build a more inclusive and harmonious community.



A heartfelt thank you to the RACQ Local Giving Program for their generous support and their commitment to supporting local communities.



ABCC Brand Refresh

St John’s After and Before College Care (ABCC) launched a brand refresh in September. Committed to providing a high level of care that upholds the values and practices of St John’s Anglican College, the new look logo reflects the safe and supportive environment where all children are nurtured to grow and develop their social and emotional skills in a play-based setting. This refreshed brand aligns with our ongoing commitment to investing in this valued service for the families of our College.





ABOUT St John's



How do you demonstrate your house spirit?

I'm incredibly competitive and thrive on getting involved in activities. I'm fully committed, whether it's shouting the war cry, diving in at the swimming carnival or cheering on Archerfield at the house choir. Each moment adds to the excitement for me.

What makes for a good day at school?

A great day for me is one where I've made a meaningful impact in someone's life. Whether it's helping a student understand a math concept or simply being a supportive listener, these moments truly brighten my day.

Our 2024 school theme is the 'Year of Curiosity' – how have you embraced this theme?

I tackle problem-solving challenges every day, each one igniting my curiosity to uncover how it works. It's like being a detective, piecing together clues to solve a mystery. I particularly enjoy working through these questions with students, witnessing that "aha" moment; the instant when the lightbulb turns on.

Meet our **Archerfield Assistant Head of House** MARITHA YOUELL

ABOUT Life Outside of School

What would the students be surprised to find out about you?

I've had the incredible experience of overlanding through Southern Africa, where I encountered hyenas, elephants, and lions up close, all without fences. It was both exhilarating and a bit nerve-racking, but I survived it all. Each encounter deepened my appreciation for the wild and the beauty of nature.

What is your favourite book?

Life certainly has its challenges, so when I pick up a book or settle in to watch a TV show, I lean towards something light-hearted, often with a hint of romance. I know the endings can be predictable, but there's something comforting about a good old *"...and they lived happily ever after."* It's like a little escape that leaves me with a smile.

ABOUT Students

How do you make connections with your students?

I build rapport by showing genuine interest in my students as individuals and engaging in conversations about their wellbeing and interests. I believe this strengthens our bond, just as I remember teachers who impacted my life by showing real concern for my personal growth.

If you could pass on any wisdom to your students, what would you share?

Don't hesitate to try new things. Whether it's playing sport, dancing, or joining the chess club or choir, there are countless opportunities out there. All you need to do is take that first step.

ABOUT St John's

How do you demonstrate your house spirit?

I absolutely love sporting carnivals, and my favourite part is timekeeping for the swimming and athletics events. It's an incredible experience to cheer everyone on and hopefully motivate students to give their best. The energy and excitement make it so much fun!

What makes for a good day at school?

A fantastic day at school is when I have numerous enjoyable catch-ups in the corridors with both students and staff. An exceptional day is when I get the chance to walk and chat with everyone between each class.

Our 2024 school theme is the 'Year of Curiosity' – how have you embraced this theme?

I have been very curious about AI and how to use it to support student research and inquiry as well as supporting teaching practices. My students have had fun creating images using AI to create images to support their geographical proposals.



Meet our **Bow Qing Tian Assistant Head of House** CLAIRE LOUW

ABOUT Students

How do you make connections with your students?

I actively seek opportunities to connect with others, whether it's sharing stories, debating favourite meals, recommending books or movies, or cheering for sports teams. There's always something we can connect over.

If you could pass on any wisdom to your students, what would you share?

Confront your most challenging tasks or demanding training sessions first. Taking that initial step is crucial, as delays won't help you improve. Face challenges head-on and embrace the effort!

ABOUT Life Outside of School

What would the students be surprised to find out about you?

I've had the incredible opportunity to live in four different countries across four continents! I invite you to come and discover which ones they are – who knows, we might share some common experiences or interests!

What is your favourite book?

When I was in middle school my favourite book was Jock of the Bushveld by Sir Percy Fitzpatrick. It tells the story of a brave and loyal dog named Jock. Set in the South African bushveld during the late 19th century, the narrative follows Jock's adventures alongside his owner, FitzPatrick himself, who worked as a transport rider. Fitzpatrick was my grandmother's godfather, so I loved the personal connection.



ABOUT St John's

How do you demonstrate your house spirit?

I believe house spirit fuels success, so I'm always ready to join in and give my all. Whether cheering on or helping out, I'm here to support Braithwaite in every way I can.

What makes for a good day at school?

A good day at school is seeing a student grasp a challenging concept. Moments like hearing a student say they really enjoyed studying Shakespeare or listening to students passionately debate the potential meanings of a poem make teaching incredibly rewarding.

Our 2024 school theme is the 'Year of Curiosity' – how have you embraced this theme?

I embraced curiosity by facilitating a project with St John's Principal, Mrs McIvor and my Year 8 SOAR English students. By being curious about the stories of others, we illustrated and then reimaged Mrs McIvor's story for a teenage audience and hosted a book launch to showcase the students' work.

Meet our **Braithwaite Assistant Head of House** SARAH ALEXANDER

ABOUT Life Outside of School

What would the students be surprised to find out about you?

Students might be surprised to learn how much I enjoy planning holidays. I find it fun to research destinations, book activities and find accommodation. Over the years, I've planned everything from camping trips and road trips to Sydney and Melbourne, to exploring Far North Queensland, as well as overseas adventures to places like Europe, Bali, New Zealand, Fiji, and Japan.

What is your favourite book?

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak. This book is narrated by Death and follows the life of a young girl, Liesel, living in Germany during WWII.

ABOUT Students

How do you make connections with your students?

I make connections with my students through conversations that help me understand their unique personalities and interests. I enjoy listening to their stories and learn something new from the students every day.

If you could pass on any wisdom to your students, what would you share?

Don't forget to have fun along the way. School is about more than just academic learning; it's also about building friendships and enjoying the journey.

ABOUT St John's

How do you demonstrate your house spirit?

To inspire house spirit among students, it's essential to participate in activities with the same energy and enthusiasm we aim to instil.

What makes for a good day at school?

Beyond my ritualistic 10:50am coffee, I'd also say trying to find moments for laughter in learning makes my day much better. Not only do those feel-good chemicals help with attention, memory, and creativity, but it makes the classroom that much more enjoyable.

Our 2024 school theme is the 'Year of Curiosity' – how have you embraced this theme?

At the start of the year, I set a goal to explore a new aspect of St John's and stepped outside my comfort zone to engage with the sporting program. For me, embracing this curiosity and seizing the chance to spend time managing some of the soccer teams really paid off. The pride they had in their performance and their team spirit was both infectious and inspiring.



Meet our **Delbeta** Assistant Head of House LACHLAN DOYLE

ABOUT Students

How do you make connections with your students?

I try to develop connections with students in those moments in between classes or during break times. I find that a greeting in passing or conversation in the courtyard really helps to connect with them as a person.

If you could pass on any wisdom to your students, what would you share?

One saying that has struck a chord with me is *"smooth seas don't make skilled sailors"*. I believe that the challenges you face and how you respond to them are the formative experiences that help you grow.

ABOUT Life Outside of School



What would the students be surprised to find out about you?

Outside of school, I love training for triathlons which I've only started to get into in the last twelve months. Unfortunately, I hate running so it has been a bit of a challenge to motivate myself to train for that leg of the race.

What is your favourite book?

As an English teacher, I feel as though there is a lot of pressure on this question – it often ebbs and flows depending on my current interests or latest reads. Right now, I would have to say *The Secret History* by Donna Tart is at the top of my chart. Whilst it is for older readers, I'd recommend it to those interested in mystery, murder, and Greek myths.

ST JOHN'S FOUNDATION

INAUGURAL GIVING DAY 2025



St John's Anglican College Foundation is thrilled to announce the date for our very first Giving Day; a one-day community celebration dedicated to raising funds for the St John's Aquatic Precinct Project.

On Wednesday 11 June 2025, the goal is to raise as much as possible to support the construction of Stage Two, an outdoor 50-metre swimming pool and accompanying facilities.

This Aquatic Precinct will complete the St John's Sporting Centre of Excellence, offering students enhanced opportunities to excel in swimming and other water-based sports. It's a valuable investment in the future of our College community.

What is a Giving Day?

Giving Days are fundraising events, typically lasting 12 to 24 hours, where communities unite to achieve a common goal. These events foster a sense of pride, strengthen morale, and inspire everyone to work together to make a lasting impact.

At the heart of the day are our passionate volunteers, who will connect with family, friends, and the wider community to rally support and encourage donations.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The St John's Foundation Board is seeking enthusiastic volunteers from across our community, parents, Old Collegians, grandparents, and friends, to help make the day a resounding success.

Whether it's assisting with phone calls or spreading the word, every contribution counts.

Register Your Interest

Simply scan the QR Code to complete the enquiry form.

St John's Inaugural Giving Day -
Wednesday 11 June 2025



If you have any questions or would like more information about Giving Day, please contact the Development Office at developmentoffice@sjac.qld.edu.au or 07 3372 0113.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday 11 June 2025, promises to be an exciting day of unity and purpose as we come together to build a brighter future for our students.



SAVE THE DATE
WEDNESDAY
11 JUNE 2025
**OUR FUTURE
INCLUDES YOU!**

Parents and Friends Association

At St John's, the Parents and Friends (P&F) Association works tirelessly to strengthen community spirit and raise funds to enhance the facilities and resources available to students. Thanks to the generous support of College parents and the wider community, the P&F has been able to make significant contributions to both the Sports and Performing Arts programs across the Junior and Secondary Campuses this year.



Supporting Junior School Sports

At the Junior School, the P&F has purchased foldable soccer goals, allowing students to practice their soccer skills during the school week and weekend matches. These goals are easy to move around the sporting oval and ideal for storage. Additionally, to facilitate the storage and transport of balls for various sports, a large mesh ball cart has been provided for Junior School sports team, ensuring that equipment is always organised and accessible.

Enhancing the Performing Arts and Presentation Experience

Recognising the importance of high-quality sound in enhancing the Performing Arts and presentation experience for students, the P&F has funded a brand-new audio system for the Living Faith Chapel. This upgrade will significantly improve the sound quality during Friday Chapels and special assemblies, ensuring a more enjoyable and immersive experience for all attendees.

During the summer holiday's a new performance stage will be installed in the Living Faith Chapel on the Junior Campus with a commitment to the purchase of a portable stage for the Performing Arts Centre Foyer on the Secondary Campus.

Supporting Secondary School Sports

Looking ahead, the P&F has dedicated funds to support the sporting endeavours at the Secondary Campus. A much-needed tennis ball machine will soon be available for all aspiring tennis stars, aiding in their practice and skill development. Additionally, two portable team shelters will be provided, offering shade and protection for players off the pitch during TAS home games. These shelters will not only enhance player comfort but also support team cohesion and morale.

The P&F's efforts extend beyond these tangible contributions. Their dedication to fostering a strong community spirit and their commitment to improving student life are evident in every initiative they undertake. By continually supporting St John's Sports and Performing Arts programs, the P&F plays a crucial role in enriching the educational experience and promoting the holistic development of every student.

The entire St John's community is deeply grateful for the P&F's unwavering support and generous contributions. Their work not only improves the facilities and resources available to students but also strengthens the sense of community that makes St John's a truly special place.



Families can learn more about the P&F Association at the Principal and P&F Welcome Event on Friday 28 February 2025.

This evening is a wonderful opportunity to meet new families and find out how you can get involved in the school community.

OLD COLLEGIANS' ASSOCIATION

Mr Isuka Muthumuni
Vice-President, OCA



As Vice President of the St John's Old Collegians' Association and graduate of the 2021 cohort, it's incredible to reflect on the journey our College and its alumni network have taken over the years.

Having experienced both the challenges and triumphs of student life at St John's not so long ago, I've come to truly appreciate the lifelong connections we build here. Now, as an alumnus, I see first-hand how the Old Collegians' Association continues to provide that same sense of community and support to those who have passed through St John's doors, no matter where their paths have taken them.

In 2024, our community has remained united, with many of our alumni continuing to contribute to the College in meaningful ways, whether through mentorship, tutoring, coaching or offering their expertise in various fields. The strength of our Association lies in this commitment to giving back, ensuring that St John's legacy of excellence is carried forward with pride.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited about the new opportunities that will unfold for both current and future Old Collegians.

Our Association is dedicated to releasing a series of new workshops and sessions that will help further bridge the gap between alumni and the College.

These upcoming initiatives will build upon the foundations of networking, professional development, and ongoing learning, ensuring that our alumni continue to have the resources and connections they need to thrive in an ever-changing world. These efforts align with the core mission of St John's; to not only foster academic success but also to build a strong, supportive community that thrives long after graduation.

As we approach this new year, I encourage all Old Collegians to stay connected, embrace the opportunities for growth, and continue to support the College's mission of nurturing not only academic achievement but also the values that make St John's such a special place. Together, we will continue to cultivate an environment of lifelong learning, support, and shared responsibility, ensuring that St John's remains a beacon of excellence for generations to come. Here's to a year of continued collaboration, success, and inspiration for the entire St John's community.



OLD COLLEGIANS' EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Emma Dawson,
President

Isuka Muthumuni,
Vice-President

David Tyson,
Executive Member

OLD COLLEGIANS' FEATURE

Driven by a commitment to enhancing patient care, Jenny expanded her business to include four additional pharmacies across Brisbane and Moreton Bay. Recognising the growing demand for alternative treatments, she pursued further education in medicinal cannabis. Over the past five years, Jenny has become a leading advocate for plant-based medicine, working closely with suppliers to establish one of Australia's first compassionate access programs for medicinal cannabis. She is also a Co-Founder of the Australian Cannabis Pharmacist Association.

Jenny's dedication to modernising healthcare led her to collaborate with telehealth companies, medicinal cannabis suppliers, and health startups. Her latest venture, RAYS Wellness, is a specialty pharmacy focused on medicinal cannabis and holistic health solutions. Recently, Jenny launched a prescription management app and won the Pharmacy/Dispensary of the Year award at the 2024 Cannabiz Industry Awards. Through RAYS, she aims to destigmatise plant-based medicine and integrate it into mainstream healthcare across Australia.



JENNY RAVENSWOOD (2008)

After graduating from St John's in 2008, Jenny pursued her passion for health and entrepreneurship by earning a Pharmacy degree. Despite personal challenges, including her mother's cancer diagnosis, she graduated and became a registered pharmacist. In 2016, Jenny opened her first pharmacy, which has won awards for eight consecutive years.

Join the Old Collegians' Networking Portal Today!

St John's invites all Old Collegians to reconnect through the Old Collegians' Networking Portal, powered by Alumny. This dynamic platform provides an easy and seamless way to engage with your former classmates, access exclusive alumni resources, and stay updated on the latest College news. Whether you're looking to share career insights, explore new networking opportunities, or simply catch up on all things St John's, the Alumny portal is the perfect hub for staying connected.



Join in Under Two Minutes!

Signing up is quick and simple – taking less than two minutes! Just scan the QR code to get started and unlock the full range of features available. We can't wait to welcome you back and help you build meaningful connections with fellow alumni. Don't miss out, join today and be part of an ever-growing network of St John's Old Collegians!

Scan me





A Sacred Farewell

Reverend Juliana Bate
College Chaplain

The end of Year 12 is a profound milestone for our graduating students; a rite of passage from the familiar routines of school life to the vast possibilities beyond. One of the key events marking this transition is the Celebration of the Eucharist, or Holy Communion at St John's Cathedral. This spectacular venue, a symbol of the enduring presence of the church and our Anglican faith, has witnessed the prayers of generations. It provides a sacred space that unites students, families, teachers, and the wider community, highlighting the spiritual significance of this moment.

For many years, our graduating students have found this Eucharist celebration to be a powerful experience, reminding them that their journey is part of a larger story woven through faith and tradition. The grandeur of the cathedral uplifts the spirit, making it a fitting backdrop for a ceremony that marks both an ending and a beginning.

Rites of passage are significant ceremonies marking transitions in life. For Year 12 students, graduation signifies not just an end but a transformation, celebrating their growth academically and personally. It serves as a bridge between adolescence and adulthood, offering a chance for reflection, gratitude, and seeking blessings for the road ahead. The Eucharist adds spiritual depth, reminding students of God's presence in their past, present, and future.

The Eucharist symbolises the sacrificial love of Christ and the unity of believers. For the graduates, partaking in it during this celebration offers a moment of profound connection – a time to give thanks for friendships, experiences, and lessons learned. Sharing in the Eucharist signifies unity with the broader body of Christ, reminding students that they remain part of a larger spiritual family beyond their immediate community.

This celebration is not just about looking back; it is also a moment of

sending forth. The final blessing serves as a commissioning:

"We leave today, going into a future as yet unmapped. Take faith and God's blessings with you as you go; into the parts of your life not yet travelled by love, into the parts of the world unexplored by grace. Let compassion and hope be the roads you follow today and always. I bless you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: the One and the Three. Amen."

This blessing calls students to carry their gifts and talents into the world, serving others and being Christ's light wherever they go, with the assurance of God's grace accompanying them in their future pursuits.

Overall, this time together is a profound moment of thanksgiving, reflection, and blessing. It acknowledges the students' journey, celebrates their achievements, and sends them forth with hope and faith into the future.



Save the dates

YEAR 12 PARENT &
STUDENT SOIREE

Friday 31 January

SECONDARY
COLOUR RUN

Friday 21 March

COLLEGE MUSICAL
MARY POPPINS

Saturday 3 May

SCHOLARS &
SCHOLARSHIP ASSEMBLY

Wednesday 5 February

BUSH DANCE

Friday 21 March

COLLEGE MUSICAL
MARY POPPINS

Sunday 4 May

PRINCIPAL & P&F
WELCOME EVENT

Friday 28 February

KINDY & PREP
OPEN MORNING

Wednesday 30 April

COFFEE + CONNECT
MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

Friday 9 May

MIDDLE & SENIOR SCHOOL
OPEN MORNING

Thursday 6 March

COLLEGE MUSICAL
MARY POPPINS

Friday 2 May

MOTHER'S DAY
HIGH TEA

Saturday 10 May

EMERGE PACE
CONCERT

Wednesday 28 May



Don't forget your tickets to the biggest event of the year!





ST JOHN'S Anglican College

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

Connect with Us



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.

Photo taken at the Junior School STEM Night, October 2024

