

# ST JOHN'S COLLEGE BULLETIN

## Term One, Issue Three, 2025

"There is no better way to teach a child Christianity than to live it truly and from the heart. You cannot teach what you do not live." - Saint Silouan the Athonite

### From the Principal

I look back on the last 10 weeks with a good degree of satisfaction and pride. Well done to many. Highlights for me include:

- Student engagement and growth
- Improved attitudes to uniform, after school study sessions, attendance and general academic performance
- The energy, enthusiasm and commitment of staff
- The high calibre and impact of recently appointed colleagues
- A genuine focus on responding to student feedback from 2024 on how to improve our school – our students provided some excellent insights on 'what to keep doing' and 'what we might do better'. This list has been an area of activity for our staff.

Our Year 10's for instance are enjoying an early segway into Year 11 subjects, expanded elective choices at Year 9 and 10 and an improved camps program for Year 7-9. These are not the only responses, but some of the highlights mentioned regularly to me by students and their families.

- In conjunction with the above, an emphasis on new initiatives – the Plato Projects for instance.
- Numerous program events and highlights including the following recent activities:
  - Pi Day Celebration
  - GRIP Leadership
  - Independence Day March and Assembly
  - Open Morning
  - Harmony Day
  - The Junior School Easter Assembly

The above has not been lost on our wider community – enrolment numbers have never been stronger, with a 16% increase in student numbers for this year. At our Open Morning for 2026 last week, 170 people registered attendance (compared to 60 for the previous year).

**There is a strong possibility for 2026 that interest will exceed availability.** To avoid disappointment, I would strongly encourage current families or friends of the College to complete applications for 2026 as soon as possible. We want to avoid the situation where we do not have places available for siblings of current students or children of past students.

Please note that offers for new students for 2026 will be issued during the upcoming holiday period.

I take this opportunity to thank our community for your support, positive encouragement and efforts. Together we are taking SJC to the next level.

May your Easter be a blessed and special time.

Καλό Πάσχα και Καλή Ανάσταση σε όλους

### Plato Project

#### The Plato Project: A Transformative Step for Year 8 Mathematics

Tuesday, 25th February, marked a historic milestone for St John's College with the inaugural presentation of an exciting pilot program in Year 8 Mathematics as part of The Plato Project.

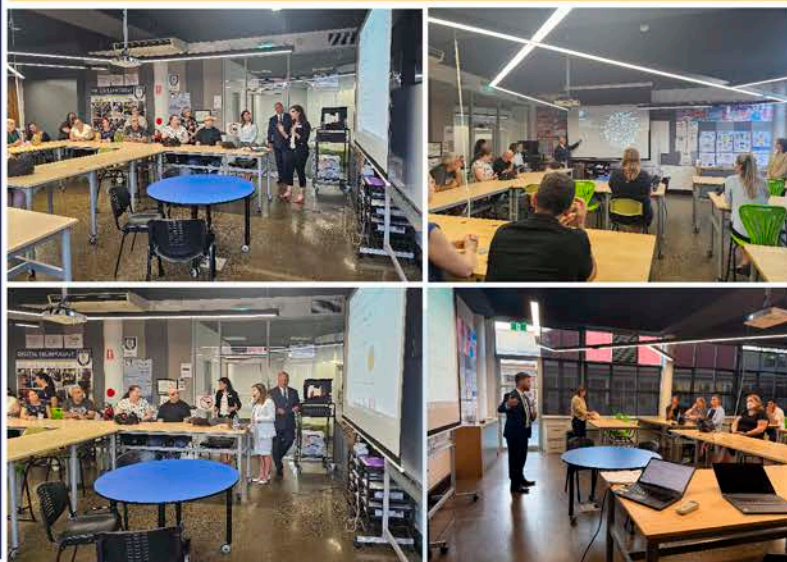
The Plato Project is a forward-thinking, school-wide approach to education that integrates AI tools and online tutorials to support every student's learning journey anywhere, anytime and at any pace. Through this initiative, students will benefit from:

- High-quality teaching and learning
- Signature Curriculum, aligned with the Vic Curriculum
- AI tutors and data insights
- Timely feedback to track and improve their progress
- Differentiated instruction tailored to their learning needs
- Personalised learning pathways to strengthen skills in the classroom and beyond

St John's vision is to create a well-balanced, teacher-led, and AI-enhanced hybrid and dynamic learning space, empowering students with a deeper understanding of key skills and knowledge while fostering independent, self-directed learning. Additionally, the Plato Project aims to assist students in developing elevated thinking and essential life skills, including problem-solving, adaptability, divergent, and critical thinking.

Mr Stefanos Chrisoulis, Dr Nikos Bogiannidis, Ms Laila Sarraf, and Ms Trish Vu, key members of the project, had the opportunity to demonstrate some of the online lessons, how to harness the use of AI Tutors in a safe and visible to the teacher ecosystem and showcase students' work. Moreover, the session provided an invaluable opportunity for parents to engage, ask questions, and contribute insights that will help shape the future of the Plato Project and its expansion to other curriculum areas.

We are excited about this journey and look forward to continuing our research and development of the Plato Project in collaboration with the Beniko Foundation, parents, students, and educators as we refine and further expand this innovative approach.





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### Greek Independence Day Parade

On Sunday, 23 March, our school had the honour of standing at the forefront of the Greek Independence Day parade — and what a spectacular celebration it was! Our students marched with pride, unity, and a deep sense of purpose, showcasing the values we hold dear. From our youngest participants to the drummers who kept the rhythm alive throughout the entire parade, the passion and dedication displayed were nothing short of inspiring.

This momentous display of school spirit and cultural pride wouldn't have been possible without the unwavering support of our parents, extended families, community organizations, and friends.

At St John's College, we don't just talk about Hellenism — we live it. Regardless of heritage, our students and staff united to honour those who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the Greek people. Sunday's parade was a true reflection of our commitment to living Hellenism, and we couldn't be prouder.

In the words of His Eminence Archbishop Makarios today, the 25th March, "Orthodoxy and Hellenism, like two wings of the same body, journey together, united and inseparable, through the skies of our Nation's history. This unbreakable and continuous bond is emphatically reminded to us on this day, in which, as our great poet Kostis Palamas wrote, "two freedoms unite." Indeed, today we celebrate both the freedom of humanity from the bonds of sin and the freedom of our homeland from long years of slavery and tyranny."

Ζήτω η Ορθοδοξία! Ζήτω η Ελλάδα! Ζήτω!





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### Harmony Day

Last week, our school came together to celebrate Harmony Day with a vibrant lunchtime event in the Senior Agora. Students and staff participated in a range of cultural activities, including Aboriginal dot painting, origami, the Chopstick Challenge, and a world map game. The atmosphere was brought to life with international music from our student DJs, Despoina K and John S, encouraging everyone to hit the dance floor. It was a fantastic celebration of diversity, inclusivity, and cultural appreciation!



### GRIP Leadership

On Tuesday 4th March, the Year 6 students, together with Mrs Watson and Mr Barbetti attended the GRIP leadership conference at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. Throughout the day, students participated in a high energy, engaging workshop where they learned about the responsibility students have in leadership including being an example, a voice, a helper, and being willing to do what the school needs. They listened to inspiring speakers and collaborated with peers from other schools. The experience empowered them to take on leadership roles in school and the community. Evangelos commented on the day stating "It was a very fun and inclusive experience."



### Easter Hat Parade

The Junior School was buzzing with excitement as students showcased their creativity in this year's Easter Hat Parade! From colourful hats decorated with bunnies and eggs to towering masterpieces covered in ribbons and flowers, each hat was a delightful display of imagination and effort.

Parents and teachers cheered as the students proudly paraded their designs, spreading Easter joy throughout the school. A big thank you to all the families who helped bring these wonderful creations to life! It was a fantastic celebration of creativity, community, and the Easter spirit.



### Key Commencement Events and Dates

- 18 Apr - Good Friday - Drummers at Good Friday Service
- 20 Apr - Easter Sunday
- 21 Apr - Easter Monday - PUBLIC HOLIDAY
- 22 Apr - 1st Day of Term 2
- 24 Apr - ANZAC Day Memorial - Senior Agora
- 25 Apr - ANZAC Day PUBLIC HOLIDAY
- 6-9 May - GOAANSE - Perth WA
- 9 May - Mother's Day Morning Tea & JS Class Event
- 9 May - Mother's Day Stall