

# ST JOHN'S COLLEGE BULLETIN

## Term Two, Issue One, 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

#### *Celebrating Harmony Week at St John's College*

Held toward the end of Term 2, Harmony Day was a very uplifting event.

The occasion served as a wonderful opportunity to honour the rich tapestry of cultures within our community while fostering belonging for all. This year's theme, "Harmony - We all have a role to play," invited us to reflect on how we can promote inclusivity, empathy, and a deeper appreciation for one another's heritage.

Throughout the day's activities, we strove to deepen our understanding of one another, live out the Orthodox values of compassion, hope, and justice, and nurture a harmonious environment that transcends our campus. From cultural showcases, different foods and interactive workshops, the day brimmed with opportunities for connection and shared learning.

I was proud of our students and staff as their actions called upon others to reflect on their role in fostering inclusivity and understanding. The embodiment of cultural pride served as a poignant reminder of the importance of celebrating our diversity while uniting in shared values of mercy, respect and compassion.

Well done to all on such an inspirational day. The day serves as a poignant reminder of something we did very well and can take with us in creating an even better and stronger Term 2.



#### *Student's Take the Lead! - Thank you*

Two student-led occasions marked the first week back. The first being a welcome-back assembly on Tuesday, 22 April. It was led by our school captains and vice captains, beginning with "Χριστός Ανέστη" (Christ is Risen), followed by a beautiful chanting performance.

The second occasion was the ANZAC service on Thursday, 24 April, which saw students come together in a respectful and moving tribute to honour the sacrifices of Australian and New Zealand servicemen and women. The ceremony included poems and the creation of the 'Poppy Wall', all thoughtfully led by our students.

While brief, there is something very moving and uplifting when students lead – they bring an innocence and openness and we were all uplifted by their contributions and guidance. Well done!

#### *An important community update*

I wanted to advise families that during the recent holiday period, the College undertook a 7-day review and consultation period following proposed changes to the administrative and leadership areas of our school. The proposed changes are a 'right-sizing measure' that will not affect students, face-to-face teaching staff nor programs. The Board and Principal endorse the changes in this area, following external reviews undertaken by lead educational consultants.

The proposed restructure has the effect of making a number of positions redundant.

This is a difficult time for impacted staff and not an easy time for anyone at the College. These steps are necessary to position us strongly for the future in terms of productivity and efficiency.

As a result of the review, five positions were made redundant and a further staff member opted for voluntary redundancy.

First, foremost and above all else, our thoughts and prayers are with these staff at this difficult time for them - Christine, Kathryn, Sophia, Derek, Mary and Jasmine. Importantly, we pause for a moment to thank them for their efforts and many contributions - I will be consulting with them about the best time the SJC community can gather to recognise and give thanks for their service and impact.

**Mr Andrew Ponsford**  
College Principal

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### ANZAC Day

This morning, we gathered as a college community to share with you some history and understanding of ANZACS and the ANZAC tradition. Our Junior School leaders hosted a memorial event that included poems, protocols and history. Collectively our college stood sombre and respectful to acknowledge ANZACS and those that have fought and continue to fight for our freedom in Australia.

The event concluded with students, staff and family members constructing a 'Wall of Poppies', similar to War Memorials here in Melbourne and in Canberra.

Thank you to everyone for your approach to this event – it reflects the respect we speak about so much at St John's.

Importantly, a HUGE THANKS to Gia, Nicholas, Eleni, Poppi, Rosie, Evangelos & Zoe who took on the responsibility of leading this event for us all.



### Sports News

#### Year 11/12 Girls Interschool Sports Regional Tennis Finals!

A huge congratulations to our Year 11/12 girls tennis team, who placed 3rd in the Interschool Regional Tennis Finals! A fantastic achievement with great effort and sportsmanship on display. Well done to, Paige, Vaia, Mia and Simela. A big thank you to Mr Neilson for coaching and supporting the girls throughout the competition.



### Student Photography & Media Consent

Just a friendly reminder to check your SEQTA messages, as important information has been shared regarding student photography and media consent. This is an opt-out process, and responses are due by Monday, 28th April 2025.

### Save the Date



### Key Commencement Events and Dates

- 25 Apr - ANZAC Day PUBLIC HOLIDAY
- 1 May - Whole School Divine Liturgy
- 2 May - Mother's Day Morning Tea & JS Class Event
- 2 May - Mother's Day Stall
- 6-9 May - GOAANSE - Perth WA
- 12 May - Dental Van