

# ST JOHN'S COLLEGE BULLETIN

## Term Two, Issue Two, 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 our new Year 7 & 8 Student Leaders!

We are pleased to announce the appointment of our 2025 Year 7-8 Student Leaders at St John's College. These outstanding students have been selected to represent their peers, as well as promote our LEAD values, and drive positive change across the school.

Congratulations to our newly appointed leaders:

**Year 7: Ishaan A and Konstantina K**

**Year 8: Gabriel K and Alexia R**

As ambassadors for our College, they will champion student voice, foster a strong, supportive school culture, and help shape the future of our community. We look forward to seeing their leadership shine!



#### Honouring ANZAC Day: A Morning of Remembrance

On Sunday, 27 April 2025, students from St John's College proudly represented the school at the Inaugural ANZAC Dawn Service held at the Parish of the Transfiguration of our Lord in Thomastown.

This special event, dedicated to the memory of Greek and Australian soldiers who served and fell during WWI and WWII, was a moving display of respect, faith, and national pride.

Our College Captains led the tribute with dignity and reverence as they laid a wreath alongside our Principal, Mr Andrew Ponsford. They then delivered the Ode of Remembrance in both Greek and English. Their leadership was a powerful reminder of the importance of honouring the past, while looking forward with purpose.

The service was further enriched by the participation of our school chanters, who solemnly accompanied the proceedings. Their contribution added a spiritual and cultural depth to the occasion that was deeply appreciated by all in attendance. Events such as this highlight the College's unwavering commitment to Hellenism, ensuring our students not only learn about their heritage but live it — through language, tradition, and active civic engagement.

The presence and involvement of our students served as a testament to the leadership, pride, and integrity fostered at St John's College. As ambassadors of both the school and the broader Hellenic community, they represented our values with excellence.

We thank all students, families, and staff who supported this important event and reaffirm our dedication to providing meaningful opportunities that connect our students to their identity, their history, and their future.



#### Mother's Day At SJC!

We had such a lovely day celebrating the amazing mothers in our school community. Our day began with a beautiful PA stall filled with thoughtful gifts and treats, followed by a heartwarming afternoon where mums joined us in the classrooms and outdoors for some quality time with their children. To top it all off, we even got our mums up and dancing – from the Zorba to other fun tunes; the joy and energy were infectious! Thank you to everyone who helped make the day so special.

To all our mums, we appreciate you today and every day!





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### GOAANSE 2025

#### GOAANSE 2025 – Celebrating Student Grit, Growth and Team Spirit

Dear students, families and staff,  
Congratulations to all students who represented our school with pride and resilience at the 2025 Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia National Schools Event (GOAANSE) in Perth hosted by St Andrew's Grammar.

Competing against six other schools, many of which run extensive Saturday morning sports programs, our students gave it their all and made us proud. St John's placed seventh overall, but our teams competed strongly across many sports and showed outstanding sportsmanship, enthusiasm and commitment.

Our best results were second place in Boys' Table Tennis and fourth place in Boys' Volleyball, followed by fifth place in Girls' Table Tennis and Girls' Basketball. We only placed 7th in three sports, and in two of those we did not enter a team. This is a testament to the heart and efforts of the students.

As our Principal shared with the host school: "While SJC might not have figured prominently on the sports field, this did little to dampen student enjoyment and benefit. In fact, our students were glowing in their praise today. I think this says a great deal when you do not derive what you hope for in terms of success, yet come away feeling good having been involved."

We would like to congratulate the following students for their achievements and contributions:

Girls' Volleyball – Despina V  
Boys' Futsal – Archer K  
Girls' Netball – Mia K  
Boys' Basketball – Alex M  
Girls' Table Tennis – Elyssa B

Receiving B&F for the 2nd year in a row for their respective sports:

Boys' Volleyball – Alecos T  
Girls' Basketball – Anabelle F  
Boys' Table Tennis – Aathan K

An extended School Assembly will be held in the coming weeks to celebrate the experience and share highlights. We will showcase video footage, photos and student reflections from the trip.

As we look ahead to GOAANSE 2026 in Sydney, we encourage all interested students to sharpen their skills by joining a local or social sports club. Regular play and training will provide valuable experience and preparation for next year.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to parent Mandy Fardis, who generously volunteered her time and expertise to coach our Netball team and provide valuable support to our Girls' Basketball team. Her presence, encouragement and knowledge made a significant impact on the students' experience and performance, and we are incredibly grateful for her involvement.

Thank you to all students, staff and families who supported this wonderful experience.

Warm regards  
Ms Natanya Thrift  
2025 GOAANSE Coordinator





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### Botanical Gardens Excursion - 10C

Our students recently set off on a sunny adventure to the Botanical Gardens and what a day it was! With maps in hand, they explored winding paths, uncovered different types of plants native to Australia, and even spent time in the magical Children's Garden.

From learning how to navigate the gardens like explorers to soaking up the sunshine, it was a fun-filled day packed with fresh air, curiosity, and laughter.



### INTERSCHOOL SPORTS

Year 11/12 Netball - 27th May

Year 11/12 Table Tennis - 28th May

Year 9/10 Netball - 10 Jun

Year 7/8 Soccer - 12 Jun

The Parents' Association plays a vital role in supporting our school community, and we're always looking for new volunteers to join our team. Whether you can offer a few hours or help with specific events, your time and talents make a big difference. It's a great way to meet other parents, stay connected, and contribute to your child's school experience.

### JOIN OUR PARENTS' ASSOCIATION!

Interested in getting involved? Please contact the PA or our school office. We'd love to hear from you!



Tap the link to follow on Facebook - [St John's College Preston - Parents Association](#)

### ST JOHN'S COLLEGE PARENTS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 6TH

# 2025

### Key Commencement Events and Dates

- 27 May - Interschool Sports - Yr 11/12 Netball
- 28 May - Interschool Sports - Yr 11/12 Table Tennis
- 30 May - Year 10: Course Counselling
- 2-6 Jun - Year 7-10 Assessment Week
- 5 Jun - VCE Success Strategies
- 9 Jun - Kings Birthday Public Holiday
- 10 Jun - Grandparent's day Morning Tea
- 10 Jun - Interschool Sports - Yr 9/10 Netball
- 12 Jun - Interschool Sports - Yr 7/8 Soccer



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE  
**2026 ENROLMENTS**

*Places are limited!*

APPLY  
NOW

A number of classes are now on waitlists. If you or someone you know, is planning to enrol, we recommend doing so as soon as possible to avoid missing out. Places are filling quickly, and spots cannot be guaranteed without a completed enrolment. For assistance or further information, please contact the school office.