

# ST JOHN'S COLLEGE BULLETIN

## Term Two, Issue Three, 2025

### From the Principal

Each term brings with it fresh energy, challenge and opportunity – Term 2 was no different: new faces, new stories and new milestones to aspire to and achieve. As I look back and reflect on the past 10 weeks, here is what comes to mind.

#### **New initiatives and growth**

One of the key messages from our students for 2025 was to improve the quality of our outdoor education experiences. This has led to much discussion and planning this term resulting in a ski camp for Years 7, 8 and 9. I truly believe this will prove to be a highlight for our middle-schoolers and I hope a much-needed rejuvenation in our outdoor education programs. I commend the staff who have created this new opportunity which takes place during Week 9 on Term 3.

Similarly, we are looking to extend the LEAP program in 2026 beyond the compulsory years (F-10) into a transitional 'secondary into tertiary' program. I again acknowledge the inspirational, collaborative work being actioned here by staff and parents. Our students will definitely be the winners.

In a similar manner, considerable planning is going into advance planning for our 2026 timetable to meet the emerging needs of a new cohort of VCE students. All of the above, is student centered work which aims to bring out the very best in our students and meet their needs and interests.

#### **Programs**

A rapid expansion and take-up by students for homework clubs and extra review sessions over the last 3 weeks of Term 2 has been a real feature of the conclusion. Over 150 students attended such classes in the final weeks within Science and Mathematics alone. This diligence and aspirational behaviour were very heartening indeed.

#### **Teams**

Sharing the load, brainstorming ideas, creating efficiencies and utilizing wider expertise and talents have all assisted in achieving our common goals more effectively. The staff have reconstructed our structures to working in team orientated ways to maximize their efforts and streamline structures and understandings. The following two new teams have been created and will commence in Term 3 to enhance our practices:

#### **Teaching and Learning Professional Learning Team and Student Culture Professional Learning Team**

These groups are forward looking enterprises focused on improvement and growth for staff and students alike.

#### **GOAANSE**

I cannot conclude without a shout-out to all involved in the GOAANSE experience. While SJC might not have figured prominently on the sports field in terms of our win-loss record (it was a bit like my beloved Demons!), this did little to dampen student enjoyment, benefit and support of each other. Our LEAD values shone through – Resilience, Perseverance, Being the best version of themselves 'both on and off the field', Kindness and Greeting others in a positive light. It was the most positive of experiences and I was immensely proud and thoroughly enjoyed my time in Perth with a wonderful group of students and staff.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Doniya Foundoglou who oversees our Bulletin. This copy is no exception as it captures life around our College – Battle of Crete commemorations at which our students shine, acting with impressive reverence and pride, Science program highlights for those in Years 7, 11, 12 and Foundation - Years 2, along with a most well attended Grandparents Day in Junior School for 160 visitors! I loved the way our grandparents and visitors led the activities this year. They were fantastic. I did offer ongoing teaching roles to a number – but none took me up!

I take this opportunity to wish everyone a well-deserved break. And to those who are feeling a little jaded ..... take this as a good sign. Well done to those of you who have little left in the tank, for you have given all that you have to give. Enjoy the break!

#### **IMPORTANT - 2026 Enrolments**

This year saw a 16% increase in student numbers. 2026 looks similarly encouraging with minimal places available. It is strongly recommended that families with siblings apply in the first few weeks of Term 3, to avoid disappointment, as wait lists are already apparent at several levels across the College.



#### **Year 6 Commemorative Tops**

There was lots of excitement as our Year 6 students received their 2025 commemorative tops this week! A special milestone in their final year of primary school, the tops are a symbol of leadership, unity, and the memories they've shared throughout their journey at SJC.

Students proudly wore their new tops around the school, beaming with pride and celebrating this important tradition. We look forward to seeing them continue to lead by example in their final two terms!



#### **Year 7 Humanities Federal Election Project**

Last week, the students of 7A and 7B worked together in groups of 2–4 to campaign for a mock election. Each group consisted of a main representative, a vice representative, and a campaign manager. We were tasked with creating a persuasive presentation to encourage our peers to vote for our campaign. This included either a video or PowerPoint presentation, a speech, and a "how to vote" card. The election ran over three days: 7A presented on the first day, 7B on the second, and voting took place on the third. Preparation began the week prior. Students agreed that this assessment was a fun and engaging challenge that required thought, dedication, and collaboration. It felt realistic and gave us valuable experience we may draw on in the future, helping us prepare for the next chapter of our lives.

- Written by Sejal D





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### Science

#### Year 11 Biology!

Our Year 11 students recently took on a creative challenge in their Biology assessment, where they modelled the digestive system. They did a fantastic job explaining the functions of each organ and understanding the processes of digestion and absorption. This hands-on approach allowed them to deepen their understanding in a practical and interactive way.



#### Year 12 Biology

On the 11th of June, our Year 12 Biology students investigated the antibacterial properties of Native Australian plants. Students compared two species — Eucalyptus and Silver Wattle — by applying plant extracts to live cultures of *E. coli*. Using agar plates, they observed how well each extract prevented bacterial growth. Results showed that Eucalyptus displayed stronger antibacterial properties, producing a larger zone of inhibition and significantly reducing *E. coli* growth. This hands-on practical deepened student's understanding of plant chemical defences as part of covering Immunity in class!



#### Year 7 Science in Action

As part of our unit "A World of Machines", our Year 7 students took on the challenge of designing and building working models of simple machines, and the results were fantastic!

In pairs, students created functional models using levers, inclined planes, wheels and axles, wedges or screws. Each group then presented their project to the class, explaining how their machine works, the science behind it, and how it makes work easier in the real world.

It was an engaging hands-on learning experience that showcased teamwork, creativity and engineering skills. Well done, Year 7!



#### Hands-On Science: Building & Construction Incursion

This term, our Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 students took part in the Hands-On Science 'Building and Construction' incursion — an engaging 90-minute workshop that linked perfectly with our Term 2 Integrated Unit: Building & Design.

Through a series of fun, hands-on activities, students explored key STEM concepts such as material properties, shapes and structures, and forces like tension, compression, and friction. Guided by passionate science educators, students worked collaboratively to predict, test, and reflect on how different materials and shapes behave in construction. From building bridges to testing how much weight various structures could hold, the incursion reinforced what students have been learning in class in a memorable and exciting way!





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### Greek

#### Battle of Crete Commemoration Ceremony

On Saturday, 24th May, we proudly attended the Battle of Crete Commemoration Ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance and the Australian-Hellenic Memorial.

The Battle of Crete holds a special place in history, as ANZAC and Hellenic forces fought side by side in one of the most critical moments of World War II. Their courage and sacrifice were instrumental in the Allied efforts, and their legacy lives on in the hearts of Greek Australians across generations.

Lest we forget - Δέν ξεχνάμε.



#### VCE Greek Students Explore the Dardalis Archives at La Trobe University

On Wednesday, 28 May, our VCE Greek students had the unique opportunity to visit the Dardalis Archives of the Hellenic Diaspora at La Trobe University. This excursion, part of their extended study on migration, allowed students to engage with primary sources dating back hundreds of years, exploring the rich history of Greek migration to Australia and around the world.

Students were particularly excited to access archives directly connected to St John's College, including materials on the Founder of the College, Rev. Father Ierotheos Kourtessis, and rare photographs of the school's first site on Drummond Street, Carlton.

With the expert guidance of Lead Archivist Emmanouela Giannoulidou, students conducted their own research on the topic of Immigration as part of their VCE Greek studies.

The visit also provided students with the opportunity to hear from Stephanie Nikoloudis, Lecturer and Coordinator of the Greek Studies program at La Trobe University. Students were able to ask insightful questions about tertiary pathways and how they can continue their study of Greek post-VCE.

This experience not only deepened students' understanding of migration and Hellenic identity, but also inspired them to pursue their passion for learning and language beyond the classroom.

At St John's College, we remain committed to providing meaningful learning opportunities that honour the rich tapestry of Hellenism and empower our students as lifelong learners.



### Phys Ed & Health/Sport

#### Interschool Sports

This Term, our students have proudly represented SJC in a number of interschool sports competitions. Our Year 5 & 6 teams, along with our Year 7 & 8 teams, participated in both Soccer and Netball, giving it their all and displaying fantastic teamwork and enthusiasm.

A huge congratulations to all involved, we're proud of your efforts and positive attitudes! Special thanks to the staff and coaches who supported and encouraged our teams throughout.



#### District Athletics Success

Congratulations to Christos K and Gabriel K who recently represented SJC at the District Athletics Carnival and achieved outstanding results!

Christos placed 1st in the 100m sprint, earning a spot in the upcoming Regional Finals, and also came 2nd in the 200m — an incredible achievement! Gabriel dominated the field events, placing 1st in Shot Put and 1st in Javelin, securing his place at the Regional Finals for both events. He also achieved a strong 4th place in Discus.

Well done to both students for their hard work, determination, and for proudly representing our school. We wish you all the best for Regionals!

#### Year 9 and 10 Advanced Fitness

In Term 2, the Year 9 and 10 Advanced Fitness students worked in teams to plan and coordinate a 4-week fitness program for Grades 2, 3, and 4.

Their assessment was to help improve strength, endurance, flexibility, and coordination in our Junior School while keeping the students active, engaged, and having fun.

At St John's, we are proud of how our Senior participants worked harmoniously and with great care alongside their younger peers. Their encouragement, nurturing approach, and constant praise helped create a positive and supportive environment throughout the program.





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### Events

#### Pyjama Day

Today at St John's College, the Orthodoxy Department proudly hosted our annual Pyjama Day Fundraiser — a joyful and meaningful tradition that unites our community in support of a worthy cause.

As is tradition, all proceeds from the day were donated to Our Daily Bread, a compassionate outreach initiative of the Diocese of Chora that provides weekly meals and vital assistance to those in need within our local community.

Thanks to the incredible generosity and enthusiasm of our students and staff — along with the support of raffle ticket buyers throughout the week — we are thrilled to announce that we raised an outstanding total of \$1100!!! This effort is a beautiful expression of the Christian value of love and service, which continues to shine in the daily life of our college.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed. Your kindness and spirit made this day a fantastic success and a true reflection of our college's mission in action.



#### Grandparent's Day 2025

On Tuesday, we had the absolute pleasure of welcoming so many wonderful grandparents into our school community. It was a truly special day filled with warmth, laughter, and heartfelt moments.

Students and their grandparents enjoyed a range of activities together — from creative crafts to getting their hands dirty in the garden. The joy on everyone's faces was a beautiful reminder of the special bond between generations.

As the saying goes, "Grandparents make the world a little softer, a little kinder, and a little warmer."

A heartfelt thank you to all the grandparents who joined us and helped make the day so memorable. We are grateful for your presence and the love you bring into our students' lives.

Click on the video to see some beautiful moments that were captured.

[Grandparent's Day 2025](#)



#### Cultural Connections in Year 5/6!

Our Year 5/6 students had the wonderful opportunity to welcome some amazing parent guest speakers into the classroom!

As part of our Southeast Asia studies, students are learning about the importance of the countries around Australia, including trade, commerce and cultural understanding. To support this, parents shared stories about growing up in their home countries, China, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines. They also spoke about what school life was like for them. Students were fascinated by the differences and similarities in daily routines, school subjects and childhood experiences.

They even learned how to count from 1 to 10 in Vietnamese!

A big thank you to our incredible parents for bringing learning to life and helping us celebrate the rich cultural diversity of our school community.