

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE BULLETIN

Term Three, Issue One, 2025

From the Principal

For Reflection

A chess set sits laid out in the Senior Agora – may it be a constant reminder to us on how we might approach our activities this term.

Chess is often described as much more than a game – indeed it is frequently seen as a powerful representation of life itself:

- The importance of planning ahead and considering the longer-term consequences of our actions
- Of anticipation and adapting to changing circumstances
- Of staying a few steps ahead
- That achieving our goals requires patience and perseverance
- Of making the right decisions and thinking clearly under pressure
- Success often depends on sustained focus and avoiding distractions
- Sometimes small sacrifices lead to greater reward

The pawn in chess is often underestimated and seen as the most expendable and least valued pieces because it can only move forward 1 step at a time.

And yet it is a profound symbol of potential, sacrifice, perseverance and transformation. It reminds us that even the humblest beginnings can lead to greatness if we play our moves wisely and remain committed to our goals.

- Potential for growth - Even the smallest or least experienced can grow, develop and achieve great things with opportunity and perseverance
- Opportunities - Small actions or decisions can have a significant impact over time
- Sacrifice and Commitment – Pawns often sacrifice to protect more valuable pieces – making sacrifices is sometimes necessary for greater success and progress
- Limited power but important – Despite their limited abilities, pawns are essential to the game's strategy. Every role and action, no matter how small, has value and contributes to the bigger picture
- When a pawn reaches the opposite end of the board, it transforms into a Queen – with persistence, effort and perseverance, the humble pawn is transformed becoming extraordinary.

In the final stages of the game, when most pieces have been removed from the board and the King is required to defend themselves from regular attack, it is not uncommon that the lowly pawn is present at this stage and plays a vital role!

My best wishes for a wonderful term.

Welcome Back

A very warm welcome back to all students, staff and families. In particular:

Best wishes to our Year 12 students for their final term of school. Most of our Y12 students spent several days at school over the 3-week break undertaking additional study sessions. I warmly commend our Year 12 subject teachers for making this possible.



- Welcome to Mr McCormick who comes to us at the start of Semester 2 as our Senior School Music and Performing Arts Teacher
- Welcome back to Lia (Y11) and to Nefeli and Michaela (Y8) – three students who commenced this week
- Congratulations to Mr Barbetti who has accepted expanded duties as our Pastoral Care Leader (Y7-9). We thank Mr Hedditch for undertaking these responsibilities during the first half of the year
- At the end of term, Mr Yong regrettably resigned due to health reasons (significant hearing loss) and we were grateful to Ms Le for extending her contact time to permit a seamless transition.
- Congratulations to Mr Chrisoulis and his family on the safe arrival of their second child - a baby boy, born on Wednesday 23rd July.

The St Paisios Winter Holiday Program

During the recent holiday period a good number of our students and their families hosted 160 students at SJC, as we facilitated The St Paisios Winter Holiday Program for our wider community, with a distinctly, 'greek orthodox flavour'. The day was a complete success and I commend all who took part.





ST JOHN'S COLLEGE BULLETIN

Term Three, Issue One, 2025

Term 3, 2025 - Key Commencement Events and Dates

Thursday 31 Jul	Whole School Divine Liturgy
Wednesday 6 Aug	Year 3/4 Excursion - Annie the Musical
Monday 11 Aug	STEM Week
Thursday 14 Aug	100 Days of School (Foundation)
Friday 15 Aug	Dormition of The Virgin Mary - School Closed
Wednesday 20 Aug	Book Week Parade and Assembly
Mon 25 Aug - Fri 29 Aug	Year 5/6 Camp - Lady Northcote
Friday 29 Aug	Feast Day of St John the Baptist
Monday 1 Sept	Ecclesiastical New Year
Thursday 4 Sep	Father's Day PA Stall
Saturday 6 Sep	PA Annual Dinner Dance
Wed 10 Sep - Fri 12 Sep	Year 3/4 Camp Manyung
Mon 15 Sep - Wed 17 Sep	Year 7-9 Camp - Falls Creek
Wednesday 17 Sep	Footy Colours Day Fundraiser
Wednesday 17 Sep	Last day of Term 3 for Students
Thursday 18 Sep	Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews (Student Free Day)
Friday 19 Sep	Curriculum Planning Day (Student Free Day)
Monday 29 Sep	Office Opens for Term 4
Monday 6 Oct	First Day of Term 4