



# ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S COLLEGE

Hamilton

## KEEPING CONNECTED

UPDATES AS WE TRANSITION  
TO YEARS 7 TO 12  
TERM 2, 2023



### A message from the Principal

Dear Year 6 parents,  
carers and students,

Welcome to the second edition of our Year 7 2024 Newsletter - Keeping Connected. We hope families are enjoying the wonderful journey of Year 6, and participating in all that is on offer in your Year 6 communities. We wanted to take this opportunity to update you on the transition processes occurring in our College, amidst the excitement that is building for the arrival of our first Year 7 cohort.



#### Enrolment update

After initially planning for 90 students in our first cohort, we have been overwhelmed by the demand for places in our community. After careful consideration and Diocesan consultation, we have made the decision to expand beyond our original scope and will now be anticipating the arrival of more than 130 students in Year 7 in 2024. The significant advantage of this is in our capacity to provide Catholic education for more families, but importantly it will also provide us with a scope for wider course offerings and possibilities in the years ahead. We are delighted that your children will be joining us in a school of choice for so many as we commence this journey together.

#### Year 6 visits

A central focus of Term 2 has been our staff visits to our Year 6 pathway schools to engage with your children in their current learning. There are great pictures and comments on pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter from some of these visits, and we certainly hope the students have enjoyed this opportunity to connect with our staff as much as our team has enjoyed meeting and working with them.

These visits have provided a significant connection between our schools and will assist us in making the transition to high school as seamless as possible. Importantly, these occasions have provided valuable insights into pedagogy, whilst beginning the vital development of relationships which are at the core of all great learning journeys. We extend our thanks to these wonderful schools and their staff who have so generously made these experiences possible!

#### Year 7 spaces at SFX

One of our key determinations early in the transition process was the pursuit of dedicated learning and recreation spaces for our Year 7 students. Creating a safe and engaging environment is crucial to the educational journey. We are currently in the final stages of planning for our designated Year 7 rooms as well as a new space in the yard designated for Year 7 recreation and physical education. Construction of these projects is due to commence in Term 3.

As we approach the second half of the year, there is a real sense of anticipation and excitement within our College. Thank you for choosing to be a part of this new adventure.

Kind regards,

**Greg Ptolemy**

Principal – St Francis Xavier's College Hamilton



Assistant Principal  
Leader Wellbeing and  
Engagement Kathryn  
Johnstone, Principal Greg  
Ptolemy, Assistant Principal  
Teaching and Learning  
Colin Mulhearn.

## Meet the team

### Assistant Principal Wellbeing and Engagement

#### Kathryn Johnstone

My name is Kathryn Johnstone and I have started in this role at St Francis Xavier's College this year. I am very much looking forward to working with Year 7 students and their families from 2024.



Student Wellbeing and Engagement is a priority for all of our students, and we know that when students are experiencing a positive sense of mental health, they are much more likely to succeed academically and in other areas of their schooling.

"Wellbeing Together" is our Diocesan framework which focuses on the following three areas.

Our aim is for students to:

- Feel safe, supported and included
- Be creative, connected and engaged
- Lead, learn and thrive

Here at St Francis Xavier's, our staff are working hard to create a framework in line with this, but one that fits our context to ensure Year 7 students can be successful in their learning from day one.

### Assistant Principal Teaching and Learning

#### Colin Mulhearn

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to our community as your child makes the important step from Primary to Secondary school.



Within the College my area of responsibility is Teaching and Learning. This involves working with a highly professional team of faculty leaders and teachers to ensure what is happening in the classroom allows all students to grow in their learning and development.

From the beginning of this year members of each faculty have been working on very particular preparation for the Year 7 courses your children will be introduced to next year.

The College is also making great progress in the way the Year 7 classrooms will look and feel for the beginning of next year.

There are many new experiences for families and students in the transition to secondary school, I am confident that the classroom and learning environment is being well prepared, as is the staff to allow each child to learn and develop in a positive way.

Again, welcome and I look forward to meeting you over the coming months.

## A quick "Hello" from Mr Dan



Hi everyone,

Just a very quick check in to say "Hello!". It has been a really fun term here at St Francis Xavier's and from what I can see it has been busy in your primary schools too. Some of you may have been on Year 6 Camp to Canberra, or maybe you have been busy presenting projects to classmates on resilience, or maybe it has been learning about

debating techniques or even potentially representing at various co-curricular activities such as Aspire or Representative Sport. Whichever way we look at it, Term 2 has been exciting!

Moving into Term 3, we have some exciting times ahead which will involve 'meeting and greeting' you and your parents/caregivers for a 'Transition Interview' and a further look around our College. In the meantime, keep having fun and enjoying your schoolwork, always do your best and help others to do their best also.

On behalf of the other teachers here at SFX, thank you for having us in your classrooms During Term 2 – you should be so proud of the young people you are and the work you are doing. We have learnt so much from you and your wonderful teachers which we have been able to use in creating exciting and purposeful lessons/learning activities for you for 2024 and beyond.

See you soon!

**Mr Dan**

**Leader of Learning – Wellbeing and Engagement**

### What you told us

Staff from St Francis Xavier's Hamilton visited St Joseph's Merewether, Holy Family Merewether and St Columba's Adamstown across Term 2.

#### Hear from staff and students:

"It was amazing to see how creative and imaginative the students were in carrying out their work"

– **Mr Rowan Kelly**

"I was so excited to see the fun and enthusiasm each of the students displayed when completing their work!"

– **Mr Louis Kakavas**

"The caring and inclusive nature displayed within your classrooms was inspiring".

– **Ms Molly Walmsley**

"Thank you so much for having us, we really enjoyed being able to be a part of not only learning with you but getting to know you... Thanks!"

– **Mr Joel Turnbull**

"The children were so clever and innovative, can't wait to spend more time with you all in 2024 and beyond! Thanks for having us".

– **Mrs Nicolee Hodges**

"We really enjoyed being a part of your learning environments! Thank you to you all, including your beautiful teachers, for allowing us to be a part of your lessons".

– **Mrs Monique Williams**

"The children and the teachers were just wonderful! Thank you so much for allowing us to be a part of your lessons, can't wait to work with you all next year!"

– **Ms Laura Jones**



## What you told us cont.

### St Joseph's, Merewether

"I'm looking forward to making history at SFX as the first group of Year 7s. It's going to be a bit of a different way of learning and moving around to classrooms but it will be interesting."

- Louis

"I feel like there might be lots of different things at high school but that exciting too...

Yeah, it's nice to have the teachers here because it makes it feel more exciting."

- Violet and Indi

"I'm looking forward to meeting new people and making new friends. It will be good to have new teachers and I'm excited for more sports. It feels good to meet the teachers here and not have to start fresh."

- Jacob



### St Columba's, Adamstown

"I think it will feel cool to be the first Year 7s, the older kids will take care of us".

- Year 6 student

"I'm excited to be going to school so close to my dad's office".

- Year 6 student

"The exciting thing about SFX is that some of our families live closer to that direction, so it allows them to stay in the Catholic system and have a very easy commute to school. I don't think the kids fully grasp the excitement of it. Research does show that when students are staying in the same environment, they're more likely to succeed."

- Ms Lisa Matzanke, Principal

### Holy Family, Merewether

"These school visits are a great opportunity for students to speak to the people on the ground there about questions, concerns or things they're worried about. Our students are connecting with the people who are going to be teaching them."

- Ms Ashleigh Dan, Year 6 Teacher



## What to expect during Term 3 2023

✉ **Keep an eye on your emails because you will receive a short survey to complete prior to your scheduled Transition Interview.**

Parent / Student Transition Interviews will be scheduled throughout Term 3 and early Term 4. Incoming Year 7 parents and students will be invited to come into the College and meet with Mr Dan (LoWE). This meeting is an opportunity for Mr Dan to get to know more about your family and your child.