



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S COLLEGE

Hamilton

KEEPING CONNECTED

TERM 1 2024



A message from the Principal

Dear Year 6 parents, carers and students,

Welcome to the first edition of our Year 7 2025 Newsletter - Keeping Connected. We created this bulletin last year to provide a source of regular information and updates about planning and developments within the college, and it quickly became a vital aspect of our communication during the transition process. As a result, we will continue to produce these editions as we build momentum toward the exciting year that awaits in 2025.

Thank you for your interest in being part of the future of our college. As you would be aware, our college is in an era of transformation as we steadily build from a senior campus to an all-inclusive Years 7-12 structure. In 2025, we will provide learning opportunities for Year 7-8 and Years 11-12 students.

This change has seen some significant developments at the college over the last 18 months, particularly in the areas of resourcing, pedagogy, and facilities. The diocese has invested significantly in contemporising our learning spaces, our staff have engaged with developing interesting and challenging pedagogical encounters for Stage 4 and 5 students, and considerable work has been undertaken to reimagine our recreational spaces.

While ongoing commitment is essential in each of these areas in the years ahead, the preparatory work already undertaken

placed us in great stead to receive our first Year 7 cohort in 2024. We have welcomed 140 junior students into our context this year, and this has been a significantly successful undertaking. These students and their families have embraced the opportunity to journey with us and have already been part of many fantastic experiences including Year 7 Camp, Opening College Mass, Parent and Carers BBQ and Information Evening, College Commissioning Ceremony and our first St Francis Xavier's College Swimming Carnival. It has been a very exciting commencement on the journey we are now undertaking together.

Vision, Values and Mission

As you consider joining us for Year 7 in 2025, it is important that we share with you something of the vision, values and mission that drive our community on a daily basis.

St Francis Xavier was a missionary who desired to bring the light of Christ to the world. In keeping with his calling, our college motto, 'Christus Lux Mea' (Christ My Light) reminds us of our calling to share our light...Christ's light...for the good of all. Complementing this pursuit, we have a House structure which pays homage to four religious orders who played significant roles in establishing education within the diocese, drawing from each a key value that informs our journey: Family (Champagnat), Truth (Dominic), Mercy (McAuley), and Service (MacKillop).

St Francis Xavier's College is steeped in a Marist tradition which invites young people to know the love of Christ, and to learn deeply from the humility and service of Mary in becoming aware of our duty to others. As a college, it is our ambition that

we might produce young women and men who will meet the challenge of becoming active and hope-filled citizens who will make our world a better place for their presence in it.

Enrolments

Interest in positions at the college in 2024 was exceptional, and early indications would suggest significant interest once again in placements for 2025. Importantly, all students in pathway schools and siblings of our current students are guaranteed a position at the college as long as enrolment processes are completed according to the timeframes provided with the enrolment packages. Students seeking enrolment from other schools will receive notification regarding the availability of

Hello, my name is Kathryn Johnstone and I am the Assistant Principal for Wellbeing and Engagement. In this role I work with a great team of staff to support all students here at the College every day.



Research shows that when students have a strong sense of wellbeing, they are more likely to flourish in the classroom. We have a range of supports to build student wellbeing including:

- Tutor Group each morning
- Leader of Wellbeing and Engagement for each Year group (E.g. Year 7 2025)
- Wellbeing Coordinators
- School Counsellors
- Beyond the Gates Support
- Careers Support
- Learning Support
- Aboriginal Education Support

Throughout the school year we also have a range of activities to assist with the transition to high school such as Peer Support, Year 7 Camp, Community Days, Carnivals, Fundraising events and our SFX Cup which generates much House spirit here at the college!

We look forward to engaging with you throughout 2024 in readiness for the start of high school!

Kathryn Johnstone
Assistant Principal Wellbeing and Engagement

positions toward the latter half of Term 2. We thank you for your patience during this process.

Our Special Place

The beginning of 2024 has been a time of renewal and revitalisation for staff and students at the college. The community has been enhanced by the exuberance and energy of our Year 7 cohort, and we are certainly looking forward to developing this aspect of college life through the arrival of your children in 2025. We believe that our place is a very special one and we are hopeful that you might discover this with us in the years ahead.

Greg Ptolemy

Principal – St Francis Xavier’s College Hamilton

As Assistant Principal for Teaching and Learning I am involved with all that relates to classroom learning, Reporting and Assessment. I lead a team of ‘Leaders of Learning’ (LoL) that in turn lead their faculty of classroom teachers. This highly professional group of educators have a wealth of experience in what makes a successful student and have been transitioning this to Stage 4 for the current Year 7 and indeed for the Year 7 2025 cohort.



As a team we provide a learning environment that is rewarding, challenging, and interesting that allows students to engage in the curriculum at their level of achievement and understanding.

The college has specifically designed modern interactive learning spaces as part of the transition from a senior college to a Year 7 – 12 college. By integrating technology and contemporary teaching practices the learning experiences and the outcomes for students are always relevant and allows students to achieve to their potential.

I look forward to welcoming your child to our college and working with you, the Leaders of Learning and teachers to support each child to have positive experiences in their learning that promotes application, interest and a love of learning.

Colin Mulhearn
Assistant Principal Teaching and Learning

“When I started at SFX I was really nervous, but it is so good.” – Sibella

“I have met so many new people. SFX is great.” – Sunny

My name is Kirsten Beletich and I am a member of the Stage 4 Team at St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton. It has been exciting to welcome the first cohort of Year 7 students to our community this year. I have already enjoyed sharing many rewarding experiences with them such as Year 7 Camp, Peer Support sessions and the SFX Swimming Carnival.



I am fortunate to have two kids of my own, in addition to several dogs and cats. I love walking and swimming in our beautiful local area. I am an avid reader and love the creative arts. I am involved in many community projects as I am passionate about helping others.

I have lots of exciting things planned to get to know our future students further. I am greatly looking forward to being the Leader of Wellbeing and Engagement for Year 7, 2025.

Kirsten Beletich

Year 7 2025 Leader of Wellbeing and Engagement (LoWE)

"SFX has been great. You feel like there is big open arms welcoming you into the school. It's really easy to feel like you belong here." – Alana

"SFX is a great school full of opportunities and fun." – Baden

"I have enjoyed exploring SFX and finding different spots like the Library & Music Rooms." – London

Our current Year 7 students have been enjoying peer support, Year 7 camp and more as they get started in Term 1. Check out the pics below.



"I have enjoyed my time at SFX as a Year 7 student. The camp is a great thing to look forward to. The teachers are so nice." – Abigail

"Year 7 has been wonderful and I love how you get to have lots of different teachers and you get to make so many new friends." – Indigo

"I have met so many interesting people and I really enjoy our sport days because we always get to play something new." – Hannah

"My favourite things so far are meeting new people and making new friends." – Harriette



"I like SFX because I have made new friends and met new people." – Lochlain

"I really like meeting so many new people and also the camp was really great." – James

"I enjoy making new friends, playing sports and learning new stuff, it's so interesting ." – Reid

"I love all the new and exciting things I've done in these first few weeks, and all the new people I've met." – Sully



"My personal favourite thing about this school is how easy it is to get around. It's super easy to remember where everything is. Even if you do get lost (which I highly doubt) our lovely teachers and community will always help you." – Charlie



"I have enjoyed changing things up from primary school and all the welcoming staff here. It's a great place for all people even for sporty people like me." – Callum

"I loved the camp because it was a great opportunity to meet new people and participate in new activities." – Kirra

"SFX is very easy place to meet new people, start new relationships and I love all the new topics we get taught. It's a great school." – Harry