



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S COLLEGE

Hamilton

KEEPING CONNECTED

TERM 2 2024



A message from the Principal

Dear Year 6 parents, carers and students,

Welcome to the second edition of our Year 7 2024 Keeping Connected Bulletin, and a special welcome to our Year 5 families as we reach out to you for the first time. We are approaching the completion of our first six months with Year 7 at St Francis Xavier's College, it is difficult to comprehend how quickly this time has elapsed, yet there is already a sense that our college would not feel complete without their presence in our midst. Our first Year 7 cohort have become an integral part of our special place, and we are certainly looking forward to the arrival of many more wonderful Year 7 students in the years ahead.

Enrolment Update

There has been significant interest in joining the college in 2025, which is fantastic news. Currently we have capped our numbers at 150 for Year 7 in 2025, which will allow for continual steady growth. This does mean that we have a waiting list, so should any families not wish to continue with their enrolment, we would ask that you advise us as soon as possible, so that others may take advantage of such an opportunity.

Year 6 Visits

Throughout Term 2 our staff have enjoyed the opportunity to visit our Year 6 pathway schools to engage with your children in their current learning environments. There are great pictures in this bulletin 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 provide a significant connection between our schools and assist us in making the transition to high school as seamless as possible. We are grateful to our wonderful pathway schools and their staff who make these experiences possible!

We have also had a few of our staff join some of the Year 6 excursions this term, which have provided excellent opportunities for staff to further develop connection with students.

Year 6 Interviews

We are currently in the midst of our interviews with families enrolling for next year. These are important opportunities for us to learn about every individual student joining us in 2025, and we thank all our families for engaging with us in this process. These interviews will continue throughout the upcoming term.

Catholic Schools Week Celebrations – Parents/Carers in the Classroom

Our first Year 7 cohort this year has recently allowed us the opportunity to open our classrooms for parents and carers to spend a morning with their children at work. This was a great chance to celebrate our new journey and to have families spend some time with us. Thank you to all our families who participated – given the positive feedback, we will certainly look to make this a feature of our calendar in the years ahead.

As we approach the second half of the year, we are growing excited at the prospect of our new arrivals for 2025 - thank you for choosing to be a part of this new adventure.

Greg Ptolemy

Principal – St Francis Xavier's College Hamilton

DioSounds

For the first time ever, some Year 7 students were able to perform, as representatives of the school's Music Department at DIOSOUNDS.



At the Civic Theatre on Friday 14 June, St Francis Xavier's College Choir performed "Out There" by Australian Composer Dan Walker. The College Choir were prepared and rehearsed by Music Teachers Melissa Wattus and Erin Sweetman and comprised students from Year 12, Year 11 and Year 7.

Our Year 7 members Hannah, Josie, Isla, Alana and Patrick presented themselves professionally and made a significant contribution to the choral sound in the performances.

As well as our school choir item, Hannah, Josie, Alana and Patrick were also members of the DioEnsemble Vocal Choir. These students had rehearsed together with other Diocesan singers to prepare and perform a challenging work from the contemporary choral repertoire.

We look forward to welcoming our future Year 7 students as they have the opportunity to share in the many offerings of our Creative Arts Program.

Kirsten Beletich

Year 7 2025 Leader of Wellbeing and Engagement (LoWE)



Year 6 Interviews

In Terms 1 and 2, St Francis Xavier's College has interviewed approximately half of the Year 6 students and their parents/carers to "Meet and Greet" interviews, with next year's LoWE Kirsten Beletich.

The interviews invite individual students to ask questions about High School, and allow families to discuss the child's personal needs, interests and learning goals. The aim is to meet with every student enrolled for Year 7 2025, with interviews ongoing for Terms 3 and 4. If you have not had an interview, you will be contacted early Term 3 to schedule this.



Catholic Schools Week



Canberra

Two of our teachers, Liam Bleakley and Connor Thorpe, recently spent three days in Canberra with Pathway schools on their annual excursions. Mr Bleakley accompanied St Joseph's staff and students in Week 4, while Mr Thorpe's adventure was in Week 7 with Holy Family. Both teachers thoroughly enjoyed the excursions, particularly as they got to know so many friendly students who they hope to teach at SFX next year. Liam and

Connor both commented on the attentiveness of the staff from both Pathway schools, as the St Francis Xavier's teachers were made to feel valued and welcome. The three days were extremely busy with visits to Parliament House; Questacon; the Observatory and more, but were very rewarding for all. Mr Thorpe and Mr Bleakley both agreed that the student's behaviour and enthusiasm was impressive.



Pathway School Visits

The initial aim of St Francis Xavier's College's Teacher Visits to our pathway schools, St Joseph's, St Columba's and Holy Family, was to offer some familiarity for Year 6 students as they transition to our school for Year 7, 2025. The warm welcome provided by our Stage 3 Teaching Colleagues, and their students, in the Primary Schools, fostered a very positive and productive experience for the 13 SFX Staff who participated in the visits. As teachers, we gained invaluable insight into how our future students interacted with each other and their teacher; how the learning environment can be utilised, and the types of class work students are engaging with. We also enjoyed having informal chats with students as we mingled in the classroom, which hopefully offered some positive insight into what high school will be like.



Year 7 Term 2 2024

STEM/Cultural/Creative Arts Day and Leadership Day

It has been a busy time for Year 7, that is for sure! Our Year 7 students have been completing and competing in so many teaching and learning activities, sporting events, house celebration days and other activities. All this while making new friends, learning new subjects and creating new connections with teachers and staff here at St Francis Xavier's. With all this happening, we thought it be great to share with you two of the activities we recently had fun completing here at the College during Week 5.

During our **STEM/Cultural/Creative Arts Day** students were able to engage and participate in a range of activities. The day started off with a bang and students moved through a series of activities including working with the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Aspire Team to complete dancing and percussion activities. In this rotation they also participated in a First Australian's Knowledge Session. In this session students learnt about tools for hunting, customs and of course some Indigenous games were played which were a lot of fun! Finally, the third workshop was titled 'Supporting One-Another' and this required students to look deeper within their understandings of all people within our community and understanding that as a society, we all need to be treated through a 'Socially Just Lens'.

The afternoon saw our students participate in a STEM activity. This had students work in groups of a maximum of three to create a structure.

Our students had a lot of fun with two eventual winning groups. Their bridges held a staggering **10.4kg** before faltering. Try this at home with your siblings or parents #goodwetweatheractivity.

Our **Year 7 Leadership Day** was held in beautiful weather at Dixon Park SLSC. Students started the day with a Liturgy highlighting the importance of leadership before rotating through a series of physical activities including; a beach walk/jog, evasion games and lemon bowls (a SFX College tradition). Students then entered into some workshops with special guest speakers, problem solving activities and other learning opportunities to increase their understanding, skills and knowledge of what leadership looks like in our College context. Students enjoyed some free time, touch footy and playing in the park, and of course, a sausage sizzle! All in all a great day!

Here are some photos of these events.

Thanks and see you all soon,

Paul Dan

Year 7 2024 Leader Of Wellbeing & Engagement (LoWE)

