



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S COLLEGE

Hamilton

KEEPING CONNECTED

UPDATES AS WE TRANSITION
TO YEARS 7 TO 12
TERM 3, 2023



A message from the Principal



Dear Year 6 parents, carers and students,

Welcome to the latest instalment of our Year 7 2024 Newsletter - Keeping Connected. As we approach the three-quarter mark of 2023, we wanted to provide you with an update on some of the activities

and preparations occurring at St Francis Xavier's College in anticipation of the arrival of our first Year 7 students.

Enrolment interviews

Our Year 7 Leader of Wellbeing and Engagement, Mr Paul Dan, has now had the opportunity to meet with a significant majority of our families who will be joining us next year. He has been excited to welcome you to our College and had been thoroughly impressed. We believe that knowing children well is fundamental to understanding their needs and aspirations as learners, and we thank you for the insights that you have provided through these interactions.

Year 7 spaces at SFX

The classrooms allocated for renewal in preparation for the arrival of Year 7 have been handed over to the construction

company. We are excited by the possibilities of these new spaces and are looking forward to a wonderful new learning environment for our Year 7 students. We will provide updates of the building process as we venture into Term 4.

Year 7 Curriculum

Our dedicated Year 7 Lead Teachers are currently applying the finishing touches to their programs for next year which promise to offer some excellent learning opportunities for everyone. Our Year 6 school visits earlier this year have been particularly instrumental in ensuring a continuity of learning from the primary to secondary context. Our staff are eagerly looking forward to engaging with the students in a range of challenging and enjoyable activities in the year ahead.

Term 4 gathering

Monday 27 November will be a very special day on our calendar, as we welcome our Year 7 2024 cohort to the College for the first time as a group. Mr Dan is currently preparing an interesting and engaging itinerary for the day, and we look forward to seeing the students working together for the first time. We also have an information evening planned on this date for parents and carers, so please mark this important occasion in your calendar – we will provide more details next term.

Kind regards,

Greg Ptolemy

Principal – St Francis Xavier's College Hamilton



Mr Mulhearn

Assistant Principal Teaching and Learning

As we prepare for the arrival of our Year 7 students, we are actively working on various aspects, including curriculum development and the physical classroom spaces dedicated to Year 7.



The Stage 4 curriculum, as prescribed by the New South Wales Standards Authority (NESA), encompasses a wide range of subjects. Naturally, English, Mathematics, and Science receive significant attention in terms of allocation of time. Additionally, our curriculum includes a stand-alone course on Religion, emphasising Catholic values, traditions, and spiritual life. Students will also engage with History, Geography, Music, Visual Art, Personal Development, Physical Education (PDHPE), and Language (German).

Our incoming Year 7 students come from diverse educational backgrounds, each with unique experiences. Therefore, one of our primary objectives in Year 7 curriculum development is to consolidate their prior learning and then extend student understanding in each of the disciplines with specific teaching strategies best suited for the course and students.

Our dedicated teaching staff, along with our Leaders of Learning are structuring the learning environment to ensure that every student thrives in the classroom. Teachers will employ differentiated instruction techniques to cater to the individual levels of achievement and understanding among our students.

In addition to curriculum development, we have designed our new classroom spaces to facilitate classroom integration and student movement within each course. This enables teachers to collaborate across classrooms, offer diverse activities that accommodate students' varying levels of proficiency, and promote deeper understanding. See the artist impression of our new classrooms, above.

The layout and functionality of these refurbished classrooms are a testament to our commitment to cross-class collaboration and flexible learning, which are integral components of our Year 7 teaching and learning strategies.

We are excited about the upcoming academic year and look forward to providing our Year 7 students with an enriching and adaptable learning environment.

An update from the Wellbeing and Engagement space.

Ms Johnstone

Assistant Principal Wellbeing and Engagement

These are a few of the areas our team has been working on this term in preparation for our Year 7 students:



- Tutor Group and House Structure for 2024
- Mobile Phone Policy and procedural documentation
- Merit System Structure and the 'House Spirit Cup'
- Year 7 Student Leadership and Formation
- Bullying Policy and procedural documentation
- Attendance follow up procedures and early leaver procedures
- Peer Support Program and formation of Peer Support Leaders
- Booking venues for our Sporting Carnivals in 2024

We look forward to seeing our Year 7 students on site next term for their orientation day.



“My mum and dad both came here and now I am coming. That’s very special” – Ella

“It’s exciting being the first Year 7 class at SFX.” – Charlie

Comments from incoming Year 7 students after their Enrolment Interview:

“I’m excited to come to SFX because of the amazing sport programs.” – **Henry**

“I feel a lot more comfortable about coming here and I know a lot more about the school. I’m super excited to come to here.” – **May**

“I am looking forward to learning science and meeting new friends.” – **Marcus**

“I am happy to come to SFX next year with all the sport and learning opportunities I heard about.” – **Harrison**

“I can’t wait to order lunch at the canteen.” – **Jack**

“It’s going to be great having different teachers for different subjects.” – **Chloe**

Hello Students,

Wow - It is the end of Term 3 already! What a pleasure it has been to meet you and your families during the Enrolment Transition Interview Period. I would like you to know that you should be so proud of the ways in which you spoke about your schools, teachers, and friends throughout these ‘meet and greets’. It was so inspiring to speak with you about your learning and just how grateful you were for the opportunities you have been given at your primary schools.

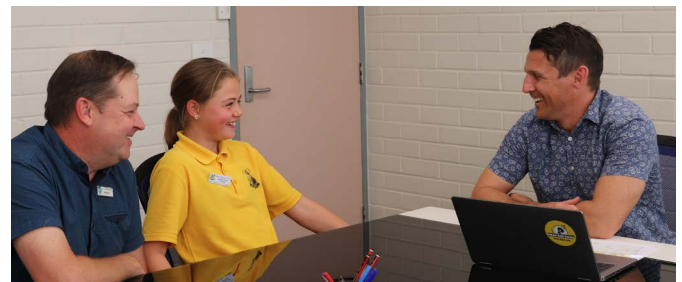


On behalf of the community here at St Francis Xavier’s, we would like to congratulate and thank you and your families for your time and energy in visiting and sharing in this process with us. This process has once again emphasised just how excited we, as a community, are to have the opportunity to work with such wonderful young people in 2024 and beyond! #congratulations! I would like to thank everyone involved, it truly was such a positive and inspirational experience.

Finally, as we spoke about in the interviews, keep enjoying your final stages of Primary School! You have earned this time and completing one phase of schooling is such a fun and enjoyable experience in life that I’m sure you and your teachers, families and friends will love and celebrate.

Thank you very much :)

Mr Dan
Leader of Learning – Wellbeing and Engagement (LoWE)





What to expect

TERM 4 2023

**Monday 30 October –
Friday 3 November**

Alinta Uniform Fittings for incoming Year 7 students at the SFX Uniform Shop. Please click on the link **SFX Uniform 2024** And follow the instructions to book your child's Uniform Fitting time slot during this week.

Monday 27 November

Year 7 2024 Orientation Day
Year 7 Parent Information Evening – 7pm

TERM 1 2024

Thursday 1 February

First Day for Year 7 Students

Friday 2 February

Year 7 Orientation Program continues

Wednesday 7 February

Year 7 Parent Information Evening 6pm – Focus is on preparation for Year 7 Camp

**Wednesday 14 February –
Friday 16 February**

Year 7 Camp

