



# Lighthouse

Volume 37 Number 12

17 November 2021



**Greg Ptolemy**

## A Message from the Principal

### FAREWELL YEAR 12 2021

At one of my very first assembly addresses with the Class of 2021 when they initially arrived at St Francis Xavier's College, I raised two concepts with them that I promised to revisit when the time came for them to leave.

The first was derived from a quote from the 2013 film *The Imitation Game* which captures elements of the life of Alan Turing. On a number of occasions in the film, we are reminded of our potential to be great through the simple reflection, '*Sometimes it's the very people who no one imagines anything of, who do the things no one can imagine.*' On their final day, just before they made their way through the staff guard of honour, I encouraged each of our students to continue their journey toward that which remains yet beyond our imagination.

The second concept was focused more on our sense of community. I had asked the students as they commenced Year 11, to consider why St Francis Xavier's College would be a better place for their ensuing two years with us. Upon addressing their assembly on the final day, it was apparent to me that their actions, sense of commitment, unity in support of one another through extraordinarily challenging times, and determination to remain undaunted, were very clear indicators of a legacy of which our College could be most proud. There was a sense of gratitude for all the support that had been provided and a camaraderie in what had been achieved. Their farewell moments were a fitting reflection of the richness which this group of young women and men had brought to the corridors of our College.

On behalf of our entire College community, I thank Year 12 2021 for their many contributions over the last two years and wish them all the best as they prepare to embrace an exciting new venture – congratulations!

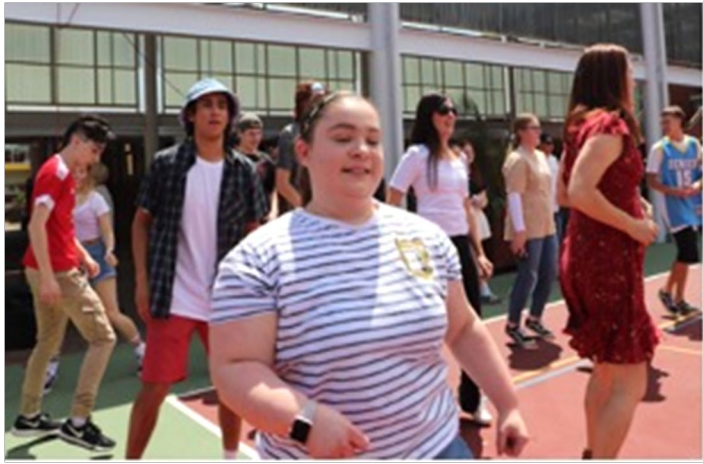
Take care and best wishes for the HSC Examinations.

Greg Ptolemy  
Principal



















## **CAPTAIN'S ADDRESS FOR THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2021**

Good morning SFX class of 2021 and all our teachers,  
Unlike most of you, I actually had my first day of Kindergarten in England. In fact, it wasn't called Kindergarten, it was "reception". A mere 3 weeks into my experience of Big School, Mum delivered the shocking news that school would be closed for Three. Whole. Days. Not only that but we were completely snowed in and couldn't leave the house. To say I was devastated is an understatement. However, mum reassured me saying that when we moved back to Australia school will never be closed.  
Fast forward thirteen years and school has been closed for 86 days.

Nobody in their right mind could have predicted that the class of 2021 would experience a worldwide pandemic that rendered us isolated and confined to our computer screens for 86 days. I could stand up here and talk about all the things we missed out on, all the disadvantages we faced and all the "what ifs?" but I want to talk about the experiences we *did* get to have throughout our St Francis Xavier journey. Our adventures here at SFX started on an excruciatingly hot day. We had our slick new binders and we really did feel like true adults coming into a school that felt significantly more mature than our feeder schools.

Since then, the two years have flown by. We've witnessed true vocal stars during Dominic Day's karaoke, watched future rockstars perform at Battle of the Bands, dressed for Santa on SFX day, showed true community spirit through our Vinnies winter appeal, enjoyed our birthday chocolates from Mr Ptolemy, dyed our hair all the colours of the rainbow to support cancer research, began every assembly with Mrs Lederwasch's iconic 3 cycles of breathe and we've made friendships here we will never forget. It feels like a lifetime ago, but at the beginning of Year 12 I made a speech asking you to be kind, put in the work, take up every opportunity, face challenges with bravery and be yourself. 260 days later and our time together is up, and there is not a doubt in my mind you all exceeded my expectations with overwhelming resilience and kindness.

If I had have said to you at the beginning of Year 11 that you would complete 86 days of schooling online, missed your Trial HSC, spend weeks on end without seeing your best friends, only be allowed to go 5km from your house, or even spent your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday in lockdown, many of you would have told me that you just couldn't do it. I know I couldn't have. But against all odds, here we are about to graduate from St Francis Xavier's college.

To put it simply, we surprised ourselves this year. We pushed our limits to the absolute max and if we can get past a worldwide pandemic, who knows what we can do. You are capable of so much more than you realise, and there is not a doubt in my mind that each and every one of you will enter the world beyond school and succeed. The world is blessed to have such resilient, inspirational young adults.

St Francis Xavier's college will hold a special place in our hearts for the rest of our lives. I can't imagine a better place, nor a better community to complete my final two years of schooling. I don't exaggerate when I say it has been an absolute honour to be your school captain and a pleasure to work with the SRC. You are all extremely special people and from the bottom of my heart I thank each and every one of you. The world is lucky to have the SFX class of 2021 in it.

Thank you.





## **CAPTAIN'S ADDRESS FOR THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2021**

Well, who would've thought this would be the way our schooling journey ends? It's all a bit surreal if you ask me.

To begin today I would like to first thank Mr Ptolemy for his leadership and wisdom throughout such a challenging year for both teachers and students. It was obvious that the decisions you made as our leader such as, keeping the library open late and the running of seminars, had only our best interests in mind. We are also grateful for the wisdom you bestowed on us week in, week out at assembly, and even though Liam

may not have been listening to the rest of us have certainly gained some important lessons heading into our future endeavours.

I would next like to thank, Mr Brown and Mr Mulhearn for their expertise in organising timetables, classes and exam blocks. It wouldn't be an easy job with 100 students let alone 500 and you both managed to always find a way to make things work when we wanted to drop and/or change subjects.

To Miss Lederwasch and Miss Mowbray. Thank you both for keeping us all in good spirits over the past two years. It has certainly not been easy to stay motivated and focus on the task at hand but with your daily prayers and mindfulness activities we have been able to stay in touch with the important things in life.

I would also like to thank Miss McLoughlin and Miss Philips for their tireless efforts of keeping us all update to date with important NESA and UAC dates. I would also like to thank you both for the countless emails regarding potential job opportunities.

To Miss Hoey and all the library staff. Thank you for always ensuring that we had a quiet space to study that was full of an endless range of useful resources. It has greatly assisted our studies so thank you.

I would like to thank all the support staff right across the school. You have all provided us with guidance in our studies and have made our journey, so we thank you.

To the house coordinators. Mr Mitchel, Ms Beletich, Ms Begley and Ms Gollan. We would all like to thank you for everything you have done over the past two years. From welcoming us on our first day, to organising our formal and assisting with any EAS application we have made it is greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank all the tutor group teachers for being there every morning to wake our sleep deprived selves up for the day ahead and ensuring that we had taken on and understand all the upcoming events and notices. We also would like to thank you for taking time out of your own lives to make our three days away on retreat so enjoyable and fulfilling.

As you might remember at the start of the year, I based my speech around the idea of making good choices. I went out and found a quote from NFL champion, Tom Brady on this idea and tried to claim it as my own, but the truth is I may have stolen this idea from someone else. For those of you who have had the privilege of being in Ms McCowan's class you would know that she ends just about every lesson by saying "Make good choices" so I would just like to apologise to Miss for stealing her thunder, even if she would never get up here and say it herself. On this note, thanks to all the teachers and subject coordinators for always challenging us to do and be our best whilst also preparing us for these upcoming exams. You have all put us in the best place possible to achieve our goals even in the midst of what was most certainly one of the toughest HSC years ever.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to lead this great community to the best of my ability. It has been an absolute pleasure and most certainly one of the best choices I have ever made. Congratulations to you all for making it to this day and good luck for the HSC. May you all achieve your future goals and I look forward to catching up with you all for a beverage or two in the not too distant future.

Thank you!



Last Thursday Dominik Brymora, Sophia De Marchi, Mia Pennington and Logan Dalton represented the College at the Remembrance Day Service at Gregson Park, Hamilton.

Sophia and Mia were flag orderlies, Dominik laid the tribute and Logan recited the Ode.

We thank these students for representing St Francis Xavier's College.







# ASPIRE

MUSIC.DANCE.DRAMA

## CREATE CHOREOGRAPHIC PROJECT

<https://aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au>

Please refer to the ASPIRE website for all ASPIRE information, forms, updates, photos and the newsletter from the Artistic Director

ASPIRE is again collaborating with internationally recognised Newcastle-based company Catapult Dance in 2022.

Building on the success of previous programs, the Create Choreographic Project will offer students enrolled in schools in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle the opportunity to participate in an intensive contemporary dance and collaborative choreographic program.

Students will be provided with a dance and performance art experience that is inclusive, non-competitive, creative and collaborative, and that reflects the working processes of the professional industry. Students will be encouraged to have a voice, and present their thoughts and ideas in a studio setting at the end of the program.

The Create Choreographic Project will run from Monday 28 February 2021 to Friday 4 March 2022.

Dancers will be split into Junior (Years 4–6) and Senior (Years 7–12) groups to create an original piece to perform. They will work alongside professional choreographers at Catapult Dance's studio in Newcastle West.

Secondary students need to have dance training. Primary students must have a genuine interest in and flair for dance, but don't necessarily have to attend dance lessons outside of school.

Students can register for the program by filling out an application form, which must be signed by a parent/carer and teacher from their school. Please forward completed forms via email to [anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au)

Scholarship places are available for students in genuine need of financial assistance. Please contact Anne Atkins for further information.

## PROJECT DATES

## COST

<b>Junior</b>	Monday 28 February 2021 – Tuesday 1 March 2022	9.00am – 3.00pm	\$60.00
<b>Senior</b>	Wednesday 2 March 2022 – Friday 4 March 2022	9.00am – 3.00pm	\$90.00

To register please complete the form overleaf and return to Anne Atkins  
[anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au) or call Anne Atkins on 02 4979 1331 for more information.

# ASPIRE



Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
School: \_\_\_\_\_ Student email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/carer name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent mobile number: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Why do you wish to be part of the ASPIRE Create Choreographic Project?

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What dance experience do you have?

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Signed (Parent/Carer): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Application supported by (school teacher within the diocese)

Signed (Teacher): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# ENROLMENTS FOR YEAR 11, 2022

## *Now Open*

### St Francis Xavier's College Hamilton



To apply for  
2022 Enrolment  
into Year 11

Please email

[admin@hamilton.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@hamilton.catholic.edu.au)

with the following information and an enrolment package will be posted to you.



- ✓ Student's Name
- ✓ Student's Current School
- ✓ Parent/s, Carer/s Name/s
- ✓ Parent/s, Carer/s postal address including post code
- ✓ Parent/s, Carer/s mobile phone number
- ✓ Parent/s, Carer/s email address





## Important School Dates

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### Term 4

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|-----------------------|--|
| ✓ Friday, 3 December  | HSC Written Exams conclude   |
| ✓ Friday, 3 December  | Year 12 Graduation Dinner<br>Newcastle Entertainment Centre<br>Ticketed event only |
| ✓ Friday, 10 December | Classes conclude for Year 12, 2022 students  |



### St Francis Xavier's College

Address: 286 Parkway Avenue, Hamilton  
Office: Hebburn Street, Hamilton  
Postal: PO Box 300, Hamilton NSW 2303  
Telephone: (02) 4961 2863  
Email: [admin@hamilton.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@hamilton.catholic.edu.au)  
Web Site: [www.hamilton.catholic.edu.au](http://www.hamilton.catholic.edu.au)

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#### Switch/Reception

Hours: 8:00 am until 3:30 pm

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#### Finance Office

Hours: 8:30 am to 3:00 pm  
Email: [hml-finance@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:hml-finance@mn.catholic.edu.au)

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#### Student Services

Hours: 8:00 am until 3:15 pm  
Telephone: (02) 4961 2110  
Email: [hml-studentservices@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:hml-studentservices@mn.catholic.edu.au)

*All student related phone calls can be made directly to the Student Services.  
If the phone is unattended please leave a message.*

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#### Uniform Shop

Telephone: 0413 474 519  
Email: [stfrancisxaviers@alinta.com.au](mailto:stfrancisxaviers@alinta.com.au)

#### Uniform Shop opening hours during school terms are:

Tuesday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm  
Thursday 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Payments can be made direct to Alinta Apparel in the form of cash, credit card, or debit credit card.

Shop Online at [www.alintaapparel.com.au](http://www.alintaapparel.com.au)