



Lighthouse

Volume 36 Number 8

23 September 2020

Dear Members of the SFX Community

FAREWELL YEAR 12

After what must surely be one of the most unusual final years ever, this week we prepare to say farewell to our Year 12 students as they enter their last days of secondary learning. Our celebrations this week will include rolling Graduation Assemblies and the scripts from the accompanying speeches have been included in this edition of The Lighthouse. The Year 12 Semester 2 Awards will be a feature of these assemblies and the list of Award Recipients also appears later in this volume.

...AND VIRGINIA WOODS

After a distinguished and celebrated career educating students about the life-giving vitality of all things literary, Mrs Woods has decided to move to other new and exciting life ventures as of the end of this term. For all those who have experienced her passion for learning and commitment in helping students reach their capacity, you will know exactly how valued Virginia has been as a long-standing member of the English staff, and also how deeply her presence will be missed.

Thank you, Virginia, for your exceptional contribution to learning in the college and for the treasured memories that you have created amongst colleagues and students alike.

TELL THEM FROM ME SURVEY

The diocese has decided to utilise this survey tool across the breadth of the system to provide ongoing data regarding the progress of our schools. I would encourage you to undertake this survey when the opportunity arises. More details will appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

ENJOY THE BREAK

Finally, I would just like to take this opportunity to wish all our families a safe and refreshing break. I encourage the Year 12 students to re-energise themselves before embracing one final push in preparation for the HSC examinations. Similarly, Year 11 should be taking some time to renew, before they commence their HSC studies in earnest next term.

May God bless.

Greg Ptolemy
Principal

GRADUATING ADDRESS
BY GREG PTOLEMY, PRINCIPAL OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S COLLEGE
FOR THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2020

I have a suspicion that almost every farewell speech this year will make reference to an 'unprecedented' year. It is likely that many will speak of lost opportunities, before venturing down the path of the hope-filled possibilities that lie ahead. And these responses seem very reasonable to me, given the year that has been.

As I prepared to follow down this very same path myself, seeking profound inspiration and wisdom from some of the greatest minds in history...Cicero, Aristotle, Plato...I instead found myself drawn to Monty Python.

Now, I am painfully aware that some of our students may have never heard of Monty Python, but I am hopeful that our parents and carers might be able to explain something of their absurd humour to you. The Monty Python team had a wonderful way of inviting us to laugh in the face of adversity, to 'always look on the bright side of life' and thus their 'insights' seemed exceptionally fitting for this oration.

I am not sure about each of you, but I know that in my youth, every time I complained about the difficulties or challenges of life, I was quickly given a reminder of just how lucky I was. My parents (and teachers) never missed an opportunity to remind me that I didn't really know what hardship meant.

And it was this theme that was captured wonderfully by the Monty Python crew who teamed up with Tim Brooke-Taylor from The Goodies in the comic skit The Four Yorkshiremen.

In the skit, four elder statesmen are gathered, enjoying some quality wine together, and reflecting in awe at just how far they have come in life.

However, what begins as a shared story, quickly becomes a scenario of one-upmanship about how tough their individual lives had been in their youth.

In speaking of their poverty, one commences with the assertion that he was happy because his family had nothing! They lived in a tiny house, with holes in the roof.

In response, one of his colleagues suggests that his friend was lucky to have a house, as his own family of 26 lived in one room, with no furniture and half the floor missing.

Not to be outdone, a third member of the group insists that a room would have been palatial in his eyes, as his family only had a corridor.

The fourth and final member of the quartet counters that he could only dream of living in a corridor, as he lived in an old water tank on a rubbish tip.

Well, the initial teller of sorry tales, realising that his misery now seems paltry when compared to the others, restructures his version by suggesting that his 'house' was actually a hole with a tarp over it.

And so the storytelling becomes ever more absurd, as living in a small shoebox in the middle of the road becomes defined as 'luxury' by the man who had to live with his family of 150 in a rolled up newspaper.

Finally, they muse at the end of the sketch "you try and tell the young people today that...and they won't believe ya."

In a similar vein, I look back on the stories of my own parents and I must admit that I certainly didn't believe them either, for whilst they were not quite as expansive as the Monty Python crew, they also never let the truth get in the way of a good story, as I heard often about bareback horse riding to school or walking 14 kms each way every day.

And, of course, I have continued such traditions with my own family, telling my children that I had to ride a bike 20 kms in -4 degree temperatures, after which I had to sprint to catch up with the school bus, and leap on it while it was still moving because it didn't actually slow down for passengers...and then I would take out my Extension Maths homework that I hadn't been able to finish because my teachers had no idea how much time it really took...

I suspect that my own children don't really believe me either...

And why is this relevant to you, Year 12? Well, simply because I believe that you may be one of those rare groups in history who will never need to embellish your story – you will simply tell your children the truth...and they still won't believe a word you tell them, because this year has been nothing if not unbelievable...

You will not need to make up tales about walking to school uphill both ways in the snow to impress them with the hardships you faced, because you will regale them with the challenges of surviving Zoom lessons with staff who had no idea how to share their screens, impossibly poor internet connectivity (though I suspect that this was somewhat selective), physically distanced group work in Drama, ensemble Music performances by yourself, solitary isolation and confinement in your own houses, classrooms without teachers because they actually were not allowed to come to school, spraying down desks at the commencement of lessons, socially distanced examinations, individually packaged foods, and Zoom assemblies where you were asked to mime the Sub Tuum...Your major works requirements were modified, the Trial and HSC exams rescheduled...and you were taught that none of you knew how to wash your hands...You were socially outcast when your hayfever played up, contact sport was only possible as long as you stayed 1.5 metres apart, and you could only contact friends on social media rather than in person...You will even be able to tell them that you couldn't buy a toilet roll for a while there!

And your children simply won't believe you...

As I reflect back on all of the things that you have faced this year, I cannot help but sense the prophetic weight of the Marist theme for 2020, that somehow foresaw the events that were to take hold not just of our own lives, but of our entire world. I remember inviting each of you at the Commissioning Ceremony, to accept the challenge of this "one wild and precious life" and live it fully.

I now have a tremendous sense of awe at the way you have responded individually and collectively to this challenge.

I have a very real sense Year 12, that somewhere in the midst of all this turmoil, we have been presented with a unique opportunity to embrace a greater wisdom about what is important in life.

While there has been so much heartache in our world, we have been constantly reminded of just how vital social justice is, and why it is such an important tenet of our College.

We have seen individuals struggle with their mental health and been reminded just how important it is for us to look out for one another.

We have been invited to a renewed understanding of family and friends. During the initial COVID lockdown, I remember looking out of my front window at the park across the road from my home and seeing a host of parents playing games with their children. I had seen those children many times, but I had never seen their parents. While the situation was less than ideal across our world, people were finding good within it, and finding ways to reconnect.

I remember reading once that ‘sometimes the worst things in life that happen to you can be the best things that happen to you, if you don't let the worst of it get the best of you’.

And as we have suggested many times this year, how you respond to circumstance is more important, more defining, more lasting than circumstance itself, and when you look back on this difficult time, how you emerged from it will help define you.

Year 12...Life will bring many opportunities and many obstacles. Pursue the opportunities; be persistent and patient as you learn through the obstacles.

Do not stress over the things that you cannot control, but control the things you can.

Remember to look out for others. If ever there has been a time to serve others, it is now.

Be good to people – not because you will reap a reward, but because ultimately, it is simply the right thing to do. If more people make such a choice, we won't be fighting over toilet paper in 2021.

Remember to wash your hands...and as you do, think of the great stories that you will tell your children and grandchildren because of this year...you will be richer and greater people because of these stories.

We are so proud of how you have journeyed with us, and of how you have risen to each challenge.

May God Bless you Year 12 and all the very best for the future.



CAPTAIN'S ADDRESS FOR THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2020

Good morning Mr Ptolemy, teachers, parents and fellow students

WOW what a year 2020 has been! Who would have thought that we would have completed our 13 years of schooling amidst a global pandemic? Looking back on the Marist theme for this year “one wild and precious life”, I cannot help but think that no other theme could be more apt than this. Never could our lives have been more precious than this year and never would we have thought the ride would have been as wild as the one we have faced. Through these times of adversity, we have been strong and resilient. We have gained a renewed appreciation of the fragility of time and the gift of health and life. We have had to learn to appreciate the small things, the special moments, embrace challenges we would have never imagined, and gain a perspective on the things that really matter.

We have only been able to do this with the wonderful support of our families and most importantly, the SFX school community. In our two years here at SFX I can happily say that there have been many positives. The endless sporting opportunities provided to us last year, House Days, SFX Day, Battle of the Bands, HSC and Beyond Day, school excursions and many more have given us opportunities to grow as individuals and these memories will stay with us forever. Although these opportunities were not present this year, we have been lucky to find alternate ways to ensure that we still have fun, including House Days. The enjoyment experienced by both Years 11 and 12 by participating in these days has been a testament to the community spirit that continues to thrive despite the circumstances.

When I look at us Year 12, I see hundreds of individuals each with our own unique narrative. Everyone has faced their own hardships this year, but we have made it, and I think most importantly it has proved a point; that we are stronger than we think we are. We can sometimes fear going beyond ourselves, struggling to say yes to an adventure, however this year has been one big adventure, and we are all better for facing this and overcoming it in our final year of schooling. Like you all are, I am excited about the prospect of what lies ahead for us. Whether we pursue extra education or work, I am grateful for the friendships we have forged during our years here at SFX. On behalf of you the students, I would like to thank Mr Ptolemy, Mrs Lederwasch and all the staff for their hard work and for supporting us in our studies and guiding us to fulfil our potential at school.

I am extremely honoured to have been in the position of school captain this year despite the absence of many opportunities, and I'd like to thank you for allowing me this honour. It has given me an immense sense of pride to be part of such a great group of peers and staff here at SFX. From the bottom of my heart I wish you all best of luck in the upcoming exams. Congratulations to us all. We survived, and will continue to grow because of our experiences this year. With all that, I leave you with a quote from Dr Seuss, an author we first became familiar with as small children. Such simple messages for children with such brilliant words of wisdom for adults: and this particular quote inspires me “ **Life's too short to wake up with regrets. So love the people who treat you right, forgive the ones who don't and believe that everything happens for a reason. If you get a chance, take it. If it changes your life, let it. Nobody said it'd be easy they just promised it would be worth it**” – Dr Seuss

Thankyou



CAPTAIN'S ADDRESS FOR THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2020

Good Morning Students, Teachers, Friends,

Our Marist theme, One Wild And Precious Life, very early into 2020 became very fitting. I struggled to write this speech or even find a way to start it because how do I even begin to explain the year we had? This year we battled nation-wide bushfires, international social unrest and the coronavirus pandemic,

something that none of us were prepared for.

However, as we continued through the year I feel as though something has changed drastically. I feel we became more empathetic. While views may vary, we all want the same outcome, a safe and happy world. This very well may be the most difficult year we will ever endure but will also be the year we can look back and reflect on as the year that defined us.

At the beginning of the year I challenged you all, to not back away from fear but rather embrace the challenges and come out the other side a better person for it. I'm proud to say that we all embraced the challenges that we ran into, whether it was the early morning Zoom calls or making a conscious decision to create change in our world, we all excelled. I can already see the personal growth in each and every one of us and there is so much more to come.

I personally struggled to get excited this year when thinking about the future because how do we even move forward from this year? The more I reflect the better I feel now. Looking around our school and seeing so many great human beings, I have faith we will leave the world better than it was. We are a strong, unified group and unity is far more important than talent. This has been a year of triumph and I have learnt so much from all of you, lessons that I will never forget.

To say I am proud of us all both as a cohort and as individuals would be an understatement. Seeing us all rise to the occasion has been a beautiful sight and I am sure you can all agree. These unprecedented times has shifted my perspective and you have all inspired. Thank you for these past two years. It has been an absolute honour to be your College Captain.

YEAR 12

2020 SEMESTER 2

ACADEMIC AWARDS

The Academic Awards are an opportunity to recognise those students who have been placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in a course or who have been awarded Academic Achievement due to being ranked in the top 5% of the course cohort. The Semester 2

Congratulations to the College students who received Awards

FOUR AWARDS

Jade Clout

Mathematics Standard 2	Second Place
Legal Studies	Third Place
Business Studies	Academic Achievement
Studies of Religion 2 Unit	Academic Achievement

Gretal McMillan

Community & Family Studies	Second Place
English Standard	Academic Achievement
Mathematics Standard 2	Academic Achievement
Personal Development Health & Physical Education	Academic Achievement

Max Moser-Finch

Engineering Studies	First Place
Mathematics Extension 1	First Place
Physics	First Place
English Advanced	Third Place

Avena Munro

Ancient History	Second Place
Biology	Second Place
Chemistry	Second Place
Mathematics Extension 1	Second Place

Tess Piper

Society & Culture	First Place
Studies of Religion 2 Unit	Second Place
Business Studies	Third Place
English Advanced	Academic Achievement

THREE AWARDS

Serafina Angeli

Legal Studies	First Place
English Advanced	Academic Achievement
Studies of Religion 1 Unit	Academic Achievement

Julian Craven

Geography	First Place
Mathematics Standard 2	Second Place
Studies of Religion 2 Unit	Academic Achievement

Olivia Dent

Business Studies	First Place
Legal Studies	Second Place
Studies of Religion 2 Unit	Academic Achievement

Lilliana Francisci

French Beginners	First Place
Mathematics Standard 2	Second Place
Biology	Academic Achievement

Sophie Gillogly

Economics	First Place
Studies of Religion 2 Unit	Third Place
English Advanced	Academic Achievement

Ivy Griffin

English Advanced	First Place
Society & Culture	First Place
Studies of Religion 2 Unit	First Place

Matilda Mason

Personal Development Health & Physical Education	First Place
Earth & Environmental Science	Second Place
Mathematics Standard 2	Academic Achievement

Angus Nichol

Science Extension	First Place
English Standard	Academic Achievement
Personal Development, Health & Physical Education	Academic Achievement

Sophie O'Sullivan

Community & Family Studies	First Place
Mathematics Standard 2	Second Place
Biology	Academic Achievement

Jessica Pelley

History Extension	First Place
Modern History	Third Place
English Advanced	Academic Achievement

Orla Sheridan

Modern History	Second Place
English Advanced	Academic Achievement
Studies of Religion 2 Unit	Academic Achievement

TWO AWARDS

Max Anderson

Chemistry	Third Place
Biology	Academic Achievement

Tristan Antonini

Industrial Technology	First Place
Software Design & Development	First Place

Louis Blackford

Earth & Environmental Science	First Place
Studies of Religion 1 Unit	Academic Achievement

Cloe Burchell

English Studies	First Place
Catholic Studies	Academic Achievement

TWO AWARDS *[continued]*

Chelsea Chapman

Textiles and Design	First Place
Mathematics Standard 2	Second Place

Dylan Chircop

Mathematics Extension 2	First Place
Mathematics Extension 1	Second Place

Dalton Deverell

Modern History	First Place
Biology	Academic Achievement

Emily Eather

Ancient History	First Place
VET Hospitality	First Place

Logan Ellis

English Studies	First Place
Mathematics Standard 2	Second Place

Brianna George

Chemistry	First Place
Biology	Academic Achievement

Jessica Hay

English Studies	First Place
Exploring Early Childhood	First Place

Isabella Jackson

English Advanced	Academic Achievement
Personal Development, Health & Physical Education	Academic Achievement

Hayden King-Verbicaro

Industrial Technology	First Place
Biology	Second Place

Piper Lovett

Aboriginal Studies	First Place
Business Studies	Second Place

Angus Macbean

Mathematics Standard 2	Second Place
VET Construction	Second Place

Lucy Nicolas

Catholic Studies	First Place
VET Hospitality	Second Place

Ella Szkopkowski

Community & Family Studies	Third Place
Studies of Religion 2 Unit	Academic Achievement

Sharni Tilbrook

Industrial Technology	Second Place
Physics	Second Place

Georgia Worboys

Photography	First Place
VET Retail	First Place

Alexine Ziade

English Standard	Academic Achievement
Studies of Religion 2 Unit	Academic Achievement

ONE AWARD

Imogen Amodio

English Standard	First Place
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Jonah Anderson

Studies of Religion 2 Unit	Academic Achievement
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Chloe Anson-Smith

Music	First Place
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Kayla Arthur

Mathematics Standard 2	Academic Achievement
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Ashley Bamback

VET Entertainment	First Place
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Hudson Blanch

Information Processes and Technology	First Place
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Hannah Brown

Aboriginal Studies	First Place
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Geri Calman

VET Business Services	First Place
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Lucas Carroll

Economics	Second Place
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Alec Chapman

Catholic Studies	First Place
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Zoe Chapman

English Extension 2	First Place
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Jessica Cook

Ancient History	Second Place
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Samuel Daley

Sports Coaching	First Place
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Holly Davis

English Standard	Academic Achievement
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Luke Davison

Investigating Science	First Place
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Isabella Dunn

VET Hospitality	Third Place
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Oliver Flook

Mathematics Standard 1	First Place
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Ben Foster

Catholic Studies	Academic Achievement
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Jessica Gabb

English Standard	Academic Achievement
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Cameron Garbutt

English Studies	First Place
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Ava Gibson

Visual Art	First Place
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Jack Gleeson

Sport, Lifestyle & Recreation	First Place
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Chloe Goodwin

English Standard	Second Place
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ONE AWARD *[continued]*

Oliver Griffiths

Drama First Place

Katie Harrison

Studies of Religion 2 Unit Academic Achievement

James Heathcote

Personal Development Health
& Physical Education Second Place

Sophie James

Food Technology First Place

Ashley Janissen

Biology First Place

Jills Jijo

Studies of Religion 1 Unit Academic Achievement

Alkira Johnston

Mathematics Standard 2 First Place

Mikaela Jones

English Standard Academic Achievement

Mebin Liby

Mathematics Extension 1 Second Place

Jessamine Lobb

English Extension 1 First Place

Aiden Lovelace

Design and Technology First Place

Ellen Lowry

English Standard Academic Achievement

Holly McKelligott

English Standard Academic Achievement

Lillian Mackaway

Music Second Place

Ethan Manditch

Catholic Studies First Place

Erin Marley

Marine Studies First Place

Mia Martelli

VET Retail First Place

Joseph Mernagh

Catholic Studies Academic Achievement

Jake Michilis

VET Construction Second Place

Jessica Middleby

Community & Family Studies Academic Achievement

Luka Mockovic

Biology Academic Achievement

Jasmine Moore

Earth & Environmental Science Third Place

Zion Mose

Catholic Studies Academic Achievement

Lily Mullan

English Standard Academic Achievement

Melissa Newling

Modern History Third Place

Phoebe O'Dowd

English Standard Second Place

Elliot Paksec

Personal Development Health
& Physical Education Second Place

Thomas Parsons

VET Construction First Place

Adrian Pierdomenico

English Standard Academic Achievement

Phoebe Price

Investigating Science Second Place

Isobelle Proctor

Biology Academic Achievement

Logan Proctor

Studies of Religion 2 Unit Academic Achievement

Benjamin Rees

Personal Development Health
& Physical Education Second Place

Milah Riley

English Standard Academic Achievement

Charlotte Roberts

Catholic Studies Academic Achievement

Marli Ryan

Visual Art Second Place

Dana Shiels

Personal Development Health
& Physical Education Second Place

Tom Swain

Aboriginal Studies First Place

Ethan Trevor

VET Construction First Place

Heath Turner

English Standard Academic Achievement

Meghan Ward

Food Technology First Place

Will Watsford

Sport, Lifestyle & Recreation First Place

Ella Williamson

Mathematics Standard 2 Academic Achievement

The College also acknowledges all those students who have applied themselves fully, but who were not award recipients.



This week we mourn the loss of Kiera Hendry who was a long-term member of the English Faculty. Kiera's brave and dignified struggle with illness came to an end on Monday. She was a vibrant and passionate educator who served the community of St Francis Xavier's College with exceptional commitment and dedication. Her colleagues will miss her incisive mind, frankness and quirky humour. As a community, we keep Kiera, her family and friends in our prayers.

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her.

May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.



Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

Tell Them From Me Survey

All parents/carers at St Francis Xavier's College are invited to contribute to a community consultation survey. The survey is open from **Monday, 21 September 2020 to Thursday, 22 October 2020**.

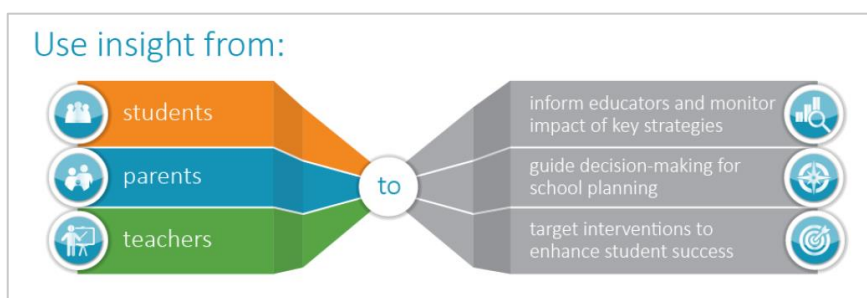
The survey is anonymous, voluntary and easy to use. It takes about 20 minutes to complete and covers parents' perceptions of the school's support for learning, positive behaviours, and the promotion of safety and inclusion.

Students in Years 4–12 will also participate in the survey during class time. Parents/carers will receive a non-consent note to sign and return to the school by Monday, 21 September 2020 if they do NOT want their child participating in the survey.

The insights we gain into parent and staff communication, activities and practices at home, and parent voice on the school's support of learning, faith formation and behaviour will build an accurate and timely picture that schools can use for practical improvements.

This is your chance to provide valuable feedback about your school and support school planning and future direction and we welcome your participation, suggestions and comments. The school community will receive findings and proposed actions for improvement following completion of the survey process.

If you have any problems or queries about the survey please contact Julia Lederwasch, Assistant Principal, Dean of Students.





Wellness and Wellbeing

Luke Baker
Wellbeing Support Co-ordinator

The end of the school year is fast approaching for both Year 11 and Year 12. As students move into the next phase of their lives, it is important to maintain a regular and healthy daily pattern to ensure that the mind is taken care of. Self-care is extremely important, and we are constantly reminded to “Check-in” with our own mental health.

REACHOUT.com provides excellent resources for students, parents and teachers to access for guidance when referring to self-help. Below is a poster from REACHOUT.com that reflects some easy and cost-effective ways to maintain a healthy routine.





Wellness and Wellbeing

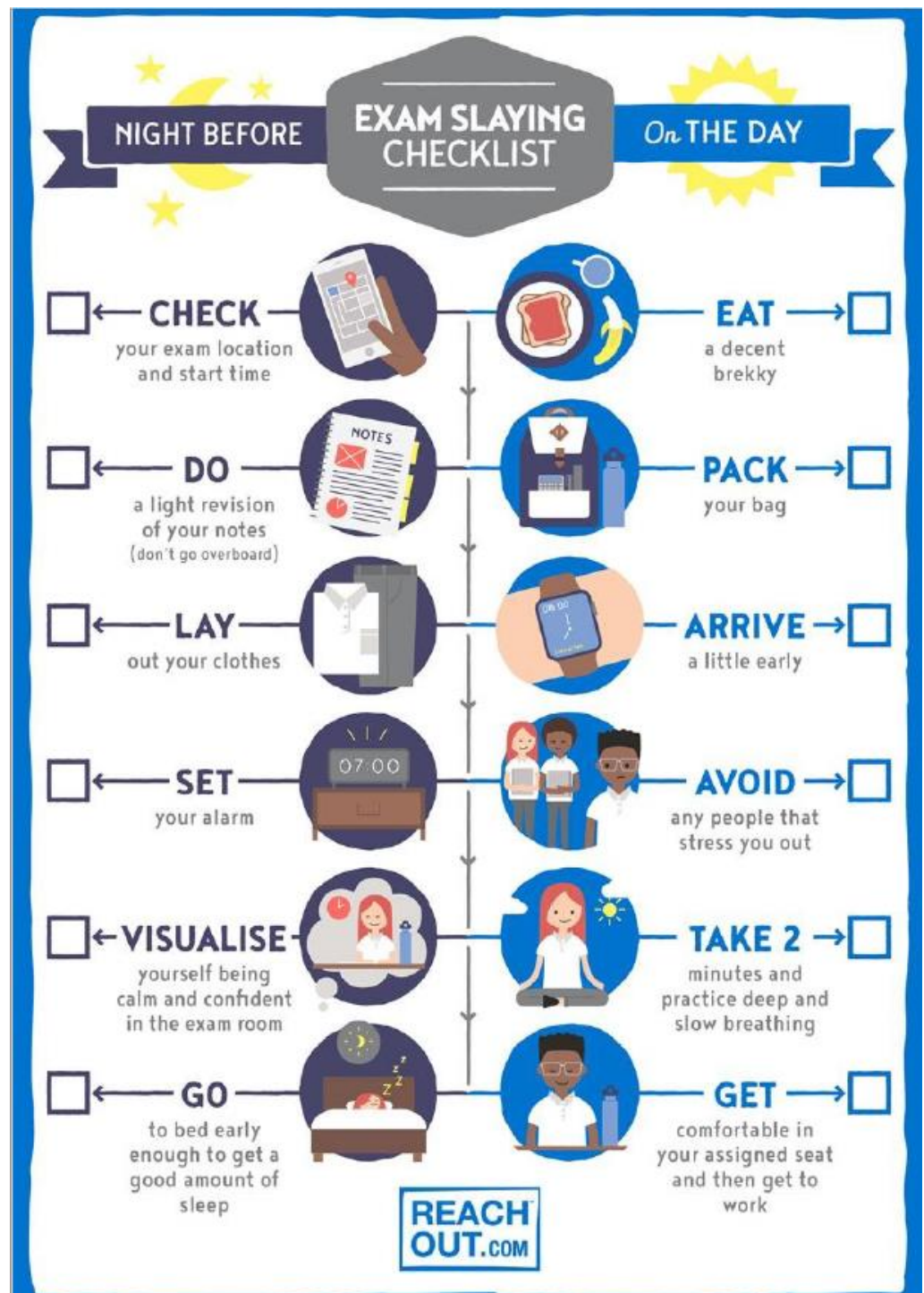
Luke Baker
Wellbeing Support Co-ordinator

Year 12 are almost there!

Their final HSC Examinations are now on their doorstep and the students will soon be free from their conventional schooling lives.

Year 12 are reminded that in the final approach to the examinations, that they may benefit from maintaining momentum to achieve their optimum results.

For some students that may be stuck at a “study crossroads” or are looking for a reminder of their study expectations, REACHOUT.com have provided this useful checklist to ensure that students are able to maintain momentum in the lead up to their final examinations.





McAuley House
Catherine McAuley



McAULEY and DOMINIC

Combined
House
Celebration
Day



Dominic House
St Dominic de Guzman





This year, a new competition for short story writing was launched at SFX. The quality of entries was very high, and we thank Mr Ptolemy for supporting this new venture. The stories had to start with the letter “W”, include a red umbrella and the word “frozen.”

The winner of our People’s Choice Award is **Jenae Isherwood Boyd** from Year 12 with her story “*Homemade*”. This was a heartfelt piece reminiscing on the small moments we have with family.

The winner of the Judges Choice Award is **Samuel Freire** from Year 11 with his story “*A Wanderer’s Final Thoughts*”. This story chronicled the final moments of a soldier and was a moving piece telling of the soldier’s anguish and pain.

We thank all entrants for their contributions and congratulate Jenae and Samuel for their efforts. They each have a \$30 Westfield voucher.

Please feel free to join in next year!

Bianca Sibert and Margaret Walker
Competition Organisers

PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARD

**Jenae
Isherwood Boyd**



Short Story

Homemade

Water dripped down out of the crack in the roof and into the metal pot, a consistent *tap, tap, tap*, echoing throughout the room, accompanied by the howling of the cool winter wind from outside, rattling the windows and swaying the trees from outside the building. Inside sat a young man, stomach grumbling. Reaching for his phone to order a pizza, he paused, hearing a small voice in the back of his mind scold- “*We have food at home!*”

Thinking back to the last time his mother visited; he recalled that she had left a shopping bag filled with pre-made meals for him. Standing up, he walked to the kitchen and opened the freezer, spotting it; a plastic Chinese food container, frozen as to keep it fresh. The lid had written on it- ‘*Lasagna*’. He grabbed out the container and cracked open the lid, then placing it into the microwave for two minutes- no longer, no less.

As the microwave hummed, he waited, closing his eyes and leaning back against the cabinets. He couldn’t help but remember back to another cold winter day, almost two decades ago.

It was a horrible, cold, dreary day, he had gotten off the school bus preparing to run home to avoid the downpour, only to see his mother standing at the bus stop, a bright red umbrella in hand, ready to walk him home. As they walked, they chatted about his day, he laughed as his mother recounted her day, waving her hands around as she pretended to be a pesky crow picking at her blueberry bushes. As they reached the top of the driveway, he smelled it- his mums’ famous home-made lasagna.

As they got inside his mother told him to set the table, so he grabbed out the cutlery, and the plates, and two glasses, placing them across from each other. He sat down, turning around in his chair to face his mum in the kitchen, asking, “*Do you want any help?*”, She shook her head- *no*, and placed his plate down in front of him, and then her own. She sat down across from him and smiled, placing a finger to her lips and whispering, “*Don’t tell anyone, but I gave you the bigger piece!*” To which he’d giggle, it was only them, after all.

The first bite was always the best, while his jacket and scarf kept the wind out, his mother’s cooking left him with warmth in his heart. He’d ask her how she made it so yummy, to which she’d smile, eyes crinkling, as she’d say- “*It’s made with love*”

He opened his eyes as the microwave beeped, the rain had since calmed down and the room warmed, the feeling of home surrounding him as he tenderly remembered his mother and her homemade meals.

JUDGES' CHOICE AWARD

Samuel Freire



Short Story

A Wanderer's Final Thoughts

*Or the ice, the inn,
and the light*

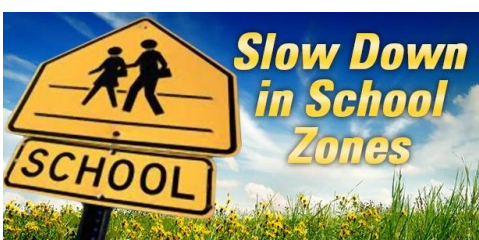
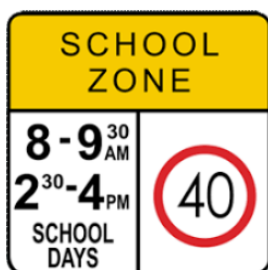
Wearing down his spirit, stumbling through the snowstorm, fighting to stay awake. The wind was howling like a blood-starved wolf in his near-frozen ears. Looking up, he could see a light in the distance.

He walked towards it, and the welcome sight of an inn faded into his vision. He tripped on a patch of ice, and when he stood back up, there was nothing but the frosted bullets falling from the clouds. He continued onwards, thinking of only three things: the ice, the inn and the light.

He continued to walk and saw a fellow wanderer in the snow to his right. A red curtain spread from the tip of an umbrella that was half-sheathed in the body. The tattered edges of the fabric blended with the crimson snow that held them down. He did not truly see what his eyes had witnessed, for he had no time to worry, and he had no time to care. He saw the faint glow ahead of him once again, and continued marching onward to escape his nightmare, to find his salvation, and to walk towards the only thing he knew: the ice, the inn and the light.

He marched for another eternity through the frozen battlefield. His knees hurt, his chest hurt, his head hurt. It was all hurt, and nothing but hurt. He continued to march, the snow almost at his waist. He continued to march because he knew nothing else. An empty shell marched, for if he didn't keep fighting, how could he be saved? For now, he focused on all but three things: He must march through hell to arrive at heaven by following the angel. These three things he knew, and these three were enough: the ice, the inn, and the light.

Knees breaking down, arms giving out, and ears long past frostbitten. He could no longer hear the wind, and he could no longer hold his arm up to see the light. He fell to the floor, and frozen bullets tore up his face. He turned over in the snow, and finally, laying face down, he used his well saved energy to scream for help. Nothing but a faint wheezing could be heard, a whistle from his bare vocal chords. He had no way to escape this fate and finally lowered his shield. He fought valiantly with all he could, but now he was forced to yield. He had heard of miracles before and prayed for a heavenly ghost to come save his soul, but what was one soldier in the eyes of the lords, and in such a cruel world, some prayers go ignored. He wanted to march on, but the battle was lost. The dice was loaded from the start, but he rolled in spite of his heart. And now his spirit had finally realized that two of his three truths were just hopeful lies. He now saw the truth as he met his demise: right from the start, there was nothing but ice.





In Round 4 of the Mock Trial competition, St Francis Xavier's College was required to defend a client against a civil claim that she had unduly influenced the creation of a Will and was therefore not entitled to a share in the estate of the deceased, being a house in Newtown.

We were opposed by St Pius X High School in a Zoom trial. Our team was:

Barristers: **Angus O'Connor, Michelle Tapera**

Solicitor: **Jacqui Dorian**

Witnesses: **Jewelín Jijo** (the defendant)

Emily Vidler (friend of the deceased)

Court Official: **Sara Muscat**

We were able to present a well prepared and compelling case and effectively tested the evidence of the plaintiff.

The Magistrate dismissed the claim and Miss Jijo was able to keep the Newtown house.

Congratulations to everyone in the team on a great team effort and special thanks to Bryce Morrison who generously assisted our preparations.

Tony Stone

HSIE Co-ordinator



Marine Studies YEAR 11

As part of their work on Maritime Employment, Year 11 Marine Studies students dissected Luderick and investigated their systems and organs.



St Francis Xavier's College



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

YEAR 12, 2020

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, our College St Vincent de Paul Society group has not been operating since last March.

However, certificates of appreciation for their generosity have been awarded to 19 members from Year 12 who attended meetings regularly for at least a term or so and who assisted in our various activities.

These people are:

Liam Block, Rori Candian, Zoe Chapman, Zoe Dingle, Josie Dombkins, Isabella Dunn, Alice Gibbs, Noah Guest, Joseph Hinchey, Isabelle Huber, Elizabeth Hughes, Jessamine Lobb, Sarah Malone, Luka Mockovic, Emily Pearse, Jessica Pelley, Delaney Tanusovski, Sharni Tilbrook and Bethany Woods.

As well, there was a 'Farewell/Thanks Lunch' for these members at the college last week.



THE AWARDEES

Outstanding and Sustained Commitment
to St Vincent de Paul Society Activities
2019 - 2020

Back Row	Delaney Tanusovski, Sharni Tilbrook, Isabella Dunn, Liam Block
Front Row	Jessamine Lobb, Zoe Crawford, Sarah Malone, Bethany Woods
Absent	Josie Dombkins, Isabelle Huber, Emily Pearse, Jessica Pelley



LIBRARY HOURS

Monday	8.10am – 4.15pm
Tuesday	8.10am – 3.30pm
Wednesday	8.10am – 4.15pm
Thursday	8.10am – 4.15pm
Friday	8.10am – 3.30pm

Julie Hoey
Teacher Librarian

AFTER SCHOOL STUDY

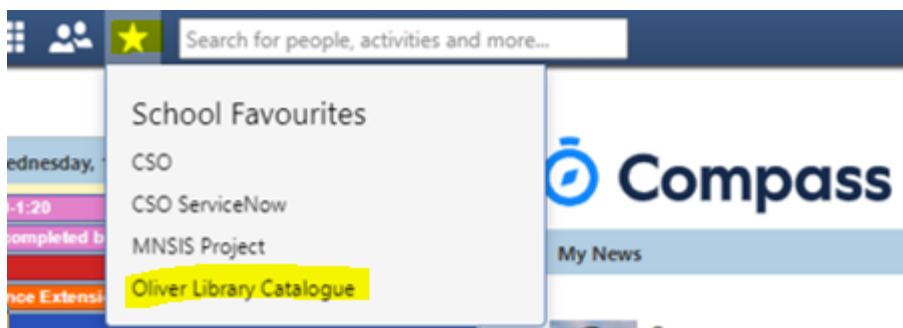
After school study is on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, with teachers on duty to assist.

ONLINE NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTIONS

Staff and students can now read *The Newcastle Herald* and *The Sydney Morning Herald* digital editions, including back editions. Features of the digital editions include saving pages or articles to pdf, generating print-friendly versions, and read out loud tools. For links and instructions, head to the library webpage via the Compass Favourites star, and click on the Newcastle Herald or Sydney Morning Herald button.

eBOOK TRIAL

Until the end of September, students and staff can borrow and read titles from Wheelers eBooks, including audio books. There's an App you can download to let you read on your phone or tablet. Links and instructions are on the library page.



CLICKVIEW

Don't forget there are heaps of excellent resources to support you and your studies on ClickView. Go to online.clickview.com.au and login using your SFX email address. Libraries include the SFX collection, where library and teaching staff have selected videos specifically for our students' needs.

St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton

▶ ClickView
Secondary Library

▶ ClickView
Movies + TV

PRINTING

To add funds to their printing account, students may now use:

- EFTPOS (from 9:15am – 2:30pm daily)
- QKR App 9select ‘printing recharge’)
- Cash is also still accepted

NEW BOOKS

We are always on the lookout for resources to support our students and their studies. We recently purchased a bundle of critically acclaimed books to support the need for students to read widely for their English subjects. Be sure to grab one before you leave for the holidays.



CONSTRUCTION YEAR 11

Currently students are completing the unit 'Apply Basic Levelling Procedures'. Levelling.

The class are learning how to use automatic levels and associated equipment to set out a 2 metre x 2 metre square building out lay. The equipment used are hurdles, pegs, spirit levels, sledgehammers, string lines, drills and impact drivers, and automatic levels.

The students pictured are setting out the building profiles and string lines using Pythagoras to square one of the corners of the build and then using string lines to set up the 2 metre x 2 metre outlay.

Jonathan Hall
Construction Teacher



HOSPITALITY YEAR 12

Our hospitality students while studying for their Trial and HSC Examinations have also been working diligently to complete their Certificate II in Hospitality. Over the past few months, they have completed:

- 35 hours work placement in the College Café.
- A service period with DARA.
- The Senior First Aid Certificate.
- The Methods of Cookery Practical Assessment , involving the service of a Two Course Menu using six cookery methods in a timed service period, served as takeaway due to COVID restrictions. During this time, they prepared for and served 215 very happy customers over three sessions.

All of this while negotiating and adapting to the ever changing hygiene challenges posed by COVID 19. This not only included social distancing, but use of masks, gloves, new packing requirements, online ordering and continual sanitising of service areas.

The camaraderie, enjoyment and skills gained have been invaluable.

Congratulations and well done!

You should feel very proud of your efforts.

Kerrie Burnes, Samantha Middleton and Krissy Owen



HOSPITALITY YEAR 12



Certificate 11 in Hospitality : Senior First Aid Certificate



SPORTING SPOTLIGHT



Jack Simmons
Football

YEAR 12 FOOTBALL

Jack started playing football when he signed up with the U6's Kotara South Tigers team in 2008. The ability and skills he demonstrated in his younger years saw him progress through the representative ranks very quickly. He has been playing with the Newcastle Youth Team in the Northern NSW National Premier League since he was 15 and excelled in that competition.

In October 2018 Newcastle Jets awarded Jack a scholarship and contract and on 20 April 2019 and at 17 years two months Jack became the third youngest debutant in Newcastle's A-League history when he was selected in the Jets squad.

Jack played 20 minutes off the bench in Newcastle's penultimate-round 6-1 win against Brisbane Roar. His coach at the time Bernie Merrick said of the midfielder [number 10] *"He's creative, he's quick, he's very good technically and he's a good dribbler, on the ball"*.

His other credible achievements include:

- Newcastle Jets FC – U10's to A-League Squad - 10 years.
- 2017 and at 15 years of age -selected in the Australian Joeys-U15's that competed at the world Cup qualifiers in Thailand.
- Member of the U17 Australian team – participated in a friendly tournament in Turkey.
- 2018 toured China with the Jets and came on as substitute to score a goal in Newcastle's 2-0 win against high-profile Super League outfit Shanghai Shenhua.
- Multiple features throughout Hyundai A-League 19-20 season on the bench.
- 2019 Hyundai A-League Debut against Brisbane Roar in a 6-1 win at Suncorp Stadium.
- Multiple preseason games/FFA cup games with A-League squad including a goal on debut against Shanghai Shenhua in the Super Champions Cup tournament in Haikou, China.
- 2019 – selected in 30-player training camp held in Canberra (the first step towards selection in the Australian Joeys squad to compete against 23 other nations).



Before COVID and whilst completing his Year 12 studies, Jack was participating in Jets team training 4-5 times a week with a game on the weekend - including twice a week with the Jets senior squad and twice a week with the youth team. Team trainings were held in the morning and afternoons. Part of this training includes weights training. School holidays requires Jack to train full time with the Jets first team. However, when COVID restrictions 'spilled over' into the sporting arena Jack had to make a choice - train with the A team fulltime or finish his Year 12 commitments and train fulltime with the youth team. He chose the latter and as he said, 'a short-term sacrifice for a long-term goal'. When Jack completes Year 12, he will complete the remainder of his contract with Newcastle Jets FC.

Jack's schedule requires him to be super organised. He packs his lunch and college uniform before heading off to training and then school. Assisting him to manage his schedule are his family and friends. If time allows, Jack socialises with his mates on the weekend. This catch up allows him to take a breather from his studies and hectic sport schedule. Jack is very passionate about football. He has been playing nearly his whole life! He loves that football has allowed him to develop many friendships and presented him with the opportunity to play competitively both nationally and internationally. Jack's goals are twofold – firstly he would like to finish his Year 12 studies and gain entry to University and secondly, he would like to play professionally abroad. Watch this space!

Representative Surfing

SFX has a long and proud tradition in surfing, boasting a current QS level surfer, former CT surfers and of course a four time world champion!

However, our most recent success has been in the rapidly advancing area of women's surfing.

In 2019 our girls' team (**Maddison Poole** and **Amelie Bourke**) were state champions in the teams section and selected to go to the national titles. Amelie and **Ellie Lambkin** this year also attended the 2020 State Titles held in the Coffs Harbour area as part of the Newcastle Regional Team. Ellie made it through to the semi-finals and Amelie progressed through to the final and finished in second place.

This saw Amelie selected as part of the NSW All Stars team to compete at the National Titles. A most impressive effort by Amelie with back to back selection to the national schools surfing titles (*never before achieved by an SFX student!*) Unfortunately, at this stage the National Titles are unlikely to be held but it is still a fantastic effort by a very talented and committed surfer.

With Ellie moving into Year 12 next year I am hoping this tradition of a strong representation in regional, state and national surfing continues.

Well done to both girls on their outstanding efforts this year.

Justin Gordon



Amelie Bourke



Ellie Lambkin



CAREER NEWS

**Check your emails
on a regular basis!**

*Julie McLoughlin
Ashley Phillips*

Careers Coordinators

*E: julie.mcloughlin@mn.catholic.edu.au
E: ashley.phillips@mn.catholic.edu.au*

Because your last day at SFX is Friday 25 September, don't think that we will not be here to continue with advice if required!

You can always email us with questions or make a booking via email.

Good luck with whatever you undertake!

Julie McLoughlin and Ashley Phillips

UAC Key Dates

Early bird closing

Early bird closing is midnight on Wednesday **30 September**, after which UAC's processing fee rises to \$200.

Schools Recommendation Schemes

A reminder that student applications for SRS will be closing earlier this year at midnight on Sunday **20 September**. School ratings close at midnight on Wednesday 30 September.

Schools Recommendation Scheme Scholarships-Newcastle University

Students who receive an early offer through the Schools Recommendation Scheme may also be eligible for over 40 scholarships.

Faculty of Education and Arts Scholars Program has 15 scholarships available with preference given to those eligible in the November round of offers.

Faculty of Science has four scholarships available with preference given to those eligible in the November round of offers.

Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment has 25 SRS Excellence Scholarships available with preference given to those eligible in the November round of offers.

Faculty of Business and Law has standalone SRS Excellence Scholarships for programs within Newcastle Business School with preference given to those eligible in the November round of offers.

There are also six **Shaping Futures Scholarships** with reference given to those eligible in the November round of offers.

UNSW

UNSW Sydney has introduced the world's first undergraduate degree in Quantum Engineering, in response to a growing need for a workforce that can help Australia share in a multi-billion dollar industry.

The Bachelor of Quantum Engineering will train students in advanced electronics and telecommunication engineering, specialising in how to design and control complex quantum systems. The degree will cover nanoelectronics, microwave engineering and quantum technologies for advanced sensors, secure communications and computing.

Charles Sturt University and NSW Police Force

Charles Sturt and the NSW Police Force are hosting a free information session for students who are interested in a career in the NSW Police Force. Charles Sturt University partners with the NSW Police Force to deliver training opportunities that enable prospective police officers to be eligible to join the academy.

On Tuesday 22 September at 7pm - 8.30pm, the free **Zoom webinar** will discuss everything students need to know including what Charles Sturt courses students need to complete and the training program at the NSW Police Academy.

<https://charlessturt.zoom.us/join/9tW5EvdO-rjsjHdGEXtKsq4Ov5YNXQyv19GC9>

Australian Defence Force

ADF Virtual Information National Schedule for the month of September. To register please click on the following and scroll down the page to find the event you would like to attend. <https://www.defencejobs.gov.au/events>

Defence Force upcoming Information Sessions

Date	Time (AEST)	Topic
21/09/20	12:00pm	Defence Careers Virtual Information Session
21/09/20	2:00pm	Women in Defence Virtual Information Session
21/09/20	6:00pm	Engineering Careers Virtual Information Session
22/09/20	10:00am	Defence Careers Virtual Information Session
22/09/20	4:00pm	Army Officer Virtual Information Session
22/09/20	6:00pm	Navy General Entry Virtual Information Session
23/09/20	12:00pm	Army Reserve Virtual Information Session
23/09/20	4:00pm	Women in Defence Virtual Information Session
24/09/20	4:00pm	Trades Virtual Information Session
24/09/20	6:00pm	Submariner Virtual Information Session
25/09/20	12:00pm	Defence Careers Virtual Information Session
25/09/20	4:00pm	Army Careers Virtual Information Session
28/09/20	2:00pm	Women in Defence Virtual Information Session
28/09/20	4:00pm	Army Reserve Virtual Information Session
28/09/20	6:00pm	Army Reserve Virtual Information Session
29/09/20	2:00pm	Defence Careers Virtual Information Session
29/09/20	4:00pm	Defence Careers Virtual Information Session
30/09/20	2:00pm	Defence Careers Virtual Information Session
30/09/20	6:00pm	Navy General Entry Virtual Information Session

TAFE NSW

2021 Course Guide

With over 25,000 employer connections, affordable courses, flexible study options, and direct pathways to further study and university.

https://www.tafensw.edu.au/documents/60140/197799/TAFE-NSW-CAREER-GUIDE-2020-WEB.pdf?utm_campaign=00000000%20001%20b2c%20nurture%20email%201b%20initial%20generic%20consideration&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua&elqTrackId=71b924ed34604672b77ab3545a3070cf&elq=c009333c896345b49817f0dde66e5a76&elqaid=914&elqat=1&elqCampaignId=

The one stop shop for everything TAFE NSW

Check out the new TAFE NSW Online Resource to make it easy for students regarding their study and career options. It's also a great resource for parents.

<https://www.tafensw.edu.au/documents/60140/60957/CAA-Online-Resources-flyer-A4-v10.pdf>

ENROLMENTS FOR YEAR 11, 2021

Now Open

St Francis Xavier's College Hamilton



To apply for
2021 Enrolment
into Year 11

Please email

admin@hamilton.catholic.edu.au

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

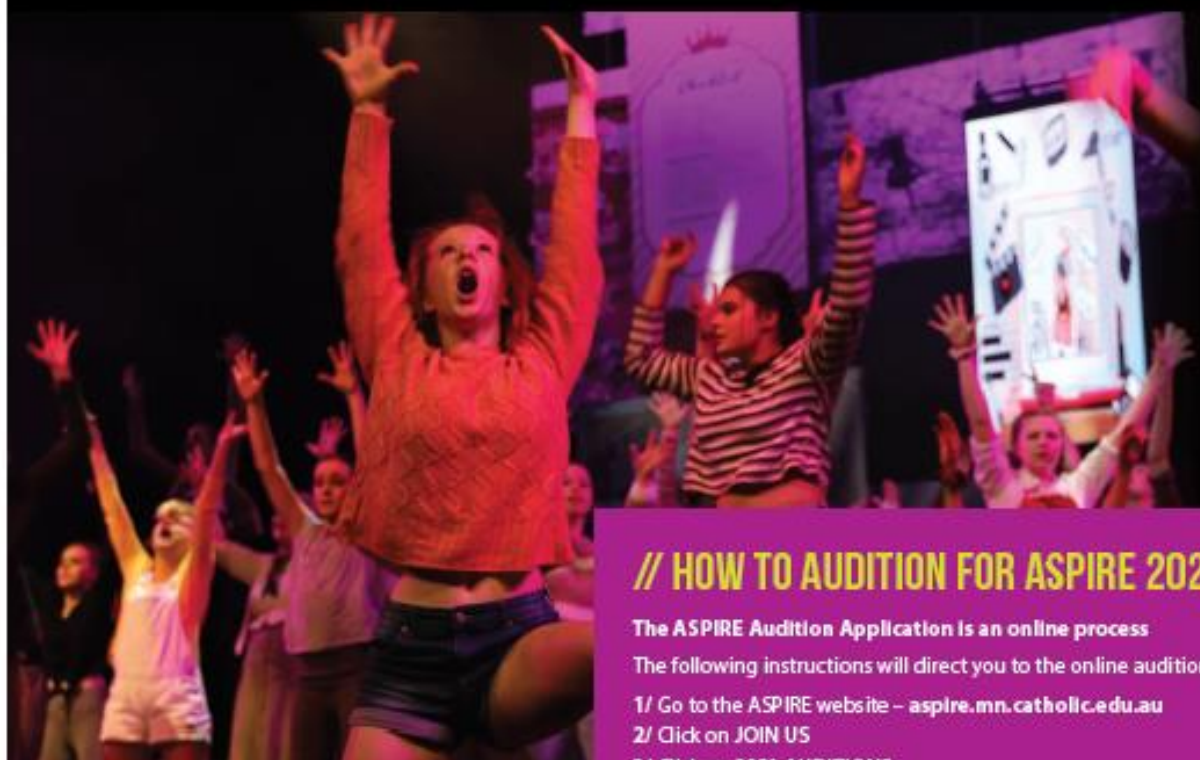


- ✓ Student's Name
- ✓ Student's Current School
- ✓ Parent/s, Carer/s Name/s
- ✓ Parent/s, Carer/s postal address including post code
- ✓ Parent/s, Carer/s mobile phone number
- ✓ Parent/s, Carer/s email address

ASPIRE

MUSIC.DANCE.DRAMA

AUDITIONS 2021



Auditions for ASPIRE 2021 are now open for students from Year 4 to Year 12. The auditions will be held at the Newcastle Convention and Exhibition Centre (Wests Newcastle) which is on the site of the Old Newcastle Workers Club in Newcastle.

Registrations for Auditions close on Friday 25 September 2020.

An email will be forwarded to you during the first week of the holidays with all relevant audition information including your date and time.

// HOW TO AUDITION FOR ASPIRE 2021

The ASPIRE Audition Application is an online process
The following instructions will direct you to the online audition form.

1/ Go to the ASPIRE website – aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au

2/ Click on JOIN US

3/ Click on 2021 AUDITIONS

4/ Then click on the link: [CLICK HERE TO APPLY ONLINE FOR ASPIRE 2021](#)

Please contact Anne Atkins if you have any queries regarding auditions by email: anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au or by phone 02 4979 1331

// AUDITION DATES

DANCE:

Monday 26 October 2020

INSTRUMENTAL

Monday 26 October 2020

DRAMA:

Junior: Tuesday 27 October 2020

and Wednesday 28 October 2020

Senior: Wednesday 28 October 2020

VOCAL

Thursday 29 October 2020

aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au

Please refer to the ASPIRE website for all ASPIRE information, forms, updates, photos and the newsletter.

ASPIRE



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
Web Site: www.hamilton.catholic.edu.au

Switch/Reception

Hours: 8:00 am until 3:30 pm

Finance Office

Hours: 8:30 am to 3:00 pm
Email: hml-finance@mn.catholic.edu.au

Student Services

Hours: 8:00 am until 3:15 pm
Telephone: (02) 4961 2110
Email: 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.*



Uniform Shop

Telephone: (02) 4962 4423
Email: 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