



# Lighthouse

**Volume 37 Number 1**

**8 February 2021**



**Greg Ptolemy**

## A Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students and Friends of SFX

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Welcome everyone to the new school year. I hope that the Christmas and New Year period provided you with the opportunity to rejuvenate and re-energise after the challenges of 2020.

There has been a real sense of anticipation and excitement around the College as we have welcomed in excess of 500 new Year 11 students who are joining our current Year 12 cohort. The students have brought a real enthusiasm to the classrooms already, and as a staff we are looking forward to sharing some wonderful learning opportunities with each of them as they commit to their senior studies.

### **COLLEGE EXPECTATIONS**

At St Francis Xavier's College we seek to uphold some simple and non-negotiable expectations which have been reinforced with students. Thank you in advance for your support of these foundational principles.

1. Respect – both self and others
2. Attend – regularly and punctually
3. Uniform – wear it with pride and uniformly
4. Learn – actively & with purpose

## **A THOUGHT FOR THE YEAR AHEAD – BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE...NOW**

At our opening full school assembly for the year, I posed a philosophical question about purpose and direction to our student body. It is important that as senior students, we do not simply allow learning to happen, but rather that we are active in its pursuit, with a recognition that this is a way forward to a life of purpose and fulfilment.

Therefore, I explored with the students the concept of Building the Future...Now, a topic of interest that had been heightened by two recent articles that I had been reading.

Firstly, there was an uplifting Newcastle Morning Herald article featuring the opening of the new Catholic High School at Medowie. In the article, the Principal Mr Scott Donohue spoke about the excitement of the community as they have the capacity to influence future generations, noting that in 100 years, the actions of today will have a significant impact on the culture and tone of the College and local community.

The second article drawing on the concept of building the future was a reflective commentary piece by Fr Jim Quillinan, a Victorian priest. He spoke of a term known as 'Cathedral Thinking'.

Cathedral Thinking can be traced back to medieval times, when architects and builders began constructing huge places of worship for communities to gather en masse. Today these buildings have become tourist destinations throughout our world as people wonder at the marvellous construction and sheer magnificence of the works.

What is extraordinary about these creations though, is that the designers and builders who began these works knew that they would never see them through to completion. They were commencing tasks that others would hopefully complete in the future.

Notre Dame in Paris is a perfect example. A magnificent architectural monument, it took 150 years to complete, meaning that not one person who started the project, lived to see the final extraordinary product. Amazingly, the designers, architects and craftsmen knew from the start that they would never see the completed masterpiece. In our modern world of immediate gratification, this seems to be beyond belief.

In explaining such a concept, author Rick Antonson suggested that this form of long-term thinking is 'a gift to future generations.'

He wrote: *"From the first seeds sown thousands of years ago, to the construction of the cities we still inhabit, to the scientific discoveries that have ensured our survival, we are the inheritors of countless gifts from the past".* He added: *"it is not what we do that matters, it's what we cause to happen. We should all be involved in unfinished work."*

Therefore, I invited our students to consider what their unfinished work might be. What would be their gift to future generations?

Perhaps they might be the makers of buildings, developers of ideas, move forward a scientific discovery, encourage a greater sense of humanity, lead the way toward a world that is free from tyranny, set a path toward a cure for cancer, contribute on the pathway to environmental change, or be a positive influence on someone else who will, in turn, change the world for the better.

We are each called to build the future for the life that is to come...and we are called to commence that building now, in the choices that we make. As a community, and as individuals, it is up to us today to be visionary builders for tomorrow.

It is a significant challenge, but it is in accepting such challenges that our leaders will rise to give hope for the future. It is our hope at St Francis Xavier's College that we might be a place where such visionaries are encouraged to lead the way.

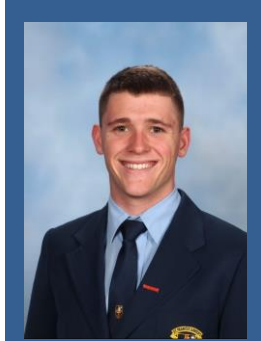
I am looking forward to the year ahead and sharing with each of our students this brief part of their journey. I am also looking forward to hopefully meeting our wider community at functions throughout the year should the Covid restrictions continue to ease.

May God bless.

# St Francis Xavier's College

## Student Leaders 2021

### Captains



Jayden  
Wright



Ava  
Gidley



Michael  
Walker



Taylah  
Gray

### Vice Captains

### House Leaders



Emily  
Vidler  
*Champagnat*



Mitchel  
Tapera  
*Dominic*



Angus  
O'Connor  
*MacKillop*

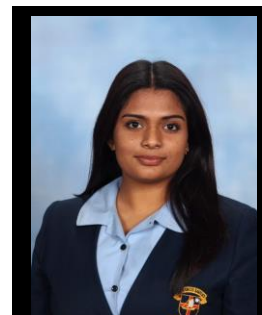


Maya  
Lowe  
*McAuley*

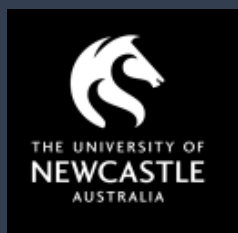
### Solidarity Leaders 2021



Ewan  
Ball



Jewelín  
Jijo



## Ma & Morley Scholarship 2021



*Cecelia Millen (English Teacher)*

*Greg Ptolemy (Principal of St Francis Xavier's College)  
Julie McLoughlin (Careers Advisor)*

## LEROY REID St Francis Xavier's College 2020 HSC Student

Last week Mr Ptolemy, Mrs Millen and I were invited to the induction of the Ma and Morley Scholarship winners for 2021. Leroy Reid a HSC student from 2020 was awarded one of these prestigious scholarships. He was also successful in gaining admission to Medicine, and we know he will make a reflective and caring professional who will continue to consider the impacts on the individuals he encounters and those in need.

Leroy is a motivated learner who had shown across all his subjects here at SFX the capacity for individualised thought and was meticulous in maintaining the highest of standards and a hunger for improvement both personally, culturally and with his future education.

Leroy was one of a few indigenous athletes from across Australia accepted into the Raise the Bar Program- held in January 2020 at Melbourne University. He has also represented NSW at the Australian All School Athletics Championships where his results were more than impressive. His outstanding sporting ability extends into other sports including Rugby League, Basketball and Touch.

Leroy has identified with his Aboriginal heritage throughout his schooling. He has proclaimed his pride in his culture through ceremonies, acknowledgement of country, involvement in NAIDOC week celebrations, performing traditional dance both in school and at community events. He was a member of a student discussion panel who spoke at the Catholic NSW state conference. Leroy values equity and justice and understands only too well, the challenges the Indigenous culture both here in Australia and globally face.

It is fitting that the Ma & Morley Scholars are part of a family of changemakers, which ultimately leads to an immersive global experience. Leroy will learn about other cultures and experiences that align with the program's values to develop leadership skills and discover how he can make a real change in the world.

Leroy's Ma & Morley journey will culminate in a project where he will work to execute a project that fits with the program's values and creates a real and enduring change as well as connect with key global leaders that have already made significant contributions.

The staff of SFX are very proud of Leroy's outstanding achievements and look forward to hearing of his exploits in the coming years.

Julie McLoughlin



# General Information

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## Classes

The school day starts for the majority of students at 9:05 am with Tutor Group and finishes at 3:10 pm. Extension classes and some other classes commence at 8:00 am.

## End of the School Day

The school day concludes at 3:10 pm. Please **do not** phone to collect students earlier, or for students to leave early, unless it is an emergency.

## Students on School Premises

Students are to remain on the premises for the entire school day unless permission has been granted for leave and students sign out from Student Services.

## Duty of Care

We have a duty of care to students while at school. We need to be able to account for every student, at all times during the school day. Students are to remain on the premises for the entire school day unless permission has been granted for leave and students sign out from Student Services.

## Out of Uniform Days

Due to Work Health & Safety regulations, on these occasions students are still required to wear **covered in shoes**. Dress should be appropriate for a school setting ie. no inappropriate slogans on clothes, no short shorts, singlet tops.

## Change of Addresses and Phone Numbers

In case of an emergency it is important that students' contact details are up to date. If there have been changes to family details, please have your student go to the Administration Office where an appropriate form will be issued.

## Parking in Parkway Avenue

A reminder to students and parents that it is illegal to park on the median strip in Parkway Avenue. Even more importantly, parking in this manner puts students and drivers at risk as it is a very congested area at 3:10 pm. Newcastle Council Officers will be monitoring this area, with our full support, and therefore it would be in everyone's best interests to comply with regulations!

## Students are **NOT** to park in the staff car park.

Students driving to school are to hand in their car registration number to the Student Office. Please refer to 'Road Safety' form on the back of this Lighthouse.

## Phones

All mobile phones are to be on silent and stored in students' bags during all lessons, in-class assessment tasks, study periods, assemblies, Tutor Group sessions, retreat sessions and any other school activity time as directed by college staff. No student has permission to make or answer mobile phone calls (including text messages) during any of the above times. Note that mobile phones are not allowed into a formal examination room. A phone in an exam venue is malpractice and is reportable to NESAs.

Phones are allowed in study in the Library for appropriate usage. They are **not allowed in class** without the express permission of the teacher in charge, at assembly or House meetings. Phones are brought to school at your own risk. **If they are stolen or lost they are not insured by the college.**

## Students Applying for Exemption from Attendance at School

Students wishing to apply for leave from the College are required to submit a letter from a parent/guardian describing leave requested. **Please be aware that leave will NOT be approved during exam periods.**

## School Leaving Age 17 Years of Age

If students leave under the age of 17 years, the College must sight documentation that they have enrolled in approved education or training or have gained full time paid employment (average 25 hours/week) or a combination of these.

## Crossing Roads

All students are reminded of the importance of crossing roads in an appropriate manner and at an appropriate place. Students who need to cross King Street of an afternoon are to cross at the Traffic Lights at the crossing in King Street, in front of the TAFE, opposite Wood Street. Students are to follow the directions of staff on duty at this crossing.

## TAFE

Students approaching the College in the morning or leaving the College in the afternoon in the direction of the TAFE are asked to walk **AROUND** the TAFE not through it. The TAFE grounds are private property and are not to be used as a shortcut to King Street.

# ROAD SAFETY

## Belief Statement

At St Francis Xavier's College, we believe that a road safety policy provides a framework of common understanding for students, staff, parents / carers and the community who interact with the school to provide a safe environment.

St Francis Xavier's College is founded on the person of Jesus Christ and is committed to educate in Gospel values. Especially in hope, love, justice and care for others in the community,

The main intention of this policy is to ensure the health, safety and welfare of our students who use the services and facilities of this College. We do this by assessing the risks in the road environment around our College, developing practical school management procedures and ensuring that curriculum pertaining to all road safety issues is taught to our students.

## Environmental Statement

St Francis Xavier's College is a senior College of over 1000 students and therefore has a large number of student drivers. The College is in a residential area which requires students to park in neighbouring streets. The supervision is commensurate with the age of the students and the flexible nature of the timetable.

## Aims / Goals

At St Francis Xavier's College we aim to:

- provide a quality road safety education program for Year 11 and Year 12 that develop responsible road use, attitudes and behaviours.
- have procedures in place that maximise the safety of students when they arrive and depart the College.
- encourage the education of road safety issues in the wider school community eg parents/ guardians, staff and visitors.

## Curriculum Statement

At St Francis Xavier's College our staff will develop and implement effective, sequential road safety education programs within the Year 11 Personal Development, Health & Physical Education key learning area and the pastoral care program through Long Tutor Group Program.

Our programs will make sure of current NSW Road and Maritime Services resources and will address the following road safety issues for our students:

- passenger safety.
- pedestrian safety.
- safety on wheels (bicycles, scooters, roller-blades and skateboards).
- driver education.

When it is appropriate, we will make use of other suitable resources and incorporate them as part of an ongoing program. The use of additional resources will enhance the teaching and learning of road safety education to our students.

## Arriving and Departing

Parents / guardians and family members are encouraged to inform students about and reinforce correct and responsible road use behaviour.

There are three (3) designated points of entry into St Francis Xavier's College.

- Everton Street Gates.
- Parkway Avenue Gates.
- Hebburn Street Gates.

## Arriving and Departing by Car

Parents / guardians, family members and students are expected to use the legal street parking spaces for pick up and delivery of students. It is illegal to park on the median strip in Parkway Avenue.

The College has a large student population. Drivers should ensure that they exercise caution and arrive and depart the College and its environs in a safe, responsible and legal manner. Students are parking in a residential area and should ensure that they are courteous to neighbours and that they do not encroach on driveways. The College will, if necessary, contact the Police if there are infringements to this law.

The car park is for staff and visitors only. Students are not to use the car park unless given permission by the Principal for exceptional circumstances. There is a disabled parking spot for appropriate use.

Students who utilise the Assisted Travel Scheme are accompanied to and from the vehicle by a staff member.

The school is located in a 40km school zone where a 40km speed limit applies for the hours between:

**8:00 am – 9:30 am, and**

**2:30 pm – 4:00 pm on school days.**


The speed limited is lowered to 40km during these hours to increase the safety of the students arriving and departing the school. Drivers must abide by these speed regulations.

## Arriving and Departing by Foot


Given the large number of students who drive to school, students need to exercise caution when approaching and leaving the College grounds and the surrounds.

Students are not to walk along the median strip along King Street but must use the pedestrian crossing and lights appropriately.

Staff will be on duty after school to supervise the students using the crossing on King Street in front of the TAFE and at the Denison Street crossing.



Student drivers are required to complete appropriate paperwork which is available from the Student Services Office.







# 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 2021.

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 22 February 2021 to Friday 26 February 2021.

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

	PROJECT DATES	TIME	COST
<b>Junior</b>	Monday 22 February 2021 – Tuesday 23 February 2021	9.00am – 3.00pm	\$60.00
<b>Senior</b>	Wednesday 24 February 2021 – Friday 26 February 2021	9.00am – 3.00pm	\$90.00

To register  
[anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au)



67.3%



Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
School: \_\_\_\_\_ Student email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/carer name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent mobile number: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_



# 2021 Term 1 Important School Dates

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Thursday, 11 February

## Commissioning Liturgy Civic Theatre 9am

Due to COVID, the College is restricted to number of seats available at the Civic Theatre  
Only staff, students and officially invited guests will attend the Commissioning Liturgy  
Students will receive information advising them of the process for the day

Tuesday, 16 February

## Year 11 Getting to Know You Day [GTKY]

*This is a compulsory school day.*

The main purpose of this event is to provide opportunities for each Tutor Group (i.e. students and teacher) to become better acquainted.

The GTKY day will be held on the College grounds. A special program will be followed and therefore it will be an **out of uniform day**. For the day students are expected to:

- wear **appropriate and sensible casual clothes** (there will be both indoor and outdoor activities). Skirt length and shorts should be consistent with the College uniform policy.
- for outdoor activities - skin/sun care still important - **shirt, sunscreen, hat**.
- wear covered footwear - **no sandals or thongs**.

Information about this day will be forwarded to students and parents.

Tuesday, 16 February

## Year 12 HSC and Beyond Day

*This is a compulsory school day.*

*Students may wear appropriate casual clothing and covered footwear.*

This day allows Year 12 students the opportunity to consider and address issues leading up to and after the HSC. The aims of HSC and Beyond Day are:

- to provide students with an opportunity to listen to positive and motivating post Year 12 options.
- to challenge students to consider their post Year 12 options.
- to facilitate students to focus their academic efforts in Year 12 in 2021.

Information about this day will be forwarded to students and parents.

Wednesday, 17 February

## Year 12 Information Evening

### Commences at 7pm in the College Hall

Entrance to the College Hall is via the Hebburn Street school gate. Parkway Avenue and Ada Streets school gates will also be open. Information about the evening will be forwarded to students and parents.

Tuesday, 2 March

## Year 11 Information Evening

### Commences at 7pm in the College Hall

Entrance to the College Hall is via the Hebburn Street school gate. Parkway Avenue and Ada Streets school gates will also be open. Information about the evening will be forwarded to students and parents.

Friday, 12 March

## Battle of the Bands Competition

Monday, 15 March until Friday 26 March

## Year 12 Mid-Course Assessments

Thursday, 1 April

## Term 1 concludes



## 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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### Student Services

Hours: 8:00 am until 3:10 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.*

### 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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### **Uniform Shop**

Telephone: (02) 4962 4423  
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)