

Tuesday 16 December 2025

Reflecting on 2025 and looking ahead to 2026

Dear Families,

Thank you for another wonderful year. Our Presentation Assembly was such a fabulous time of sharing student achievement and reminiscing about some of the incredible things that happened across 2025. I would like to thank all parents and carers for the way that you have supported the activities and events that we have been able to achieve this year. HSC results are due out on Thursday 18 December and our Cambodia/Vietnam trip do not return until Monday 22 December and so the year still has a few more days to go for the Senior School.

2026 Dates

Term 1 Monday 2 February – Year 7, 11 and 12 first day (and new Yr 8 – 10 students for the morning)
Tuesday 3 February – Years 8-10 first day – Sports uniform can be worn by all students for P6/7 Activities
Thursday 2 April – Final day of Term 1 for students
Friday 3 April – Good Friday

Term 2 Tuesday 21 April – First day of Term 2 for all students
Friday 26 June – Final day of Term 2 for students

Term 3 Monday 20 July – First day of Term 3 for all students
Friday 25 September – Final day of Term 3 for students

Term 4 Tuesday 13 October – First day of Term 4 for all students
Wednesday 9 December (Presentation Assembly) – Final day of Term 4 for all students

Year 7 and new Senior School students – what to bring on your first day

All Year 7 students are to wear their formal school uniform on their first day, Monday 2 February. Students are to bring their laptop and ensure that they have administrator privileges to install new software, a book and a pencil case and food for recess (a sausage sizzle will be provided for lunch).

New students in other years are to attend for the morning on Monday 2 February to get their laptops set up. They are to wear full formal school uniform as well.

Pastoral Care 2026

We are now full steam ahead for our new Pastoral Care structure starting next year. As already stated, this move is a direct result of the success we've seen with the Deans of Students roles, which have proven highly effective in focusing on and addressing specific issues for each year group.

To refresh your memories, we have created new House based vertical tutor groups with two cohorts linked in the combinations below:

- Years 7 and 10
- Years 8 and 11
- Years 9 and 12

Each tutor group will remain together until the older year level graduates, ensuring younger students benefit from ongoing daily interaction and mentorship from older peers. Our Houses will continue to operate, with staff House Ambassadors fostering spirit and mentoring student House Captains.

This new structure is designed to deliver several key benefits for our students including:

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- **Enhanced Mentorship:** Younger students will continue to mix with and learn from older students on a daily basis.
- **Proactive Support:** Deans of Students will work collaboratively with tutors to look after students more proactively.
- **Leadership Development:** Better and more diverse leadership opportunities will be developed for all students in Years 10, 11, and 12. This will include peer leadership training for Year 9 students as they move into Year 10.

Uniform

In 2026 all Senior School students, except the Year 12 cohort, will be wearing the new school uniform. Year 10 students are required to wear the new Senior uniform on the first day of Term 1.

The new uniform offers some good improvements with there being only one uniform year-round. Things to highlight with the uniform include:

- Students only need to wear the blazer to and from school during terms 2 and 3. The shirt can be worn as the outer garment in Terms 1 and 4. The jumper is to provide extra warmth under a blazer when going to or from school. Blazers during Terms 1 and 4 do not need to be worn at the weekly Assembly.
- Shoes are to be black leather lace up school shoes with a raised heel of approximately 2cm in height. No buckled shoes. Shoes that are suede or fashion shoes such as 'Vans' or 'Nike' etc are not acceptable and cannot be worn to school. Please ensure you purchase the correct shoes over the Summer break.
- Sport shoes are to be specifically designed for running. They are to be worn with the sport uniform only. Street shoes, canvas shoes, skate shoes are not acceptable, and students will not be able to take part in PDHPE practical activities if they are in the wrong shoes.
- Students are required to have the college sports socks as part of the sports uniform as well as correct sports shoes.
- Girls' sports shorts and skorts are not to be rolled at the waist. The hem of a skort must sit no higher than 4cm above the top of the knee, requiring parents to adjust or replace them as their child grows.
- Hats: In order to be sun safe, we are requiring all students in the new school uniform (Yrs 7-11) to wear a wide brimmed hat. The sports cap does not provide adequate sun protection for outdoor classes or Recess and Lunch times.

Online Safety Initiative

I hope that the instigation of the Australian Government initiative that came into effect from Wednesday 10 December has gone well for families with children under 16 years of age. It is illegal for many social media platforms to permit Australians under 16 to create or keep an account. This is a significant move to protect young people from the dangers of social media. I draw your attention to some information that I shared earlier in the term from the eSafety Commissioner for families on managing this change. I strongly recommend watching the introductory video provided here as well as reading the helpful suggestions on how to help your teen navigate this process: <https://shorturl.at/HFW3m>. Further broadcasts were sent out via Edumate across Term 4 from Ms Liddiard about how to prepare for the changes.

Senior School Assemblies and Bell Times

We are going to have assembly each week from next year on a Thursday from 11:05-11:45am. Parents and families are welcome to attend. **To account for this School bell times will change for Thursdays as follows:**

Period 1 9:05 – 9:50 (45 mins)
 Period 2 9:50 – 10:35 (45 mins)
 Recess 10:35 – 11:05 (30 mins)
 Period 3 11:05 – 11:45 (40 mins)
 Period 4 11:45 – 12:35 (50 mins)
 Period 5 12:35 – 1:20 (45 mins)
 Lunch 1:20 – 1:50 (30 mins)
 Period 6 1:50 – 2:40 (50 mins)
 Period 7 2:40 – 3:25 (45 mins)

Monday – Wednesday and Friday bell times will be as follows:

Period 1 9:05 – 9:55 (50 mins)
 Period 2 9:55 – 10:45 (50 mins)

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Recess 10:45 – 11:15 (30 mins)
Period 3 11:15 – 11:40 (25 mins)
Period 4 11:40 – 12:30 (50 mins)
Period 5 12:30 – 1:20 (50 mins)
Lunch 1:20 – 1:50 (30 mins)
Period 6 1:50 – 2:40 (50 mins)
Period 7 2:40 – 3:25 (45 mins)

Stationery Lists

I have also **attached** the Years 7 and 8, and Years 9 and 10 stationery lists for you to be able to purchase the correct equipment for the new year.

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hope that your Summer is filled with joy and fun with families and friends. I pray that you have a safe Summer, one where you and all those around you can be shown the respect and compassion that everyone deserves. Our prayers as a College community are especially with all those affected by the recent Bondi events. We hold in our hearts those who have lost loved ones or are dealing with trauma and grief related to these deeply unsettling moments. It is a profound and necessary thing to remember that Christmas is when Jesus came to earth to bring hope, peace, and joy. We are all in need of these things, especially as we navigate the collective impact of what occurred, and we hold onto the promise of renewal and solace during this sacred season.

May God bless you all.

Sincerely

Mr Liam Bailey
Deputy Principal – Head of Senior School

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