



**ST. ANDREW'S
GRAMMAR**

Striving for Excellence

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2025 SCHOOL NEWSLETTER: TERM 1 VOLUME 1 -
Secondary School

Principal's Report

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2025.

It has been an extremely busy yet successful start to 2025. With the establishment on a new Student Management System (SMS), 'School box' and in turn, sharing a new all-in-one Parent App; it shows how much work has gone into starting 2025 from our staff body.

We are incredibly fortunate to have a team of dedicated, passionate, and hardworking staff who go above and beyond every day. Our teachers, support staff, and administrators work tirelessly to create a nurturing, engaging, and inspiring learning environment for our students. Their commitment to excellence is what makes our school truly special. Whether it's staying late to help a struggling student, organizing enriching extracurricular activities, or finding creative ways to make learning exciting, our staff consistently demonstrate their unwavering dedication. They are not just educators and professionals—they are mentors, role models, and a source of encouragement for our students. As we move through this school year, I encourage everyone—students, parents, and community members—to take a moment to express gratitude to the incredible individuals who make a difference in our school every day. A simple "thank you" can go a long way in recognizing the hard work and passion they bring to their roles. To our outstanding staff on behalf of our community: thank you for your dedication, your perseverance, and the positive impact you make on the

lives of our students. Your efforts do not go unnoticed. I am truly grateful to lead such an exceptional team.



With the handover of the new Early Years building project on the 17 February, our early years staff, our younger students and their parents have expressed their happiness of the new teaching space. With these being oversized classrooms with enlarged windows this space is like nothing we have at the school. Enjoy some of our pcs of the open day:





We are seeing significant progress with the Secondary Science and Technology Hub Project build which is still on target to be handed over before semester 2. Relatively slower progress is being made on the Primary Office Build; however, we are looking at taking possession of this build at the start of Term 2. After decades of hiatus in building work, the last few years we are more than making up on this. We are really look forward to enjoying these new spaces in the not-too-distant future. I wish to thank the entire community in their patience whilst we work hard to get these projects to completion.

At St. Andrew's Grammar, we believe that leadership is not just about holding a title—it's about inspiring others, showing influence, integrity, and providing service to others. Student Voice is an area we are focussing on in 2025. With a new whole school student leadership council, we are illustrating exactly this. With two-way communications between student leaders and staff we can explore student perceptions in many areas of the school. Our student leaders whether they are organizing events, supporting their classmates, or standing up for what is right, they are learning the values of teamwork, accountability, and problem-solving.



We are working hard with our staff to create critical thinkers of the future. In today's fast-changing world, one of the most valuable skills we can instil in our students

is **critical thinking**. Beyond memorizing facts or following instructions, critical thinking empowers students to analyze information, solve problems creatively, and make informed decisions. It is the foundation of lifelong learning and success. We are committed to fostering a learning environment where students are encouraged to ask questions, challenge ideas, and think independently. Whether in the classroom, during discussions, or in real-world applications, we want our students to develop the ability to reason, evaluate multiple perspectives, and communicate their thoughts effectively. Parents and families, you play a vital role in nurturing critical thinking at home. Encouraging open discussions, asking "why" and "how" questions, and allowing children to explore different viewpoints help strengthen their analytical skills. Together, we can equip our students with the tools they need to navigate the complexities of the world with confidence and wisdom. Let's continue to inspire curiosity, thoughtful reflection, and meaningful conversations. By prioritizing critical thinking, we prepare our students not just for academic achievement, but for a future where they can think, lead, and make a difference.

At St. Andrew's Grammar *our children are taught how to think, not what to think.*

Craig Monaghan

Principal

Blessing Assembly

On Tuesday 18th February, our school had the honour of receiving a special blessing from His Grace, Bishop Elpidios of Kyaneon, and Reverend Father Terry.

This significant event marked the beginning of our academic year, filled with prayer, teachings, and the traditional blessing of our Vasilopita, or New Year Celebratory Cake. The cake was cut then shared in pieces dedicated to Jesus Christ, the Holy Mother Mary, St. Basil, the Archbishop, our school, and each guest in attendance, including the students of St. Andrew's Grammar classes from Year 4 – Year 12.



This annual blessing is a cherished tradition that fosters faith, love, commitment, and unity among our school community. Organised by Mr Vassiliadis and our wonderful Greek department the ceremony enabled us all to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our invited guests and speakers, with special appreciation for the Honourable Consul of Greece, Ms Eleni Georgopoulou who shared inspiring words with us. She spoke about Greek Language Day and the importance of the Greek language from a historical and more importantly a more contemporary lens.

Our Principal, Mr Monaghan, shared inspiring words about the blessing and the start of a new year being a chance for a re-start for all students. Also in attendance was Senator Dean Smith, and Mr Mark Irwin – Mayor of city of Stirling along with our valuable Board members.



Well done, to everyone involved in a great celebration to start the school year.



and concerns, and we have made some slight changes to the bus route to better accommodate your requests. Our aim is to create a bus service that is convenient and useful for all students, and your input has been a big part of this process. We appreciate your involvement and support in making our plans stronger and more effective.

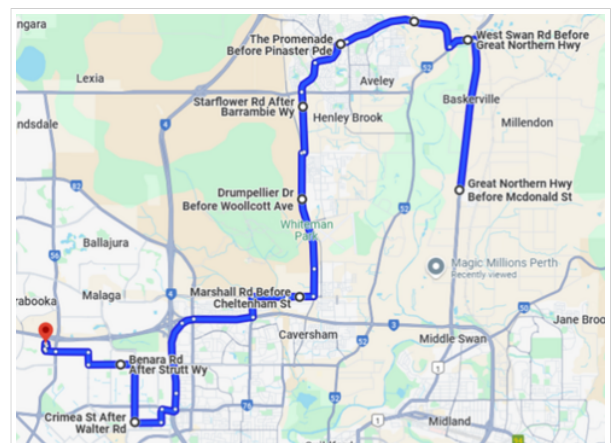
We are happy to announce that the new bus service is scheduled to start in Term 2, week 3. This trial period will last through Term 2 and 3 only. This means we have a limited time to see how well the service meets your needs. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this new option. Using the bus can make your daily travels easier and more efficient and elevate the traffic congestion we are having at the school. It is important that we all try it out so that we can assess how well it is working. If enough students use the service, we will be able to continue it in the future.

It is essential for the success of the bus service that we see a good number of students making use of it. If the number of users is too low, we might have to reconsider whether we can keep the service going. This is why your participation is crucial. We hope to create a service that everyone benefits from, but we need your help to do so. Please spread the word about the bus service and encourage them to try it out as well. Together, we can make this trial a success and ensure that student needs are met in the best way possible.

More information about booking the bus service will be available in the next few weeks, so please stay tuned. To use the bus, every student will need to have a Smartrider card before they start their trip. This card is important because every time a student tags on or off the bus, \$6 will be deducted from their balance. This cost will be reviewed after the trial period.

Please see reception ASAP to order a smart rider as the current wait time and processing time is a few weeks. Thank you once again for your feedback and support!

Swan Valley Bus Route



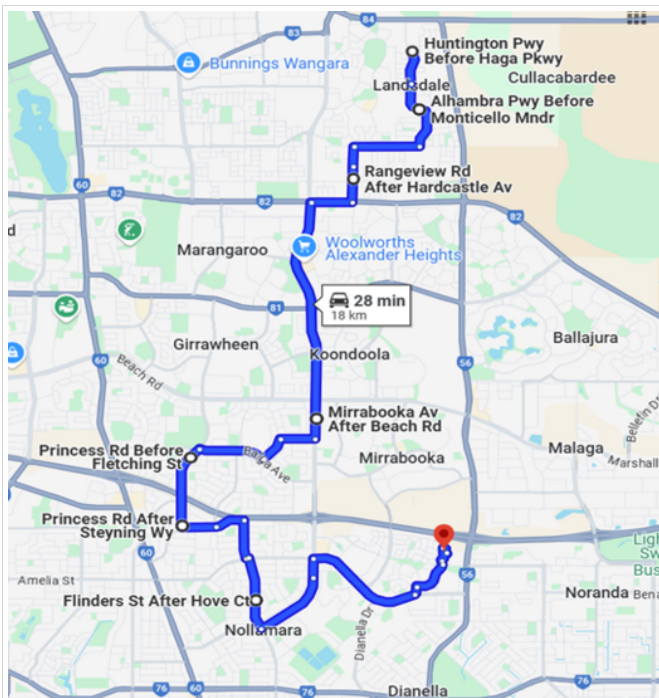
Bus Service

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey about the new bus service that St. Andrew's Grammar will be trialling. Your feedback is very important to us and has helped us understand what students really need from this service. We listened to your suggestions

Swan Valley Bus Stop Locations

Stop #	Bus Stop
1	Great Northern Hwy Before McDonald St
2	West Swan Rd Before Great Northern Hwy
3	Millhouse Rd Before Chateau P
4	The Promenade Before Pinaster Pde
5	Starflower Rd After Barrambie Wy
6	Drumpellier Dr Before Woollcott Ave
7	Marshall Rd Before Cheltenham St
8	Crimea St After Walter Rd
9	Benara Rd After Strutt Wy
10	St Andrews Grammar

North East Bus Route



North East Bus Stop Locations

Stop #	Bus Stop
1	Huntington Pwy Before Haga Pkwy
2	Alhambra Pwy Before Monticello Mndr
3	Rangeview Rd After Hardcastle Av
4	Mirrabooka Av After Griffon Wy
5	Mirrabooka Av After Beach Rd
6	Princess Rd Before Fletching St
7	Princess Rd After Steyning Wy
8	Flinders St After Hove Ct
9	Mirrabooka Av After Robertsbridge Rd
10	St Andrews Grammar

Head of Secondary Report

The term is certainly progressing forward and before we know, it will be the Term 1 holiday break. The beginning of the year is always one that is busy, and this year has certainly been no exception. I would like to personally thank all the staff and students of St Andrew's for their perseverance and resilience over the first six weeks.

The National Assessment Programme – Literacy and Numeracy testing will commence this week for students in Years 7 and 9. Students are assessed in writing, reading, conventions of Language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All testing will be completed on an online platform. Thank you to Mrs Crisp and Ms Ahmadzadeh for their endless work with this, for the preparation and for overseeing the process. Thanks goes to Mr Todd and Mrs Pynes for assisting them and the staff who are administering the test to our students.

For this newsletter, I want to focus on a fundamental value that shapes the foundation of our school community here at St. Andrew's Grammar and is one of our values — *Respect*. It's a quality that influences how we interact with one another, how we care for the environment around us (both artificial and natural), and how we build a positive and inclusive school culture. Respect establishes an environment where every staff member and student feels appreciated and empowered.

Respect is about recognizing the worth of others and treating them with kindness, understanding, and empathy. It involves listening attentively, being mindful of others' feelings, and valuing diversity in all its forms. At St. Andrew's Grammar School, we recognise that respect is the cornerstone of a happy and successful school life.

Respect has two parts:

- 1) Having respect for someone because of how their actions impact others and
- 2) Showing respect by changing your actions to be sure you don't have a negative impact.

In order to build respect, you can do the following things:

Listening: Pay attention to what others are saying and actively engage in conversations. Listening is an essential skill in developing understanding and empathy towards others.

Showing empathy: Put yourself in someone else's shoes and try to understand their perspective. Empathy is a powerful tool in building relationships and resolving conflicts.

Being inclusive: Embrace diversity and recognize the unique qualities that make each person special. Inclusion means valuing and celebrating differences rather than discriminating against them. Be especially welcoming to

our new students and staff and create an environment that makes them feel included.

And finally, what I think is the most important thing we can all do and that is to **speak kindly**: Choose your words carefully and avoid hurtful or malicious language. Respectful communication is about being mindful of how your words can impact others. It is crucial that we remember that our words can either lift people up or tear them down.

Respect isn't something that can be demanded; it is something that must be given willingly. It starts with the simple act of showing it to others, and in turn, we inspire others to do the same. By modelling respectful behaviour, we create ripple effects that will further strengthen our classrooms, our Houses and our school.

As we navigate our interactions, let's remember that every encounter is an opportunity to practice respect and create a positive and inclusive environment at St Andrew's Grammar School.

Thank You for Your Continued Respect and Support!

Let's continue building a school where respect is not just an ideal but a daily practice.

Siza Macdonald

Head of Secondary



Upper school students have settled in well and whilst some have chosen a difficult or challenging pathway, everyone is giving their best effort. We have assessments coming up soon so students will have a better idea of whether they can manage the rigour or need to look at their alternatives.

English Homework Club runs every Monday afternoon in the library until 4.30 and students are welcome to pop in for some specific help or to stay the whole hour to deal with their concerns.

Pauline Crisp

Head of English

Secondary School - English

With PAT testing now loaded into Elastik and a series of Writemark writing tasks completed, English teachers are collecting data to begin to tailor and differentiate the course work we have planned for the year. Education Perfect Language Conventions tests are being used to set individualised homework for all lower school students to complete to help resolve their particular problems with grammar and punctuation. This program provides tuition and instantly marked work to help students to improve on areas of weakness. Year 7 students are working hard to learn the "Seven Steps" writing process as a common basis to develop narrative and persuasive writing skills for the duration of their Secondary English studies. With the 'setting up' almost sorted we will be moving on to the more interesting and engaging activities and texts.

Secondary School - Maths

Students in Year 7 to 12 have worked hard in Mathematics over the past weeks.

Students have come to terms with new textbooks, OneNote and some their new ClassPads.

Lots of new concepts have been introduced and some old favourites like fractions and linear equations have been revisited.

The Year 12 Methods class, and many more classes have completed quizzes to check their learning and understanding so far this term.





Chris Zander
Head of Maths

Secondary School - Science

Welcome back to a brand new year! The Sciences are off to a flying start. We welcomed several new staff to our team – Ms Marie-Clare Overton teaching Chemistry, Mr Daniel Bradley teaching Human Biology, and Mr Luke Basson and Miss Olivia Santarelli in lower school Science. Read on to find out more.

Year 7

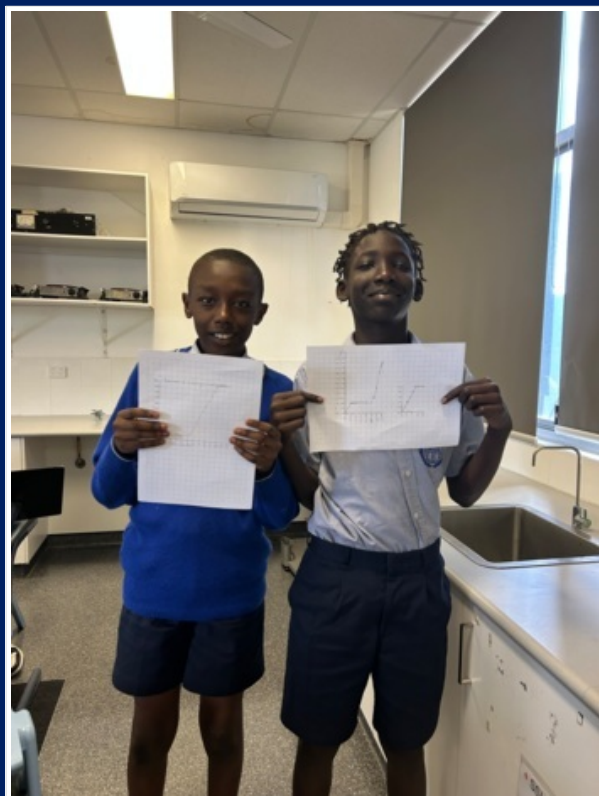
The Year 7 cohort explored the labs, identified equipment in the lab, and reviewed the safety procedures that need to be followed in lab environments. Students have also explored the scientific process, framing problems like a scientist, and approaching issues in a methodical manner. Pictured are some students of 7.1 reaching into a container, feeling objects, and trying to determine what mystery item was hidden away. In this activity, students used either smell, touch or hearing to describe the qualities of the object.

Soon, they will embark on learning about pure substances, mixtures and separation techniques, a core foundation of Chemical Science.



Year 8

Ever noticed your car windows fogging up on a chilly morning or steam swirling from a hot drink? That's states of matter in action! To kick off the term, we asked students to think about everyday moments like these—when have they seen something change from solid to liquid or liquid to gas? This sparked some great discussions and got everyone thinking about how these changes happen all around us, leading them into their Chemistry unit about how particles behave in solids, liquids, and gases, diving into melting, freezing, evaporation, condensation, and sublimation (pictured). Students are also improving their science inquiry skills so they can conduct more valid and reliable experiments in the future (pictured).



Year 9

The Year 9s have been learning about the components of atoms and ions, exploring how these components interact, as well as how they are represented on the Periodic Table, preparing themselves for their upcoming assessment in Week 4.

Year 10

The Year 10s dived straight into Biological Science, learning about how our cells divide for growth, repair and reproduction. Lessons have been especially interactive, with DNA and mitosis modelling activities bringing students' creativity and knowledge to the surface (pictured). Soon they embark on an investigation into genetic inheritance and disorders. They will answer questions like: What traits did I inherit from Mum and Dad? What even is a hitchhiker's thumb? Are all genetic diseases deadly?



In the Psychology elective, students were challenged with making and connecting a neural network using pipe cleaners (pictured).



Year 11 and 12

Psychology students say the highlight of the year is the dissection they get to conduct. A cow's eye dissection was first in the program (pictured) which coincides with the Year 12 Memory unit. Vision is one way our body senses the world around us and is an important piece of the puzzle in our perception and memory. The Year 11s will soon dissect a sheep's brain as part of their Biological Psychology unit where they learn about the nervous system and how the brain plays a role in our development and behaviour.

The Humanities Department at St Andrew's Grammar has had an exciting and productive start to the year across all year levels.

Our **Year 7** students have been developing essential mapping skills, including interpreting topographic maps, understanding scale, and constructing cross-sections—fundamental skills that will set them up for success in their geographical studies. Mastering these concepts early provides a strong foundation for future studies in place, space, and interconnection, key themes in the Geography curriculum.

In **Year 8** Civics and Citizenship, students have been exploring Freedom and Democracy by examining the rights and responsibilities of Australian citizens. Through case studies and discussions, they are investigating ways to be active participants in Australia's thriving democracy, aligned with syllabus topics on democratic freedoms, participation, and the role of government in safeguarding rights.

Our **Year 9** Civics and Citizenship students are taking a deep dive into Australia's political system and electoral process—a particularly timely topic given the upcoming state and federal elections in 2025. Students are analysing the structure of government, the role of political parties, and the impact of elections on policy decisions, gaining valuable insights into how Australia's representative democracy functions.

In **Year 10** Geography, students are engaging with the topic of Human Wellbeing, investigating the spatial variations in wellbeing both in Australia and globally. They are exploring the economic, social, and environmental factors that influence quality of life and assessing strategies used to improve human wellbeing and reduce inequality, tying directly into key curriculum objectives.

Across our Senior School, students have made a strong start to the year, with our Year 12s leading the way through their dedication and focus. Our ATAR students in Economics, Business, Modern History and Geography are already delving into key syllabus topics that will shape their final year of study, while our General students in Ancient History, Politics and Law, and Careers have embraced their subjects with enthusiasm. The critical thinking, research and analytical skills they develop this year will be invaluable as they prepare for their future studies and careers.

The Humanities Department looks forward to another term of rich discussions and real-world connections that make Humanities such a dynamic and relevant area of study.

Scott Dickson

Head of Learning Area - HASS

House Swimming Carnival

The Secondary House Swimming Carnival was run and won on Friday 14th February at the Perth High Performance Centre. The weather Gods blessed us with a perfect day and students gave their best in the pool to win points for their Houses. The carnival was filled with 50m, 25m and Novelty relays with fierce competition in all events and year groups, our students are to be commended for their efforts.

Our Champions and Runners Up are:

Year Group	Champion	Runner Up
7	Girl: Alexandria Thomas Boy: Jayden Truong	Girl: Alessandra Harold Boy: Shri Ragavan
8	Girl: Neha Reddy Boy: Brian Lam	Girl: Hritika Paudel Boy: Anthony Nguyen
9	Girl: Lilly Mai Glover Boy: Giorgios Gatsoulis	Girl: Isla Quick Boy: Lachlan Liao
10	Girl: Emmy Truong Boy: Vuk Pantic	Girl: Tiya Chohan Boy: Connor Templeton
11/12	Girl: Emilia Kovacevic Boy: Zac Harold	Girl: Annie Tran Boy: Kelvin Truong

The House Points were:

1st Place: Demeter 1035 points

2nd Place: Apollo 851 points

3rd Place: Artemis 586 points

4th Place: Poseidon 543 points

Congratulations Demeter House!

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Congratulations Demeter House!



The Arts & Technologies

New Head of Learning Area – The Arts & Technologies

I am very pleased to introduce myself, Ms. Shana O'Shea, the Acting Head of Learning Area for both The Arts and Technologies. I have been teaching at the school since 2021, initially as the Drama teacher, where I worked to create performance opportunities for our students, including Arts Nights in the school amphitheatre and performances in the YOH Fest 2024 competition.

In 2022, I introduced the Dance program for Years 7-9, which has since expanded into Year 10. In 2024, I embraced a new challenge by teaching Food Science, broadening my experience and passion for fostering creativity and practical skills. While The Arts and Technologies are two different learning areas and distinctly different disciplines, both are essential in promoting creativity, problem-solving, and practical skills in our students.

Staff Introductions – Welcoming Our New Technologies Team Members

I am thrilled to welcome Mr. Josh Casey to our team! He joins us every Friday to deliver the updated Design and Technology course for Year 7 and 8 students. Alongside him, we are equally excited to introduce Miss Jane Kafaty, our new full time Technologies teacher. Both Josh and Jane bring a wealth of life experience and a genuine

passion for teaching, which has already made them an invaluable part of our team.

Technologies – Balancing Innovation and Tradition

As we embrace innovation, it's equally important to preserve traditional skills. This year, Mr. Casey's students have begun exploring digital drawing with CAD (Computer-Aided Design) software and are eager to put their skills to use with our brand-new laser cutter. These cutting-edge tools are helping them engage in modern technology while developing important design skills.

At the same time, subjects like Textiles and Food Specialisation remain just as vital. In a world where an outfit can be ordered with the click of a button, have we reached the point where a missing button means throwing out a garment rather than sewing it back on? The ability to take up a hem could save Australians anywhere from \$900 to \$6,000 over a lifetime, yet these simple skills are increasingly lost. Similarly, learning to cook is not just a life skill but a financial advantage, helping students make healthier choices, budget effectively, and reduce waste. Beyond necessity, these hands-on skills foster creativity and independence, proving that while technology propels us forward, traditional skills remain essential, grounding us in everyday life.

Buy West Eat Best

In our Year 11 Food Science course, students have been replicating dishes from the Buy West Eat Best autumn recipe collection, focusing on using seasonal, local produce. Their final products were near identical to the professional photos on the website, and—having taste-tested a few myself—I can confirm they delivered on flavour too! Check out the accompanying photos.



The Arts

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress, giving birth to evolution."

ALBERT EINSTEIN

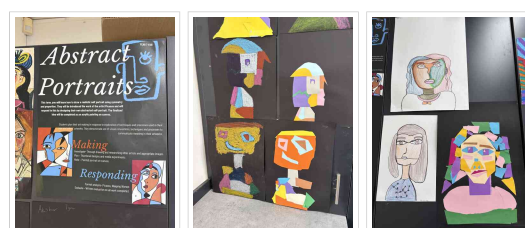
The Arts continue to be an integral part of student development, providing opportunities for self-expression, communication, and creativity. Drama, Music, Dance, Visual Arts, Photography, and Media all play a vital role in fostering confidence and artistic exploration.

Drama and Dance will also benefit from the opening of the STEM building in 2026, as we look forward to gaining much-needed additional space for our performances and classes.

Year 7 Visual Art – Pablo Picasso

Year 7 Visual Art students have been exploring the life and work of Pablo Picasso, focusing on his contributions to abstract art and Cubism. Through their studies, they have learned how Picasso broke traditional artistic rules by using bold shapes, fragmented forms, and multiple perspectives. Students have practiced these techniques by drawing abstract portraits of themselves and their peers, experimenting with geometric shapes and expressive lines. To conclude the unit, they will apply their new skills to create a final self-portrait painting, reflecting Picasso's unique style while showcasing their own creativity and artistic growth.

Miss Kathleen McAdam



Aladdin Jr.

Anticipation is building as our Musical Director, Mrs. Powell, kicked off vocal rehearsals for *Aladdin Jr.* earlier this term. Next term, I'll eagerly put on my Director's hat and begin scene work, while our talented Choreographer, Miss Giannakis, will guide our ensemble to perfect those all-important dance routines.

Final Auditions

For those who have not yet auditioned, there will be a call for support cast and ensemble auditions at the start of Week 9—details will be advertised on Schoolbox in the coming weeks.

I look forward to working with our talented students and dedicated staff to continue building engaging and dynamic learning opportunities in both the Arts and Technologies.

Excited to Join St. Andrew's Grammar

This term, I joined St. Andrew's Grammar as part of the Technologies learning area, teaching Food Specialisation, Children, Family and the Community (CFC), and Textiles.

It has been a fantastic start, and I've really enjoyed becoming part of the school community and getting to know my students.

I have found myself in a very vibrant and enthusiastic team of Arts and Technologies teachers, as well as being a proud new member of Artemis House. Additionally, I have a Mentor Group, which has been a great opportunity to connect with students outside the classroom and support them in different aspects of school life.

I am so passionate about what I am teaching, because it provides students with essential life skills—whether it's preparing nutritious meals, understanding child and family care, or expressing creativity through textiles. Seeing my students develop confidence and independence through hands-on learning has been incredibly rewarding.

I'm looking forward to the exciting projects my students will bring to life in their practical lessons and to getting involved in school events throughout the year. It's been a wonderful start, and I'm excited for what's ahead!

Miss Jane Kafaty



ACC Swimming Carnival

After weeks of training, the Secondary ACC Swim team took on the I Division Carnival on Tuesday 18th March with our biggest and most well-rounded squad to date. The efforts of each team member were highly commendable, and we are very proud to have finished 4th in the Overall Standings, only 1 point behind 3rd!

The following students achieved top 5 results in their age categories:

U14 Boys 1st Place – Brian Lam

U14 Girls 3rd Place – Neha Reddy

U15 Girls 3rd Place – Lilly Mai Glover

U13 Boys 4th Place – Jayden Truong

Open Boys 4th Place – Kelvin Truong

U15 Boys 5th Place – Lachlan Liao

A special thank you to our swimming captains, Kelvin & Emmy Truong who displayed excellent leadership at the House Carnival, swim training, and the ACC Carnival.