



**ST. ANDREW'S
GRAMMAR**

Striving for Excellence

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2026 SCHOOL NEWSLETTER: TERM 1 VOLUME 1

Message from Our Principal

Celebrating the Creative Excellence and Inquiry Spirit of Teachers at SAG

At St. Andrew's Grammar, learning is not something that simply happens within classroom walls—it is *crafted*, *questioned*, and *brought to life* by an extraordinary group of teachers whose creativity and commitment shape every learner's journey.

I try to get into classrooms as much as I can and as I move through classrooms across the school, I am continually inspired by the depth of professional expertise and the genuine passion our teachers bring to their work each day.

What stands out most clearly is the strong culture of inquiry and learning that permeates every year level and learning space. Teachers at St. Andrew's Grammar do not see themselves as deliverers of content alone, but as designers of rich learning experiences—experiences that invite curiosity, provoke thinking, and empower students to ask meaningful questions about their world. This shared commitment to inquiry ensures learning is purposeful, relevant, and deeply engaging.

Across the school, we see teachers skilfully creating environments where students feel safe to wonder, explore, take risks, and reflect. Learning is often driven by student voice, with teachers listening carefully to questions and interests, then thoughtfully shaping lessons that respond to these ideas. This approach nurtures independence, critical thinking, and a genuine love of learning—skills that will serve our students well beyond their time at our school.

Creativity is another defining hallmark of teaching at our school. Our teachers consistently demonstrate an impressive willingness to innovate—blending curriculum requirements with imaginative approaches that capture student interest and deepen understanding. Whether through hands-on learning, real-world connections, interdisciplinary projects, or the purposeful use of technology, creativity is not an add-on at our school; it is embedded in the way learning is designed and experienced. Importantly, this creativity is grounded in strong professional practice. Teachers collaborate, reflect, and challenge one another to continually refine their craft. They draw on research, professional learning, and shared expertise to ensure that innovative practice is also effective practice. This balance of creativity and rigour is what makes learning at St. Andrew's Grammar both inspiring and impactful.

Our educators' model lifelong learning through their openness to new ideas, their willingness to reflect on practice, and their commitment to continuous improvement. In doing so, they send a powerful message to students: learning is a journey, not a destination. Ultimately, the strength of our school lies in its people. The teachers at our school are not only highly skilled professionals; they are thoughtful mentors, creative thinkers, and passionate advocates for young people. Their work ensures that every student is known, challenged, and supported to reach their full potential.

As a school community, we are incredibly fortunate to have such dedicated and inspiring educators shaping the learning experiences of our students every day. Their creativity, inquiry mindset, and unwavering commitment to excellence are what make St. Andrew's Grammar a place where learning truly thrives.



Craig Monaghan
Principal

GOAANSE Quiz Night Fundraiser and Sponsorships

Dear St Andrew's Grammar Community,

We are very excited to welcome you to the 2026 St Andrew's Grammar Quiz Night!

The Quiz Night will fundraise for the 2026 GOAANSE Tour. Each year, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Australia National Schools Event (GOAANSE) brings together seven Greek Orthodox schools from around Australia for a sport and cultural event where students athletic abilities, school spirit and Greek culture are on full display. For the first time in St Andrew's history, we very proudly were the Champion School of the 2025 Games and hope to continue this success in 2026! We will be travelling to Sydney from the 4th - 8th of May with a strong team of 55 senior students and 7 staff.

To help support our Team we will hold a Quiz Night on Friday 20th March in the St Andrews Gym.

QUIZ NIGHT DETAILS:

- * Friday 20th March
- * Doors open: 6.00pm | Quiz kicks off: 6.30pm
- * \$30 per person
- * BYO food
- * Drinks available for purchase (no BYO drinks)

Purchase your tickets through the link below. Please change the quantity if you wish to purchase more than one. Ticket purchasing will close on Monday 16th March unless sold out prior, so secure yours quickly! Tickets will be emailed in the week of the Quiz.

[Purchase GOAANSE Quiz Night Tickets here](#)

Teams are made up of up to 10 people. Smaller groups may be combined on the night to create full teams of 10.

Please note, students are welcome to purchase a ticket and participate in the Quiz but are required to be at the table with their parents as it is a licensed event. Students on the GOAANSE team will be required to assist on the night.

Expect a big night of quiz action, a silent auction, games, prizes and plenty of friendly competition. So get your team together and start brushing up on your trivia skills!

If you would like to donate an item to the silent auction please get in touch with Mr Gleeson at sgleeson@sag.wa.edu.au

We are look forward to a great night of fun and Quiz action!

Mr Steve Gleeson

Assistant Head of Academies & Director of Sports

CGL Examinations

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are pleased to share an exciting opportunity for our students participating in the CGL Greek Language Examination in May 2026.

This incentive has been generously supported by Paul Afkos and the Hellenic Community of Western Australia, with the valuable contribution of Consul Eleni Georgopoulou, who has kindly offered full exam fee reimbursement for students who pass.

Students who register before 20 March 2026 will be eligible for the following:

- \$200 prize for students who top their age group
- \$150 prize for students who come second
- Full reimbursement of exam fees for successful candidates

This initiative aims to motivate and reward students for their dedication to learning Greek and to celebrate academic excellence.

Please find the attached flyer for full details.

Should you require any further information, feel free to contact me at:

ckapsali@sag.wa.edu.au

Kind regards,

Chrysoula Kapsali

Greek Language Teacher-CGL coordinator

https://standrewsgs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/11074/hcwa_cgl_examination_incentive_flyer_v7.pdf

Whole School Blessing

On 12 February 2026, we held our Whole School Blessing at the School Gymnasium with distinguished guests, Greek Consul in Perth, Eleni Georgopoulou, Frank Paolino MLA for Mount Lawley, Eleni Evangel, Chair of Advisory Board, Effie Mazgaltzidis, Vice-President of St Andrew's Grammar and the Hellenic Community of Western Australia and other Board Members in attendance.

His Grace Bishop Elpidios led the blessing in the gym, sharing prayers of encouragement and a special message with our students, with a traditional blessing of holy water.

He also shared the cutting of the vasilopitas with our distinguished guests, school staff and students – a sweet start to the school year!

Following the blessing, we also held a short commemoration for World Greek Language Day. Consul Eleni Georgopoulou shared in her speech how the Greek language shaped modern civilisation and encouraged all to learn the language because of its benefits.

She also shared a video message of the Greek Deputy Foreign Minister Ioannis Loverdos who reminded us all of the importance of the Greek language.

Thank you to everyone who joined us today. It was wonderful to come together as one St. Andrew's Grammar school body to welcome and officially mark the start of a wonderful year ahead.



became valued members of our learning community. It has been wonderful to see them embrace new challenges with confidence and curiosity. We are incredibly proud of their positive progress and excited to see them continue to grow in the months ahead.

All students revisited and strengthened foundational concepts from last year, including introducing themselves and others, reading the Greek alphabet, counting numbers, and describing colours — building confidence as they expanded their skills.

In ELC, our youngest learners have made a joyful and confident start to their Greek language journey. They have been introduced to essential classroom instructional language, helping them follow directions and participate actively from the very beginning. Through lively songs, movement, repetition, and interactive play, students are building their listening and speaking skills in a fun and supportive environment.

A special focus has also been placed on building relationships and helping students feel comfortable and connected. They have enjoyed getting to know their teachers, learning simple greetings, and using everyday Greek expressions in the classroom. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm, curiosity, and growing confidence each week.

This is just the beginning of what promises to be an exciting and rewarding year. We cannot wait to continue exploring the Greek language and culture together and to watch our ELC students flourish in their learning at our school!



Greek Corner - What an incredible start to 2026!

The year has begun with energy, creativity, and enthusiasm filling our classrooms. Students have been fully immersed in the Modern Greek language — reading, writing, speaking, singing lively songs, and playing interactive games that bring learning to life. Along the way, they have stepped into the fascinating world of Greek mythology and begun experiencing the richness of Modern Greek culture.

During Term 1, we were delighted to welcome many new students into our program. These students were thoughtfully introduced to the language and quickly

Library Corner



Welcome to the St. Andrew's Grammar Library.

In our library sessions, my main aim is to inspire our students to love reading and how to develop the skills

to find a just right book. I plan to achieve this by conducting engaging, stimulating and informative weekly library classes for all of our Primary Classes whilst also providing a warm, inviting and comfortable place for Primary students to visit at recess and Secondary students to have access to at lunchtimes.

Throughout the year, library lessons are designed to align with the English curriculum while sharpening students' library and critical thinking skills. This approach enriches the literacy foundations built in the classroom, encouraging students to further extend their learning. Special events and initiatives such as National Simultaneous Storytime, Scholastic Book Club, Book Week, Author Visits, Battle of the Books, Premier's Reading Challenge, MS Readathon, Tiny Tots, The Breakfast Club and the annual Book Fair ensure that literacy is promoted and embraced fully through our SAG Library program.

Rules for Borrowing:

- Each Primary Class from K – 6 has a regularly scheduled weekly library class.
- All students can borrow books to take home each week but must bring a library bag to borrow in order to protect their books.
- Borrowing Limits:

Kindy: 1 Book

Pre Primary: 1 Book

Year One: 1 Book

Year Two: 2 Books

Year Three: 3 Books

Year Four: 4 Books

Year Five: 5 Books

Year 6: 6 Books

Year 7-12: 5 Books

- Books are borrowed for 2 weeks and may be renewed if needed longer. Fines are NOT charged for overdue books.
- We have a book hospital where students can place books with loose covers or damaged, torn pages to be fixed.
- However, replacement fees ARE charged for lost or deliberately damaged books.

****REMINDER:** In addition to library classes, the library is open for 30 minutes each day at RECESS for Primary Students and 30 minutes at LUNCHTIME for Secondary Students.

Why is reading important? The lifelong benefits of reading...

We all understand that one of the benefits of reading more is that you might know more factual information or understand something more deeply. Beyond just gaining facts or deeper insights, reading physically rewires your brain. A key benefit is the development of empathy and emotional intelligence; by immersing yourself in characters' lives and viewing the world through their eyes, you practice perspective-taking. This deep engagement triggers a massive surge in neural activity that extends far beyond the brain's language processing centres. Reading helps to develop empathy and foster connection with perspective taking.

1. Reading improves critical thinking skills.
2. Reading builds vocabulary authentically and enhances conversation skills.
3. Reading teaches social skills and empathy.
4. Reading strengthens our cognitive processes.
5. Reading is important because it helps to build background knowledge.
6. Reading can help reduce stress for all ages.
7. Reading can improve sleep.
8. Reading helps to build and maintain memory
9. Reading strengthens writing skills.

By now, it's easier to see why reading is important. But for some kids, reading is really challenging. When reading feels difficult, it's hard to enjoy it! Help kids find their love of reading with some of these tips:

Read aloud to all kids: little or big! When you read aloud to kids, it's sometimes easier for them to access the storyline. This is especially true for kids that are having trouble with some of the foundational reading skills. Hearing you read aloud helps them to stay interested in books at a higher level and also models for them what reading should sound like with regards to fluency, expression, and prosody (the patterns of intonation and syllable stress in spoken language).

Look for books that reflect your kids' interests. Do you have sports fans or truck lovers? Maybe you have budding artists or animal activists? Whatever their interests, they are more likely to be excited about reading if it's a topic they love!

Help your kid's notice information as you read. Point out new words and phrases or ask them what they think a character will do next or how something makes them feel. Engaging with the story and with unfamiliar language

helps kids to understand that reading is more like a conversation with the author than a one-way activity.

And finally...

Quote of the Day:

Reading should not be presented to children as a chore or duty. It should be offered to them as a precious gift. ~Kate DiCamillo

Happy Reading!

Mrs Tracey Ricchini Press

K-12 Teacher Librarian



Session on 4 June at 9am, where we will share practical ways to support reading at home.

Thank you for your continued support. These simple daily reading moments make a lasting difference and help every child grow in confidence and flourish as a learner.

Happy reading,

Mrs Julie Wall
Head of Primary

Art Room Adventures

It has been wonderful to be back with your talented Artists this term.

Collaboration has been key! All years have started with a focus on Colour, learning all about Monochromatic colours together. Sharing ideas and creating together.

Years 1-6 are busy designing their Art Diary Covers and testing out all our new art materials!

Each Year level will now start working on their own Projects.

Year One will be introduced to the Work of Dr. Suess and then complete their Cat in the Hat portraits.



The Importance of Home Reading

One of the most powerful things you can do to support your child's learning is to read with them each day. Reading at home helps children build confidence, strengthen their skills and most importantly, develop a love of books that will stay with them for life.

Just 10–15 minutes of daily reading makes a significant difference. Whether your child is learning to read or already reading independently, your encouragement, interest and time help them grow as capable and enthusiastic readers. Sharing stories together, listening to your child read, or simply talking about books creates positive and meaningful learning moments.

This year, we have introduced our **Home Reading Programme**, encouraging all students to read regularly and record their reading. This helps build consistent habits and strengthens the important partnership between home and school.

In the early years, reading together builds language, imagination and connection. In the older years, independent reading helps deepen understanding and develops a lifelong reading habit. Allowing your child to choose books that interest them is a wonderful way to keep them motivated and engaged.

We also look forward to sharing reading together through initiatives such as **Tiny Tots**, beginning on 5 March at 9am in the library, and our **Reading for Success Parent**

Year Twos are learning all about the work of Melski and Murals and sharpening their colouring skills.



Year Threes are Studying the work of Julie Hickson, a Sydney contemporary Artist and have been inspired to create a painted work of Native Australian Flowers.



Year Fours are looking at Photorealism and applying it to draw African Animals, taking their pencil skills to the next level!



Year Five will look at Hokusai's "The Great Wave" and then put their own spin on this famous work.



Year Six will study Ancient Greek Artforms and then Draw their own Greek Vase Designs.



I love the learning I am witnessing in the classroom. Lots of talented creative people working hard to improve and grow.

Simone Mullenger
Primary Art Specialist

Message from our Head of Primary

Dear Families,

Welcome back to St Andrew's Grammar Primary School for another exciting year of learning. Whether you are returning or joining our community for the first time, I extend a very warm welcome to all our families, students and new staff members.

As we begin this academic year, the Primary School team looks forward to working in partnership with our students, parents and wider community to nurture a culture of lifelong learning. Our core values—**excellence, independence, commitment, responsibility and respect**—remain central to all that we do, supporting both academic achievement and student wellbeing.

It has been a joy to see our students settle into their new classes with confidence and enthusiasm. The calm and positive atmosphere across the Primary School reflects the dedication of our staff and the strong sense of belonging within our community. Seeing students arrive each morning with smiles, fist bumps, hugs and excitement for the day ahead is truly heartwarming.

A very special welcome goes to our youngest learners in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten. Their energy, curiosity and joy have already brought a wonderful vibrancy to our school. We recognise the importance of early childhood education in building strong foundations for future learning and we are committed to ensuring every child feels safe, supported and valued as they begin their educational journey. We also warmly welcome all new students and families who have joined us this year. One new student recently shared, *"I love my new school because everyone talks to you,"* which beautifully reflects the inclusive and caring environment we strive to create.

Our Focus for 2026

This year, we are strengthening our commitment to high-quality teaching and learning across the Primary School, with a clear focus on:

- **Strong Reading Foundations** – developing confident readers through regular home reading, guided reading and fostering a love of books
- **Clear Learning and Feedback** – ensuring students understand what they are learning and how to succeed
- **Wellbeing and Belonging** – further creating safe, supportive classrooms that build resilience, confidence and connection
- **Teaching Guided by Data** – using assessment information to provide targeted teaching that meets individual learning needs
- **Play-Based and Inquiry Learning** – encouraging curiosity through hands-on, meaningful learning experiences, particularly in the early years
- **Explicit Teaching** – providing clear modelling, guided practice and feedback to support mastery and deep understanding

These priorities reflect our commitment to ensuring every child is known, supported and challenged to achieve their personal best.

We have already enjoyed a wonderful and vibrant start to the year, and it is clear that 2026 will be a year in which our students and staff will flourish. We will continue to develop and consolidate our programs to ensure the highest quality learning experiences for every child. It was fantastic to see so many families attend our recent Parent Information Evening and Cocktail Event, which is a valued

tradition and an important opportunity to strengthen our sense of community. Our beautiful School Blessing set a meaningful and positive tone for the year ahead, and our Years 4–6 Swimming Carnival showcased tremendous enthusiasm, teamwork and house spirit.

There is much more to look forward to in the coming months, and I encourage families to regularly check the Schoolbox calendar to stay informed about upcoming events and opportunities to be involved in school life.

At St Andrew's Grammar, we believe that effective communication and strong partnerships between school and home are essential for student success. Our dedicated educators are passionate about supporting every child's individual learning journey, and we value your ongoing support and involvement.

As we continue this journey together, may this be a year in which every child grows in confidence, discovers their strengths and truly flourishes as a learner and as an individual.

I look forward to working closely with you throughout the year and thank you for entrusting us with your child's education.

Warm regards,



Mrs Julie Wall
Head of Primary

Introducing Your Primary School Student Leaders!

Student Councillors:



Marianthi Vassiliadis, Aaliya Kerbelker, Sophia Formato

House Captains:

Apollo



Elysha Ramiah, Taj Byatt

Artemis



Finn Henry, Isabella Liao

Demeter



Evie Zekas, Nikolina Papandreou

PA Monitors:



Adriana Ivkovic, Adella Fofana

Poseidon



Andrew Tran, Jayden Nguyen, Jade Liang, Nicole Thomas

Waste-Free Warrior:



Dylan Smith, Alexia Davis

Year 6 Library Monitors:



Wendy Po, Maddie Scanlon

Year 6 Kindness Ambassadors:



Sienna Hayon, Alexis Hayon

International Student Ambassador:



Patrick Huang

Recycling Monitors:



Kimberly Dube, Melody Mousavi, Kundai Mukundu, Milan Franchina

The children enjoyed listening to stories, singing songs together, and completing their very first painting, which was an exciting and proud moment for many students. In addition, they engaged in a range of play-based activities including puzzles, building, the home corner, and tabletop tasks. These experiences supported creativity, independence, and the beginning of new friendships as children learned to play and work alongside one another.



It has been a joyful and successful start to the year, and we are so proud of how well our kindergarten students have settled into school life. We look forward to many more weeks of learning, growing, and fun together.

Olivia Serra

Early Childhood Teacher- Kindergarten 2

Kindergarten

Our kindergarten students have had a lovely first week of school as they began their learning journey with us. To support a smooth and positive transition into school life, the week began with staggered starts, allowing children to attend half days. This approach helped students ease into the school environment at their own pace and build confidence in a calm and supportive way.

Throughout the week, our main focus was on establishing routines and ensuring that every child felt safe, supported, and welcome in their new classroom. We spent time getting to know one another and helping children feel comfortable with their teachers, classmates, and learning spaces.

A special highlight of the week was creating first-day handprints and taking photos, which will serve as a meaningful keepsake for both the children and their families to remember this important milestone.

We also spent time discussing our class rules and what it means to have a kind heart. Together, we talked about being gentle, respectful, and caring towards others, helping to lay the foundation for a positive and inclusive classroom community.



Year One

Our Year One students have had a fantastic start to the school year!

The first few weeks are an important time for building confidence, establishing routines, and helping children feel comfortable in their new learning environment, and we are so proud of how well everyone has settled in. They have adapted beautifully to the new rules and expectations of life in Year One, showing independence, kindness, and a willingness to have a go at new challenges.

The children have especially enjoyed exploring their new surroundings; from playing happily in the primary playground, to working hard during classroom learning sessions. We have also begun introducing early homework habits and positive learning routines to support their growth as confident learners. It has been wonderful to see friendships forming and enthusiasm for learning already blossoming. We are looking forward to a fantastic term ahead filled with fun, discovery, and success!

Mrs Havas and Mr Persson



We're looking forward to a fantastic term of sport, participation, and celebrating student achievements. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Warmly,

Mr. Pynes

Primary PE Specialist

Primary PE Events

Parents and Guardians,

I hope you and your families had a wonderful break! Welcome back to a brand-new school year at St. Andrew's Grammar! I can't wait to see our students come back full of enthusiasm and energy, ready to learn, play, and grow. A big warm welcome to all the new families joining our school community too.

As we kick off the year, I'd love to chat if your child has any sporting goals in mind. Whether they want to get better at a specific sport, boost their confidence, or hit a personal milestone at our House or interschool carnivals, we can come up with a plan together. Feel free to email me anytime at mpynes@sag.wa.edu.au or speak with me in person.

Here's what's coming up in Term 1:

?House Swimming Carnival (Years 4–6) – 17 February 2026

Our first major event of the year! A fun and spirited day where students compete for their House and showcase their swimming skills.

?IPSHA Interschool Basketball Carnival (Years 5–6) – 26 March 2026

A fast-paced and exciting opportunity for students to compete against other IPSHA schools at Willetton Basketball Stadium. Further details will be shared in the coming weeks.

?IPSHA Interschool Swimming Carnival (Years 4–6) – 31 March 2026

Selected students will represent our school in this competitive carnival against other IPSHA schools at Newman College.

?Run Club – Term 1 into Term 2

In preparation for Term 2 cross-country carnivals, Mr. Joey Pool (Year 2 Classroom Teacher) will be running Run Club as part of the school's co-curricular activities. This is a great way for students to build endurance in a fun and supportive environment. Sign-up details will be shared soon — thank you to Mr. Pool for supporting this program.

Message from our Head of Secondary

Welcome to Term 1

To our staff, students, parents and carers, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the time, energy and commitment you have given to the start of the school year. It is always a busy period, and your dedication and effort have ensured a positive and productive beginning to 2026.

Quickly, I would like to make special mention of our 2025 Year 12 cohort and congratulate them on their outstanding achievements. Their dedication, perseverance and commitment to their studies and to the wider life of the school have been commendable. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments and the way they have represented St Andrew's Grammar School, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact they will continue to make beyond our community. Another congrats goes to Annie Tran who achieved the highest ATAR score ever recorded for our school. *(We will further celebrate our Top Achievers at our Academic Assembly Term 2).*



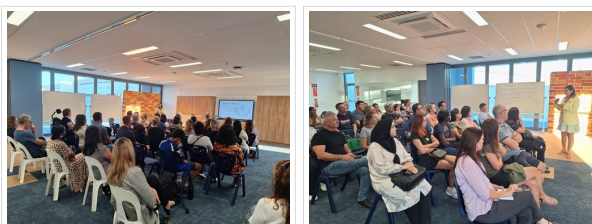
I would also like to acknowledge our Year 12 students, our largest cohort in the school's history (72 students) as they commence their final year at St Andrew's Grammar School. This is a significant and memorable chapter, and

we wish you every success as you embrace the opportunities and responsibilities that come with your final year.



A special welcome to our new Year 7 students as they begin their journey at St Andrew's Grammar School. We are delighted to have you as part of our community and look forward to watching you grow and thrive. You have settled in well and have embraced the new Middle School.

Both the Year 7 and Year 12 Parent Information Evenings (along with the Cocktail event) were very well attended and provided families with the opportunity to meet staff, gain important information, and tour our new facilities. Many parents shared very positive feedback about the new buildings and the exciting opportunities they will offer their children. It is wonderful to have you actively involved and connected to your child's learning journey. The Year 8/9 and 10 Parent Information Evenings are on the 24th and 25th of February respectively. *RSVP to these have been sent.*



This term we have introduced Yondr pouches as part of our commitment to maintaining a focused, respectful and distraction-free learning environment. The purpose of the Yondr system is to support student wellbeing and engagement by minimising the distractions that mobile devices can create during the school day. By securely storing phones, we are reinforcing the importance of face-to-face communication, active participation in learning and positive social interactions throughout break times.

I would like to sincerely thank our students for the mature and responsible manner in which they have embraced this new process. Change can sometimes take adjustment, and we have been extremely proud of the cooperation and understanding shown across the

school. Students have demonstrated respect for the expectations and for one another as we implement this initiative. I also appreciate the ongoing support of our families in reinforcing the importance of these procedures. Together, we are creating an environment where students can focus, connect and thrive.

I am delighted to share the exciting progress of our new classrooms and dedicated learning spaces in the AFKOS building. These new facilities represent a significant investment in the future of our students and our commitment to providing high-quality, contemporary learning environments. We had a celebratory opening on the 11th of December thanking the AFKOS family, SNF and all our sponsors for their contributions and donations.

The additional classrooms have provided modern, flexible spaces designed to support collaboration, creativity and focused learning. With improved layouts, updated technology and purpose-built design features, these rooms will enhance both teaching and student engagement across all year levels. The new D and T space is certainly a standout for the students along with the Drama/Dance studio and the new Science (SNF) room. These new rooms will foster problem-solving skills, innovation, creativity, expression, imagination and critical thinking — capabilities that are essential for the future. These developments reflect our ongoing commitment to creating engaging environments where curiosity is encouraged and learning is brought to life. We look forward to seeing our students explore, experiment, create and thrive in these new spaces.

The House Swimming Carnival is fast approaching on Tuesday 24 February, and we are looking forward to a fantastic day of fun, teamwork and healthy competition. This event provides students with the opportunity to challenge themselves, demonstrate resilience and most importantly, enjoy being an active member of their house.

While there will certainly be some competitive races and impressive performances in the pool, the true spirit of the carnival lies in participation and support. Every cheer from the sidelines, every effort in the water, and every act of encouragement contributes to making the carnival a truly exciting event.

Attendance at the Swimming Carnival is important. It is a regular school day and an opportunity for students to engage in physical activity, build confidence and strengthen house spirit. Even students who are not competing play a vital role by supporting their peers and contributing to the positive atmosphere. School events such as this foster connection, belonging and pride in our community.

And finally, an area I would like students to focus on this semester is becoming a self-manager. Students who are

organised and manage their time effectively are better equipped to balance homework, assessments and co-curricular commitments. A strong self-manager can learn independently, make wise decisions about their learning and behaviour, and take responsibility for meeting deadlines. They understand themselves as learners. They recognise their strengths, areas for growth and preferred learning styles. Furthermore, they are able to set meaningful personal goals and work consistently towards them. Through reflection, they challenge themselves to improve and strive for continual progress. Importantly, they are also aware of their emotions and can talk about how their feelings influence their behaviour, enabling them to respond thoughtfully and make positive choices both in and beyond the classroom.



Siza Macdonald
Head of Secondary