



**ST. ANDREW'S
GRAMMAR**

Striving for Excellence

2 Hellenic Drive
Dianella WA 6059
Subscribe: <https://standrewsgs.schoolzineplus.com/subscribe>

Email: reception@sag.wa.edu.au
Phone: 08 9303 3840



2026 SCHOOL NEWSLETTER: TERM 1 VOLUME 2

Message from the CEO

As we reach the midpoint of Term 1, I am pleased to reflect on the strong sense of unity of purpose and community that continues to define St. Andrew's Grammar.

Our Harmony Day celebrations were a highlight of the term, with students and staff embracing the opportunity to express their own heritage, showcasing the rich cultural diversity within our school. The proud wearing of traditional outfits, collaborative learning activities, and a spectacular shared international feast marked the day as an annual highlight for students and staff alike!

Attending Harmony Day this Tuesday, I was struck by the many unprompted displays by St. Andrew's students of inclusion and mutual respect. It was the kind of behaviour that can't be engineered or manufactured. One such example of the many took place during a spontaneous burst of Greek dancing – *which I was pulled into!* Anyone who wanted to join the circle was warmly embraced, and what started as a Greek dance soon became a fusion of dance - with students proudly showcasing dances from their own cultures. These were met with roars of delight, and without any of the circle of dancers missing a beat – so comfortable were the students in celebrating the rich diversity that we enjoy here at St. Andrew's. Observing this, I couldn't help but think that **here was the true spirit of our school** so perfectly and unconsciously displayed in the unity and fusion of cultures shared with respect.

The day stirred real feelings of pride within our teachers, and in the parents and Board Members who attended. To see the very values our teachers strive to cultivate

every school day, showcased in the tremendous student leadership I saw on Tuesday. *Well done St. Andrews!*

It is the character of St. Andrew's Grammar that charitable organisations like the Stavros Niarchos Foundation "simply couldn't stay away from" in the words of representative Mr Ioannis Raptakis. Last Friday, we were honoured to host Mr Raptakis, Senior Advisor of the Board of Directors and Chief Safety & Security Officer of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation whose financial support contributed to the development of the SNF Lab in the Bianca Afkos Science & Technology Centre.

The visit provided an excellent opportunity to showcase our outstanding new facilities and the exceptional education programs within to Mr. Raptakis, his wife and a host of other esteemed dignitaries in attendance. From innovative science programs to engaging technology, drama and performance programs, serving to fuel student enthusiasm, curiosity, and academic engagement.

The first weeks of the school year have also seen impressive achievements across academic, sporting, cultural, and leadership domains. Our students have participated with dedication in swimming carnivals, leadership initiatives, debating rounds, artistic programs, and a breadth of classroom learning experiences. Their commitment to demonstrating resilience, teamwork, and personal excellence is deeply commendable. I extend my appreciation to our dedicated staff, whose professionalism and commitment continue to provide an enriching and supportive environment for every student.

As we look ahead to the remainder of the term, including significant events such as NAPLAN, community activities, sporting and ongoing academic programs, I wish to thank our families for their continued partnership. Your engagement and support are integral to the holistic development of our students.

Together, we will continue to foster an environment where every child is inspired, valued, and equipped to pursue excellence in all aspects of their schooling. I look forward to celebrating the achievements and progress that the year will undoubtedly continue to bring.

Paul Savvas
CEO of St. Andrew's Grammar



Our Secondary School also embraced the celebration with a multicultural food experience followed by lively Greek dancing and a first-ever performance by a very talented Year 12 band!

Harmony Day continues to be a wonderful reminder of the amazing spirit at St. Andrew's Grammar—a day to celebrate our heritage, honour our differences and embrace the many cultures that enrich our school community.

A huge thanks to all the families and caregivers who prepared and shared such delicious dishes, helping to make the day so very special!

School Benefactor pays a Special Visit



Friday, 6 March, we welcomed a special visit by Mr Ioannis Raptakis, Senior Advisor of the Board of Directors and Chief Safety & Security Officer of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation to our School Assembly.

The Foundation's generous support helped to make our Bianca Afkos Science & Technology Centre possible — a space that has already become a vibrant hub of innovation and hands-on learning since its opening last year.

We were also delighted to share the morning with several distinguished guests, including the Consul of Greece, Eleni Georgopoulou, CEO Paul Savvas, members of the Hellenic Community of WA Board, and our own St. Andrew's Grammar Advisory Board.

After the Assembly, our visitors joined Head of Secondary Mrs Siza Macdonald for a tour of the new building, where they had the chance to see our science labs, woodworking spaces, and performing arts classes alive with activity.

Harmony Day



Visit our School Facebook page for more photos of our Harmony Day celebrations.

Harmony Day at St. Andrew's Grammar was a vibrant celebration of culture, belonging and community spirit across our entire school.

On Tuesday, 10 March, our campus came alive in a swirl of colours and flavours as students and staff arrived dressed in an exceptional array of national costumes or in the signature colour of Harmony Day—orange. From Early Childhood through to Year 12, the day showcased the rich diversity that makes our school so special.

In Primary and Early Childhood, students proudly wore cultural dress from their heritage, sharing stories and traditions with classmates. Throughout the day, they worked with their Buddy Classes to learn about different cultures, exchange experiences and reflect on the importance of respect, inclusion and belonging. A highlight was the cultural feast, where families generously provided delicious dishes from around the world!

St. Andrew's Grammar Quiz Night



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 looking forward to a great night of fun and Quiz action!

Easter Raffle



Easter Raffle Tickets on Sale Now!

2026 Kindness Ambassadors

We are proud to announce our 2026 Kindness Ambassadors!



These students have been selected for their ability to show empathy, leadership and care for others in our school community. Kindness Ambassadors help promote a positive culture at school by modelling respect, supporting others and helping to spread kindness through different initiatives throughout the year.

Our 2026 Kindness Ambassadors are:

- Aysa Seia (1.1)
- Trinity Paudel (1.2)
- Nenad Petrovic (2.1)
- Daniela Stevanovic (2.2)
- Novak Radojevic (3.1)
- Georgia Zafiropoulous (3.2)
- Milena Ramiah (4.1)
- Luka Trifunski (4.2)
- Theon Hein (5.1)
- Avyana Kandambige (5.2)
- Sienna Hayon (6.2)
- Alexis Hayon (6.3)

These students represent their classes as role models of kindness and will help lead initiatives that encourage caring, inclusion and respect across our school. We can't

wait to see the wonderful ways they spread kindness and the positive impact they will make in our community this year.

Toya Muliartha

Head of Curriculum & Pedagogy (Year 3-6)

Head of Primary

A Positive and Productive Start to the Year

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am delighted to share how exceptionally well all our students have settled into the school year. The past six weeks have been filled with rich learning experiences, memorable events and wonderful moments of growth. It has been a joy to see our classrooms alive with enthusiasm, curiosity and a genuine love of learning. Students have embraced their lessons with focus and excitement and it has been especially pleasing to see children enjoying quiet moments reading and relaxing with a book, further strengthening our reading culture.

Our Pre-Kindergarten students have also settled beautifully. They are happy, engaged and thriving in their nurturing environment. Each visit to the classrooms is filled with smiles, laughter and excitement as children explore hands-on activities and develop important early skills. The Pre-Kindergarten programme provides a strong foundation through play-based learning, early literacy and numeracy and social-emotional development. It is wonderful to see their confidence grow each day as they form friendships and begin their learning journey.

Our Kindergarten students have made a remarkable start to their school journey. It has been heart-warming to see their smiling faces each day as they explore their new environment with confidence and joy. Through play-based learning, children are developing essential sensory, language and social skills. Activities that encourage imaginative play, exploration and creativity are helping to build strong foundations for future learning. These early experiences support not only academic growth, but also independence, confidence and a love of school.

Across the Primary School, students have transitioned smoothly into their new classrooms and routines. They have demonstrated resilience, independence and a readiness to learn. Our dedicated teachers have worked hard to create supportive, engaging learning environments where every child feels valued and challenged.

One of the highlights of the term was our Swimming Carnival. It was fantastic to see our students demonstrate teamwork, determination and excellent sportsmanship. The house spirit and encouragement shown towards one another reflected the strong sense of community we value at St. Andrew's Grammar.

Parent-Student-Teacher Interviews will start shortly. These meetings are an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress and set meaningful goals for Semester One. Goal setting helps students develop responsibility and ownership of their learning.

Upcoming Events:

- Harmony Day: Thursday 10 March (students may wear orange or cultural dress)
- NAPLAN (Years 3 and 5): Wednesday 11 March – Friday 20 March
- IPSHA Basketball Carnival: Thursday 26 March
- Year 6 Fundraising Stalls: Wednesday 25 March
- Easter Hat Parade: Wednesday 1 April, 09:00am in the gymnasium
- Greek Independence Day Assembly: Thursday 26 March
- Last Day of Term 1: Thursday 2 April

As we reflect on the term so far, I am incredibly proud of our students and grateful for the support of our families and the dedication of our staff. Together, we have created a positive and nurturing environment where every child can grow, learn and flourish.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. I look forward to the many exciting opportunities still to come this year.

Warm regards,

Mrs Julie Wall, Head of Primary



Reminder: Before and After School Supervision

Please note that there is no formal supervision before 8:30am or after 3:20pm, unless students are attending a supervised school activity. Students who remain on school grounds after 3:20pm without supervision will be taken to Reception and parents will be contacted. Thank you for your support in ensuring the safety of all students.

Lunar New Year- Buddy Class Activity

Recently, the Year 6.1 and Pre-Primary 2 classes came together for a special buddy class activity to create vibrant Lunar New Year lantern collages.



Working in small groups, students designed their lanterns by gluing and layering colourful tissue paper to create bright, eye-catching patterns. Our Year 6 students showed wonderful leadership as they supported their younger buddies with cutting, sticking and carefully arranging their designs. It was lovely to see such thoughtful guidance, teamwork and creativity throughout the session.

Celebrating cultural events like Lunar New Year is an important part of building an inclusive school community. These shared experiences help students learn about different traditions, appreciate diversity and develop respect for cultures around the world. Most importantly, activities like this help create a strong sense of belonging — where every child feels valued, connected and proud to share in meaningful celebrations together.

We are so proud of the collaboration and care shown by both classes during this special activity.

Ms Ahmadzadeh & Miss Balino
Year 6.1 Teacher & Pre-Primary 2 Teacher

We would also like to thank our canteen staff for preparing the delicious Apollo House Lunch meal deal, which was thoroughly enjoyed by our students. Events like these are a great way to build house spirit, strengthen friendships and create a strong sense of belonging within our school community.

Well done to everyone involved!

Ms Sharareh Ahmadzadeh, Year 6 Teacher

Swimming Carnival Primary

We had a wonderful day at the Primary School Swimming Carnival on Tuesday, February 17th! Held at Bayswater Waves, it was a fun event for our Years 4 to 6 students, filled with laughter, teamwork, and friendly competition.



The day started off with excitement as students arrived ready to jump in. From 9:30am until 2:30pm, the carnival featured a mix of competitive swimming events and inclusive activities that allowed every student to participate, whether they were experienced swimmers or just there for fun.

Students earned points for their Houses throughout the day, creating a spirited atmosphere. In a thrilling display of talent, Poseidon House emerged victorious, taking home the champion trophy!

Congratulations to our Poseidon swimmers for their hard work and dedication!

We also want to celebrate our individual award winners in the House Swimming categories:

Year 4 - Boys: 1st: Cristian Miranda, 2nd: Matthew Abou Rjeily, 3rd: Kayden Hofman

Year 4 - Girls: 1st: Emma Zekas, 2nd: Sofia Petkovic, 3rd: Liana Shahbazi

Year 5 - Boys: 1st: Kai Mousavidoust, 2nd: Miles Norman, 3rd: Nicholas Papandreou

Year 5 - Girls: 1st: Ivy Henry, 2nd: Safiya Lemarkat, 3rd: Isabella Doan

Year 6 - Boys: 1st: Danilo Tiosavljevic, 2nd: Kieran Bisnath, 3rd: Taj Byatt

Year 6 - Girls: - 1st: Savannah Driberg-Cooper, 2nd: Evie Zekas, 3rd: Nikolina Papandreou

A big thank you to everyone who participated and to the parents and guardians who volunteered their time. Your

Apollo House Lunch



It was wonderful to see so many of our primary Apollo students coming together to share a meal and spend time with their House during the Apollo House Lunch which was held on Thursday, 6th March.

A big thank you to our Year 6 Apollo students for all the effort they put into preparing, planning and running the event. They showed fantastic leadership and did a great job helping make the lunch such a success.

support made all the difference and helped create an unforgettable experience for our students.

Mr. Pynes
Head of Primary PE and Sport

Most importantly, we want our children to see reading not as a task, but as a lifelong gift — a source of enjoyment, comfort and discovery. Thank you for your continued support with home reading, as together we cultivate confident, capable and passionate readers.

Julie Wall
Head of Primary

Reading in Primary



Reading is truly flourishing across our Primary School and it has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm and growth in our students this term. Classrooms are alive with stories, discussion and a genuine love of books.

We are continuing to promote strong reading habits through our structured home reading program, encouraging students to read regularly and build fluency, confidence and comprehension. In classrooms, guided reading groups have now commenced, allowing teachers to work closely with small groups of students to target specific skills and support individual growth.

A highlight of our week is D.E.A.R – Drop Everything and Read, where the entire class pauses to enjoy uninterrupted reading time. These quiet moments not only build stamina but reinforce the message that reading is valued and celebrated in our school.

Our Library sessions are also playing an important role in fostering a love of literature. Students are exploring a wide range of genres — from mystery and adventure to biographies, fantasy and historical fiction — broadening their understanding of different text types and discovering new favourites. Sharing favourite books during News time has become another special way students recommend stories to one another, building a vibrant reading culture within each class. And of course, story time remains a treasured daily ritual, where imagination, expression and a shared love of storytelling bring us together.

The power of reading extends far beyond the classroom. Reading strengthens vocabulary, improves writing, builds background knowledge and develops critical thinking skills. It nurtures empathy as children step into the experiences of others, and it fuels creativity and curiosity about the world around them. Strong reading foundations are directly linked to academic success across all learning areas.

Primary Music

It has been a delight to welcome the children back to the Music Room and we have had a great start to the term!

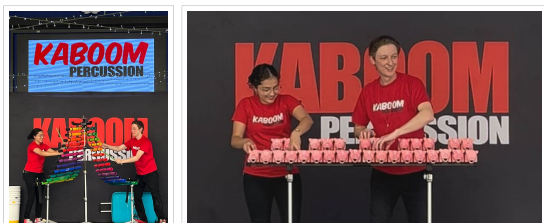
Our Year 6's have learnt the components of a backbeat drumming pattern and played this on drum kit, percussion and chair-drum. The Year 5 students have learnt how to set-up keyboards and played their first chords. Our Year 4's have learnt how to correctly hold and strum a ukulele and have played and sung their first song!

Meanwhile, our Year 3 students have learnt the fundamentals of good recorder technique and to gently play, Beautiful Note B and Awesome Note A. The Year 2 students have been singing, partner dancing and playing xylophone ostinati (repeating patterns) to accompany a very fun song called, H.I.P.P.O. Hippopotamus. And children in Kindy to Year 1 have been engaged in play-based music learning including, singing, dancing, movement, and music games.

In Week 3, Josh and Carissa from Kaboom Percussion delivered a brilliant music incursion for students in Years 1–7. This highly interactive performance captivated students right from the start. Highlights included a hilarious retelling of The Three Little Pigs and a range of popular theme tunes performed in clever and inventive ways. They performed using an array of unconventional instruments—cardboard boxes, buckets, Boomwhackers, bells, whistles, knitting needles, Sharpies, and even an orchestra of singing plastic pigs! Oink, Oink!

Our Primary Band students are shooting for the stars this semester. They come together every Friday morning to work up contemporary repertoire for performances throughout the year, and they are already sounding fantastic! The students will be performing at the IPSHA Performing Arts Festival in Term 2.

Marina Powell
Head of Primary Music and Co-Curricular Performing Arts



Today in our Year 1 and Year 2 classes, we had a wonderful time exploring Greek traditions!

We started by talking about Clean Monday (Καθαρά Δεύτερα) — what we celebrate, why it's called that, and the special customs that come with it. The children learned about traditional foods like Lagana bread, taramosalata, dolmadakia, and halva; they even got to try the famous Lagana, which they absolutely loved!

We also made our own kites and flew them high together, just like families do in Greece and we created masks to celebrate Carnival, which comes right before Clean Monday! On top of that, we made Kyra Sarakosti — the “Lady Lent” — who has seven legs, one for each week until Easter.

We explained how her mouth is missing and her hands are crossed, symbolizing fasting and prayer, and how each week we cut off one leg as part of the tradition. The children were fully immersed in the customs and traditions of Hellenism and we all had an amazing, joyful time together!

St. Andrew's Greek Teachers



Greek Studies

This term, our Year 1 students are beginning their exciting journey in Modern Greek!

They are learning how to greet others and introduce themselves, building confidence in basic conversational skills. A key focus is developing familiarity with the Greek alphabet and numbers, which students practise through engaging songs, games, and writing activities.



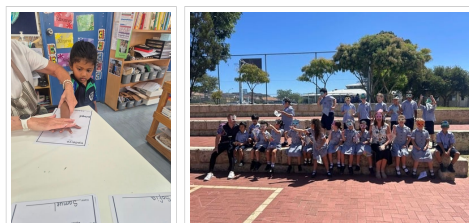
Students are also learning to identify and talk about items in their pencil case, using the phrase “I have...” to describe the materials they use in class. Throughout the term, they will explore important cultural milestones, including Clean Monday and Greek Independence Day, through class discussions and creative craft activities.

Year 2 students are building on their existing knowledge by mastering greetings for different times of the day, such as “Good morning” and “Good night.” They are further developing their understanding of language structures, particularly the use of gender articles with names and identifying whether they are a boy or a girl.

This term also includes a strong focus on classroom vocabulary. Students are learning the Greek words for everyday items such as desks, chairs, computers, and books, while practising how to ask and respond to the question, “What is it?” They are also participating in meaningful activities to celebrate Clean Monday and Greek Independence Day.

Celebrating Kathara Deftera

Monday, 23 February marked Kathara Deftera, or “Clean Monday,” one of the most cherished annual celebrations in Greece.



Kathara Deftera, or “Clean Monday,” is one of the most cherished annual celebrations in Greece. It marks the beginning of Great Lent—known as Sarakosti—in the Greek Orthodox Church. Although Sarakosti literally means “forty,” the Lenten period.

Clean Monday falls on the first day of the seventh week before Greek Orthodox Easter. Liturgically, however, Lent begins the evening before, during a beautiful and moving

Greek Traditions

church service. At this service, people bow to one another and ask for forgiveness, symbolically starting the Lenten journey with a clean conscience, renewed faith, and a spirit of love and reconciliation.

Clean Monday is both a deeply spiritual and joyfully communal occasion. In Greece and Cyprus, it is a public holiday celebrated with family outings, picnics in nature, the enjoyment of shellfish and other fasting foods, and the beloved tradition of flying colourful kites.

It's a day that blends reflection with celebration marking a fresh spiritual beginning while bringing people together outdoors to welcome the season ahead.

Stelliani Tzavellas, Kindy Greek and PMP Teacher, Greek Dance Teacher Years PP-6, K-12 Greek Curriculum Coordinator

In Pre-Primary, we have been exploring the theme *All About Me*. Through this learning, we have been talking about friendships, healthy eating, and learning about ourselves. We have also been exploring how to write our names, making sure we include all the letters. The students created an *All About Me* flower, sharing their age, the foods they like to eat, and who is in their family.

In Mathematics, we have been practising our counting skills by using real objects and making sure we count each item carefully using one-to-one correspondence and saying the numbers out loud. We have also been investigating different 2-D shapes. The children created their own pictures using shapes and enjoyed going on a shape hunt to find shapes in our classroom and school environment.

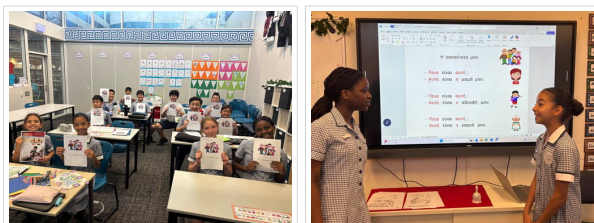
In Health, we collected data about the fruits and vegetables in our lunchboxes and discussed how they help our bodies grow, stay healthy, and support our learning.

While learning about the world around us, we have also been learning more about ourselves and each other. Most importantly, we have been learning how to collaborate with our peers and practise our oral language skills by sharing our ideas, listening to others, and participating in discussions and news.

Floriane Balino, Pre-Primary 2 Teacher



Greek Extension Classes



In Year 3, students have been excited to plan their own birthday party! They explore the items needed for the celebration and learn how to invite their friends to join in the fun.

In Year 4, during Term 1, students explore the world of clothes and fashion. They identify and name different types of clothing while practising conversations for shopping and discussing their favourite outfits.

Year 5 students turn their attention to their city and neighbourhood, learning about major landmarks and important places. They also develop their skills in giving directions within a Greek neighbourhood.

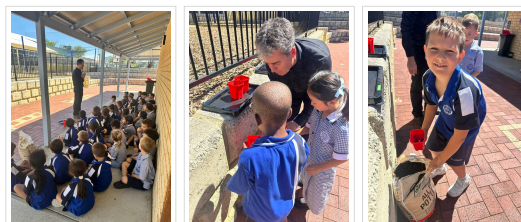
This term in Modern Greek, Year 6 students are learning how to introduce both their immediate and extended family members. They practise sharing names and describing physical features, building confidence in speaking about their families.

Stelliani Tzavellas
Kindy Greek and PMP Teacher, Greek Dance Teacher
Years PP-6, K-12 Greek Curriculum Coordinator

Year 1 Science

Caring for Plants and Animals

The Year One classes are learning about the basic needs of plants and animals. We are investigating if plants can grow without sunshine. Our experiment investigates how the growth of seeds changes when they do not get enough sunlight. We have planted some seeds and will monitor their progress over the next two weeks.



Pre-Primary

Year 2 Science

Year 2 Science in Action – Rice at the Disco!

Our Year 2 students recently became young scientists during an exciting investigation called “Rice at the Disco” as part of our learning about sound energy.



Our focus for the lesson was to explore how sound waves work and how sound energy causes objects to vibrate.

We began by tuning in with the Great Sound Challenge, where students explored different environments and generated as many sounds as they might hear in each setting. This sparked rich discussions about how sounds are made and how they travel. Throughout the lesson, students demonstrated our learning assets of being Thinkers, Collaborators and Contributors — sharing ideas thoughtfully, working together during discussions, and actively participating in every stage of the investigation.

After revising how sound waves work, students prepared for their investigation by recording their aim and making a hypothesis about what might happen to the rice when sound was introduced.

To conduct the experiment, we stretched plastic wrap tightly over a glass bowl and placed a teaspoon of rice on top. Instead of using instruments, we placed a speaker close to the bowl and played music. As the volume and beat changed, the rice began to “dance”! Students observed that louder sounds and stronger beats created bigger vibrations, causing the rice to move more dramatically.

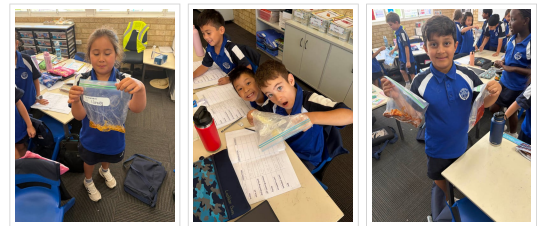
Through this hands-on investigation, students discovered that sound energy causes vibrations, and those vibrations can travel through materials — even making rice bounce and move to the rhythm of the music!

It was a joyful and engaging lesson filled with curiosity, excitement and plenty of “wow” moments as our rice truly partied at the disco!

Year 2 Teachers, Tasleem Edwards and Joey Pool

Year 3 Science: Heating and Freezing Experiments

The Year 3 students have been busy exploring the exciting world of science through a series of hands-on experiments focused on how temperature can change different materials.



Over the past few weeks, students have been investigating what happens when heat is added to solids. Through observation and discussion, they discovered that some solids can change when heated. Students made predictions, watched carefully as materials were heated, and recorded the changes they noticed. This helped them understand how heat can affect the properties of different substances.

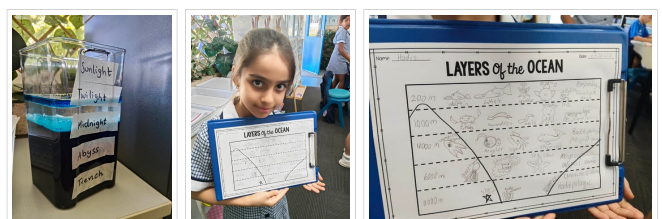
In another experiment, students explored what happens when liquids are frozen. They tested a variety of liquids to see how they would change when placed in the freezer. Students compared which liquids froze, which took longer, and which did not freeze in the same way as water. This investigation encouraged students to think like scientists by making predictions, observing results, and discussing why different liquids behaved differently.

These experiments have helped students develop their scientific inquiry skills, including predicting, observing, recording results, and sharing their ideas with others. The Year 3 classes have shown great curiosity and enthusiasm, and it has been wonderful to see them asking thoughtful questions and making connections to the world around them.

Year 3 Teachers, Jo Simpson and Jarred Rees

Year 4 Marine Biology

Our Year 4 students have dived headfirst into the new school year with an exciting marine biology unit all about the ocean and its mysterious zones!



Year 3 Science

To launch our learning, students explored the different layers of the ocean — from the bright, sunlit surface to the deep, dark depths where sunlight can't reach. We discussed how conditions change as you travel further down: light fades, temperatures drop, and pressure increases.

To bring this concept to life, we conducted a hands-on experiment to model the ocean zones. By carefully layering liquids such as oil, coloured water, liquid soap and glucose syrup, we created visible “zones” that stacked on top of each other — just like the ocean's layers!

There was plenty of excitement (and a few very focused faces!) as students observed the liquids settling into distinct bands, and it sparked thoughtful questions about marine life, deep-sea exploration, and food webs beneath the surface of the ocean!

On Friday, 20th February, our Year 6 student leaders took part in a fantastic Year 6 Leadership Day filled with teamwork, collaboration and fun!



Throughout the day, students participated in a variety of engaging team-building activities and games that challenged them to communicate effectively, think creatively and support one another. It was wonderful to see so many examples of initiative, encouragement and positive leadership in action.

We were also privileged to hear from our Head of Primary-Mrs Wall - as well as some Secondary leaders, who shared inspiring speeches about their own leadership journeys. They spoke about the importance of responsibility, resilience, service and leading by example — valuable reminders for our Year 6 students as they step into their leadership roles this year.

We are incredibly proud of the maturity, enthusiasm and teamwork shown by our Year 6 student leaders.

Ms Sharareh Ahmadzadeh

Year 6 Teacher, Assistant Head of Data for School Improvement

Year 5 Science

Year 5 Science: Fair Test Investigations

This term our Year 5 students have been exploring the properties of solids, liquids and gases through hands-on investigations.

They have been designing and carrying out fair tests, carefully changing one factor at a time while keeping everything else the same. Students have been identifying independent variables (what they change), dependent variables (what they measure) and controlled variables (what stays the same) to ensure accurate results.

It's been exciting to see students make predictions, record their observations and compare results, gaining a deeper understanding of how different materials behave. Their curiosity and careful experimentation show how much fun it can be to experiment like real scientists!

Miss Lauren Giannakis and Miss Toya Muliatha



Year 6 Maths Enrichment

Does Practice Make Perfect?

Exploring the Relationship Between Practice and Excellence in Mathematics

In the spirit of the recent Winter Olympics, our Year 6 students embarked on an exciting mathematical journey to explore the age-old question: Does practice really make perfect? Armed with their curiosity and mathematical skills, they are set to prove or disprove this intriguing statement through a creative and hands-on experiment.

The Challenge: Coin Stacking and Catching

To kick off their investigation, the students devised a unique challenge that none of them had attempted before. The task? Stack eight 20 cent coins on their elbow, flick their wrist, and attempt to catch the coins in one swift motion. The goal was to count how many coins they could successfully catch on their first try. This experiment was designed to be both fun and challenging, providing a fresh perspective on the concept of practice.

Year 6 Leadership Day

Over the next few weeks, students will continue with this experiment by engaging in one-minute practice sessions followed by a test of their skills. During these sessions, they will record the number of coins caught and gradually observe any improvements. To add a twist to the experiment, they will also try their hand at catching plastic counters, providing an interesting comparison between different materials and their impact on performance.

The Anticipated Results

As the experiment progresses, students will graph their results, analyzing the data to determine whether practice leads to perfection or merely progress. This hands-on approach to learning not only hones their mathematical skills but also encourages critical thinking and resilience. We are eagerly awaiting the students' findings and their final decision on whether practice indeed makes perfect. This creative exploration promises to be both enlightening and entertaining. Stay tuned to discover the fascinating outcomes of this Year 6 Maths Enrichment project!

Jodie Stevens

Maths Enrichment Teacher, Years 3,4 & 6



together to manage the experiment; and communicators, as they share insights and updates with the class.

We look forward to seeing how the investigation unfolds and the discoveries our Year 6 scientists will make as they continue their exploration!

Ms Ahmadzadeh, Mrs Emmelhainz, Mrs Attard & Mrs Mellidis

Library Corner

Welcome to the St. Andrew's Grammar Library.

Feature Collection: Languages



At St. Andrew's Grammar, whilst deeply grounded in our Greek culture, Orthodox faith and Hellenic values, we are a genuinely inclusive, multicultural school with students from over 45 diverse nationalities.

As such, our library now contains a growing dual language collection to support many of the other languages that are spoken at home throughout the school.

Dual language books, also called bilingual books, are storybooks or non-fiction books with matching text in two languages: English and another language that is spoken at home.

Quality dual language storybooks have some or all of these features:

- Parity of text between the two languages. This is an important signal of the value given to the languages that multilingual children use.
- The representation of a diverse range of characters, including main characters, in contexts that children recognise.
- Storylines that offer authentic accounts of the lived worlds of the children who read them.
- A clear relationship between text and illustrations, so that children can use the illustrations to support their meaning making.

Year 6 Biology

Year 6 Explores the World of Biology: Growing Mould!

Our Year 6 students are currently exploring the fascinating world of biological science through a hands-on experiment investigating how mould grows. Following the scientific method, they have carefully planned their investigation, made predictions, and are now observing changes as the mould develops.



Students are recording their observations meticulously, noting colour, texture, and growth patterns. This ongoing experiment is giving them the chance to demonstrate the key learning assets of thinkers, as they analyse patterns and consider causes; collaborators, as they work

- Books that are favourites among all the children, so that those children who are new to Australia can build shared cultural capital.
- Books that present a view of the wider world, for all children to extend their knowledge and understanding of cultures and ways of life beyond their own.



Quote of the Day:

"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart." – *Nelson Mandela*

Happy Reading

Mrs Tracey Ricchini Press, K-12 Teacher Librarian



This week marked the introduction of a meaningful new tradition at our school, the official handover of the Year 12 leavers jackets, presented by our dedicated Year 2 students rather than staff members. In ten years, these Year 2 students will have the opportunity to become Year 12 students themselves and join the school Alumni, creating a lasting connection with the Year 12 student to whom they originally presented the jacket.

This event was filled with excitement as the younger groups and oldest students came together. Year 2's and 3's proudly passed a jacket to their Year 12 peers with huge smiles. For the Year 12s, receiving their jackets, it marks the beginning of their final chapter at the St Andrew's Grammar, one which will certainly be filled with many different emotions. For the Year 2's and 3's, it's a chance to look up to the "big kids" and imagine their own future journeys. This new tradition will continue to strengthen the sense of connection across year levels, reminding everyone that our school community grows together.



One of our key focuses this year is to encourage students to become confident **self-managers**, young people who take responsibility for their learning, behaviour, and wellbeing. Across all year levels, teachers will be encouraging students to develop the skills they need to stay organised, make thoughtful choices, and take initiative in their daily routines.

Students are encouraged to set goals, manage their time, and reflect on their progress. In classrooms, it is coming prepared with the right equipment, using class time effectively, and seeking help when needed. In the playground and around the school, it means showing respect, solving small problems independently, and making safe, positive decisions.

These habits not only support success at school but also build the foundation for life beyond it. By practising self-management now, students are developing confidence, resilience, and the ability to navigate challenges with maturity.

Head of Secondary

It is somewhat breathtaking to think that the first half of Term 1 has passed us. It's been a hectic start to the school year, lots happening all at once, but we have found our stride and begin the journey ahead. A big thank you to the staff, students and wider community for your effort and commitment thus far.

We enjoyed a fantastic swimming carnival, marked by impressive participation and outstanding support from our school community. The encouragement from the sidelines made a real difference and helped create a positive, inclusive day for all involved. Well done to the winning house – **Demeter!** Also, well done to our various year group champions as well.

We also want to acknowledge and thank our parents and carers for the support they provide at home. Encouraging routines, helping students stay organised, and reinforcing positive habits all make a meaningful difference. This partnership between home and school is a key part of helping students grow into capable, confident self-managers.

With NAPLAN approaching, our focus is on helping students feel confident, prepared, and ready to do their best. NAPLAN is not a test that students need to “study” for in the traditional sense. Instead, it’s an opportunity to show the skills they’ve been building throughout their schooling—reading, writing, language conventions, and numeracy.

Students have been practising using the online NAPLAN platform, so they understand how to navigate tools such as the calculator, highlighter, and audio features. This helps reduce nerves and ensures the focus stays on the content, not the technology.

It is important to remember that NAPLAN is simply a snapshot of learning. It doesn’t define a student’s abilities, potential, or future. We encourage all students to try their best, stay positive, and remember that their wellbeing matters more than any test result. A thank you must also go to all the teachers and administrators of NAPLAN in advance, for your assistance and ensuring our students are provided with the optimum opportunity to succeed.

And finally, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our students, families, and staff for the warmth, positivity, and commitment you bring to our school each day. It is a privilege to watch our students grow, learn, and support one another within such a caring community. I look forward to all the success and achievements of 2026.

Siza Macdonald, Head of Secondary



The 2026 Secondary House Swimming Carnival was run and won on Tuesday 24th February at Terry Tyzack Aquatic Centre.

We were blessed with a perfect day of weather and our 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 7 Champions - Girl: Selena Lam, Boy: Daniel Milosescu | **Runners-up** - Girl: Nikolina Katic, Boy: Xzavier Driberg Cooper

Year 8 Champions - Girl: Alessandra Harold, Boy: Jayden Truong | **Runners-up** - Girl: Suri Sexton, Boy: Aditya Reddy

Year 9 Champions - Girl: Neha Reddy, Boy: Brian Lam | **Runners-up** - Girl: Saba Masoudi, Boy: Anthony Nguyen

Year 10 Champions - Girl: Lilly Mai Glover, Boy: Vuk Pantic | **Runners-up** - Girl: Isla Quick, Boy: Lucas Ting

Year 11 Champions - Girl: Evelyn Urbina, Boy: Vuk Pantic | **Runners-up** - Girl: Emmy Truong, Boy: Nam Nguyen

Year 11 Champions - Girl: Emilia Kovacevic, Boy: Sam Vargas | **Runners-up** - Girl: Jemma Skinner, Boy: Zac Harold

The House Points were:

1st Place: Demeter 2172 points

2nd Place: Artemis 1635 points

3rd Place: Apollo 1463 points

4th Place: Poseidon 1159 points

Congratulations Demeter House!



Secondary Swimming Carnival

Secondary Debating Challenge

Congratulations to all students who stepped up to the challenge and successfully completed their debates. It was wonderful to see such confidence, preparation and

teamwork on display, a fantastic effort by everyone involved!

The students did an amazing job debating their topics, and the time and care they put into presenting their arguments so persuasively was truly impressive.

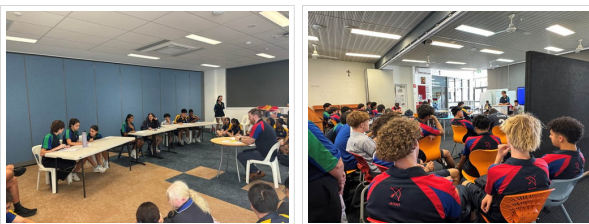
A Big Congratulations to our House winners for Round 1

- Year 7 Group A: Artemis
- Year 7 Group B: Poseidon
- Year 8 Group A: Artemis
- Year 8 Group B: Poseidon
- Year 9/10 Group A: Poseidon
- Year 9/10 Group B: Demeter
- Year 11/12 Group A: Apollo
- Year 11/12 Group B: Demeter

The second round of debates will take place in Week 7.

Thank you to all staff who supported and prepared the students for this event. We also extend our sincere thanks to the adjudicators for their time, thoughtful feedback and careful consideration in judging each debate. Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

Well, done to everyone involved — we look forward to the next round!



Secondary Drama

Drama Thrives in Our New Performance Space

The new Drama classroom has quickly become one of the most exciting spaces in the school, and both students and staff are already enjoying the many advantages it offers. With its generous floor area, higher ceilings and comfortable carpeted surface, the room provides an ideal environment for practical theatre work. For the first time, Drama lessons can unfold without the challenge of negotiating limited space.

Our Year 7 Drama students have been particularly enthusiastic as they explore circus skills and clowning this term. The increased ceiling height has been perfect for activities such as diabolo throwing, while the large, carpeted floor allows students to practise movement-based work safely and confidently. The extra space has meant students can experiment more freely, resulting in energetic and creative performances.

Across the other year levels, the benefits of the new room are just as noticeable. Our combined Year 11 ATAR and General Drama class is taking full advantage of the flexible layout, with groups rehearsing on either side of the concertina doors. This allows students to work simultaneously in larger groups while reducing sound overlap, making rehearsals far more productive.

Meanwhile, Year 9 students are bringing the exaggerated characters and humour of Melodrama to life, Year 10 students are tackling the intriguing world of Theatre of the Absurd, and our Year 8 classes have been producing some wonderfully imaginative improvisations. The new space has given students the freedom to explore drama more fully, and has helped make teaching and learning Drama a genuine pleasure.

Shana O'Shea, Head of Learning Area - Arts & Technologies



Netball Academy

On the 5th March, our Netball Academy students had the fantastic opportunity to participate in a specialised Netball Development Day. The day was designed to help students further develop their skills, game understanding, and teamwork through a series of targeted coaching sessions and match play.



The program consisted of three 45-minute specialist court sessions, followed by a one-hour workshop focused on building strong academy values, and concluded with competitive match play, allowing students to apply the skills they had learned throughout the day.

This was an incredible opportunity for our students to learn from three highly experienced external coaches, each of these coaches have coached at State League level and has been involved with the West Coast Fever pathway programs. Their expertise provided valuable

insights and high-quality coaching that greatly benefited all participants.

During the specialist sessions, students focused on a range of important netball skills:

- Shooting rotation and technique, where players worked on accuracy, positioning, and effective movement within the circle.
- Leading, landing, and footwork around the circle edge, helping attacking players improve timing, decision making and balance.
- The three phases of defence, which explored pressure on the ball, body positioning, footwork and strategies for winning possession.

These sessions were led by Lynn Pemberton, Sherrie Errington, and Jo McKee, who each brought a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to their coaching.

Throughout the day, our students demonstrated excellent effort, teamwork, and sportsmanship, proudly representing the school both on and off the court. The coaches were extremely impressed with the students' attitude, engagement, and willingness to learn, and provided some outstanding feedback about the group.

Overall, the development day was a valuable and rewarding experience that allowed students to refine their skills, build confidence, and gain exposure to high-level coaching. We look forward to seeing them continue to apply these skills in training and upcoming matches.

Morgan Styles, Netball Specialist, Health & Physical Education Teacher

difference, they competed strongly and showed great potential for the future.

The Senior Girls team also competed strongly on the day and represented the school with great effort and teamwork. Thank you to all the girls who participated and contributed to a positive and competitive day of basketball.

Well done to all students involved for the way you represented the school!

Liam Collins, Year 7 and Transition Coordinator & Health and Physical Education Teacher

Year 7 Textiles



The Year 7 students have made a fantastic start to Textiles in 2026. Over the past few weeks, they have been refining their hand-sewing skills and learning how to sew a variety of buttons, including two-hole, four-hole, and shank buttons.

In addition to this, students have begun learning how to safely and confidently use the sewing machines. They have been practising sewing sample pieces using both the straight stitch and zigzag stitch functions, helping them understand how different stitches can be used for construction and finishing techniques.

It has been wonderful to see students building their confidence, developing new practical skills, and showing great focus and creativity in the textiles classroom.

ACC Basketball

Well done to all the students who represented the school at the ACC Senior Basketball competition last Wednesday. Both our Senior Boys and Senior Girls teams competed on the day and represented the school with great effort and sportsmanship.

The Senior Boys played really well considering it was their first real time playing together as a team, showing great promise through their skills, teamwork, and determination throughout the day.

A special thank you to Rehan, who captained the team exceptionally well. He did a fantastic job keeping morale high and the team focused, particularly during some tough games.

The boys should also be very proud of their efforts considering half of the team were Year 10 students and below competing against Year 12 teams. Despite the age

Year 7 and 9 English

For the past six weeks, all Year 7 and Year 9 students have been practising and preparing for their upcoming NAPLAN tests.

In English the students have spent some time revising their narrative and persuasive writing skills to prepare for the Writing Test; the first two assessments have been marked on NAPLAN criteria so they can develop an understanding of the expectations. The Year 9 students

have the opportunity to prequalify for Secondary Graduation by achieving well.

We encourage all our 7s and 9s to try their best in all the tests – and remember to bring wired earphones along with a charged laptop and their charger, just in case.

Year 7 Science

Year 7 Bunsen Burner Investigation

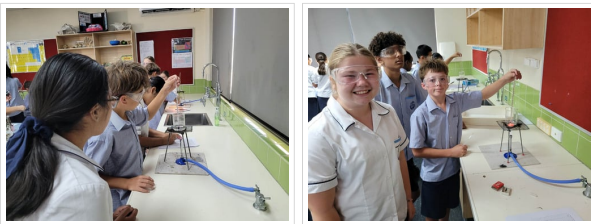
Year 7 students were able to conduct their first high school investigation, and in groups of three, put their Bunsen burner licenses to use. Students worked together to measure and record the temperature of water as it was heated by a Bunsen burner, learning the importance of collaboration and systematic procedures in a laboratory environment.

This data was recorded and shared within the groups, and was later used to create graphs, checking if their hypotheses were supported by the evidence.

It was a great class, and the students seemed to have fun, learning how to navigate potential problems, conduct themselves maturely, and follow the scientific processes.

Great work to Mrs Mariska Coetzee and Mr Steve Purton for helping lead these young scientists on their first steps. Thank you to the students for working hard during this lesson.

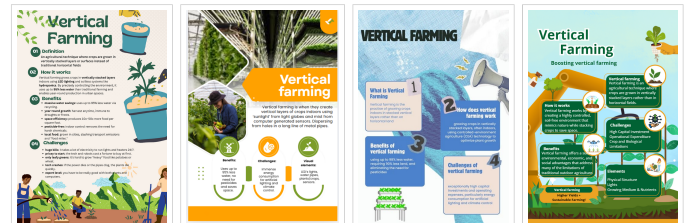
Lachlan Nowell, Head of Science



In class, students designed digital posters about vertical farming, highlighting how this innovative method of growing food in stacked layers can reduce land use, save water, and support sustainable food production in cities. The posters were created to educate the wider school community about practical solutions to global food challenges, while also developing students' research, creativity, and communication skills.

Tanja Mitkovski

Head of Learning Area – Humanities and Social Sciences



Year 9 STEM

Our Year 9 STEM students have been busy designing and constructing their very own solar ovens this term—made almost entirely from recycled and repurposed materials!

Throughout the project, students explored heat transfer, insulation, and sustainable engineering practices while working collaboratively to refine their designs.

With construction now complete, the class is excited to test their ovens in the coming weeks, where they'll be putting the power of the sun to the ultimate test: cooking up a batch of delicious s'mores! We're looking forward to seeing whose oven captures the most heat and which design proves most efficient.

Saskia Mahabeer, Chemistry/Science Teacher



Year 9 HASS

Student Posters Explore Food Security

Year 9 Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) students have recently been exploring the topic of food security and solutions to food insecurity. As part of this learning, students investigated how population growth and pressure on natural resources can affect the world's ability to produce enough food.

Year 11 and 12 Ancient History Excursion

Our Year 11 and 12 General Ancient History students enjoyed an unforgettable day at the WA Museum Boola Bardip in Perth.

Year 11 ATAR and General Visual Art

The highlight of the excursion was the chance to visit the Terracotta Warriors exhibition, where students were able to stand face to face with real primary sources from the ancient world. It was a rare privilege to see these remarkable stone warriors while they were here in Perth, and the experience brought the students' learning to life in a powerful way.

After exploring the exhibition, students continued through the rest of the museum, discovering Perth's modern history, Australia's natural history, and the many changes in environment and population across the country. From ancient artefacts to contemporary displays, the excursion offered a rich blend of past and present that sparked curiosity and deepened understanding.

It was a fantastic day of hands-on learning, and our students returned inspired, informed, and excited to keep exploring the ancient past!

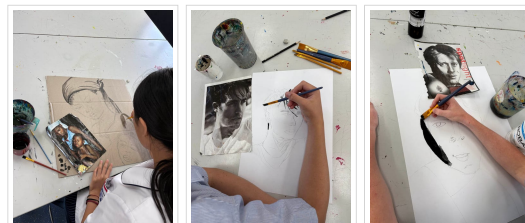


Mariska Coetzee
Secondary HASS/Science, Middle School Teacher (7.2)

The Year 11 ATAR and General students have been developing their skills in mixed media portraiture. Throughout the term, they have been experimenting with a range of mediums and materials, exploring different techniques to build depth, texture, and expression in their work.

These activities are helping students strengthen their technical abilities and creative decision-making as they prepare for their practical final. It has been exciting to see their confidence grow as they refine their skills and develop increasingly thoughtful and expressive portraits.

Kathleen McAdam, Visual Arts Teacher



Year 12 Leavers Jacket Presentation

Our Year 12s were buzzing with excitement today as they officially received their Leavers' Jackets from our Year 2



and 3 students.

A shoutout to our Year 12 Student Leaders and Mrs Siza Macdonald who worked with their peers to select the final design and coordinate the final touches.

This jacket marks the start of their final chapter — a symbol of leadership, growth, and the exciting road

ahead. 



Year 11 Chemistry

Our Year 11 ATAR Chemistry students kicked off the year by conducting their first practical investigations in the brand.new Afkos Building laboratory!

The upgraded facilities have already enriched their learning, providing a professional laboratory environment to support their studies.

This term, students focused on developing key practical skills, including separation techniques for mixtures, hands.on use of filtration and distillation equipment, and careful observation and data collection.

These foundational skills will continue to support their analytical work throughout the year as they move into more complex chemical concepts and investigations.

Saskia Mahabeer, Chemistry/Science Teacher



Alumni Corner



How Annie Tran Balanced Life, Learning, and a 98.9 ATAR

2025 Deputy Head Girl, Anh Vue (Annie) Nhien Tran set a new bar for her 2025 classmates with a whopping 98.9 ATAR score!



Achieving St. Andrew's highest ATAR results in 2025, Annie carried off the ATAR Dux Award along with specific awards in ATAR Chemistry, ATAR English, ATAR Physics, ATAR Psychology, ATAR Mathematics Methods and ATAR Mathematics Specialist. Annie's many accolades have set a new benchmark at St. Andrew's Grammar showcasing what is possible when intellectual curiosity, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to excellence are applied.

Our Head of Secondary, Siza Macdonald sat down with Annie to talk about her fantastic achievement, life at St. Andrew's Grammar and her future.

Congratulations on such an amazing achievement! Could you tell us more about yourself and what you will be studying at university?

My name is Anh Vue but everyone calls me Annie. I graduated from St. Andrew's Grammar last year and I have just commenced my double-major in Engineering Science and Philosophy at the University of Western Australia. I was the Deputy Head Girl in my final year and worked closely with our Student Council to make sure that school was a great place to learn.

How did St. Andrew's Grammar help shape you as a person?

I think being at St. Andrew's helped me because of how small the school was when I came. It helped us create a sense of community and I felt really close with all my teachers and peers. The experience helped me open up and be myself.

Were there any teachers or mentors who made a lasting impact on your school life?

All my teachers, especially my ATAR teachers, were helpful especially in my last year at school. Mrs Macdonald really pushed me to do my best, and she helped me not give up when I wanted to, and Mr Johnston helped me foster my love for mathematics, which will form a great portion of what I will be doing at university.

I enjoyed getting to know my teachers. I loved talking to them even out of class; during lunch and recess, I would go and say hi.

How did you stay motivated during challenging or stressful periods?

It helped that I enjoyed learning and I had a goal that I wanted to achieve. I knew that doing well in the ATAR was what I wanted to do and while I achieved just shy of my goal, I was still proud of the effort and learning I did into coming close. It helped that my teachers were always there to support and encourage me if I needed help.

How did you balance work and other commitments on your downtime?

I made sure, especially in Year 12, not to spend all my time studying. I made sure that I made time to do my self-care hobbies, which helped me relax and become a better student. I found that I could concentrate better when I am focused on my work and at school when I had enough rest in my downtime and sleep.

What advice would you give students who are currently working towards their ATAR score?

Ask questions, be curious and get to know your teachers. One study tip I would give to students would be not to be afraid of asking questions and talking to your teachers about what you don't understand or how better you can get better at a topic.

Since you're going to be spending so much time in class and with your teachers, getting to know them and feeling comfortable asking questions will do you well in the long-term. If you're not comfortable asking in class, I found that my teachers were more than happy to respond to my e-mails or questions after class/school.

If you could speak to your Year 7 self, what would you say?

Enjoy high school, have fun and stay curious!

Thanks Annie and all the best for your studies ahead!



WAYO Concert with International Singer

Internationally acclaimed singer, Dimitris Basis performs with WAYO

Plus! Find out how you can snaffle a special ticket price for St. Andrew's students

Interested in attending? Email philmo@iinet.net.au for a special St. Andrew's ticket price of \$20 per student (Under 16 years).

> Find out more about the concert [here](#).

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