



Important Dates

Gamechanger:
Building Stronger
Riverland Clubs and
Groups (event held
at SFOAC, ran by 3
Riverland Councils)
Saturday 5 April 2025

SA Schools
Secondary Athletics
Championship (C
Grade)
Tuesday 8 April 2025

Chrism Mass - Port
Pirie
Wednesday 9 April 2025

End of Term 1
Assembly - 9am-
9.30am
Wednesday 9 April 2025

Term 1 Finishes
Friday 11 April 2025

SFoAC Mountain
Bike Challenge
Trials - Paringa
Paddock
Friday 11 April 2025

Palm Sunday
Sunday 13 April 2025

Holy Thursday
Thursday 17 April 2025

Good Friday
Friday 18 April 2025

Holy Saturday
Saturday 19 April 2025

Easter Sunday
Sunday 20 April 2025

ANZAC Day
Friday 25 April 2025

ANZAC
Day/Resurrection
Liturgy
Monday 28 April 2025

Term 2 Commences
Monday 28 April 2025

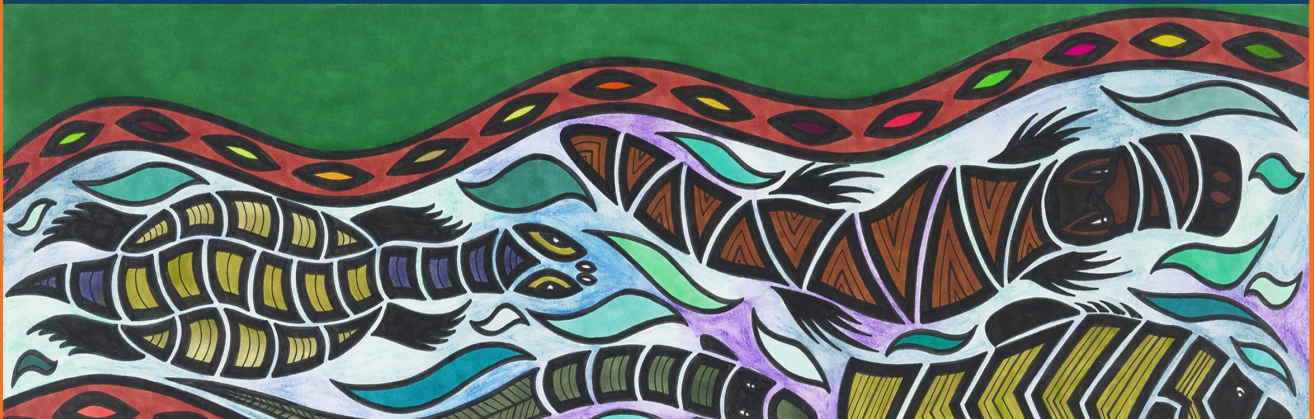
Year 10 Careers
Camp: 7-9 May
Wednesday 7 May 2025

Stage 2 (Year 11) Outdoor Education Kayaking Camp: 7-9 May Wednesday 7 May 2025	Ventus and Aqua Parish Mass Wednesday 7 May 2025	White Card Training Monday 12 May 2025 National Sorry Day Monday 26 May 2025	College Board Monday 19 May 2025 VET and SBAT Information Evening Wednesday 28 May 2025
Stage 1 (Year 10) Outdoor Education Camp: 3-5 June Tuesday 3 June 2025	SFOAC Careers Expo Wednesday 4 June 2025	Whole School Mass - Pentecost Wednesday 4 June 2025	Student Free Day Friday 6 June 2025 Kings Birthday Public Holiday Monday 9 June 2025
Vinnies Walk-a-thon Wednesday 11 June 2025	College Board Monday 16 June 2025	Year 10 Work Experience: 23-27 June Monday 23 June 2025	Stage 2 (Year 11) Outdoor Education Bushwalking Camp: 30 June - 2 July Monday 30 June 2025
Ignis Parish Mass Wednesday 2 July 2025	SFOAC Athletics Carnival Friday 19 September 2025	SFOAC Swimming Carnival Friday 24 October 2025	

REMEMBER If you are reading this newsletter from your email don't forget to click '*read more*' to expand your view and access all of our feature photos!

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that we meet today on Meru Country, and recognise the Erawirung and Ngintait peoples as the Traditional Custodians of this land. We recognise their continuing connection to the earth and waters, and thank them for protecting this land and its ecosystems since time immemorial. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging and extend that respect to all First Nation peoples present here today.



From the Principal

Embracing the Sacred Journey Together

This year Holy Week falls in the school holidays and during Week 11 we will be preparing our students for this sacred period of our Liturgical year. Holy Week offers us a profound opportunity to reflect on the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Here is a summary that tells the story of Holy Week and its significance to the Catholic Faith Tradition:

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, commemorating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. As we celebrate with palm branches, we are reminded of the joyous welcome Jesus received and the humility with which He entered the city, knowing the suffering that lay ahead.

Holy Thursday

On Holy Thursday, we remember the Last Supper, where Jesus instituted the Eucharist and washed the feet of His disciples, exemplifying the call to serve others. This day invites us to reflect on the significance of the Eucharist in our lives and the importance of humility and service.

Good Friday

Good Friday is a day of deep sorrow as we meditate on Jesus' crucifixion and death. It is a moment to acknowledge the immense sacrifice made for our salvation and to contemplate the weight of our sins and the boundless mercy of God.

Holy Saturday

On Holy Saturday, we reflect on the silence and waiting as Jesus lay in the tomb. This day encourages us to trust in God's plan, even in moments of darkness and uncertainty.

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday is the culmination of Holy Week, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the triumph of life over death. It is a day of immense joy and hope, reminding us of the promise of eternal life and the victory of love.

Board Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Monday March 17th, following this I can confirm the make up of the 2025 St Francis of Assisi College Board.

Ex-Officio (non-voting) Board Representatives, which include:

Father Hau Le - President
Nathan Hayes Principal - Executive Officer
Anthony Pickering - Business Manager
Claire Smith - Minute Secretary
Emma Warner - Staff Representative

The continuing voting Elected Members are:

Tanya Allan
Ben Dring
Jodie Clark
Michael Atsaves
Jonathon Sutton

New voting Elected Members are:

Peter Colligan
Giulia Del Zoppo
Gareth Vaughan
Scerina Rasheed (continuing a second term)

Learner Conversations

Our three-way conversations occurred this week, providing valuable opportunities for the teacher, student, parents and/or carers to share and learn more about the student socially, emotionally, and academically, while at the same time facilitating increased student agency and responsibility.

If there is any further school support required that has resulted from these conversations, I encourage parents and carers to maintain contact with the relevant staff member to ensure the school and parent partnership remains strong to support your child.

While Learner Conversations are a formal opportunity to discuss your child's learning, I encourage parents and carers to communicate with educators throughout the school year when required.

Enrolment of Students

I am very pleased to see that the College continues to experience significant demand in relation to enrolments, particularly with our year 7 intakes. To assist with our medium and long-term planning I encourage parents to lodge an enrolment form with the school as soon as they have made a decision to enrol their child at the school. For some families this decision is made very early in the newborn's life and contacting the school at this time, no matter how early it may seem, will assist us to plan in the best possible way for your child's experience of education in our College community.

Should you wish to discuss this further please contact our College Registrar, Claire Smith (tel. 85954500, or claire.smith@assisi.catholic.edu.au)

Mr Nathan Hayes, Principal

Catholic Mission and Religious Identity

Year 7 Retreat

Our Year 7 students participated in their first Retreat Day in Week 9 at the Barmera Club, setting the tone for a year of growth, reflection,

and connection. The day began with an intention walk and meditation in the outdoor learning space beside Lake Bonney—a perfect setting to pause and reflect. We were fortunate to welcome guest speaker Mick Beech from St Vincent de Paul, who shared statistics on homelessness and inspiring insights into the importance of community service. As part of his session, students participated in a Monopoly-style game that creatively explored issues of social justice and decision-making. Students delved into our College values, discussing what they look like in action and how they can live these out in our common home. The retreat concluded with a much-loved tradition: the creation of time capsules. Each student captured their hopes and dreams in a letter to self, recorded their height, and snapped a Polaroid photo. It was a truly special day that helped lay the foundation for a strong, connected, and purpose-driven start to Year 7.

Terra House Fundraiser

Terra House organised Spirit Day where the whole school came together wearing their house colours to show support and raise money for Project Compassion. Terra House also ran a BBQ fundraiser at lunchtime, with plenty of sausages, smiles, and house pride on display. Thanks to everyone's support, we raised over \$900! A big thank you to all staff and students who helped organise and run the day — your efforts made it a great success!

Stations of the Cross

On the last day of school, our Year 9 students will present a reenactment of the Stations of the Cross. We thank them for their dedication and effort in preparing this meaningful reflection, helping us to deepen our understanding of the significance of this season.

Prayer coming into Holy Week

Loving God,

As near Holy Week in this Lenten season, open our hearts to reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross. May we follow His example of love, compassion, and service in our daily lives.

We give thanks for the experiences that shape our faith—our Year 7 Retreat, the generosity of our Terra House fundraiser, and the Stations of the Cross reflection. May these moments inspire us to live with hope and kindness.

Bless our school community as we prepare for Easter. May the joy of the Resurrection guide us always.

Amen.

Mrs Sheridan Bonney, Assistant Principal, Religious Identity and Mission

Mrs Isabella Trudgian, RE Coordinator

Year 7 Retreat



Terra Fundraiser



Leader of Learning

Learner Conversations

Thank you to all parents and students who participated in our recent learner conversations at St. Francis of Assisi College. Your active involvement demonstrates a commitment to your child's education that we deeply appreciate.

At St. Francis, we believe in encouraging student agency—allowing learners to take an active role in their education. These conversations offer students a valuable opportunity to reflect on their progress, recognise their strengths, and identify areas for growth. By encouraging ownership of their learning, we help develop independence, critical thinking, and creativity.

Parents play an essential role in this journey. Your support, encouragement, and partnership create a strong foundation for both academic success and personal growth. Together, we are building a culture that supports each student's potential.

Thank you for being a vital part of our learning community. We look forward to continuing these valuable conversations and strengthening our collective commitment to student success.

Mrs Natalie Meuret, Leader of Learning

College Community Wellbeing

Student Leadership Applications

The process for selecting Year 7 Student Leaders has been completed and announcements will be made in our Assembly in Week 11. Mrs. Trudgian noted that applications were of a high quality which resulted in all applicants receiving an interview and made the process of selecting the successful candidates quite challenging.

The successful applicants have been notified, and look forward to formally welcoming all them to the SLC team next week!

SLC Guiding Principles

Make it Fun!

We seek to have small wins and celebrate our successes to ensure we enjoy the role we are in.

Have a Shared Intent

We will listen to the broader student body to identify a common goal we can work on together.

Role Modelling

We will be role models that leave a legacy and act appropriately to set an example of expectations and culture.

SLC Development Day

In Week 10, Student Leaders and House Captains, along with Mrs Trudgian, attended the Halegon Young Leaders Day at the Adelaide Convention Centre. The event brought together students from across the state to hear from a range of guest speakers who shared their experiences and thoughts on leadership.

Speakers included the Governor of South Australia, Frances Adamson, former Port Adelaide captain Tom Jonas, Olympian Jessica Trengove, and screenwriter Thomas Duncan Watt. Each speaker offered a different perspective on leadership, from public service and sport to personal goal setting and creativity.

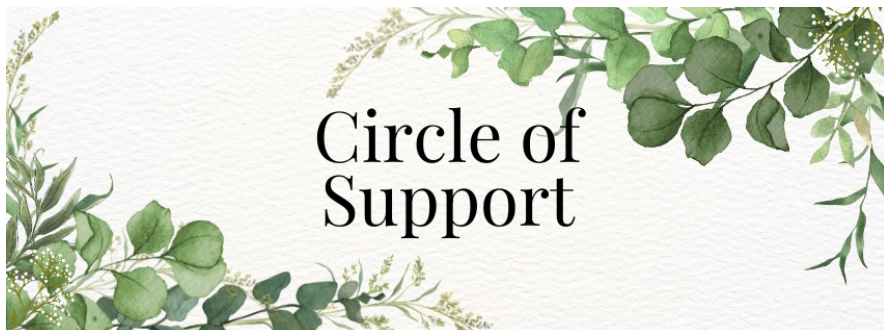
Students had the chance to ask questions, reflect on what leadership means to them, and connect with other young leaders. It was a valuable day that helped build confidence and encouraged students to think about the kind of leaders they want to be in their school and wider community.



LifeChanger – Year 9 Self Workshop

In Week 9, the Year 9s engaged in a full day Lifechanger workshop, designed to support students in developing self-esteem, resilience, and a stronger sense of connection. The sessions focused on:





1. Overcoming Barriers – Exploring self-identity, comparison, and building resilience.
2. The Power of Words – Understanding the impact of words, addressing gossip, and fostering a culture of encouragement.
3. Values and Integrity – Recognising core values, making aligned decisions, and strengthening self-esteem.



A reminder that if you have any concerns or questions or information to share regarding your child's wellbeing or academics, please contact their home group teacher in the first instance via email or through the College phone number - (08) 8595 4500.

Currently, Mr. Cotter (Leader of Wellbeing) is absent on Long Service Leave. In this period, Mrs. Trudgian (Wellbeing Coordinator) will take on the position's role and responsibilities with support from the broader leadership team.

If you have any high-level queries or concerns that are unable to be resolved by your child's home group teacher or subject teachers, please contact Mrs. Trudgian via email isabella.trudgian@assisi.catholic.edu.au or via the College phone (8595 4500).

House	Home Group	Teachers	Email
	AQUA1	Ms. Anita Modlinski	anita.modlinski@assisi.catholic.edu.au
	AQUA2	Ms. Neven Daoud	neven.daoud@assisi.catholic.edu.au
	IGNIS1	Mr. John Lyons	john.lyons@assisi.catholic.edu.au
	IGNIS2	Ms. Amy Hunt	amy.hunt@assisi.catholic.edu.au
	TERRA1	Mr. Fraser Sampson	fraser.sampson@assisi.catholic.edu.au
	TERRA2	Ms. Tahlia Woodgate	tahlia.woodgate@assisi.catholic.edu.au
	VENTUS1	Ms. Isabella Trudgian	isabella.trudgian@assisi.catholic.edu.au
	VENTUS2	Ms. Jean Booyesen	jean.booyesen@assisi.catholic.edu.au

Quote of the Week



Mrs Isabella Trudgian, Wellbeing Coordinator

09.04.25

End of Term 1 Assembly

You're Invited!

As we approach the end of a wonderful term at St Francis of Assisi College, we warmly invite parents, caregivers, and our entire college community to join us for our End of Term Assembly!

Wednesday 9th April

9-9.30am

Multi-Purpose Room

This special gathering is a chance to celebrate our students' achievements, reflect on the term gone by, and come together as a school community in gratitude and joy. We look forward to sharing this moment with you all!

We hope to see you there!

04.03.25

2026 Enrolments Now Open

2026 Enrolments Now Open for New Students!

Great news for those looking to join our school community! Enrolments for new students for the 2026 school year are now officially open. If you're excited to start your high school journey with us, now is the perfect time to secure your place.

St. Francis of Assisi College offers a nurturing and dynamic learning environment for students in Years 7 to 12. Committed to academic excellence, the college provides a broad curriculum, including opportunities in technology, sustainability, and the arts, all grounded in Catholic values. With a focus on wellbeing, community, and personal development, the college fosters a supportive atmosphere where students are encouraged to grow academically, spiritually, and socially. Through a range of extracurricular activities, including sport and experiential learning, St. Francis of Assisi College ensures that every student is well-equipped for future success.

If you have any questions or need assistance, or if you are ready to enrol your child, please contact Claire Smith, Executive Administrator for all the information you need. Claire can be contacted [via email](#) or phone 8595 4500.

Inside the Classroom and around College: Weeks 9 & 10 Highlights and Happenings

Year 11 Students Get a Taste of Kayaking at Jane Eliza Lagoon

Last week, Year 11 students had an exciting hands-on experience at Jane Eliza Lagoon as part of their Stage 2 outdoor education. They spent a couple of hours practicing essential kayaking skills, including paddling techniques and capsizing drills. It was a great opportunity for everyone to become familiar with how kayaks travel on the water and learn how to handle them effectively.

A big thank you to Jim from Canoe the Riverland for providing running the session, as well as Mr. Ivan Smith for helping out. The students left with newfound confidence and a greater appreciation for kayaking as an outdoor activity. What a fantastic way to kick off their adventure on the water!



Stage 1 Child Studies

Our Stage 1 Child Studies students recently delved into pre-natal nutrition, researching essential nutrients for a growing baby and preparing a meal suitable for a pregnant woman.

This practical learning experience provided valuable insights into child development and the importance of maternal nutrition. The assessment tasked students to produce an action plan, practical session, and a final evaluation.

Well done to all the students for their dedication and engagement!

Stage 2 Child Studies

Our Stage 2 Child Studies students have been engaged in two meaningful projects. They explored children's well-being in disasters, investigating ways to support young people in challenging situations. Additionally, they visited OLOR, where they conducted science experiments with children, creating fun and engaging learning experiences.

These hands-on activities deepened their understanding of both the emotional and educational needs of children. Everyone conducted themselves well and we would like to thank the staff and students at OLOR for having us.



Year 10 Food & Hospitality Students Serve Up Crispy Chicken Tacos

Our Year 10 Food & Hospitality students recently put their culinary skills to the test by preparing delicious crispy chicken tacos — and impressively, they made the tortillas from scratch!

This hands-on activity allowed students to explore the full process of meal preparation, from mixing and kneading dough to cooking and assembling the final dish. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to develop both practical kitchen skills and a deeper appreciation for the art of cooking.

The students demonstrated excellent teamwork, creativity, and attention to detail throughout the process. Their tacos didn't just look incredible — they tasted amazing too!

Well done to our aspiring chefs for their hard work and enthusiasm. We're proud of the way they continue to grow and thrive through real-world learning experiences.



Year 9 Music

This term, Year 9 Music students have been diving deep into the world of musical creativity, forming their own small bands and taking on a fun and challenging task: creating a "Like A Version" of a popular 4-chord song. What makes this project unique is the freedom students have had in choosing their genre and instruments, allowing them to bring their own flair to the task.

Throughout the term, students have explored various "Like A Versions", where artists reimagine existing songs in their own style. They analysed both the original tracks and their cover versions, comparing how different genres, tempos, and arrangements can change the feel of a song.

Students have shown great initiative in experimenting with sound, collaborating with their bandmates, and refining their performances. This project has been a wonderful opportunity for them to express themselves musically and learn how to work together as part of a creative team!



Year 8 Clever Carpentry

Throughout Term 1, 8A Clever Carpentry class have been designing and making their own compressed air dragsters. Students were tasked to investigate what aspects, such as aerodynamics and mass, make dragsters efficient are as quick as possible. Students then produced their designs and raced to see who would take out the championship of the fastest dragster. Well done to all the students, as a lot of effort was put into their designs, and some awesome dragsters were created. Congratulations to Ivan, who won the championship.



Year 8 Gets a Taste of Good Food!

Our Year 8 students have been putting their taste buds to the test in their Good Food lessons! As part of their exploration of flavours and

food combinations, they recently participated in a series of small taste-testing tasks. From sweet to savory, students expanded their palates and learned how different ingredients can taste, smell and change their textures. These hands-on activities not only made learning fun but also encouraged students to think critically about the food they eat and how flavours from around the world influence our Australian Culture. Who knows? We may have some future food critics or chefs in the making!



Year 7 Global Perspectives – HASS

In the latter part of Term 1, 7C has been deeply engaged in their Global Perspectives (HASS) studies, exploring the vital role of water in our world. They have not only examined the significance of global water sources but have also focused on understanding the Murray River and its crucial impact on the Riverland.

As part of their learning, students have investigated the expansive Murray-Darling Basin, which stretches across multiple states, including a portion of Queensland. Through their studies, they are gaining a deeper awareness of how human actions influence the climate and, in turn, our natural resources.



Parish Mass with Ignis & Terra

On Wednesday, students from Ignis and Terra house groups gathered for a special Parish Mass, led by Fr. Hau.

It was a meaningful time of reflection and prayer, bringing our house communities together in faith. A big thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this celebration special! May this celebration inspire us to continue to plant seeds of hope in our hearts and in the world.



A Fantastic Day at Catholic Athletics

Our students recently represented St Francis of Assisi College with pride, energy, and determination at this year's Catholic Athletics Carnival in Adelaide. It was a wonderful day filled with team spirit, strong performances, and memorable achievements.

The Under 13s team delivered an outstanding result, finishing 2nd overall, while other age groups consistently placed around 5th — a fantastic accomplishment given the level of competition on the day. Across the board, we saw impressive results, with many of our students earning blue ribbons and placing strongly in their events.

Beyond the competition, the day was a great reflection of the teamwork and dedication that goes into events like this. A heartfelt thank you goes to the staff and students who assisted with the organisation and officiating of events throughout the day. Special thanks also to Mr Goodman for his tireless efforts behind the scenes to ensure everything ran smoothly.

It was an incredibly successful day, and all involved should be proud of their hard work and commitment. Congratulations to all our athletes on a job well done!



Online Safety with SAPOL

We were fortunate to have a SAPOL representative visit our school recently to speak with Year 10 students about the importance of

online safety.

Through real-life scenarios, students explored practical strategies for handling tricky online situations and discussed the best ways to stay safe and responsible in the digital world. The session also covered valuable tips on securing their online presence and profiles, ensuring they remain protected and private.

A big thank you to SAPOL for this insightful session, helping our students navigate the online world with confidence and awareness!



Careers and Student Pathways



Career Insights with SAAS MEDSTAR

Students recently had the opportunity to hear from Belinda from SAAS MEDSTAR, who shared valuable insights into career pathways in emergency medical services. She provided a firsthand look into her role, detailing what a typical day involves and the challenges and rewards of working in paediatric care.

This session gave students a deeper understanding of the skills, training, and pathways required for a career in paramedicine and critical care transport. A big thank you to Belinda for inspiring our students with her knowledge and experience!

Mrs Amber Burgess, VET & Student Pathways Coordinator



■ ALL SERVICES

BERRI DEFENCE CAREERS INFORMATION SESSION

Learn about rewarding careers in the Navy, Army and Air Force.

Wednesday 9 April, 6-8pm, Berri 410 Army Cadet Unit, 8 Foreman Road, Berri.

Consider a career like no other and represent Australia with pride in the Navy, Army or Air Force. Speak with current serving personnel at our upcoming info session and ask your questions - is a career in the Australian Defence Force for you? It is [highly recommended](#) you [book](#) as soon as possible to avoid missing out as places are strictly limited!



Uniform Buy, Swap, Sell, Giveaway



St Francis
of Assisi College

Laudato Si'

www.assisi.catholic.edu.au

Don't forget we have a Facebook page for parents/caregivers to exchange College uniforms.

You'll need to be a member of the group to access and can then directly communicate with others wanting to exchange uniforms.

The College also keeps a small supply of emergency uniforms that are needed from time to time. If you would like to donate pre-loved uniforms please drop them into the College office. Thank you.



UPDATED OFFICE HOURS

WEEKDAYS
8:20AM-3:45PM

The Ways We Communicate



Stay Connected!



SEQTA

SEQTA is used in many ways. Students and Parents/ Caregivers are able to access lesson details, assessment submissions, grades and feedback. SEQTA Engage is great for parent/teacher communications, student timetable details and to keep up to date with the College notices.



EDSMART

Edsmart enables parents to sign and return permissions electronically. Our College utilises Edsmart to send out school policy information and agreements, permission and consent forms, general updates and information around upcoming events.



FACEBOOK

St Francis of Assisi College Facebook page features exciting event updates and general information. We share school sporting results, student achievements, along with many photos and videos of our students and activities both inside and outside the classroom.



NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter is sent out fortnightly via email. You can also find our newsletter link on our webpage. In our newsletter, we share what's happening in the College community, upcoming events and general notices.

Absentees to be notified via: SEQTA Engage, absent@assisi.catholic.edu.au, or call 8595 4500

Don't hesitate to contact the College office on 8595 4500 if you have any difficulty with the various mediums used by the College to communicate with families. Or alternatively complete the form below.

Family Business Directory

We are championing our Family Business Directory and inviting families to be part of the Directory.

The Family Business Directory is an opportunity for families who run businesses to promote their business via our College webpage and Facebook page.

The Family Business Directory gives members of the College community a chance to support businesses from the Directory when making their purchasing decisions.

The Family Business Directory is free of charge *for* current families of the College.

To be included, send the following information to info@assisi.catholic.edu.au

Family Surname (not for publishing):

Business Name: Sample Family Business

Business Phone Number: 1800 SAMPLE

Business Email Address: sample@familybusiness.com.au

Business Website: www.sample.com.au

And your business logo or photo (small file size is fine).

We look forward to seeing many College families' businesses get involved!

External Events, Opportunities and Information

Riverland Youth Theatre

New event alert 3RD PLACE: CLOTHING SWAP & ALTERATIONS

Wednesday, April 16 & Thursday, April 17 | 12pm - 5pm | RYT | For ages 13 - 18

Need something to do in the school holidays? 3rd Place: Clothing Swap & Alterations is a two-day, drop-in style event for participants to bring in clothes they no longer wear, swap them, or alter them! Let's bring life back to our old clothes.

RYT will provide some materials (sewing equipment and tools, dyes, fabrics). Please feel free to bring your own.

This project is part of the Bigger Picture project funded by FRRR

Register: <https://www.trybooking.com/DAPTT>



A vibrant poster for 'Bedtime Stories' celebrating 10 years of Young RMS. The background is a deep blue night sky with white star trails and musical notes. At the top left, the year '2025' is displayed. The title 'Bedtime Stories' is written in a large, white, cursive font, with 'Celebrating 10 years of Young RMS' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. The poster features several images of children: a group of girls in the top left, a girl playing a violin in the top center, a boy pointing in the top right, a boy with a trumpet in the middle left, and a girl with a wand in the middle right. In the foreground, a girl in light blue pajamas is reading a book, with two women, one in a red jacket and one in a maroon dress, looking on. A small inset image in the bottom left shows a book titled 'Bedtime Stories' with a magical scene of a girl flying over a city at night. The text 'BONNEY THEATRE, BARMERA' is written in white, sans-serif font. The URL 'https://www.trybooking.com/DABQW' is at the bottom.

2025

YOUNG RMS

Bedtime Stories

Celebrating 10 years of Young RMS

Saturday 12th April
1pm & 3.30pm

Sunday 13th April
1pm & 3.30pm

BONNEY THEATRE, BARMERA

<https://www.trybooking.com/DABQW>

Contact Us for More Information

Name

Email

Phone

Message

