



St Francis of Assisi College - Term 2 Week 2 - 2025

Important Dates

White Card Training

Monday 12 May 2025

Year 7 Zoo

Excursion

Monday 12 May 2025

Adelaide Crows

AFLW Visit/Clinic -

SANFL

Monday 12 May 2025

Year 10A Calvary

Visit

Tuesday 13 May 2025

Catholic Education

Week Combined

Gathering of all

Riverland Catholic

Schools at SFoAC

Wednesday 14 May 2025

SFoAC Cross

Country - 1.30pm

Thursday 15 May 2025

K/O Volleyball,

Boys & Girls, Yrs 9

& 10

Friday 16 May 2025

Immersion Day - St

Joseph's School

Renmark

Monday 19 May 2025

College Board

Meeting

Monday 19 May 2025

K/O Cup Netball

Tuesday 20 May 2025

Immersion Day -

Our Lady of the

Immersion Day - St

Albert's Loxton

Immersion Day -

Non-Catholic

Laudato Si

Anniversary Liturgy

River Wednesday 21 May 2025	Thursday 22 May 2025	Schools Friday 23 May 2025	Friday 23 May 2025 Interschool Cross Country Friday 23 May 2025
National Sorry Day Monday 26 May 2025	Immersion Day - St Joseph's School Barmera Tuesday 27 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

Welcome to new families

As I welcome all families back to start of Term 2, we especially welcome new families to our community, hoping that they will enjoy being a part of our learning community. The term has commenced smoothly, and students have once again settled into the routines that were established in Term 1. We look forward with fresh energy to the learning experiences to be encountered during the term.

Honouring Pope Francis

It is with profound sadness and deep gratitude that we gather as a community to honour the passing of Pope Francis, the 266th pope of the Catholic Church. At St Francis of Assisi College, we have been profoundly inspired by Pope Francis, whose commitment to justice, the marginalised, and the environment inspired our College ethos, *Laudato Si'*.

Pope Francis was not merely a distant figure in Rome; he was a beacon of hope and compassion who walked alongside us, embodying the principles of service, simplicity, and love. His encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, has been a guiding light for our College, reminding us of our responsibility towards all creation.

This week, as we came together for a whole school Mass to reflect on the lasting legacy of Pope Francis, we celebrate his life and the powerful message he imparted: that true faith is found in service to others and in the stewardship of our planet.

Let us continue to honour his memory by living out these values each day, nurturing our community and our world with the same love and dedication that Pope Francis exemplified.

Election of our New Pope – His Holiness Pope Leo XIV

Please see as follows a message from the Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide regarding the election of our New Pope – His Holiness Pope

Leo XIV:

Habemus Papam

We have a new Pope

Earlier today Pope Leo XIV emerged from the balcony of St Peter's Basilica in Rome to signify the beginning of a new Papacy with the words "Peace be with you".

Archbishop Patrick O'Regan has welcomed the election of Pope Leo XIV.

"Our prayer today in the Adelaide Archdiocese is one of thanksgiving to God for providing a good Shepherd for us all," he said.

"He will be a shepherd who walks before us and with us helping us to bring the joy of the gospel to all people specially those on the margins of our society."

Archbishop O'Regan met the new pope several times at the Synod on Synodality last year.

"He has a vast experience of working in many parts of the world and a profound knowledge of the Church and a deep Augustinian spirituality that will guide the Church in faith, hope and love.

"God bless Pope Leo XIV and his ministry of communion."

The new Pope, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost OSA is an American Cardinal of the Catholic Church, born on 14th September, 1955 in Chicago, Illinois. He is a member of the Order of Saint Augustine (OSA), and was ordained a Priest in 1982. Pope Leo XIV has a background in canon law and has served in various international roles, including as a Missionary and Bishop in Peru, where he was appointed Bishop of Chiclayo in 2015.

In 2023, Pope Francis appointed him Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, placing him in charge of overseeing the selection of Bishops worldwide. He was made a Cardinal on 30th September, 2023.

We take this opportunity to pray for our new Pope Leo XIV and for the Universal Church.

O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful,
look favourably on your servant Pope Leo,
whom you have set at the head of your Church as her shepherd;
grant, we pray, that by word and example
he may be of service to those over whom he presides so that,
together with the flock entrusted to his care,
he may come to everlasting life.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Importance of Anzac Day – 'Lest we forget'

As we gather this term, it is with great pride and reverence that we acknowledge the importance of Anzac Day and the spirit of unity it fosters in our community. Anzac Day holds a special place in the hearts of all Australians, symbolising courage, sacrifice, and the enduring bond shared among our nation.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the students of St Francis of Assisi College who played active roles in Anzac Day services across the Riverland. Your involvement in these solemn ceremonies not only honours the legacy of our brave servicemen and women but also strengthens the values of respect and remembrance within our community.

A special thank you goes out to our students who are part of local Cadet service groups. Your dedication and commitment to service are exemplary, reflecting the very essence of the Anzac spirit. Your participation in various ceremonies and activities demonstrates a commendable sense of duty and patriotism.

Let us continue to uphold these values, remembering the sacrifices made by those who came before us and nurturing the spirit of service in our daily lives. Together, we honour their memory and strive to build a future founded on the principles of courage, loyalty, and community.

Celebrating Mother's Day: Honouring the Pillars of Our Lives

As we approach Mother's Day, it is with heartfelt appreciation that we recognise the invaluable role of mothers, grandmothers, and significant adults in the lives of our students at St Francis of Assisi College. These remarkable individuals are the pillars of strength and love, guiding our young minds with unwavering dedication and profound wisdom.

Mothers and grandmothers are often our first teachers, imparting lessons of compassion, resilience, and faith. They nurture our spiritual and moral growth, embodying the virtues of patience and kindness that resonate deeply within our Catholic ethos. Their presence is a testament to the power of unconditional love and the enduring bond of family.

We also acknowledge the significant adults who step into roles of guidance and support, enriching the lives of our students in countless ways. Whether as mentors, guardians, or family friends, their influence helps shape the character and aspirations of our young people, fostering a sense of community and belonging.

This Mother's Day, let us celebrate and honour these extraordinary individuals who inspire and uplift us daily. May we continue to show our gratitude and love, cherishing their contributions and embodying the values they instil in us. Together, we build a future rooted in love, faith, and service.

Catholic Education Week

May 13 - 17 is Catholic Education Week in all CESA schools across the Port Pirie Diocese, and the Arch Diocese of Adelaide. To celebrate this, next Wednesday we are hosting St Joseph's School Renmark, Our Lady of the River School Berri, St Albert's School Loxton, and St Joseph's School Barmera. The day will begin with combined outdoor Mass, and then an afternoon of activities that students and staff will engage in across the campus.

2026 Student Enrolments

Year 7 enrolment trends have continued to show significant growth in student numbers year on year since St Francis of Assisi College opened in 2022.

To support the College with planning for 2026 and to ensure your child's position, I invite parents and carers intending to enrol their child to contact our Enrolment Registrar, Claire Smith on 8595 4500, as soon as possible to begin the enrolment process for 2026.

There are also enrolments open in Year 8 – 12 for 2026.

Mr Nathan Hayes, Principal



Catholic Mission and Religious Identity

ANZAC Day and Resurrection Liturgy

On the first morning of Term 2, our Houses gathered for a special combined liturgy to honour ANZAC Day and celebrate the Resurrection. This reflective service provided students and staff with a meaningful opportunity to remember the sacrifices of others while also rejoicing in the hope of new life.

On ANZAC Day, Australians and New Zealanders give thanks for the free and peaceful nations we call home. We honour and remember those who have sacrificed for the good of others. In war, we see great suffering - but we also see courage, sacrifice, and a deep love for one another.

As people of faith, we also gather in the light of the Resurrection. Jesus gave His life for us, and through His death and rising, He conquered sin and death forever. The Resurrection is a promise that suffering and sacrifice are not the end of the story. It reminds us that love is stronger than death, that hope endures, and that God's peace is possible.

Pope Francis Memorial Mass

On Wednesday, 7 May, we gathered for a Memorial Mass to honour the life and legacy of Pope Francis. Rooted in the spirit of *Laudato Si'*, the Mass was a reflective and prayerful celebration of his profound commitment to caring for our common home. Staff and students joined together in gratitude for a leader who inspired hope, unity, and stewardship across the world.

Catholic Education Week

Week 3 is Catholic Education Week. Catholic Education South Australia (CESA) supports over 100 Catholic schools across the state, educating more than 50,000 students. Guided by Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church, CESA is committed to shaping thriving people, capable learners, and leaders for the world God desires.

As part of Catholic Education Week celebrations, we look forward to welcoming students and staff from our Riverland Catholic Primary Schools on Wednesday of Week 3. This joyful and community-focused day is a wonderful opportunity to come together in faith, friendship, and fun as we celebrate all that Catholic education offers in the Riverland.

10 year Anniversary of Laudato Si

In Week 4, our College community will come together for a special liturgy to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of Laudato Si', Pope Francis' landmark encyclical on caring for our common home. As a college named after St Francis of Assisi, we are proud to reflect on how we have lived out this call through initiatives such as our Faith in Action units across Years 7 - 11. This liturgy offers a meaningful opportunity to honour our shared commitment to stewardship, sustainability, and hope for future generations.

Terra House Fundraiser

After counting the individual Project Compassion boxes, we're excited to share the final total from Terra's Term 1 fundraising efforts! Through our Spirit Day casual clothes and BBQ, along with the generous contributions from families via the Project Compassion boxes, Terra House raised and donated \$1,472.80 to Caritas Australia. A heartfelt thank you to all students, families, and staff who supported this important cause.

Prayer for Pope Francis

Spirit of truth and love,

We thank you for the life of Pope Francis,
who led your Church with courage, compassion, and vision.

He opened doors, built bridges, and called for a Church that listens and grows.

Through him, we saw a faith that speaks to the modern world—
welcoming the broken, caring for the Earth, and walking with the excluded.

May his legacy of renewal continue to guide us,
as we become a Church ever more faithful, inclusive, and alive with your Spirit.
Amen.

Mrs Isabella Trudgian, RE Coordinator



Leader of Learning

Planning with Purpose: How Our Teachers Are Designing Learning for Success

This week, our teaching staff took part in professional learning focused on Backwards by Design - a well-established planning approach that we revisited together to refine and strengthen our current units of teaching. At St Francis of Assisi College, professional learning is something we take seriously. It's an important part of our commitment to growing together as educators so we can provide the best possible learning experiences for our students.

Backwards by Design is a thoughtful and effective method that helps teachers plan with the end in mind. Instead of starting with activities or resources, teachers first consider what they want students to know, understand, and be able to do by the end of a unit. From there, they work backwards to design assessments and learning experiences that are purposeful and aligned.

The process follows three key stages:

1. Identify the learning goals - Teachers begin by selecting the most important outcomes from the Australian Curriculum. These guide the direction of the unit and help ensure students are working towards deep and relevant learning.
2. Determine how students will demonstrate learning - Teachers then consider how students will show what they've learned. This could be through a hands-on project, a written task, a presentation, or another meaningful assessment that captures understanding - not just completion.
3. Design the learning journey - With the goals and assessments in place, teachers plan engaging lessons that build students' skills and knowledge step by step. These lessons are designed to be active, inclusive, and responsive to students' needs.

Revisiting this planning model gave our staff the opportunity to reflect on and refine their current units, share ideas, and align their work across year levels and subjects. It also reinforced our shared focus on clarity, consistency, and student-centred learning.

'The "Backwards by Design" approach is an excellent strategy for aligning instruction with assessment goals, ensuring students are fully prepared for what they need to know. This professional development session helped me break down the process step by step, ensuring nothing was overlooked. It also served as an important reminder to slow down and revisit challenging concepts before moving forward, so every student has a chance to succeed.'

Miss Anita Modlinski

'I really enjoyed participating in our recent staff meeting focused on the Backwards by Design approach to planning. It was a great opportunity to collaborate with colleagues and reflect on how we can make learning more meaningful for our students. I particularly

valued the chance to work on the Year 10 Forces unit, where we explored new ways to engage students and brainstormed alternative assessments. It was inspiring to be part of a conversation that prioritises student understanding and creativity in how we assess learning.'

Mrs Sarah McGorman

By planning with Backwards by Design, we ensure that students not only know what they're learning - but why it matters. This kind of purposeful planning helps make learning more meaningful, engaging, and successful for every child.

Mrs Natalie Meuret, Leader of Learning

College Community Wellbeing

Immersion Days

We're looking forward to hosting senior students from local Catholic primary schools in Week 4 and Week 5 as they join us for a day of connection, exploration, and learning.

During their visit, students will have the opportunity to experience a range of high school activities, meet some of our teachers and students, and become more familiar with our school environment. It's a great chance to get a feel for secondary school life in a supportive and welcoming setting.

Scheduled visits include:

Monday 19 May – St Joseph's School, Renmark

Wednesday 21 May – Our Lady of the River School

Thursday 22 May – St Albert's School, Loxton



Friday 23 May – Students from non-Catholic primary schools



Tuesday 27 May – St Joseph's School, Barmera

We invite students from other primary school's to register their interest in attending on Friday 23 May. To find out more, please contact Claire Smith, Executive Administrator on 8595 4500 or info@assisi.catholic.edu.au.



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.

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	Mr. Luke Cotter	luke.cotter@assisi.catholic.edu.au
	VENTUS1	Ms. Isabella Trudgian	isabella.trudgian@assisi.catholic.edu.au
	VENTUS2	Ms. Nathan Hayes	nathan.hayes@assisi.catholic.edu.au

Breakfast Club

Each Friday morning, our school community holds Breakfast Club at the canteen from 8:15 to 8:40am – a warm and welcoming space where students can start the day with a healthy meal, connect with peers, and prepare for a successful day of learning.

We know that breakfast plays a vital role in student wellbeing. A nutritious start to the day supports concentration, energy levels, and mood – all of which are essential for learning and engagement in the classroom.

At Breakfast Club, we offer a variety of free breakfast options, including:

Toast

Fresh fruit

Cereal

Juice

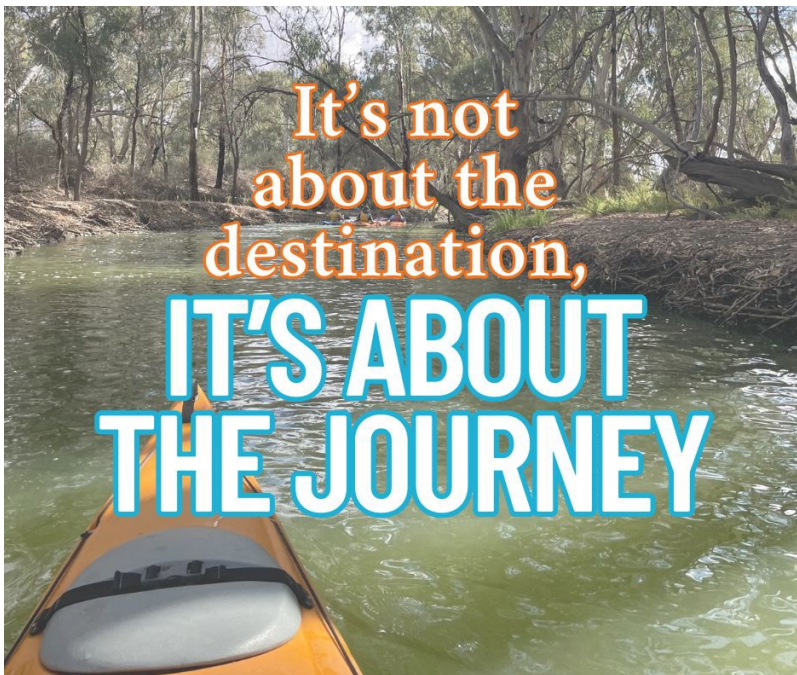
☕ Hot milo

All students are welcome, and everything is completely free of charge.

We are incredibly grateful to Foodbank Riverland for their generous support in supplying fresh fruit and bread each week, helping us make this initiative possible.

We encourage students to drop by, fuel up, and start their Friday mornings on a positive note!

Quote of the Week



Mr Luke Cotter, Leader of Wellbeing

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.

Congratulations Mrs Trudgian

We are thrilled to recognise and celebrate Isabella Trudgian for achieving national certification as a Highly Accomplished Teacher (HALT) - a truly outstanding professional milestone!

The process involved initial reflective practice, the submission of evidence showing impact on student learning, and feedback from external assessors. This certification reflects exceptional classroom practice, significant impact on student learning, leadership in educational practice, and commitment to professional excellence. Isabella's main purpose in engaging with this process, was her commitment to learning, striving for high-quality teaching and continuous growth.

Well done, Isabella - your dedication continues to inspire students and colleagues alike!



Welcome to the World, Baby Henry!

We are delighted to share the joyful news that our APRIM, Mrs Sheridan Bonney, and her family have welcomed a beautiful new addition to their lives - a baby boy named Henry!

On behalf of the entire school community, we offer our heartfelt congratulations to Sheridan, her husband Justin, and their children Eliza and William on the arrival of their precious son and baby brother, Henry. May this new chapter be filled with love, laughter, and cherished memories as they embrace the blessing of a growing family.

May God bless Sheridan and her family during this special time, surrounding them with peace, health, and abundant grace.

Congratulations, Bonney family!



Bienvenue, Blue! Welcoming Our New Exchange Student

We are excited to welcome Blue, our newest exchange student, to the St Francis of Assisi College community! Blue has travelled all the way from France to experience life and learning here in Australia, and we are thrilled to have her join us.

Blue will be immersing herself in our school culture, building new friendships, and embracing the unique opportunities that come with studying in a different country. Exchange programs like this enrich our college community by promoting global understanding, cultural exchange, and shared learning experiences.

We encourage all students and staff to give Blue a warm welcome, offer a helping hand, and take the opportunity to learn a little about French culture along the way.

Bienvenue à St Francis, Blue - we're so glad you're here!

Pictured L-R: Blue, Ella and Kendall - ready to head off on Careers and Geography Camp!



Inside the Classroom and around College: Weeks 1 & 2 Highlights and Happenings

Mother's Day Celebration

This morning, we were delighted to welcome over 100 members of our school community to a heartfelt Mother's Day celebration - a special opportunity to honour and thank the incredible women in our lives.

Guests were treated to a delicious breakfast, featuring ham and cheese croissants, granola pots, and delicious muffins, accompanied by hot drinks expertly prepared by our talented student baristas. The atmosphere was full of warmth and appreciation, with families gathering to share breakfast and create special memories together.

A highlight of the morning was our lucky door prize draw. Congratulations to Jo, who took home a beautiful gift basket, and to Jessica and Courtney, who each received a lovely bunch of flowers.

Thank you to everyone who joined us. Most of all, we extend our love and gratitude to all the mums, grandmothers, carers, special friends and mother figures in our community - your care, strength, and love make a world of difference.

Happy Mother's Day!





Stage 2 Outdoor Education Kayaking Camp

This week, our Year 11 Outdoor Education students embarked on their Stage 2 Kayaking Camp - an unforgettable expedition filled with adventure, teamwork, and personal growth.

The journey began with a 14.7km paddle from Canoe the Riverland to Hunchee Point, where the group launched mid-morning and demonstrated outstanding resilience and teamwork in overcoming early challenges. Upon arriving at their first campsite, students and staff settled in and were treated to a peaceful riverside sunrise the following morning - an experience that set the tone for the days ahead.

Day 2 saw the group paddle 23.7km from Hunchee Point to their next campsite along Bulyong Creek, travelling via the scenic Ral Ral Creek. A chilly and frosty start to the day did little to dampen spirits, with students enjoying breakfast before packing up and setting off at 9am. After stopping for lunch at Ral Ral Wide Waters, the group continued their journey - highlighted by a picturesque stretch paddling upstream along Bulyong Creek, which became a favourite moment for many. The day ended with a cozy campfire and games, creating memories that will surely last a lifetime.

On their final day, students made their way up the Murray River toward Inlet Creek, navigating through Horseshoe Lagoon and Plummers Creek before returning to the launch site at Canoe the Riverland. This final leg was both reflective and rewarding, as students took in the beauty of the natural environment and celebrated the completion of their expedition.

Congratulations to our Outdoor Education students for their courage, perseverance, and teamwork throughout the journey, and sincere thanks to the dedicated staff who supported them each step of the way.

What an incredible way to learn beyond the classroom—well done, team!

Mr Luke Cotter, Stage 2 Outdoor Education Teacher



Year 10 Careers & Geography Camp – Exploring Pathways in Adelaide

This week, our Year 10 students set off on an exciting Careers and Geography Camp to Adelaide, combining fieldwork with future planning in a hands-on, real-world experience.

In Geography, students explored the Adelaide coastline, conducting fieldwork focused on coastal processes, human impacts, and environmental management. This valuable experience allowed them to apply classroom knowledge in a practical setting and deepen their understanding of the dynamic relationship between humans and natural landscapes.

On the Careers front, students toured Flinders University and the University of Adelaide, where they had the opportunity to explore campus life, hear from university staff, and learn about different study and career options. A visit to Aquinas College gave them insight into what it's like to live on campus while studying - an exciting prospect for many as they begin thinking about life beyond school.

The group also visited local TAFEs and training centres, where they were introduced to hands-on vocational pathways and emerging industries. These visits helped students broaden their awareness of career options and the different ways to achieve their goals.

To wrap up the week, students attended the Careers & Employment Expo at the Adelaide Showgrounds, where they engaged with industry representatives, explored interactive displays, and took part in conversations that sparked inspiration for the future.

This camp was a fantastic opportunity for students to gain real-world insight into geography and career pathways, helping them make informed decisions about their futures. We are incredibly proud of how they represented St Francis of Assisi College with curiosity, maturity, and enthusiasm.

Mrs Amber Burgess, VET & Student Pathways Coordinator
Mrs Isabella Trudgian, Geography Teacher





In the Kitchen - Culinary Adventures with Years 8-10 Students

It's been a busy and delicious fortnight in the Food Tech kitchen as our Year 8, 9, and 10 students have been sharpening their culinary skills and embracing new flavours.

So far this term, students have taken on a wide variety of sweet and savoury dishes, building confidence and creativity along the way. From mastering the art of a golden chicken schnitzel focaccia to perfecting the delicate balance of a classic pavlova, the kitchen has been full of energy (and incredible aromas!).

Here's a taste of what's been cooking:

- Spinach and cheese pinwheels
- Pasta bolognese
- Seasonal savoury muffins
- Red velvet cupcakes
- Sushi
- Pancakes & fruit smoothies

In addition, our Year 10 Food & Hospitality students have re-launched the student-run coffee café for this year. As part of this hands-on experience, students are learning key barista skills such as espresso extraction, milk texturing, equipment cleaning and maintenance, and how to prepare a range of café-style drinks. They're also building confidence in customer service, order management, and working under time pressure – all essential skills in the hospitality industry.

The café is a fantastic opportunity for students to step into a professional role and get a real taste of working in a fast-paced, customer-focused environment.

These practical experiences across all year levels continue to build not just cooking ability, but teamwork, communication, and industry-ready skills.

We can't wait to see what our young chefs and baristas serve up next!



Year 7 Nature Walk

Our Year 7 students recently enjoyed a hands-on learning experience with an environmental walk along Bookmark Creek, led by ecologist Freya from RIT (Renmark Irrigation Trust) directly supporting their science focus on ecosystems and classification. With the Renmark Irrigation Trust having recently begun environmental watering - slowly reintroducing river water into the wetland over the past two weeks - students had a fantastic opportunity to witness ecological processes in action.

As they walked along the wetland, students observed a variety of local bird species, including woodland and wetland birds, learning how these animals interact with their environment and what they feed on. The walk helped students understand the importance of classification in identifying different organisms and exploring their roles within an ecosystem.

The outing sparked thoughtful discussions about how water flow influences habitats and food chains, and many students expressed

excitement at seeing changes happening so close to school. Being able to walk from the classroom to such a dynamic natural environment makes learning especially meaningful.

We're incredibly lucky to have Bookmark Creek right on our doorstep, and opportunities like this deepen students' connection to their local environment while bringing science to life!

We extend our sincere thanks to Freya for generously sharing her valuable insights into the ecological impacts of the recent watering in our local wetlands.



Celebrating Success in the 2025 OZCLO Linguistics Competition

A big congratulations to our two teams who recently represented the school in the 2025 OZCLO (Australian Computational and Linguistics Olympiad) – a national competition that challenges students to apply logic, critical thinking and problem-solving skills to complex language-based puzzles.

This was our school's first year participating in the competition, and our students embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and determination.

Team 1 – Ari, Lily, Nathan and Xanadu – received an Honourable Mention for achieving full marks on one of the most difficult questions in the competition.

Team 2 – Carys, Charlotte, Eknoor and Jana – earned a Silver Certificate, placing in the top 15 out of 62 teams across South Australia.

We are incredibly proud of the way all students represented the school and approached the competition with persistence, collaboration and curiosity. We look forward to building on this success in future years!

Mrs Neven Daoud, OZCLO Coordinator



Rowing Program update

Rowing with Renmark Rowing Club

During the College off-season, a group of our young rowers have been engaging in Sunday morning sessions with the Renmark Rowing Club. They have mixed in with members in an 8+ as well as training together in 2x's and 4x's. Students Riley, Reece, Harry, Tate and Billie are all participating in this year's Long Row. They will team up with Mrs Turnbull and Miss Gibbons to complete the 36km row from Renmark to the Woolshed Brewery, with Lilly as the crew coxswain. It's great to see their commitment to the sport continue.

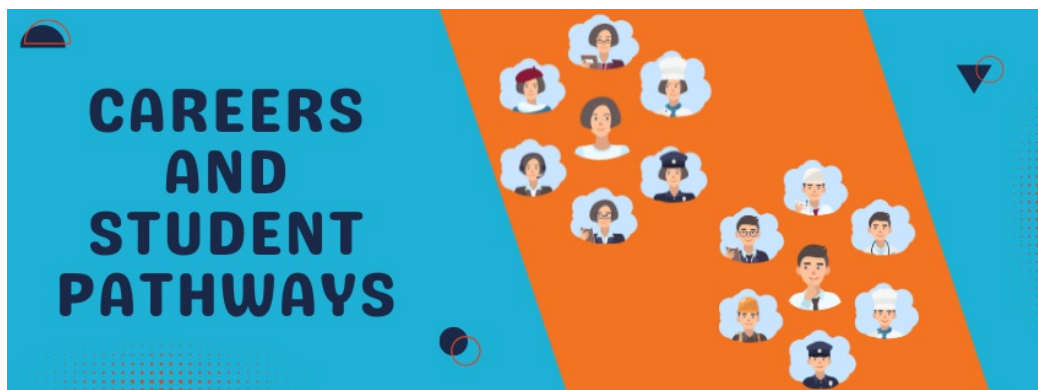
These students also took up the opportunity to listen to a short presentation made by a visiting World Champion Italian rower at a recent social night held at the Renmark Rowing Club. Patrick is visiting the Riverland, working on a farm in Loxton, and has been training out of the rowing club for the past 2 weeks. Patrick shared his experiences from starting rowing, how it differs in Italy to Australia, and the level of commitment and training that is required to achieve his success, but highlighting the years it takes to do so. Also sharing a story of a health scare, putting him out of training for 12 months then coming back and winning a World Cup race. Patrick commentated the race as we watched, discussing his thought process and key mental strategies of dealing with the pressures of racing and performance. Students also had the opportunity to chat casually with Patrick over pizza where he asked about their goals, what an experience for them!

Yr 7 HPE Rowing Unit

This term, Year 7 students have started HPE with Rowing. They have participated in sessions at the College on the rowing machines, learning the sequence of the stroke. This week 7A & 7B headed down to the Renmark Rowing Club and a group were able to get into a boat for the first time.



Careers and Student Pathways



Celebrating National Careers Week!



At St Francis of Assisi College, we're proud to support National Careers Week by helping students explore their future with purpose, confidence, and curiosity.

Throughout the year, we provide a range of opportunities to help students discover their strengths, passions, and career pathways, including:

- **Work Experience** – Hands-on opportunities for students to explore industries and build real-world skills.
- **Career Research Support** – Helping students navigate options like university, TAFE, and vocational education.
- **School-Based Apprenticeships & Traineeships** – Supporting students ready to launch their careers while still at school.
- **Careers & Geography Camp (Adelaide)** – A unique opportunity to tour Flinders and Adelaide Uni, visit Aquinas College, and explore tech TAFEs and industry pathways.
- **Strong Connections with RTOs** – Partnering with trusted Registered Training Organisations to give students access to high-quality vocational education and training.
- **Pathway Planning & Mentoring** – Individualised support to help students make informed, confident decisions about their future.
- **Guest Speakers & Industry Visits** – Learning from professionals across a wide range of fields.

And we're especially excited to be hosting our **first-ever Careers Expo** on Wednesday, 4th June - right here at the College! This event will bring together RTOs, industry representatives and employers to give students and families a fantastic look at what's possible beyond the classroom.

National Careers Week is all about raising awareness of the importance of career development - and we're proud to be walking alongside our students as they explore, dream, and prepare for life beyond school.

Mrs Amber Burgess, VET & Student Pathways Coordinator

Ethan Secures School-Based Traineeship with Brett Hammerstein Concreting

Ethan has recently taken a significant step towards his future career by gaining a School-Based Traineeship with Brett Hammerstein Concreting. This opportunity allows him to gain hands-on industry experience while completing his SACE, giving him a head start in the construction sector.

This traineeship, supported through MAS National, not only strengthens Ethan's skills and confidence but also highlights the value of strong community partnerships. By working with a respected local business, Ethan is contributing to and benefiting from the rich network of support in our region. Partnerships like this reflect the importance of local businesses investing in young people and building sustainable pathways from school to employment.

We congratulate Ethan on this exciting achievement and look forward to seeing him thrive both at school and on the worksite.



Pictured L-R: Danielle Albanese (Mas National), Ethan (SFoAC student), Amber Burgess (VET & Student Pathways Coordinator SFoAC) and Jacqui Hammerstein - Brett Hammerstein Concretors Pty Ltd.

Marissa Powers Up Her Future with School-Based Apprenticeship at WireWorks Electrical

A new day, another apprentice! Congratulations to Marissa, who has officially signed up for her School-Based Apprenticeship in Electrotechnology with Nathan from WireWorks Electrical. As part of this exciting opportunity, Marissa will be working toward her Certificate III in Electrotechnology, gaining real-world experience while continuing her secondary education.

This partnership, supported by MAS National, showcases the strength of local industry connections and the value of providing hands-on learning pathways for students. Marissa's apprenticeship not only equips her with technical skills and practical knowledge, but also helps build confidence and a strong foundation for a future career in the electrical trade.

We're proud to see another young person taking charge of their future and grateful to local businesses like WireWorks for supporting youth employment in our community.



Pictured: Nathan Burgess (WireWorks Electrical) and Marissa

Mrs Amber Burgess, VET & Student Pathways Coordinator

St Francis of Assisi College
Laudato Si'

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS: Career Expo

You are invited to the College's 1st Career Expo.

DATE
Wednesday: 4th June 2025

TIME
5pm-7pm

LOCATION
St Francis of Assisi College

ENQUIRIES TO KERRY

8595 4500

kerryn.vandyk@assisi.catholic.edu.au

What you can expect

- Opportunities to speak to different services who can help with finding work or apprenticeships
- Talk to local employers about different job opportunities and career pathways
- Attend interactive workshops
- Explore different Careers using VR technology

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



ORIGINALS Night

Saturday, 10th May, 6-8pm

Living Waters Church, Edward Street, Loxton

For Year 6 to Year 12 students

Come get creative! There will be art projects, Lego designs to make and so much more! We will also have a devotion at the end which will include an Alpha Youth Life Essentials short video filmed and produced in Australia, designed for teenagers to spark faith convos with friends & to chat about things impacting them today.

For more details contact Abbey via our Facebook page



RSVP to the event via the Facebook page, fill out on the online consent forms prior or on the night via our Facebook page.



MONDAYS

Music & Movement
9:30am | Ages 0-5

Dungeons & Dragons
4:30pm | Ages 13-18

TUESDAYS

Teen Ensemble
4:00pm | Ages 13-18

Online Creative Club: Visual Arts
5:30pm | Ages 13-18

WEDNESDAYS

Storytellers
4:00pm | Ages 13-18

Online Creative Club: Creative Writing
5:30pm | Ages 13-18

THURSDAYS

3rd Place
4:00pm | Ages 13-18

SUNDAYS

Pondi
TBC | Ages 13-18

TERM 2



REGISTER

Contact Us for More Information

Message

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