

# Important Dates

National Sorry Day

Monday 26 May 2025

Immersion Day St Joseph's Renmark

Monday 26 May 2025

Immersion Day - St Joseph's School Barmera

Tuesday 27 May 2025

White Card Training

Tuesday 27 May 2025

National Reconciliation Week 27 May - 3 June

Tuesday 27 May 2025

VET and SBAT Information Evening

Wednesday 28 May 2025

KO Football 9/10

Wednesday 28 May 2025

10A Calvary St Catherine's Visit #2

Wednesday 28 May 2025

Year 7 & 10 Immunisation Program 1st Dose

Thursday 29 May 2025

Careers in Viticulture and Wine Incursion

Thursday 29 May 2025

Stage 1 Outdoor Ed Mountain Bike Camp, Calperum Station (Tues 3 -Thurs 5 June)

Tuesday 3 June 2025

SFOAC Careers Expo

Wednesday 4 June 2025

Whole School Mass Pentecost – 9.30am

Wednesday 4 June 2025

Whole School Mass

- Pentecost

Wednesday 4 June 2025

Oakbank Cross Country

Thursday 5 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

#### Information Session

- Parent

6.30pm

Engagement Group and Community & Industry Partnership Group - 5.30-

Wednesday 11 June 2025

#### College Board

Monday 16 June 2025

Yr 7 & Yr 10 Immunisation catch up day

Wednesday 18 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

Yr 10 Second Dose Immunisations

Wednesday 10 September 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

#### Laudato Si' Week - 10 Year Anniversary

This week, we join Catholic communities worldwide in celebrating the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis' Laudato Si' encyclical during Laudato Si' Week. This occasion is especially poignant for St Francis of Assisi College, as our ethos is deeply rooted in the principles of Laudato Si'; care for self, others and our common home.

Laudato Si' remains a transformative call to action, urging us to reflect on the interconnectedness of all creation and our collective responsibility toward the Earth. It reminds us that ecological stewardship is not merely an environmental issue; it is a moral and spiritual obligation. At St Francis of Assisi College, we strive to embody these values through our daily actions, and Faith in Action initiatives, fostering a deep appreciation for the natural world.

This 10-year anniversary is a time of renewal for us as a College community. As we celebrate this milestone, let us engage in acts of care, reflection, and gratitude, ensuring that the beauty of creation continues to inspire and flourish for generations to come.

Click this link to watch a video produced by Catholic Education SA, featuring some of our own students, as they reflect on Laudato Si' and caring for our common home.

#### National Reconciliation Week – Bringing Now to Next

This coming week, our school community joins Australians nationwide in commemorating National Reconciliation Week, a powerful time for reflection, action, and unity. Held annually from May 27 to June 3, this week marks significant milestones in our nation's journey towards equity and reconciliation - the 1967 Referendum and the 1992 landmark Mabo decision.

The purpose of National Reconciliation Week is to foster understanding, respect, and meaningful relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians. It reminds us that reconciliation is not merely an event but an ongoing

process requiring collective effort and commitment to justice, truth, and healing.

The 2025 theme, "Bringing Now to Next," invites us as a Catholic school community to reflect on the present while envisioning a future shaped by inclusivity and shared purpose. Guided by our faith and values, we are called to engage in acts of kindness, dialogue, and cultural appreciation, aligning with Jesus' teachings of love and compassion.



#### Staff Professional Development Day - Friday June 6

I remind parents and carers that Friday June 6th, Week 6 of Term 2 is a pupil free day. This will be a day of professional learning for our educators. The day will be a focus on the use of student data to inform our teaching practice. We will be joined by Jarrod Carter from CESA, who is a Senior Education Data Analyst, who will facilitate the program with us.

#### 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

#### Pope Francis Memorial Mass

At the end of Week 2, our whole school gathered to celebrate the life and passion of Pope Francis. Led by our student leaders, we shared in a special Mass to reflect on his powerful message of love, justice, and humility.

Pope Francis reminded the world that faith is about service, not status. He walked with the poor, cared for creation, and lived with compassion, just like St Francis of Assisi, our school's patron saint.

Though he's no longer with us, his mission lives on in each of us.

Let's honour his legacy by living with heart, hope, and courage.

#### Catholic Education Week

In week 3, we celebrated what makes Catholic education so special and how we can continue to shine with open hearts in all we do.

Some of our students and staff shared thoughtful reflections on how they live out this year's theme, and how they hope to make a difference in the future. From simple acts of kindness to dreams of helping others through their future careers, their words are a powerful reminder of the values we share as a community.

We also welcomed students and staff from all four Catholic primary schools across the Riverland to our College for our Catholic Education Week Combined Day. The day began with a joyful Mass centred on our diocesan theme Seeds of Hope, celebrating our shared faith and community spirit.

Students then enjoyed a wide range of engaging activities, including sports games, biscuit decorating, a silent disco, slime making, LEGO

challenges, blind karaoke, quizzes, face painting, Just Dance, board games, and much more. It was a fantastic day filled with laughter, connection, and creativity - a true celebration of Catholic education in our region!

Year 10 Calvery Visits

As part of their Faith in Action RE unit, our Year 10 students recently visited Calvary Nursing Home, where they spent time bonding with residents and listening to their life stories. The experience offered a meaningful opportunity for students to practice compassion, respect, and intergenerational connection.

This visit marked the beginning of an ongoing partnership, with two more visits scheduled throughout the term, and again in Term 3. We look forward to seeing the relationships deepen as students continue to learn from the wisdom and experiences of the residents, living out our College values of service and care.

#### 10 year Anniversary of Laudato Si

In Week 4, our College community came 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 offered a meaningful opportunity to honour our shared commitment to stewardship, sustainability, and hope for future generations.

#### Prayer for Laudato Si

God of Life,

You love the universe into being,

Let us give praise.

You embrace the world without distinction,

Let us give thanks.

You call humanity to make flesh Your tenderness,

Let us live accordingly.

You endow all creation with Your divine beauty and wisdom,

Let us acknowledge.

You forgive all trespasses.

Let us learn Your ways.

You grace us unconditionally,

Let us receive humbly.

You are our hope,

Let us remember.

Amen.

Mrs Isabella Trudgian, RE Coordinator



# Leader of Learning

## Using Turnitin to Support Student Learning at the College

At St Francis of Assisi College, we are committed to helping students develop strong academic skills and integrity. To support this goal, we have implemented the use of Turnitin, an online platform that supports students in producing original work and understanding proper referencing.

Turnitin allows students to submit written tasks and receive feedback on the originality of their work. It highlights any matching text from internet sources, books, and other student submissions. This helps students identify if they have used too many direct quotes, missed citations, or need to improve how they paraphrase and reference information.

Importantly, Turnitin is not just a tool for identifying plagiarism—it is a learning support. Teachers use the reports to guide students in developing their research and writing skills, ensuring they understand how to acknowledge the work of others appropriately.

By using Turnitin across the College, we are preparing students for the expectations of higher education and the workforce, where academic honesty and ethical research are essential.

We encourage families to talk with their children about how they use Turnitin and the importance of submitting original work. Together, we can support our students in becoming confident, capable, and ethical learners.

Mrs Natalie Meuret, Leader of Learning

# College Community Wellbeing

#### **Immersion Days**

This week we have welcomed students from across the Riverland for their Immersion Days. OLOR, St Albert's and enrolled students from non-catholic primary schools have experienced a day at St Francis of Assisi enjoying lessons delivered by our teaching staff. Lessons have been active and hands-on through PE, Cooking and Science.

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

Scheduled visits include:

Monday 26 May - St Joseph's School, Renmark

Tuesday 27 May - St Joseph's School, Barmera

If you are interested in a tour or enrolling your child, 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
AQUA	AQUA1	Ms. Anita Modlinski	anita.modlinski@assisi.catholic.edu.au
HUMILITY	AQUA2	Ms. Neven Daoud	neven.daoud@assisi.catholic.edu.au
IGNIS	IGNIS1	Mr. John Lyons	john.lyons@assisi.catholic.edu.au
COURAGE	IGNIS2	Ms. Amy Hunt	amy.hunt@assisi.catholic.edu.au
TERRA	TERRA1	Mr. Fraser Sampson	fraser.sampson@assisi.catholic.edu.au
TENACITY	TERRA2	Mr. Luke Cotter	luke.cotter@assisi.catholic.edu.au
	VENTUS1	Ms. Isabella Trudgian	isabella.trudgian@assisi.catholic.edu.au



# Quote of the Week



VENTUS2

Mr Luke Cotter, Leader of Wellbeing

# Immersion Days



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.

23.05.25

Inside the Classroom and around College: Term 2 Weeks 3 & 4 Highlights and Happenings

#### A Special Moment in Local History - Twentyfirst Street Bridge Opening

Last Friday, two of our students, Ruby and Lilly, had the honour of representing St Francis of Assisi College at the official opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Twentyfirst Street Bridge, hosted by the Renmark Paringa Council.

Their involvement in this significant community milestone was a proud moment not only for them but for the entire College. We are grateful to the Council for inviting our students to be part of such a meaningful occasion. It's an event that Ruby and Lilly - and all who attended - will no doubt look back on as a special memory in the history of our local area.

#### Year 9s Debate the Most Impactful Textile Invention

As part of their History unit on the Industrial Revolution, our Year 9 students explored four key textile inventions that transformed Britain's textile industry: the flying shuttle, spinning jenny, water frame, and Crompton's mule.

Students first worked individually to state their personal opinion on an invention. They then collaborated in small groups to debate which invention had the greatest influence on the growth and impact of the industry.

It was fantastic to see the level of critical thinking, teamwork, and persuasive argumentation as students made their case. A valuable learning experience that brought the past to life!

Mrs Isabella Trudgian, Teacher

#### Year 9/10 Knockout Cup Volleyball – A Showcase of Skill and Sportsmanship

In Week 3, our talented Year 9/10 Volleyball squads travelled to Adelaide to compete in the Knockout Cup, facing off against a range of schools from both metropolitan and regional areas.

Throughout the competition, our students demonstrated outstanding determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Their commitment to supporting one another, maintaining a positive attitude, and striving for excellence in every game was a credit to themselves and to our College.

We extend our congratulations to all players for their efforts and achievements. A sincere thank you also goes to Mrs Vater and Mr Goodman for their invaluable guidance and support in preparing the teams and accompanying them throughout the tournament.

## High Performance Academy – Fueling Success Through Nutrition

As part of their ongoing development in sports performance, students in our High Performance Academy Football and Netball squads recently took their learning from the court and field into the kitchen. The focus of the session was on sports nutrition, with an emphasis on the importance of a high-protein, nutrient-rich breakfast to support muscle recovery and athletic performance.

Students explored the role of food in fuelling their bodies for training and enhancing overall wellbeing. Putting theory into practice, they prepared and cooked their own nutritious breakfasts, with menu options including:

- · Vegetable-packed omelettes
- · Poached eggs with avocado on sourdough toast
- Bacon and egg muffins with added vegetables
- · Scrambled eggs

The students embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and skill, and were rewarded with a delicious, well-deserved breakfast to cap off a valuable and engaging learning experience.

#### Cross Country 2025

Last Thursday afternoon, the College was alive with excitement as students participated in our annual Cross Country event. With perfect autumn weather setting the scene, students embraced the challenge and camaraderie that the day brings each year.

Participants had the option to tackle the traditional course, which wound through the school grounds and along the scenic trails of Bookmark Creek. Alternatively, those looking for a more light-hearted experience joined the Fun Run on the oval - complete with backwards walking, skipping, and even blindfolded laps that added plenty of laughter to the afternoon.

The event was a wonderful display of school spirit, physical effort, and creative flair. Congratulations to all students who took part - whether competing for house points or simply enjoying the fun - and a big thank you to staff and volunteers who made the day such a success.

Results are in:

Cross Country	Championship Points
Terra	115
Aqua	89
Ventus	61
Ignis	47

Fun Run Laps	Spirit Points
Aqua	427
Ignis	372
Ventus	368
Terra	368

	U13 Boys	U13 Girls	U14 Boys	U14 Girls	U15 Boys	U15 Girls	U16 Boys	U16 Girls	Open Boys
		Isla	Sebastian	Sarah	Jack	Amber	Hamish	Charlize	Noah
1st	Harper Brown	Martinson	Coote	White	O'Bryan	Matulick	Pitman	Wilson	Burgess
		Ninke	Samuel	Millie	Morgan	Ruby		Mila	
2nd	Ivan Atsaves	Gardner	Walker	Cozens	Goodman	Malinovski	Reece Clark	Gardner	Aaron Kurian
	Matthew	Arlen	Jack	Sophie		Emma	Ethan	Courtney	Riley
3rd	Latorre	Sheene	Finlayson	Gordon	Louis Brown	McGorman	Thomas	White	Leybourne
			Jenson	Sandra	Harry		William		
4th	Noah Scholz	Lily McLeod	Sheene	Nguyen	Leesue	Avreet Kaur	Lister-White		Suhkraj Gill
	Nathan	Charlize	Phoenix	Indikah	Campbell	Shynae	Harry		
5th	Underwood	Pearce	Pearce	Burford	Dring	Pitman	Pfeiffer		

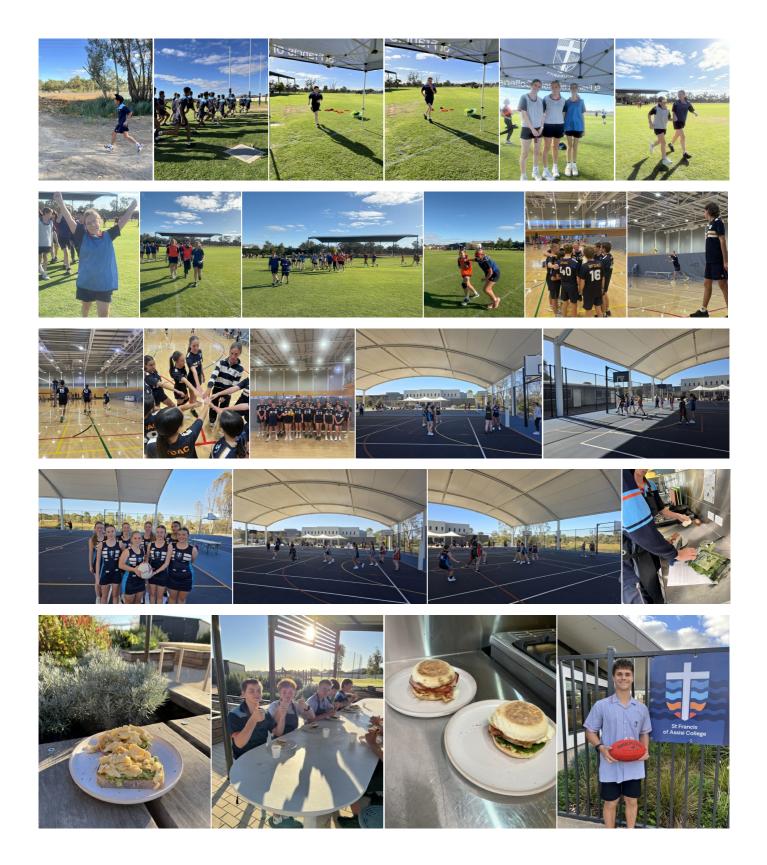
# Congratulations to Samuel DePalma – Selected for State Football Representation

We are proud to congratulate Samuel DePalma on his outstanding achievement in being selected to represent School Sport SA at the upcoming School Sport Australia 15 Years & Under Australian Football Championship.

This is a remarkable accomplishment and a testament to Samuel's hard work, dedication, and passion for the game. His commitment to both his training and personal growth has earned him this well-deserved opportunity to compete at a national level.

Well done, Samuel! The entire St Francis of Assisi College community is cheering you on and wishing you every success as you take the field.





#### Careers and Student Pathways



20.05.25

# July School Holiday Try a Trade

In the July school holidays, St Patrick's Technical College are running TRY-A-TRADE programs.

TRY-A-TRADE offers students the opportunity to participate in an industry program and gain experience, with hands-on practical activities – they are delivered by industry specialists in our trade facilities.

Students will be provided with an attendance certificate which can be used for VETRO evidence.

To register please visit: https://stpatstech.sa.edu.au/try-a-trade/

View this article online to read more

23.05.25

# Careers Expo - Pathways to Success

Our first expo will feature a fantastic lineup of exhibitors, including local and state-based organisations from sectors such as education and training, health and community services, defence, environmental science, small business, and more. Whether students are considering university, TAFE, apprenticeships, employment, or starting their own business, there will be something to inspire everyone.

Here's a sneak peek at who's attending:

- TAFE SA South Australia's leading vocational education provider, with a local campus in Berri.
- Australian Institute of Social Relations Offering face-to-face courses in Community Services.
- AELT Specialising in Early Childhood Education and Care, with training linked to a local childcare centre.
- Flinders University Highlighting local and state-wide study opportunities.
- Aquinas College A residential option for university students.
- Murray River & Fleurieu Study Hub Local support for post-secondary study and career planning.
- MAS National Apprenticeship and traineeship experts based in Renmark.
- IntoJobs Providing support for aspiring small business owners through the Self-Employment Assistance Program.
- SA Ambulance Service (SAAS) Presenting career and volunteer pathways in emergency services.
- Connect Allied Health Showcasing careers in speech pathology, physio, OT, and more.
- Australian Defence Force (ADF) With over 300 career options across the Navy, Army, and Air Force.
- Calperum Station Promoting careers in environmental science, education, and land management.
- Janette Fulham Photography Sharing insight into professional and commercial photography.
- Aim Higher (CBS Inc.) Supporting career planning for students with disabilities.
- BaseOur Riverland NDIS provider offering personal support, life skills, and mentoring roles.
- JMA Engineering Highlighting local career opportunities in engineering and project management.
- Costa Group One of Australia's largest citrus producers with a strong local workforce.
- SAPOL Promoting policing careers and pathways.

- Sureway Supporting young people with training and job-readiness programs.
- Novita Offering a wide range of disability support careers across all ages.

The Careers Expo is an event for all students to attend, helping them make informed decisions about subject choices, study options, and future pathways. We encourage students and families to take full advantage of the exhibitors' knowledge and experience during the expo.

We are excited to confirm that we will have 2 interactive workshops being run at our careers expo.

- Workshop 1: 5:15pm-5:45pm How to start a podcast presented by Kerrie Lush from My Podcast Station
- Workshop 2: 6:15pm-6:45pm Medical Simulation- What to do when someone had an allegic reaction presented by James
   McLeod from Renmark Medical Centre

These workshops are going to be hands on where some people will get to participate. All students and parents are welcome to attend these workshops and be involved.

There will also be a VR headset simulation set up where you can have a look at different careers.

Hot donuts and Sausages will be available to purchase from the Lions Club of Renmark.

23.05.25

# Information Session - Parent Engagement Group and Community & Industry Partnership Group

#### **Industry and Community Partnership Group**

The aim of this group is to focus on developing sustained community and industry partnerships to create pathways for our students. By joining this group, you will be part of an effort to:

- Help students understand the skills most sought after by local businesses and industries, offering them opportunities to develop
  those skills in a real-world setting.
- Ensure that both the College and our students are actively contributing to the growth and success of the Riverland region.
- Establish sustainable connections between the school and local businesses, providing vocational pathways for our students.

We believe these partnerships will significantly enhance the education and career opportunities available to our students.

#### Parent Engagement Group

Our focus for this group is to develop a positive and welcoming school community. The Parent Engagement Group will create opportunities for:

- Parents and families to meet and connect socially with one another.
- Parents to meaningfully engage with their child's education and have a voice in school activities and initiatives.

We want to create an environment where all families feel involved and supported as part of our school community.

#### Your Involvement

We welcome all parents and caregivers to engage with these groups in a way that works best for you. Whether you are able to attend regular meetings, participate when you can, or offer help on an occasional basis, your involvement will make a difference.

#### **Meeting Invitation**

We would like to extend an invitation to all interested parents, caregivers and families to attend an initial meeting to learn more about the work of these groups and hear about the 2025 priorities. The meeting will also serve as an opportunity to register your interest in becoming involved (if you haven't already).

Date: Wednesday 11th June (Week 7)

Time: 5.30-6.30pm

Location: Study Hub, 10-12 Building, St Francis of Assisi College

RSVP: Please email emma.warner@assisi.catholic.edu.au with your RSVP or any questions you may have

We look forward to seeing you there and working together to create a thriving community for our students.

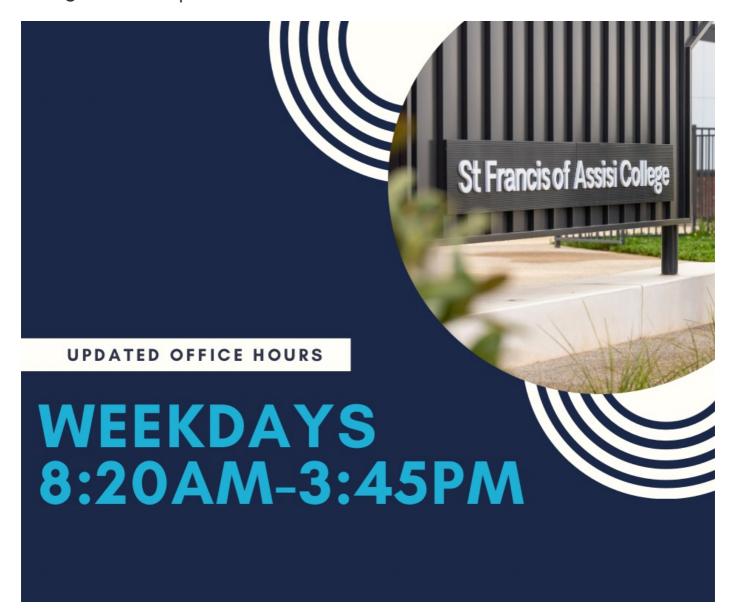


Don't forget we have a Facebook page for parents/caregivers to exchange College uniforms.

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.





#### 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 hestiate to contact the College office on 8595 4500 if you have any difficulty with the various mediums used by the College to commuicate 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

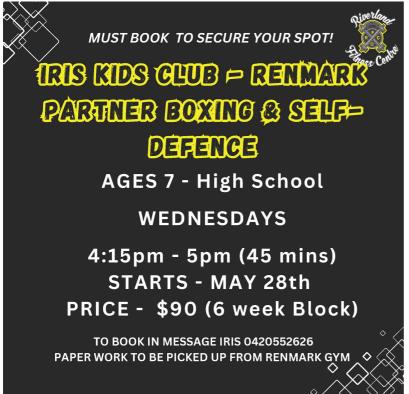
Business Website: www.sample.com.au

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





# FRIDAY NIGHTS





ENQUIRES

KAYLA MUDGE

0429 626 885

KAYLA.MUDGE@SANFL.COM.AU







# Contact Us for More Information

Name		
Email		
Phone		
Message		

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