



ST JOHN'S
GRAMMAR



InFlight

2023



In this edition:

Unveiling our new
Art & Design Precinct

All the fun from our Carnivals

Soaring to new heights at camp



*This page: Our Secondary Campus comes together for the Easter Eucharist
Front cover: Junior School students enjoy the festivities at the Junior School Athletics Day*



From the

Principal

The new Masterplan for grounds and infrastructure for all three campuses of our wonderful School is being developed this year. It's a plan that will be exciting and open up new opportunities for our young people, provide even better resources for our hardworking staff and importantly it will be a plan that is realistic and achievable. The new Masterplan will map our infrastructure improvements over a 10 year period and give confidence and assurance to our community that things will happen when we need them to happen.

Everyone will be able to contribute to the plan by engaging in the consultation process. A ton of feedback already mined clearly points to a need to improve and expand our natural and recreational play spaces on all three sites, improve our music and technology facilities in the Junior School and reinvent our International, Language and Food Technology spaces on the Secondary Campus.

Building great learning and teaching resources that replace tired or absent infrastructure is one thing but the key driver in the development is what these additions enhance and advance. I have often argued that great things can come out of old sheds. And we must not assume that shiny new buildings means great outcomes are generated.

What happens inside deserves as much strategic attention; the endeavour, the progressive thinking, the innovation and enterprise, the richer learning and thinking and the joy and spirit of people working together with purpose – these are the things that must be nurtured and inspired by any new development.

Once again this edition of InFlight captures that St John's spirit and the essence of community by showcasing some of the many exciting opportunities that are on offer to all our people. It's such a busy, dynamic place!

Heading into the next decade I am looking forward to seeing so many young people continue to benefit from a diverse and evolving school program that is supported by some exciting grounds and building projects.

Richard Anderson
Principal

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ART & DESIGN



Pictured above: Reg Wymond, past Board Chair.

Amid the melodic chime of the bell, and the laughter and chatter of students, our Secondary Campus has also featured perhaps a few other less pleasant noises as major building works reached their crescendo.

Following the spectacular demolition of the existing buildings in late 2022, rising from the dust, were the Wymond Technology Centre and the Visual Arts and Design Precinct which reached completion and was officially opened in May.

Attended by staff and student leaders, as well as Board Members and special guests including Heather Holmes-Ross - Mayor of City of Mitcham and Catherine Hutchesson MP, the opening was the first chance for most to see inside the new rooms.

Named in honour of Reg Wymond, whose 26 years of service to St John's Grammar School included membership and leadership of our Board, leading the Parents Association, and crucial financial governance - including the acquisition of our current Secondary Campus, the spacious building offers new opportunities for our students.

Alongside contemporary high-tech equipment, the spaces were designed to help creativity and innovation flourish with spaces to tinker, design, create and showcase.

In the Wymond Technology Centre, the wood and metal working workshops have undergone a complete refurbishment with new equipment and machinery installed. Office spaces, CAD/CAM classrooms, a tinker space and display foyer round out the inspiring Technology & Enterprise space.



In the Art and Design Precinct (pictured above), a kiln room, ceramics and printing areas, centralised storage and a breakout Year 12 area sit alongside large, light-filled artists studios with ample storage, benches and workspaces. Rounding off the Precinct is The White Chapel Gallery, which has received a new entrance and internal works.

Complemented by undercover walkways, landscaping and paving, these spaces add another jewel to our crown on the Secondary Campus.

We excitedly watch as the construction for the Education Centre progresses towards completion.



CLASS OF 2022 RESULTS

An outstanding 12.5% of our Year 12 cohort placed in the top 1% nationally, with an ATAR above 99, with 25% of our students ranked in the top 5% nationally, with an ATAR above 95.

Congratulations to our School Dux, Kyan Percevault, who

achieved an ATAR of 99.80, and to our Proxime Accessit, Daniel Nedomansky who achieved an ATAR of 99.65.

10 students were awarded a total of 19 SACE Merits across eight subjects, and a further 11 Merit equivalencies were achieved by 10 students across multiple University subjects. 35.7% of our cohort join our Top Guns, a unique group reserved for students who achieve an ATAR above 90, placing them in the top 10% nationally. A brilliant outcome for our

2022 cohort was that just over 50% of all grades achieved were A grades, compared to a State average of 31.12%, and a special mention to our International Students, who achieved impressive results under particularly difficult circumstances.

In another challenging year, the students showed great conviction and resilience to generate wonderful outcomes that will now open those doors to their chosen fields of further study and work.

Generating such outstanding results requires a team effort, and that strong connection between home and school remains formidable at St John's Grammar.



Congratulations to School Dux, Kyan Percevault, who achieved an ATAR of 99.80 and four Merits.

Kyan's outstanding approach to his learning has been rewarded by receiving four Merits in Specialist Mathematics, Mathematical Methods, Physics and Research Project.

Kyan was the joint St John's Grammar School Award Winner for a number of subjects, including Specialist Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics and Research Project.

SCHOOL DUX

KYAN PERCEVAULT

ATAR 99.80
4 MERITS



Congratulations to Proxime Accessit, Daniel Nedomansky who achieved an ATAR of 99.65.

Daniel received three Merits in Specialist Mathematics, Mathematical Methods and Research Project.

Daniel was also the joint St John's Grammar School Subject Award Winner for Chemistry, Specialist Mathematics and Research Project.











PROXIME ACCESSITT

DANIEL NEDOMANSKY

ATAR 99.80
4 MERITS

RESULTS IN SUMMARY

19 SACE MERITS ACROSS 8 SUBJECTS

<p>Kyan Percevault Specialist Mathematics, Research Project, Physics, Mathematical Methods (2022)</p> 	<p>Isaac Woollard English Literary Studies, Research Project, Modern History</p> 	<p>Daniel Nedomansky Specialist Mathematics, Research Project, Mathematical Methods (2022)</p> 
<p>Olivia Gray Health & Wellbeing, English</p> 	<p>Piers Bastin-Fleming English, Mathematical Methods (2022)</p> 	<p>Christopher Lieberenz Mathematical Methods (2022)</p> 
<p>Alannah Tonkin Health & Wellbeing</p> 	<p>Alek Luczak Research Project</p> 	<p>Anook Simpson Physics</p> 
	<p>Xavier Witney English Literary Studies</p> 	



STUDENTS WHO ACHIEVED AN ATAR OF 90+

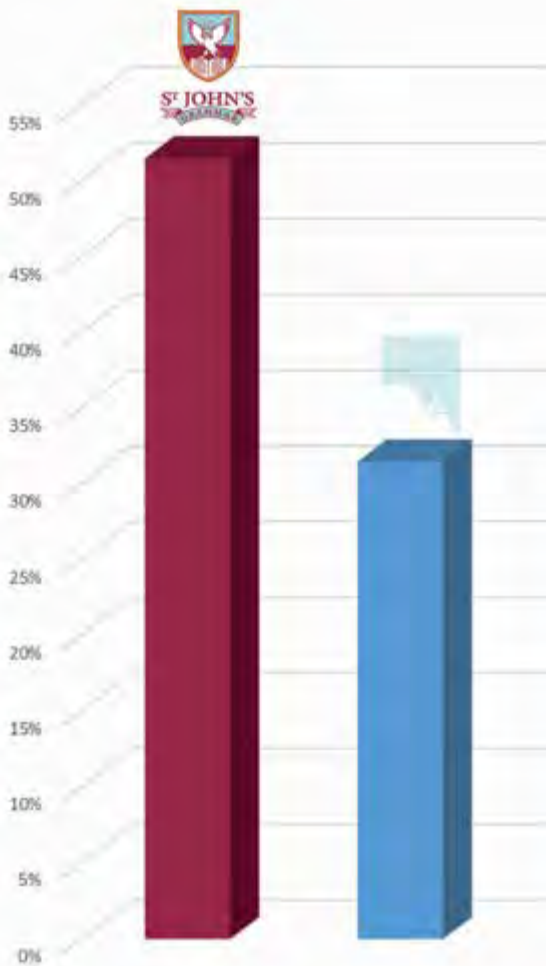
Summer Barber	Isabella Milne
Piers Bastin-Fleming	Daniel Nedomansky
Annelie Budgen	Kyan Percevault
Constance Gould	Anook Simpson
Olivia Gray	Reilly Smout
Jamie Hyde	Alannah Tonkin
Yu Hang Lam	Xavier Witney
Christopher Lieberenz	Isaac Woollard
Alexander Luczak	Jiabao Ye
Alexander Markham	Jiayi Ye



NATIONAL ATAR RANKING



PERCENTAGE OF A GRADES



11 MERIT EQUIVALENCIES ACHIEVED IN UNIVERSITY SUBJECTS

<p>Christopher Lieberenz</p> 	<p>Isabella Milne</p> 	<p>Reilly Smout</p> 
<p>Alannah Tonkin</p> 	<p>Olivia Gray</p> 	<p>Isaac Woollard</p> 
<p>Piers Bastin-Fleming</p> 		

APY

2022



After a hiatus during the worst of COVID-19, we were thrilled to once again depart for the community of Pipalyatjara in the APY Lands at the end of 2022. Followed up by another visit again earlier this year, we relished the opportunity to re-establish our connections with the community and continue working towards reconciliation. While the 1600-kilometre, three day bus journey is always full of laughs, and sometime flat tyres, our students are always excited when they reach their destination: the Pipalyatjara Anangu School.

Over the coming days the cohort split into groups to rotate through the various classes at the Pipalyatjara Anangu School, which has students ranging in age from 3 to 18.

Strong bonds were formed as our students embraced life in this community. While copious games of

LANDS

2023



Basketball certainly helped in fostering those bonds, we shared meals and were even shown the surrounding bush areas and waterhole while mastering various phrases in Pitjantjatjara.

On the journey home, our students visited the neighbouring community, Kalka, where we were privileged enough to visit the Ninuku Art Centre. Here, we were able to view the creative flair of local artists and purchase our own artwork. The journey back also takes in one of Australia's most iconic natural landmarks, Uluru, and the opportunity to stay underground in Coober Pedy.

This unforgettable opportunity is perspective-giving and provides rich learning and deeper understanding of our First Nations people. We are so thrilled to once again rekindle our bond with this wonderful community of people.



BITING

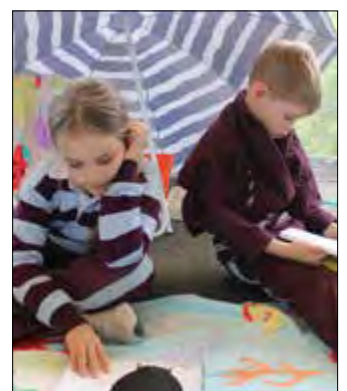
**“Books open your mind, broaden your mind and strengthen your mind as nothing else can”
-William Feather**

After great success in previous years, our Junior School Library was once again the pièce de résistance during our book tasting events, held each year for every year level.

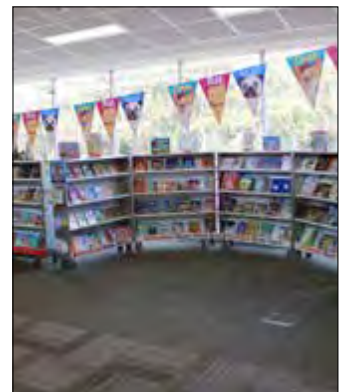
Enticing titles were perfectly presented to our Junior School children at the various events in 2022 and 2023 to ignite their appetite for new genres and styles of books.

From a Mexican fiesta at La Bookaracha, through to the classic Starbooks Cafe, our students have also celebrated exploring new books with a good old Aussie barbecue and a stretched out to read a new favourite at Book Beach. These much loved events encouraged children to widen their reading variety and try out new books.

With back-to-back years full of Book Tasting events aimed at encouraging voracious readers, we're confident our Junior School Librarian Ms Saxby has perfected the ideal recipe!



INTO BOOKS



2022 SCHOOL MUSICAL

CHICAGO



From the performing cast to the musical talent and the crew of technical magicians who brought it to life, our Musical, Chicago, was an effort truly worthy of applause. While the on-stage talent delivered impressive vocals, outstanding choreography and great music, the countless students behind the scenes truly made our Musical come to life. Whether through lighting, stage-hand support, stage managing, costuming and set design, the Musical is truly a whole-campus collaboration that allows many lights to shine in their own domains. With skilled guidance from our passionate Performing Arts team and Music staff, many hours of rehearsal, hard work, and technical achievement resulted in a show that "knocked 'em dead".





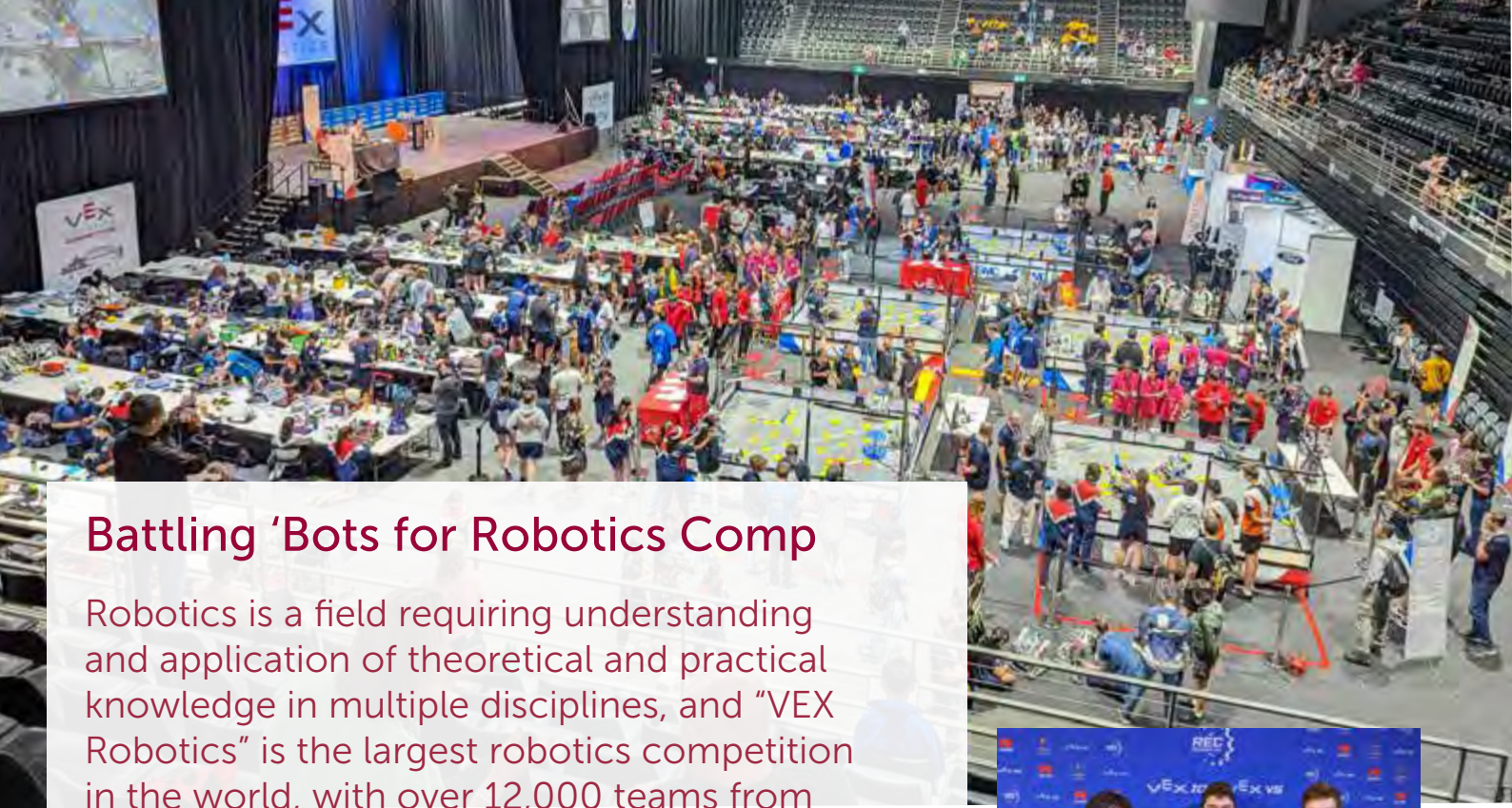
GRANDPARENTS'



AND SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY 2022

During the second half of 2022 we were excited to finally invite our grandparents and special friends back on campus to share in our learning and school experiences. With events on both the Junior and Secondary Campus, our students delighted in performing for their special guests as well as showcasing themselves and the School, making the most of being the ones with knowledge to impart to their elders (who continue to be amazed at modern school life!).





Battling 'Bots for Robotics Comp

Robotics is a field requiring understanding and application of theoretical and practical knowledge in multiple disciplines, and "VEX Robotics" is the largest robotics competition in the world, with over 12,000 teams from 33 countries taking part. With success after success in 2022, we were proud of our teams representing us in the State and National Finals.

Year 7 students James Williams and Dante Ciaramellano were proud to be part of the 36-team SA contingent in the State Finals of the competition - the first 'in-person' event of its kind in the state. The team performed so well that their achievements were enough to qualify them for the South Australian Regionals event in late 2022, with a pathway to the Australian National Championships in December.

Eric Gu (Year 9), Aidan De Sousa (Year 11), and Peter Knight (Year 10) put hours of complex engineering and software programming to the test and competed extremely well in a large field of teams from across South Australia. Seeded second overall on the day, they made the Quarter Finals before being knocked out in a close match - a brilliant achievement for their first-ever competitive robotics experience.

After competing at the South Australian Regionals in late 2022, the team went on to represent St John's Grammar at the Australian National Championships in Sydney. Chaperoned by our Head of Technology & Enterprise, Tom Oliphant, the team went head-to-head against other high-achieving students from across Australia. With around 250 schools competing, (and this being our first year entering) the boys created a buzz as "the new wonders on the block" when they placed 20th in the Robot Tournament and a very impressive 5th place in the Robot Skills Challenge!

Beyond those achievements however, this opportunity had other rewards for the team, with Aidan, Peter, and Eric telling us that "being able to meet and socialise with other like-minded students" was their most memorable takeaway from the trip. Indeed, the experience left them excitedly making plans for next year's competition - so much so that Mr Oliphant had to enforce "a breather" on the flight back to Adelaide, lest they burn out before making it home! Thanks must also go to local business (run by St John's Grammar School parents) Think Digital Studios for their support of our Robotics contingent - a wise investment if you ask us!





Elements combine for success!

St John's Grammar School Senior Chemistry students scooped the pools winning ten Gold and two Silver Medals at the National Titration Competition after progressing from the State Finals. As if that wasn't impressive enough, our students achieved the best competition result in at least 40 years!

For those of us not currently well-versed in chemistry terminology, "titration" is a way of determining the concentration of an unknown solution, by precisely measuring the amount of a known solution needed to react with it.

With a scoring system where lower is better, our top team scored just 2, far ahead of the second place result of 94 - a stunning result! Of particular note is that, while Gold Medal results require a less than 1% deviation from true values, Year 11 student Chelsea Adams achieved her results with a 0.00% error rate, placing her in the very top rank nationally!

All three of our teams ranked as 'Excellent', we won 'Best Team, South Australia', and the School is now home to the perpetual Trevor Appleton Memorial Plaque for the next year as a result of beating every other entry from around the nation.

We cannot understate the significance of this achievement, with praise flowing to the School in letters from Competition organisers.

While our students worked very hard to make this result happen, we must also recognise the dedication of our Chemistry and Science teachers, in particular Helen Howlett and Dr Margit Page, with vital assistance from our two lab technicians Bronwyn Kerr and Carly Richards. Like athletes need coaches, scientists need mentors and guidance. Our teaching staff are a true credit to the School.



TERM 1 2023

JR FUN DAY



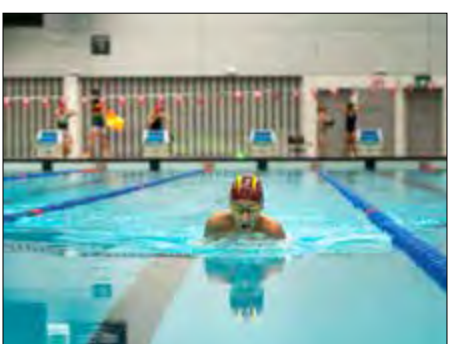
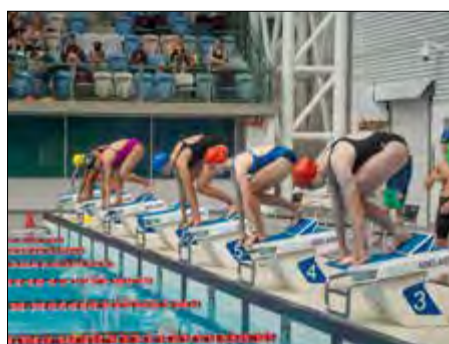


A highlight of the school calendar for our Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 students is JP Fun Day at Belair National Park! To mark the conclusion of Term 1 and 3, these fun days involve tree climbing, jumping the creek, playing with rope, rolling in barrels, kicking the footy, adventuring through the bramble, doing handstands, drawing with chalk on the tennis courts, playing with crates, taking time alone to explore, and just generally enjoying playing with friends!

We're so fortunate to have the Park as the School's 'backyard' for all the amazing opportunities it provides. The valuable escape from the classroom this day provides is remembered long after the walk home.

SWIMMING

2023



This year's Secondary Campus Swimming Carnival was a huge win for Halstead House - their first win ever for the Carnival!

Added to the excitement of Halstead's historic win, overall our students broke records and had a great deal of fun along the way! From water polo to novelty ball and board relays, competitiveness in the stands, the Wubit inflatable obstacle course, students enjoyed all the day had to offer.

For the 'record', the records broken this year were:

- U16 50m Breaststroke - Kieran Collings (Halstead) (36.26)
- U16 50m Backstroke - Kieran Collings (Halstead) (34.74)
- 200m Open Boys Medley Relay - Halstead (2:11.66)
- 200m Middle School Girls Freestyle Relay - Moffatt (2:32.37)
- 200m Open Boys Freestyle Relay - Halstead (1:56.05)

CARNIVALS

ATHLETICS



Santos Stadium played host to our Secondary Athletics Carnival and Moffatt House not only broke records but took home the overall honours! Although by only a slim margin, the victory was very well-deserved. Whether leaping, jumping, sprinting, pulling, throwing, or just being happy little bumblebees (and ducks!), it was a great day to be in yellow!

Final House results were: Moffatt 2371, Gooch 1990, Prince 1980, Halstead 1948

Our record breakers included:

- Hannah Tourneur - U15 Girls 1500m - 4:55.46
This is also the quickest 1500m time recorded by a female student in any age group ever at St John's Grammar, Hannah even broke her own record time from last year!
- Hannah Tourneur - U15 Girls High Jump - (1.44m)
- Brodie Ralph - U15 Boys 1500m (4:26.00)



JUNIOR SCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL 2023

GOOCH: 856 PRINCE: 833 HALSTEAD: 651 MOFFATT: 626



From the opening House chants and the unbridled joy of novelty events, to the determination of competing for a podium finish, the Main Oval at Belair National Park played host to thrills, spills, jumps, bumps, laughter and cheers as the whole Junior School gave it their all.

We had an amazing turn-out of parents supporting the children (with a few daring to take on the kids in tug-of-war and the final obstacle course), and the Parents & Friends Association supported us all with their non-stop supply of food and drink. Not to mention the host of staff who make days like this so fun and successful - they deserve their own medals!

As well as all the fun and colour, we had a number of students who achieved Individual Age Champion records.

Year 6 Cup, Female: Sadie K (Moffatt)

Year 6 Cup, Male: Joe W (Prince) and Archie E (Gooch)

8 & 9 Years Boys Champion: Hudson R (Prince)

8 & 9 Years Girls Champions: Jinhua S (Prince) and Mia W (Gooch)

Boys Runner Up: Oskar W (Halstead)

Girls Runner Up: Sophia A (Halstead)

10 Year Old Boys Champion: Owen H (Gooch)

10 Year Old Girls Champion: Adele W (Prince)

Boys Runner Up: Harry H (Gooch)

Girls Runner Up: Sofia H (Halstead)

11 Year Old Boys Champion: Archie E (Gooch)

11 Year Old Girls Champion: Keira S (Gooch)

Boys Runner Up: Lenny M (Gooch)

Girls Runner Up: Georgia D (Prince)

12 Years and Over Boys Champion: Joe W (Prince)

12 Years and Over Girls Champion: Sadie K (Moffatt)

Boys Runner Up: Samuel S (Moffatt)

Girls Runner Up: Dayna O (Moffatt)





SOARING TO NEW heights AT CAMP

Camps are an important rite of passage at School. From the younger year levels, through to the most Senior, camps provide students with unique opportunities for developing independence, taking on leadership and creating strong bonds with their cohort while simultaneously pushing students to their physical and mental limits. Teamwork, collaboration and 'having a go' are key drivers in these experiences as students take on various challenges.

In the Secondary School, our challenging outdoor education experiences are carefully designed to push students out of their comfort zones by offering safe risk taking opportunities that not only build students' physical stamina but also their mental fitness.

Hindmarsh Island and Roonka Water Activity Centre in Blanchetown were the destination for our Year 7 and 8 Camps. The students tackled aquatic adventures with sailing, surfing, kayaking and fishing all part of the program. The Mylor Adventure Camp saw our Year 10 students take on new feats including archery, raft making, bridge building, orienteering and a range of other team building activities to kick start their senior years of schooling. Meanwhile our Year 11 students tackled the elements and the obstacle course at Challenge Hill at the Woodhouse Activity Centre. As well as individual strength and stamina, the Year 11s had to work as a team to meet the demands of the course.



Year 7 Camp

HINDMARSH ISLAND





Year 8 Camp

ROONKA WATER ACTIVITY CENTRE BLANCHETOWN



news in brief



SIZZLING JAZZ FOR GIJ

There may have been dismal weather conditions in Mount Gambier but the music was sizzling hot as our students attended the Generations in Jazz Festival. We were so excited to get back to competition which had been postponed for a couple of years due to COVID-19. After stringent preparation in the school holidays leading up to the event, our students excelled on stage. However amidst very strong competition, we came mid-pack in placings. But not to be deterred, our students were inspired by the many amazing acts and soloists who shared their uplifting music.



ARTISTS ON EXHIBITION

The Annual SACE Art Show is a celebratory showcase of SACE Arts students, and their amazing creativity. We are so proud that the following Art students from 2022 have been selected for the 2023 SACE Art Show:
Annelie Budgen – Rubato,
Anook Simpson – Preservation,
Monet Burzacott – Yet the pain remains (pictured in order above).



CHAMPION RIDERS SWEEP THE PODIUM AT MTB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Our growing mountain bike squad is becoming a force to be reckoned with after their standout success at the recent SAPSASA Mountain Bike Championships held over two days at Craighburn Farm. Met with a technical and hilly course, our riders rose to the challenge, representing our School with distinction.

We were proud to come away with a host of awards, including the School Champion Award. Overall we had 15 teams compete over the two days - 42 riders in all. St John's Grammar won four of the 12 divisions with seven top 10 finishes.



Competing in teams of two or three, each person completed one lap before handing over to a team mate. Our Year 6 team consisting of Joey Keynes, Samuel Steer and Alistair Grigg won the Year 5/6 race convincingly. Our Year 7/8 Girls team consisting of Hayley Mules, Ellie Gardner, Daphne Lim and Skye Mackinnon negotiated the course with confidence, coming away with a first place.

Our Year 9/10 Girls team consisting of Sophia Manariotis, Char Langley and Emily Wilde also showed they were a cut above, taking out first place.

An impressive performance from our Year 11/12 Mixed team saw Jess and Tom Williams rocketing to the top of the leaderboard for their race too.



Equally impressive performances saw our remaining teams achieving fourth place positions. Congratulations to our Year 7/8 Boys team with Archie Winter, Nicolas Manariotis and Will Hinton and our Year 9/10 Girls team with Zara Headon and Allyssa Smith, for their hard work battling the course. While they just missed out on a podium place, we are no less proud of their efforts.

Overall, all our teams were left buzzing from the event. Their achievements were driven and supported by solid and expert coaching from Old Scholars, Talia and Anook Simpson, along with current student and mountain biking aficionado, Jess Williams. This passion and effort combined with a host of keen parents all contribute to our students thriving and excelling in this sport.



INTERSCHOOL CHAMPIONS

Our students showed off their talent, strength and endurance at multiple recent Interschool competitions including the Interschool Athletics Carnival and the Interschool Swimming Championships. Competing against some much larger schools, our students excelled in their new divisions.

At the Athletics Carnival, our School came third overall, with the girls placing 4th and the boys also placing 4th. This is a tremendous effort considering we have moved up a division. There were 7 students who won their events, with 3 of those students winning in two or more of their events as well as breaking St John's Grammar records. An additional two students broke our own St John's records, although they didn't win their event. At the Interschool Swimming Championships St John's Grammar was awarded Champions of C Grade. We have built strength over the years with our weekly training and compilation of 'team' and continue to see growth! The girls came second (653 points, first was 658) and the boys first (926 points, second was 713). Overall it was a comfortable win. This makes St John's Grammar eligible to move up to B Grade next year which will see us competing up against many other schools with pools!



LINGUISTICS COMPETITION

St John's Grammar hosted the 9th Annual Japanese Languages Teachers Association of SA (JLTASA) Year 10 Commercial Making Day earlier this year. Eight schools from across South Australia were quizzed on their language prowess, before the main competition of the day - being given a Japanese product and then collaboratively designing, recording and editing a Japanese style commercial - all within a two hour time limit! The students from different schools were placed into mixed teams and were able to use their language and cultural knowledge in authentic ways, with the intent of persuading the audience to buy their product. Not only did it demonstrate sounds Japanese language skills, but it also led to them demonstrating innovation and entrepreneurship as well as their verbal and written skills. Experiences like this multi-school event allow our students to use their language education in ways that link practically to future pathways, giving them even more opportunities to soar in life. Congratulations to the combined St John's Grammar and Immanuel Team for taking out the People's Choice award!



YEAR 7 ON SHOW

Our Year 7s put on their 'tour guide' hats and threw open their classroom doors to parents and families for our annual Year 7 Sharecase. Rooms were set up to display school projects and work, but there were many opportunities for interaction as well. Parents were able to experience subject elements including: a Drama performance, Music creation, the English task of writing to your future self, a Humanities museum of ancient history, Indonesian and Japanese cultural and language learning, Maths Fermi questions and algebra challenges, a

Philosophy forum podcast style, Physical Education interactive play, Science experimentation, Wings character strength analysis, Visual Art lino print and sculpture creation, Food processing and wares, and our Tech faculty coming together as never before for Bee Hotel design and manufacture, robotics and more! This event is driven by the students' input and preparation, and their ability to make learning visible was apparent on the day. The Year 7s performed very well, doing the whole St John's Grammar community proud!



BAND BONANZA

Featuring students from both the Junior and Secondary Campuses, this special evening showcased the development of our musical talent. Not only a concert but also a teaching experience, the performers were given real-world experience in what it means to play on stage, and the audience were able to glimpse ‘behind the scenes’ (from their seats!) as our teachers and band leaders paused between sets to fine-tune the presentation, explaining the processes as they went. The off-stage performers were not secreted away in a ‘green room’ while not playing, but watched from the back of the auditorium so they could gain perspective they wouldn’t have if hidden away awaiting their turn – it was an education for everyone! As each group played (primarily in order of ascending age and experience), the audience gained an appreciation of the skill development involved in the music we teach, from beginner-level right up to graded solo performances that counted toward final SACE results for our senior students. An ‘all-in’ ensemble concluded the evening, with all the students joining together for a couple of fun tunes that left everyone with a song in their heart as they left the stage at the Edwardstown Baptist Church.



GETTING GRUBBY WITH THE GARDEN GIRL AT THE ELC

Our three year olds had a special visit from Rebecca the 'Garden Girl'. After learning about seeds and the different colours vegetables can be, the youngsters were led to the ELC garden patch. Cucumbers and tomatoes were picked, new seeds were planted, bok-choy was weeded, and the children were lucky enough to see a wide variety of critters and insects sharing the garden with them, including ladybugs and a massive dragonfly that seemed quite content to warm itself in the sun while keeping an eye on everyone. Some of the plants may have been watered more than once (it's fun making mud!), plenty of soil was 'turned and twisted', and there were more than a few wide eyes as the children adventured into the nature that was on display.



BASKING IN THE SUNSHINE FOR OUR EASTER EUCHARIST

We were blessed with a glorious morning for our Easter Eucharist service at the Secondary Campus with rays of sunshine streaming through the treetops to showcase our beautiful Amphitheatre. Everyone was welcome to take part in service and communion by Chaplain Stacie Ellinger and special guest (and former St John's Grammar School Chaplain) Paula Bullock. A highlight for many was the chance to acknowledge kinship with one another, joining hands and sharing company as birds flitted between the gums above. Our students were instrumental in delivering the service, with roles including acknowledgements, readings, leading prayers, serving the Eucharist, and musical performances from both orchestral groups and duos. A number of staff also took part in leadership roles and musical reflections as part of the event, making it a truly whole-school event.



HONG KONG TRIP

In the Term 1 school holidays, Principal Richard Anderson and International Student Coordinator Jo Zhang travelled to Hong Kong and Vietnam to meet with 23 international families. Amidst dozens of meet and greets, Jo and Richard enjoyed sharing what makes St John's Grammar School such an engaging experience for International students. And for those already enrolled at St John's Grammar, discussing the exciting path ahead for their child's learning journeys was a pinnacle. With international travel well and truly back in action after COVID-19, we were delighted to finally be able to make these important connections with our St John's Grammar families. As Richard reflected, "Regardless of cultural backgrounds and locations, our St John's Grammar families have many things in common. They work hard and want the best for their children".

Parents & Friends Association

From the President



Chairperson
Lauren Robbins



Vice Chair
Kathleen Parr



Secretary
Fiona Gräff



Treasurer
Amanda Headon

I would like to firstly take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Chairperson, Catherine Shepherd, for her incredible dedication to the Parents and Friends Committee over the past 7 years. Catherine has shown leadership, passion and commitment to this amazing team and group of people and has been the reason that so many achievements have been made towards the School community. Catherine leaves huge shoes to fill, and I will do my very best to wear them well.

Along with Catherine stepping down as Chair, there have been a few other committee members who have moved on to new chapters and who leave a legacy of amazing work behind them. We also welcomed some very positive and enthusiastic new members to the team at the 2022 AGM and I am looking forward to working with each of them and alongside the rest of the new Executive Committee, with Kathleen Parr as Vice-Chairperson, Fiona Graf as Secretary and Amanda Headon as Treasurer.

As the new Chairperson for the Parents and Friends Committee, I have had many people ask me, why I have taken on this role. This has me thinking about why people feel the need to ask that question. Is this because they are curious about joining, or because they want to know what motivates me?

So here are my reasons... community, family and fulfillment.

Without this amazing group of volunteers there would be no mum's and dad's stalls, no-one to feed our children lunches at sporting days, no

events to meet your children's friends parents at and make life long connections, no extra contributions to improving the school, no second hand uniform shop, no Easter hot cross buns or raffle for our kids to get involved in.

I joined the Committee in 2016, since then I have met so many amazing mums and dads, of all different year levels, both past and present, who have each taught me something new. Some are now lifelong friends, and my life is better for having known them.

Being a part of this group, means that I am surrounded by people who are caring, thoughtful, passionate about something and willing to share their time and skills with others. I am also a part of that and share those traits and this makes me feel good.

In 2023 we have some very exciting initiatives coming up and we can't wait to share those with you. Some are surprises, to be revealed in time, and some we are happy to share as upcoming events, including a Junior School Disco in Term 1 and a combined mums and dads night during the year, along with lots of "fun-raising" events to get the kids involved in the community spirit too.

So this is why we get involved, not because it creates an extra level of work for us, but because it makes a difference in your lives, which in turn makes a difference in your lives.

Lauren Robbins
President of Parents and Friends Committee



P&F Assisted Events

The P&F organised the food orders and BBQ for the Athletics Carnival and the Cross Country events as well as running the Mother's Day stall.



P&F Initiatives in 2023

New Parent Buddy Program

The New Parent Buddy Program is an initiative aimed at supporting the parents of families new to the School, as they navigate their family's preparation and first days and weeks at our School and within our community. The initiative pairs a new parent with an existing parent 'buddy' who will be there solely for them, to answer the questions that randomly pop into their heads i.e. How do I make a lunch order online? Where's a good place to park to drop off/pick up the children? Who do I talk to about music lessons/sports events/ lunchtime clubs? The buddy will also be someone to look out for the new parent at School social events and introduce them to others. To find out more, or to register your interest in the program, search 'Parent Buddy Program' on our website.

Community Support Network

St John's Grammar School has a long standing tradition of being a caring school. We have decided to find ways in which we can provide practical short term assistance to school families. Coordinated by a parent volunteer, this is a valuable opportunity for our community to be able to be even more supportive. To find out more, search 'Community Support Network' on our website.

Second Hand Uniform Shop

The Parents & Friends Committee, along with many volunteers from the School community, run the Secondhand Uniform Shop which offers parents the opportunity to sell their secondhand uniforms and purchase items at discounted prices. If you would like to register your interest to assist as a volunteer with the shop or have any questions please email secondhanduniforms@stjohns.sa.edu.au

Thank you for supporting the P&F through our 2023 initiatives so far.

EASTER RAFFLE

KYTON'S EASTER FUNDRAISER

MOTHER'S DAY STALL

ATHLETICS DAY BBQ

CROSS COUNTRY BBQ

JP FUN DAY BBQ

RECONCILIATION WEEK BBQ

JUNIOR SCHOOL DISCO

QUIZ NIGHT



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Association

Parents & Friends Association

Burger Night Event



At the end of 2022 the P&F organised a Ladies Burger Night. Held in the late afternoon golden sun, on the Year 7 deck, a fantastic turn out of ladies enjoyed time to chat and catch up while enjoying burgers.





The Class of 2002 celebrating their 20 Year reunion



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OLD SCHOLARS

OLD *Scholars*

From the President



The Old Scholars Association has the foundation in place to build a strong and lively Association. We are excited to continue moving forward with new energy and more initiatives.

The Old Scholars Association has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with St John's Grammar School, to continue to support the growing relationship between both bodies. Further to this, the Committee sat down with St John's Grammar Principal, Richard Anderson and other school representatives to undertake a Strategic Planning Day with UPRS. We set out the vision of the Old Scholars Association for the next 5, 10, 20 years and so on. We are excited for the future of the Association and we look forward to showing you what we have in store.

We have continued to greet new classes of Old Scholars with our *Welcome to the Old Scholars* event while at the same time beginning to support new events.

One of the new events is the Old Scholars Cup. The Old Scholars Cup was held at the School on the 6 February, where the Old Scholars joined the teachers to verse the Year 11 and 12 students in a game of 4-wicket Cricket.

We have had a wonderful turn out at numerous reunions, namely the Class of 2018 (5 Year Reunion), Class of 2013 (10 Year Reunion) and Class of 2003 (20 Year Reunion).

The Association presented the Year 12s with a gift at their 'Year

12 Retreat' to help them through the last year of their schooling and for them to know we are here as a support system before they officially become 'Old Scholars'.

The Association is also seeking new and enthusiastic members to support its operations.

We have established service, sport and social subcommittees to support our three key pillars. It is a great time to get involved. If you are interested in joining, please contact us at oldscholars@stjohns.sa.edu.au

Beyond this, if you are keen to get an Old Scholars sporting team together or to join an existing team you can do so. We have indoor Soccer and Cricket offerings for anyone who is keen.

Old Scholars Cricket Club
President Chris Francis
Mobile: 0450 030 054 Email: chrisfrancis1107@outlook.com

Old Scholars Indoor Soccer
Captain Robert van Gorp Email: robertvangorp11@gmail.com

Oliver Douglas (Class of 2018)
President

Looking for a *function venue?*

ST JOHN'S FACILITIES FOR HIRE
CHAPEL, ART GALLERY, THEATRE, SPORTS HALLS
from as little as \$25 per hour for old scholars

Contact: Alana Calder 8278 0228
acalder@stjohns.sa.edu.au

Old Scholar News



CLAUDIA BATES (CLASS OF 2016)

Old Scholar Claudia Bates recently received a 'Medal for Excellence in Beginning Teaching Awards' from Flinders University, recognising her outstanding commitment to her chosen field... and now Claudia will be bringing that ability to soar back to St John's Grammar in 2023.

Returning to our Secondary Campus as part of the English faculty, Claudia (ahem, we mean Ms Bates!) will be a welcome addition to our vibrant teaching community - and we're looking forward to seeing her out front of the desks she used to sit at! Claudia (r) is pictured here with St John's Grammar School Deputy Principal, Catherine Emmerson, and Head of English, Cheryn Witney.



JOEL RANSOM (CLASS OF 2021)

Old Scholar and 2020-21 School Captain Joel Ransom received an 'Order of Australia Student Citizenship Award' at Government House at the end of 2022.

From 48 South Australian students who were nominated, Joel was one of only 10 students given the great honour of receiving recognition for their service to school and community. This tribute is in recognition of his personal dedication and efforts towards others, as well as demonstrating how to put the School's commitment to service and excellence into action. Joel is pictured here at Government House, and with Deputy Principal Catherine Emmerson.

UPCOMING REUNIONS

CLASS OF 2023
20 Year reunion

CLASS OF 2013
10 Year reunion

CLASS OF 2018
5 Year reunion

Dates to be announced on Facebook

facebook.com/stjohnsgrammaroldscholars



We'd love to share your news!

Send your announcements and a photo to Lucy Shelton, Community Development Coordinator at lshelton@stjohns.sa.edu.au



As part of our Old Scholars Association activities earlier in the year, the School held the inaugural 'Old Scholars Cricket Cup', a casual clash between the determined experience and power of the 'Old Scholars and Staff' side and the youthful fiery might of the 'Current Students' team!

Held during a Friday lunch break under somewhat cloudy skies, this 'friendly' match (note the plastic bats and the soft balls used) was played according to 'Four Wicket Cricket' rules... four batters in a circle, who can't be run out but the bowler can bowl at any time, even if you're not at the crease!

Getting out costs your team 5 runs, and each innings has a time limit. There may also have been a few sneaky points awarded for non-orthodox play (the post-match inquiry is currently tied up in tribunal processes), and there is some debate over who actually won the game...but the point was to have fun, and fun was had!

We look forward to this becoming an annual event, adding to the roster of activities that build strong relationships within our community - past, present and future!

CLASS OF 2002

*20 year
reunion*

We hosted a small but excited group from the Class of 2002, our first graduating class from St John's Grammar. We also welcomed past members of staff and teachers, Sam (and Heather) Cheesman, Andrea and Tim Agnew who returned especially for the occasion.

Attendees enjoyed a drink while watching a slideshow of images and a recorded message from past Principal Stephen Matthew before touring the School. From the gym, the tech centre, fitness, new labs, sports field, the JBC, student carpark...they were almost overwhelmed with the development and they loved being back in the rooms they spent their senior years in. We shared so many stories of their school days, and might have embellished a few, and the group enjoyed continuing on their celebrations at the Edinburgh Hotel.



CLASS OF 2017 *5 year reunion*

An excellent number of the Class of 2017 enjoyed their 5 year Reunion. Hosted by Jackie Burman and Old Scholar committee member Ben Ransom, the group were lively and obviously excited about seeing their old school and their friends again. Catherine Emmerson took the troops on a big tour of the campus and showcased all the new developments. All were mightily impressed, if not a little green with envy at what our kids of today will get to experience.



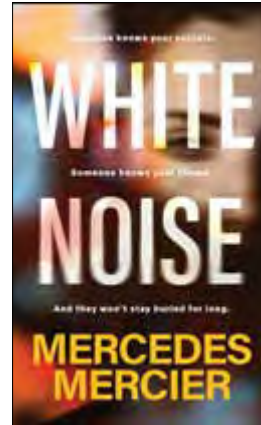


CLASS OF 2012 *10 year reunion*

Our Reunion for the Class of 2002 was a heart-warming affair, as former students - who mostly hadn't seen each other in years - entered the John Bray Centre for the Performing Arts (a new building to them). Familiar faces, but now grown up and with many more adventures behind them; the nervousness soon eased and the laughter began, in an atmosphere of shared history. Among the attendees were also those who had taught this group, including Tim and Andrea Agnew, as well as students who had become St John's Grammar teachers themselves! Memories of old classrooms and activities were raised, alongside a shared wonder at all the changes to the School that have happened in the intervening years. As the afternoon drew to a close, the Class of 2012 headed off to a local watering-hole for more reminiscing (without teacher supervision!).



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



MERCEDES MERCIER (WHIBLEY) CLASS OF 2003

I've wanted to be an author my entire life. I know that sounds a bit clichéd, but for me, it's entirely true. I have pink, scented diaries filled with stories – most of them featuring a girl with 'very long hair' and a rabbit – from when I first learnt to write. I still have the long hair, but the rabbit has been replaced by a big, energetic dog.

Becoming a published author always felt a bit like a pipe dream – something I could long for, but had a slim chance of actually achieving. So for years, I wrote in whatever spare snatches of time I could, around full time work and general life.

Then, I turned thirty. And all of the usual questions started haunting me. You know the ones: am I happy with my life? Why haven't I achieved more? What do I really want? So I made the decision to prioritise writing, with the goal of turning it from a hobby to a career. I signed up for the Fiona McIntosh Masterclass (for those who don't know, Fiona is a bestselling South Australian author). This turned out to be one of the best decisions I could have made. The course sharpened my skills and set me on the path of writing in the crime/thriller genre. I have a background working in the criminal justice system, so crime was the natural choice for me. I sent off my manuscript and three weeks (that felt more like three years!) later, I got the call that every aspiring author dreams of: HarperCollins Australia were offering me a two-book deal.

White Noise came out last year and my second book, Black Lies, was released on 7 June. They are standalone novels, but both feature my main character, Dr Laura Fleming, who is a criminal psychologist working in a prison.

White Noise sees her pitted against a charming and manipulative inmate who desperately wants to be released early to parole. In Black Lies, she's tasked with convincing a terminally ill, notorious murderer to confess where he hid the body of his victim before it's too late. Of course, both novels feature twists, turns, high stakes and danger.

White Noise can be found in all good bookstores (including the wonderful Shakespeare's in Blackwood), Amazon, Booktopia etc. Black Lies is available for pre-order through Booktopia and will be available everywhere from 7 June. Both books are also available in e-book and audio book formats.

I recently moved back to the hills (and wondered why I ever left!), and am currently working on book three.

Website: www.mercedesmercier.com
Instagram: [@mercedes.mercier.writes](https://www.instagram.com/mercedes.mercier.writes)
Facebook: [@MercedesMercierAuthor](https://www.facebook.com/MercedesMercierAuthor)



COURTNEY SANDFORD

CLASS OF 2012

Courtney Mikaela is a contemporary painter based in the Adelaide Hills. Her expressive portraits celebrate women through vibrant colour palettes and playful textures. Each work is a delicate balance between detail and abstraction; art which holds its own, feels authentic and radiates spirit.

Captivated by colour and all things arty from a young age, Courtney is a self-taught creator who spent her childhood and early adult years creatively experimenting and visually documenting the people around her. She is fascinated with the potential of combining mediums, working primarily in oils, acrylics, and pencils.

Courtney is currently planning her next exhibition after taking part in the Bowerbird Design Market where she released 3 new exclusive mini designs. She was selected as a finalist for the 2022 Bluethumb Art Prize. Courtney's previous exhibitions have included Fifty Faces, Courtney Mikaela 2020 - online, She (2020), Innocence (2019).

Website: courtneymikaelagallery.com
Instagram: [@courtneymikaela_art](https://www.instagram.com/courtneymikaela_art)



OLIVER DOUGLAS

CLASS OF 2018

Former St John's Grammar School Captain Oliver Douglas was awarded an extension to The C.A.S. Hawker Scholarship, which is the prestigious scholarship he was awarded in 2020. The scholarship is offered to 'students of principle and character who are committed to Australia's future'; a description that fits Oliver well. The recipients display not only academic prowess but also integrity, with a dedication to community service. The extension to his scholarship will now allow Oliver the opportunity to complete his Honours in History through the University, while residing at St Mark's College, where he actively contributes to the academic community.

An accomplished tennis player, Oliver is also a Lieutenant in the Australian Army Reserve, and has been awarded the Royal New South Wales Regiment Prize for his constant demonstration of exemplary field skills and tactical knowledge.

St John's Grammar has a unique history with the Charles Allen Seymour Hawker Scholarship, being the only school to have graduates win in back-to-back years in 2019 and 2020.



CHARLEY KENNEDY-DINAN

CLASS OF 2020

Old Scholar Charley Kennedy-Dinan was awarded the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award at Government House.

The highly respected Duke of Edinburgh Award includes four key areas: 'Physical Recreation', 'Voluntary Service', 'Skills', and 'Adventurous Journey', with the Gold level not only requiring completion of the highest tier of each section, but also a separate 'Gold Residential Project' to be finished.

For her residency, Charley undertook a five-day community service placement with Meals On Wheels, which entailed a high level of practical work, including meal preparation and cleaning, contributing to the delivery of their social programs.

Charley finished her schooling at St John's Grammar in 2020 and persisted, despite the challenges of COVID-19, to complete her Gold Award in 2021. The award ceremony was delayed until this year, with the awards presented by the Governor of South Australia, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson.

Don't just fly,

SOAR



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Year 6 now available**



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