



InFlight

2025



In this edition:

Our epic camp week

All the fun from our Carnivals

Celebrating student achievement

Farewell Mr Anderson



A photograph of two young children, likely students, sitting on a playground. They are wearing maroon school uniforms with light blue and white horizontal stripes on the sleeves and maroon wide-brimmed hats. The child on the left is looking towards the camera, while the child on the right is smiling. They are sitting on a dark, textured surface, possibly a rubber mat. In the background, there are trees and a metal structure, likely part of the playground equipment.

From the Principal

At a recent School Captains interview one of our star candidates shared with the panel that the impetus for her leadership application was to represent the joy and spirit of a school she loves. This is the sort of stuff that makes your heart pound with pride.

The St John's spirit is a thing that's inside all of us, reading through this edition of *InFlight* it is so evident in what our young people do and achieve, and in the way they approach life. Our students are adventurous, enthusiastic and determined. They are also collaborative, generous and exhibit a strong sense of team.

I love the concept of personal best, of setting your own aspirations and goals, and receiving that encouragement to be who you want to be. I admire the way our students can set their own barometers of success, are less inclined to measure how things are going by using other peoples' benchmarks.

This spirit is in the DNA of our hardworking staff. They walk the talk when it comes to commitment, to dedication to others, and the celebration of team success. Our staff are daily role models of spirit and it's infectious. This is a great place to work.

We have enjoyed welcoming back our Old Scholars at five separate reunion functions this year and after spending just a short time with these wonderful people you can feel and hear from their stories that the spirit remains in them.

One of our six culture factors, and my favourite, is *Spread Your Wings and Try New Things* and as you read through the pages of this publication, you sense that willingness of young people to have a go and stretch their horizons. My belief is that these experiences ignite and nurture that sense of adventure and spirit in our young stars, and continues to inspire them to soar through life!

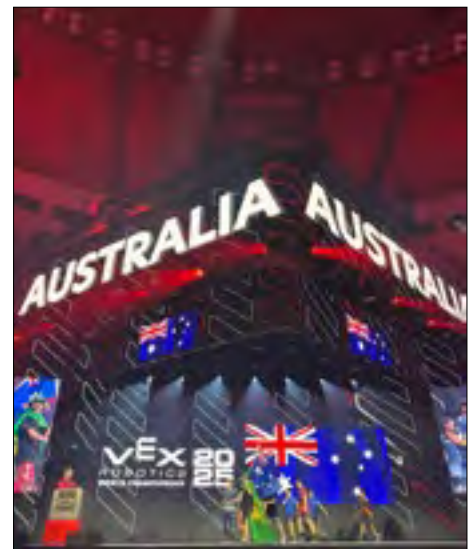
With this being my final *InFlight* magazine as Principal, I wish to extend my gratitude for a rewarding 25-year tenure at St John's Grammar. I will cherish the memories, relationships and connections that the last 25 years has blessed me with, and I look forward to remaining part of this wonderful St John's Grammar community.

Thank you.

Richard Anderson
Principal

Richard Anderson with students from the ELC at a recent visit.
COVER: Students kayaking at the Year 10 Camp.

InFlight magazine is created by the St John's Grammar
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WORLD LEADER

Global Collaboration, Local Triumph: St John's Grammar Robotics Team Excels on the World Stage at the VEX Robotics World Championships



In an extraordinary leap from local competition to the global stage, the St John's Grammar robotics team recently represented Australia at the *VEX Robotics World Championships* in Dallas, Texas. Competing against the best student engineers from around the globe, the team held their own, winning 4 out of 10 qualification matches and gaining invaluable experience in the process.

Their journey began in November at the State Championships at UniSA Mawson Lakes, where they claimed victory and earned a place at the Australian National Championships. There, they were awarded the Excellence Award—the highest honour, recognising all-round excellence in engineering, design, teamwork, and performance—securing their ticket to the World Championships.

In Dallas, the team participated in daily qualification matches, forming alliances with international teams. Each match required strategic planning and adaptability, especially when navigating language barriers. The challenge? To design and operate a robot that could place coloured rings on stakes—simple in concept, but demanding in execution.

The students demonstrated a wide range of STEM skills, including mechanical design, electronics, coding, and physics. They also excelled in teamwork, documentation, and live judging interviews. Their efforts earned them a second judges' interview, placing them in strong contention for another award—an impressive feat on the world stage!

This achievement is especially significant given the short history of robotics at St John's Grammar. In just two years, the team has gone from newcomers to international contenders—a testament to their dedication, creativity, and resilience.

Beyond the competition, the event was a celebration of global collaboration. The event was a cultural melting pot, where students from around the globe came together with a shared passion.

Looking ahead, the team is already back in the workshop, designing and building their next robot with their sights set on returning to the world stage in 2025/26. With their growing experience and unwavering drive, the future of robotics at St John's Grammar looks incredibly bright.



CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2024

**The Class of 2024 achieved outstanding final results.
This cohort should be immensely proud of their efforts, with
the students receiving the highest median ATAR (90.28)
in St John's Grammar's history.**

An impressive 8.2% of our Year 12 cohort placed in the top 1% nationally, with an ATAR above 99, with a little over 36% of our students ranked in the top 5% nationally, with an ATAR above 95.

50.8% 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.

Congratulations go to our School Dux Thomas Wollaston who achieved an ATAR of 99.90, and our Proxime Accessit Lele (Yirui) Zhang who achieved an ATAR of 99.85. In addition to the outstanding results of our Dux and Proxime Accessit, Orion Packer received the Governor of South Australia Commendation Excellence Award - one of only 33 students (out of close to 16,000!) in SA to receive this high honour.

The cohort was awarded a total of 26 Merits, including nine students earning 14 SACE Merits across seven subject areas, and eight students being awarded 12 Merit Equivalents across 11 University subjects.

A brilliant outcome for our 2024 cohort was that 68.1% of all grades achieved were A grades, compared to a State average of 33.8%, and a special mention to our International Students, who achieved impressive results once again.

All of the teachers at St John's Grammar are delighted with these results, and I salute their commitment and skills

as high-quality educators. It is very transparent that their work really matters, and that setting up the futures for young people in their care is a mission that is very much in their hearts.

Our exceptional results are also inspired by an extended team of dedicated people who provide the layers of support, guidance and care that our young stars need as they navigate the challenges and demands of Year 12. At St John's Grammar we relish a close working partnership with families, and I congratulate all of our proud parents, who we know have invested so much into the educational journeys of their children.

The elevation of St John's Grammar as a school leader in academic performance in South Australia has resulted from an ongoing set of improvement plans across our teaching and learning pillars, developed and implemented over the past seven years. In addition, every young graduate has developed a more refined understanding of their future directions and our excellent career programs help open so many exciting opportunities for further study and work.

The entire St John's Grammar community is very proud of every member of the Class of 2024.

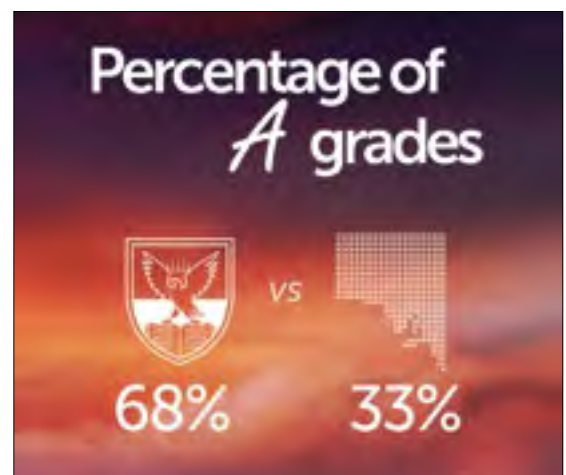
Richard Anderson
Principal



**School Dux
Thomas Wollaston**
ATAR 99.90



**Proxime Accessit
Lele (Yirui) Zhang**
ATAR 99.85



TEEN TITANS

High School Students Conquering University Classes



As we worked our way into Term 1 at school our seniors also had another beginning to navigate, with many students choosing to undertake a university subject in their senior year of schooling.

With a plethora of topics and subjects at their finger tips, students could elect to pursue their interests and passions by enrolling in a university subject and receive accreditation for it through SACE.

In 2025, a record 29 students were accepted into programs across the University of South Australia, University of Adelaide, Flinders University and CQUniversity. With each passing year, we have had increasing numbers of students choosing to pursue this mode of study.

While offering a different mode of rigour and

academic challenge, our students have risen to the challenge with almost all participants scoring a Distinction grade or above.

For some it's a window into a whole new realm of interest areas, for others it's an opportunity to experience the challenge of university learning, but for all it's an opportunity to explore options.

This year's crop of students have had their minds broadened in such a diversity of learning areas, from the criminal justice system, animal behaviour and electronics, through to the art of storytelling, and even engineering design. As just one of the many pathways to further study or work, our senior students truly are able to forge their own pathway and shape their future.



BAND BONANZA



NEWS

FROM AROUND THE CAMPUSES



LESSONS OF ANOTHER KIND ON THE LAWNS

As a much-loved event in the Rite Journey program, half of our Year 9 students started their day at Blackwood Bowling Club with a significant elder in their family.

With their wealth of life experience, these important figures helped answer the students' introspective questions as part of a journey into self-exploration and personal growth, all while playing a game or two of lawn bowls!

A few games were played (mostly learning the rules!) before diving into the deeper conversations. This break from regular schooling allowed students to appreciate connection, the value of surrounding yourself with good people, and opening up to learning from others.



QUIZ KIDS

We played host to SA heat of *Kids Lit Quiz*, welcoming 17 teams from various schools. This fun event is for 10-13 year olds, with students competing to answer quiz questions about literature.

With three Junior School teams of our own in the competition, we were proud to win a couple of rounds outright, with one of our teams placing 6th overall.

For the first time ever we also entered a Secondary team, with this group also winning a round.

Regardless of the wins, all students came away from this event full of smiles and laughter and celebrating a love of all things literature.



EXPO EXCELLENCE

Our inaugural *Wellbeing & Learning Expo* was a great success, connecting families with a wealth of Allied Health providers connected to St John's Grammar School. Held on the Secondary Campus, this event saw the practitioners from our *WellNest Centre*, as well as a vast number of other providers connected with St John's Grammar meet and informally talk with families in an expo-style setting. Running concurrently, two mini lecture series were a feature of the night, imparting valuable insight and knowledge on all things wellbeing, mental health and learning enrichment and support. Pictured here is our Wellbeing Team who organised this great event.

RETIREMENT WELL WISHES

After nearly 18 years of service to St John's Grammar School we farewelled Marcus Czesny, our Business Support Officer – Goods Receivable. Marcus commenced in 2007, initially with Property Services, and then, over time, moved between supporting Finance, the Uniform Shop and the current Property Services team. Throughout his tenure, Marcus has not only worked across these areas to support the school's operations, he has also been a mentor and friend to many across our three campuses. Marcus' trademark has been his friendly and cheerful manner and we have all enjoyed his 'wicked' sense of humour and fun. As Marcus embarks on this new chapter of life, we extend our gratitude for his contributions and wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

We proudly celebrate 30 years of exceptional service of our OSHC Director, Alison Tregoning.



Alison began as an assistant in 1995, working in a building that stood where the current climbing ball is located, with Pam Sheppard as Director. She quickly became interim Director and then Director, making a bold move by recruiting the first male OSHC carers. As the Child Care Benefit Scheme increased demand, Alison expanded the team. She set up the Kindy Care program as it was then known, which cared for children in the Monti and Preschool programs on either side of the school day.

Before long, OSHC's popularity led to multiple relocations, eventually settling in the Railway Cottages. Over time, some of the children Alison cared for, like Chris and Sarah Raymond, Laura Searle, Kaitlyn Tilley, Jordan Wallis, and Sam Neylon, returned

as staff members. After some maternity leave, where Sherryn was at the helm, Alison returned to work with her son Hugh starting at Monti. Having her boys with her at work was a unique, some times challenging but cherished experience.

The success of OSHC is largely due to Alison's personal touch. She knows all the families well, creating a trusting and confident environment. Alison's calm, kind, and forgiving nature helps her navigate daily challenges. She makes everyone feel valued, sees the best in people, and works with their strengths.

Congratulations to Alison on 30 years of service. We extend a heartfelt thank you for her contributions to building and nurturing our community.

NEWS

FROM AROUND THE CAMPUSES



JAZZ CATS CONVERGE ON MOUNT GAMBIER

Approximately 4500 students from around Australia converged on Mount Gambier for *Generations in Jazz*, a celebration of Jazz music and student skill. St John's Grammar sent a cohort of 27 students who revelled in the opportunity to live, breathe and share jazz music with their peers and contemporaries.

Big Band 1 participated in the Division 2.2 Band Awards against 13 other schools. They achieved the ranking of 'outstanding' for intonation, style, dynamics, time and rhythm and 'very good' for balance and blend. They were given a score of 89/100 for both the set piece and ballad, and 84/100 for the own choice piece. Achieving an overall score of 87.3/100 for their total performance was an excellent effort for this very talented troupe.

Senior Vocal participated in Division 3.2 of the

Vocal Awards against 21 other schools in this division. They achieved a ranking of outstanding for musicality, blend, intonation, dynamics and diction/lyrical interpretation. They achieved an overall score of 89.5 for both pieces and were awarded second place in the overall division. Once again an incredible performance by these skilled vocalists.

While competitive performing was an important part of this weekend event, our students also enjoyed time listening to and learning from jazz greats including, vocalists Michelle Nicolle, Darren Percival & Vangie Gunn and Gordan Goodwin's *Big Phat Band*, who performed at the evening concerts. But that's not all, the students were also lucky enough to be involved in vocal and instrumental workshops with these artists on the final day of the festival, an impressive opportunity to learn from the best.



TOP TIER MUSICIANS

We congratulate the following students who not only undertook AMEB Music Exams but were also selected as AMEB Grade Prize winners.

The AMEB committee determined them as the winner from the exam reports of all Comprehensive Grades candidates who achieved a high distinction – essentially, the top student that has undertaken this exam in the state.



Tianna Zhang (top left), was presented with the Theory of Music Grade 4 Prize

Thomas Morgan (top right), was presented with the AMEB Grade 2 Woodwind ABODA Prize

Eric Yu (bottom left), was presented with the Viola Grade 4 Prize

Xingyu Chen (bottom right), was presented with the Violin Grade 6 Prize

EXEMPLARY CITIZENS AWARDED

Congratulations are in order for Baxter Cocks and Ori Packer, two of our 2024 Year 12 students who BOTH received distinction plaques at the *Student Citizenship Awards*. During the ceremony at Government House, Baxter and Ori received their awards from Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia. These awards recognise senior students who actively engage with and contribute to school and/or local communities. Congratulations Baxter and Ori.



SOLO EXHIBITION FOR BUDDING ARTIST

Young artist and Year 12 student, Lexie Bowes, held a solo exhibition for Stage 2 Creative Arts. Worth 50 per cent of her grade, Lexie's exhibition, *Karra*, featured a stunning display of landscapes, with a series of eight miniature oil paintings auctioned during the evening. Following on from her selection for last year's National Young Archies Competition, it was clear that Lexie's talent knows no bounds. Surrounded by friends, family and many supporters, it was a night to remember.



Journey to self

Year 9s reflect and look forward
with The Rite Journey



Our Year 9s began their year with a significant ceremony to mark the transition point between childhood and adolescence. The *Calling & Departure Ceremony* saw families and students come together in the beauty of Belair National Park to say farewell to their younger years and stride forward with purpose into their senior years.



The Rite Journey program is implicitly designed to support the development of self-aware, responsible, respectful, resilient, resourceful and reflective adults. The *Calling & Departure Ceremony* is the first in several milestone events that provide opportunity to reflect and to look forward purposefully with intention and goals in mind.



As part of this ceremony, parents and students shared reflections with each other about their lives so far, what they were prepared to leave behind and embracing who they aspire to become.

With presentations by Principal Richard Anderson, Head of Middle School Ben Clark, Head of Health and Personal Development Ashleigh Bandiera, Chaplain Stacie Ellinger, and guest speaker (and former staff member) Nigel Eaton, it was an insightful and important start to this definitive year.





PANCAKES APLENTY!

Shrove Tuesday, otherwise known as Pancake Tuesday, was a whole school event again this year with our youngest learners right up to our eldest devouring pancakes to mark the final feast before Lent begins. We thank our wonderful Chaplain Stacie, our staff and volunteers, who helped cook and serve hundreds of pancakes to the hungry masses!





HEARTWARMING EASTER SERVICE

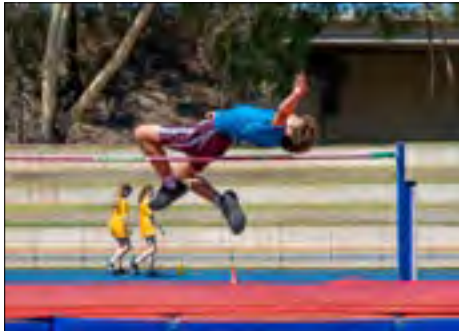
Our Junior School Hall was the place to be as our younger students took part in our Easter Service. Led by Chaplain Stacie, our students honoured this special time in the Christian calendar, sharing the story of Easter complete with songs, dancing, and our teachers—including Principal Mr Anderson—exemplifying the humility and service of Jesus by washing the 'disciples' feet. Students also relished the opportunity to 'muddy' symbolic water before being 'cleansed', and also making symbolic shapes out of pipe cleaners to be linked together in a symbol of unity. It was a beautiful service that celebrated being together, being of service to one another and remembering the story behind Easter.



SECONDARY CAMPUS ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

1st Moffatt 2372
2nd Gooch 2321
3rd Prince 2178
4th Halstead 1859

OPEN GIRLS	1st: Hannah T (Moffatt) – 64 pts	2nd: Ashleigh S (Gooch) – 62 pts
OPEN BOYS	1st: Brodie R (Moffatt) – 64 pts	2nd: Ed E (Gooch) Ben W (Halstead) – 54 pts
U16 GIRLS	1st: Luella C (Gooch) Ashalin E (Prince) – 58 pts	2nd: Eloise K (Moffatt) – 50 pts
U16 BOYS	1st: Joshua W (Moffatt) – 64 pts	2nd: Luke K (Prince) – 58 pts
U15 GIRLS	1st: Hayley M (Halstead) – 64 pts	2nd: Marlie O – 52 pts
U15 BOYS	1st: Oliver D (Moffatt) - 54 pts	2nd: Alex W (Moffatt) - 58 pts
U14 GIRLS	1st: Annabelle F (Prince) – 64 pts	2nd: Alex W (Moffatt) – 58 pts
U14 BOYS	1st: Alex K (Moffatt) – 64 pts	2nd: Jett T (Moffatt) – 52 pts
U13 GIRLS	1st: Keira S (Gooch) – 56 pts	2nd: Isobel L (Prince) Makayla H (Prince) – 42 pts
U13 BOYS	1st: Lenny M (Gooch) - 56 pts	2nd: Charlie F (Prince) - 52 pts







JUNIOR SCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

1st Halstead 899
2nd Gooch 784
3rd Moffatt 700
4th Prince 688

YEAR 6 BOYS	1st: William Pinkney (Moffatt)	2nd: Riley Duncan (Gooch)
YEAR 6 GIRLS	1st: Isa Sui (Gooch)	2nd: Sofia Hepworth (Halstead)
YEAR 5 BOYS	1st: Hudson Rode (Prince)	2nd: Jonathan Cocci (Moffatt)
YEAR 5 GIRLS	1st: Indi Roget (Gooch)	2nd: Miya Wang (Gooch)
YEAR 4 BOYS	1st: Chace Hallett (Halstead)	2nd: Fintan Law (Moffatt)
YEAR 4 GIRLS	1st: Hannah Huang (Halstead)	2nd: Maisie O'Donovan and Charlotte Ellson (Gooch)
YEAR 3 BOYS	1st: Miles Robins (Halstead)	2nd: Jack Keville (Prince)
YEAR 3 GIRLS	1st: Giselle Willmott (Gooch)	2nd: Ruby Adams (Gooch)





WE WILL ROCK YOU

The 2024 Musical, *We Will Rock You*, was a fist pumping, foot thumping musical featuring the songs of Queen. Set in a dystopian future where rock music is banned, a group of rebels, known as Bohemians, fight to restore free thought and live music. With all the evening performances sold out well in advance, this musical received rave reviews for its power, energy and killer musical score, an epic effort both on and off stage for our talented students.

Photography and logo by Nick Blyth



EASTER EUCHARIST

The rain held off for just long enough as we gathered for the Easter Eucharist in the amphitheatre on the Secondary Campus. Among the beautiful bush setting, Chaplain Stacie along with Chaplain Tracie, led our Easter Eucharist, with our students enriching this special occasion through beautifully delivered readings and resounding orchestral music, as well as giving and receiving bread and watching as the cross was raised in a poignant and symbolic demonstration of the meaning of Easter.

#CAMPWEEK

In Week 8 of Term 1, students from our Secondary Campus embarked on an epic 'camp week' which saw almost all year levels have their camp or retreat experience. The following pages document some of their adventures over the week.





YEAR 7 CAMP

At Ngangkiparri/Onkaparinga River, kayaking was the highlight, challenging students and pushing them out of their comfort zones. Meanwhile at Douglas Scrub, our students were soaring in the treetops, navigating rope courses, bouldering, and creating catapults! Lastly, after donning wetsuits and snorkels, the Year 7s were combing the reef at Port Noarlunga. Despite the fun and challenging activities, the real highlight was seeing the camaraderie, teamwork and partnership on display as our cohort worked together.



YEAR 8 CAMP

The Year 8 camp at Roonka was all about exploring and challenging limits. It involved seeking new adventures that demand bravery, while recognising discomfort zones and learning how to handle them. It was also all about 'finding yourself' both within a group and individually. Whether on the water in rafts and kayaks, indulging in a relaxing spot of fishing or unleashing artistic talents with boomerang creations, the Year 8 camp was a perfect blend of adventure, friendship, and fun!



YEAR 10 CAMP

From battling strong ocean currents in the river, through to constructing seaworthy rafts and an epic game of tag; our Year 10s did it all during their camp experience. Set on the Onkaparinga River/Ngangkiparingga and Aldinga, our Year 10s were thoroughly physically challenged while putting their teamwork and cohesion as a cohort to the test. Smiles and laughter abounded as our newest group of students had a mighty induction into their senior years of schooling.



YEAR 11 RETREAT

Rain couldn't keep our Year 11s off the shore as they battled the elements during their retreat. Despite some wet and windy weather, it was all smiles as the students carried on, showing their resilience. Whether transporting water, or playing over-and-under, our students had fun and were full of positivity. Kayaking, snorkelling and surfing rounded out the set of beach-based activities for our fun-loving Year 11s. Out of the weather, the Retreat Bingo had students clamoring to get to know some fun and unusual facts about one another.



SPORT

FROM AROUND THE CAMPUSES

ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER CUP



Showing off skills, teamwork and love for the game was the order of the day as we attended Anglican Cup. With 150 students involved, the energy was high, and everyone gave their best effort. There were so many highlights, too many to mention here, but the biggest success from the day was our students' unwavering fairness and respect they showed the opposition.

On top of team successes, several students stood out for their great attitude and sportsmanship. Max Pudney earned the Fair Play Award for boys basketball, showing leadership and respect on the court. Ella Bateman received the same honour for girls basketball, proving what a great competitor she is. Brodie Ralph was recognised with the Fair Play Award for boys soccer, bringing both skill and sportsmanship to the field.



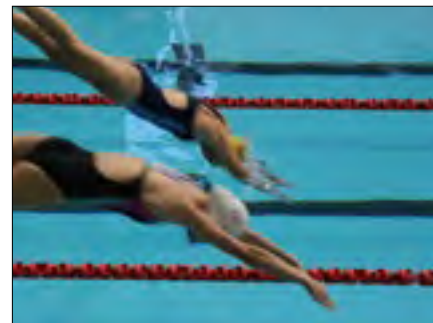
KNOCKING IT OUT THE PARK AND INTO THE BIG LEAGUES



Keen sportsman and Year 11 student, Luke Kennedy has been selected to represent Australia in the U16 Baseball World Championships in Atlanta, Georgia.

Luke had a standout tournament for South Australia in January, where he pitched them to an undefeated tournament and gold medal. Luke is also the St John's Grammar Sports Ambassador, and plays U16 SANFL football for West Adelaide and is a cricketer for St John's Grammar as required!

SWIMMING THROUGH THE RANKS



In a story fit for the big screen, our Interschool Swimming Team have defied the odds rising from E grade to A grade after an 8-year fight to reach the top spot. Our epic team consists of students willing to have a go at the events they are given, along with a handful of dedicated club swimmers; together they create a competitive and spirited team. The competition was tough, and we were proud to achieve a number of 2nd and 3rd finishes over the 94 events, finishing in an overall sixth place. As well as our students who are committed to giving their absolute best to the sport of swimming, our squad is underpinned by dedicated and passionate teachers, Greg Collings and Ben Clark.

CLIMBING THE MOUNTAIN

Our Year 5/6 Girls and Boys Mountain Biking teams were winners at the School Sport SA Mountain Biking Championships with Harper Fuss, Phoebe Thomas and Kira Farquharson representing the girls and Lyndon & Elliott Winter representing the boys team.

HALL OF FAME

CELEBRATING STATE & NATIONAL SPORT REPRESENTATIVES

In addition to our School Sport Program, St John's Grammar has a number of students achieving above and beyond in their chosen sports outside of school. These athletes are highly motivated and have shown persistence and perseverance in developing their skills to achieve at a state or national level.

JUNIOR SCHOOL



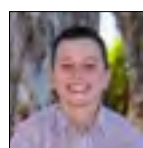
ISABELLE GODDARD
Swimming (Butterfly)
State & National



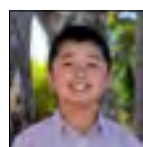
JACKIE KANG
Swimming



PHOEBE THOMAS
Soccer



HUDSON RODE
Swimming



RYAN ZHAO
Softball



KIERAN COLLINGS
Swimming



ALEXANDER GRAY
Baseball



MAYA HELPS
Swimming



LUKE KENNEDY
Baseball
Australian Representative



ZELIE MARTIN
Softball



LATOYA MILERA
Triathlon



LEIF MOSLEY
Triathlon



LIAM MOSLEY
Triathlon



HAYLEY MULES
AFL



JAYLA NAARAAT
Roller Derby
Australian Representative



ETHAN SIMMONS
AFL



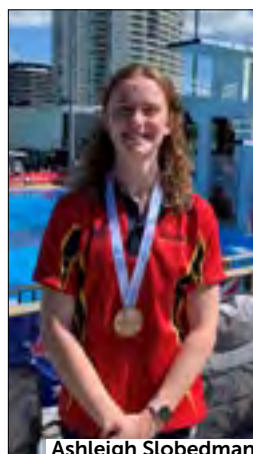
ASHLEIGH SLOBEDMAN
Diving



HENRY WIESE
Baseball



ISABELLE WILLIAMS
Softball



Ashleigh Slobedman



Luke Kennedy



Zelig Martin



Henry Wiese



JS CROSS COUNTRY



Belair National Park set the scene for our annual Junior School Cross Country event. With different courses for each age group, our Year 3-6 students traversed the terrain to win points for their House. It was heartwarming to see the students cheering for each other—regardless of House—in a show of camaraderie and support. Congratulations to Gooch House for another win and we also celebrate our individual age champions for their stellar efforts.

1st GOOCH: 551 pts	2nd HALSTEAD: 521 pts
3rd MOFFATT: 474 pts	4th PRINCE: 433 pts

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
Year 3 Boys	Jack K	Harry M	Miles R
Year 3 Girls	Giselle W	Klara W	Emily H
Year 4 Boys	Chase H	Toby T	Floyd W
Year 4 Girls	Elise C	Hannah H	Charlotte E
Year 5 Boys	Elliott W	Archie N	Dominic G
Year 5 Girls	Sophia A	Yinhua S	Isabelle G
Year 6 Boys	William P	Lyndon W	Gabriel R
Year 6 Girls	Kira F	Emmeline C	Phoebe T



SC CROSS COUNTRY

1st GOOCH	2ND HALSTEAD
3RD MOFFATT	4TH PRINCE

Our Secondary students challenged themselves to two Cross Country events; a 1km relay around our Secondary Campus, before a 3 or 4km race around Lorikeet Loop at Belair National Park (pictured above). Despite rainy weather, the students strove for personal bests and contributed points for their House. The final results shown here are for the House Cross Country Shield.



COMMUNITY CONNECTED

A team of 10 students and 3 teachers made the epic convoy to the APY Lands to connect and spend time with the Pipalyatjara community. Amber Logan and William Langmaid write about their experience.

In March we spent three and a half days travelling by bus, eventually arriving at the remote Pipalyatjara community. After arrival, we spent time with the kids of the Pipalyatjara School, playing basketball, footy, and swimming in the pool. We were able to sit in on their classes, read with them, and help with their work. As well as us helping them, we were lucky enough to sit in on Anangu language lessons, learning their

language, with their assistance. It was difficult at first, but as we spent more time in those classes it became easier, especially when the kids would help us learn.

Ngapartji Ngapartji is an Anangu word which means 'you give, I give' and this seemed to capture the spirit of what our time in Pipalyatjara was about.



We participated in lots of activities with the kids such as going on an excursion looking for maku (witchetty grubs), and taking part in their Swimming Carnival which they called Splash Day. Every day after school had finished, the kids would spend time together, playing footy on the basketball courts or chasey on the playground. The older kids were inclusive with the younger kids letting them join in. For us, the most impactful part of the trip was being able to see the school culture and the community the kids had created with each other.

As well as getting to spend time with the kids and teachers there, the group from St John's Grammar was able to bond as a group, through activities such as going out to a special rock for the sunset, or spending 50 hours on a bus together over 9 days. We also went to the Ninuku Art Centre and looked around at the local art work, some of us buying some of the pieces. Having time to spare, we took an unexpected trip to Western Australia, as it was only around half an hour from the art centre.

After spending five days in the Pipalyatjara School, bonding with the kids, learning about their culture and their language, we began our trip back to Adelaide. We drove through the Northern Territory to see Uluru and for most of us, it was the first time seeing it, which was incredible. We stayed one night at the Uluru campgrounds and the next morning we did a few Uluru base walks before the long, 20-hour journey south, back home.

Upon reflection, the APY Trip was an incredible experience for students and teachers alike. We made incredible memories and connections at Pipalyatjara School. Not only did we make these memories and relationships with the students and teachers of the Pipalyajara School, we made memories and connections with our fellow Year 10 students on the trip.







JP FUN DAY

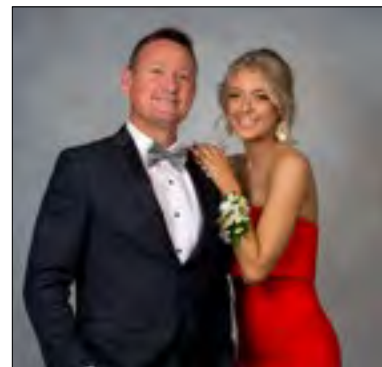
It was all in a day's adventure for JP Fun Day as we explored our 'big backyard' of Belair National Park for an afternoon of fun and frivolity. With no set agenda other than having fun, our Junior Primary students delighted in all sorts of activities. Whether

swinging, literally, from the treetops, or taking a quiet moment to draw and relax in the sun, our Reception to Year 2 students made the most of their time. It was such a relaxing and fun way to end Term 1.



FAREWELL MR ANDERSON

It is with immense sadness that we bid farewell to outgoing Principal, Mr Richard Anderson after 25 years of distinguished service to St John's Grammar.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Richard at the 2024 SACE Art Show, fruit sticks at the ELC (source: St John's Journal July 2011), Richard and student Mark Haseloff for the World's Greatest Shave 2009 (source: St John's Journal August 2009), cheering on Gooch (source: St John's Journal June 2001), pictured with daughter, Ella, at the 2018 Year 12 Formal.

As Richard Anderson prepares to retire, we reflect on an incredible career, culminating a 25-year journey at St John's Grammar.

"It has been an incredible experience, filled with challenges, growth, and countless rewarding moments." Richard said.

With such a decorated career to reflect on, it strikes us as humorous that despite Richard's natural affinity for teaching and a strong bloodline of teachers in his family, he came to teaching in a roundabout way.

"My journey into teaching began somewhat unexpectedly. Initially, I pursued a science degree with a keen interest in geology. However, I later re-enrolled to study economics. During the mid-80s, my father, who was a director in the Education Department, helped me secure an 'Authority to Teach' due to a teacher shortage." Richard said.

"Despite initial struggles in Port Pirie, I realised that teaching was my true calling and returned to Adelaide to complete a graduate diploma in teaching. Teaching runs in my family, making it a natural path for me."

As Richard built up his teaching experience across

Adelaide schools, the start-up culture of St John's Grammar proved to be an irresistible challenge that ignited his passion.

"My desire to be part of something new and exciting brought me to St John's Grammar, and I remain forever grateful for that opportunity," he said.

"When I joined St John's Grammar in 2000, the school was a stark contrast to my previous experience at Pembroke. The facilities were basic, with only the Pargeter Building, the Chapel, and a simple Robert England Building. Retreat House was empty, and the staff room was just an office in the Pargeter Building. Despite these challenges, there was a pioneering spirit among the teachers, and we worked hard to establish a positive culture. The students were spirited and adventurous, and the parents had faith in the school's potential."

Richard's career trajectory at St John's Grammar has been varied. Throughout his tenure, Richard has held various positions, starting as the Coordinator of Student Welfare, then becoming the Head of Houses, and later the Head of Gooch. Four years later, he was appointed Director of Students, and after another four years, he became the Head of Senior School. Those roles eventually led to positions as Deputy Principal and Principal.



Richard and students at the 2024 Junior School Athletics Carnival

Over the years, Richard saw that culture and connection were essential parts of an engaging learning environment, and he worked hard to cultivate the right conditions for growth.

"My teaching philosophy has evolved over the years to focus on building personal connections with students and creating an engaging classroom environment. Great teaching is about setting up the right environment and making students look forward to classes. It's important to win them over before they even enter the classroom."

There's no doubt that over his rewarding career, Richard has seen the evolution of how education is experienced and taught in pursuit of achieving best 'outcomes', however Richard believes that investing time in developing relationships reaps the most rewarding dividends.

"Reflecting on my career, I find the most rewarding aspect of being an educator to be the impact on people's lives. Building strong relationships with students and colleagues brings rewards that other industries don't offer. This investment in people helps one grow and become a better person, making the personal growth and positive influence on others truly fulfilling."

This deep commitment to fostering connection is an enduring theme in Richard's career and has shaped some of his fondest memories. Although hard pressed to distil a career abundant with many meaningful moments, Richard cites a couple of examples that have left a lasting impression.

"One memorable moment in my career was with Aciek, a Sudanese student who fled from a refugee camp in Kenya and came to Australia on a full scholarship. When Aciek graduated from Year 12 he thanked me, with tears in his eyes, for the support. Seeing Aciek's success as an engineer with a family was incredibly special."

"Another significant moment was when the Chair of the Board announced my appointment as Principal. The overwhelming cheer and support from my colleagues gave me an enormous boost and confirmed that I had their backing." Richard said.

With these examples, it is easy to see why Richard can confidently declare that the culture and pastoral care at St John's Grammar is something that he is most proud of having had a hand in leading.

"The school's unique spirit and culture are the



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Richard with previous Principals Cheryl Bauer and Dorothy Pargeter, inducting the 2020 Year 12 Student Leaders, sharing a joke at the ELC, with colleagues at a 2010 staff vs students AFL match, chatting with students at the ELC, Richard and wife Amanda at the 2018 P&F Gala, welcoming Premier Malinauskas at the opening of the EDC in 2024, giving a speech at the 2022 Top Gun Ceremony, opening the Wymond Centre for Technology in 2024 with the late Reg Wymond, first staff photo in 2000.

reasons for its success. It has taken a lot of hard work from many people, and I am proud to have been a part of that journey. I hope to leave behind a strong sense of service and mission," he reflects.

"What we do at St John's Grammar really matters, and I want everyone to feel that they are not just working here, but are on a mission to serve others. This sense of purpose elevates the work and makes it truly meaningful. Together, we've created a culture where everyone understands the importance of their role and the impact they have on the community."

It's these threads of connection and personalisation that Richard believes will continue to stitch together the tapestry of what a school can offer, beyond his time at St John's Grammar.

"Looking to the future of education, I predict a shift away from the idea of super schools. Smaller, more intimate schools where everyone knows each other will become more important. The role of educators will also change, with a greater focus on emotional and psychological support."

As for looking ahead for himself, Richard says he hasn't locked in any specific plans for his retirement but looks forward to what's to come.

"I look forward to creating a new chapter in my life. I want to clear my mind, explore new opportunities, spend more time with family and friends, and pursue interests that I haven't had the chance to before. I am excited about the next 10 years and the possibilities they hold, feeling fortunate to have this opportunity," he said.

As he prepares to hand over the mantle, Richard holds great hope for the future of St John's Grammar.

"I hope that St John's Grammar will continue to be a place where everyone feels welcome and valued. I love the idea of young people being encouraged to see the good in others, celebrate each other, and embrace diversity. For this to happen, the school needs to stay connected and uphold shared values. If we do this well, the school will continue to thrive, helping young people achieve their personal best and soar to new heights."

As we celebrate Richard's 25 years of dedication to St John's Grammar, we are reminded of the profound impact his journey has had not just on his own life, but the lives of many. As we say farewell, we know that Richard's powerful legacy will continue to inspire and guide the St John's Grammar community as we move forward.



COMMUNITY SPRING FAIR *in belair*

It was sunshine and smiles all round for our inaugural Community Spring Fair in Belair in late 2024. We welcomed visitors in droves to our Secondary Campus for a day of fun and frolicking. From the Rainbow Brick Road, to sampling delicious food and drinks, even through to stomach-turning rides and sideshows, it was an absolute joy. This event would not have been possible without the wonderful event management and organisation of our Parents & Friends Association, with Kate Elies and Kimberlee Blyth at the helm. What a spectacular event!





Parents & Friends Association
MOTHER'S DAY STALL





Ben Luks and Richard Anderson with the Class of 2005 time capsule at the 20 Year Reunion



OLD SCHOLARS

Old Scholar & Community ANNOUNCEMENTS



1 & 3. Austin Keates and Amelia were married on 2 November 2024. Fellow St John's students Alex Fleming and William Dring were in attendance, with William being the ring-bearer.

2. At a recent school event, Old Scholar Fleur Roxburgh (2004) introduced her newest family member to Richard Anderson.

4. Property Services staff member Nick Cavender and his partner, Ruth, joyfully welcomed their son, Oscar, into the world in late February.

Vale

Dorothy Pargeter

Former St John's Grammar Principal (1977 - 1998)



In September 2024, we sadly paid our respects to former St John's Grammar School Principal, Dorothy Pargeter, who passed away.

Dorothy had celebrated her 90th birthday with family and friends in the beautiful grounds of St John's Grammar earlier in the year. As our longest serving Principal (1977 to 1998), Dorothy was the architect behind the school's expansion into Secondary Education. Dorothy was a creative and progressive educational leader, passionate about teaching and learning and one who always put young people at the heart of her work.

Dorothy's loyalty and dedication to St John's Grammar School was recognised in 1998, with the naming of the Pargeter Building on the Secondary Campus in her honour, and in 2003, Dorothy received an OAM for her services to Education, particularly in the areas of curriculum development and student welfare.

Our heartfelt condolences go to her son and daughter, John and Sue, and their extended families. Vale Dorothy, we offer our sincere thanks and respect for all that you have done for St John's Grammar School.



Top: Former Principals, Dorothy Pargeter, Stephen Matthew and Cheryl Bauer. Bottom: Dorothy at her 90th birthday celebrations, Dorothy during her years as Principal.





*Class of 2010
15 Year Reunion*



Class of 2015
10 Year Reunion



Class of 2020
5 Year Reunion



Class of 2024
Welcome to the Old Scholars



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Our Old Scholars follow many diverse paths and we're always delighted to hear about their journeys after school.

To follow are some recent updates we've received from our graduates.



*Making waves on the airwaves:
Cassandra's on the mic*

CASSANDRA JOHNS Class of 2018

For those who fondly remember Cassandra Johns, you'll be delighted to hear about her impressive journey since leaving St John's. Recently, she was our guide at FreshFM, where she now holds the esteemed position of News Director. Cassandra, or Cass as many of us know her, has truly made her mark in the world of journalism.

After completing her Bachelor's degree in Journalism, Cass quickly rose through the ranks at FreshFM. Her dedication, hard work, and passion for storytelling have earned her the role of News Director, a position that allows her to shape the news landscape and mentor upcoming journalists. Cass's journey is a testament to the power of perseverance and the solid educational foundation she received at St John's Grammar. In addition to her behind-the-scenes role, Cass is also a familiar voice on air. You can catch her every second Monday evening at 6pm, where she brings the latest news and insightful commentary to listeners. During our visit, Cass gave a special shout-out to St John's Grammar on air, a moment that filled us with pride and nostalgia.

Cass's story is an inspiration to current students and alumni alike. It's a reminder that with determination and the right support, our dreams are within reach. We are incredibly proud of Cass and her achievements, and we look forward to seeing where her career takes her next. So, next time you tune into FreshFM, listen out for Cass. She sends her regards to everyone at St John's Grammar and is grateful for the support and education that helped her get to where she is today.

**Cass pictured with St John's Grammar students on a recent excursion*



From St John's to Cybersecurity: Jack's Stellar Ascent

JACK GOLDSMITH Class of 2017

Jack Goldsmith, a former student of St John's Grammar, has made significant strides in his professional career, currently working at Minter Ellison in Sydney as part of their cybersecurity consultancy team. His journey is a testament to the solid foundation he received at St John's Grammar, particularly in History and Philosophy.

Jack's academic journey took off after Year 12, proving that sometimes, all it takes is finding the right area of interest. His passion for security led him to pursue International Relations at Flinders University, followed by Honours at the University of Queensland, and a Master of Laws at the Australian National University.

Jack's expertise and dedication have not gone unnoticed. Last year, he presented a paper in The Hague on Australia's e-safety commissioner, showcasing his deep understanding of cybersecurity issues. Additionally, he has had the opportunity to participate in two young leaders' programs in the United States, further honing his skills and expanding his professional network.

We are incredibly proud of Jack's achievements and the path he has carved out for himself. His story is an inspiration to current students, demonstrating the importance of a strong educational foundation and the impact of finding one's passion.

Jack's journey from St John's Grammar to a successful career in cybersecurity consultancy is a remarkable example of how dedication, passion, and a solid educational foundation can lead to great achievements. We look forward to watching Jack's career continue to soar.

**Jack is pictured above with Mikko Hypponen*



Setting the gold standard: Tahlia's exciting honour

TAHLIA KEEGAN Class of 2023

Even though our Eagles have to eventually leave the School nest, we feel a special pride when we see them soaring in their life beyond the School's gates. Class of 2023 Old Scholar, Tahlia Keegan, is a perfect example of this.

A previous St John's Grammar School Duke of Edinburgh Ambassador, promoting the benefits of this internationally-renowned program to her peers, Tahlia was herself recently honoured in a ceremony at the Adelaide Town Hall for earning the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award!

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. Tahlia began her Duke of Edinburgh Award path while a student with us, undertaking activities involving calisthenics, singing, being a teaching assistant, and completing a bushwalking expedition in Deep Creek National Park.

For her 'Gold Residential Project', Tahlia supported underprivileged and at-risk children through her work as a youth camp leader with Puddle Jumpers.

Tahlia's achievement places her in esteemed company alongside previous St John's Grammar Old Scholars who have completed this outstanding achievement throughout the years. Well done Tahlia, we're very proud of you!

**Tahlia is pictured being presented the Gold Award by Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia.*

Holding Excellence to Ransom: Joel awarded Hawker Scholarship

JOEL RANSOM
Class of 2021



For an outstanding third time, a St John's Grammar School Old Scholar has been awarded the prestigious C.A.S. Hawker Scholarship!

Joel Ransom (Class of 2021) is the latest Eagle to receive this honour, following in the steps of his older brother Ben Ransom (Class of 2019) and Oliver Douglas (Class of 2018).

Since 1990, the C.A.S. Hawker Scholarship Trust has offered scholarships to "capable students of principle and character who are committed to Australia's future". The Hawker Scholarship is one of the most generous privately funded scholarships available to undergraduate and postgraduate students in Australia. The residential scholarships are valued at up to \$75,000 over three years.

Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia presented framed scholarship certificates to Joel and his four fellow recipients in May.

"Congratulations to the 2025 scholarship recipients. Your academic results and civic contributions show you are on a pathway to leadership befitting the example set by the scholarship's namesake, the South Australian pastoral pioneer, veteran and federal parliamentarian, C.A.S. Hawker," said Her Excellency.

The C.A.S. Hawker Scholarships are awarded on personal characteristics as well as academic prowess - you must be attaining a high level of success AND be a leader in your community to even be considered, so we are thrilled to now have a third Eagle with their name on the honour board.

Joel's academic prowess was noted, from his formidable ATAR of 99.95, through to securing an Academic Commendation for his straight High Distinctions in his first university semester, and the Prize for Outstanding Results in Psychology for the full year. Joel also secured seven High Distinctions and one Distinction in 2024.

Joel was also commended for his strong record of service and commitment to the betterment of others and the future of Australia, especially in rural and Indigenous communities. If that wasn't enough for this high flyer, Joel's representation of St Mark's in inter-college swimming and athletics and inter-college debating where he was awarded College Colours for his outstanding performance all featured a mention.

After a very successful year studying a Bachelor of Psychology (Advanced) (Honours), Joel has transferred to a Bachelor of Medical Studies degree at the University of Adelaide and is residing at St Mark's College.

Congratulations Joel - we are so proud of you, and will be holding you aloft as an example of what it means to truly 'soar'. Hats off!

**Joel is pictured at Government House with Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia.*

On the Map: Jet Dixon Wins John Lewis Prize

JET DIXON Class of 2023



We are thrilled to announce that Jet Dixon, one of our outstanding students, was awarded the prestigious John Lewis Prize for Excellence in Secondary School Geography by the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia. This esteemed recognition highlights Jet's dedication and passion for Geography, which has been a hallmark of his academic journey.

The award was presented by the Society's Patron, Her Excellency, The Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, at a special Awards Ceremony held in the Mortlock Wing of the State Library on North Terrace, Adelaide. This event was a memorable occasion, celebrating Jet's outstanding achievements.

Jet's journey in Geography has been marked by a deep curiosity and a commitment to understanding the world around us. Reflecting on his experience, Jet shared, "It was never my intention to excel this much in Geography, particularly because I initially chose the subject so I could take a break from my other STEM subjects. I figured it couldn't hurt to force my brain to analyse words and not just numbers. However, I never could have foreseen my interest in the subject and the topics it covers."

Jet's passion for Geography was further ignited by the diverse and relevant topics covered in the curriculum. "In particular, the subjects cover extremely relevant international topics such as globalisation, population change, and the transformation of global inequality, along with environmental topics of ecosystems and climate change, the services they provide, and the impact of the human population on ecosystems and their contribution to climate change," he explained.

A significant highlight of Jet's Geography journey was the Year 12 capstone fieldwork project. "My fieldwork aimed to assess the ecological threats to Belair National Park and the effectiveness of current strategies to mitigate their impact. This was extremely rewarding given its local relevance and the process being a tangible application of the theoretical concepts taught," Jet noted.

Despite now being in his second year studying Mechanical Engineering, Jet acknowledges the lasting impact of his Geography studies. "The concepts I learned in this subject are still extremely applicable. Understanding global systems, spatial relationships, and environmental constraints are universal concepts and have definitely brought me a greater understanding of the world, both in my studies and in everyday life," he said. He also emphasized the importance of critical thinking, researching topics with credible sources, and contesting paradigms—skills that are invaluable in today's world.

Jet attributes much of his success to the support he received along the way. "Of course, this all goes without saying that I would not have achieved even half of what I did without the support around me. Mr Jones was not only an amazing teacher but also an incredible human being. His love of geography helped me to love it too, and I'm so glad I chose to study such an interesting and relevant subject," he expressed. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Jet once again and look forward to hearing more about his future successes.

**Jet is pictured above receiving his award, and in the second photo with his family, Jodie Benveniste (Mum), Wayne Dixon (Dad), Jet Dixon, Wirra Benveniste (sister)*

Don't just fly,
SOAR



Enrol Now For
Year 5
2026 & 2027



ST JOHN'S
GRAMMAR