



## Important Dates

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**College Board  
Meeting**

Tuesday 25 February 2025

**Bosco Athletics Day**

Friday 28 February 2025

**Shrove Tuesday**

Tuesday 4 March 2025

**Ash Wednesday**

Wednesday 5 March 2025

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20.02.25

## Principal's Update T1, W4

### Positive Behaviours

As a college, we support students to understand and adhere to our expectations through explicit teaching. As a place of learning, we want all students to be engaged and contributing to a safe and respectful learning environment where students can flourish. In Parent Information sessions this year you may have heard mention of PBIS (Positive Behaviour Interventions and Supports), so I thought I would explain it a little in this week's newsletter.

### Our Purpose Statement

Through a consistent whole school approach, we will teach, model and support our students, in learning desirable behaviours and attitudes to enhance their academic, social and emotional learning.

### What is PBIS?

PBIS is a proactive approach and focuses on teaching all students agreed expected behaviours and pro-social skills rather than just

reacting to behaviour errors. A small number of students require highly individualised and intensive interventions (sometimes aligned with Personalised Plans for Learning).

### Why teach expected behaviours?

- We cannot assume students understand expected behaviours
- Research shows that punishment, when used inconsistently and without positive strategies, is ineffective
- Consequences do little other than to signal an error has occurred; they do not re-educate and teach what is expected
- Teaching expected behaviours has a positive link to wellbeing and academic outcomes
- Repetition of explicit teaching is key to learning.

### What does PBIS look like at St Mark's College?

A matrix of Behaviour Expectations and agreed Classroom Expectations is displayed in every classroom. This Matrix was developed last year in consultation with staff, students and the community.

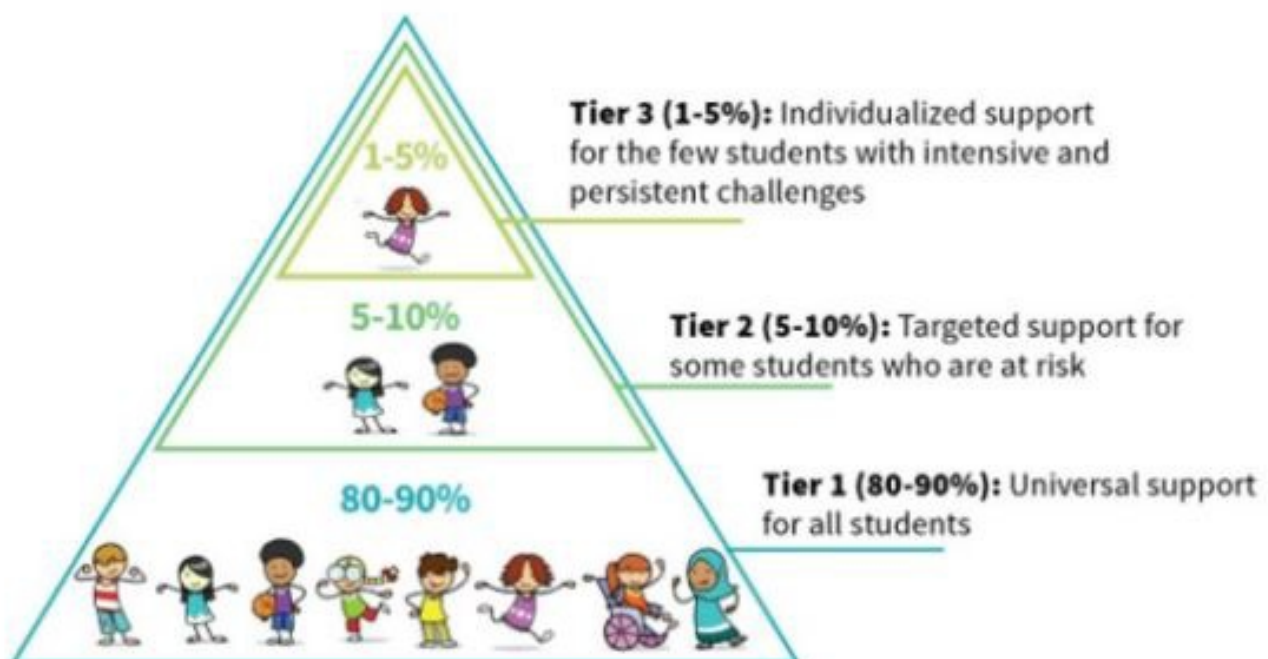
- Procedures for non-classroom settings are displayed in their relevant areas.
- Students can state the behavioural expectations.
- Positive behaviours are explicitly taught, modelled and practised with students and reinforced throughout the year.
- All staff acknowledge and positively reinforce expected student behaviours.
- It is a team-based approach.
- Families are informed and actively included in supporting expectations.

For most students, modelling and reinforcing the expectations is sufficient. All students hear and practise the expectations in Tier 1 – universal support. Of course, we recognise that students sometimes make poor choices and mistakes. We work with students who need additional support through Tier 2 interventions such as re-teaching outside of class time. For a few students, persistent challenges will result in Tier 3 interventions, which include an explicit Behaviour Support Plan. Significant behaviours that breach expectations may result in suspension from school. As parents we can sometimes be quick to deny, defend or excuse our children's behaviour, but this does not help our young people to accept responsibility for their actions or to develop the social and emotional skills needed to thrive in the community. We greatly appreciate parent support in reinforcing expectations and working with us to equip our young people with some vital life skills.

Click to see our [Positive Behaviour Intervention Strategy](#) for the College.

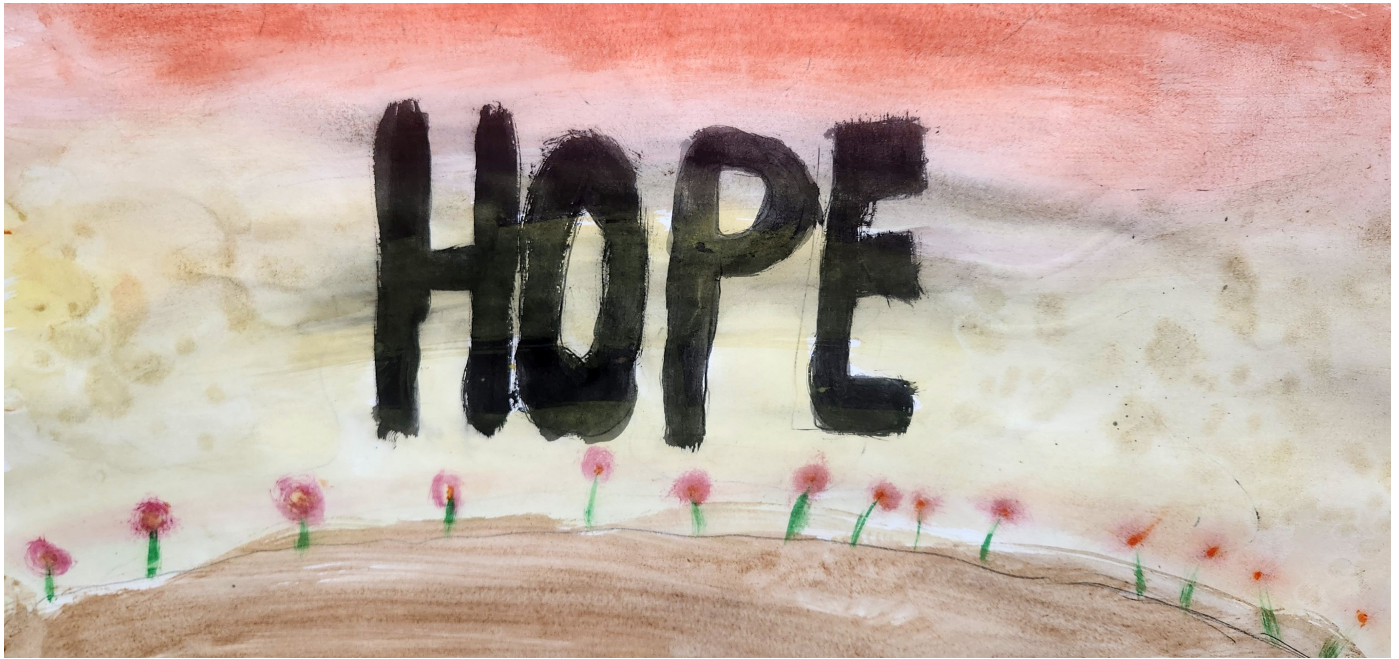
In a world where we can be anything, above all be kind.

**Dr Sandra Hewson, Principal**





## Faith and Mission, T1, W4



### Sacramental Information

**Sacramental Information Meeting: Monday 3 March, St Mark's Cathedral, 7:00pm**

If your child is interested in undertaking one of the following sacraments this year, please attend the Information Meeting:

- Year 3- First Reconciliation (November),
- Year 4- First Holy Communion (August)
- Year 6- Confirmation (Ascension Sunday, June)

If there are any students wishing to become members of the Catholic Church (through baptism), please get in touch with our local parish office in (08) 8632 3977 or email [saintmarkscatholic@pp.catholic.org.au](mailto:saintmarkscatholic@pp.catholic.org.au). (A student must be baptised before undertaking additional sacraments.)

### Year 11 Sacred Spaces Excursion

This Wednesday, the Year 11 classes visited local sacred spaces around Port Pirie as part of their Religion study for the course, 'Spiritualities, Religion and Meaning – SRM' as part of their SACE subjects. Students and staff visited the Greek Orthodox Church, the Port Pirie Masjid (Mosque) and the Catholic Cathedral.

I wish to acknowledge the excellent attitude, respect and attention that all of the Year 11s who attended showed to our presenters and the model behaviour displayed in our local Port Pirie community. Students engaged keenly with presenters at each sacred space and listened to how their community held meaning for their faith, beliefs, and sense of belonging within the features in their space.

Year 11s and staff are appreciative of our local religious communities giving their time and space to provide our students with an enriching experience and connection with faith. Students will use their experiences as part of their first summative assessment task.

### Benedict and Bosco Liturgies and Masses

Liturgies and Masses are underway each week at both Benedict and Bosco Campuses. We thank the parish clergy of Fr Jimmy and Deacon Gary for their presence and celebration of these liturgies. Benedict liturgies continue to attract parents to our beautiful Chapel to join their children in during these times. Deacon Gary frequently encourages students with parents attending to go up to them and show their appreciation for coming. The connection between parents and the parish is bridged by these encounters and is a real sign of the community engaging in their faith as a family.

The theme of Hope permeates many of the school Masses currently and allows the Jubilee Year to be embraced in a faith setting for the community, not just in the classroom.

## **College Logos for the Jubilee Year**

As part of our Golden Jubilee Celebrations and the coinciding Jubilee Year of the Church, our Art and Design Teacher and Ecological Action Leader, Mrs Megan Congdon, has designed some logos that fit within the format of our house crests. These logos represent significant themes for our 2025 year.

The red logo is born of 'Seeds of Hope', our Diocesan Theme this year and matches the farming aspect of the McNally House. The land donated by the McNally family is rich and fertile ground in which to grow a seed, not just agriculturally, but spiritually and socially as well in developing the vibrant faith community of St Mark's College.

The blue logo is born of our Salesian Strenna, 'Anchored in hope', and similarly is the symbol for Christian Hope, symbolic of the Jubilee Year theme, 'Pilgrims of Hope'. This also connects with the missionary experience of the Salesians remembering their first missionary expedition 150 years ago. There is also the call to mission recognised by the Good Samaritan Sisters to places around the world, starting with Port Pirie, through Archbishop Polding in the 1890s.

The green logo represents the mountains, rivers and paths, a symbol of journey's path and the pilgrimage that we make in this Jubilee Year. This is also associated with the Gallagher House by connection to the Diocese of Port Pirie of which their patron was our longest-serving bishop.

The yellow logo is emblazoned with the number '50' a Jubilee number in Ancient Hebrew times and symbolic of the Golden Jubilee year that the College celebrates this year since the amalgamation of all Catholic Schools in Port Pirie in 1975. Our school motto, 'Enlighten and inspire', speaks to the light that glows in each of us and is something to be cherished and celebrated.

## **The Witness**

[Click here for the latest edition.](#)

## **Southern Cross**

[Click here for the latest edition.](#)

***Mr Isaac Ellis, APRIM***





20.02.25

## Benedict Campus Reminders, T1, W4

**Key Dates: Term 1, Week 5 and 6**

- **Little Lions Session 4**  
Monday 24 February, 8.30am – 11.30am
- **Mini Mark's Playgroup – Baby Bounce with Larryn**  
Tuesday 25 February, 9.00am – 10.30am
- **SRC and Leaders Liturgy**

Thursday 27 February, Good Samaritan Hall, 10.50am

- **Little Lions Session 4**

Friday 28 February, 8.30am – 11.30am

- **Little Lions Session 5**

Monday 3 March, 8.30am – 11.30am

- **Sacramental Information Evening**

Monday 3 March, St Mark's Cathedral, 7.00pm

- **Mini Mark's Playgroup – Team Colours Day**

Wear your favourite team colours!

Tuesday 4 March, 9.00am – 10.30am

- **Shrove Tuesday Liturgy**

Tuesday 4 March, Benedict Quad, 12.20pm

- **Ash Wednesday R-6 Mass**

Wednesday 5 March, Good Samaritan Hall, 12.20pm

- **Little Lions Session 5**

Friday 7 March, 8.30am – 11.30am

## **Communication**

Effective communication is the foundation of a successful educational experience. One of the most crucial steps in fostering this communication is through the class teacher.

The class teacher is often the first point of contact between the school and the family. They play a pivotal role in observing and understanding your child's academic and social progress.

The class teacher sees your child every day, providing a consistent presence in their educational journey. This daily interaction allows the teacher to notice subtle changes in behaviour, learning patterns, and social interactions.

With a deep understanding of each student's strengths and areas for improvement, the class teacher can tailor their approach to meet individual needs. This personalised attention helps in addressing specific challenges and nurturing talents.

Beyond academics, the class teacher offers emotional support, creating a safe and nurturing environment. This support is crucial for your child's overall well-being and confidence.

The class teacher acts as a bridge between the school and home. Regular updates, parent-teacher meetings, and open lines of communication ensure that parents are well-informed about their child's progress and any areas that need attention.

A strong relationship between the class teacher and your child fosters trust. This trust encourages students to express themselves freely, ask questions, and seek help when needed. We have a strong focus on building solid relationships between teachers, peers, and community throughout the year.

To maximise the benefits of this relationship, here are some tips for parents:

- **Stay Engaged:** Attend parent-teacher meetings and school events. Show interest in your child's school activities and achievements.
- **Open Communication:** Maintain an open line of communication with the class teacher. Share any concerns or observations you have about your child's development.
- **Support at Home:** Reinforce the teacher's efforts by supporting learning at home. Create a conducive environment for homework and study.



- **Encourage Your Child:** Encourage your child to communicate with their teacher. Teach them the importance of asking questions and seeking help when needed.

By recognising the importance of the class teacher and actively participating in your child's education, you can help build a strong foundation for their academic and personal growth. Remember, effective communication is a team effort, and the class teacher is a vital member of that team.

While we understand that parents have the best interest of their child in mind, please avoid direct contact with other families regarding school issues where possible. Should you need to discuss something, your classroom teacher is the first point of contact.

**Mrs Sarah Freer, Deputy Principal, Benedict Campus**

## What's been happening at Benedict Campus?

There's been plenty happening at Benedict Campus during Week 3 and 4...



20.02.25

## Bosco Campus Reminders, T1, W4

**Key Dates: Term 1, Week 5 and 6**

- **Boarding House Parents' Meeting**  
Monday 24 February, 7.00pm, Teams
- **SRC and Leaders Liturgy**  
Tuesday 25 February, 12.20pm, St Mark's Sports Centre
- **Bosco Athletics Day**  
Friday 28 February, Bosco Oval  
*Donations of baked goods for the P+F stall are appreciated!*
- **Ash Wednesday**  
Year 12 Mass, St Mark's Cathedral, 9.00am  
Bosco House Liturgies, 11.00am



## **NAPLAN**

NAPLAN testing for 2025 will take place from Wednesday 12 March - Monday 24 March.

NAPLAN is just one part of our school learning assessment program. The tests assess the literacy and numeracy skills your child is already learning at school.

Full details to ensure your child is prepared for this experience have been communicated by our Middle Years Leader of Learning Mrs Kate Elmendorp.

## **Student Leadership**

Our Year 12 leadership team ventured to Maple and Pine in Bundaleer Forest on Monday to set goals and develop plans for student initiatives and voice throughout this year. They have come back with some thoughtful initiatives that they will work on with our Bosco Student Leaders throughout the year.

Our entire Bosco leadership group for 2025 is as follows:

- College Captains: Jake Anderson and Eva Christensen-Lauder
- Vice-Captains: Wil Brown and Zoe Reid
- Sports Captains: Jack DeGioia and Lucas Gulin
- Creative Arts Captains: Ashlee Raines and Ava Pisani
- Salesian House Captains: Jed Devine and Alexandra O'Neil
- Bosco House Captains: Aliza McBride and Emma Hanley
- Gallagher House Captains: Kobi Ganley and Beau Bridley
- McNally House Captains: Ashley Wulf and Elsie Arbon
- Polding House Captains: Trey Luteria and Alyssa Ganley
- Year 7 SRC: Asha Hewett, Brielle Williams, Eddie Connor and Zali Nelligan
- Year 8 SRC: Jaylea Cooke, Sophie Narcissi and William Bishop
- Year 9 SRC: Petrus Fourie, Sahana Sivalingam, Sherwin David and Matilda Aitchison
- Year 10 SRC: Chelsey Frkic, Henry Crawford, Jameson Penny and Chase Richmond
- Year 11 SRC: Taylah Cameron, Lili Bowman, Dane' Mauritz, Mason Hocking and Amahli Nielsen

Next Tuesday all Student Representatives will be Commissioned at 12:20pm in the St Mark's Sports Centre. We look forward to families joining us for this event.

## **Sports Day**

Sports Day is next Friday. The students have been busy preparing for their events. There will be some events pre-run on Wednesday next week. I look forward to seeing healthy competition amongst our House teams – Bosco, Gallagher, McNally and Polding. Families are encouraged to attend and support their children throughout the day. Please refer to the Operoo for all details of this school day. I thank Mr Leo Coates, Mr Kris Sjoström and the PE faculty for their organisation of the day.

## **Welcome**

We welcome Mrs Lizelle Strydom to our Bosco teaching team, specialising as a Science Teacher!

## **Bosco Athletics Day**

Food and drinks will be available near the Sports Centre at Bosco Athletics Day, thanks to:

- **Parents and Friends Stall**  
Baked goods, packets of chips, Gatorade and soft drinks  
*Looking for donations of baked goods from College families!*
- **Sunny Sips**  
Hot and cold beverages

- **Rotary BBQ**  
Sausage sizzle and steak sandwiches

- **Bosco Canteen**  
Lunch items, ice-creams and slushies, click to see the [full menu](#)

***Mrs Katie Pole, Deputy Principal, Bosco Campus***

## What's been happening at Bosco Campus?

There's been plenty happening at Benedict Campus during Week 3 and 4...





# Apprenticeships

We are excited to congratulate a number of our students who have gained apprenticeships. We wish them all the best as they leave the College and start their career!

- Ryder: Apprenticeship at SA Water
- Cohan: Apprenticeship at Farinola Diesel
- Jayden: Apprenticeship at Alsanto Electrical
- Saxton: Apprenticeship at Mid North Heating and Cooling
- Charlie: Apprenticeship at Alsanto Construction
- Jack: Apprenticeship at Mezzino Building
- Baylin: Apprenticeship at Spencer Gulf Solutions
- Cohen: James Hellmanns Tiling



21.02.25

## Football and Netball Registrations Open



Want to represent the College and wear the navy, red and gold at weekend sport? Registrations are now open for:



- Netball:
  - Juniors (8-17 years)
  - Seniors (turning 18+)
  - *Net Set Go registration will occur later this term!*
- Football:
  - Auskick
  - Under 9 (born in 2016 or younger - or turning 7 in 2025)
  - Under 11 (born in 2014 or younger)
  - Under 13 (born in 2012 or younger)

Visit our [website to register](#), Sports Vouchers are available for download.

Hockey and Soccer are finalising registration details and this will be communicated shortly.

### **Your help is needed!**

The opportunity for your child to play sport is only possible if we have willing volunteers to coach a team. The commitment is small but rewarding and the College will provide you with support if you take on a coach's role.

If you wish to consider a coaching role, please email: [sport@smc.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sport@smc.catholic.edu.au).

**Mr Leo Coates, Sports Administrator**

## Tips on showing your child kindness



*Tips from our School Counsellors, Naomi and Sonya*

Showing your child kindness is about offering them patience, understanding and compassion in your everyday moments. When you listen to them with empathy, validate their feelings and model positive behaviours, you are teaching them the importance of kindness not only to others but also to themselves.

21.02.25

## Office Administration Casual Positions

### **Join our Team**

St Mark's College is in the market for suitably qualified, experienced, and confident administration all-rounders, to join our casual admin pool, helping us fill short-term ad hoc assignments or temporary leave cover across the college as and when required.

Our ideal candidates will be passionate about providing high-quality administrative and customer-focused service. If you love being part of a team and thrive in a diverse environment, this could be the position for you!

A great casual rate of \$43.98 per hour plus superannuation is on offer.

[Click for details on how to apply.](#)

Applications for this position are open until a suitable pool of candidates is received.

21.02.25

## Discounted Uniform Items for Purchase

The following discounted items are available to purchase from College Administration, Bosco Campus:

- PE Shorts (4C - 16C; XS-4XL)
- PE Polo Shirt (2C - 16C; XS-4XL)
- PE Track Pant (10C, 16C; XS-2XL)
- PE Jacket (6C, 12C, 14C, 16C; XS-3XL)
- Summer Dress (4C, 6C)
- Long Sleeve Shirt (4-6)
- Short Sleeve Shirt (4-6)
- Winter Skirt (6C)

Note: These items are unable to be worn from 2027 onwards.

## 2026 + 2027 Enrolments



Enrolments are open for students commencing at St Mark's in 2026 and 2027. Early enrolment is encouraged!

Scholarships are available for new and current enrolments. Click to find out more about our [scholarships](#) which close on 27 June.

Click to find out about the [enrolment process](#) or here to view our [Campus Tour](#) dates.

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## College Calendar

[Click here](#) to access the Calendar for our College events.

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## Canteen Specials

[Click here](#) to check out the weekly specials for the upcoming fortnight.

[Click here](#) for the Menu available on Bosco Athletics Day.

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## Community News

### > **Phillippines Fundraiser - Bottles and Cans Collection**

To arrange pick up of bottles and cans, contact Grant Hanlon 0414 320 840

### > **Hot Shots Tennis for Term 1**

Sunday's on 9.00am and 10.00am (9, 16, 23 February and 2, 16 March)

Bookings open, contact Grant Hanlon 0414 320 840

### > **Leaving School?**

[School Leaver Employment Supports in your NDIS Plan?](#)

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## Looking for donations!





## Can you donate some baked goods for Bosco Athletics Day?

Donations of biscuits, cakes, slices and savouries can be delivered to the St Mark's Sports Centre (oval side) on Friday 28 February from 8.00am.

(Please include an ingredients list.)

Saver Plus Information Sessions



# Could Saver Plus help with your education costs?

Google

 **Saver Plus YouTube**

to see our quick explainer video and find out if you're eligible.



[Read More](#)

Interested in the Defence Forces?



For students interested in joining the Army, Navy or Airforce after school, the Australian Defence Forces are visiting St Mark's College on Monday 24 February at lunchtime.

An Information Session for the public will be held at the Port Augusta Army Cadets Depot on Tuesday 25 February, 6:00pm - 8:00pm.



## Interested in hosting an exchange student?

Bonjour!

We have a group of French teenagers coming to South Australia at the end of May for 12 weeks.

The students come here to improve their English and to have a cultural immersion with an Australian family.

If you have a space in your home to share with a student, please contact:

Jenny Hanson, SA Manager, Southern Cross Cultural Exchange

[jenny.h@scce.com.au](mailto:jenny.h@scce.com.au)

0409 890 184

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## Mini Mark's Playgroup



Tuesday mornings, 9.00am – 10.30am held during term time

*All welcome!*

[Read More](#)

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## Out of School Hours Care





Available at Benedict Campus for Before School, After School and Vacation Care.

[Find out more about OSHC.](#)

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## Study Hub



Need assistance with your study?  
Visit the Bosco Campus Student Hub after school daily until 4.30pm.

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**College Quick Links**  
**College Uniform**

Uniform Policy and Guidelines  
Uniform Buy, Swap and Sell

**Parents + Friends Community**  
Join our community!

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## Term Dates 2025

- Term 1** - Tuesday 28 January - Friday 11 April
- Term 2** - Tuesday 29 April - Friday 4 July
- Term 3** - Tuesday 22 July - Friday 26 September
- Term 4** - Monday 13 October - Wednesday 10 December
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