



## Important Dates

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End of Term 4,  
2024

Wednesday 11 December  
2024

Christmas Eve  
Nativity Mass

Tuesday 24 December 2024

Term 1  
Commences, 2025

Tuesday 28 January 2025

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## Principal's Update T4, W8



### **We wish you a Merry Christmas!**

Here we are at the end of the year with only a few days left of school for our Reception to Year 9 students to enjoy some activities and celebrate a busy year.

We enjoyed a wonderful evening at the Northern Festival Centre last Friday to celebrate the graduation of Year 12. As students now anxiously await their SACE results, due on 16 December, I reminded them that they are not defined by their results. Each of our graduates, and indeed all our students, possesses unique strengths and character traits that will serve as the foundation of their future. Worth is not measured by grades but by positive attitude and effort, the people our graduates have become and the potential they hold. We wish our graduates every success in the future.

Today we also held a wonderful Liturgy to acknowledge our Year 6 students moving into high school next year and to announce our Benedict Captains for 2025.

We have celebrated academic success in our Bosco Presentation Evening and look forward to the Celebration of Success assembly at Benedict next week. Catholic education at St Mark's College offers so much more than just academic learning. It provides a holistic approach to education, where values such as compassion, integrity and respect are woven into the fabric of our everyday lives, as they need to be. Our students are encouraged to grow in their faith, to serve others, and to become responsible, respectful and caring contributors to society.

As the year concludes, I express my sincere thanks to all the staff here at St Mark's College for the many gifts they bring to the community. In the ever-evolving landscape of education, the challenges we face are numerous and complex. The demands on educators have never been greater but when students flourish and develop responsibility for their learning and behaviour, all the challenges are worthwhile.

In my last newsletter, we celebrated the service of staff leaving the College, and I add to that our best wishes to Sophie Donnellan as she takes maternity leave.

Thank you to you all, for your support and commitment to St Mark's College. As I said in my Presentation night speech, we see that dedication, commitment and effort bring their own reward. Respect and gratitude given are valued and returned in abundance. For each of us there have been highlights, and areas where growth is ongoing.

Just as Christmas is a time of hope and new beginnings, so it is a time for all of us to give thanks for God's goodness and to commit to learning and growing every day into better, kinder and more loving people. It is why we are here, to have life and live it to the fullest.

I wish you all a safe, happy and holy Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back in 2025.

## Faith and Mission, T4, W8

### **Bosco End of Year Mass**

The Bosco Campus gathered in the St Mark's Sports Centre today for their Final Mass for 2024. Normally, our Final Mass would be celebrated with the Parish in the Cathedral, however, the extreme weather conditions necessitated that the venue be changed.

In the spirit of the Advent season, the candles on the Advent Wreath were lit and the liturgical colour scheme prominently featured purple. Purple symbolises a time of preparation and waiting. We experience this at both Lent and Advent, however, the Advent season focuses on the coming of the Christ Child – God with us – Immanuel.

Our Year 7 and Year 9 students led the Mass, celebrated by Fr Jimmy, and contributed to the readings, prayers and offertory during the Mass. A big thank you to our Bosco Home Group and Religious Education teachers for preparing them for the Mass.

### **Year 7 Service Passports**

As a part of their Religious Education curriculum, Year 7s have been set a challenge over the year since their Retreat. The challenge was to make and record small acts of service to the community as a way of demonstrating their commitment to loving their neighbour. To quantify these acts of service, different acts of service were valued on a points system and tallied in a Service Passport. The aim was to complete 50 points worth of service activities. Many students have collected their points which, for several, far exceed 50 points. We intend to recognise those students with a certificate of appreciation at their Year Level Assembly at the end of the year.

A big thank you to the Year 7 Home Group teachers that monitored the progress of these Service Passports. The acts of service made by the Year 7s during the year, made a real difference to those that they helped.

### **Christmas Masses**

[Click here to see the Mass times for the Christmas Masses in our Parish.](#)

### **The Witness**

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

### **Southern Cross**

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

*Ms Brodie Nugent, Mr Isaac Ellis, Ms Fiona Clarke and Mrs Megan Congdon,*

***St Mark's College Catholic Identity Team***

## Benedict Campus Reminders, T4, W8



### Key Dates: Week 9

- **Tuesday 10 December**  
Celebration of Success Assembly, 11.00am
- **Wednesday 11 December**  
Dismissal, 1.05pm  
R-6 Reports issued

As the year draws to a close, I find myself filled with immense gratitude and pride reflecting on the incredible journey we've shared at St Mark's College Benedict. This year has been one of growth, resilience, and countless achievements.

Parents and guardians, your continued support and involvement have been invaluable. Your active participation in school events, open communication with our educators, and encouragement at home have significantly contributed to our shared success. Together, we have fostered a strong, supportive, and inclusive community, and I look forward to continuing this partnership in the coming year.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated teachers and staff. Their unwavering commitment to nurture and educate our students has been truly inspiring.

*Mrs Sarah Freer, Deputy Principal, Benedict Campus*

# What's been happening at Benedict Campus?

There's been plenty happening at Benedict Campus during Week 7 and 8...



04.12.24

## Bosco Campus Reminders, T4, W8

### Key Dates: Week 9

- **Monday 9 December**  
Onsite Activities for Year 7-9 students
- **Tuesday 10 December**  
Ten-pin bowling and movie for Year 7-9 students
- **Wednesday 11 December**  
Year 9 Rite Journey Closing Ceremony  
Onsite Activities for Year 7-9 students  
Dismissal, 1.05pm  
7-11 Reports issued

We have reached the final days of the year. It has been a year of much growth and progress for our Campus community. I am indebted to our amazing staff team who are such wonderful mentors and teachers in developing young people into good citizens. Thank you also to the families for your support and partnership in the education process throughout the year.

My thanks and best wishes go to Mark Murphy, Jane Gibson, John Gibson, Melissa Gadaleta, Jada Hill and Morgan Cullen as they move on from St Mark's. We wish Ben McInnes all the best in his new role of School Coordinator over at Benedict Campus and look forward to seeking Kris Sjostrom back in 2026 after a year's leave.

I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy, safe and holy Christmas and a hope-filled 2025.

### **Salesian Captains' Conference**

Our 2025 College captains engaged in formation with student leaders from other Salesian schools across the country. Jake and Eva have shared some reflections with me:

*In late November, we as the 2025 College Captains attended the Salesian Leaders Conference in Sunbury, Melbourne. This opportunity was a unique experience which allowed us to understand more deeply our Salesian charism and connect with schools with similar values to our own. We were able to bond with captains from the 10 other Salesian schools in Australia including students from Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales and South Australia. This experience helped to grasp a further understanding surrounding the meaning of leadership and helped us prepare for next year. Additionally, the strong connections that we made gave us insights and guidance to lead the college to the best of our ability in the future. From this conference we were able to further develop the key values needed to be leaders of the school. Furthermore we were able to brainstorm ideas about future plans for 2025 and are looking forward to bringing these ideas to life.*

### **Transition Lessons**

Our current Year 10 and 11 students have now completed their transition days into the next stage of SACE ready for 2025. Students have a clear outline of what is ahead of them in each subject and a bank of resources they can draw upon ready to begin the new school year with confidence. I thank the senior teachers led by Ms Ann Russack for their work in facilitating these days. All resources have been made available for students to refer back to.

### **Week 9**

Next week we embark on a number of service tasks and team building activities to finish off the year. These are compulsory school days and ones which build community and enable our community to thrive. On Wednesday 11 December our Year 9 students will have their Return and Homecoming Ceremony. It is the final stage of the seven-step program and a celebration of their growth and development as young adults. Please see Operoo for details of all activities. Dismissal on the Wednesday is at 1:05pm and reports will be published on this day via SEQTA.

### **Reminders for 2025**

- Year 10 students will be allocated a school device for the year in 2025. Please keep an eye out for the User Agreement on Operoo.
- Students return on Tuesday 28 January. On this day they wear full summer uniform and will receive their timetable for the Semester.
- Stationery lists have been sent out so that all students can come equipped with the tools to learn and be their best in the new year.

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

# What's been happening at Bosco Campus?

There's been plenty happening at Benedict Campus during Week 7 and 8...



## Bosco Presentation Night



On Tuesday we acknowledged the the outstanding efforts of our secondary students in academics, sports, agriculture, trades, VET, leadership, creative arts, character and house spirit.

Congratulations to:

- **Year 7 Academic Award-** Hannah, Caleb, Chayse, Jaylea, Elliza, Alexis, Mariana, Noah, Molly, Lauren, Lily, Jack, Noah and Olivia
- **Year 8 Academic Award-** Lewis, Lexi, Lily, Macy, Amalyiah, Lincoln, Cooper, Dolche, Delilah, Caprie, Sahana, Jack, Indee, Alyssa, Liam and Elise
- **Year 9 Academic Award-** Paige, Zachary, Emily, Riley, Lara, Ruby, Kaden, Molly, Isabel, Oscar, Marcus, Max, Eve, Ada, Connie, Peyton and Lilli
- **Year 10 Academic Award-** Leila, Lili, Imogen, Taylah, Halle, Harlee, Charli, Isabelle, Charlie, Dane', Paxton, Jack, Liam, Shyla, Seth, Poppy, Hilary and Bailey
- **Stage 1 Nutrition-** Jake
- **Stage 1 Design & Technology - Furniture Construction-** Wil
- **Stage 1 Creative Arts (Photography)-** Mae
- **Stage 1 Design & Technology- General Engineering-** Cash
- **Stage 1 Biology, Physics, Pre-Mathematical Methods, Pre-Specialist Mathematics, Spiritualities, Religion and Meaning-** Mitchell
- **Stage 1 Legal Studies-** Petrus Casper
- **Stage 1 General Mathematics, Integrated Learning (Sports Studies) and Physical Education-** Abbie
- **Stage 1 Essential English-** Laycee
- **Stage 1 Chemistry and English-** Madeline
- **Stage 1 Agriculture, Outdoor Education and Business Innovation-** Alexandra
- **Stage 1 Creative Arts and Music Experience-** Ava
- **Stage 1 Psychology-** Eliza
- **Stage 1 Child Studies and Food + Hospitality-** Alex
- **Stage 2 Physical Education and General Mathematics-** Zara
- **Stage 2 Business Innovation-** Ella
- **Stage 2 Activating Identities and Futures (Semester One)-** Mitchell
- **Stage 2 Specialist Mathematics-** Adan
- **Stage 2 Creative Arts-** Jessica
- **Stage 2 Child Studies-** Amahli
- **Stage 2 Furniture Construction-** James



- **Stage 2 Design & Technology - General Engineering-** Lucas
- **Stage 2 Mathematical Methods and Spiritualities, Religion and Meaning-** Isabella
- **Stage 2 Food and Hospitality-** Bridie
- **Stage 2 English - Tess McKeogh English Award, Society and Culture and Psychology-** Zara
- **Stage 2 Nutrition-** Addison
- **Stage 2 Agricultural Production-** Adam
- **Stage 2 Biology, Chemistry and Women's Studies-** Ruby
- **Stage 2 Physics-** Adam
- **Stage 2 Essential English-** Taliyah
- **Character & Leadership Award** - Lily (7), Ashton (8), Marcus (9), Bailey (10), Wil (11) and Addison (12)
- **Sportsperson of the Year-** Alyssa and Lucas
- **St Mark's College Art + Design Prize-** Ivy (Junior) and Dane' (Senior)
- **VET Student of the Year-** Marcus
- **Agricultural Industry VET Award-** Jaxon
- **Ag Trades Industry Award-** Alexandra
- **Vet Tertiary Ag Award-** Chloe
- **Eyre Trading Award-** Lucas
- **Walpaara ANPA Award-** Amahli
- **Premier's Anzac Spirit School Prize-** Lili
- **UNISA Whyalla - Award for Academic Achievement-** Sophie
- **Rotary Award for Outstanding Citizenship-** Amelia
- **Soroptimist Award-** Jessica
- **Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Awards-** Mason (10) and Zara (12)
- **ADF Future Innovators Award-** Dane' (10) and Isabella (12)
- **Salesian House Award-** Sophie
- **Salesian Award-** Isabella
- **Geoff Brock - Service to the College Award-** Isabella
- **Teachers' Award-** Jackson
- **Elsa Chilvers Scholarship-** Jessica
- **St Marks (Best All Round Student) Insignis-** Zara

We also congratulate John and Jane Gibson, the worthy recipients of the Rowan Ramsay School Community Award for their dedication to the College.

On the evening, we thanked our outgoing Captains Zara, Adam, Isabella and Blake and transferred leadership to our 2025 Captains Eva, Jake, Zoe and Wil.

# Year 12 Graduation

We congratulate our Class of 2024 on their Graduation.



## ATAR Week

**Class of 2024: What if you didn't get the ATAR you planned for?**

***We are here for you!***

Career and preference advice is available Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 December from the Bosco Centre.

Reach out at: [careers@smc.catholic.edu.au](mailto:careers@smc.catholic.edu.au)

Additional support is being offered by our local Uni Hub, [click here for more information](#).

## Administration Hours

The College Administration and Benedict Offices across the College will be closed from Wednesday 11 December, 2.00pm.

The offices will re-open on Monday 20 January, with a closure on Wednesday 22 January for a all-staff day.

## Bus Subsidy 2025

Catholic Education South Australia continues to work with State Government to enable equitable access to school buses for children attending Catholic schools in regional South Australia.

Families who access a school-managed bus service and who reside more than 5km from their nearest regional Catholic school will receive a subsidy worth 60% of the annual cost of accessing the school bus, thanks to a grant from the government.

Our school will ensure that any family who has students attending this school who qualify for the bus subsidy will receive this discount.

Wherever possible, funding will also be allocated to address issues that may exist for individual families in order to support their children in accessing transport to and from school.

Existing arrangements will continue for any children who currently access government school buses.

We hope that this confirmation of continued subsidy support, together with recent Catholic Education SA commitments to make Catholic schooling more affordable and accessible to all, will be well received.

## Community News

### > [What's On At St Mark's Parish](#)

Including Christmas Mass times

### > [ATAR Week at Uni Hub](#)

Come and speak to Uni Hub during ATAR Week: 16-20 December

### > [Port Pirie Christmas Pageant and Festival of Christmas](#)

[Christmas Pageant + Handwashing Facilities Map](#)

[Festival of Christmas](#)

### > [Write a letter to Santa](#)

Brought to you by Port Pirie and Crystal Book Libraries

### > [Adelaide Strikers Holiday Program](#)

Join in the fun on Thursday 19 - Friday 20 December

### > [Christmas Giving](#)

Donate non-perishable items to the Visitor Information Centre by Friday 20 December

### > [Save the Date : 2025 Sto Nino](#)

Saturday 25 January 2025

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## College Calendar

[Click here](#) to access the College Calendar for all 2024 events.

## Mini Mark's Playgroup



Happy holidays!

Playgroup will resume in Term 1, 2025 on Tuesday morning, 9.00am – 10.30am. *All welcome!*

[Read More](#)

## Study Hub



Need assistance with your study?

Visit the Bosco Campus Student Hub after school daily until 4.30pm.

## Out of School Hours Care



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

[Click here](#) to see the schedule of activities for the summer holidays.

[Find out more about OSHC.](#)

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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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