

**Dear Galen Community,**

As we move through Term 3, I'm continually inspired by the energy, commitment, and spirit of our students and staff. There's a lot happening across the college, and I'm pleased to share some highlights and important updates with you.

Staff Spirituality Day

Yesterday, our staff came together for a day of reflection, connection, and spiritual growth. This year, we joined almost 3,000 staff across Sandhurst schools to participate in a series of keynote presentations and workshops. These moments were vital in grounding our shared mission and values and in re-energising us for the important work we do each day with our students, families, and one another.

Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences – We Value Your Feedback

Thank you to all families who participated in our recent conferences. We are firm believers that we're partners in your child's education and so your engagement plays a crucial role in their success.

We're always looking to improve, and we're conscious this was a new way of doing things. If you have any feedback, we'd be happy to hear it – please email me or Anthony Batters your insights.

Music Camp

Our band and choir students recently attended a vibrant and enriching camp experience, based in Healesville. It was a fantastic opportunity to deepen their skills, collaborate creatively, and build lasting friendships. A big thank you to our staff, Beth Code, Felicity Davies and Matthew Turnbull, for making this possible.

Bullying. No Way! – National Week of Action

Galen proudly joined thousands of schools across Australia for the 2025 National Week of Action Against Bullying and Violence, from Monday 11 to Friday 15 August. This was a powerful opportunity to reinforce our commitment to a safe, respectful, and inclusive school environment.

Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) – December 2025

An exciting opportunity awaits our senior students! Year 10–12s have been emailed details about the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in December. With up to 12 sponsored places available, we encourage interested students to read the email, chat with parents, and see a staff member for a recommendation.

Follow us on socials**Founders Day 2025 – Lunch Pre-Orders Now Open**

Founders Day is just around the corner! Please remember that the Canteen will be closed on the day, and all food must be pre-ordered. Use the QR code provided around the school to place your order. Orders close Thursday 29 August – don't miss out!

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in nurturing the growth and wellbeing of every student at Galen. Let's continue to walk together in faith, learning, and community.

Shaun Mason | Principal

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LEADERSHIP TEAM

Principal

Shaun Mason

Deputy Principal Student Development:

Patrick Arcuri

Deputy Principal Learning, Teaching & Innovation:

Anthony Batters

Deputy Principal Catholic Identity:

Jim Samon

Deputy Principal Community, Culture & Engagement:

Kate Sleeman

Director Financial Services:

Carolyn Shaw

Executive Assistant to the Principal:

Tess Barnard

Community Engagement and Marketing:

Zoe Cooper

Teacher and House Leader:

Rob Spencer

Teacher and Data Coach:

Rebecca Newman

Teacher and Homeroom Mentor:

Christian McCarthy

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Principal

Shaun Mason

Parish Priest

Fr Nathan Verallo

Director Financial Services

Carolyn Shaw

Catholic Education Sandhurst Representative

Kim Butler

Parent Representatives

Lauren McCully (Chair)

Angelo Pomponio

Jodi Perkins

Chris Harvison

Cameron Gillies

AnnMaree Christian

Dates to Remember

***50th celebrations in gold**

August

VET Sport and Rec AFL 9s Clinic **Fri 15 Aug**

State QF Boys Year 7 AFL **Fri 15 Aug**

Dr Jared Cooney Horvath Parent **Mon 18 Aug**

Session 1

Geometry Art Excursion **Tue 19 Aug**

Year 11/12 Theatre Excursion **Wed 20 Aug**

VEX Robotics Competition Albury **Thu 21 Aug**

Scot Gardner Writing Workshop **Thu 21 Aug**

Kate Wild - Resilience Workshops **Thu 21 Aug**

Yr. 10 Canoe Bundalong Murray **Thu 21 Aug**

River Excursion departs

Delany House Feast **Wed 27 Aug**

50th Anniversary School Tours **Fri 29 Aug**

50th Anniversary Gala Evening **Fri 29 Aug**

50th Anniversary Mass **Sat 30 Aug**



Get your tickets for the 50th here

State Squad Achievements

Congratulations to Lily Lyster (Year 10), Holly McCarthy (Year 12), and Amelia Sharp (Year 12) on their selection in the Victorian U17 and U19 State Netball Squads. Their hard work, dedication, and talent have been recognised at this elite level – a fantastic achievement for these students and a proud moment for Galen.



Galen Teams Off to State Championships!

What a season it has been for Galen students! Multiple teams have earned the incredible opportunity to compete at state-level competitions over the coming weeks, showcasing their talent, dedication, and teamwork.

The teams representing the College include:

- Netball Boys 11/12
- Soccer 11/12 Boys
- Basketball 11/12 Boys
- Senior Hockey Mixed
- Year 7 AFL Boys
- Year 9/10 AFL Boys
- Year 11/12 AFL Girls

We are so proud of all our athletes and can't wait to see them shine on the state stage. Good luck to every player as they represent Galen and the region with skill, determination, and pride!

Photo below

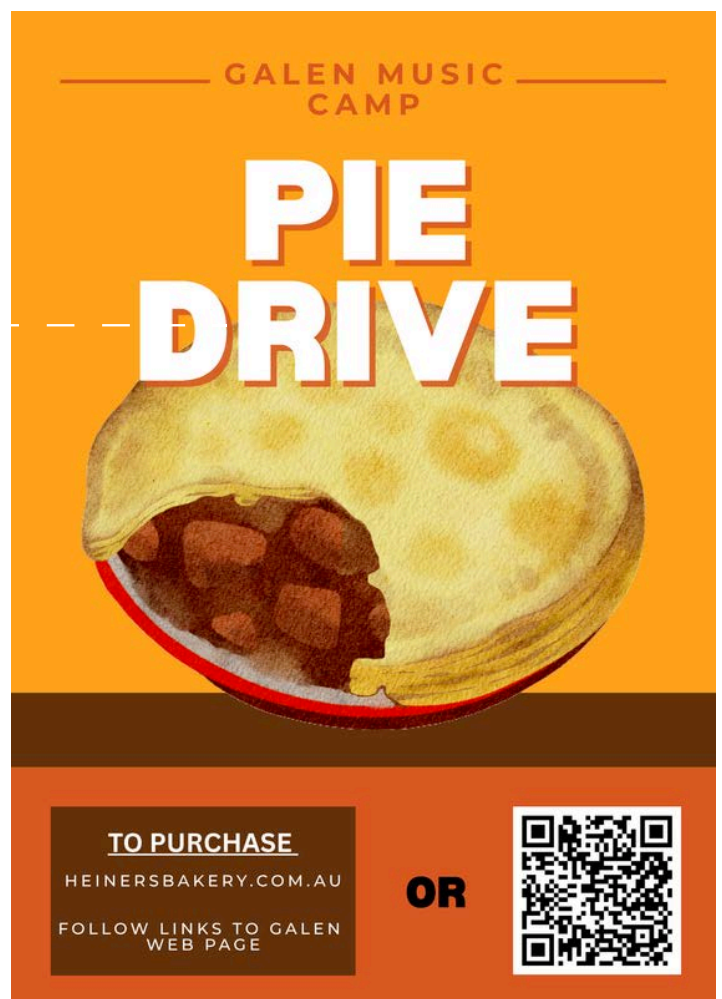
Back row: Ashley Primerano & Archer Hill (Soccer), Georgie Canning, Estella Hernandez & Niamh Lavis (Girls AFL)

Front row: Oliver Gillies (Hockey), Harrison O'Brien (AFL Yr 7), Charlie Lugg (Basketball), Callum Bott (Netball), Kaiden Wohlers (Absent – 9/10 AFL)



Folding for a Cause

Our amazing students have shown incredible dedication and compassion during Homelessness Week, folding more than 2,000 origami houses for a striking display in the Resource Centre. Each carefully crafted house represents hope, raising awareness about the importance of ending homelessness. This creative initiative not only brightened our school spaces but also sparked important conversations about empathy, social justice, and community action.



Behind the Scenes

Year 11 Media students had an exciting excursion to the Tipping Point studio on Tuesday, where they got a backstage tour and the chance to chat with Todd Woodbridge. They also experienced life as studio audience members for two episodes, which will be broadcast later this year. This hands-on visit offered a unique insight into television production and the world behind the camera.



Love sport? Turn your passion into a pathway.

Expressions of Interest are filling fast for Galen's Sports Education Pathway

Kicking off in 2026, this hands-on VCE VM program helps students turn their love of sport into real-world skills and career pathways.

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO
COMPLETE THE EOI**



**OPEN TO NEW
AND EXISTING
FAMILIES**





From Classrooms to Careers

The Year 10 Careers Days over Monday 28 and Tuesday 29 July marked an important step in preparing students to explore future career pathways.

Day 1: Career Pathways Exploration

Monday began with a panel discussion featuring Year 12 VCE and VM students, who shared their personal journeys and insights into their chosen pathways. Following this, four buses departed Galen College for various destinations:

- **Bus A:** Regional tour including GOTAFE Wangaratta, Brown Brothers Winery, Rural City of Wangaratta Child Care, and the Wangaratta Sports and Aquatic Centre.
- **Buses B & C:** Visits to La Trobe University Wodonga and Charles Sturt University Thurgoona.
- **Bus D:** Visits to Wodonga TAFE and La Trobe University.

These tours provided students with valuable insights into tertiary education environments and potential career paths.

Day 2: Careers Information Sessions

Tuesday focused on career information and subject selection. The day began with an overview of subjects offered at Galen, highlighting the importance of attending the Senior Information Evening for a deeper understanding of available options.

During Periods 2 to 4, students chose from over 40 professionals across diverse industries who generously shared their experiences and advice. Careers represented included:

- **Health & Emergency Services:** Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Ambulance Victoria, Fire Rescue, and Police
- **Trades & Apprenticeships:** Plumbing, Mechanics, Electrical, and Building
- **STEM & Technology:** Civil Engineering, Medical Imaging, and Farming AI
- **Creative & Communication:** Journalism, Education, and Business/Retail
- **Defence & Community Services:** Australian Defence Force, Social Work, and Local Government

The day concluded with students completing a career profile and drafting their subject selections, helping them align their interests with future study and career goals.

These Careers Days were a valuable reminder of the importance of planning, curiosity, and connection. A huge thank you to all staff, guest speakers, and institutions who made this event possible!

**2 WEEKS
TO GO!**

GALEN CATHOLIC COLLEGE



ANNIVERSARY

AUGUST 2025

Friday 29 | College Tours &
Gala Evening

Saturday 30 | Anniversary Mass

REGISTER TO ATTEND

**Whether you're a former staff or student of Champagnat,
St Joseph's or Galen, or part of our current school community -
you're part of our story.**

Join us this August as we celebrate 50 years of Galen.

Galen Alumni Chasing the Sun

Galen alumni Ryan Falconer and Olivia D'Agostino are part of the Deakin University Solar Car Team, DUST, and are preparing to compete in the Bridgestone World Solar Car Challenge.

Ryan, a former member of Galen's VEX Robotics team and now in his third year of a Mechatronics Engineering degree, serves as the Electrical Co-Lead for DUST and contributes as one of the team's key photographers.

Olivia, in her third year of a Design degree, leads the DUST Media Team and has applied her design skills to create the 2025 team logo and merchandise.

The team is currently in Darwin, readying their fully student-designed and built solar car for the race, which begins on 24 August and concludes in Adelaide on 31 August.

Keep an eye out for Ryan and Olivia in the news, and follow Team DUST on social media. Let's cheer them on and hope for plenty of sunshine and a strong tailwind as they race across the country!

[Follow the crew on Facebook](#)

[Follow the crew on Instagram](#)



Embedding Respectful Relationships

Galen Catholic College continues to lead in the Respectful Relationships (RR) program, supporting several Catholic primary schools and a secondary school in our region. This initiative aligns with the Victorian Government's Resilience, Rights, and Respectful Relationships (RRRR) framework, designed to develop students' social, emotional, and positive relationship skills.

The program covers eight key areas: Emotional Literacy, Personal Strengths, Positive Coping, Problem Solving, Stress Management, Help Seeking, Gender and Identity, and Positive Gender Relationships. Over the past five years, our team has focused on staff awareness, student-led initiatives with local primary schools, professional development, and integration of Respectful Relationships within the Health curriculum. In 2025, we aim to embed these principles across all areas of school life, addressing issues such as bullying, consent, misogyny, identity, respect, and resilience.

Curriculum Integration:

- **Year 7:** Emotional literacy, personal strengths, and positive gender relationships are explored through the Relationships, Bullying, and Puberty units.
- **Year 8:** The Mental Health unit covers positive coping, stress management, help-seeking, and personal strengths.
- **Years 9–10:** Students focus on making informed, positive decisions. Year 9 studies Respectful Relationships, Sexual Health, and Mental Health, while Year 10 links gender and identity, problem-solving, and responsible decision-making regarding alcohol, drugs, sexual activity, and conflict resolution. Across all year levels, consent and respectful behaviours are strongly emphasised.

Our RR team also provides guidance on challenging issues influenced by social media, online content, and public figures. Staff and community members are encouraged to provide input to help guide our ongoing focus.

Team members:

- Pat Arcuri – Deputy Principal, Student Development
- Kate Meehan – Wellbeing Team Leader
- James O'Brien – Student Counsellor
- Alex Carlin – Co-Curricular Leader of HOPE
- Danielle Bell – Staff Representative
- Ren White – Staff Representative

For enquiries or to learn more, please contact us at RR@galen.vic.edu.au.

From the Kitchens

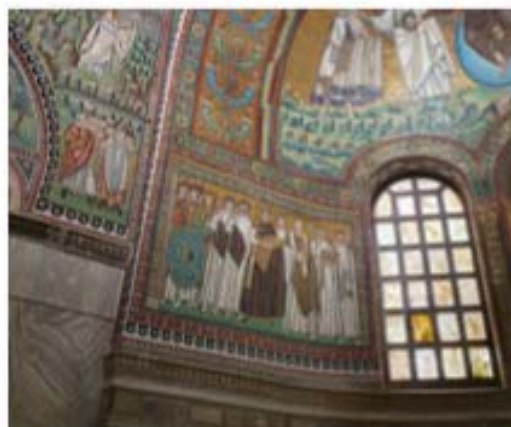


We are delighted to share an article by teacher Enrique Espinel, recently published in Dante Oggi magazine. Adapted from his scholarship trip to Bologna, Italy, last year, Enrique's study report offers a rich insight into his experiences and learnings abroad.



Dante Oggi
July 25

Teacher's award recipient: Enrique Espinel



My name is Enrique Espinel, and I am an Italian teacher at Galen Catholic College in Wangaratta. Born in Venezuela, Spanish is my native language, but I also speak English and Italian.

I am incredibly grateful to the Dante Alighieri Society of Melbourne for granting me the scholarship to study Italian in Italy. This opportunity allowed me to spend a month in Bologna, where I was able to immerse myself in the local culture and language.

During my stay, I formed meaningful connections with local shop owners and participated in community events. I was looking to improve my linguistic and communication skills in a short period. It was an intense and concentrated learning programme. One of the most valuable aspects of the course was the opportunity to converse with locals. I learned a great deal about the cultural and social dynamics of Italy. Beyond the classroom, I explored the culture, food, and history of the Emilia-Romagna region. I visited towns such as Ravenna, Parma, and Modena, learning about their unique cultural offerings, including the famous mosaics in Ravenna, in particular, the Justinian Mosaic in the Basilica of San Vitale.

I also spent time in Florence, absorbing its art and history. A highlight of my trip was a tour of a traditional balsamic vinegar producer in Modena. I was amazed at how each region is truly proud of the dishes and culinary traditions for which they are famous.

I like to help my students 'travel' to Italy in my classroom. I emphasise that learning Italian is not only being able to understand Italian and being able to communicate, but also learning about the cultures and the language. This trip has not only enhanced my Italian language skills but has also enriched my understanding of Italian culture. I can now bring real-life experiences into my classroom, helping my students understand the Italian language within its cultural context. By immersing myself in Italy, I have expanded my vocabulary and gained confidence in speaking, which has been evident to my colleagues and students.

I also advocate for functional language use in the classroom, emphasizing the importance of practical communication. My experience in Italy has allowed me to refine this approach. This exposure has significantly boosted my confidence in both spoken and written Italian.

In conclusion, this scholarship has been an invaluable professional development opportunity. I am deeply thankful to the Dante Alighieri Society for making this experience possible. It has not only improved my language proficiency but also provided a wealth of cultural knowledge that will benefit my students and colleagues at Galen Catholic College.



SHARE YOUR STORY

Are you aged 10 to 19 and passionate about writing?
We invite you to explore your creativity and showcase your talent by submitting an original piece of writing.
This is your chance to develop your craft and imagination. Be heard and be celebrated.
Let your words make an impact—enter now!

ENQUIRIES

Wangaratta Library
21 Docker Street, Wangaratta 3677
Phone: 03 5721 2366
Email: library@wangaratta.vic.gov.au
Entry form: facebook.com/WangarattaLibrary

ABOUT THE AWARD

The Wangaratta Young Writers Award is run by the Rotary Club of Appin Park Wangaratta and Rotary Club of Wangaratta and is supported by Wangaratta Library.
The award recognises writing in two categories for which there is a first, second and third prize.
The award categories:
• Story (2000 word limit)
• Poetry OR song lyrics (50 line limit)

AWARD NIGHT

An award presentation will be held on
Thursday 9 October 2025 at Wangaratta Library



Download the entry form: facebook.com/WangarattaLibrary



You are warmly invited to celebrate
The 150th Anniversary
of
Holy Cross Catholic Church,
2335 Whitfield Road Moyhu
Sunday, September 14, 2025
Thanksgiving Mass 10am

To be followed by a Light Luncheon and Historic Display
at the Moyhu Soldiers Memorial Hall

Please RSVP by Wed. August 27 for catering and planning purposes.
Julie - 0458293572
Vicki - 0488 177 713
Joan - 0427 276 392

Mass will be celebrated on Saturday 13 September at 10.00am
in St Joseph's Church Whitfield as part of the celebration

