



Dear Galen Catholic College Community,

Welcome back to all members of the Galen community. I trust that despite the heat, the start to the school year has been relatively smooth. We're thrilled to have everyone back onsite – and we especially **welcome our new Year 7 students, and the 12 new students** that commenced their education with us this year in other year levels too.

Welcome also to our new staff for 2026 – teachers, Emma Appleford and Gabrielle Pirie, our trainees, Cody Johnson, Faith Salazar and Ben Thornton, and to our new First Aid Officer, Sammy Conroy. It's great to have you join us and work with you supporting our students across the school. Please make these new staff welcome as you come across them throughout the year.

This year, we continue to work closely with colleagues across the Sandhurst Diocese to review, refine, and strengthen the way we go about our work. **Magnify Sandhurst** has reshaped how our schools operate, helping us create calm, orderly environments that support learning, and deepening our shared understanding of the science of learning. These improvements are making a meaningful difference in classrooms every single day, ensuring that the time we spend teaching has the greatest possible impact.

This evening, we celebrate a **significant milestone for our new Year 12 cohort** as they are presented with their **Year 12 Jumper**. We wish them all the best as they commence their final year of schooling and look forward to seeing them proudly wearing their Galen jumper in the community (even in this heat!).

Next week, the Year 12 students embark on their **Year 12 Retreat** – another highlight of their year as it gives them a chance to reflect on where they have come from, what they want to achieve this year, and plan for their wonderful future beyond Galen.

At the other end of the school, our **Year 7 FIRST Day** occurs on Wednesday 18th February, providing our Year 7s a chance to delve into what it means to be a Galen student. We warmly **welcome all our parents of Year 7 students that evening** to join us in the Galen PAC from 5:30pm.

Our **Opening School Mass** will take place on Tuesday 3rd March this year and we warmly extend an invitation to our whole Galen community to attend this special celebration with us.

As always, please feel welcome to contact me at school if you have any questions or concerns.

Take care,

Shaun Mason | **Principal**

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Dates to Remember

*whole school event in red

	Feb/March
Year 12 Retreat departs	Mon 9 Feb
School Photo Day	Thu 12 Feb
Shrove Tuesday	Tue 17 Feb
Ash Wednesday	Wed 18 Feb
Year 7 First Day & Parent/Guardian Evening	Wed 18 Feb
Whole School Swimming Carnival	Fri 20 Feb
Year 9 Andrew Jobling Visit	Mon 23 Feb
Opening Mass	Tue 3 Mar
Patrick House Feast Day	Wed 4 Mar

Coming up at GALEN CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Thursday 5 Feb
Year 12
Jumper Presentation



**Monday 9 –
Wednesday 11 Feb**
Year 12 Retreat



Thursday 12 Feb
School Photos

Wednesday 18 Feb
Year 7 First Day &
Parent/Guardian
Evening



Friday 20 Feb
Swimming Carnival



Wednesday 3 Mar
Opening Mass

School Photos: Thursday 12 February

School photos will be taken on Thursday 12 February in the Galen Stadium. Families are asked to order photos online prior to the day using the details below.

[Order photos here](#)

Code: ZYD8GZDN

PHOTO SCHEDULE

Students will be collected from class – please do not go to the Stadium unless directed.

- **Period 1:** Year 7
- **Period 2:** Year 8
- **Period 3:** Year 9
- **Period 4:** Year 10
- **Lunchtime:** Sibling photos
- **Period 5:** Year 11

Staff and Year 12 students may attend at any time throughout the day.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Students must wear full academic school uniform (items from the academic wardrobe only):

- No jumpers (Year 12 jumpers accepted)
- No PE uniform
- No visible shirts underneath the uniform

Please ensure students are well presented on the day.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The Year 12 group photo will be taken later in Term 1.
- To assist with organisation, **sibling photo orders are strongly encouraged before Thursday 12 February.**
- Students absent on the day will have a mop-up photo session on Tuesday 17 February (Periods 1 & 2).

Galen Catholic College

SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2026

FRIDAY 20th FEB
WSAC | 9AM-3PM

- > EVENT SIGN UPS ON SIMON
- > BYO LUNCH OR BY PRE-ORDERS ONLY
- > ORDER VIA QR BY 9AM 13/02

QR Code

**Got a Galen story
to share?**

We'd love to hear it!

Send your contributions to
news@galen.vic.edu.au

Year 9 Personal Development Day with Andrew Jobling

On Monday 23 February, all Year 9 students will take part in a full-day Personal Development experience at the Galen Performing Arts Centre, led by author, speaker and former AFL player Andrew Jobling.

Throughout the day, students will engage in a series of interactive workshops designed to support their growth in motivation, self-belief and goal setting. Using storytelling, reflection and practical activities, Andrew will guide students through exploring identity, breaking down limiting beliefs and developing the mindset needed to become the best version of themselves.

Andrew will share his personal journey – from fear and insecurity to elite sport, authorship and purposeful living – helping students reflect on their own experiences and future aspirations. The day will focus on building strong identity, understanding the power of words, and encouraging students to articulate their goals, values and hopes for the year ahead in a supportive environment.

To extend the impact of the program, a Parent and Guardian Information Session will be held that evening at 6pm in the Galen Performing Arts Centre. This session will provide an overview of the day, insights into the strategies students are learning, and practical ways families can support their child's wellbeing, confidence and goal development at home.

Andrew Jobling is the author of eight published books and brings over 30 years' experience in mindset coaching, leadership, wellbeing and education. His work in schools focuses on helping young people live with purpose, resilience and optimism.



Year 7 FIRST Day – A Special Start to Secondary School

Wednesday 18 February will be the Year 7 FIRST Day, a dedicated day designed to help our newest students settle into secondary school life, build connections and feel confident in their new environment.

On the day, Year 7 students are asked to wear casual clothes in their House colours and bring bathers, a towel, drink bottle and a hat. A range of activities will run throughout the day, with morning tea and lunch provided for all students.

The FIRST Day is an important milestone in the transition to secondary school, offering students the opportunity to form friendships, develop House spirit and become more familiar with the routines and expectations of Galen.

Later that evening, families are warmly invited to attend the Year 7 Parent and Guardian Evening, commencing at 5.30pm in the Galen Performing Arts Centre. This session is designed to support families as they begin their secondary school journey, with time to connect, ask questions and hear key information. A pizza supper will be provided at 7.00pm.

We look forward to welcoming our Year 7 students and their families for a positive and memorable start to the year!

Year 7
Parent / Guardian Evening

Wednesday 18 February
5:30 – 7:30pm

Galen Performing Arts Centre
Pizza supper provided!

2026 IMMUNISATION PROGRAM AT GALEN COLLEGE FOR ALL STUDENTS IN YEAR 7 & YEAR 10

Dear Parent/Guardian

To provide or update consent for your child to be immunised at school, **you will need to create** a CIRV (Central Immunisation Records Victoria) account.

STEP 1: Log in to provide consent Yes/No : <https://portal.cirv.vic.gov.au>

STEP 2:

Once you have an account with CIRV you can enter the session code link below for your school immunisation session. Once your child has been vaccinated the information will be uploaded to AIR (Australian Immunisation Register)

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE COMPLETE ON-LINE CONSENT FOR EITHER 'YES' OR 'NO' BY FRIDAY
13TH FEBRUARY 2026 FOR ALL YEAR LEVELS.**

It is important to note the following steps when completing the online form:

- Complete the form using the correct information
- Select the 'consent' button
- Select 'save' before leaving the site

YEAR 7

<https://portal.cirv.vic.gov.au//PrivacyCollection/?id=7e418514-b5c8-f011-bbd3-7c1e5262749f&Year7>

YEAR 10

<https://portal.cirv.vic.gov.au//PrivacyCollection/?id=c043402d-b7c8-f011-bbd3-7c1e5289e8d7&Year10>

VACCINATION DATES AT YOUR SCHOOL

Date we will be at school	Vaccine * see below	Year
19th MARCH 2026 (Thursday)	HPV (1 dose only) BTX (1 dose only)	Year 7 only
25th JUNE 2026 (Thursday)	Meningococcal ACWY (1 dose only)	Year 10 only

ABSENTEES: If your child is absent

on the day of vaccinations, you can attend one of the monthly Public Immunisation Sessions held at the Wangaratta Children's Services Centre. Book on-line through Council's web-site: Immunisations Rural City of Wangaratta

Alternatively, you can have the vaccinations at your Doctor.

*HPV – Human Papillomavirus

*BTX – Adolescent Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis [Whooping Cough]

*Meningococcal ACWY

If you require any further information regarding the school immunisation program, please contact the immunisation team on 57220888 or by email: r.chambers@wangaratta.vic.gov.au

Year 7 & 8 Football Program

During Terms 1 and 4, Galen Year 7 and 8 students have the opportunity to participate in Thursday morning football training sessions, held at 7.15am. The program has been met with an outstanding response, with 60 students registered and all places now filled for 2026.

The program is led by Mr Lombardi and Mr Campbell, who are excited to build on the success of the Term 4 trial group last year and continue to grow the program in the years ahead.

The program officially commenced on Thursday 5 February, with an information and learning session for both students and parents, attended by Mr Mason. This session provided an overview of the program's goals and expectations before moving into regular weekly training.

Training sessions now continue every Thursday morning for the remainder of Term 1 and Term 4, focusing on developing football fundamentals, fitness, game awareness, and, most importantly, strengthening students' connection to the school community.



A Taste of Reading

The Galen Library welcomed Year 7 classes to the library this week with a book taster introduction session. The short session was delivered by library staff to offer students some handy tips on how to find the right book for their personal reading. The session gave students the opportunity to investigate and select a genre that best suited their tastes.

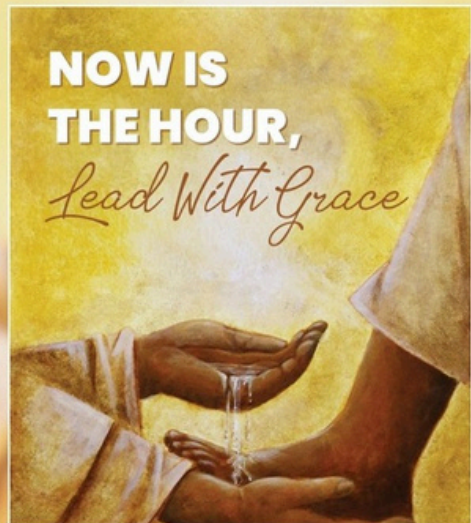
Some students were surprised to learn that not all readers select their books in the same manner and that for some they even read the book in a different way.

The Galen Library promotes the benefits of personal reading as an excellent method of increasing vocabulary and comprehension while allowing the student to experience a range of emotions and harness their imagination through the storyline. A book is an excellent choice for a little digital downtime, and it never needs recharging!



OPENING MASS

**NOW IS
THE HOUR,**
Lead With Grace



Tuesday 3rd March, 2026
11am | Galen Stadium
Light refreshments to follow

Spreading Festive Cheer Through Music

The Galen Choir was proud to take part in two community events last festive season: Wangaratta Carols by Candlelight and Milawa Carols by Candlelight. Singing to large crowds in beautiful candlelit settings, the choir performed a mix of traditional Christmas carols and seasonal favourites, helping to create a warm, joyful atmosphere for people of all ages.

At both events, the choir showed strong musicianship and a real enthusiasm for connecting with the community. Their performances were a credit to their ongoing hard work through the Galen Instrumental Program, as well as to their families and staff who support our young musicians.

A huge congrats to all involved.



Galen Students Shine at Off-Site Art Exhibition

Galen students Faith Salazar, Abbey Butler, Jose Obaniana, and Lili Ashby proudly represented their school in a special student art exhibition in Benalla which opened on January 30.

The room was alive with creativity, filled with art enthusiasts, teachers, and supportive parents who gathered to admire the students' selected works. Gallery Director Eric Nash delivered a heartfelt speech, praising the students' spectacular talents and creative vision. He highlighted how their diverse and expressive artworks transformed the exhibition space, making it vibrant, inspiring, and rich with artistic energy.

The exhibition was a memorable experience for the students and a testament to the strength of Galen's creative community, celebrating emerging artists and their growing confidence in sharing their work with the public.



From Galen to the World Stage



We're thrilled to share some outstanding news from our Drama department. Abby Hart (Year 10) and Ivy Koulis (Year 9) have been selected for the prestigious Drama VIC/Travel Gang 'World Stage Tour' to London and Paris in January 2027.

Only 23 students from across Victoria were chosen following a competitive audition process, including a monologue performance and written application. The tour offers once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to train with world-renowned theatre companies and practitioners, including Frantic Assembly, the Lecoq School and Disney.

We're also delighted that Drama teacher Abbie Hough will be accompanying Abby and Ivy on the tour, supporting them as they take their talents to the international stage. Congratulations to Abby and Ivy on this exceptional achievement, we can't wait to follow your journey. Learn more about the tour through the link below.

[Learn about the World Stage Tour](#)

Local Running Champ

A huge (albeit belated) congratulations to Year 8 student Judd Campbell on an outstanding result at the Wang Sports Carnival, taking out the 400m off scratch.



National Cricket Squad

Congratulations to Year 11 student Joe Lavis who made the Country NSW U17 Cricket Team for the National Championships over the school holidays!

SQUAD ANNOUNCEMENT

NSW COUNTRY | U17 MALE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
5 - 12 JANUARY, BRISBANE

PLAYERS

SAM DAVIS (C) | CENTRAL NORTH

LACHLAN BARRY | SOUTHERN DISTRICTS

FLETCHER BYRNE | WESTERN

DAVID CALDOW | RIVERINA

BLAKE CATTLE | ILLAWARRA

TASMAN DAVIDSON | NEWCASTLE

TOBY DERRICK | RIVERINA

JOE LAVIS | RIVERINA

ARCHIE MCMASTER | CENTRAL NORTH

ARCHIE O'HARA | ILLAWARRA

NICK OLIVER | RIVERINA

LOCHLAN SHOEMARK | WESTERN

GEORGE VERTH | CENTRAL COAST

COOPER WILLIAMS | NORTH COAST

Elevate Education's 2026 Parent Webinar Series Schedule

Parent Testimonials

"Amazing ideas to help your child improve their study effectiveness! The webinars are based on sound principles as well as research. They contain great ideas that can be easily implemented. The serious of webinars also contain suggestions that can be used to start difficult discussions about studying more effectively with your own child. I wish this company had been around when I was a student!"

"I recently attended a free online webinar by Elevate Education on the topic of Student Motivation. It was presented in a clear, engaging and professional manner and offered many valuable tips and strategies on how to manage and enhance your child's motivation. It also gave an insight into how to help your child organise their homework tasks. I would highly recommend this webinar for all parents of high school students."



TERM 1 2026

- FEBRUARY 11** **GETTING (AND KEEPING) YOUR CHILD MOTIVATED**
How to help your child develop and maintain a positive approach to studying.
- FEBRUARY 25** **HELPING YOUR CHILD MANAGE THEIR TIME**
How to support your child in staying organised, meeting deadlines, and balancing school and fun.
- MARCH 11** **MAKING TECHNOLOGY AN ALLY (&NOT THE ENEMY)**
How to break the tech-procrastination cycle and use apps to motivate their child to study.
- MARCH 25** **HELPING IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S MEMORY**
How their child's memory works and what they can do to help improve information retention and recall.

TERM 2 2026

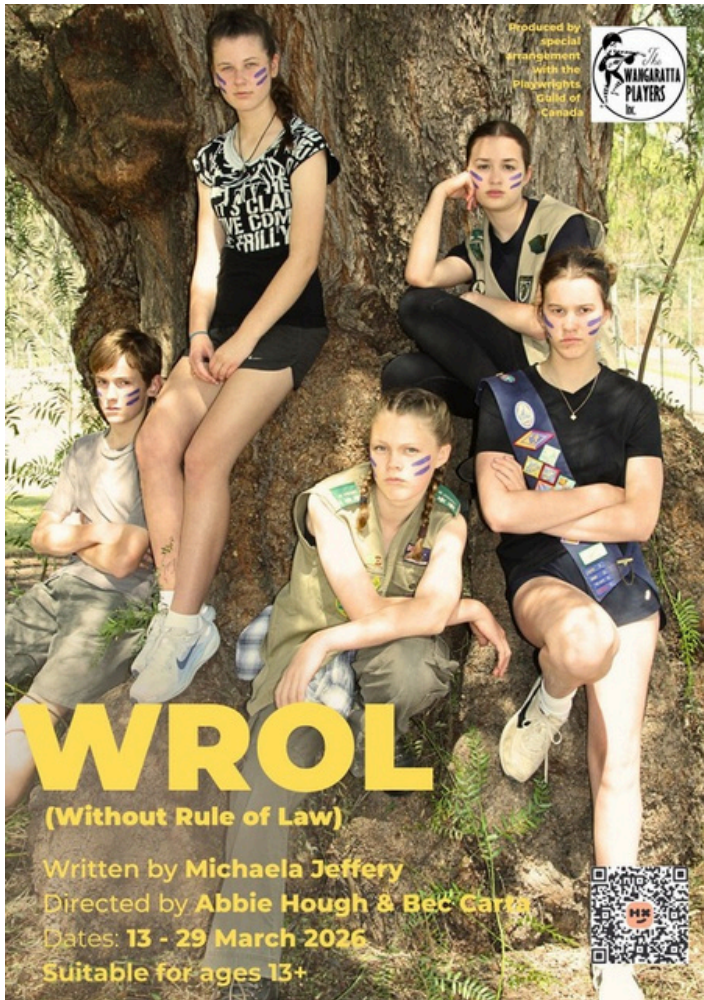
- MAY 6** **HELPING YOUR CHILD NAVIGATE THE WORLD OF AI AND STUDY**
How to help your child understand what AI agents such as LLMs are and how they work, the most common mistakes students make when using AI, and how you can help your child to use AI ethically at home.
- MAY 20** **HELPING YOUR CHILD PREPARE FOR EXAMS**
Maximising exam marks using practice papers and effective revision planning.
- JUNE 3** **SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD DURING EXAMS**
Supporting your child in the run-up to exams by establishing good routines in the days before.
- JUNE 17** **ASK ME ANYTHING (LIVE Q&A)**
Led entirely by parent questions – we provide actionable, realistic solutions to problems or concerns they may have.
- JULY 1** **HELPING YOUR CHILD ALLEVIATE STRESS**
Advice on starting a dialogue around wellbeing with their child and effective stress management techniques.

TERM 3 2026

- AUGUST 5** **GETTING (AND KEEPING) YOUR CHILD MOTIVATED**
How to help your child develop and maintain a positive approach to studying.
- AUGUST 19** **MAKING TECHNOLOGY AN ALLY (&NOT THE ENEMY)**
How to break the tech-procrastination cycle and use apps to motivate their child to study.
- SEPTEMBER 2** **HELPING YOUR CHILD IMPROVE THEIR NOTE TAKING**
What their child's notes should look like and how they can help them study more efficiently.
- SEPTEMBER 16** **SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD DURING EXAMS**
Supporting your child in the run-up to exams by establishing good routines in the days before.

TERM 4 2026

- OCTOBER 28** **HELPING YOUR CHILD MANAGE THEIR TIME**
How to support your child in staying organised, meeting deadlines, and balancing school and fun.
- NOVEMBER 11** **HELPING YOUR CHILD ALLEVIATE STRESS**
Advice on starting a dialogue around wellbeing with their child and effective stress management techniques.
- NOVEMBER 25** **BUILDING RESILIENCE IN YOUR CHILD**
How to help their child bounce back from setbacks and navigate challenging times with confidence.
- DECEMBER 9** **SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS**
How to help their child set goals for the future and develop a realistic plan to achieve them.



WROL
(Without Rule of Law)

Written by Michaela Jeffery
Directed by Abbie Hough & Bec Carter
Dates: 13 - 29 March 2026
Suitable for ages 13+

FREE AFL CLINIC

LEVEL THE FIELD

FRIDAY
27.02.26
4PM - 7PM

DANE SWAN **W.J FINDLAY OVAL** **AIRLIE RUNNALLS**

LOVE FOOTY? DON'T MISS THIS!

- FREE sports clinic for ages 12-18
- Get active, have fun, and connect with local sport
- Learn from AFL stars Dane Swan & Airlie Runnalls
- FREE sausage sizzle

 **REGISTRATION MORE INFORMATION** 

nesay.com.au | (03) 5720 2201


THE WANGARATTA STUDIO OF DRAMA.

Enrolments are now taking place for the Wangaratta Studio of Drama, now in its 21st year.

Held on Thursday nights at the Galen Performing Arts Centre. The classes are for both primary and secondary students who love to perform, create and have fun.

Led by experienced teacher Julie Nolan, students develop confidence, communication skills and the ability to work in teams. Whether your child dreams of the stage or simply wants to build self-esteem and create new friendships this program will help them to shine. Students are welcome to try the classes before they sign up.

Contact Julie Nolan on 0408145096 for further information.



The Wangaratta Studio of Drama!

Taking enrolments for 2026.
Julie Nolan 0408145096

**YOUTH
YOUTH
YOUTH
YOUTH**

ARE YOU A YOUNG PERSON AGED 12-17?

PARTICIPATE & RECEIVE A \$25 VOUCHER.

**JOIN A 30-MINUTE ONLINE
INTERVIEW TO GIVE FEEDBACK ON
BODY IMAGE AND WELLBEING
SCREENING TOOL.**

**WE JUST WANT TO HEAR
HOW THESE QUESTIONS
SOUND TO YOUNG
PEOPLE LIKE YOU.**



**FLINDERS UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE FOR MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING
QUESTIONS?**
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