



Wrap Up

2026 Issue 2 February 19



Dear Galen Catholic College Community,

What a vibrant start to the week it has been. Our **Year 7 FIRST Day** and our inaugural **FIRST Evening** with Year 7 families brought wonderful energy to the school. Both events gave us the opportunity to welcome the newest members of our community and to share what it truly means to be a Galen student, how we learn, move through our spaces, and care for one another.

Seeing our Year 7s exploring the school with big smiles, proudly wearing their house colours, was a real highlight. Thank you to the families who made time in their busy lives to join us for the evening sessions. Your presence matters, and we deeply value the partnership we share with you in educating the young people entrusted to our care.

In beautifully fitting timing, our FIRST events coincided with **Ash Wednesday** – the beginning of Lent and an invitation for us as a Catholic community to pause, reflect, and consider how we might renew our hearts and actions in the weeks ahead.

I also had the privilege of spending time with our **Year 12 students on their Retreat** at Howmans Gap, Falls Creek. Set in the stunning alpine surrounds, the retreat offered our students the space to reflect on where they've come from, where they stand now, and the paths they are shaping for their future. Witnessing their growth, independence, and support for one another was a joy and a reminder of the strong cohort they continue to become.

Finally, I would like to ask a small favour of all families. Shortly, you will receive an email with a link to the Enhancing Catholic School Identity (ECSI) survey. Conducted every five years, this survey invites all staff, students, and families in Catholic schools to provide feedback.

Your responses are vital as they help shape the direction of our school, inform how we remain responsive to the needs of our community, and ensure we continue to live out our Catholic identity with authenticity and relevance.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Shaun Mason | Principal

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Dates to Remember

*whole school event in red

Feb/March

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

Grade 6 Leadership Day

Thu 5 Mar

Discovery Evening

Thu 5 Mar

Project Compassion Casual Clothes Day

Fri 6 Mar

Labour Day Public Holiday

Mon 9 Mar

Grade 5 Discovery Day

Wed 18 Mar

Year 7 Immunisations

Thu 19 Mar

Coming up at GALEN CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Friday 20 Feb
Swimming Carnival



Tuesday 3 Mar
Opening Mass



Wednesday 4 Mar
Patrick House
Feast Day



Thursday 5 March
Discovery Evening



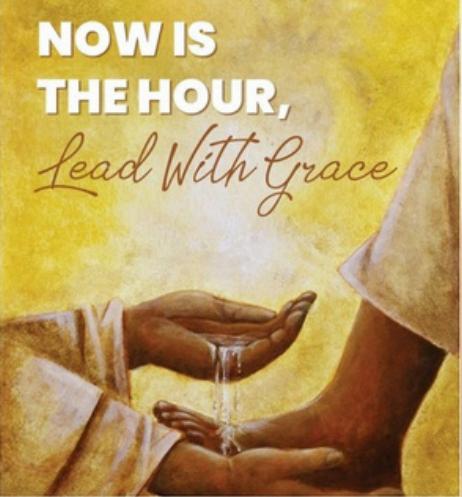
Friday 6 March
Casual Clothes Day



Wednesday 19 March
Year 7 Immunisations



OPENING MASS



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

**Got a Galen
story
to share?**

We'd love to hear it!

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

Christ the King Catholic Parish

Mass times

St Patrick's

Saturday: 10.00am, 6.00pm
Sunday: 8.00am, 10:30am, 5.00pm
Weekdays:
Thursday: 8.00am (Delany Chapel)
Friday: 12.05pm

Our Lady's

Saturday: 4.00pm
Sunday: 9.00am
Weekdays:
Tuesday and Wednesday: 9.00am

Moyhu

Every Sunday 10.00am except the first Sunday of the month which is at Whitfield at 10.00am

Boorhaman

First Saturday of the month at 6.00pm

Eldorado

Second Saturday of the month at 6.00pm

Glenrowan

Sunday: 5.00pm (Latin Mass)



Jumper Presentation

Thursday 5 February marked a significant milestone for our Class of 2026, as they gathered for the first official event of their final year at Galen – the Year 12 Jumper Presentation!

In his address, Principal Shaun Mason captured the moment perfectly, reminding students that this year is about stepping forward with confidence and purpose:

"Receiving your Year 12 jumper tonight is your moment of stepping into the driver's seat. It's not just an item of clothing. Your jumper is a symbol of leadership, responsibility, and maturity... a reminder that this is your journey now - and you choose how you travel it."



Year 12 Retreat: Walking to Emmaus

Last week our Year 12 students stepped away from the busyness of school life to participate in their Year 12 retreat experience, centred on the scripture story of the Walk to Emmaus. Throughout the experience, students were invited to slow down, reflect, and recognise the presence of those who walk their journey alongside them.

Through shared stories, small group conversations, activities, prayer and quiet moments, the students explored what it means to recognise the sacred in everyday encounters. The retreat created space for connection, with peers, with staff and with their own emerging sense of purpose as leaders of our community.



Brigid House Feast Day

On 4th February, our house celebrated Brigid Feast Day. The day began with the house captains receiving their badges, which was a great achievement for all the 2026 captains. It was exciting to watch them be recognised for their leadership.

After that, we had a head-to-head year-level scavenger hunt around the school. It was so exciting running around with my friends, searching for clues, and trying to beat the other teams. It was a fun and friendly competition, and I enjoyed working together as a team while exploring different parts of the school.

At recess, we got house-coloured donuts. I could see lots of students walking around with them, and the donuts were delicious. It was fun seeing everyone showing their house colours.

Overall, Brigid Feast Day was really fun and enjoyable. I loved taking part in all the activities, and it was nice to celebrate with all my friends. The day made me feel happy and included, and I hope we can have another celebration like this next year.

Annabel Batters and Catherine Thomas

Brigid Year 8 Leaders



Uniting Against Poverty

Throughout Lent, we are called to Unite Against Poverty, and Galen's Caritas Team - a group of student leaders from Years 7 to 12 - have been working hard to raise awareness and funds for communities in need across Africa, Asia, the Pacific, and beyond. Every Homeroom will receive a Project Compassion donation box to collect donations throughout Lent, leading up to a Casual Clothes Day with a gold coin donation.

How to Get Involved:

- Bring in donations to your Homeroom box.
- Families and students can also donate via their House's QR code & fundraising page links.
- Join in on the Causal Clothes Day on Friday 6 March! Bring a gold coin donation.
- Get involved in our other awareness raising events and fundraising - watch this space!

As a bit of friendly competition, each House's fundraising total will contribute to an overall school tally - let's see which House can make the biggest impact!

Every donation, big or small, helps Caritas Australia provide essentials like clean water, food, education, and healthcare to those who need it most. Together, we can create a more just and fairer world for all!

Let's make a difference, Galen!

Scan the QR codes below or click on them to visit each House's fundraising page.



Brigid



Champagnat



Delany



Chisholm



Glowrey



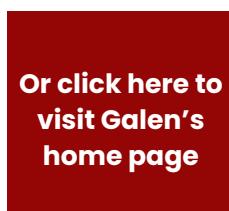
MacKillop



Patrick



Vincent



Or click here to visit Galen's home page

Bold Ideas, Brave Design

On Thursday 5 February, our Year 9 and 10 Textiles students, along with the Year 11 Product Design class, travelled to Melbourne to explore the Vivienne Westwood and Rei Kawakubo exhibition. The visit offered a rare opportunity to experience the groundbreaking work of two of the most influential designers in contemporary fashion.

Students attended a presentation by gallery staff before they were able to closely examine the designers' innovative garments, unconventional materials, and bold construction techniques. The exhibition highlighted both Westwood's rebellious, punk-inspired aesthetic and Kawakubo's sculptural, avant-garde approach to form, providing valuable insight into how fashion can push creative and cultural boundaries.

The excursion sparked lively discussion and idea-gathering, with many students leaving inspired to experiment more boldly in their own projects. It was a memorable day that broadened our understanding of design and encouraged students to think beyond traditional textiles and product design conventions.

Sonia Bourke

Arts & Technology Teacher



Billings Brothers Ride to State Success

We congratulate Levi (Year 11) and Jackson (Year 9) Billings on their outstanding performances at the Victorian Mountain Bike Cross Country State Championships in Eildon.

Levi delivered an exceptional ride to claim the Under 19 Men's State Championship title, while Jackson also impressed, finishing 6th in the Under 17 category against strong competition from across Victoria.

Both brothers have also enjoyed consistent success throughout the Victorian Mountain Bike Championship Series, with Levi finishing 1st overall and Jackson securing 4th overall.

Their success at the state championships and in the series was the result of rigorous training, support from their local bike shop, Westend Cycles, and their involvement in both the Victorian and National Mountain Bike Academies. Here, they benefited from expert coaching and training opportunities at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) in Canberra, as well as at top mountain bike parks in Victoria.

Their dedication and hard work continue to pay off, and we wish them all the best as they prepare for upcoming national competitions in Canberra and at Mount Buller.

● YEAR 7 FIRST DAY ●



MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL PROUDLY PRESENTS

CLASS CLOWNS 2026



NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL COMEDY COMPETITION AND WORKSHOP PROGRAM

FREE TO PARTICIPATE!
open to students 14-18 years

THU 26 FEB
FRUIT FLY CIRCUS

FOR MORE INFO & TO SIGN UP
HEAD TO CLASSCLOWNS.COM.AU

sign up to receive the...



headspace
Wangaratta

newsletter!



Keep up to date with tips for a healthy headspace, what's on locally, exciting opportunities for young people, youth-led blogs, good news stories & more!



Women's DANCE PARTY Fundraiser

An intergenerational celebration of sisterhood!

- Tickets \$75 incl. entry & finger food (\$60 Seniors/Concession)
- Drinks at bar prices
- 18 yrs & beyond
- Tubbzmix Entertainment playing the best party anthems incl. 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's, 00's and today
- All dance abilities welcome!
- Dress code: 1920's



20 MARCH 2026

6.30 PM – 10.30 PM
QUALITY HOTEL GATEWAY
WANGARATTA

100% of profits supporting local kids through Wangaratta's Big Brothers Big Sisters Program

Scan QR for tickets or visit <https://events.humanitix.com/women-s-dance-party-fundraiser-2026>




FREE OF CHARGE!!

WANGARATTA RANGERS
WOMENS BASEBALL
COME & TRY

THURSDAY 12/02 | 5:30PM
THURSDAY 19/02 | 5:30PM
THURSDAY 26/02 | 5:30PM
Last session/preseason Barbecue | 6:30pm onwards

 wangarattarangers.com
 wangarattarangers@hotmail.com
 Targoora Park, 337 Wangaratta-Whitfield Road