



LIFE TO THE FULL

Emmanuel  
College

# College Newsletter

## From the desk of

17 MARCH 2026

*The Principal*

Janine Biggin

Welcome to Week 8 of Term 1 and Happy St Patrick's Day.

This is the first newsletter you have received from the College since February. We will now return to a fortnightly cycle, given the matters we were addressing in our system has been rectified.

### Camps

Over recent weeks we have concluded the Year 7 camps, and it has been wonderful to see the Year 7 students from both campuses have the opportunity to connect with their peers through the camp experience. It was clearly a worthwhile experience for all students, and I am especially grateful to our many staff who choose to join students and make these camps possible. To our three staff leaders on these camps; Michael Gray, Stephanie Dervan and Mathew Duke, it is a great deal of work to coordinate and organise the finer details of a school camp and then attend and be responsible for the overall running of the event. I am eternally grateful for their commitment and generosity.

### College Staffing

It has been an exciting time at the College with staff having just returned from parental leave. We have welcomed back Matt Shiel at SPC and Martin Joncevski at NDC. My thanks to Dave Barr for taking on the role of Head of Student Engagement during Martin's absence and thanks to Jack Cairns for taking on the role of House Leader of Winters in Matt's absence. We have two more staff who will shortly become parents too.

In regards to the staffing at the College, while the College has been impacted by the teacher shortage, there has been extensive interviewing of potential staff undertaken. Within this newsletter you will note the new staff that we have welcomed. As indicated, some of these staff will begin with us in Term 2. We are continuing to interview for any remaining or upcoming absences due to staff going on leave. While we have also had some unexpected staff absences too, we will continue to source suitable staff.

We keep Tarryn Abraham in our prayers following a recent cancer diagnosis. Tarryn, Senior Director People and Culture and a valued member of the College Executive, continues in her role when she is able throughout her treatment. Emily Kiss is currently teaching Tarryn's Year 7 Religion class until she is well enough to return to the classroom. Brad Abraham, a staff member at the St Paul's Campus, and the Abraham family are very much in our thoughts at this time.



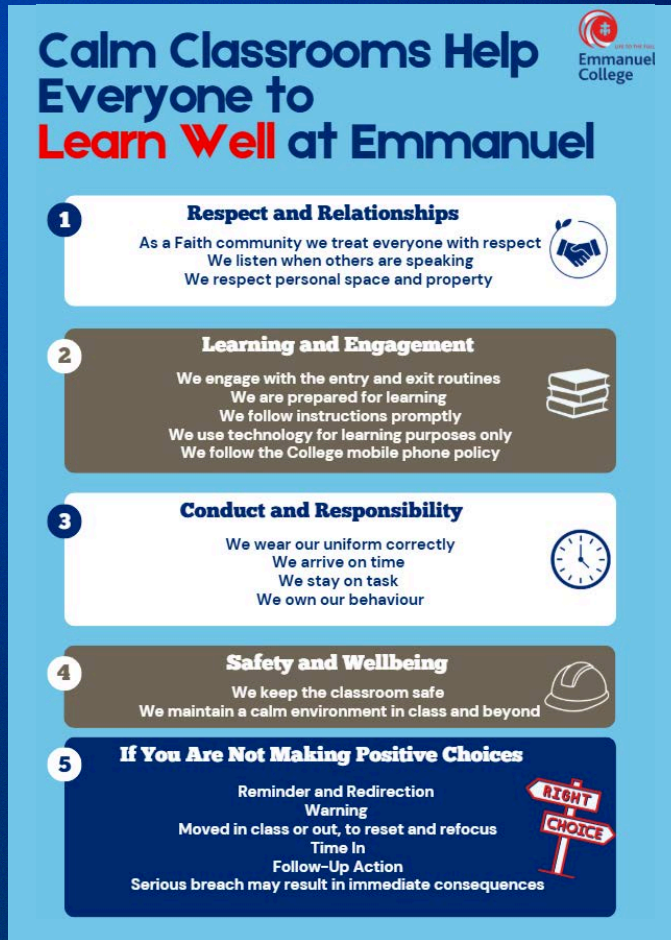
*'Peace be with you'*

John - 20:19



# Principal

## Implemented Changes in 2026



Learn Well at Emmanuel: The rollout of Learn Well at Emmanuel started this term with the launch of Calm Classrooms. This model has been shared with all students, and staff are beginning classes with entry routines. The Calm Classrooms Model includes a focus on the 5 elements labelled on the poster seen here. These posters are in all classrooms. The College is seeking to ensure consistent practices across all classrooms. In addition, we are seeking to balance computer use with handwritten notetaking to ensure the continued development of writing skills due to the need to write to time as part of assessments.

Time in: At St Paul's as part of the roll out of Calm Classrooms, the former time out model has been replaced with a time in process. This model replaces silent written reflection by students with a reflective discussion to unpack the events that occurred within the classroom. Robert Patterson has taken on this counselling role, and is coordinating the re-entry discussion to ensure that an effective and comfortable return to the classroom can be made. We will be reviewing this process, but early indications are that this model provides an opportunity for students to feel heard and to be able to engage, rather than being subject to a punitive process.

I conclude this piece by calling to mind Lent and St Patrick.

Loving God,  
as we journey through this season of Lent,  
we thank you for the faith and courage of St Patrick.  
Like him, help us to trust in your presence,  
to turn our hearts back to you,  
and to share your love with others.  
May this Lenten time renew our spirits,  
strengthen our faith,  
and lead us closer to you each day.  
Amen.

Hoping this lenten season brings peace to you all.

Dr Janine Biggin  
Principal

*'Peace be with you'*

John - 20:19



# Administration

## From the desk of the

## *Executive Assistant*

### Marlene Carella

#### Supporting Our Emmanuel Community

As Executive Assistant to the Principal, I support the work of the Principal and College Executive Team, helping ensure many of the day-to-day operations of the College run smoothly across both campuses.

A big part of what we do in administration is supporting our families. The administration team across both campuses works closely with parents every day, helping with enquiries, guiding families to the right person, assisting with enrolment processes, organising events and ensuring communication reaches families when they need it.

What I enjoy most about my role is working with the many people who make up the Emmanuel community, students, staff, parents, and carers, as well as our suppliers and partners. Every day brings something different, and it is a privilege to support a College that plays such an important role in the lives of our students and their families.

As both a staff member and a parent of two Emmanuel graduates, I have a deep appreciation for the spirit of Emmanuel and the strong partnership between the College and its families.

Marlene Carella

Executive Assistant to the Principal



*'Peace be with you'*

John - 20:19



# Student Wellbeing

## From the desk of the

*Deputy Principal*

Victor Salloum

### Year 7 Camp

On Wednesday 4 to Friday 6 March, our Year 7 students ventured out on their first camp of their high school journey. These adventures occurred in roll groups and were held at either Mt Evelyn or Portsea sites.

These camps were a wonderful opportunity for students to spend quality time with their friends, make new friends within their year level, and bond with their teachers outside the regular classroom environment.

After a few nerves and about 90 minutes on the road, the excitement and fun of the camps took over. Over the three days, students participated in water activities, high ropes courses, giant swings, and raft making, just to name a few. In their free time, students played sports, sat around chatting, and some took a well-earned rest.

There is so much growth and learning that happens on camp. Being out in nature and engaging in experiential learning is a big part of why the Year 7 camp continues to be such an important part of the program each year. Students also enjoyed some downtime, including participating in a disco during the trip, which is always a highlight of the camp.

As with all things, the three action-packed days of the Year 7 Camp had to come to an end. After a clean-up and pack-up, students boarded the buses back to school, where they were met by family and friends, each student a little tired, a little sleepy, but all having loved the adventure of camp.



Victor Salloum

Deputy Principal - Student Wellbeing (Notre Dame Campus)

*'Peace be with you'*

John - 20:19



# Student Wellbeing

## From the desk of the

*Deputy Principal*

### Denis Palanci

#### ACC Events

ACC commenced early in Term One, with many students already proudly representing the College across a range of sports and activities.

It has been an excellent start to the season, with strong student participation and enthusiasm evident across several competitions. Senior sport in particular has seen great involvement and competitive spirit in Tennis, Cricket and Volleyball, with students demonstrating commitment, teamwork and pride in representing the College.

The Senior Cricket team has enjoyed a very successful campaign and has progressed through to the grand final, which is scheduled to take place in Week 8. The team has performed consistently throughout the season and will look forward to the opportunity to compete for the title. The Volleyball (B's) team also had a strong run, reaching the semi-finals after a series of competitive matches. While they did not progress through to the grand final, their efforts and teamwork throughout the competition were commendable. The ACC Open Lawn Bowls team also achieved a fantastic result, winning the grand final and bringing home the championship for the College.

Looking ahead, a number of major ACC events are approaching. ACC Athletics will take place in Week 8 at Lakeside Stadium, where our athletes will compete across a range of events. We wish all competitors the very best as they prepare to represent the College. Shortly after, ACC Swimming will be held on 1 April, providing another exciting opportunity for students to compete and showcase their talents in the pool.



Denis Palanci

Deputy Principal - Student Wellbeing (St Paul's Campus)

*'Peace be with you'*

John - 20:19



# Student Wellbeing

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## Late Arrivals and Early Departures:

With the introduction of Compass as the new College learning management system, students arriving late to school or leaving early are required to sign in, or out, via the Compass kiosk device located in reception. The Compass kiosk device provides students with a receipt which they can pass on to their teacher should they arrive late to school. When students sign in or out via the Compass kiosk, it provides the College with additional information about students being on or off campus. Please continue to use the Compass application to provide us with estimated times for late arrival and early departure and the associated reason. Thanks.

## Staying home when unwell:

As we approach cold and flu season, a reminder to ensure that your child is remaining at home while unwell. Often students will return to school at the first sign of feeling better and this is often the time when they can quickly revert backwards and/or spread their illness. Thank you for your support with this matter.

## Resources for raising teens:

Please see the below links for the upcoming webinar offered through Hobsons Bay Council on Thursday 19 March and some further resources to support the challenges around raising teenagers

Webinar Link - [The Teenage Brain \(parent webinar\) - Hobsons Bay](#).

Resources - [Easing into adolescence: resources for families | vic.gov.au](#)

*'Peace be with you'*

John - 20:19



# Mission Integration

## From the desk of the

*Deputy Principal*

### Mark Sciberras

#### Fourth Sunday in Lent

The gospel reading for the fourth Sunday of Lent was concerned with Jesus' healing of the blind man and his teaching on the importance of faith, mercy and love of our God and neighbour. For Lent 2026, Pope Leo XIV emphasises personal transformation, urging the faithful to "fast from words" that harm, wound, or slander. He encourages using this season to cultivate kindness in speech and focus on inner conversion rather than just external sacrifices. God bless you and your family during your spiritual journey this lent.

#### Stations of the Cross

On the last week of Term One, we will pause to undertake the spiritual pilgrimage called the Stations of the Cross. During this spiritual pilgrimage there are various stations along the way depicting various scenes of Jesus' passion and death. In 1731, Pope Clement XII permitted stations to be created in all churches and fixed the number at 14. The events and underlying meaning behind each station are explained by a narrator, as students act out the scene. At each station, the audience will be challenged to contemplate how the meaning of the station impacts our world and their life today.

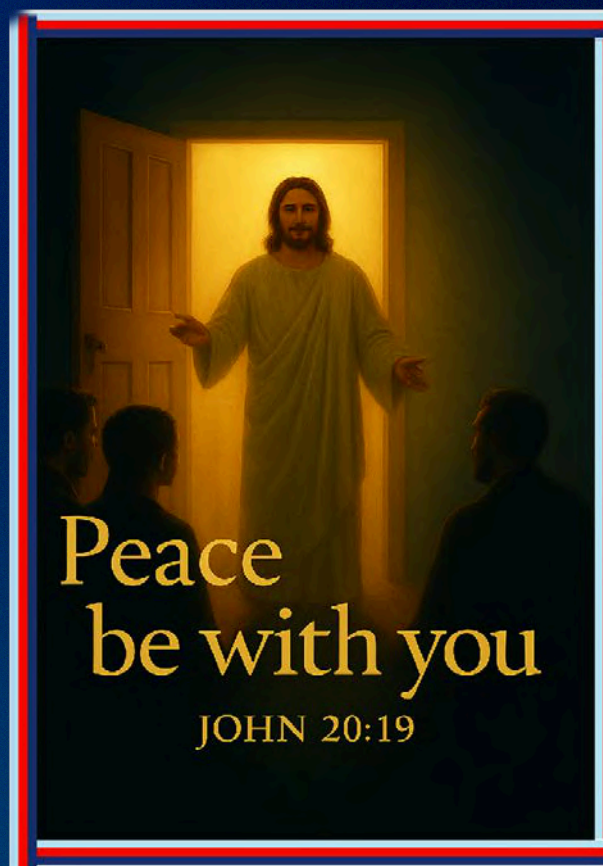
#### Catholic Education Week

Around the world there are 230,000 Catholic Schools, about 3.5 million educators and 62 million students. The impact of Catholic education in forming the world we have today is immeasurable. This week we have our casual clothes for Justice Day, lunchtime concert, Camino For Caritas, St Patrick's Day mass and Ecological Spirituality Day. All money raised will go towards our Project Compassion Caritas appeal.

Peace be with you this Lent

Mark Sciberras

Deputy Principal - Mission Integration



*'Peace be with you'*

John - 20:19



# Inclusive Practices

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## From the desk of the

*Deputy Principal*

### Anita Duhig

At Emmanuel College, we believe that every student is called to “life to the full” (John 10:10). Guided by our Marianist charism and our commitment to Learn Well and Lead Well, we recognise that students learn in different ways and at different paces. As a Catholic learning community, we are committed to ensuring that all students are supported to participate fully in their learning and assessment. This means providing thoughtful adjustments and supports so that each young person has equitable opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and understanding.

One of the ways we support individual learning is through a range of personalised learning adjustments. These adjustments may include differentiated classroom strategies, additional scaffolding, adjusted resources, or targeted intervention programs that support literacy, numeracy, organisation, or student engagement. Our Inclusion Team works closely with teachers, students, and families to develop Personalised Learning Plans (PLPs) where appropriate. These plans outline strengths, areas for support, and practical classroom strategies to help teachers respond effectively to individual learning needs.

For some students, adjustments are also required during formal assessments. The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) allow schools to provide Special Provision where a student's disability, illness, or learning difficulty significantly impacts their ability to participate in assessments under standard conditions. Special Provision ensures that students are not unfairly disadvantaged and can demonstrate their learning on the same basis as their peers.

Special provisions can take many forms depending on the student's needs. Examples may include rest breaks, extra working time, assistive technology, or the use of a laptop. These provisions are carefully considered and are based on documented evidence and the student's usual classroom supports. In senior secondary programs such as VCE, the College also works with VCAA to apply for Special Examination Arrangements where required for end-of-year examinations.

Importantly, these supports do not change the learning expectations, or the standards students must meet. Rather, they ensure that students can demonstrate their knowledge and skills without being disadvantaged by barriers related to their learning needs.

*Peace be with you*

John - 20:19



# Inclusive Practices

Supporting individual learning is a shared partnership. Our Inclusion Team collaborates with teachers, Learning Support Officers, allied health professionals, students, and families to ensure that adjustments are appropriate and effective. Through this collaborative approach, we strive to create learning environments where every student feels known, supported, and capable of success.

At Emmanuel College, inclusive education is not simply a program; it is part of who we are. By recognising the diverse strengths and needs of our students, we continue to build a community where all learners are supported to flourish academically, socially, and spiritually.

If families have questions about learning adjustments or special provisions, we encourage you to contact the College's Inclusion Team. Working together, we can ensure that every student is supported to learn well and lead well.



The Inclusion Display  
@ Open Day



Learning Hub @ NDC

Anita Duhig  
Deputy Principal - Inclusive Practices

*'Peace be with you'*

John - 20:19



# Administration

## From the desk of the

*Business Manager*

Louise McCloskey

Dear Parents and Guardians,

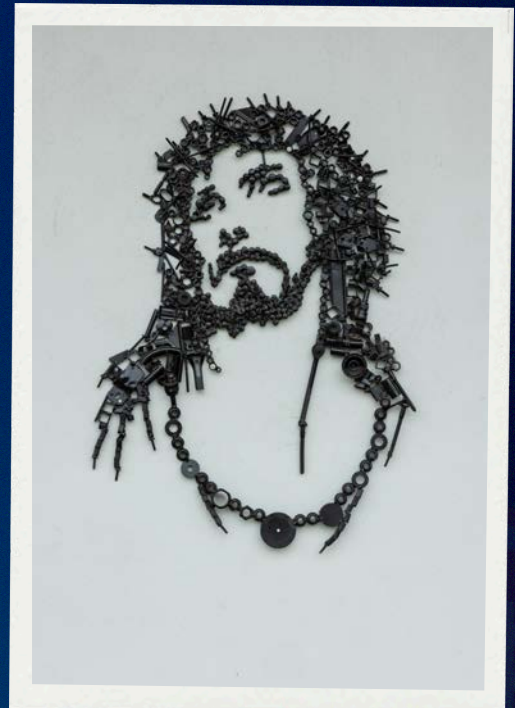
I hope your Term 1 is progressing well.

Many of our Notre Dame Families will have noticed that the Callahan Building is now open. Our wonderful Facilities Team is diligently completing the landscaping around the building, and we look forward to seeing it fully finished soon.

We will continue to improve and streamline processes to make movement through the Reception area easier for guests. This will include the addition of call buttons and clearer signage to help guide visitors when entering or exiting the building.

A reminder for all Families that if you are signing students in late or signing them out early using the Compass Kiosk in Reception and have any questions, our friendly Reception Team at both campuses are always happy to assist.

Thank you for your continued support.



Lousie McCloskey  
Business Manager

*'Peace be with you'*

John - 20:19



# People and Culture

## From the desk of the

*Senior Director*

### Tarryn Abraham

We are very excited to warmly welcome a number of new staff to our community since the commencement of the year.

In response to the artisan skills and knowledge required in some of our curriculum offerings, we are fortunate to welcome colleagues with talents and industry experience that will undoubtedly benefit our students in the classroom and their future aspirations.

Emmanuel has also seen a strong response from teachers seeking to join our community to share their gifts and knowledge, especially in Mathematics and Sciences.

We extend our thanks to our staff who have helped expedite the smooth onboarding of our new teaching staff, making time around their schedules to ensure they have access to the most recent curriculum and learning tools, thereby supporting their success in the classroom.

Particular thanks go to our Digital Services, Facilities and Library teams, who have worked alongside the Directors of Inclusion, Learning, Mission and Wellbeing, the Heads of Pedagogy and Student Engagement, and our Inclusion, Learning, and House Leaders to ensure the safe and supportive onboarding of staff. We are also grateful to the staff members who have stepped up to serve as 'buddy' for our new colleagues, ensuring they have a regular face to help navigate daily life at the College.

#### St Paul's

##### Returning Staff Members

Georgina Solano - Teacher of Maths

Sean Worrall - Learning Support Officer

##### New Staff Members

Evgeny Lyovin - Teacher of IT

Michelle Nunn - College Nurse

Shalika Wijenayake - Teacher of Science and Maths

#### Notre Dame

##### Returning Staff Members

Rebecca Dunn - Teacher of English

Jacklyn McBride - Teacher of HPE (Term 2 Start)

##### New Staff Members

Hayden Wilson - Teacher of HPE (Term 2 Start)

Aftab Chowdbury - Teacher of Vocational Major

Graham Bagley - Teacher of Trade Carpentry (Ignite)

Evangelina Offen - Teacher of Maths

Gerard Ward - Teacher of Vocational Major and Biology

Ahmet Ozkaya - Teacher of IT

Tarryn Abraham

Senior Director - People and Culture

*'Peace be with you'*

John - 20:19



# Winters House Report

As we welcomed a new school year, it was delightful to watch our Winters community of students and homeroom staff extend a warm reception to our newest Year 7 students.

These new students will call the house of Winters home for the next six years and to honour this, each Year 7 Winters student received their Winters badge, we hope they will wear this on their uniform with pride.



The sense of apprehension and nerves has hopefully been replaced with a sense of excitement for all the opportunities that await our Year 7s in 2026; we hope they make the most of every opportunity they choose to immerse themselves in.

Winters has been a busy place for both staff and students alike with our opening House assembly on day 1, Year 7 BBQ evening, getting-to-know-you games in homeroom, basketball and footy tipping competitions.

Running an extraordinary house requires extraordinary student leaders and so we take this moment to introduce the Winters student leaders for 2026 and congratulate them for all they will achieve, learn and contribute to within their roles.

- **Yr 12 House Captains:** Blake Gauci and Ruchelle Jacobs
- **Year 12 Sports Captains:** Julian Sheftz and Tommy Hanson
- **Yr 11 Captains:** Caitlin Spall and Katrina Lapitan
- **Yr 10 Captains:** Mason Daly and Mavis Kong
- **Yr 9 Captains:** Victoria Park and Nicholas Hayes
- **Yr 8 Captains:** Jayden D'Souza and Syona Sharma

The Winters house is a rich tapestry of participation, unity, cherished friendships and memories and our students and supporting staff are a glowing example of our ethos. We wish all our Winters community alike a wonderful start to the 2026 academic year.

Lavinia Setini and Daniel Hindmarch  
Winters House Leaders - NDC

*'Peace be with you'*

John - 20:19



# Chaminade Homeroom Report

Hello! My name is Matthew Rafael Sy, and I am honoured to be the SPC College Captain for 2026.

The term so far at SPC has already set the tone for what I know will be an exciting and fruitful year. As the school year kicked off and everyone settled into routines, there's been a strong sense of optimism and an auspicious energy around the campus! Stepping into my role as College Captain made the start especially busy but in the best way possible.



One of my biggest priorities was welcoming our new Year 7 students. It's been a pleasure seeing new faces in our campus, and Emmanuel's Year 7 Transition Program ensured they were welcomed with open arms, helping these new students adjust to what can be a challenging experience, starting secondary school. It's been incredible to see teachers, peer mentors, and senior students embrace that collective responsibility of guiding these new students who are the promising future of our school.

At the same time, it's been great reconnecting with students across all year levels and seeing everyone embracing the opportunities of a new year.

At SPC, we held our first Student Leader Group (SLG) meeting for 2026, which was an exciting milestone. It was fantastic to gather leaders from across different year levels to discuss ideas for what is shaping up to be a busy and vibrant Term 1. We spoke about upcoming events, new initiatives, and how us leaders can make college life one where each student can thrive. One of the highlights for me was seeing younger and newer leaders confidently sharing their ideas. Encouraging emerging leaders to step up and feel empowered is a key part of my mission this year, and I'm proud to see that already happening.

Athletics Day was another major highlight of the opening weeks. The day was a huge success, filled with impressive athletic performances and even a few broken records. However, what stood out most to me was the incredible level of participation and school spirit. The sense of camaraderie and brotherhood across SPC was undeniable! Seeing students support one another, cheer for their houses, and simply enjoy being part of a community reminded me how unique and strong our SPC community truly is.

Furthermore, a collaborative project alongside the College and Arts captains at both campuses were the Year 12 jumpers, and we are all pleased to announce that they have been finalised and are ready for ordering! It was a pleasure to work alongside our diligent leadership team, and this success fills us with optimism and confidence in our team's ability to work cohesively in the many upcoming events and initiatives we will undertake together. We can't wait to see our Year 12s wearing these jumpers and jackets in the coming weeks.

As I continue settling into new classes and into the rhythm of the year, I'm looking forward to serving as a source of support for students across the campus. Balancing academic responsibilities with leadership is a challenge I'm ready to embrace. I'm committed to working alongside leaders from all year levels to represent your voices, strengthen our community, and be a positive role model at Emmanuel College.

2026 is only just beginning, and I'm excited for everything that lies ahead. It's a privilege to serve as College Captain, and I'm determined to make this year one to remember.

Matthew Rafael Sy

Chaminade House Leader and College Captain (SPC)

*'Peace be with you'*

John - 20:19



It has been a busy start to the year at SPC, with Senior ACC Sport kickstarting the beginning of week 1. Senior Cricket, Tennis and Volleyball are well underway. Good luck to both players and coaches for the rest of the season. On Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of February we held our SPC annual school athletics carnival. Thank you to all HPE staff, teachers, students and helpers for making the day run smoothly! Congratulations to the following students for being named Track or Field Champion at the 2026 House Athletics carnival for their respective year level!

- Year 7 Track Champion – Jack Bassos
- Year 7 Field Champion – Jenson Clugston
- Year 8 Track Champion - Joshua Felli
- Year 8 Field Champion - James McAuliffe
- Year 9 Track Champion – Dylan Vidos
- Year 9 Field Champion – Luca Buttazzoni
- Year 10 Track Champion – Joshua George
- Year 10 Field Champion – Eamon Kane
- Year 11 Track Champion - Nicolas Weghaus
- Year 11 Field Champion – Xavier Rietveld
- Year 12 Track Champion – Max Collyer
- Year 12 Field Champion – Hunter Longmuir

Another congratulations to Winters house for taking home the 2026 Athletics Carnival win!

1. Winters 1795
2. McCoy 1730
3. Cassidy 1649
4. Chaminade 1624
5. McCluskey 1474



Makayla Zulumovski  
PE Assistant

*'Peace be with you'*

John - 20:19



# Cross Country at Emmanuel - Then and Now



1992



2005



2013



2024

Penny Cook  
College Archivist

*'Peace be with you'*

John - 20:19



# Calendar Term 1, Weeks 8B and 9A



17 MARCH 2026

|          |                                                                                                                  |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 16 March | Catholic Education Week                                                                                          |
| 17 March | SACCSS - Senior Netball and Cricket Round 6<br>SPC Caritas Casual Dress Day                                      |
| 18 March | ACC Senior Cricket, Tennis and Volleyball Grand Finals<br>NDC Caritas Casual Dress Day<br>SPC Campus Tour 9.15am |
| 19 March | ACC Music Workshop 1<br>Camino for Caritas Walk<br>SACCSS Year 10 Premier League Round 6                         |
| 20 March | Year 8 Retreat Day - Eco-Spirituality                                                                            |
| 21 March | Harmony Day                                                                                                      |
| 23 March | <b>NDC Open Evening - Students dismissed 12.34pm</b>                                                             |
| 24 March | SACCSS Senior Netball and Cricket                                                                                |
| 25 March | NDC Campus Tour 9.15am                                                                                           |
| 26 March | SACCSS Yr. 10 Premier League                                                                                     |
| 27 March | SACCSS Senior Futsal                                                                                             |

*'Peace be with you'*

John - 20:19



Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools



Emmanuel  
College





# Key Dates for Planning 2026

17 MARCH 2026

## Term One

- 3 March - VCE Information Night (online)
- 4-6 March - Year 7 NDC Camps - Mt Evelyn and Portsea
- 16 March - Early Leave students dismissed at the start of lunch (SPC) Open Evening SPC
- 23 March - Early Leave students dismissed at the start of lunch (NDC) Open Evening NDC
- 1 April - Students conclude classes for Term 1 at start of lunch 12.52pm to allow for parent teacher interviews
- 1 April - Parent Teacher Interviews 2.30pm - 8.30pm
- 2 April - Parent Teacher Interviews 9am - 12 noon
- 3 April - Good Friday

## Term Two

- 21 April - Students Return (Term 2)
- 1 May - Early leave for all students 2.30pm (Marianist Day)
- 26 June - Final day for all students Term Two

## Term Three

- 14 July - Students Return (Term Three)
- 20 August - Early Leave for all Students - (dismissed start of lunch)
- 21 August - Student Free Day (Staff Professional Learning)
- 18 September - Final day for all students Term Three

## Term Four

- 5 October - Students Return (Term Four)
- 16 October - Year 12 Final Day
- 23 October - Year 12 Graduation Mass and Dinner
- 2 November - Student Free Day (Mid Term Break)
- 6 November - Year 10 and 11 Final Day
- 11 - 18 November - Year 10 and 11 Exams
- 16 - 26 November - Year 8 and 9 Exams
- 19 November - Celebration of Excellence
- 20 November - Student Free Day
- 23 - 27 November - VCE Head Start
- 27 November Year 10 final Day
- 30 November - 2 December - Year 12 2027 Retreat
- 4 December - Year 7- 9 Last Day (Term Four)
- 18 December - Office Final Day

## 2027

- 18 January - Office reopens

*'Peace be with you'*

John - 20:19

