LIFE TO THE FULL
Emmanuel College

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools
Emmanuel College

College Newsletter

From the desk of The Principal

Janine Biggin

4 NOVEMBER 2026

Welcome to Week 5 of Term 4.

Celebrating the Class of 2026

On Friday 23 October, we celebrated the graduation of our Year 12 cohort with Mass and dinner at the Convention Centre. This wonderful formal occasion marked the culmination of six years of a shared journey between students, their families and Emmanuel College.

The College choir gave a beautiful performance that enriched our celebration. Fr Binh Le's thoughtful homily offered much to ponder as our graduates reached this significant milestone and looked towards the next chapter of their lives. Above all, the evening was filled with the joy shared by staff, students and families as we acknowledged all that these young people have achieved.

My sincere thanks to the staff who organised both the Mass and the dinner. As the College's biggest event of the year, graduation requires considerable preparation and care. Their efforts created a memorable evening that honoured our graduates and the families who have supported them throughout their secondary education.

Celebrating Our VET Students

Our internal and external VET programs concluded last Thursday, including Electrical, Plumbing, Music, and Early Childhood Education and Care. The conclusion of these programs was marked by the VET Awards, held at the College late last week.

All students enrolled in these programs attended the awards, celebrating their achievements and the commitment they have shown to their vocational studies. Wonderful prizes were presented, and further details about the awards and recipients will be shared soon. We commend our students for their dedication to developing practical skills and exploring future pathways.

I am grateful for the external partnerships that enable the College to offer such engaging learning opportunities to students from Emmanuel and our partner schools. These connections broaden the pathways available to young people and support them in discovering their interests and capabilities.

Acknowledging Our Teachers

World Teachers' Day on Friday 30 October provided an opportunity to acknowledge the dedicated teachers of Emmanuel College. Each day, their work helps students grow in knowledge and confidence, supporting them through challenges and encouraging them to discover what they can achieve.

I thank our teachers for the care and commitment they bring to their classrooms and to the wider life of the College. Their contribution extends well beyond lessons, through the relationships they build and the time they give to helping students flourish. In our Marianist tradition, this work is an expression of our shared mission to educate the whole person within a community of faith and belonging.

'Peace be with you'
John –20:19

Principal

Year 10 and Year 11 Examinations

With final classes on Friday 6 November, our Year 10 and Year 11 students will begin their examination period next week. These assessments provide an important opportunity for students to demonstrate their understanding of the key learning in their Semester 2 subjects.

They also offer valuable experience in applying study skills and managing examination conditions as students prepare for the demands of VCE. We encourage students to establish a realistic revision plan and seek guidance from their teachers wherever they need clarification or support. Consistent preparation, balanced with adequate rest, will help them approach their examinations with confidence.

Looking Forward

All students will undertake examinations before the end of the year, reflecting the College's commitment to preparing students for this form of assessment. These experiences help students develop effective revision habits, manage their time and build confidence in demonstrating their learning under examination conditions.

We encourage families to support students in establishing regular study routines and approaching these assessments as valuable opportunities to consolidate their learning and identify areas for further growth.

College Fees for 2027

The College is finalising fees for 2027, with increases to be kept to a minimum for families. We recognise the financial pressures many families face and remain mindful of these as we plan for the coming year.

The fee schedule will be confirmed at the final Advisory Council meeting of the year, scheduled for two weeks' time. Following this meeting, families will receive communication outlining the fees for 2027.

A Prayer with Mary

As we honour Our Lady on Saturday, we turn to Mary, whose faith and example guide our Marianist community.

Mary, our Mother,
help us to welcome Christ as you did
and to respond with faith to God's call.
May our Emmanuel community grow in family spirit,
making room for one another
and serving those who need our care.
Walk beside our students, families and staff,
and guide us always towards your Son.

May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit
be glorified in all places
through the Immaculate Virgin Mary.
Amen.

Dr Janine Biggin
Principal

'Peace be with you'
John –20:19

From the desk of the *Deputy Principals*

Year 12 Graduation Mass

On Friday 23rd October we celebrated our Year 12 graduation mass and ceremony at Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre. We thank Fr Binh who served as our main celebrant. This was a wonderful occasion to mark our students' transition to life beyond high school and their calling to bring about the Kingdom of God. We wish them 'life to the fullest'.

Feast Day of Our Lady of the Pillar

The first Marian apparition in history appeared to Saint James the Apostle, the brother of Saint John the Evangelist, on the bank of the river Ebro in Zaragosa, Spain. Unlike every other recorded apparition, this one took place during the earthly life of the Mother of God. According to tradition, she had promised Saint James that when he needed it most in his difficult mission to the pagans in today's Spain, she would appear to him to encourage him. The feast of Our Lady of Pillar occurred on the 12th of October.

By the time Fr Chaminade reached Zaragosa as a refugee, the site of the apparition had become a basilica. Fr Chaminade also encountered Mary there and received insight and inspiration. It was Mary who conceived the plan for the Marianist Order and Fr Chaminade who carried it out.

All Saints and All Souls Day

In the Catholic tradition, November is traditionally a month of remembrance of those who have died. The month begins with the Solemnity of All Saints on 1 November and All Souls Day on 2 November. During November we hold in our prayers all the faithful who have departed. Many in our community have lost loved ones this year and we remain a community in grief. May this month bring healing and hope.



Mark Sciberras
Deputy Principal - Mission Integration

'Peace be with you'
John –20:19

From the desk of the Deputy Principals

Student Wellbeing - Celebrating Achievement, Growth and New Beginnings

As we move towards the conclusion of the 2026 school year, we continue to reflect on the importance of student wellbeing, connection and belonging at Emmanuel College. Our commitment to nurturing the whole person remains central to our Marianist identity and our College motto, Life to the Full (John 10:10).

Throughout the year, we have continued to strengthen our approach to student wellbeing through positive relationships, consistent expectations and supportive learning environments. Our Calm Classrooms approach has reinforced the importance of predictable routines, respectful interactions and creating environments where students feel safe, supported and ready to learn.

We recognise that student wellbeing extends beyond the classroom. A strong sense of belonging, positive relationships with peers and staff, regular attendance and meaningful engagement in College life all contribute to students' personal growth and success. As a College community, we remain committed to ensuring that every student feels known, valued and connected.

Celebrating Our Year 12 Graduates - Class of 2026

Friday 23 October marked a significant milestone as we acknowledged and celebrated our Year 12 students completing their secondary school journey at Emmanuel College.

Graduation is much more than the conclusion of formal schooling. It represents years of learning, personal growth, friendships, challenges, achievements and the development of young people who are preparing to take their next steps into the world.

For our Year 12 students, the past six years have been filled with opportunities to develop resilience, independence, compassion and a sense of purpose. Each student has followed their own unique pathway, and we recognise not only their academic accomplishments but also their personal growth, perseverance and contributions to our College community.

We extend our sincere congratulations to the Class of 2026 and acknowledge the families, teachers, pastoral leaders and support staff who have guided and encouraged them throughout their educational journey.

Supporting Our Year 12 Students Through Their Final VCE Examinations

With our Year 12 students now commencing their final VCE examinations, we recognise that this is an important and sometimes challenging period for both students and their families.

While examinations provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills, we remind our students that their achievements, character and future potential are not defined by a single examination result or ATAR.

We encourage students to approach this period with confidence, maintain healthy routines, prioritise sleep and wellbeing, and seek support when needed. Taking regular breaks, maintaining perspective, and staying connected with family and friends are all important strategies for managing examination-related stress.

To our Year 12 students, we wish you every success in your examinations. Be proud of the effort you have invested, trust in your preparation and remember that there are many pathways to achieving your aspirations.

'Peace be with you'
John –20:19

Wellbeing

Recognising Excellence - 2026 VET Awards

On Thursday 29 October, we also had the opportunity to celebrate the outstanding achievements of students through the College's 2026 VET Awards Event, hosted by our Vocational Pathways Department.

This important occasion recognises high-achieving students across the Vocational Education and Training (VET) programs offered at Emmanuel College, including Plumbing, Electrotechnology, Music, and Early Childhood Education and Care.

The awards celebrate not only academic and practical excellence but also the dedication, commitment, technical skills and professional attributes demonstrated by students throughout their vocational learning.

Vocational pathways play a vital role in providing students with meaningful, engaging and purposeful educational experiences. They allow young people to explore their interests, develop industry-relevant skills and build confidence as they prepare for apprenticeships, further education, training and employment.

The success of our VET students is a reminder that achievement takes many forms and that every student's pathway deserves recognition and celebration.

We congratulate all students recognised at this year's awards and acknowledge the exceptional work of our Vocational Pathways Department, VET teachers, trainers and industry partners in supporting students to pursue their individual strengths and aspirations.

Looking Ahead - Finishing the Year Well

For our remaining students, the final weeks of the school year provide an important opportunity to maintain positive routines, remain engaged in learning and demonstrate care and respect for others.

We encourage families to continue supporting their children through regular attendance, healthy routines, open conversations and a balanced approach to study, rest and recreation. These everyday practices play an important role in supporting student wellbeing and building the foundations for lifelong learning.

As we celebrate our Year 12 graduates, support students undertaking their final examinations and recognise the achievements of our vocational learners, we are reminded that education is about far more than academic outcomes. It is about developing confident, compassionate and resilient young people who feel a sense of belonging and are empowered to contribute positively to their communities.

Congratulations to the Class of 2026 and to all students recognised at our VET Awards. We are immensely proud of your achievements and look forward to seeing the many ways you will continue to live Life to the Full.

Anita Duhig
Acting Deputy Principal - Student Wellbeing NDC

Wellbeing

Important Reminders

Lockers and personal belongings

Please remind students to keep their lockers locked. The College cannot take responsibility for items missing from unsecured lockers. Replacement locks are available from Student Services for $15, or families may purchase one from an external retailer.

Mobile phones

Under the College's Mobile Phone Policy, students must keep their phones secured in their lockers. They may check them at the start of recess and lunch while at their lockers, but must put them away again afterwards. Breaches of the policy will result in a Friday detention. Students may not use their phones to pay for canteen purchases. They should bring cash or use a physical debit or credit card.

Uniform

Students are expected to wear the College uniform correctly and with pride through to the end of the school year. We understand families may be reluctant to purchase new items at this stage, but the uniform requirements remain in place. Students must also be clean-shaven. Those who consistently meet the uniform standard may be recognised with a canteen voucher. Students who do not meet expectations may receive a detention or, in some cases, be sent home to address the issue. Senior students are encouraged to pay particular attention to the policy during the examination period.

Preparing for exams

Year 12 students are continuing with their examinations, while Year 10 and Year 11 students will soon begin theirs. We encourage senior students to make good use of the study time available after classes conclude so they can prepare for their upcoming exams.

School Leavers Week (Schoolies)

Schoolies is a significant milestone for many Victorian school leavers. Students planning to attend are encouraged to celebrate safely and respectfully, look after their health and wellbeing, and be considerate of the communities they visit. Parents and carers can support young people by talking openly about alcohol-related risks. The National Health and Medical Research Council offers guidance on preventing or reducing adolescent alcohol misuse: Parenting Strategies: Preventing Adolescent Alcohol Misuse. For practical advice on staying safe while celebrating, see the Better Health Channel's Partying Safely resource. In Victoria, it is against the law to supply alcohol to anyone under 18 in a private home without permission from their parent or guardian. Further information is available from Victoria Legal Aid: Underage Drinking https://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/underage-drinking

Denis Palanci
Deputy Principal - Student Wellbeing SPC

Chaminade House Report

Hi my name is Omar, and I am a proud member of Fraser Homeroom with Ms. D'Alton in Chaminade. Over the past four years at this school I believe I have been very fortunate with the vast wealth of opportunities and experiences I have encountered over the years. In this time two of my older brothers have also graduated and have started their university journeys. They have passed on a great deal of knowledge, and I deeply respect both of them, holding whatever they say in high regard.

Since Year 7 I have had the opportunity to be a student leader, and every year consecutively since then. I have learnt a lot of things since then, such as greater confidence, increased range of viewpoints and critical thinking skills. Unfortunately, this year I was away for quite a while due to sickness and travel which significantly challenged me academically this year. However, the saying is that pressure makes diamonds, and I am determined to learn from this experience and come back stronger to a fresh new year in 2027.

As Academic and Chaminade House Captain next year, I want to make sure school is a place where everyone feels valued and respectful with all. A main leadership strategy I want to implement next year is not leading from the front, but rather alongside my peers and Chaminade students. Additionally, I aspire to complete my schooling journey on a high, and this can only be done if Chaminade house wins the Athletics Carnival, which has never been done whilst I have been at Emmanuel. So hopefully in conjunction with Mr. Farrugia, Thomas Hicks, our Chaminade students and Homeroom teachers we can fly high as jets above the other houses at the Athletics carnival and in every aspect of school life.

Ultimately, I want to be defined by the contribution I will make, the people I will support and the Abdul Ghaffar Legacy I will leave behind.

Omar
Chaminade House Captain - **SPC**



Cassidy Homeroom Report

The semester has seen significant activity across Cassidy at Notre Dame College (NDC), with students quickly establishing their routines following the finalisation of timetables at the start of the term. Several homeroom competitions took place throughout the terms, culminating in CAS F securing overall victory and maintaining their lead for the year, closely followed by CAS C in second place. Earlier in the term, CAS F was rewarded with a pizza lunch, requested by homeroom teacher Mr Toney in recognition of his dedication to fostering student engagement and a competitive spirit.

The community also recently farewelled its Year 12 cohort during a dedicated house assembly. This milestone marked the conclusion of their secondary education, highlighted by homeroom teachers reading messages that underscored the strong relationships developed during homeroom periods. During the assembly, each student received a certificate of completion from the Cassidy cluster.

On October 23rd, students and their families participated in a graduation Mass, followed by a dinner at the Melbourne Convention Centre. Mr Manoussakis and Mrs Kaur proudly presented the graduating Cassidy students as they were called to the stage to receive their official graduation certificates.

Following the departure of the Year 12 cohort for their external examinations, Year 11 students have assumed responsibility for house duties. Looking ahead to 2027, Cassidy has appointed the following students:

House Captains:
Isaac French
Kamille Paed

Sports Captains for Cassidy:
Jordyn Brock
George Saunders

Additionally, the selection process for student leaders in Years 8 to 10 is currently underway. Application forms have been distributed to allow students adequate time to consider applying for leadership roles within the Cassidy cluster.
Families are encouraged to support students in preparing for the upcoming examination period, ensuring they remain focused and perform to the best of their ability during this busy time of the academic year.



Mrs Taranjeet Kaur
Cassidy **House Leader - NDC**

'Peace be with you'
John –20:19

Cassidy Homeroom Report

Flynn Homeroom

We welcome you to the Cassidy Flynn homeroom. Our homeroom teacher, Mr. Chaperon, has been in Cassidy house for more than fifteen years. Every morning he greets all the Flynn homeroom students with great energy and positivity. We start off with our daily morning prayer, Mr. Chaperon reads the daily notices and checks our uniform every day. Ms. Chhibber stops by to say hello and help if someone has any concerns or questions.

Term 4 is off to a busy and splendid start. Flynn homeroom is using our time away from the screens in the homeroom very well, by playing table tennis, UNO, and Chess. Every single student is involved in either of these activities or having a friendly chat with their peers. Mr. Chaperon checks in with every student in the homeroom to make sure that we are always organised and ready to conquer the day. On Friday, we enjoy the fresh air with other Cassidy homerooms. Some of us sit and talk, while others play a game of downball.

This year, we welcomed four Year 7 students to Flynn homeroom: David, Max, Ben and Tyler; these students have transitioned very well into their high school life. We have a Year 7 Cassidy student leader, Max Reynolds, a Year 8 Cassidy student leader, Saurin Pandya and one Year 10 Cassidy student leader, Daniel Surbesvski, who contribute to running the house activities and house assemblies regularly.

We wish great success to and congratulate our Senior students Lucas Papmihail, Arthur Johnson, Lachlan Neville, William Mitchell and Julio Rodrigues, as they recently celebrated their Year 12 graduation. These students started as Year 7s in Flynn homeroom in 2021 and achieved many milestones during these years, including the difficult times of remote learning.

Flynn homeroom is a great place to be in. We were one of the top scoring homerooms in Term 3 for both homeroom points and sports and we look forward to topping the charts in Term 4.

Ms Nidhi Chhibber
Cassidy House Leader - SPC

SACCSS Junior Tennis Competition at Hume

On Monday 19th October the Emmanuel Junior Tennis Team visited Hume Tennis Centre to compete against thirteen other Catholic schools in the region. It was a long and rather hot day, but the team did very well.

Ashna, Swaniti and Nataaya all made semi-finals while the boys' doubles team of Ethan and Yuchen made the quarter finals. Thenara, Joseph and Jaeger also did themselves proud by scoring some good wins. Overall, it was a great day and thanks to the SACCSS team of Jo and Bec for their excellent organisation.



Mr Tim Kelleher
Mission Faith Leader - NDC

Graduation at Emmanuel College - Then and Now



1994



2005



2015



2024

Penny Cook
College Archivist

'Peace be with you'
John –20:19

LIFE TO THE FULL
Emmanuel College

Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

We're pleased to invite Notre Dame Class of 2015 and Class of 2016 students to a

Class Reunion

Catch up with classmates and teachers, view photos from the College Archives, enjoy some delicious food and drink and take a trip down memory lane!

NOVEMBER

FRIDAY **20** 6.00 - 8.30 PM

2026

at the Notre Dame Campus

2-40 Foxwood Dr, Point Cook - enter via Foxwood Dr gate

RSVP by November 13 at https://www.trybooking.com/DOWHP

Alternately, email alumni@ecmelb.catholic.edu.au or phone Penny Cook on 8325 5167

Register here!

This is an alcohol-free event

We are pleased to invite you to a

Class Reunion

1975
1976
1985
1986
1995
1996
2005
2006
2015
2016

Catch up with classmates and teachers, view photos from the College Archives, enjoy some delicious food and drink and take a trip down memory lane!

DECEMBER

FRIDAY **4** 6.00 - 8.30 PM

2026

McCoy Hall, St Paul's Campus

423 Blackshaws Rd, Altona North - enter via Chambers Rd

RSVP by November 27 at
https://www.trybooking.com/DOWHA

Register here!

Alternately, email alumni@ecmelb.catholic.edu.au
or phone Penny Cook on 8325 5167

This is an alcohol-free event

Celebrating Sporting Excellence: Armaan Joshi Wins World Championship Title

Emmanuel College is proud to recognise and celebrate the outstanding sporting achievement of Armaan Joshi, a Year 10 student at Emmanuel College, St Pauls Campus, who has achieved an extraordinary milestone in his boxing journey by becoming a World Champion while proudly representing Australia.

Armaan competed at the World Championship, held in Salisbury, Maryland, USA, from 21 to 25 October 2026, where he demonstrated exceptional skill, determination and resilience to claim the prestigious World Title. Competing on the international stage against talented athletes from around the world, Armaan's performance reflects not only his sporting ability but also the dedication, discipline and perseverance required to succeed at the highest level.

This remarkable accomplishment is the result of countless hours of training, commitment and hard work, supported by a strong passion for his sport and a determination to continually improve. His success highlights the importance of setting ambitious goals, overcoming challenges and remaining focused on achieving excellence.

Armaan's achievement is a moment of immense pride for his family, coaches, the Emmanuel College community and Australia as a whole. His success serves as an inspiration to fellow students, demonstrating that with dedication, courage and perseverance, extraordinary goals can become a reality.



At Emmanuel College, we are delighted to celebrate Armaan's success and acknowledge the positive example he sets for our school community. His achievement reflects the values of commitment, resilience and excellence, and we congratulate him on this outstanding accomplishment.

Congratulations, Armaan, on becoming a World Champion and representing Australia with pride. We wish you every success as you continue your boxing journey and look forward to seeing what you achieve in the future.

Community News





Join our Lifeblood Team

At Emmanuel College - SPC & NDC, we're proud to be part of Lifeblood Teams, the group donation program for Australian Red Cross Lifeblood.

Being part of a Lifeblood Team means joining something bigger than yourself. It's about doing good, together - working towards a shared goal and seeing how many lives you can save along the way.

Why donate?
Did you know 1 in 3 people will need blood, but only 1 in 30 donate? The need for blood is growing every day and your donation can help people who are:

- Fighting cancer
- Undergoing surgery
- Experiencing complicated pregnancies
- Living with blood disorders or auto immune diseases
- And countless more conditions

There's nothing like knowing you've genuinely helped someone, and we'd love to share that amazing feeling with you.
A newborn. A mate's dying wish. A free party pie. Everyone has a reason to give.



Useful links

- Check your eligibility to donate
- Find your nearest donor centre
- Book a donation

'Peace be with you'
John –20:19


VBPC
Victoria Badminton & Pickleball Centre
AFTER SCHOOL
BADMINTON
STUDENT CASUAL PLAY
$5
PER PERSON
MONDAY TO FRIDAY
4:00–6:30pm
Bring your own racket.
Bring shuttlecocks or use the venue's used ones.
2/63 Sunshine Road
West Footscray VIC 3012
Enquiries: Call / WhatsApp
0456 840 871

Calendar Term 4, Weeks 5A AND 6B

Week 5A

4 November	NDC Year 7 Retreat ACC Year 9/10 Cricket (Round 5) ACC Year 9/10 Volleyball (Round 5) ACC Year 9/10 Tennis (Round 5) Year 9 High Intensity Training Excursion Instrumental Musical Night - NDC Twilight Talk and Tour - 2029 and Beyond - NDC
5 November	SACCSS Year 8 Premier League Cricket SACCSS Year 8 Premier League Netball SACCSS Year 8 Premier League Girls Soccer SACCSS Year 8 Premier League Boys Soccer SACCSS Year 8 Premier League Girls Basketball SACCSS Year 8 Premier League Boys Basketball SACCSS Year 8 Premier League Girls Volleyball SACCSS Year 8 Premier League Boys Volleyball ACC Year 8 Cricket (Round 5) ACC Year 7/ 8 Volleyball (Round 5) ACC Year 8 Tennis (Round 5) ACC Year 7 Cricket (Round 5) SPC Year 7 Retreat
6 November	SACCSS Junior Hockey

Week 6B

9 November	VCE External Examinations - All Week Year 10 and 11 Exam Study Day ACC Year 7/ 8 Debating and Public Speaking Competition at St Bernard's
10 November	Year 10 and 11 Exams ACC Year 10 Cricket/ Volleyball/ Tennis - Semi Finals
11 November	Remembrance Day
12 November	ACC Year 8 Cricket/ Volleyball/ Tennis - Semi Finals ACC Year 7 Cricket and Tennis - Semi Finals SACCSS Year Premier League Cricket SACCSS Year 8 Premier League Netball SACCSS Year 8 Premier League Boys Soccer SACCSS Year 8 Premier League Girls Basketball SACCSS Year 8 Premier League Boys Basketball SACCSS Year 8 Premier League Girls Volleyball SACCSS Year 8 Premier League Boys Volleyball SPC Campus Twilight Talk and Tour - 2029 Enrolments
13 November	Year 8 and 9 Exam Period Commences