



## Principal's Message

Dear valued members of the St Leo's community,

As we conclude Term 3, it's a wonderful time to reflect on the year so far and celebrate the accomplishments we've achieved together. Now, as we head into the holiday break, I want to extend my warmest wishes to all families. May this holiday break be a time of well-deserved rest and rejuvenation for all our students.

## Year 12 HSC & Graduation

We wish our Year 12 students all the best as they make the final preparations for their HSC exams and for some, their first steps into the world of work and training via an apprenticeship. Thank you in advance to our Year 12 teachers who continue to provide HSC workshops over the break and feedback to draft essays and responses.

Last Wednesday we farewelled our Year 12 students and their families from the College. We commenced with Mass with the whole College community in the morning, followed by an afternoon Graduation ceremony. We were joined by **Fr Brendan**, Moderator of Hornsby Cathedral Parish, **Deacon Rosen Mathew**, **Dr Andrew Fraser** (CSBB Lead - Student Achievement) and **Mrs Jacinta Crowe** (Principal of OLOR).

It was a wonderful occasion and I have included the outgoing [Captains' address](#) by **Tony** and **Zinta** - as it sums up their six-year experience here at St Leo's. Also here are the [Major Award winners](#) from the evening including **Zachary T** winning or highest academic award, The St Leo's Medal, and **Lily P** the All Rounder Award.

On behalf of the College, we wish the Graduating Class of 2023 all the very best for their upcoming HSC exams and for the next chapter in their lives.

### Correction:

In the last edition we omitted one of our incoming McAuley House leaders. Congratulations to **Teagan J** on this position for 2024.



### HSC Showcase Video

Our HSC Showcase event was sadly cut short last month due to a blackout. So instead, here is a video showcase of all the outstanding major works, projects and performances by our 2023 HSC IT Timber, Visual Arts, Dance, Music, Design & Technology and Society & Culture students. Please enjoy!



(Click image to play video)

## Staff News

Many of you would be aware of **Mrs Asher Doyle's** recent situation with her husband's very serious illness. We have been praying for Tom as a community. Last week Asher made the decision to concentrate on her family and step down from her appointment as Leader of the HSIE faculty. The College and I am sure you are as well, understanding and fully supportive of Asher's decision.

Over the past 4 years, Asher has led a varied and wide subject faculty through not only many years but with a personal and professional attitude. Being a Senior Marker and Judge in HSC Society and Culture over the years has greatly contributed to the staff through her expertise and professional judgement in all matters HSIE. Being the Leader of HSIE – looking at how humans interact with the world, how society operates and how it is changing, it presents a dynamic and ever-changing view of the world. The complexities and dynamic nature of these subjects and in turn the way these are presented and taught with our students, Asher has been always forward thinking and progressive in her approach, whilst at the same time cognisant of programming and working with her staff in these ever-changing times.

Asher will still be with us as a classroom teacher (0.8 FTE), bringing her experience and skills to the students under her care, as well as her ongoing contribution to the HSIE and wider staff here at St Leo's. This position will now be advertised for the start of 2024. In the meantime, both **Mr Jon Nicoll** and **Ms Alysha Cameron** will continue leading the faculty next term.

We will also continue to keep **Mr Tom Doyle**, as well as **Mrs Angela Bourke** (Technology faculty) and **Mrs Annette Stanton** (College Support Staff member) who are both currently in hospital, in our prayers.

Congratulations to **Mrs Regina Takchi** (Religious Education) who gave birth to her third child last week - Lucas Tony Takchi. Mum, son (and daughters) are all doing well! We also offer our best wishes to **Mrs Kimberley Prosser** on the imminent birth of her baby daughter in the very near future. We also wish **Mrs Kate Todd**, **Mrs Megan De Kantzow** and **Mrs Robin Lappin** all the best on their Long Service Leave in Term IV.

We bid farewell to **Mr Adam Carr** (HSIE faculty) who is moving to another school on the North Shore. Adam has been with us two years as he started his career in teaching after his work as a federal government adviser role. We acknowledge and thank Adam for his work with our students - particularly in Economics and wish him all the best as he furthers and broadens his teaching career.

**Mr Tom O'Rourke** has been appointed as a member of the HSIE faculty. Tom comes to us from two secondary school positions, (both State and Catholic systems) where he has been a Pastoral Leader and is very experienced in both HSIE; Religious Education and Aboriginal Education. The appointment of Tom will support our Indigenous students in a very concrete way. We welcome Tom at the start of next Term.



## CSBB Religious Creative Arts Competition

A number of St Leo's students entered this year's Religious Creative Arts Competition. This year's theme - COMPASSION "...be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble (1 Peter 3:8) - was captured wonderfully by students and expressed in their creative artworks in a powerful way.

The industry professionals who judged the artworks were impressed with the talent and creativity on display in all five categories. The judges for 2023 were

### END OF TERM PRAYER

We thank you Lord, for this term. For the challenges, the successes, and the mistakes from which we have learnt. Be with us as we spend our time with family and friends.

Give us strength and courage to do what is right; to be witnesses of our faith. Help us to be practical Christians these holidays, to appreciate what others do for us, to give time and effort to help others, to be peacemakers in our family.

Keep us safe in our activities; give us good rest and good fun. Bring us back refreshed and ready for a new term.

We ask you particularly to look after our Year 12 students who sit the HSC upon our return in Term IV. We thank you for our colleagues, students, parents and a community that cares for us.

May we always be conscious of you in our lives.

**Amen**

**Leslie Duffin** (visual art), **Danielle Barnes**, **Scott Irwin** (dance, drama, music) and **Ana Maria Belo** (short film). A prize winners showcase (dance, drama, music, short film) will be held at Hornsby RSL on 24 October.

Congratulations to our St Leo's prize winners: **Gabriel O**, Year 8 ([Short Film](#) - 1st Place), **Precious C**, Year 10 ([Short Film](#) - 1st Place), **Maya M**, Year 10 (Visual Art - 1st Place, *previous page*), **Aidan D**, Year 7 (Visual Art - 3rd Place, *right*).

Wishing all our community members a safe, restful and enjoyable spring break. We look forward to seeing students for the start of Term IV on Monday, 9 October.

Thank you for your time and enjoy your break.

**Tony Gleeson**  
**Principal**



## Parent Engagement @ St Leo's – New Initiatives

St Leo's is lucky to have **Ms Saj Senn** as our Parent Engagement Coordinator (PEC). Saj has been employed at the College to provide pastoral support and parent engagement activities. Saj's role supports the school community through facilitating parent education, providing information to parents on support services and wellbeing initiatives which include making resources accessible for families.

# Meet Your PEC

Hello there, I'm the new Parent Engagement Coordinator (PEC) at St Leo's. Thank you for my warm welcome to the St Leo's community!

I'm passionate about making a positive difference in the lives of others, and as your PEC, I pray that I will be able to strengthen relationships between parents/ carers, St Leo's and the wider parish communities through various initiatives, so as to improve student learning and wellbeing. My role will support CSBB's *Towards 2025 strategy*. Please feel free to reach out to me if I can help you.

 [sajanne.senn@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sajanne.senn@dbb.catholic.edu.au)



*Sajanne Senn*

In 2024, St Leo's will continue to drive opportunities for parents and carers to play a greater role in their young person's education.

Our College has long been known for our commitment to academic excellence, spiritual development and sense of community. Central to this success is the active and meaningful engagement of parents in the education of their children. When parents are involved in school life, a unique synergy emerges, bringing forth countless benefits that enrich the educational experience for students, parents, teachers, and the broader parish community.

St Leo's is not only a centre of academic learning, but also a place where faith is nurtured. Parent engagement in this context is particularly potent. When parents actively participate in religious education, attend Friday

Mass, Monday Rosary and share their faith with their children, they reinforce the values and teachings of the Catholic Church. This spiritual partnership deepens the faith formation of students, helping them grow into faithful, compassionate, and socially responsible individuals.

St Leo's places a strong emphasis on moral development and character formation. Parent engagement plays a pivotal role in this process. Parents, as primary moral educators, collaborate with teachers to instil virtues such as kindness, honesty, and humility in their children. Together, parents and educators create a moral compass that guides students on the path to becoming virtuous individuals.

Studies consistently show that students with engaged parents perform better academically. At St Leo's, where academic rigour is balanced with values-based education, this partnership is especially influential. Parents can provide additional support for their children's learning, assist with homework, and reinforce the importance of academic achievement grounded in faith.



Our College thrives on the sense of community we cultivate. Engaged parents contribute to this by participating in school events, volunteering, and collaborating with other families. This community spirit strengthens the bonds between students, parents, teachers, and the wider Broken Bay community, creating a nurturing environment where everyone feels valued and supported.

Service to others is a fundamental aspect of life at St Leo's. Engaged parents serve as role models for their children by actively participating in community service and outreach programs. This hands-on involvement instills a sense of compassion and social responsibility in students, encouraging them to live out the principles of Catholic social teaching.

As a Catholic school, we have a unique mission to provide an education grounded in faith. Engaged parents are essential allies in fulfilling this mission. They actively support the school's religious curriculum, attend meetings, and participate in discussions about the school's faith-based initiatives. Their commitment strengthens the school's identity as a Catholic institution.

We look forward to further building these already strong partnerships with our wonderful parent community.

***Mr Patrick Brennan, Assistant Principal: Evangelisation and Catechesis***

## Parent Engagement News



### Parents and Carers Invited to Weekly Mass and Rosary

At St Leo's our weekly Mass and Rosary holds great significance in our school community as it is an opportunity for our students, staff and now parents to come together in a spirit of faith and unity. These are beautiful occasions to celebrate our shared values and to strengthen the bonds that make our Catholic school community so special.

Mass is held each Friday at 1:15pm while the Rosary is prayed each Monday at 10:50am. Both are held in the College Chapel. Parents are asked to sign in at Reception before attending Mass or the Rosary in the Chapel.

Your presence would mean a lot to us as we strive to create a sense of togetherness and spirituality within our school community and continue to strengthen the partnership and engagement of our parents and carers.

### Programs for Families:

We have two CatholicCare programs coming up that might be of interest to school families:

#### ***Hornsby Cathedral Parish Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)***

Curious about Catholicism? 2023-24 RCIA sessions are starting soon.

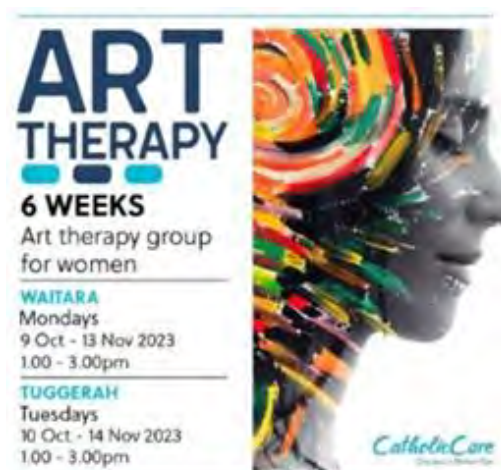
Are you, or someone you know, interested in finding out more about what Catholics believe and practice, and why? Do you think you might like to become a Catholic? Contact Peter, Parish Christian Initiation Team leader, on Mobile 0411 389 300 or via email [rcia.hornsby@gmail.com](mailto:rcia.hornsby@gmail.com).

If you are a parishioner and would like to be a friend or become part of the RCIA team to help those on the journey, please also contact Peter.

#### ***Art Therapy Group for Women – in person at Waitara or Tuggerah – from 9 October***

CatholicCare is excited to announce their new art therapy group for women where participants utilise art making to express thoughts and feelings that may be difficult to put into words. Facilitated by a registered Art Therapist, no artistic skills are required just an interest in the creative process.

This group will provide a supportive and non-judgemental space to explore your creative side whilst also giving expression to feelings,



thoughts and future hopes. A variety of art materials will be supplied, and themes may be explored through the creative process supporting a safe connection to self and others in the group. Additional benefits of art therapy include improved communication skills, reduction in stress levels, an increase in self-esteem, personal insight, connecting with your strengths and exploring your imagination and creativity.

Cost (6-week package) is \$300 or \$150 concession. If you have NDIS funding, this will cover these sessions.

Contact: 1800 324 924 or [therapyservices@catholiccaredbb.org.au](mailto:therapyservices@catholiccaredbb.org.au) to register.

### Online Program: Keeping Kids in Mind for Separating Parents – from 18 October

This is a course for separated parents who are experiencing ongoing conflict. Run online across five consecutive Wednesdays from 18 October to 15 November 12.00 – 2.30pm, it is designed to assist parents to see separation through their children's eyes and provides tips on how best to support your children through separation. Limited places are now available. [Register here](#).



### Enterprise in the Community Program - Year 10

**Parents – we need your help to deliver an exciting Enterprise Program for Year 10 late in Term 4**



We are excited to present an exclusive opportunity for parents to further engage with our community by participating in a transformative skills development initiative - Enterprise in the Community Program, which St Leo's will offer to Year 10 business studies and commerce students in Term 4 this year for the first time.

#### Quick Facts:

- Supported by NSW Education since 2020
- Enriching the lives of students across 35 high schools in NSW in 2022 alone
- 4-hour commitment offering a high-impact Return on Investment for you and our students

#### Why Participate?

- Collaborative Learning: You'll work hand-in-hand with students in Year 10, developing their problem-solving, design thinking, and presentation skills. Your expertise will serve as a cornerstone in their educational journey.
- Community Impact: Previous business owners reported a 90% satisfaction rate, remarking on the sense of fulfilment they obtained from contributing to their community.
- Innovation: Last year, business owners received an average of five innovative solutions to real-world challenges they face in their operations.
- Exposure: Your involvement will be prominently featured in marketing materials, offering valuable publicity for your business.
- Tax Benefits: Contributions are tax-deductible, with financial details documented for your convenience.

### What do you need to do?

- To present to students a genuine business challenge from your workplace that needs a solution.
- To be available to attend Leo's College on these dates and times: Monday 27 November (approx 1.5 hrs in the morning) & Wednesday 29 November (Approx 2.5 hrs in the afternoon).

For a overview of this program that was run at Mercy College last year, please [view here](#). Please register your interest by [clicking here](#) and we'll arrange to send you more detailed information on how you can take the next steps to influence the future of our community positively.

Thank you for considering this enriching opportunity. Your involvement is invaluable to developing the crucial business and life skills our students will carry into their futures.

**Mr Justin Slowey, Leader of Pathways & Partnerships**



## Year 12 2024 Information Evening

We will be holding an Information Evening for our Year 12 2024 students and parents via Zoom on 12 October, commencing at 6:30pm.

All Year 12 2024 students and their families are strongly encouraged to attend. If you cannot make the evening, the session will be recorded for you to view at a more convenient time.

The session will include information relating to HSC rules and procedures, assessment information, College expectations and student responsibilities, study techniques and time management as well as support structures available at the College.

Mr Tavernese and the College Leadership team look forward to working closely with you all over the next 12 months.

## Year 12 2024 Book Orders

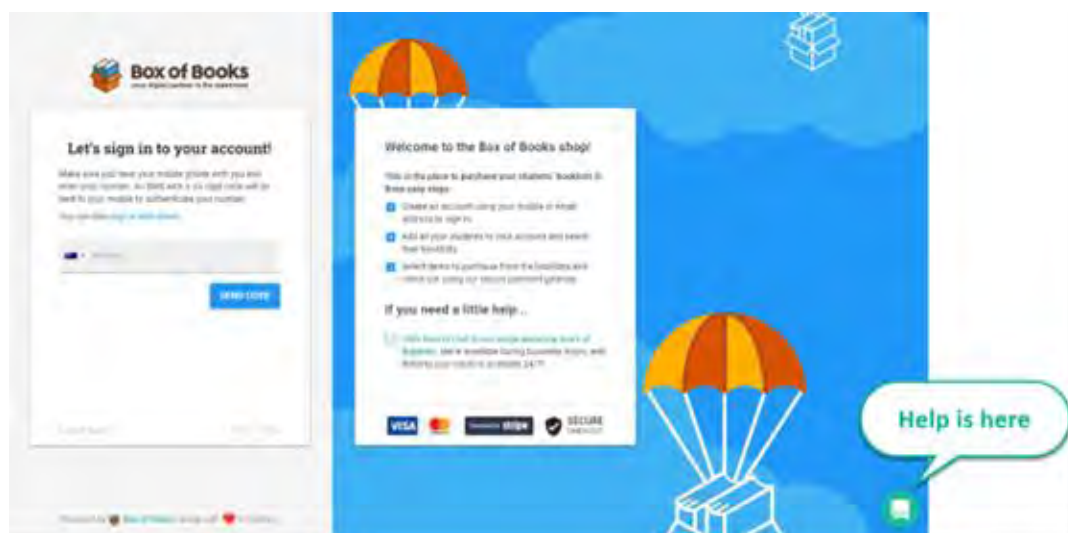
It's not too late for our Year 12 2024 (current Year 11) students to order their textbooks and resources for Term 4. **If you have yet to purchase books for Term 4, please place your order as soon as possible.**

### Steps to order:

Visit [Box of Books Shop](#) to log into your existing parent/guardian account or create a new account if it is your first purchase.

Add each student, including school email if possible, and nominate school and year group.

Select the items you wish to purchase from the booklist shown.



Use the checkout to organise postage direct to your nominated address and complete payment.

For further assistance, please see this short informative guide on [How to Purchase Books](#) or contact the Box of Books team through the in-app support function as shown below.



## From the Leo's Library

*Holidays..* time to relax and read a great book. If you are travelling, Leo's has a great online audio and ebook library subscription through at [stleos.wheelers.co](http://stleos.wheelers.co). Get in early to get the book you want! Audiobooks are especially good for road trips.

A group of students visited the State Library on 21 September to see the exhibition 'Shakespeare, For all Time'. We were all excited to see the library's copies of the rare First, Second, Third and Fourth folios, the earliest one dating back to 1623!

I will be taking leave in Term IV and I'm delighted that **Mrs Melissa Duff** will be looking after the library. Although the way we read keeps changing, libraries, which in our democratic society make our stories and understandings available to everyone, remain vital. Being able to think critically through information, see different perspectives, hear and tell stories, these are innately human traits. *Words change worlds: love your library!*

**Mrs Megan de Kantzow, Leader of Information Resources**

## What's been Happening?

### Coaches Program – Year 10

On five Thursdays this term, St Leo's, in partnership with Catholic Schools Broken Bay and 'Creating Chances', ran the 'Coaches Program' for 20 students enjoying engagement with physical movement. This course, run for the first time at St Leo's, was aimed at equipping participants with valuable employability and personal skills needed in any future workplace.



Participants identified their strengths and interests through a variety of practical activities with the objective to further develop a clear focus of what values and goals they have going forward into the senior school years. By actively coaching younger students during their sports lessons, they built transferable skills which will assist them to successfully access a variety of senior school and post school options such as university, TAFE or an apprenticeship/traineeship.

During the program it became clear what enormous leadership qualities participants possess, daring to be role models for younger peers by working in a team, communicating effectively and with empathy, giving and receiving feedback - and by taking responsibility for the safety of themselves and others under the expertise guidance of 'Creating Chances' youth development facilitators.



The participating students can be congratulated on their achievements during this program – they have a bright future ahead as young leaders in their (sports) communities.

**Ms Melissa Duff (Careers) & Ms Leona Jenkins (Year 10 Leader)**





## Year 9 Visual Arts

Year 9 Visual Arts students have been exploring the work of Australian local modernist painter Grace Cossington Smith as part of their overarching unit on 'Interior Spaces'. Within their own artmaking, they are emulating the same Impressionistic broken brush technique as they learn about the atmospheric effects of light and colour within her paintings.



## Year 10 Visual Arts

This term Year 10 Visual Arts students have been working hard on their terracotta pots inspired by the Indigenous Hermannsburg Potters.

Using traditional hand building coil techniques, they have created their pots which will later be under glazed and glazed with appropriated scenes from paintings.



## R U OK? Day



Last week we held a (slightly belated) R U OK? Day at the College.

Our new Year 11 Leaders took the lead as R U OK Ambassadors, visiting mentor groups and initiating R U OK conversations with students during recess and lunch while promoting the day with written affirmations and R U OK? Day

merchandise. Well done to our new student leaders!



## REMINDERS:



We're thrilled to announce that all 8 of our secondary schools now have dedicated LinkedIn pages. This opportunity to connect is open to all past graduates as well as our most recent cohorts. We extend a warm invitation to all alumni to locate your respective secondary school on LinkedIn and establish a connection with us. Let's build a stronger community together.





## Upcoming Dates for Term 4

Week	Date	Event
T4 W1	Mon 9 Oct	Classes resume for Term 4
1	Wed 11 Oct – Fri 3 Nov	HSC Exams
1	Thu 12 Oct, 6.30pm	Year 12 2024 Information Evening (via Zoom)
2	Wed 18 Oct	Year 7 2024 Information Evening (in person)
2	Fri 20 Oct	Year 7 Taronga Park Zoo Excursion
3	Wed 25 – Fri 27 Oct	Year 11 Retreat - Mulgoa
4	Tue 7 Nov	Year 7 Vaccinations
6	Wed 15 – Fri 17 Nov	Year 10 Camp
6	Fri 17 Nov	Year 7 2024 Orientation
8	Fri 1 Dec	College Swimming Carnival
10	Wed 13 Dec	College Advent Liturgy
10	Thu 14 Dec	Year in Review – End of Year Awards Ceremony
10	Fri Dec	Last day of Term 4 – Leo's Day (fun day)

## Community Notices

### Hornsby Relay For Life

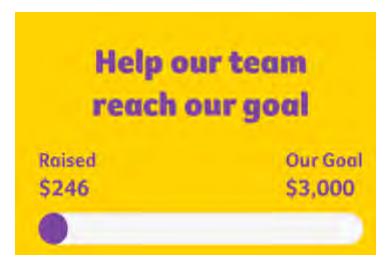
Hornsby Relay For Life is being held on 4-5 November 2023 at Rofe Park, Hornsby Heights. St Leo's Pride Team Captain, **Mrs Joanna Gower** (Registrar and Principal's Assistant) has been involved in the organising committee since 2017 and the committee are busy working on making Hornsby Relay bigger and better than ever.

We all know way too many people who are either living with cancer or who have lost their lives to this terrible disease. Relay hosts activities to celebrate cancer survivors, to recognise their carers and to recognise those lost whilst raising much needed funds to support people affected by cancer and aid in research with the vision of a cancer-free future.

To find out more or donate to the team, please [visit the website](#), or contact [joanna.gower@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:joanna.gower@dbb.catholic.edu.au) if you would like further information.



Celebrate  
Remember  
Fight Back.



### Second-hand Uniforms

A reminder that second-hand uniforms can be bought and sold through [The Uniform Exchange](#) at Pymble and online via [sustainableschoolshop.com.au](http://sustainableschoolshop.com.au) as on our website:

1. **The Uniform Exchange** has a physical store in Pymble as well as an online store which buys and sells secondhand school uniforms. Buyers can search available items online by school. For sellers, there are no listing fees online, or they will sell items at their Pymble Exchange.
2. St Leo's is registered with **sustainableschoolshop.com.au**, an online trading platform for parents to buy and sell secondhand uniforms. The site also sells secondhand textbooks, musical instruments, calculators, etc. Buyers can search for items for free by school, set up a regular email alert for a '**stocktake report**' of St Leo's uniform items currently listed, or place a 'wanted ad' after setting up a free account. Sellers can list items for \$1.50 (single items) up to \$21.95 for unlimited items (12 month subscription). Interested buyers than contact sellers directly (similar to Gumtree or Marketplace).