



ST PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL
ADAMSTOWN

KEEPING CONNECTED



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to the inaugural edition of our **Stage 6 2025 Newsletter – Keeping Connected**. We have created this as a source of regular information and updates about our planning and developments for our transition to a 7 to 12 College. Thank you for your interest in being part of the future **Trinity Catholic College**.



Our current motto, **“To renew all things in Christ”** reminds us constantly of our need to keep Jesus at the centre of all we do and to ensure we focus on continuous improvement in all things. Our teaching and support staff are dedicated professionals who always strive to deliver the best education and service possible to our students and their parents and carers. You will read a little bit about some of our staff later in this newsletter.

A DIOCESAN CHANGE AND COMMITMENT

Upon making the determination to renew the structure of our three inner-city schools, the Diocese made a commitment to support our schools in the preparation for change, through the work of the Diocesan Transition Committee. This committee has sought to ensure that each school can grow and flourish in the years ahead through effective planning and resourcing.

To this end, the Diocese is developing a master plan to develop each school site with a coherent long-term vision. The draft plan for Trinity Catholic College is underway and I look forward to being able to share some of that very soon.

MOMENTUM WITHIN THE SCHOOL

Our School Transition Committee comprises our whole Executive Team, our Transition Coordinator (TC), and a teacher elected by the staff. The committee consists of: Bob Emery (P & Chair), Stephen Dunn (AP), Carmel Wright (AP), Amanda Mohr (MC), Simone Kelly (LOL-RST), Frances Bowen (Support Staff Manager), Cherie Borger (TC) and John McLoughlin (LOL-PDHPE).

Our transition progress has been steady. Earlier in the year we asked for feedback about a new name. Once that was in place, we formed several sub-committees: Catholic Identity, Wellbeing, Curriculum, Student Transition, Facilities and Uniform. A number of key decisions are interdependent (eg crest, motto, uniform) but are approaching a time when they can be finalised.

Recruitment of HSC experienced teachers and leaders is going well to add to the large number of HSC experienced teachers already at St Pius. All Faculties have liaised with existing successful 7 to 12 schools within our Diocese and beyond to glean their accumulated HSC teaching, assessing and marking wisdom.

We have been blessed in contracting Mrs Terry O'Brien as a Critical Mentor, specifically for professional advice and learning in HSC assessment and analysis. Terry is extremely experienced and highly respected in these aspects of Stage 6 operation. Terry has experience as Principal of two schools: Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus and Penshurst Girls High School. She has been a NSW Board of Studies Liaison Officer and a NSW State Curriculum Consultant in History.

Later this term we will hold meetings for parents/carers and for students to update you further on our transition progress and answer questions you may have. We are delighted that you are going to embrace this renewal of our school with us. We look forward to supporting you all the way.

Bob Emery

Principal – St Pius X High School Adamstown

FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS

Throughout our Keeping Connected series and school social media avenues we will highlight the professional and expert teaching staff we already have at St Pius X, and their exciting journey towards year 11 and 12. In this edition, you will learn more about the faculties of Science, Personal Development Health and Physical Education (PDHPE), Human Society and its Environment (HSIE) and Creative Arts.

Hands on Stage 6 Science

Science is an integral part of everyday life, and our Stage 6 teachers are fortunate to bridge the connection between the content and skills we learn in class and the big wide world.

This collaborative process in the senior years builds curiosity, encourages resilience and perseverance, improves communication and problem-solving skills, and supports critical thinking.

Our pathway elective subjects, iSTEM and Marine and Aquaculture Technology, offer real-world extra-curricular opportunities to enrich student learning. These experiences expose students to new skills, and ultimately broaden their understanding of the types of possible careers out in the real world.

We pride ourselves on being able to offer students as many hands-on opportunities as possible (check out the experiments in these photos!), as we understand many students learn best through interactive experiences. The facilities at our school support this style of learning with almost every science class in a laboratory for every lesson.



Diversity and practical experience in the HSIE classroom

Our HSIE teachers at St Pius X are passionate about sharing their love of the world around them with others. Our lessons offer a wide variety of activities that build understanding of our world and practical skills for life after school. You can walk into a HSIE classroom and see students experiencing everything from creating clay Moai statues, mummifying capsicums, investing \$50,000 in the sharemarket, constructing Egyptian artifacts, designing a

new town, creating interactive websites, participating in Mock Legal Trials, and even experiencing an immersive virtual reality (VR) Mt Vesuvius eruption of Pompeii.

With a strong focus on developing skills in literacy, source analysis and geographic concepts, when our Stage 6 students step into a HSIE classroom they can expect to learn and develop in new ways each day.



PDHPE – building on Stage 6 experience

The PDHPE faculty is excitedly planning for 2025 and teaching our first Year 11 and 12 cohort, in the Stage 6 PDHPE Subject areas: Health and Movement Science (a new course replacing the current Stage 6 PDHPE), Community and Family Studies, Exploring Early Childhood and Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation.

The timing for the introduction of the new Health and Movement Science is ideal for us as we welcome Year 11 from 2025. We are fortunate to have four current staff members with experience teaching Stage 6 PDHPE subjects at a variety of schools. To supplement this, the PDHPE staff members have also been very actively participating in professional learning activities targeted at Stage 6 courses.

One of the biggest strengths of the PDHPE team is the rapport that we establish with our students. We are excited to extend this to our senior students.

In 2025 four of our staff will be Leaders of Wellbeing for the school and Ms Mohr will continue her role as Ministry Coordinator. The PDHPE Faculty are strong advocates for providing students with engaging opportunities to participate in extra curricula activities such as representative sports, camps and connections with local community organisations.

We are a multi-talented team who are very much looking forward to leading our first Trinity Catholic College Year 11 and 12 students to some amazing results and experiences from 2025.



Getting creative in Stage 6

The Creative and Performing Arts staff practise what they teach!

Through the Creative Arts - Drama, Music, Visual Arts, Visual Design and Photographic and Digital Media, exploration of our world is critical for developing creative thinking.

All staff in the faculty are practising artists and performers and have many years of combined experience both in the classroom from Stages 4 to 6, and in the wider community. Our music teachers perform in bands, and compose and record professionally. Drama teachers

perform in productions. Art teachers are experienced in curating and creating art for exhibition. All this valuable experience beyond the classroom enriches student engagement and active participation within class, particularly in Stage 6 years.

Our programs are designed to foster creativity, develop technical skills, and encourage critical enquiry based on student centred learning. Participation in extra-curricular activities is encouraged from Year 7 through to 12. Opportunities include Diocesan Drama performances, Theatre Sports, ASPIRE and school musicals.



KEY DATES AND WHAT'S TO COME

Wednesday 15 November 2023

Stage 6 Transition Parent Meeting Factory Theatre 7pm

Year 9 parents and others interested are invited to join us for Stage 6 updates from our Transition Team. Our HSC Critical Mentor, Ms Terry O'Brien, will also be sharing her wealth of information with parents about the HSC.

