



ST PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL
ADAMSTOWN

KEEPING CONNECTED



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The recent announcement of our Trinity Catholic College crest and motto was an exciting commencement to the year. This has enabled us to progress the design of the new junior and senior uniforms, which will be ready for sharing soon.

Our transition work with Terry O'Brien, our Critical Mentor in HSC assessment and analysis is continuing. Our program of teacher visits to other schools, to view the use of specialist facilities and to discuss and view HSC assessment tasks and marking, including the marking of Major Project work has also added value to our preparations.

We have begun a collaboration with the University of Newcastle on pathways available to senior students for university entrance and on specific Stage 6 curriculum areas.

Preparations are being finalised to enable Stage 1 facilities works to commence. Several aspects of these works were mentioned in the last newsletter. One of the most exciting is the creation of a senior space including a lounge area, kitchenette, outdoor seating and yard. Year 10 students have had input into this design which should result in the development of a wonderful new space for our senior students, close to the location of their lockers.

A distinct formal senior uniform, a senior space and lockers are some of the ways we intend to help senior

students feel privileged and a special part of our school community. Our Wellbeing Program is also being expanded with topics and units appropriate to senior students. Staff professional learning, specifically about the treatment of senior students as young adults, will help them to develop mentoring relationships, which in turn will best assist students to prepare for the HSC and beyond.

Our teachers know their students and know how they learn. Students who choose to continue their education here, at Trinity Catholic College, for Years 11 and 12 will certainly have that advantage. They are known as people, and as learners, by our teachers and their strong connection to our school community will assist them to commence a new, exciting phase of their education in 2025 without having to re-establish themselves in a new environment.

Bob Emery

Principal – St Pius X High School Adamstown



Read more about Trinity Catholic College,
our new crest and motto here.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS

Maths

Teaching Stage 6 Mathematics is not new to St Pius Maths staff. We have taught Year 10 Accelerated Mathematics students in Years 11/12 Advanced Mathematics since 2019. In fact, in 2022 one of our program graduates achieved 100% in the HSC, coming 1st in NSW for Advanced Mathematics, receiving a Premier's Award.

Our Enrichment Program has been running for over ten years and is offered to our Year 9 and 10 students in preparation for Stage 6 Mathematics. Support for our EAL/D and special needs students is provided by the Learning Centre team and extra tutoring is available for all students during Tuesday lunchtime in the Library.

Our staff are engaging in regular professional development with the Stage 6 syllabuses for Numeracy, Standard Mathematics, Advanced Mathematics and Extension. The new syllabus for Stages 4 and 5 (beginning 2024), required all maths teachers to align their methodologies with the Core and Pathways structure linked to Stage 6 outcomes.

The Mathematics staff at St Pius promote a strong



emphasis on modelling problem-solving. Students are encouraged to ask questions, participate in group problem solving and utilise technology.

We encourage students to participate in Mathematics Competitions and other maths activities at the University of Newcastle.

We look forward to challenging our senior students to realise their full potential.

English

Teaching students to unleash the power of those modest, unassuming words has always been our specialty and we are thrilled to be casting off the dust jackets of some of our most cherished literature in readiness for Stage 6 in 2025.

Collectively, our English Faculty has over 30 years of experience teaching Stage 6 English, so transition, for us, is a time for rediscovering some old literary friends and acquainting ourselves with a few new ones.

Stage 6 English is all about giving students a unified experience of great literature and the tools to effectively combine their words into potent and powerful messages; words that, with purpose and flair, communicate confidently to the world. Our literary muscles are flexed and ready to elevate our students' literacy as they embark on this next level of their learning.



Words – so innocent and powerless as they are, as standing in a dictionary, how potent they become in the hands of one who knows how to combine them.

NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE - AMERICAN NOVELIST.

TAS

Nearly all the staff in the Technology Faculty had a successful career in Industry before entering the classroom. We were Chefs, Architects, Industrial Designers, Boilermakers and Naturopaths.

This industry expertise equips us with the skills, insights, and firsthand experience of real-world applications of the subjects we teach. We bridge the gap between theory and practice which makes the learning experience more engaging and relatable for our students.

We see value in forging relationships with our local community which present opportunities for our students. We are well connected to the University of Newcastle which involves us in their HunterWISE (Women in STEM) program and the 'Build me a Future' events that they host. We are also involved in the Tech Girls Movement and various TAFE trade readiness initiatives.

We encourage students to explore innovative ideas, experiment with different materials and techniques, and design unique solutions to authentic problems.

They learn to brainstorm ideas, create prototypes, test solutions, and iterate on their designs. These problem-solving skills are transferable and can be applied in various aspects of their lives.

Some of our students have gone on and made successful careers as chefs, cafe owners, textile designers and builders. Witnessing their growth and accomplishments in the workforce reaffirms the significance of education and inspires us to continue guiding and preparing future generations of professionals.



Languages

Our Language teachers are passionate about sharing their love of languages. Both our Language teachers are of Italian heritage and have been successfully teaching European languages (French, German and Italian) for many years. They have lived, studied and worked overseas and travelled extensively. Our team tutors Stage 6 students for the HSC and University level students for their CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) qualifications.

They offer a wide variety of activities that build a love of languages for life including incursions (for example, a demonstration by French chef Christian Breton), excursions (for example, a petanque competition at Nesca Park Petanque Courts), community events (French Friday film and markets, Italian Film festival) and cultural programs (for example, Switzerland Pen Pal program).

Our school is renowned for successful study tours to both Italy and France, immersing their students in the culture and the target language. They aim to engage and inspire students in their language learning process.

Our language teachers stay informed about the latest trends, methodologies, and resources relevant to teaching by attending meetings in the various language organisations such as the Hunter Language Teacher's Network, Alliance Francaise de Newcastle, NSW Association of French Teachers and National Italian Australian Women's Association.



KEY DATES AND WHAT'S TO COME

25 Mar – 5 Apr

Year 11 enrolment – Expressions of interest open

2 April

Year 11 Course Information released

7 May

Stage 6 Course Information Night

9 May

Stage 6 Course Preference portal opens