



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Last Friday 25th October, we officially blessed and opened our new school buildings here at St Edmund's. What was equally significant about this date, was that it coincided with World Teacher's Day.

All who work here at St Edmund's play an integral role in the social, emotional and learning development of our students.

What we do today, by caring for our students and providing for them a safe environment in which to flourish, is no different to the values imparted when St Edmund's first opened its doors, over 70 years ago.

Upholding the dignity of the student and providing them the excellence they deserved, extended to the purpose built facilities and resources that were incorporated into Midhope, when it was transformed into an educational and boarding setting.

Any building evolution that occurred thereafter, was always to ensure the needs of the students were met. And today we have evidence of where this evolution has come to... an incredible facility for our students that reminds them that they matter, and that they are valued, and that they deserve to access the same resources that any other student should receive in any educational setting.

And yet, there's an additional aspect of St Edmund's, that no brilliant architect nor engineer nor project manager nor builder can design or manufacture or construct, and it has remained in place over the many decades...

and that is the spirit of St Edmund's which is lived through our values - Faith, Community, Relationships and Joy.

People who enter our community, often comment on the 'feel' of the place: the warmth, the friendliness, the hospitality, the openness, the acceptance, the embrace, the joy.

It's a culture where the individual comes to be known, and in turn has the opportunity to thrive.

Where one's truth is not a limitation, but a celebration of potential and promise. Where one's journey begins, and where it leads to is a culmination of many people providing courage, collaboration, care and compassion so that our students may actively engage in a fulfilling life of independence and meaning.

All of our students recently exhibited artwork at our First Eddie's Art Show. The curated works celebrated and communicated our students flair and creativity. One of these artworks was voted People's Choice, and it was by Matthew in Year 9 showing the transition of a sunflower from bud to bloom.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I like the symbolism of this artwork and how it defines what we aim to achieve here at St Edmund's - not just the aim that we have today, but also the aim that was there 73 years ago, and the aim I am sure will be in place for the next 73 years and beyond.

The sunflower has become a nationally accepted symbol for hidden disability, but never is it something that means hiding away the gifts that intellectual disability provides and promotes.

Our awesome students remind us every day of the God-given talents they possess which enhances and enriches our community.

Where such talents and gifts need not be concealed, but revealed.

Not kept in bud, but appreciated, and marvelled at, in full bloom.

In the same way that the sunflower follows the path of the sun, may St Edmund's always provide a source of light and life, that all our students deserve to receive, so as to grow and develop and follow the path where life is leading them – a life of hope, blessings and promise.

Official Opening and Blessing of New School Buildings

As mentioned above, the school opening and blessing was a really special celebration! Thank you to all staff for the significant part they played in ensuring the spirit of St Edmund's was experienced, lived and truly appreciated!

All students were beautifully supported with the adjustment to their 'usual Friday' routine, and they participated respectfully and enthusiastically. Our KWS Choir and our Eddie's Drummers and Dancers showcased their talents brilliantly with the performances they showcased on the day. Our Senior Student Leaders also read wonderfully, and those students who were chosen to bring forth special items to our sacred space, did it reverently and perfectly.

The guests who attended loved all of what they experienced. They were in awe of our staff, our spaces, the kindness received and, of course, our students – the true stars of today!



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



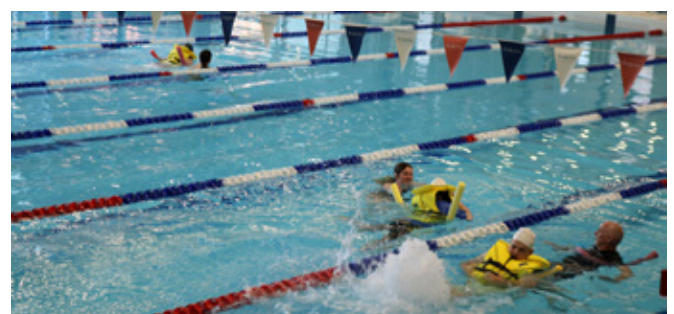
I received many an email message from those special guests who were in attendance – Fr David, Jon Franzin, Michael Farrell, Cathy Laing, Br Tony, Br Cyril, Michael West all wanted to express the joy they experienced and the gratitude for being invited to attend.

I particularly want to thank those staff, who have contributed in many a way, leading up this massive occasion: Louise D, Bernie, Julie Mac, Susan, Matt, Chris, Paul, Brenden J, James, Mark, Nicola, Lisa O, Sharon, Lisa S, Brendon E, Cherie, Tiffany, Rebecca and Terry.

College Swimming Carnival

Thank you to those of you who came to support our students at our recent Swimming Carnival at PLC. This is always an awesome whole school event, where the students absolutely shine! It was also wonderful having them talk so proudly of their achievements on the day.

A special shout out to: Terry, Mark, Lisa O, Lynda, Niamh, Jacqui C and Lois for the role they each played on the day, as well as in the lead up to it! Congratulations to Waterford, the winning House Team for 2024!



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

This week our Year 9 and Year 10 students were accompanied by staff on their annual 3 day/2 night camp. This year the NSW South Coast region was explored, and it brought many exciting experiences and adventures! The students got up close and personal with some wildlife at Symbio Wildlife Park, they ventured bravely (as did staff!) onto the Illawarra Fly Treetops Walk, they marvelled at the Kiama Blowhole and were excited to explore lots of planes at the Aviation Museum. The trip ended with a fun, interactive and educational time at the Wollongong Science Space centre.

The students were amazing and engaged with every opportunity provided to them! The staff at Chittick Lodge, Gerringong, helped make our stay 'away from home' really comfortable and enjoyable, too.

A huge shout out to the staff who attended, in particular our Camp coordinator, Niamh. A massive thanks to: Niamh, Katie, Tracey S, Regina, Sharon, Lin, Terry, Carl, Sheena, Janine, Brendon E, Ali, Lisa O, Caitlin, Rachelle, Isabella and Rachel!



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

School Photos

We are really pleased to inform you that copies of your child's 2024 school photos will be coming home with you today. As we informed you earlier in the year, we did not think there was any possibility that this may happen, when we were told that the Photography Company had gone into liquidation.

Thankfully, with thanks to Bernie, Matt, Rebecca, Mel and Con who assisted me in finding a solution, we have been able to produce an end product that we hope you will enjoy.

A massive shout out to Jason O'Connor and the Team at Snap Printing who very generously printed all these photos for us. We really are so very grateful, and value the support extended by Jason to us here at Eddie's, on a very regular basis.

Year 7 2025 Orientation Day

Next Tuesday 5th November, we will be welcoming our Year 7 2025 students onsite for a part-day orientation. Thank you to Jackie R, our Registrar, who is working closely with other staff to coordinate this day, and make it an informative and helpful experience for parents/carers and students. Thank you to all staff who will be involved in the facilitation of this day.

Parent Group Evening

A reminder that you are all invited to attend next week's Parent Group evening on Wednesday 6 November at 6pm (onsite at St Edmund's). PW Lawyers will discuss Special Disability Trusts and other trusts that may be of benefit for our families.

Further information and the RSVP link is on the following page.

Farewell Emma!

Today we welcomed Emma Fotheringham and her beautiful baby daughter, Aria, onsite so as to thank and farewell her. Emma has been a wonderful asset to the St Edmund's community for a number of years, and has developed meaningful connections with staff and students alike. It was lovely for us to extend our gratitude to her, and the students loved seeing her a little Aria, too. We wish Emma all the very best as she embarks on her new journey as a mum – one that brings with it many beautiful blessings!

Vanessa Dillon | Principal



PARENT GROUP MEETING

WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER • 6PM - 7PM

ST EDMUND'S COLLEGE

Special Disability Trusts Presentation and Q&A with PW Lawyers

A Special Disability Trust is a legal trust created to enable families in Australia to financially provide for a person in their family with a severe disability. The trust allows for private financial provision for the future care and accommodation needs.

PW Lawyers specialise in Special Disability Trusts.

Please join Andrew Rothfield, Principal Solicitor and Anthony Fillbrook, Practice Manger to learn more and see if this could be of benefit for your young person. They will also discuss other trusts available in the event your young person does not qualify for Special Disability Trusts.

Please RSVP at
www.stedmunds.nsw.edu.au/parent



PW Lawyers



Andrew Rothfield
Principal Solicitor



Anthony Fillbrook
Practice Manger

2025 CALENDAR

Please note there has been a minor adjustment to the 2025 calendar. The Term 3 Professional Learning Day has been moved from 5 August to 29 July. You can see the current calendar below or [download here](#).

2025 SCHOOL YEAR

TERM 1

Tuesday	28 January	Staff Day
Wednesday	29 January	Staff Day
Thursday	30 January	Students return
Friday	11 April	Last day of term
Friday	18 April	Good Friday
Monday	21 April	Easter Monday

11 week term - Autumn Holidays

TERM 2

Monday	28 April	Staff Day
Tuesday	29 April	Students return
Monday	5 May	Blessed Edmund Rice Day
Monday	9 June	King's Birthday Public Holiday
Saturday	14 June	Eddie's Big Night Out
Friday	27 June	Last day of term

9 week term - Winter Holidays

TERM 3

Monday	21 July	Staff Day
Tuesday	22 July	Students return
Tuesday	29 July	Staff Day
Friday	26 September	Last day of term

10 week term - Spring Holidays

TERM 4

Monday	13 October	Staff Day
Tuesday	14 October	Students return
Thursday	4 December	Last day of term

8 week term - Summer Holidays

KEY DATES

Wed 6 Nov **Parent Group Meeting - Special Disability Trusts with PW Lawyers**

Mon 28 – Wed 30 Oct **Yrs 9 and 10 Camp**

Sat 16 Nov **Charity Challenge Gala Dinner**

Wed 20 November **St Edmund's Open Afternoon**

Fri 22 Nov **Abbotsleigh Concert**

Thurs 28 Nov **Yr 12 Formal**

Wed 4 Dec **Presentation Day**

CURRICULUM CORNER

Professional Learning Focus – Comprehension

At St Edmund's, our commitment to supporting student learning and development is always growing. This term, our staff have engaged in professional learning centered on enhancing comprehension skills across all subject areas.

Understanding and interpreting information are crucial skills, not only in English but across every aspect of learning, from Science to History and beyond.

Through embedding focused comprehension strategies into lessons, our goal is to deepen students' understanding, engagement, and ability to apply what they learn in various contexts.

Our dedicated teaching staff are incorporating specific strategies designed to strengthen comprehension skills across the curriculum. These strategies include:

- Activating Prior Knowledge – Helping students connect new information with what they already know.
- Predicting and Making Inferences – Encouraging students to anticipate what might happen next and read between the lines for deeper meaning.
- Questioning – Inspiring curiosity and critical thinking by encouraging students to ask and explore questions about the material.
- Visualising – Enabling students to create mental images to support understanding and recall.
- Retelling and Summarising – Supporting students to restate information in their own words to reinforce learning.
- Synthesising and Evaluating – Teaching students to combine information from multiple sources and critically assess its value.

These strategies are woven into class discussions, task engagement, and text interactions, allowing students to apply and practice comprehension skills in real-time. Teachers guide students to engage with texts and tasks, building both confidence and a toolkit of strategies to navigate materials independently.

We look forward to seeing the impact of these efforts in our students' learning, and we thank you for your ongoing support in fostering a love for learning at home.

Senior Subject Information Evening

The Senior Subject Information Evening will be held on Monday 4 November via zoom (link to be sent in the coming weeks). This will help inform information about subjects and requirements for Years 11 and 12.

It will be held at:

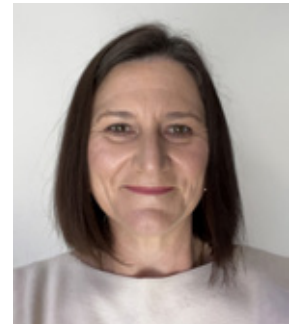
- 6.30pm-7pm for Year 11 2025
- 7.15pm-7.45pm for Year 12 2025

Parents, carers and students are welcome to attend online.

Information Packs

Information packs have been sent home with letters for students to select their Electives. Kindly note we need the letters returned by Friday 8 November.

Judi North | Head of Teaching and Learning



PDHPE AND SPORT

NSW All Schools Athletics Championships

Congratulations to the four St Edmund's students who competed in the NSW All Schools Athletics Championships at Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre in the holidays. Ben, Cameron, Isabella and Sophia performed extremely well in their events, with Isabella and Sophia each coming away with State Bronze Medal. The results are outlined below:

Ben F 15/16 Para AMB

100m- 4th (PB) • 200m- 8th (PB) • Long Jump-6th

Cameron

800m-4th • 200m-5th (PB)

Sophia 15/16 Para AMB

Shot Put-3rd Bronze Medal • 800m-4th • 100m-4th • 200m-5th

Isabella 15/16 Para AMB

800m-5th • 100m-3rd Bronze Medal • 200m-4th



PDHPE AND SPORT

St Edmund's Swimming Carnival

The St Edmund's Swimming Carnival was held at Pymble Ladies College on Tuesday, 22nd October. It was a wonderful venue and the PLC students worked exceptionally well to support staff and students on the day. The St Edmund's staff supported each event in full force, whether they were cheering in the stands, working on the pool deck, racing against the Year 12 students or in the pool swimming lap upon lap with our red and white level swimmers. But the St Edmund's students were the true champions! Almost everyone entered the pool at some stage and tried their hardest in every race. The high level of participation from every house group kept the scores close until the very end, making it a fun and enjoyable day for all involved. The war cry competition and the outstanding display of house colours and costumes added to the atmosphere. Congratulations to Waterford for winning the Inter-House Relay competition and to Mt Sion and Calan for winning the House War Cry.

The house cup was awarded to Waterford this year, but it was hotly contested by all other houses.

The results are outlined below:

Overall Point Score

1st-Waterford- 194 points

2nd-Kilkenny- 186 points

3rd-Callan- 183 points

4th -Mt Sion- 180 points

Congratulations to the St Edmund's Stage Champions

Year 7/8 Champions

Girls: Elodie • Boys: Jaydon

Year 9/10 Champions

Girls: Indigo • Boys: Isaac

Year 11/12 Champions

Girls: Sonnet • Boys: David T

These events cannot run smoothly without the hard work of all school staff on the day. So, thank you for all working so hard and making it a memorable carnival. I must also congratulate all students who participated to the best of their ability in as many races as they could enter. Thank you for being exemplary role models to your peers and for displaying commendable house spirit.



PDHPE AND SPORT



PDHPE AND SPORT

2025 Carnival Dates

Swimming

St Edmund's College Swimming - PLC-21st October 2024 (Year 5-12)

NS Primary Swimming - Hornsby Aquatic Centre 27th February (Year 5/6)

(5/6 Parents to take if wish to qualify for Broken Bay)

CSBB (Combined Primary & Secondary) Swimming-SOPAC-11th March (Year 5-12)

NSWCPS /NSWCCC Swimming-SOPAC-2nd & 3rd April (Year 5-12)

NSWPSSA Swimming-SOPAC-10th & 11th April (Year 5/6)

All Schools Swimming-SOPAC-22nd & 23rd May (Year 7-12)

Cross Country

NS Primary Cross Country - Pennant Hills Park 7th May (5/6 Parents to take if wish to qualify for Broken Bay)

CSBB Cross Country-Gosford RC-20th May (Year 5-12)

NSWCPS /NSWCCC Cross Country- Sydney International Equestrian Centre -11th June (Year 5-12)

NSW All Schools Cross Country-22nd July-Sydney International Equestrian Centre

NSWPSSA Schools Cross Country-23rd July-Sydney International Equestrian Centre

Athletics

St Edmund's College Athletics -PLC-5th August, Back-up-12th August (Year 5-12)

NS Primary Athletics -Sydney Olympic Park Warm-Up Arena-14th August (Year 5/6)

(5/6 Parents to take if wish to qualify for BB Primary Athletics)

BB Primary Athletics- Mingara Athletics Centre-28th August (Year 5/6)

CSBB Athletics-SOPAC-2nd September (Year 7-12)

NSWCCC Athletics-SOPAC- 15th September (Year 7-12)

NSWPSSA Athletics- SOPAC- 22nd & 23rd October (Year 5/6)

NSW All Schools Athletics- TBC

Other News in Sport

Zane and Indigo had a fantastic time when they swam at SPLASH, which is Australia's longest-running, inclusive corporate swim challenge. They swam with Olympians, law firms and accounting firms as a fundraiser for special Olympics.

Lois Horne | PDHPE and Sports Coordinator



NURSE ALI

Please remind your child of the following:

- No hat – no play outside whilst the UV index is 3 and above. We will also have sunscreen in each room for students to apply prior to recess and lunch. Useful links include:

<https://www.sunsmart.com.au/protect-your-skin>

<https://www.sunsmart.com.au/resources/sunsmart-app>

- Bring their labelled reusable water bottle to school each day.

David, our College Vice Captain has researched and written some further information about UV rays below as part of his platinum goal. .

Alison Andrews | College Nurse



Why We Need to Protect Ourselves from UV Rays & How Do We Do That?

1. What are UV rays?

UV stands for ultraviolet light, which is electromagnetic radiation of wavelengths of 10–400 nanometers, shorter than that of visible light, but longer than X-rays.

Sunlight has UV radiation in it. The UV radiation makes up about 10% of the total electromagnetic radiation output from the sun.

2. Where do UV rays come from?

UV rays mainly come from solar UV radiation. They can reach a person either directly from the sun, scattered from the open sky, or reflected from the environment, such as the snow, sand or water like the sea.

3. How are UV rays dangerous?

UV rays can cause sunburn, premature aging and skin cancer. They also increase the risk of potentially blinding eye diseases if eye protection is not used.

4. What makes UV rays dangerous?

Too much UV radiation from the sun or sunbeds can damage the DNA in our skin cells. DNA tells our cells how to function. If enough DNA damage builds up over time, it can cause cells to grow out of control, which can lead to skin cancer. Anyone can develop skin cancer.

5. How can we protect ourselves?

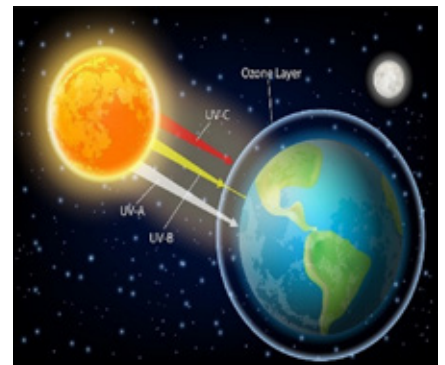
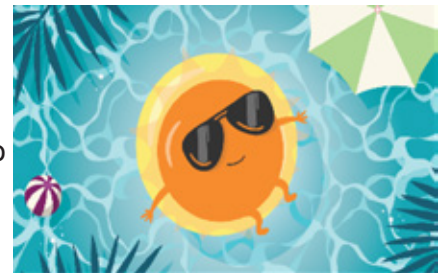
Protect your skin with clothing that covers your arms and legs, like a long-sleeved shirt and pants. Wear a wide-brimmed hat to protect your head, face, and neck. Wear sunglasses that block UV rays to protect your eyes and the skin around them.

Use sunscreen with at least SPF 30 to help protect skin that isn't covered with clothing. (Broad spectrum sun cream means the sunscreen protects you from both UVA and UVB rays.) Re-apply about every 2 hours and after swimming or sweating.

6. What do we need to do at school when we're outside to protect our skin?

We can stay in the shade, wear a hat, put on sunscreen before going out in the sun, and wear sunglasses.

David | College Vice Captain



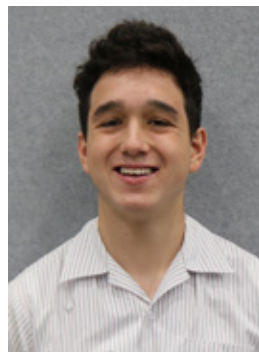
AWARDS

	Student of the Week	Eddie's Best
7M	Chloe and Seb	Leah
7N	Lizzie and Sam	Jack
8G	Elodie and Matilda	Ted
8V	Dylan and Nathan	Alex
9E	Rachel and Ruby	Fred
9F	Daniel and Holly	Lucy
10M	Sienna and Leela	Finley
10S	Dash and Bento	Riarna
11D	Will and Amie	Parmida
11P	Adam and Liam	Saskia
12J	Tom and Christian	David
12O	Kate and Sean	Hugh

Well done to Andreas and Toby for completing their Bronze Leadership Awards.

congratulations

CAPTAIN'S CORNER & STUDENT VOICE



The official opening of St Edmund's College was a very special and important day and we were thrilled to be a part of it. A highlight was the unveiling of the plaque. We also enjoyed thanking the teachers on World Teachers' Day and giving them a special coffee cup featuring student artwork.

Hugh, Christian, Sonnet and David | College Captains & Chloe | Student Voice

AWARDS AND ASSEMBLY



COMMUNITY

Disability and Carers with Services Australia

When: Friday 15 November 2pm - 3pm

Location: Hornsby Library, 28-44 George Street, Hornsby

Event cost: Free. Bookings are essential – book here: <https://www.trybooking.com/CVIDC>

Join us to learn more about the support options available for those with a disability or caring responsibilities, including:

- Australian Government payments & services
- Concessions
- National Disability Insurance Scheme
- Special Disability Trusts

Presented by Services Australia.



The banner features a dark teal background on the left with white text. On the right, there is a photograph of a glass jar filled with coins and two wooden cutouts of people, one using a cane, standing on a white surface. The text on the banner reads: **FINANCIAL SEMINAR**, **DISABILITY AND CARERS**, **Friday 15 November, 2pm-3pm**, **Hornsby Library**, and *Free, bookings essential.*

For booking details and further information on this event and more events in your library visit hornsby.nsw.gov.au/library

HORNSBY SHIRE LIBRARIES
HORNSBY SHIRE COUNCIL

National Carer Strategy Survey

Over the past six months, the Australian Government has been hearing from carers across the country about what is important to them, including what supports and services they need to participate fully in society and fulfil their caring roles.

We now invite feedback from carers, the people they care for, relevant organisations and members of the Australian public who wish to comment on key elements of the draft National Carer Strategy.

[Please learn more here.](#)



**National
Carer
Strategy**



“Connecting to the Mission of Jesus Christ!”

NOVEMBER APPEAL

“Your generosity with our Pastoral Works appeal helps us go further and wider in helping our community of Broken Bay, and more deeply connect us to our vision and the Mission of Jesus Christ. I am deeply grateful for your support.”

MOST REV ANTHONY RANDAZZO DD JCL BISHOP OF BROKEN BAY

St Lucy's School and St Edmund's College

Ephpheta Centre



Students with disabilities



Catholic deaf community

Pastoral Works Broken Bay also supports:

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD)
Providing religious education in public schools.

Hospital Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care
Care and support for patients and families.

Every gift makes a difference. **THANK YOU!**



Please give generously to our
NOVEMBER 2024 APPEAL

Your Tax-deductible gift supports vital pastoral ministries in our local community. Donate online at www.bbcatholic.org.au/pastoralworks





FREE CHINESE COMMUNITY AUTISM WORKSHOP CHATSWOOD, NSW



Join Positive Partnerships at this **FREE** workshop where parents and carers can share and learn more about how to support school-aged children on the autism spectrum.

At this workshop, you will explore:

- ways of working with your child's school
- your family priorities for your child
- ways to support transitions

This workshop will be facilitated in Mandarin or Cantonese.

A free morning tea and lunch will be provided for participants.

Location:

Quest Chatswood Conference Room
38 Albert Ave, Chatswood, NSW 2067

Date and Time:

Cantonese Session

Friday, Oct 25, 2024, 9.45 am - 2.15 pm



[To register, click here](#)



Mandarin Session

Saturday, Oct 26, 2024, 9.45 am - 2.15 pm



[To register, click here](#)



To register for the Chinese community workshop, click the link above or scan the QR code. For more information, contact:

Patricia Lee (Mandarin/Cantonese/English)

☎ 0481 912 213 ✉ plee@positivepartnerships.com.au

Kim Healy (English)

☎ 0481 918 781 ✉ khealy@positivepartnerships.com.au

What Ability Day Sydney 2024



RSVP Now!



Join us for a free, disability inclusive event
to meet your local athletes on 17 Nov!

Free event thanks to

AAMI

Harvey Norman

OPTUS

ShawandPartners
Financial Services

Tyrepower

www.whatability.com.au