



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I extend a very warm welcome to you all for our 2025 school year, here at St Edmund's. We are very excited to have our students join us in recent days, in particular those who are new to the College. Today's assembly allowed for us to acknowledge and celebrate the many new faces who now belong to our community, whether they be staff or students. We know that our community will continue to be enriched by their presence, and the many gifts and talents they have to offer.

In the Catholic Church, 2025 is recognised as a Year of Jubilee. This year's theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope'. Terry O'Keefe, our Coordinator of Mission and Identity, shared with staff the significance of this theme and how it may be lived throughout the year. How one's pilgrimage of hope looks, can indeed be a personal endeavour, but it is also one that can be made in connection with others. It is an invitation to take a journey inward, of introspection, so as to examine and evaluate the way we engage with the workings of the Holy Spirit in our day to day lives. As a community, may we use this year to guide us in a collective journey of hope – one where we set goals and intentions for ourselves, but also those which we can achieve together. Hope is a beautiful desire to seek and uphold – it is an optimistic state of mind, and one that brings a sense of gratitude, too.

Pope Francis once shared his views on educators, which I feel helps to provide for us all a reminder of the role we play in the lives of our young people. Educators include all who shape the lives of our students, and that includes all St Edmund's staff and you, as parents and carers, as well.

Pope Francis wrote:

"Educators...do not be disheartened in the face of difficulties that the educational challenge presents. Educating is not a profession but a way of being. In order to educate it is necessary to step out of ourselves and be among young people, to accompany them in the stages of their growth and to set ourselves beside them. Give them hope and optimism for their journey in the world. Teach them to see the beauty and goodness of creation. But above all with your life be witnesses of what you communicate. Educators – teachers, parents pass on knowledge and values with their words, but their words will have an incisive effect on children and young people if they are accompanied by their witness, their consistent way of life. Without consistency it is impossible to educate".



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Below is an image of a gate. It helps provide context for the words that will follow beneath it, which help to capture the role we have as educators, the context we find ourselves in as we begin a new school year, and the call we have to be Pilgrims of Hope.



The people of Ancient Rome thought there were many gods, and the month of January is named after 'Janus' who is their god of doors and gateways, of beginnings and endings. In Rome, the temple of Janus had doors facing east and west for the rising and setting of the sun, the beginning and end of each day. Between those doors stood the statue of Janus with two faces, looking in opposite directions.

As we start this New School Year, looking both backwards and forwards, we can think of the new year as a gate - an opening - to what we choose to do in the future. To take this metaphor further, in the northern hemisphere, the darkness of winter and of past mistakes will give way to the light of spring and of new opportunities.

In the dark days of World War II, with the whole country of England "blacked out" at night to deter enemy bombing, King George VI (the sixth) gave a glimmer of hope to people as he spoke these words:

'I said to the man who stood at the gate of the Year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown'

And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way. May that almighty hand guide and uphold us all."

*Let us pray: Lord Jesus, at this time we can look back to the old year, and forward to the new.*

*We give thanks for the blessings of the past year, and we place into your hands the mistakes we have made.*

*As you are "the Light of the world", take away the darkness in our lives.*

*As you are "the Way", lead us in the year ahead.*

*As you are "the gate of the sheepfold", protect us from danger.*

*We entrust the past to your mercy, Lord, the present to your love, and the future to your providence.*

*Amen.*

**Vanessa Dillon | Principal**

# STAFF LISTING

## College Senior Leadership Team

Dillon, Vanessa Mrs.	Principal
Brannan, Sean Mr.	Deputy Principal (Acting)
Kirwan, Rebecca Mrs.	Deputy Principal (On secondment)
North, Judith Ms.	Head of Teaching & Learning
Hosken, Tiffany Mrs.	Head of Administration
Mulkeen, Niamh Ms.	Head of Wellbeing
Tully, Matthew Mr.	Finance Manager
O'Keefe, Terry Mr.	Coordinator Mission and Identity

## Teaching Staff

Anderson, Jacqui Ms.	Hopkins, Rachel Ms.	Pisani, Cherie Mrs.
Austin, Nicola Ms.	Horne, Lois Mrs.	Puglisi, Arabella, Mrs.
Barange, Jennifer Mrs.	James, Ben Mr.	Snell, Tracey Ms.
Campbell, Jacqui Mrs.	Le Patourel, Michelle Ms.	Southern, Carl Mr.
Court, Katie Ms.	Macdonald, Sheena Ms.	Southern, Eva Mrs.
Daly, Tracey Mrs.	McCorry, Alexandria Ms.	Van Esch, Diana Mrs.
Elcoate, Brendon Mr.	Minkley, Meg Ms.	Ylämäki, Annika Ms.
Falvey, Teresa Mrs.	Pace, Rosanne Ms.	
Fawkner, Mark Mr.	Paterson, Sophie Ms.	

## Allied Health Staff

Andrews, Alison Mrs	Duffy, Lisa Ms.	Moait, Rachelle Ms.
Borkowski, Paul Mr.	Hassell, Caitlin Ms.	Meyer, Morgan Ms.

## Specialist Support Staff

Bishop, Yvette Ms.	Hong, Lin Ms.	O'Neil, Lisa Mrs.
Brackenreg, Janine Miss	Keegan, Amanda Mrs.	Peacock, Katie Ms.
Dach, Elycia Ms.	Kickert-Howarth, Julia Ms.	Renfree, Regina Ms.
Funk, Genevieve Mrs.	Li, Susan Mrs.	Steele, Larrissa Ms.
Grogan, Lynda Ms.	March, Jayel Ms.	Stokes, Lisa Mrs.
Gupta, Sangeeta Mrs.	Modra, Julie Mrs.	Tombolato, Isabelle Miss
Heuzenroeder, Catherine Mrs.	Morgan, Jane Mrs.	

## Administration

Acret, Bernadette Ms.	MacPherson, Julie Ms.	Reilly, Jackie Mrs.
Brading, Cassandra Ms.	Mitchell, David Mr.	Tabuchi, Christopher Mr.
Dickenson, Susan Mrs.	McNally-Sheppard, Cathy Mrs.	
Drescher, Louise Ms.	Miyamoto, Ken Mr.	

## Grounds & Maintenance

Jones, Brenden Mr.
Olymbios, James Mr.

## Cleaning Contractors

RMM Group

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Welcome back for 2025. I feel blessed to be able to see all of our wonderful students who have all grown over the break and who have returned with exciting stories of their summer holidays. As you are aware, Mr Sean Brannan is Deputy Principal this year and I will be here until February 14 in order for some handover to occur. I thank you for your support of and welcome to Mr Brannan as he transitions into our community. I have a few reminders to share during this transition period:



### **Sentral Parent Portal**

Our portal is an integral tool for collaboration between the College and our parents and carers. This portal can be accessed via a website however is more commonly accessed via the Parent Portal App, which can be downloaded for both Android and Apple devices. Search for 'Sentral for Parents' and look for the icon as attached to this article. The website link for use in a browser is <https://stedmunds.sentral.com.au/auth/portal>

The Parent Portal can be used to see your child's timetable, College newsletters, reports and to book personalised planning meetings. It is also the **only method** to officially report your child's absence for the purposes of attendance records. I urge all parents to engage with the portal, either via the website or app, to ensure that you are connected so that you can access these items ongoing throughout the academic year.

I have emailed out letters to new families and families still not connected to the portal last Friday for your action. If you have received an email from a sender called 'Sentralmail AT erses.nsw.edu.au' This is the sender which the system automatically generates and is ok to open. You will need to click on the 'register here' hyperlink to make your account once you have opened the app/gone to the website. For new families there will be an access code included within your letter. This access code can be used to 'link' your child to your account after you have registered, upon first log in. Please note that the access key is case sensitive and must be copied exactly as printed in the letter.

Should you experience difficulties please do not hesitate to contact Sean Brannan - Deputy Principal ([brannan@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au](mailto:brannan@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au)) for assistance. I will also offer a 'drop in' kiosk during Eddies Big Night In to assist with any other troubleshooting.





# DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

## Uniform

A reminder regarding uniform for the beginning of the year. Students are to wear their summer uniform for Term 1 which consists of:

### Girls

Summer Dress  
White Ankle Socks  
Enclosed Black Leather Shoes (Not Mary Janes)  
College Hat or Cap  
Navy College Jumper

### Boys

Grey Shorts or Grey Long Trousers  
Short Sleeve College Shirt  
Navy College Jumper  
Long Grey Socks with stripe  
Black Belt (Optional)  
Enclosed Black Leather Shoes  
College Hat or Cap

Please note that artificial nails, extreme or coloured hairstyles or excessive jewellery are not in line with the College uniform policy and may be something to address with your child post the long holiday break. Homeroom staff will advise you which days your child needs to wear their Sports uniform and will be sending home a class timetable for you to use at home to facilitate student understanding of this.

Please remember hats and water bottles are required each day, particularly in this warmer weather. Students without a hat will be asked to move inside/under cover during break times.

Any uniform items that you might need, can be purchased by contacting Julie MacPherson who manages our uniform shop by calling the College office on 94871044 or by email [macpherson@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au](mailto:macpherson@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au)

Wishing you all a wonderful fortnight ahead.

**Rebecca Kirwan | Deputy Principal**

## Deputy Principal 2025 Introduction

Dear St Edmund's Community

Thank you for the warm welcome I have received as I join the St Edmunds community this week. I will be acting as College Deputy Principal this year in Mrs Rebecca Kirwan's absence as she is seconded to EREA (Edmund Rice Education Australia) Head Office for an important role in facilitating College audits and organisation nationally.

I am very familiar with, and have the highest regard for, the St Edmund's Community, having been affiliated and employed at our closest fellow EREA school in St Pius X College Chatswood, teaching PDHPE, Physics, and Religious Education, over 24 years, including Acting Deputy Principal before, after, and during, Covid.

Most recently I was Acting Director of Learning at Mater Maria Catholic College, Warriewood, last year. I look forward to working with, and getting to know you over the coming weeks and months, pursuing many initiatives in the care and education of your daughters and sons. I thank the staff, students and families who have welcomed me warmly this week. Not least at the colourful Assembly of Welcome to Students and Staff this week.

Looking forward to meeting you at 6.15pm on Tuesday 11 February at Eddies Big Night In, if not before.

**Sean Brannan | Deputy Principal**



*you are invited to*

# EDDIE'S BIG NIGHT IN

PARENT, CARER & STAFF  
INFORMATION & SOCIAL EVENING

**TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY**

- 6.15pm Arrival at St Edmund's College
- 6.30pm Welcome and Information Overview
- 7.00pm Cocktail-style Event
- 7.45pm Meet Homeroom Team
- 8.30pm Evening Concludes

**RSVP** [www.stedmunds.nsw.edu.au/ebni](http://www.stedmunds.nsw.edu.au/ebni)

**ENQUIRIES** [events@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au](mailto:events@stedmunds.nsw.edu.au)

*Kindly note this 18+ event is only for  
St Edmund's parents & carers.*

*Dress is smart casual.*

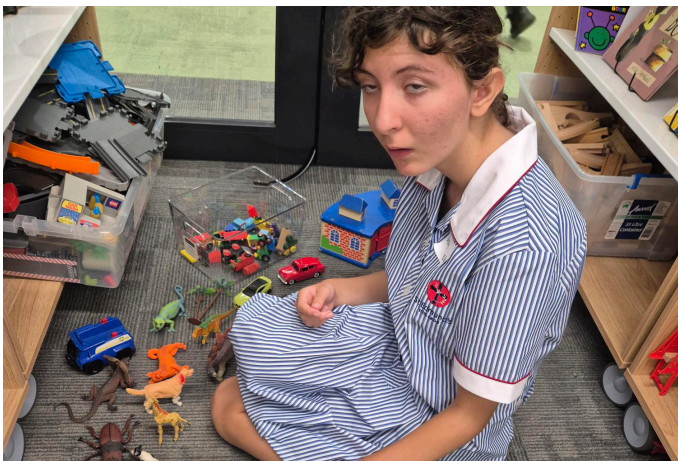
*Please RSVP by 9 February.*



St Edmund's  
COLLEGE

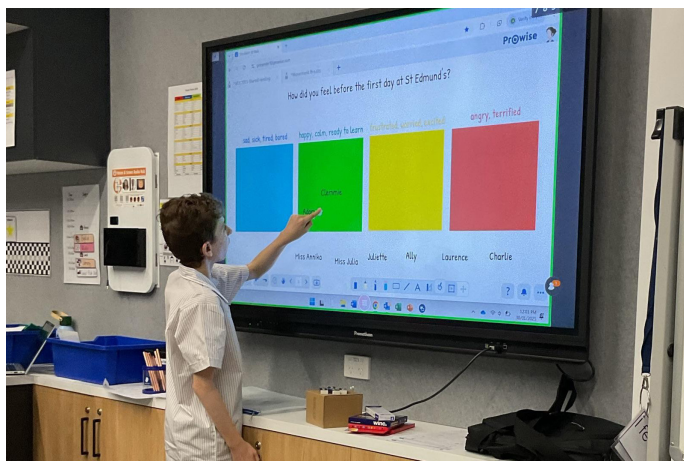
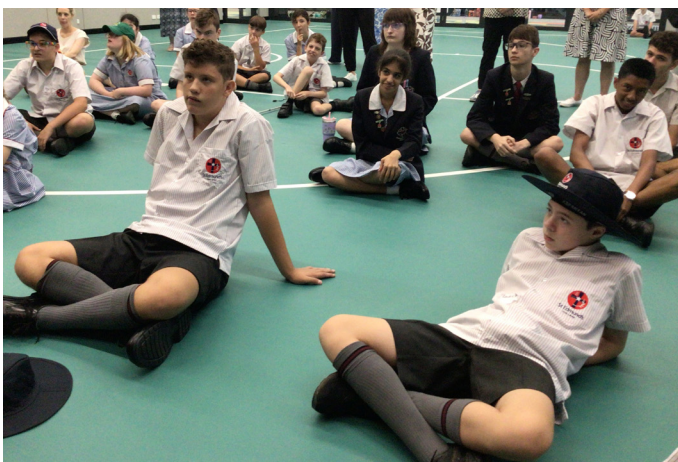


# FIRST WEEK PHOTOS





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