

St Mary
Star of the Sea College
I AM BORN FOR HIGHER THINGS



Newsletter



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Friday, 23 October 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Recently our new Year 12 students returned from a three-day retreat; a rare opportunity for young women to step back from the busyness and noise of their daily world and take time to think and to reflect on their life, their relationships and the place of God in all of that. This, at a time when very few young people actively engage in practicing their faith beyond school. But regardless of that reality, it remains abundantly clear that young people, most likely all of us, continue to have a deep yearning to believe in *something* beyond the physical and material world in which we live. A desire to find *meaning* in relationships and in life that is beyond the superficial. A desire for *hope* in a future beyond material aspiration. And a desire to seek fulfillment and contentment through love rather than through acquisition. For some, our faith in a God of love affords us access to those desires. When our hearts are open to new beginnings, fresh learnings and emerging experiences, we open ourselves to hope and to love in a way that is not possible when we confine ourselves solely to the superficial. It is okay to be part of a community that values and prioritises a deeper search for meaning. It might even be comforting and rewarding.

***May I live this day
Compassionate of heart,
Clear in word,
Gracious in awareness,
Courageous in thought,
Generous in love.***

Welcome back to the College for the final Term of our academic year. We continue to keep in our prayers our Year 12 students who are completing their HSC exams.

Warm regards

Tony Fitzgerald
Principal

PRAYER – THE ROSARY

- Scriptural
- Meditative
- A time to slow down

During this month, praying the Rosary is a focus of our prayer cycle. Mary, who listened to God's invitation in her life and follows it, shows us how to generously live a life for others, with its joys as well as sorrows. Her faith was grounded in wisdom such as Proverbs 3:5-6: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*

Hail Mary Prayer

Hail Mary, full of Grace,
The Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women
And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.



UPCOMING COLLEGE EVENTS

Please refer to the College calendar and each Year Group calendar in the College App for more details of additional events over the coming weeks.

Term 4

Week 3

- **HSC Examinations continue – All Week**
- Business Services and Cookery Work Placement Round 2 Week 2 – All Week
- HSC Visual Arts Practical Examination Marking – Monday 26 October
- Community Service Lighthouse Church – Tuesday 27 October
- Community Service Warrigal Care – Wednesday 28 October
- **Year 11 Achievement Assembly and HSC Information Evening in the SGN Hall – Wednesday 28 October**
- Year 7 2027 Orientation in the SGN Hall – Thursday 29 October
- Striving Stars in the PLC – Thursday 29 October
- College Student Briefing – Friday 30 October
- Philippines Immersion Debrief session in Glebe – Saturday 31 October

Week 4

- **HSC Examinations continue – All Week**
- **Year 10 Examinations – Monday to Thursday**
- NSWCCC Junior and Intermediate Girls Basketball Championships – Monday 2 November and Tuesday 3 November
- Community Service Lighthouse Church – Tuesday 3 November
- Year 7 2027 AAS Testing in the SGN Hall – Wednesday 4 November
- Horizon/Year Meeting – Wednesday 4 November
- Year 7.1 Science Excursion to Wollongong Beach and Surrounds – Wednesday 4 November
- Community Service Warrigal Care – Wednesday 4 November
- Year 11 Earth, Environment Science Excursion – Thursday 5 November
- Striving Stars – Thursday 5 November
- Year Meeting – Friday 6 November
- Year 12 Geography Excursion to Cabbage Tree Basin, Bonnie Vale – Friday 6 November
- Year 7.6 Science Excursion – Friday 6 November

STAFF CHANGES FOR TERM 4

The following staff will be away during Term 4:

- **Ms Rossignol** will be on leave from Week 3 to Week 6. **Mr Lavin** will be **Acting Mathematics Coordinator** during this time.
- **Ms Buchan** will be on leave from Week 3 to Week 7. Her classes will be covered by **Ms Speering**.

REPRESENTING THE COLLEGE: A PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY

There are many opportunities for students to represent St Mary's through sport, immersions, co-curricular activities, leadership and other College initiatives. These opportunities are both a privilege and a responsibility.

As students are aware, selection is not based on talent or ability alone. We also consider their commitment to College life, including **regular attendance, appropriate uniform and presentation, a positive approach to learning, respectful behaviour and active participation in our community**.

Year Coordinators will be consulted as part of the selection process to ensure these expectations are applied fairly and consistently. We appreciate the support of parents and guardians in understanding and reinforcing these expectations.

Ultimately, representing St Mary's is about more than individual achievement. It is an opportunity for students to demonstrate the values and standards we uphold as a College community.

YEAR 11 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS AND HSC INFORMATION EVENING

A reminder that the Year 11 Achievement Awards and HSC Information Evening will be held on **Wednesday, 28 October** from **6.00pm to 7.30pm** in the SGN Hall.

This is a compulsory event for all Year 11 students and at least one parent or guardian is to attend also.

Students are to wear their **full school uniform** and we look forward to seeing you at this important event for our senior students.

2026 YEARBOOK – YOUR CHANCE TO OPT-IN

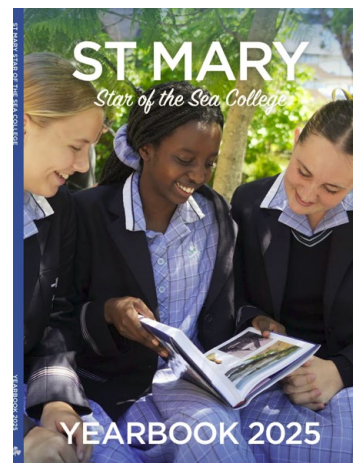
This is your chance to opt-in for the 2026 St Mary Star of the Sea College Yearbook, which will be ready to share with families in the New Year! As part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability, the Yearbook will once again be distributed digitally to all families. For those who prefer a hardcopy keepsake, families can opt-in for a paper copy by completing a form (link below).

ST MARY'S Important Details:

- Class of 2026 students will automatically receive a hardcopy of the Yearbook.
- To request a paper copy, parents/guardians must complete the opt-in form by **Friday 30 October**.

Opt-in link [2026 Yearbook Paper Opt-In – Fill out form](#)

If no opt-in is submitted, families will only receive the digital version. Thank you for supporting our commitment to sustainability!



PROHIBITED ITEMS ON SCHOOL BUSES – E-SCOOTERS AND E-BIKES

Premier Charters would like to remind schools that scooters, e-scooters, e-bikes and similar devices are not permitted on our buses, with the exception of foldable scooters that meet the requirements outlined below.

Foldable scooters may be carried only if they are completely folded, fit safely within the luggage rack, do not take up passenger space or obstruct access, and meet all operational and safety requirements (subject to driver discretion and bus capacity).

E-bikes and e-scooters are not permitted, including foldable models.

This restriction is in place to ensure the safety of students, drivers and other passengers and to prevent obstruction of aisles, exits and seating areas.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping Premier Charters maintain a safe environment for all passengers.

STARS BY THE SEA

Celebrate an evening of creativity, collaboration and performance at Stars by the Sea 2026.

Featuring our talented St Mary's students across Dance, Drama and Music, Stars by the Sea brings our performers and ensembles together for a vibrant showcase of the Performing Arts.

We warmly invite parents, families, friends and members of our wider College community to join us in the SGN Hall and enjoy a wonderful evening of student talent.

