

THE  
**CANTERBURY**  
WEEKLY

WEEK 5, TERM 2

FRIDAY 22 MAY 2026



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## DAN WALKER



### The Power of 'And' - Celebrating Multidimensional Learners

One of the great joys of school life is when art so clearly mirrors reality. The recent Senior School production of High School Musical Jr. did exactly that, in a way that felt both timely and deeply pertinent for our community.

At its heart, High School Musical challenges a familiar and limiting idea: that young people must narrow their identity in order to succeed. The story resists the notion that students must choose between being an athlete or an academic, a performer or a high achiever. Instead, it affirms that young people are allowed to be complex, curious, and capable across multiple domains, even when those domains appear to pull in different directions.

This message aligns closely with the lived experience of Canterbury students and with our commitment to educating across the Four Dimensions. Academics, Sport, The Arts, Service, and Leadership are not experienced here as competing demands, but as interconnected opportunities through which students develop confidence, discipline, and a strong sense of self. Our students move between classrooms, rehearsal spaces, sporting fields, and leadership commitments with a fluency that reflects both high expectations and strong support.

That reality was on clear display during the weekend of the musical. Many students completed Saturday sport at St Columban's before returning to Logan to perform in, or attend, the evening performance.

The movement from sport to stage was seamless and largely taken for granted by those involved. In many respects, the logistics of the weekend echoed the central theme of the production itself, demonstrating that students are capable of balancing demanding commitments when they are well supported and motivated.

The production itself was a fast-paced dance, drama, and media feast for the senses. The reimagining of the story for the stage, was so successful and our talented singers, actors, dancers, and stage crew were absolutely first class.

Our thanks extend to the students who committed themselves so fully to the production, both on stage and behind the scenes. Their willingness to rehearse, problem solve, and support one another was evident throughout the process. We also thank the staff who guided and supported them.

Productions of this quality do not happen by chance. They come to life through collaboration, trust, and an extraordinary generosity of time and talent from staff who understand the lasting impact these experiences have on young people.

A massive congratulations to Mr Ben Dervish-Ali, Mrs Cathy Brown, and Mr Jai Schelbach for their stewardship of the production. Of course a wider team of staff also were deeply involved in this production, including Dr Katrina Peddell, Miss Rhiannon Ottrey, Ms Taylah Newton, Ms Bridget Ward, and Mrs Louise Wheatley.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## DAN WALKER



Families who wish to view the full program, including cast lists and acknowledgements, can do so [here](#).

What made the weekend especially meaningful was what followed. The day after this rich mix of sport, music, and performance, two baptisms and ten students ranging from Year 4 to Year 10 were admitted to Holy Communion, marking an important sacramental rite of passage within the Anglican tradition. In its own quiet and reverent way, this moment reflected the same sense of balance and breadth that characterised the days before.

Physical endeavour, creative expression, and spiritual formation each held their place, valued as part of a complete and thoughtful education.

The next service will be held on Sunday 6 September 2026 for students in 4SAC and 4GEP and others who wish to be Admitted to the Sacrament of Holy Communion, further information can be found [here](#).

Ultimately, High School Musical Jr. offered more than an enjoyable evening of theatre. It reflected something fundamental about the way our students learn and grow at Canterbury. They are encouraged to pursue breadth as well as depth, to commit fully to their interests, and to understand that a full life is shaped across many dimensions.

This is what it means to be World Ready by Design, and this sequence of moments, on the field, on the stage, and at the altar, expressed that truth with clarity and quiet confidence.

FROM THE HEAD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

## REBECCA ADAMSON



### Building a Culture of Reading at Canterbury

Last week, Anita Pendreigh, the College Teacher-Librarian, and I had the pleasure of attending the National Education Summit: Capacity Building Libraries in Schools.

Across two inspiring days, we heard from twelve schools as they shared the design, purpose, and impact of their library spaces. It was a valuable opportunity to reflect on how our own libraries at Canterbury continue to support learning, curiosity, and a love of reading.

We are fortunate to have three beautiful library spaces that serve students across the College: our welcoming new K-Year 3 Library, the recently updated Years 4-6 Library and our Years 7-12 Library, which is set to undergo an exciting renovation next year as part of the masterplan.

Each space plays an important role in nurturing readers of all ages and abilities, with thoughtful design elements that create inviting, comfortable environments where students are encouraged to settle in, explore, and spend time reading.

One of the ongoing challenges in schools is ensuring that students can find books that capture their evolving interests. While this has always been part of the work of educators and librarians, we are now navigating an additional layer of complexity.

The fast-paced nature of social media and platforms, such as YouTube is shaping reading habits, often encouraging skimming and shorter bursts of content.



As a result, many young people have fewer opportunities to practise the sustained attention required for deeper reading.

Reading regularly, both fiction and non-fiction, plays a powerful role in building students' knowledge and skills. Through non-fiction texts, students gain access to new information, ideas, and real-world concepts which helps them develop a strong foundation of knowledge across subjects.

Fiction encourages imagination, empathy, and deeper thinking, allowing students to explore different perspectives and understand complex human experiences.

FROM THE HEAD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

## REBECCA ADAMSON



Over time, consistent and sustained reading supports not only academic success, but also confidence and adaptability to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

At Canterbury, we are committed to helping students build these vital skills. Across both the Junior and Senior Schools, students in Years 2-12 engage in novel studies as part of their English curriculum to developing their ability to read, reflect, and think critically over extended texts.

Alongside this, Mrs Pendreigh brings reading to life through a wide range of engaging initiatives, including eye-catching displays and “prime positioning” of popular titles to book clubs, Book Week celebrations, new book unboxings, and library scavenger hunts.

There are countless opportunities for students to discover the joy of reading in a social and interactive way.

Families also play a crucial role in fostering a culture of reading. Simple, everyday actions can make a meaningful difference like sharing what you are currently reading and why you are enjoying it, establishing a regular reading routine before bed (which also supports restful sleep) and giving books as gifts, are all powerful ways to encourage children to engage more deeply with reading.

Together, as a community, we can continue to nurture confident, curious, and capable readers who not only access information, but also develop the focus and imagination that come from sustained reading.

FROM THE ASSISTANT HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL (YEARS 4-6)

## ANDREW POWELL



### Understanding and Supporting Character and Resilience Development

Wellbeing is often misunderstood as a constant state of happiness. In reality, true wellbeing is not about feeling happy all the time, but about developing the capacity to navigate the full range of human emotions. Students will inevitably experience disappointment, frustration, and failure - and these moments are not signs that their wellbeing is lacking. Rather, they are essential opportunities for both personal growth and the development of strong character.

The Character and Resilience Education programs at Canterbury play a crucial role in helping students understand this distinction. It teaches them that it is okay to feel uncomfortable emotions and that these feelings are a normal part of life. At the same time, it supports the development of key character strengths such as perseverance, courage, empathy, and integrity.

Instead of avoiding or suppressing challenges, students learn to face them, reflect on them, and move forward with greater insight and strength. This approach nurtures resilience; not just the ability to recover from setbacks, but also to persevere and adapt in the face of adversity, helping to build the character of our students.

When we position wellbeing as constant happiness, we risk setting unrealistic expectations. Students may begin to see negative emotions as failures, rather than valuable experiences that build character and resilience.

By reframing wellbeing as the ability to cope, adapt, persevere, and find meaning even during difficult times, we empower students with lifelong skills and a strong moral foundation.

Ultimately, wellbeing is about balance, self-awareness, emotional flexibility, and character development. It is about equipping young people with the tools to say, "I am not okay right now, but I know how to get through this." In doing so, they learn not only how to manage challenges, but also how to grow into capable, compassionate, and resilient individuals.

For parents, one of the most powerful ways to support this development is through everyday conversations. Instead of immediately trying to fix or remove discomfort, parents can acknowledge and validate it.

Simple shifts such as replacing "Don't worry, it will be fine" with "I can see that this is really hard for you right now," helps children feel understood. Following this with "What do you think might help?" or "What could you try next?" encourages problem-solving and builds a sense of agency, rather than dependence on external solutions.

Over time, this kind of dialogue teaches students that struggle is not something to avoid, but something to work through, developing both the resilience to persevere and the character to grow from life's inevitable challenges.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PERFORMING ARTS

## KATRINA PEDDELL



### Celebrating Success in Music

Canterbury's musicians have enjoyed outstanding success over the past two weeks at the Queensland Youth Music Awards, where schools are recognised with Gold, Silver, or Bronze awards.

On 7 May, our Senior School string ensembles competed in the Advanced String Section. Both Ritornello and Sinfonia delivered exceptional performances and were awarded Gold. With only three schools receiving Gold Awards in a highly competitive field, this is a remarkable achievement. Adding to this success, Ritornello was placed 3rd overall, an outstanding result.

Last Friday evening, 15 May, the Junior School Choir performed in the Primary School heats.

Their delightful and polished performance earned them a Gold Award. In further exciting news, they have been selected to compete in the Finals of this section, to be held early next month.

On Wednesday evening, 20 May, our Symphonic Band took to the stage in the Intermediate Band Section. They achieved a very high Silver Award, narrowly missing Gold. Their excellent performance reflects their dedication and promises great things for their future performances.

Congratulations to all our music students and their teachers on these remarkable achievements. We are incredibly proud of your hard work and success.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL JR."

## BEN DERVISH-ALI



Canterbury College students took to the stage last weekend to bring the fictional East High School to life, in the fun, vibrant, upbeat musical, Disney's High School Musical Jr. An incredible cast of one hundred students sang, danced, and acted their way across the Logan Entertainment Centre stage, where the popular musical was applauded by audiences aplenty.

Spanning an atypical week at East High, when renowned characters Troy Bolton (Noah Meier) and Gabriella Montez (Destinee Pickvance-Yee), stand up and challenge the status quo of clique culture, the story revealed to our dear audience that we should all be celebrated for our differences, as they indeed resemble our collective strength.

This heartfelt message resonated throughout the auditorium as our Canterbury cast projected exceptional energy and enthusiasm, leaving an imprint like no other.

With its high-octane vibe, the popular musical boasted crowd favourites such as Get'cha Head in the Game, Stick to the Status Quo and We're All in This Together. These numbers brought rhythm, music, narrative, and character to the forefront, searing the Wildcats spirit into the public consciousness.

A biannual event on the Canterbury calendar, the 2026 Senior School Musical showcased the absolute talent of the students involved, all of whom should be extremely proud of their accomplishments. Congratulations and unending gratitude to the dedicated cast, crew, and staff. This will be a year to remember the red, white, and gold!



# CHRISTOPHER POLLOCK



## 2026 Interhouse Maths Teams Challenge



Another exciting year of problem-solving took place in F Block on 14 May for the annual Interhouse Maths Team Challenge. This mathematical problem-solving competition saw students from Years 5-12 represent their houses, all aiming to claim the honour of holding the prestigious and bedazzled Canterbury Calculator Trophy and the title of champions for 2026.

We were thrilled by the enthusiasm and outstanding turnout from all teams, which made the event a fantastic showcase of collaboration, persistence, and problem-solving.

Here are two example questions students tackled on the day:

“The mean, median, mode and range of five whole numbers is 5. What is the value of the largest whole number?”

“At the end of every year, the purchasing power of a dollar is 96% of its value at the beginning of the year. How many years will it take for the dollar to lose half of its value?”

Did our 2025 champions, Cranmer House, secure a consecutive victory, or has a new house risen to the occasion? And who will be crowned our Digits of Pi champion?

All will be revealed at the Week 6 assembly...

Students who enjoyed the competition are encouraged to get in contact with Ms Schluter ([e.schluter@canterbury.qld.edu.au](mailto:e.schluter@canterbury.qld.edu.au)) if they are interested in joining a team to represent Canterbury at the Interschool Maths Team Challenge on Tuesday 28 July (Week 3, Term 3).

This will see schools from across the south-east travel to Canterbury to compete for the ultimate glory of being crowned Maths Team Challenge Champions of the region.

Congratulations to all students who competed!



# RILEY MORGAN



## BASS BUSTER LURES

[www.bassbusterlures.com](http://www.bassbusterlures.com) @bass\_busterlures

### What inspired you to start your business, and how did the idea first begin?

Bass Buster Lures was founded on a passion for fishing and a deep care for the environment. Growing up around the water and the natural ecosystems in my area, I noticed an issue of pollution that seemed to worsen every day, particularly from lead fishing tackle left behind in waterways.

I carried this concern until Year 9, when the Start Up class challenged us to solve a real-world problem. That is where Bass Buster Lures was born. My co-founder and I developed lead-free lures designed to reduce harm to waterways and wildlife if lost while fishing.

### What has been the most exciting or rewarding part of running your own business so far?

The most rewarding part of running our business so far has been seeing the positive impact our fishing lures and other products have had on both the community and the environment around us. One of the biggest highlights has been receiving positive feedback from customers and seeing the incredible catches people have made using our lures.

Overall, the most rewarding part of owning my own business has been realising how much positive change can come from simply taking the first step and turning an idea into action.

### What advice would you give to other Canterbury students who are thinking about starting their own business or pursuing a passionate idea?

My advice to any Canterbury student thinking about starting a business is simple: take the first step. An idea will never become reality if you keep it in your head.

There will be challenges and moments of doubt, but starting Bass Buster Lures taught me confidence, resilience, and the importance of backing yourself. Trust yourself, take the opportunity, and just start.

### Is there a moment or achievement in your business journey that you are particularly proud of?

Bass Buster Lures reached the Future Anything Grand Final, where we showcased our products and environmental mission to a national audience. We were honoured to win the People's Choice Award and Runner Up in the Showcase Division.

The experience showed strong support for our mission to create sustainable fishing products and restore native fish populations. I was also very proud to be named a finalist in the Young Entrepreneur of the Year Next Gen Awards hosted by BOP Industries.



# AVESSA JOHNSON



## Our Alumni Spotlight: Chris Davies, Class of 1995



After graduating from Canterbury College in 1995, Chris Davies initially planned to take a gap year, which quickly turned into five. What followed was a journey shaped by curiosity and a willingness to step outside his comfort zone.

After spending several seasons in the UK playing rugby, Chris relocated to New York in 2003 with his wife, where he completed his business degree before building a long-standing career in construction project management.

More than two decades later, he has worked across an impressive range of major projects, including high-rise developments, tunnels, schools, universities, highways, and breweries.

Looking back, Chris sees a clear connection between who he was at school and the life he has built since. “When I was at school, I was in every sport, every team, every program I could manage,” he reflected. “I wanted to try everything and see what my personality gravitated to.” That mindset of simply “having a go” has remained a constant throughout both his career and personal life.

One of the most defining moments in his journey was opening his own company, an experience he says has taught him resilience and perspective. “For every success there are several false starts,” he says. “A setback is a setup for a comeback.”

He also credits school with teaching him the importance of presentation and discipline, lessons he still carries into his professional life today.

His advice to current students is simple but powerful: don’t panic about having your future mapped out too early. “Try different paths... There are so many career choices available that you’ve never even considered yet.”

# COMING UP NEXT...

## **Year 12 100 Day Cake Celebration**

Monday 25 May

## **Year 8 Outdoor Education**

Tuesday 26 May - Thursday 28 May

## **ASC Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander Games**

Tuesday 26 May

## **Years 3-6 Athletics Carnival**

Wednesday 27 May

## **Year 12 State of Origin Night**

Wednesday 27 May

## **Years 10-12 Alliance Francaise Excursion**

Thursday 28 May

## **Junior School Photo Day**

Thursday 28 May

## **Years 10-11 Brisbane Careers Expo Excursion**

Friday 29 May

## **Intermediate Volleyball Schools Cup**

Friday 29 May - Sunday 31 May

# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

[2026 Senior School Cross Country | Photo Gallery](#)

[2026 Goldsworthy House Spirit Breakfast | Photo Gallery](#)

[Friday Night Rocks 2026 | View Now](#)

[Year 6 Planetarium Excursion | View Now](#)

[Winter Music Festival 2026 | View Now](#)

[Junior da Vinci Decathlon Success | Read More](#)

[Year 5 Gold Rush Excursion | Read More](#)

[Under Eights Day | Read More](#)

[Years 3-6 Interhouse Athletics Carnival | View Now](#)

[Junior School Photo Day | Read More](#)

