

THE
CANTERBURY
WEEKLY

WEEK 7, TERM 2

FRIDAY 5 JUNE 2026



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

DAN WALKER



Sport at Canterbury: Depth, Opportunity, and Culture



Next week's edition of The Canterbury Weekly will publish our 2026 Honour Roll: the full list of our students who have earned selection in South Coast representative teams this year. I think it will surprise even those who follow our programs closely, and the depth it reflects is worth a moment's examination, because it did not arrive by chance.

Sport at Canterbury is a formation space, not an add-on. It is where many of our students learn what it means to carry something larger than themselves, to build trust with coaches and teammates, and to compete with pride and integrity. That understanding shapes everything about how we approach it, including the extraordinary commitment of our staff.

The proportion of Canterbury teachers who volunteer as coaches, managers, and venue coordinators is, to my knowledge, higher than at any other TAS school. They show up because they know that the relationships built on the sideline carry back into the classroom in ways that matter.

Our programs hold a deliberate balance between competitive and participation pathways. We invest in students reaching representative and state levels, and we are proud of their achievements. But a school that nurtures only the elite produces achievers. A school where everyone has a genuine place in sport produces people.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

DAN WALKER



Two performances have particularly captured the attention of the wider school community. In Term 1, the Girls Tennis program enjoyed a remarkable season, collecting three premierships across the 1st IV, 2nd IV, and Intermediate 2nd. In Term 2, it has been the First XV rugby team who are converting years of quiet and diligent preparation, into a season that has schoolboy rugby followers across Brisbane sitting up and taking notice.

Netball and Athletics remain our benchmark of established excellence with premierships and champion school status in the TAS well established. Cricket, rugby, and touch are on a clear upward path. Swimming, basketball, football, hockey, and volleyball are growth priorities, with strong student interest and real potential ahead. AFL is a rising star, not as a TAS sport, but through other competitions such as AFL QSchools Cup.

I am conscious our community holds a wide range of views about sport. For families deeply invested in our rich sporting pedigree and culture: the commitment is real and the results are following.

For families whose children engage because the College asks them to: watch carefully what happens to a young person inside a team that trains and competes together.

The evidence is usually sitting at your own dinner table. Those who engage most fully with the life of this College also flourish most completely within it. That is not coincidence.

Sport here is not a program that runs alongside the school. It is part of what we have promised every family who has chosen Canterbury.

The Honour Roll next week is one measure of that promise being kept. The other evidence is the beautiful culture on display on the courts, fields, and then subsequently in our classrooms every week.



FROM THE HEAD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

REBECCA ADAMSON



Study Smarter, Not Harder: Exam Preparation Strategies

This week, I've had several conversations with students who have openly shared that they're not quite sure how to study for exams. It's an incredibly honest reflection, and one we can work with. The good news is that effective study is not about doing more but about doing things differently.

I wrote last year about Canterbury's Learner's Toolkit and how research from the Science of Learning highlights a small number of highly effective strategies that support the transfer of knowledge into long-term memory, where it can be accessed during exams.

As exams approach, I would like to take this opportunity to provide a reminder of some practical strategies students can begin using immediately.

By focusing on these simple, evidence-based strategies, students can build confidence, strengthen their memory and approach exams with a clearer sense of control.

We hope this also supports you in guiding your child during the lead-up to exams, particularly when they say they have no work to do or are unsure how to study.





Learner's Toolkit

Start with Retrieval Practice (Brain Dumps)

Rather than re-reading notes, students should write down everything they can remember about a topic without using notes or prompts. This “brain dump” strengthens memory by forcing retrieval, helping students identify both what they know and where the gaps are.

Use Flash Cards for Active Recall

Flash cards are most effective when used for testing, not just reading. Cover the answer, retrieve it from memory and check accuracy. This small shift turns a passive activity into an active one. Parents can also use the flash cards to test their child’s knowledge.

Connect Ideas (Make Learning Meaningful)

Students deepen their understanding when they actively link new knowledge to what they already know. Creating mind maps, diagrams, or examples helps build these connections and makes learning more memorable. A ‘brain dump’ is a good starting point for students to then add detail through definitions, examples, and diagrams.



Explain It to Someone Else

One of the most powerful study strategies is simply talking. When students explain their thinking out loud, to a parent, sibling, or even themselves, they clarify their understanding and expose gaps that need attention.

Use Spacing, Not Cramming

Studying a little bit, more often, is far more effective than cramming the night before. Revisiting content over days and weeks strengthens long-term retention and reduces cognitive overload closer to exams. Retrieve It (brain dumps and flash cards) and Connect It (mapping ideas and talking it through) are strategies that can be used for spacing.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF STUDENT FUTURES

TRACEY CLARKE



Year 10 Students Explore Future Pathways at Brisbane Careers Expo

Our Year 10 students recently participated in the Brisbane Careers and Employment Expo, an important excursion that forms a key part of their career pathway preparation. The event provided students with valuable opportunities to explore a wide range of industries, training providers, universities, and employment pathways as they begin to make informed decisions about their futures.

The excursion was highly successful, with students demonstrating outstanding engagement throughout the day. They approached exhibitors with confidence, asked thoughtful questions, and showed genuine curiosity about the many career options available to them. From vocational training and apprenticeships to university pathways and emerging industries, students were exposed to a wide range of possibilities that will help shape their ideas moving forward.

A highlight of the experience was the large volume of resources students were able to collect. Brochures, course guides, and career information packs will serve as valuable references as they continue to explore subject selections and post-school pathways. Many students returned with new ideas and clearer direction about their interests and goals.

Importantly, our students represented the College exceptionally well. Their respectful behaviour, positive attitude, and willingness to engage, reflected our values and expectations, and they should be commended for the way they conducted themselves throughout the day.



Providers commented that they were impressed with the engagement and respect shown by students. This excursion builds on the work already undertaken in the career pathway meetings. Most Year 10 students have now had an individual meeting as part of this process, identifying their strengths, interests, and potential pathways.

These conversations are the first step in their senior schooling journey and will assist in their senior subject selections, which begin later this term.

Experiences such as the Brisbane Careers Expo are invaluable in helping students connect their learning with real-world opportunities. We look forward to continuing to support our Year 10 cohort as they take the next steps in planning their futures with confidence and purpose.

NICK GILLIN



Senior Psychology: A Journey Into the Human Brain

With the growing awareness of the importance of mental health and wellbeing in society, Canterbury has embraced the senior subject of Psychology to help prepare our students with skills and knowledge that they can further develop through tertiary study and further apply to their own lives.

To support students' world readiness, our Year 12 students took a trip to the UQ Integrated Pathology Learning Centre. They learned from some world-class academics about how the physical and anatomical aspects of the brain can impact mental health and disease progression, in conditions such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, and injuries to various parts of the brain.

Students also got to discuss related societal and health issues, such as addiction, stress, and how the treatment of mental health has changed over time in Queensland.

Students reported that the trip was a very valuable learning experience. The opportunity to connect classroom concepts with real-world examples helped deepen their understanding of psychology and the human brain.

“It was great to be able to see, physically, the parts of the brain that we’ve been learning about theoretically. It helped make them feel real.”

“Seeing the physical damage that can be caused by a one-punch attack is interesting in terms of what we were studying, but it also changed the way I think about people’s actions in public and at parties.”



FROM THE HEAD OF ATHLETES AND COACHING

NATHAN BURGESS



Intermediate Volleyball Schools Cup

Canterbury entered four teams in the Intermediate Volleyball Schools Cup over the past weekend, providing an exciting and rewarding experience for all involved. The College made its long-awaited return to this competition after over five years, managing to navigate TAS clashes to give our students the chance to compete at the highest level.

It was fantastic to see such a strong group of students representing the school, bringing energy, commitment, and spirit to the courts.

The Year 10 Girls team delivered an outstanding performance in Division 2, finishing the tournament with a well-earned bronze medal. Their consistency and teamwork were evident across all matches.

The Year 10 Boys faced some of the best teams in the state in Division 1. Despite the tough competition, they battled hard in every match, showing resilience and a willingness to take on the challenge.

Their efforts will no doubt build valuable experience for future competitions.

The Year 9 Girls showed remarkable improvement across the three days of play. Growing in confidence within their structures with each match, they were unlucky to miss out on a bronze medal playoff on countback but should be incredibly proud of their development over a short period.

Meanwhile, the Year 9 Boys continued their strong form from Term 1, playing impressive, structured volleyball throughout the tournament. Their growth over the past 14 months is highly evident, and we can't wait to see how they continue to develop.

Thank you to all the players, coaches, and supporters for their commitment to the Volleyball program.



AVESSA JOHNSON



Alumni Spotlight: Alexander Asher, Class of 2016



Since graduating from Canterbury in 2016, Alexander Asher followed a path marked by curiosity and a willingness to change direction when the right opportunity called.

After school, Alexander began studying a Bachelor of Advanced Science, with a focus on biochemistry and genetics. At the same time, he was also volunteering and working in politics and the union movement. While science had been Alex's starting point, it was through these experiences that he realised his true passion was not in the lab, but in the courtroom.

Since then, Alexander's legal career has continued to build momentum. In 2024, he worked as Associate to Industrial Commissioner Caddie of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission, before becoming Associate to Justice Copley of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 2025. In 2026, he is now working as a Legal Officer at the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), while also serving as a Sessional Academic at QUT School of Law and Reporter for the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting.

Alexander explains his work regularly involves appearing in case reviews, sentences, and bail applications, as well as instructing trials led by Senior Crown Prosecutors.

"Our role in the criminal justice system is that police refer charges for prosecution to the DPP. The DPP makes the legal decisions on what charges to proceed with, and manages the prosecution through the higher courts until trial or sentence," he said.

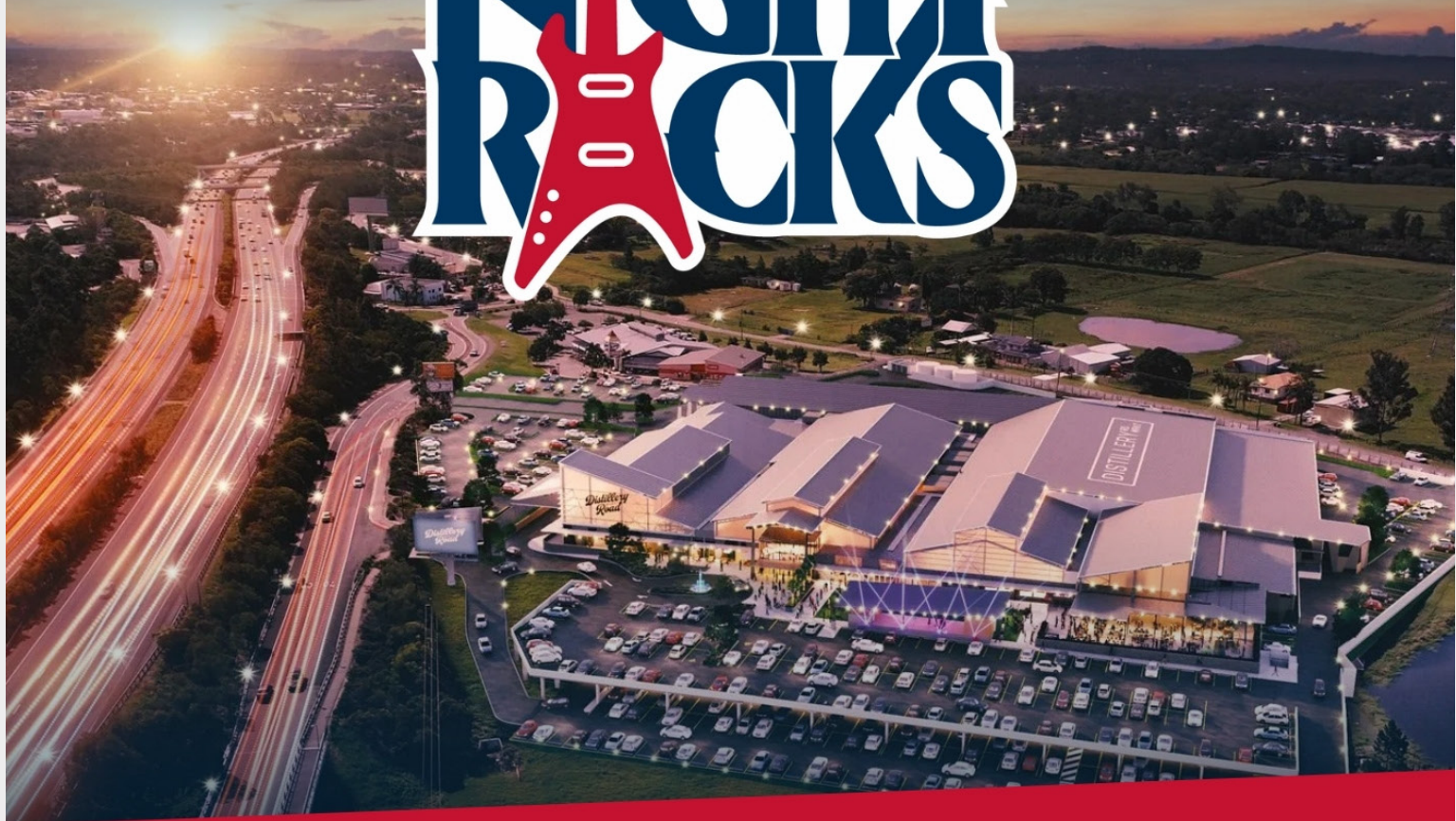
While the hours can be demanding, Alexander believes the work is deeply worthwhile, particularly when supporting victims of crime through some of the hardest moments of their lives.

Looking back on his time at Canterbury, Alexander remembers the value of extracurricular activities. As Debating Captain and Theatresports Captain, he developed confidence in public speaking, quick thinking, and performance. He also valued his time as Company President in the Australian and International Space Design Competitions, where he learned to manage complex projects with many moving parts and strict deadlines.

His advice to current students is simple: take your time, get involved, and choose something you genuinely care about.

"There is no rush to finish university quickly," Alexander said. "You will be more employable if you take your time, engage in student societies, industry networking, and work related to your field. Pick something you really love doing, and don't expect to get it right the first time."

FRIDAY NIGHT ROCKS



TONIGHT!

FREE ENTRY! Don't miss out.

Distillery Road Markets, Beenleigh

Plenty of on-site parking • Food and beverages available



Canterbury

*Distillery
MARKET
Road*



COMING UP NEXT...

Studio Dance Recital

Monday 8 June

Year 12 Senior Health and Community - First Aid Certificate

Tuesday 9 June

Years 5-6 Ethics Olympiad

Tuesday 9 June

Temple House Spirit Breakfast

Wednesday 10 June

Years 4-6 Winter Music Festival: Panorama

Wednesday 10 June

ELC and Junior School Photo Day

Thursday 11 June

Rock the Chop and Shave the World Loud Lunch

Thursday 11 June

Canterbury Spelling Bee

Thursday 11 June

Under Eights Day

Friday 12 June

Years 3-6 Disco

Friday 12 June

Junior School Parents Networking Evening

Friday 12 June

RockFest

Saturday 13 June

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

[Success for LEAP Entrepreneurship Students | View Now](#)

[Junior School Canterbury Spelling Bee | Read More](#)

[Rock the Chop and Shave the World: Cranmer Service Initiative | Read More](#)

[Under Eights Day | RSVP Now](#)

[Years 3-6 Disco | RSVP Now](#)

[Junior School Parents & Carers Networking Event | View Now](#)

[New Shuttle Service - Bethania and Beenleigh Stations | View Booking Form Here](#)

[Junior School Photo Day: New Date | View Now](#)