THE CANTERBURY WEEKLY

WEEK 5, TERM 4

FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2026



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

DAN WALKER



Changing of the Guard

There is always a particular rhythm to a K–12 school at this time of year. One group is finishing, another is preparing to begin, and around them the school is already taking shape for another year.

Move up days for Kindy into Prep have commenced. Our Year 12 students are now in the middle of their three-week QCAA external examination block. After thirteen years of schooling, their days at Canterbury are rapidly drawing to a close. At much the same time, our 2027 Year 7 students are preparing for their second Orientation Day, taking another important step towards Senior School.

A few weeks ago, when I first met them, I told them:

"We will expect a lot of you, because you are capable of much."

I think that invited some curiosity from those young people in the Sport Hall that day. Just how high will the bar be?

Parents and staff would, I suspect, share my answer: ***high***. And it is our responsibility, as each year goes by, to ensure it is always ***higher***.

That is what a high standards culture should mean. Not pressure for its own sake, nor an unrealistic expectation of perfection. It means refusing to underestimate young people. We expect them to work hard, be kind, contribute, recover from setbacks, pursue their talents and make something worthwhile of the opportunities they have been given.

There is an echo here of Luke 12:48: *"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded."* Opportunity at a magnificent school like Canterbury brings responsibility.

That feels particularly appropriate as Canterbury approaches its 40th anniversary. Our responsibility is not simply to celebrate what has been built here since 1987, but to keep raising the bar.

And there is plenty of evidence of that happening around us.

Engineers and builders are now on site beginning the renewal of our Senior School in the Talngai Precinct, creating new spaces for STEAM education next year. Beyond our boundaries, contractors appointed by Logan City Council are completely redefining the "frame" around the Canterbury "picture" through major improvements to our roadways, footpaths and set-down areas. We are extremely grateful to Councillor Nathan St Ledger, who did not give up on delivering this project for Canterbury families.

Perhaps fittingly, Engineering will also be introduced as a new subject in Years 10 and 11 next year. There is real ambition in that. We want

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

DAN WALKER



to fuel the aspirations of our future engineers and construction professionals, young people who will one day help transform our city, our state and our country.

Our people are changing too. We are recruiting new teachers, coaches and instructors across the ELC, Junior School and Senior School. Next week, we will welcome our incoming Head of Junior School, Michael Crowe, into the life of Canterbury ahead of his formal commencement in 2027. In December, we will also launch our brand new Canterbury website.

So there is a changing of the guard underway.

Year 12 finishes. Year 7 begins. New people arrive. New subjects emerge. New facilities take shape. Even the roads around us are changing.

Forty years on, Canterbury is still being built. And our responsibility is to keep raising the bar.



FROM THE HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

KAREN ROMAN



Year 6 Student Leadership Selection for 2027

The Junior School leadership journey at Canterbury College is designed to nurture confident, capable and compassionate young leaders. Throughout their years in the Junior School, students are provided with a wide range of opportunities to develop leadership skills, including service learning projects, buddy programs, public speaking, collaborative learning experiences, sporting and cultural activities, and community-focused initiatives. These experiences encourage students to build resilience, communication skills, empathy, responsibility and the confidence to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

As students prepare for their final year of Junior School, the Year 6 leadership process provides an opportunity for them to reflect on their personal growth and demonstrate their readiness to serve the College community. This process challenges students to consider the qualities of effective leadership and articulate how they can contribute to the continued success of our school.

This week we have been incredibly impressed by the calibre of applications submitted by our aspiring leaders. The thoughtfulness, authenticity and commitment demonstrated throughout the application process reflected the high standards and values we see across our Year 5 cohort. We were equally impressed by the confidence, poise and maturity displayed by the shortlisted students during their presentations. Each student spoke passionately about their vision for leadership and their desire to make a meaningful contribution to the Junior School community.

The leadership process has highlighted the exceptional potential within this group of students, and we are excited to see them continue to grow as leaders. We look forward to sharing the outcome of the 2027 Year 6 leadership appointments with the Canterbury College community in the coming weeks.



FROM THE HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

NICK STANSBIE



Orientation Days: Building Excitement for the Journey Ahead

Over the past few weeks, we have been delighted to welcome our future Year 7 students to the Senior School through our Orientation Day program. These experiences are an important part of helping students feel confident, connected and excited about the transition to Senior School in 2027.

Transitioning into Year 7 is a significant milestone in a young person's educational journey. At Canterbury College, we recognise that successful transitions are built not only on familiarising students with new routines and expectations, but also on developing a sense of belonging from the very beginning. Our Orientation Days are designed with this goal firmly in mind.

This term, each 2027 Year 7 student has the opportunity to attend two Orientation Days, each with a different focus. The first day centres on the pastoral aspects of Senior School life. Students spend time with their future Head of House and Senior School student leaders, learning more about the House system and the supportive networks that will accompany them throughout their secondary schooling. These sessions help students begin forming connections with peers and staff while gaining a better understanding of the values, traditions and culture that define life in the Senior School.

The second Orientation Day has a stronger academic focus. Students participate in a range of Senior School learning experiences, providing them with an authentic glimpse into classroom life beyond Primary School. These opportunities allow students to engage with specialist subjects, interact with teachers and experience some of the learning approaches they will encounter as Year 7 students next year.

Our current Year 6 Canterbury students have also been afforded additional opportunities to become familiar with the Senior School environment. Throughout the term, they have spent time attending Senior School classes and engaging with specialist teachers, allowing them to gradually build confidence and excitement ahead of their transition. These experiences help students develop a greater understanding of the learning expectations and opportunities that await them while reinforcing the sense of continuity that is such a strength of a Prep to Year 12 education.

For students joining Canterbury from other schools, the transition experience is extended even further through our "A Day in the Life" program. During this experience, incoming students are paired with a current Senior School student and spend the day attending classes, meeting teachers and navigating the routines of a typical school day. This opportunity provides valuable insight into daily life at Canterbury while also helping students develop relationships with their peers before their first official day of school.

One of the most pleasing aspects of this year's Orientation Days has been the enthusiasm displayed by both our visiting students and the senior students who have helped to support them. Our student leaders have embraced their roles as mentors and ambassadors, demonstrating the welcoming spirit that is such an important feature of our College community.

We look forward to continuing to support our future Year 7 students throughout the remainder of the year and are excited to officially welcome them to the Senior School community in 2027. The positive energy, curiosity and engagement we have already seen gives us every confidence that they will make a wonderful contribution to Canterbury College in the years ahead.

FROM 2027 PREFECTS

BROOKLYN & ANNA



Witnessing Hope in Action: Opening of the Manila Centre

On Friday, we were fortunate enough to attend the opening ceremony of Anglicare's first Youth Homelessness Accommodation Project. With the title 'Manila Centre', this complex aims to not only provide a stable space in someone's time of need, but to also revitalise the dignity and resilience young people so desperately need to grow a sense of independence once again.

We were grateful to have listened to a wonderful speech delivered by Izzy, who had previously stayed in a temporary shelter due to her housing situation. It would be an understatement to say that Izzy's words have not instilled something within us.

At 17 years old, Izzy was faced with a situation no child could possibly fathom. However, with the help of youth housing services, she was given the foundation and support to complete her final year of schooling, as well as the encouragement to venture into a world of possibilities.

Through Izzy's story, we were reminded of the unfortunate circumstances that many young people face. Not only did this encourage us to feel grateful for the resources and support we have, but it also prompted us to consider how we could volunteer our time and contribute resources to help provide other young people with similar support that Izzy received.

Accompanied by Mr Walker, Mrs von Kanel and Fr Dan, we were given a tour of the complex. With 6 family stay rooms and 24 individual accommodations, this project will be extremely beneficial to the youth of South Brisbane, and we can't wait to see the impact we can provide!



FROM HEAD OF CHARACTER AND RESILIENCE EDUCATION

GABRIEL CHAN



Year 9 Outdoor Education

Our Year 9 students recently returned from an engaging and rewarding three-day Rite of Passage Outdoor Education Journey, designed to support their transition into senior schooling through adventure, reflection, and personal growth.

Despite early concerns about the weather, students embraced every opportunity the camp had to offer. Throughout the program, they participated in a wide range of outdoor experiences, including hiking, creek crossings, archery, billy cart challenges, mountain biking, stand-up paddleboarding, and the Heights Challenge. These activities encouraged students to step outside their comfort zones, develop resilience, work collaboratively, and build confidence as they tackled both physical and personal challenges.

A highlight of the camp was the strong sense of teamwork and support displayed across all adventure groups. Whether navigating rugged terrain, establishing campsites, preparing meals, or encouraging one another through challenging activities, students demonstrated maturity, perseverance, and a willingness to contribute positively to their group experience.

Central to the camp was the Rite of Passage program, which provided students with opportunities to reflect on their personal development and future aspirations. Evening campfire discussions focused on themes such as decision-making, responsibility, leadership, and the transition to senior student life. Students thoughtfully explored the choices they face, the people they trust for guidance, and the responsibilities they are both excited and apprehensive about as they move into their senior years.

The camp concluded with an Honouring Circle, where students reflected on their journey and expressed appreciation for the support, encouragement, and friendships formed throughout the experience. Upon returning to school, students participated in a Returning Ceremony that recognised their growth and acknowledged their progression towards becoming senior students.

As a symbol of this significant milestone, each student received a keep cup and the privilege of accessing the school café, representing both the increased independence and responsibility that accompany their new role within the school community.

The Rite of Passage Outdoor Education Journey was a valuable and memorable experience, providing students with opportunities to challenge themselves, strengthen relationships, and reflect on the type of young adults and leaders they aspire to become. We are incredibly proud of the character, resilience, and maturity demonstrated by our Year 9 cohort and look forward to seeing them continue to grow as they prepare for the next stage of their educational journey.

Read the day-by-day recap of the journey **here.**



Year 9 Outdoor Education

View full photo gallery ***here.***



FROM CO-CURRICULAR DRAMA COORDINATOR

BEN DERVISH-ALI



Canterbury Junior School Players Drama Production

Fight with All Your Might the Zombies of Tonight

Thursday 29 October served as a Halloween treat for theatregoers as they attended the Junior School Drama Production of *Fight With All Your Might The Zombies of Tonight* by the Canterbury Junior Players. This popular Australian play is a rambunctious, comic foray into the epidemic-like qualities of coffee-drinking and celebrity idolisation. Playwright Matthew Whittet's clever commentary on peer-pressure culture invited audiences to follow Alex and their gang of misfits as they navigate adolescence, battling to stay true to their "selves" despite the pressures of conformity and cultural capital. That's right! The zombies' thirst for a pound of flesh was just that; a brilliant metaphor for this ever-present threat to our individuality.

Twenty-two wonderful Junior School students took to the Performing Arts Theatre stage for this exciting event, led by the cheerful, creative and encouraging Ms Bridget Ward.

The team's diligent collaboration was an asset to the process, demonstrating how a well-oiled ensemble can draw on their unique gifts, talents and skills to highlight the absolute fun and frivolity of live theatre.

Special thanks to Year 12 Cranmer student Corey Bertsch for their integral contribution through narration, portraying the omnipresent narrator and guiding audiences through the machinations of the characters' post-apocalyptic dilemma. Maya Lee, Year 11 Ramsey, also generously assisted backstage.

We look forward to welcoming audiences to the next iteration of Junior School productions in 2027. Stay tuned!





STAFF SPOTLIGHT

GETTING TO KNOW HEAD OF TEMPLE HOUSE & SENIOR SCHOOL TEACHER
HOLLY WESTPHAL



What is something you have changed your mind about as an educator, and what shifted your thinking?
Early in my career, I thought education and effective teaching was about expertise and engaging lessons. Over time, I have realised that authentic relationships and connections are the foundation of successful education. As a Head of House, I have seen how young people thrive when they feel known, valued, supported, and safe.

What do you want students to still remember about your lessons in 10 years, and why that, rather than the content?
I hope students remember feeling challenged, supported, and capable of more than they thought possible. While content may fade, I hope they remember the importance of high expectations, perseverance, and continuing to learn when things are hard. It's okay to fail, as long as you try your best and don't give up.

What is something Canterbury does that you have not seen done as well elsewhere?
The genuine sense of belonging across the College community stands out. Through our House structure, Inter-House Carnivals and Competitions, service, co-curricular activities, and celebrations like UN Day, Canterbury ensures students feel connected, valued, and part of something special.

Describe a moment recently that reminded you why you do this work.
Recently, a former student returned and shared how much my support during a challenging time had meant to him. It reminded me that we often underestimate the impact of small moments and genuine care. Helping young people through difficult times reinforces why this work matters.

Rapid Fire *questions*

What is one thing that people would be surprised to learn about you?
Although I am usually energetic and extroverted (some might say a little crazy) at school, I also love spending time alone and relaxing with my family. Quiet time helps me recharge.

What is your favourite way to spend your weekend?
Being around family and friends, cooking up a storm, and spending time outside near the water, whether it's the beach, a river, or a creek.

What is your favourite Canterbury event or tradition?
There are so many! But, if I have to pick... I have two. The first is our Inter-Form Hobby Horse Competition. We started this tradition last year and have just announced its return, with our Forms competing for the trophy at our House Assembly in Week 7. The second is our Temple House Service Initiative, where students visit a neighbouring aged care home to build intergenerational connections through games, art, and conversation. This week, we also celebrated Diwali with two Temple students performing a traditional dance.

What is the best piece of advice you were given early in your career?
Students need teachers who see them for who they are, not what they know.

If you weren't working in education, what would you be doing?
I am not sure. I was a Chef and restaurant owner in my previous career. I would think something to do with Hospitality, probably in Hotel or Event Management.

What is a subject you wish you had studied more seriously at school?
A language. The ability to communicate across cultures is such a valuable skill, and it's something I greatly admire in people who have mastered it.

COMING UP NEXT

A Day in the Life: Year 7 2027 Orientations
Monday 9 November

Future Anything Grand Finals
Monday 9 November

Year 7 2027 Orientations: Day Two
Tuesday 10 November

Ethics Olympiad Competition
Tuesday 10 November

Junior School Spring Music Festival: Kaleidoscope
Tuesday 10 November

Remembrance Day Service
Wednesday 11 November

Year 9 Start-Up Industry Professional Feedback Session
Friday 13 November

Year 10 Social
Friday 13 November

Chamber Music Concert
Sunday 15 November



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

2026 Year 12 Reflection Day | **Photo Gallery**

2026 Year 6 Celebration Evening | **RSVP Here**

Year 3 Camp: Growth Beyond the Comfort Zone | **Read More**

2027 Canterbury Dance Registrations Now Open! | **Register Now**

Canterbury's Got Talent: Junior School Takes Centre Stage! | **Read More**

Canterbury College's 40th Annual Speech Night | **Read More**

2026 Annual Pink Ribbon Morning Tea | **Read More**

2026 World Teachers' Day | **Read More**

ELC - Yr 2 Christmas Concert | **Read More**

2027 Prep - Year 6 New Student Information and Orientation Morning | **RSVP Here**

Bus Queensland: Greenbank and New Beith Bus Service Updates | **Read More**

Canterbury Performing Arts Captain Wins National Piano Duo Prize | **Read More**