THE CANTERBURY WEEKLY

WEEK 4, TERM 4

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2026



FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

MEAGAN KING



Annual Pink Ribbon Morning Tea

National Breast Cancer Foundation

Canterbury College once again came together for our Annual Pink Ribbon Fundraiser, raising funds and awareness for breast cancer and other cancers in partnership with the National Breast Cancer Foundation. Our community event sold out again this year, and we are proud of the footprint our College has built in this important space.

With an initial fundraising goal of $4,000, we are thrilled to have exceeded our target thanks to the generosity and support of our wonderful community and staff. We look forward to sharing the final fundraising total once all contributions have been finalised. Click **here** to donate!

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped arrange such a terrific event, and to the local businesses whose generous donations made our prizes possible. Their support played an important role in making the event such a success, and we sincerely appreciate their contribution to our community.

We encourage everyone to support these local businesses wherever possible. Their logos are featured on the page below as a small acknowledgement of their generosity and valued involvement.



Did you know?

The pink ribbon was formalised in 1992 by Evelyn Lauder of Estée Lauder and Alexandra Penney, editor of Self magazine, and it has since become one of the most recognised symbols of breast cancer awareness. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, when many people wear pink in support. In Australia, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women, with around 56 people diagnosed every day. Men are affected too, with around 1 in 600 men diagnosed in their lifetime. The five-year survival rate now sits at 93 per cent, a reminder that early detection and research make a real difference.

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Pink Ribbon Morning Tea

FROM ASSISTANT HEAD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

MITCHELL STAPLES



Putting Pen to Paper: Thinking Deeply in 2027

Right now, our Year 12 students are sitting their external exams, and some will complete 10 papers and write for up to 17 hours in total. Thinking clearly and writing fluently for that long is a skill built over years, not in the final weeks. From 2027, with assessment in Years 7 to 10 moving to a fully supervised model, families will also notice much more pen and paper in our classrooms as we build that skill.

Why handwriting matters

Our move towards pen and paper reflects recent and ongoing evidence about how understanding actually forms. A key idea in this research is that handwriting is not just a record of thinking, but part of how the thinking gets done. Digital tools are genuinely useful for refining an idea once it exists, but the initial work of forming that idea leans much more heavily on the slower, handwritten process.

What the research shows

The same applies to note-taking. A 2014 study by psychologists Pam Mueller and Daniel Oppenheimer found that students who typed notes on laptops wrote far more words than students writing by hand, yet performed worse on questions about conceptual understanding. The reason is speed. Typing is fast enough to keep up with speech, so students can transcribe almost word for word. Handwriting cannot keep up in the same way, which raises the mental effort involved: students must filter what they hear, select the key ideas, and paraphrase them in their own words.

That extra effort deepens understanding, because information a student has had to actively rework is remembered far better than information they have simply copied down. The wider picture gives us reason to pause as well. Australia's PISA 2025 results showed our 15-year-olds recording their lowest-ever scores in reading and mathematics. Screens are not the whole story, but screen time is now part of the national conversation.

Technology still has a place

This is not a retreat from technology, and our students use it well. Laptops, digital research, AI literacy, and creative production remain central to learning at Canterbury. The choice comes down to what a task is asking for. Handwriting helps when students are learning something new, while typing helps with drafting and finishing work once the thinking is done, and supports students with particular learning needs. Devices will be used where they bring a clear academic benefit, rather than by default.

What to expect in 2027

Stationery lists: more exercise books, notepads, pens, and writing paper.

Laptops: still used, where they clearly support learning.

Assessment: fully supervised in Years 7 to 10.

FROM THE ASSISTANT HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

TORY MILLS



The Power of Gratitude

Gratitude is one of Canterbury College's four core values, and last Friday, our Year 12 students had the opportunity to experience its power in a meaningful way during their Reflection Day held at Thunderbird Park. Through a chapel service, a gratitude walk, letters of affirmation, and time for personal reflection, students were encouraged to pause amidst the busyness of their final weeks of schooling and consider the people, experiences, and opportunities that have shaped their journey.

For many students, gratitude is often associated with saying "thank you". Yet research suggests it is much more than good manners. Studies have found that deliberately practising gratitude can improve young people's wellbeing, reduce stress and anxiety, strengthen resilience, and enhance their sense of life satisfaction. Gratitude has also been linked to stronger social connections and healthier relationships, helping young people feel more supported and connected to those around them.

One of the most powerful aspects of gratitude is its ability to build community. When people intentionally recognise the contributions of others, trust grows, relationships deepen, and a greater sense of belonging emerges.

Our Year 12 Reflection Day served as a timely reminder that reflection and gratitude are not simply about looking back. They are also about carrying forward an awareness of the people who have supported us and the opportunities we have been given.

As our graduating students are preparing for examinations and life beyond school, we hope they take with them a habit of gratitude that enriches their own wellbeing and strengthens the communities they will become part of in the future. We will be sharing some of their outward expressions of gratitude with the school community at some of the end of year celebrations coming later this term.

In a world that often encourages us to focus on what is next, gratitude invites us to pause, appreciate, and recognise the good around us. That simple practice has the power to change both individuals and communities for the better. As I reflect on the Year 12 Reflection Day, I am filled with gratitude for the remarkable young people in our graduating cohort.

It has been a privilege to witness their growth, perseverance, and character throughout their schooling journey. I am equally thankful to their families, whose encouragement, sacrifices, and partnership with the College have played such a significant role in shaping the young adults they are becoming.

I also extend my sincere appreciation to our dedicated staff, who invest so generously in the lives of students each day through their guidance, care and encouragement. Reflection Day reminded us that no one reaches this milestone alone. The achievements we celebrate are the result of a community that has walked together, supported one another and shared in the journey. For that, I am deeply grateful.



Year 12 Reflection Day



FROM DEBATING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING COORDINATOR

DECLAN MCBRIDE



A.B. Paterson Public Speaking Competition

Lumina
Supporting High Performing Students

This week marks the conclusion of the 2026 A.B. Paterson Public Speaking Competition, one of the region's premier speaking events.

In preparation for the event, students select from a list of topics and are encouraged to find creative and individualised ways to engage their audience. From each heat, only two speakers are then chosen to speak again in the final. Topics this year ranged from vague prompts like 'Leaves of Change' to more specific issues like 'Fast Fashion.'

In 2026, interest reached record levels, with internal trials required to determine the students selected to represent the College. Canterbury was proudly represented in every year level of the competition, reflecting the strength of the program and enthusiasm for public speaking in both Junior and Senior year levels.

A special congratulations goes to Year 9 student Emma-Lee Arango, who finished first in her heat and progressed to the final round of the competition. Her speech cleverly employed irony to highlight the absurdity of young people's growing obsession with likes, views, and online validation.

This achievement places Emma-Lee among the top ten speakers in her year level, a remarkable result in a competition known for its exceptionally high standards.

Participating in a competition of this calibre requires students to demonstrate confidence, critical thinking, and the ability to communicate ideas clearly and persuasively. Students must not only develop a strong understanding of their chosen topic but also consider how best to connect with their audience and leave a lasting impression. These skills are valuable well beyond the competition, supporting students in their academic studies and future endeavours.

The College congratulates all students who participated in this year's competition, as well as the staff who supported and encouraged them throughout the preparation process.

Their commitment and enthusiasm have contributed to another successful year for Canterbury's public speaking program, and we look forward to seeing our students continue to develop their voices and share their ideas with confidence.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



ALLIE LUTZKE: CLASS OF 2019

WRITTEN BY MADISON BARTON-HARRIS

When Allie Lutzke graduated from Canterbury in 2019, she thought engineering was where she was headed. A few unexpected turns later, she found herself building a career in the electrical trade instead.

We caught up with Allie about her journey since Canterbury and how her plans changed along the way.

What are some of your favourite memories from your time at Canterbury?

The sporting carnivals and events like dance nights and awards nights.

When you were finishing Year 12, did you have a clear idea of what you wanted to do after school?

I thought I wanted to go to university to study engineering, but after experiencing it, I realised it wasn't for me.

What led you to pursue a trade, and why electrical?

I chose electrical because it was somewhat relevant to engineering and was still mathematically challenging enough for me.

I had enrolled in university but deferred and took a gap year to work full-time. When my job was cancelled because of COVID lockdowns, I needed to find another source of income and something to fill my time.

I started labouring for the electrical company I eventually completed my apprenticeship with and quickly learnt to love the physically and mentally demanding aspects of working a trade.

What have you enjoyed most about working in a trade?

Definitely the banter between my workmates and being in an environment that has been supportive but has also pushed me to reach beyond my potential.

There have been some downs and learning curves that have shaped me, from stepping into adulthood to working in a male-dominated industry, but I wouldn't change it for the world.

What advice would you give someone considering a trade or a different pathway?

My advice would be not to put too much pressure on yourself to find the perfect career path straight away. If you're interested in a trade or are unsure about what you want to do, try gaining some work experience in different areas. It's a great way to explore your options, discover what you enjoy and see what sparks your interest.

COMING UP NEXT

Ramsey Family House Chapel
Sunday 1 November

A Day in the Life: Year 7 2027 Orientations
Monday 2 November - Friday 6 November

Year 3 Outdoor Education
Tuesday 3 November - Wednesday 4 November

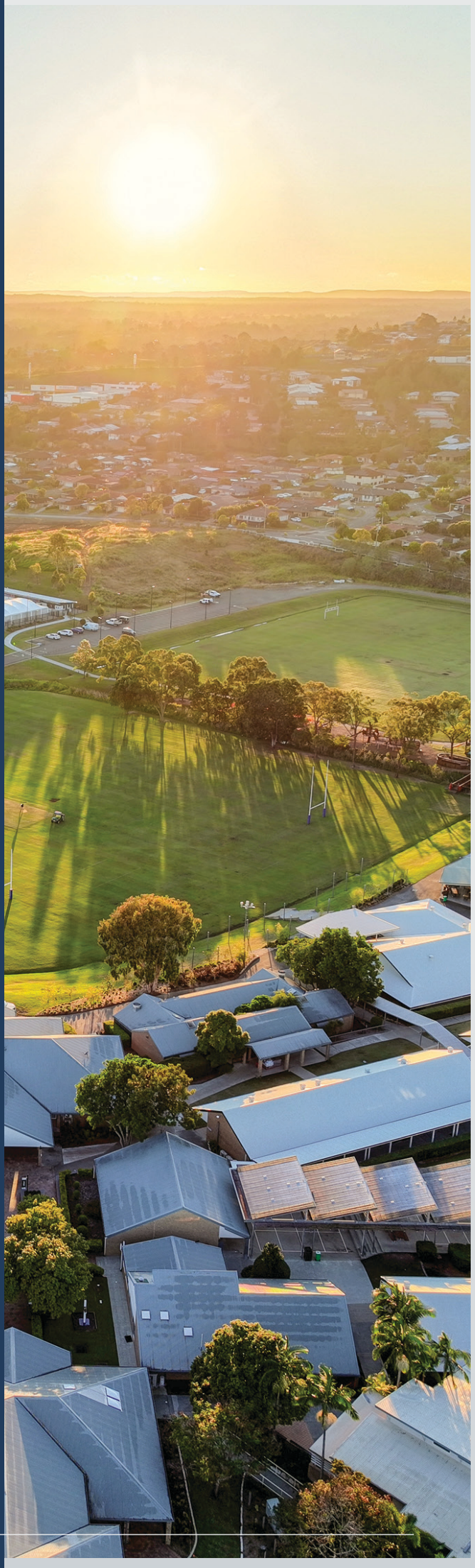
Junior School Spring Music Festival: Panorama
Tuesday 3 November

Year 11 Biology Camp
Thursday 5 November - Friday 6 November

Junior School 2027 Captains' Speeches
Thursday 5 November

Year 12 Exam Block Connections
Friday 6 November

Soloists' Evening
Friday 6 November



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

2026 Senior School Co-Curricular Awards Assembly | **Photo Gallery**

Leadership Investiture Ceremony: Inducting Our 2027 Student Leaders | **Photo Gallery**

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

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

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

Prep preparing for Year 1: Building Independence and Resilience | **Read More**

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