THE CANTERBURY WEEKLY

WEEK 7, TERM 4

FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2026



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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

DAN WALKER



#WorldReady

By the time many of you read this on Friday afternoon, our Year 12 students will have graduated.

There is something unusual about the final week of Year 12. For thirteen years, life has been defined by routines: uniforms, timetables, classrooms, rehearsals, training sessions, assessment deadlines, and the familiar faces of friends and teachers. Then, in the space of a few days, those routines disappear.

And then, this week, came the series of ‘lasts’ that tell you school really is finishing.

On Thursday morning, our Alumni Network Breakfast marked an important change in identity. Our Year 12s might be leaving the student body, but they are not leaving Canterbury. They are joining generations of alumni whose connection with this community extends well beyond their final day in uniform.

Later that day came Final Chapel, with the chance to stop, look around and appreciate the people and experiences that have shaped their years here. There is inevitably some sadness, plenty of satisfaction, and perhaps sometimes some regrets, and the realisation that things taken for granted are about to become things remembered.

The Valedictory Dinner last night at Movie World also reminded us that graduation belongs to families as much as students. Behind every graduate is a much longer story of uniforms washed, games watched, concerts attended, disappointments absorbed, successes celebrated, and countless ordinary acts of parenting.

And then today, Graduation began with the Guard of Honour.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

DAN WALKER



It is a simple Canterbury tradition, but there is a lot contained within it. Our youngest students line the pathway as our oldest students make their way towards their final ceremony. Some of those younger students will barely remember this day by the time their own graduation arrives. Our Year 12s, I suspect, will.

For years they have watched other graduating classes make that same walk. Today, the College stopped, made way, and it was finally their turn.

In my Graduation address today, I spoke about the value of work.

There is dignity in honest work. We should never be too proud for a job, become a job snob, or measure another person's worth by what they do for a living or how much they earn.

Work teaches lessons that matter. It teaches us to turn up when others are relying on us, to work alongside people whose lives may be very different from our own, and to do something properly even when we might rather be somewhere else. And starting from the ground up is okay; in fact it's the way it should be.

Technology will transform the working lives of the Class of 2026, but I suspect something much older will remain true. People will always value someone who is reliable, treats others decently, and takes pride in doing a job properly.

For the Class of 2026, school is now finished. What comes next will be less predictable, and that is exactly right. We have had the privilege of preparing them for it. From here, they begin making their own lives.



Year 12 Valedictory

View full photo gallery **here**.





Year 12 Alumni Breakfast & Final Chapel

View full photo gallery **here**.

FROM THE HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

NICK STANSBIE



Year 12 Valedictory and Alumni Breakfast

The final week of Year 12 has been marked by a series of celebrations that have highlighted one of Canterbury College's greatest strengths: community. From reflecting on the connections formed during their years at school to expressing gratitude for those who have supported them along the way, our graduating students have spent this week celebrating the people and relationships that have shaped their journey.

On Thursday morning, the Class of 2026 gathered for the Alumni Hosted Breakfast, an event designed to formally welcome them into the Canterbury Alumni Network and remind them that graduation is not the end of their connection to the College, but the beginning of a new chapter. Students heard from alumni Mia Walker and Anderson Som, who shared their experiences of life beyond school and reflected on the enduring value of the friendships, opportunities, and sense of belonging they gained during their time at Canterbury.



The breakfast flowed into the Year 12 Final Chapel in our beautiful Bush Chapel, where Fr. Dan delivered a memorable sermon centred on the importance of having the right tools for life's journey. Drawing on his passion for restoring vintage Minis, he reflected on how the right tools, used wisely, can help us navigate both challenges and opportunities. As part of this message, each graduating student was presented with a College Bible, a tangible reminder of the faith, wisdom, and values they can carry with them beyond Canterbury as an important addition to their own "toolbox for life."

On Thursday evening, the celebrations culminated with the Valedictory Dinner at Movie World. After an opportunity to enjoy some time on the rollercoaster, perhaps an apt analogy of the journey many of our graduates have taken, we enjoyed a magnificent meal.

A defining feature of the evening is the gratitude expressed by students as they acknowledge the teachers, families, friends, coaches, and wider community members who have supported them throughout their schooling.

Through stories of friendship, service, creativity, and belonging, the Class of 2026 reminds us that while individual achievements are important, it is the strength of community that makes those achievements possible. As our students prepare to graduate, we celebrate not only what they have accomplished, but also the relationships that will continue to connect them long into the future.



FROM THE ASSISTANT HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

TORY MILLS



Year 10 Social



One of the great privileges of school life is witnessing the connections that form between young people, their families, and the wider College community. These relationships are at the heart of so many of the positive memories our students take with them long after they leave Canterbury.

Last Friday, our Year 10 Social at Oxley Golf Course provided a wonderful example of the power of connection. In a fun and welcoming environment, students gathered to enjoy an evening filled with laughter and shared experiences.

The evening began with students and families enjoying time together over refreshments before posing for photographs in front of the shimmer board, creating lasting memories and commemorating this significant stage of the Year 10 journey. One of the most memorable moments of the night came before students departed for the venue, when they invited their mums and dads onto the dance floor. Watching parents share that moment was a powerful reminder that some of our most cherished memories are built through experiences of connection and joy.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our Year 10 students, whose enthusiasm and positive spirit made the evening such a success. Thank you also to our families for their support and involvement, and to our teachers for the care, planning, and encouragement they provided in creating an event that allowed students to connect in meaningful ways.

As a school, we know that the memories students treasure most are rarely tied to classrooms, assessments, or achievements alone. More often, they are found in the friendships and shared experiences that develop along the way. Events like the Year 10 Social remind us that connection matters. It builds belonging, strengthens wellbeing, and creates the positive memories that become part of a young person's story. I encourage all families to continue supporting and encouraging their children to become involved in the life of the school, to build friendships, and to participate in these memorable moments. The investment they make in connection today will help create the memories they will look back on with gratitude for years to come.



View full photo gallery **here**.

FROM COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST

MADI BARTON-HARRIS



2026 Alumni Reunion





Last Saturday 14 November, Canterbury graduates from the Classes of 1996, 2006, 2016, 2021, and 2025 came together to celebrate their reunions at Bar Pacino, Brisbane. And wow, what a great turnout! It was really great to see such a strong presence from our graduating classes.

This is one of the many ways that we build a community for our graduates. While the event is mostly a relaxed catch-up, it's a great opportunity to reconnect with former classmates and teachers.

It is also an event that we encourage our current Year 12 students to keep in mind for next year as their time at Canterbury comes to an end.

We know there are many Canterbury parents and carers who are also part of our alumni community, and we'd love for you to be a part and make the most of what we are building.

To our parents and carers who are alumni, our former teaching staff, and our current graduating Class of 2026, make sure you join our Canterbury Alumni Facebook group and ensure your contact details are up to date.

Our Facebook group is where we first share details of upcoming alumni events and opportunities to get involved, so it is well worth joining!

Join our Canterbury Alumni Facebook Group **here.**

Update your alumni contact details by filling out this form **here.**

FROM HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER

JAMES GAULD



Prep Students Learn About Safety in the Community

Canterbury College Prep students recently welcomed local police officers as part of their Safe and Sound Health unit. The visit brought classroom learning to life and helped students learn more about how police support community safety.

Throughout the term, students have explored road, sun and water safety, how to respond in emergencies, and how to identify trusted adults who can help. The officers' visit reinforced these topics and helped students build their understanding of protective behaviours and how to seek help.

The officers explained how police support the community, respond to emergencies and help people stay safe.

Students listened with interest, asked thoughtful questions, and learned about some of the equipment officers use in their work. They also discussed the importance of listening to trusted adults, knowing who to turn to for help, and how emergency services work together.

The visit supported the unit's learning goals: helping students recognise the people who keep them safe and identify strategies that promote personal safety and wellbeing. It also gave students the chance to build curiosity and respect for the community helpers who support and protect others.

Students left with a greater appreciation of how they can help keep themselves and others safe at school and in the wider community.





STAFF SPOTLIGHT

GETTING TO KNOW NETBALL COORDINATOR & JUNIOR SCHOOL TEACHER
TANIA CARLSON



What is something you have changed your mind about as an educator, and what shifted your thinking?

I've realised that the passion behind what you teach can influence the ears it falls upon. In an age where connecting with others is regularly redundant, I've come to recognise the importance of creating spaces where genuine connection encourages curiosity and learning.

Describe a moment recently that reminded you why you do this work.

To quote a Year 6 student, "You remind me so much of Miss Honey from Matilda. Not only because of your kindness but because of the way you make everyone feel loved and important." The genuine gratitude shared by our students is priceless.

What do you want students to still remember about your lessons in ten years, and why that, rather than the content?

We've really brought it home this year fine tuning our powers of persuasion. By golly, I hope they use the PEEL structure so people get the GIST.

In all seriousness, I hope when they hear that jingle, see that ad, or turn up that song on the radio, that it brings back memories of the faces, the stories, the laughter, and the feelings they shared in their final year of Junior School.

Rapid Fire *questions*

What is one thing that people would be surprised to learn about you?

It's probably that I actually have curly hair.

What is your favourite way to spend your weekend?

Yoga, farmers' market, great people and great food, and in that order!

What is your favourite Canterbury event or tradition?

House choir, hands down.

What is the best piece of advice you were given early in your career?

Make learning meaningful.

If you weren't working in education, what would you be doing?

I'd probably be driving stock around the station; something with animals would be right up my alley.

What is a subject you wish you had studied more seriously at school?

No judgement please … English. I probably would've fallen to its charms sooner.

What is a question a student asked that genuinely stumped you?

Student: "Can you read my writing?"
Teacher: "Will you read it to me?"

COMING UP NEXT

Year 11 Study Day
Monday 23 November

Junior School Speech Day
Tuesday 24 November

Year 8 Business, Economics and Entrepreneurship (BEE) Christmas Pop Up Stall
Tuesday 24 November

Year 10 RACQ Driver IQ Presentation
Wednesday 25 November

Junior School Studio Recital
Wednesday 25 November

ELC - Year 2 Christmas Concert
Friday 27 November



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Year 12 Alumni Breakfast and Final Chapel | **Photo Gallery**

2026 College Infrastructure Update | **Read More**

Year 6 Celebration Evening | **View More**

A Message from Archbishop Jeremy to our Year 12 Students | **Watch Now**

2027 Canterbury Dance Sign-Up: Updates + Uniform Orders | **Read More**

Year 3 Outdoor Education | **Event Wrap & Photo Gallery**

Year 10 Social | **Event Wrap & Photo Gallery**

Term 4 Studio Dance Recital | **View More**

Canterbury Soloists Evening | **Photo Gallery**

Middle Years Ethics Olympiad Success | **Read More**

You're Invited!

DiversConnect, Beenleigh Town Square | **More Info**

Updated College Policies

Child Safe Anglican Education Policy v2.2

Child Safe Anglican Education Procedures v2.2