

PIUS InProfile

Autumn 2024



ST PIUS X COLLEGE
CHATSWOOD



EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA

2024 College theme & logo



'Seek to Serve, Stronger Together' encourages all members of the St Pius X community to serve others as Jesus served his community during his time on earth. By serving others we as individuals become stronger, but together, we become even more united.

The College theme was developed by the College Student Leaders who were inspired by the Gospel passage Mark 10:45 '...even the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve.'

There are so many different opportunities that we can seek to serve but ultimately the responsibility lies within each one of us to truly be of service to others. It is only then that we can be 'Stronger Together'.



2024 College Captain, Quinton Crispe



[Pius in Profile](#), the St Pius X College biannual magazine

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[Front Page Photo](#)

Year 6 students met Australian Prime Minister, Mr Anthony Albanese and Vietnamese Prime Minister, Mr Pham Minh Chinh

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Principal's Welcome

It is my great pleasure to introduce this Autumn edition of the 2024 Pius in Profile which showcases St Pius X College's dynamic learning environment.

It has been a very busy few months since our last magazine. Again, I have been impressed with the great atmosphere and energy in the College community. There are so many opportunities open to our students: in Faith, academically, socially, as well as music, debating, the outdoors, competitive sport, robotics and many other areas.

There is much to celebrate with the 2023 HSC featuring some outstanding results, particularly amongst the very top level of students. Three students gained ATARs above 99 – a remarkable achievement for any school. Academic achievement is a key priority for the College and is a regular focus in staff development programs. As a part of this we are pleased to introduce a new initiative this year, the Academic Annexe, where students are supported by teachers and

mentors after school to complete homework, assessment tasks and study in the Senior Resources Centre.

Once again, our much-valued Parish Priest Fr David Ranson celebrated our Opening Mass. As I write he is in Rome representing the country at an international conference of parish priests – a mark of the high esteem he holds within the Catholic community. The College works closely with the local parish as well as the nearby girls' school, Mercy Catholic College, in a range of areas. The joint activities with Mercy College allow the students the opportunity for many important lessons in gender relations.

Our HSC High Achievers Assembly was held at The Concourse, with students from the 2023 HSC, our guests of honour. Such events as this, as well as our weekly assemblies and regular liturgies, reinforce us as a strong Community of Faith as well as acknowledging our high achievers and students who have excelled in their chosen courses.



Road to Bethlehem

Our annual Open Day was also a very proud opportunity to showcase the many aspects of College life. Our students were our best ambassadors, displaying their great enthusiasm for their school as they guided visitors, demonstrated science experiments or performed musical numbers. It was a great occasion that represents all that is great about St Pius X.

The student leaders have been particularly effective in promoting the College Motto for 2024, which is 'Seek to Serve, Stronger Together.' This motto reflects the College's mission to connect and support all members of the community – whether they be students, parents, Old Boys or the many people who make up our community. We are conscious that being an authentic Catholic School in the Edmund Rice tradition means we are prayerful and generous in our dealings with others.

Faith is central to our life, and you will see this increasingly profiled in our many liturgies and related activities such as

retreats or significant events in the Church's calendar. All our assemblies open with prayers from students and each Mass has the focus of a particular class. We also maintain our connection with the wider College community of former students, their families, and our much-valued staff, whether celebrating their successes or supporting them in times of need.

This magazine highlights some impressive performances in the extracurricular life of the College.

Welcome to 2024 and the Autumn Pius in Profile.

God Bless you all.

Mr Michael Ronchetti
PRINCIPAL

Celebrating Our High Achievers

Class of 2023 HSC High Achievers

Congratulations to the Class of 2023 on achieving excellent academic results. The College Dux was Darcy Keenlyside with an ATAR of 99.85. Two other students, Jack Lonergan and Joshua Bewley also gained ATARs above 99. Jack and Darcy were also mentioned in the Top All Rounders list. Twenty-three students gained ATARs above 90 with 10 of them gaining ATARs above 95, which ranks them in the highest levels in the state, especially creditable as St Pius X College is a non-selective school.

The Class of 2023 was ably led by Eamon Boyle, who was one of the top students and performed many public duties over the year. There were also two Top Achievers: Connor Lynch was 4th in State for the Business Services Examination and Hunter Thornton was 5th in State for the Retail Services Examination. In total there were 51 mentions in the Distinguished Achievers list.

Other special mentions include Henrik Hogg who was nominated for ARTEXPRESS and Caleb Hanrahan who was nominated for OnSTAGE for his Individual Drama Performance.

Summary of 2023 HSC Results

College Dux

Darcy Keenlyside ATAR 99.85

All Rounders

Darcy Keenlyside and Jack Lonergan

ATARs above 95

10

ATARs over 90

23

Distinguished Achievers

84 mentions in the Distinguished Achievers List*

51 students achieved top band in a course

Special Mentions

4th in State for Business Services Examination

Connor Lynch

5th in State for Retail Services Examination

Hunter Thornton

Nominated for OnSTAGE

Caleb Hanrahan for Individual Drama Performance

Nominated for ARTEXPRESS

Henrik Hogg for Visual Arts

Courses above the State Average

25

* Includes Year 11 Mathematics Accelerants



Darcy Keenlyside – 2023 College Dux ATAR 99.85 and HSC All Rounder

Received a Scholarship to study a Bachelor of Data Science and Decisions at University of NSW.

- College Prefect - Academic Portfolio
- College Gold for Academic Studies
- Academic Honours First Class
- The Macquarie University Prize for Outstanding Academic Achievement
- Represented the College in Athletics (College Blue), Cricket (College Blue), Football and Squash
- Peer Support Leader, Peer Mentor, Edmund Rice Society Leader, da Vinci Decathlon, the 'What Matters?' Writing Competition, Mosman Young Awards in Literature and the Nan Manefield Young Writers Competition, Be Connected Willoughby Library Program and assisted with the Science Club and Chinese Club
- Volunteered at the Matthew Talbot Hostel and Centacare

Darcy said the "Snowy Mountains Hike provided me with the opportunity to excel in all my endeavours. I was able to be involved in many extracurricular activities and be surrounded with like-minded individuals."

His advice for younger students was "to support and encourage each other and get involved in all the opportunities that the College has to offer."

Finally his top tip for getting good results was "to be consistent from the very beginning, learning and bouncing back from mistakes and taking on board feedback from teachers."



2023 High Achievers



Year 12 Maths Accelerants who achieved Band 6 in the 2023 HSC



Award Winners

HSC High Achievers Recognition and Symposium

The College welcomed back the graduating Class of 2023 for the High Achiever's Assembly and Symposium at the Concourse in February. This was a wonderful occasion where the hard work and dedication of students across a range of academic and cocurricular subjects was on display for all to see. The Year 11 accelerant students who achieved a Band 6 were also recognised. The 2023 College Dux, Darcy Keenlyside, spoke eloquently to the current St Pius X students about the work habits required to achieve their goals of success.

Following on from the assembly, Year 11 and 12 students remained for a learning symposium, where they were able to question the high achievers on what led to their success. This sharing opportunity offered invaluable insights for current senior students with practical strategies such as utilising study periods effectively, beginning the HSC journey and study habits in Year 11 and avoiding the distractions of social media.

The Class of 2023 students then joined College Principal, Mr Ronchetti and staff for morning tea at the College.

Second Semester 2023 Awards Presentation

Students, parents and other family members travelled to the College's Oxford Falls Campus for the Second Semester Awards Presentation in December.

Over 200 students were presented with a range of awards acknowledging their achievement and effort. Awards presented included Blue, Silver and Gold Fide Awards, Growth in Learning, Academic Honours First Class, Waterford Awards and Major Academic Colour Awards.

Staff were resplendent in their academic gowns edged with a range of hues representing the major faculties in which they studied. The Senior Jazz Quartet provided wonderful music and the outgoing Deputy Principal, Mr Mark Casey, made his final address to students urging them to be 'Men for Others'. Mr Ronchetti congratulated the students on their achievements and acknowledged the work of Mr Casey as well as two other long serving members of staff: the College, Vice Principal Pastoral Care, Mr Sean Brannan and long-term College Counsellor, Mr Rick Russo.



Front row: Jackson Byak, Myles Jory, Spencer Anderson, Michael Cheah
Back row: Mr Cunneen, Anthony Parissis, William Lyall, Ms Watson, Nicholas Anderson, Mr Van Dijk

2024 Scholarship Recipients

The College formally recognised the 2024 Scholarship recipients at Assembly during March. Special guests Mr Brad Van Dijk, Assistant Principal Ms Elizabeth Watson and teacher and Old Boy Mr Tony Cunneen presented the scholarships.

Mr Van Dijk spoke to the students about the importance and significance of the Thomas Van Dijk Scholarship which is dedicated to his son Tom who was in the Class of 2021. Tom had worked part time at Bunnings for many years to save up for his medical degree before tragically losing his life in 2021. It was those funds that now are generously given to the College each year in the form of the scholarship.

Congratulations to the scholarship winners, who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to self-management, application to their school work, excellent independent learning, focus on their home studies and maintaining cooperative behaviour in the classroom.

The scholarships awarded went to:

The Bergelin Trade Scholarship
William Lyall (Year 12)

The Thomas Van Dijk Scholarship
Spencer Anderson (Year 12)

The Christian Brothers Academic Scholarship
Anthony Parissis (Year 11)

The Old Boys Scholarship
Nicholas Anderson (Year 11)

The Br M M O'Connor Academic Scholarship
Michael Cheah (Year 10)

The Br B J Carter Academic Scholarship
Myles Jory (Year 9)

The Br V A Howard Academic Scholarship
Jackson Byak (Year 8)



Cooper Anderson, Samuel Cummins and Spencer Anderson

The National Youth Science Forum

During the Christmas break Year 12 students Cooper Anderson, Spencer Anderson and Samuel Cummins attended the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) Year 12 program in Brisbane and Canberra. Over 600 STEM students stayed at residential colleges at the Australian National University and the University of Queensland for a week of visits to science and technology organisations, careers days, specialist lectures and meeting Year 12 students from across Australia with similar passions for science.

From a session with the ANU Solar Car Racing team to going inside the concrete segment manufacturing facility for the 27km of tunnel required for Snowy Hydro 2.0, the NYSF was truly an eye-opening experience for these students to learn much about STEM opportunities available at university and beyond.

2024 College Leaders



Front row: Jake Brown, Patrick Marren, Jose Monk, Quinton Crispe, Liam Boswell, Christopher Harris, Luke Haldane
Second row: Chris Mander, Samuel Cummins, Thomas McElvogue, Patrick Frost, Dominic Mitchell, Spencer Anderson
Back row: Cooper Anderson, Fergus Fung, Michael Krizan, Maxwell Forbes, Lenox Makrewicz, Harrison Morton

2024 College Leaders

The Investiture of the Class of 2024 and Student Leadership team was held in October at the Concourse. 2024 College Captain Quinton Crispe inspired the cohort to “Seek to Serve” the community over the coming year. Their motto is ‘Stronger Together’. Every member of the year group was presented on stage and pledged to lead the College whilst proudly showcasing their new ties. Staff, students and guests were entertained by the Senior Concert Band. The new College leaders outlined their plans for the year. Then in a very moving moment the students were joined by their parents and together they pledged support for the school and each other over the coming year. The leaders and their families then celebrated this important event with afternoon tea in the reception area of the Concourse Centre.

College Captain – Quinton Crispe

College Vice Captains – Liam Boswell and Jose Monk

Barron House Captain – Christopher Harris

Purton House Captain – Jake Brown

Rice House Captain – Luke Haldane

Treacy House Captain – Patrick Marren

Wellbeing Prefects – Patrick Frost, Thomas McElvogue, Chris Mander

Mission and Identity Prefects – Harrison Morton, Dominic Mitchell, Lenox Makarewicz

Cultural Prefects – Michael Krizan, Samuel Cummins, Spencer Anderson

Learning Prefects – Cooper Anderson, Fergus Fung, Maxwell Forbes

Leadership in Action - St Pius X and Mercy Student Leader Afternoon Tea

During February the St Pius X College student leadership team co-hosted a prefect afternoon tea with the leaders from Mercy College. Delegates from schools including St Joseph’s College, Roseville College, Bridgidine, Abbotsleigh and more attended. The group had the opportunity to share ideas, make connections and have a good time while playing games and having afternoon tea.

EREA NSW Student Leadership Symposium

Also during February the St Pius X student leaders hosted the official EREA Schools Symposium at the College’s Oxford Falls campus. Keynote speaker, Alopi Latukefu, from EREA spoke about the different factors for overcoming change and diversity within the school communities. Group workshops followed with sharing and collaborating with other leaders and exchanging great ideas for our college’s future.



Teaching and Learning

Staff for 2024

Following a significant number of retirements and movements last year, we are delighted to welcome the following new staff in 2024.

- Ms Samantha Alston**, Diverse Learning Teacher
- Mr Reza Bokat**, Science Teacher (Physics)
- Mr James Bourke**, PDHPE Teacher
- Mr Matthew Buda**, Junior School Teacher
- Mr Andy Chen**, Science Teacher
- Ms Emma Coughlan**, English Teacher
- Ms Merryn Dodd**, Curricular Admin Officer
- Ms Diana Emery**, English Teacher
- Ms Keylene Hoban**, Payroll Officer
- Ms Alexandra Lourey**, Laboratory Assistant
- Mr Matthew Makhoul**, Junior School Teacher
- Mr David Menton**, Diverse Learning Teacher
- Mr Callum Montgomerie**, Junior School Teacher
- Ms Herminia Ramos**, Library Technician
- Mr David Ritchie**, Mathematics Teacher
- Mr Andrew Saar**, Music Teacher & Ensemble Coordinator
- Ms Jasmeet Sethi Sahai**, Diverse Learning Aide
- Ms Lena Shaba**, Junior School Teacher
- Ms Elizabeth Watson**, Deputy Principal
- Mr Lloyd Zuo**, Mandarin Teacher

Inclusive Education

The College is committed to supporting all its students in graduating with skills that reflect their learning capabilities. In 2023 many of our students were awarded an HSC that incorporated a wide range of courses including HSC courses, Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses and Life Skills courses. Through offering and supporting a diverse range of subjects and study options St Pius X students can find suitable pathways to complete their secondary schooling full of optimism and hope for a wide variety of options for the future.

Last year, one student focussed on Business Studies and Italian with the International School of Languages, and now has a full-time customer services role with an international car manufacturer. Another talented student in Visual Arts found a cadetship as a Graphic Designer.

We are proud of these 2023 students who never gave up, had the open-mindedness to accept different opportunities and the determination to succeed.

New Management Systems

In 2024, St Pius X College is using three management systems to assist with enrolment, teaching and learning. These are:

Canvas learning management system where students and parents can view work and marks.

Sentral student management system for timetables, reporting, parent teacher interviews and absence explanations.

Clipboard cocurricular management system for training, competitions, dates, and venues.

The College App has also been updated to allow a central location for students and parents to access these key systems and platforms.



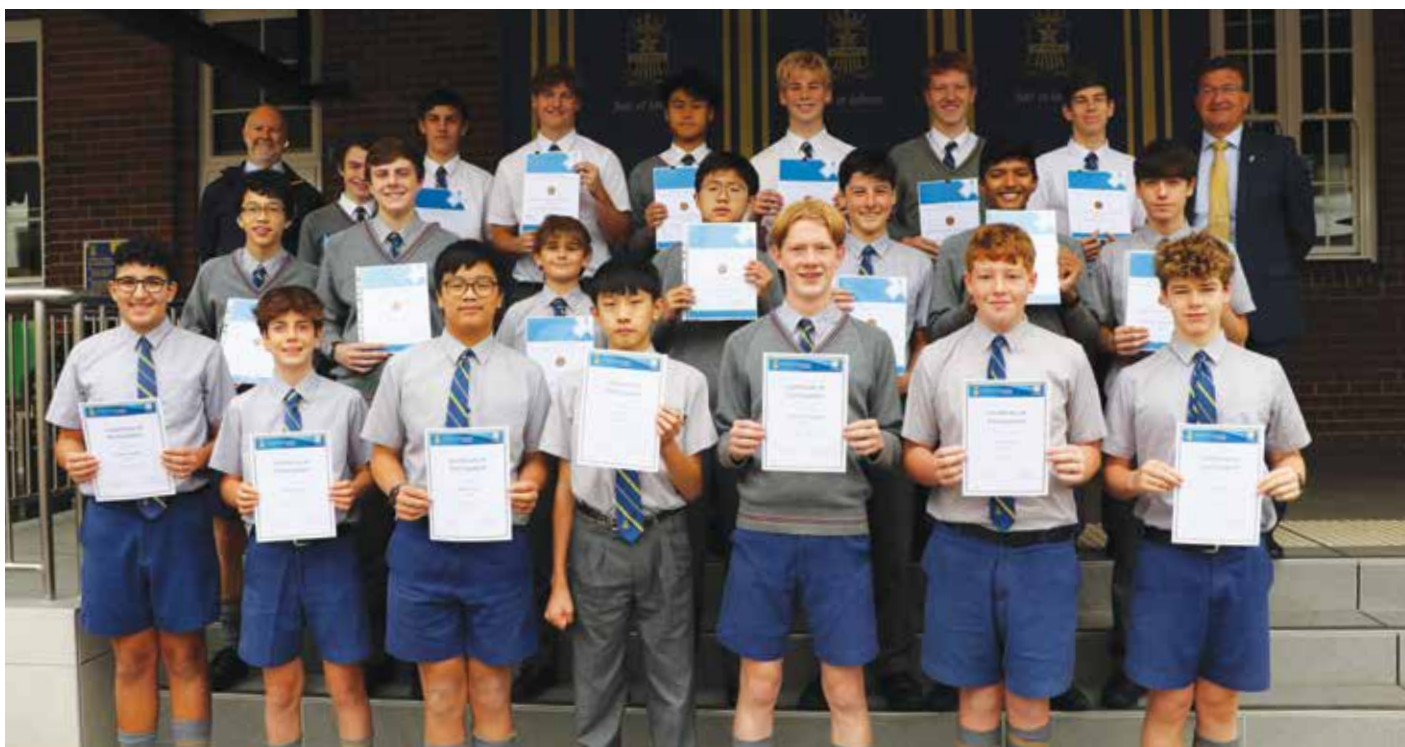
CANVAS



SENTRAL



CLIPBOARD



da Vinci Decathlon

During April students from Years 9, 10 and 11 represented the College at the Regional da Vinci Decathlon at Knox Grammar. The competition is designed to stimulate and challenge students in the fields of English, Maths, Science, Engineering, Cartography, Art and Poetry, Drama, Codebreaking, Ideation, and General Knowledge.

Our Year 10 team finished 2nd overall with a 1st in Maths,

Science and Cartography and a 3rd in Drama. Year 11 team finished 3rd overall with a 1st in Maths, Code Breaking, and Cartography and a 3rd place in Legacy (General Knowledge) and Science.

Most of the students were part of the da Vinci Club which trains before school in preparation for the event. A special thanks to Fergus Fung, Maxwell Forbes and Cooper Anderson, the Learning Prefects who generously assisted the teams with their preparation.

Academic Annexe

The College has launched the Academic Annexe where students from all years are supported to remain at the College after school in the Senior Resource Centre.

Open every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday between 3:20pm - 5:20pm everyone is welcome. Qualified staff and old boy tutors are on hand to provide support as required. This quiet space is ideal for students to complete homework, study for upcoming assessment tasks, prepare for exams or engage in private study.



Premier's Reading Challenge

Each and every year students from Years 3 to Year 9 across NSW attempt to read 20 books as part of the Premier's Reading Challenge. Of the million students who start the challenge each year less than 1% complete it. Of this small percentage, 6 are St Pius X College students who have been awarded the prestigious Premier's Reading Challenge Medal for completing the challenge every year from Year 3 to Year 9.

Mr Ronchetti, awarded the boys with their medals. Pictured are Reilly Bois, Jake Dyson, Angus Gibson, and Joshua Paul (Liam Godfrey and Logan Bois in absentia).

Faith and Identity



In 2024 the College has launched the Waterford Formation Framework using the Head, Heart and Hands Paradigm:

- Formation through Religious Education (Head)
- Formation through Prayer, Worship and Spirituality (Heart)
- Formation through Service (Hands)

The Framework Explained – Beginning from the centre:

We are a Christ-centered community. Jesus Christ is the reason for this school, the unseen but ever-present teacher in all its classes, the model of its faculties, and the inspiration for its students.

The Gospels are the windows into the very nature of Christ and form the blueprint for all relationships at the College. They formed the bedrock of Edmund's spiritual life and framed his vision for a liberating education for all.

Through the Gospels we hear and answer the call to faith and the call to serve. The very same calls were answered by Blessed Edmund Rice to be the head, heart and hands of Christ by witnessing the streets as a monastery through which he could liberate those imprisoned by poverty due a lack of education and dignity.

As a College, we hear the same Gospel call and answer with a confident 'Yes'. Motivated by faith and enired to serve, we seek to form our students, staff and parents so that they can actively contribute to building a world of inclusivity, justice and solidarity, through receiving a liberating education that is infused with a Gospel Spirituality.

To achieve such a goal, requires the highest quality provision of formation for the mind (Religious Education) , the heart (Prayer, Worship and Spirituality) and hands (Faith in Action through Service).

Such formation seeks an authentic union between the head, heart and hands. Such a union enables the work, relationships and vision of a graduate of St Pius X to bear the gifts of presence, compassion and liberation. In doing so, they bear the face of Christ to see and hear the voiceless of society, bear the mind to discern how to liberate such injustice and bear the heart needed to live the sacrificial love required to bring about healing and positive change.

The four coloured arms of the Cross resemble that the four touchstones are pathways to continuing Edmund's vision. They lead us beyond the comfortability of the familiar and the easy, as we seek to continue answering the call of the Gospels. The celtic pattern reminds us of the spirituality from which Edmund grew; one that witnessed the close intimacy of God in every moment, both positive and challenging, and one that witnessed God in everything; a life open to sacramentality.



Road to Bethlehem Liturgy

St Pius X College, Mercy Catholic College and youth ministry students from St Leo's Catholic College celebrated the beginning of Advent in a spectacular liturgy during December. The yard of St Pius X College was transformed into the Holy City of Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago. To give life to the wonderful story of the birth of Christ, the entire Nativity story was acted out with great sincerity and care by students and staff from Mercy College and St Pius X. The story of the birth of Christ, the adoration of the Magi and the Shepherds were realistically recreated in the yard using elaborate costumes and decorations, a panoramic theatrical experience, and the presence of real camels, a donkey and goats supplied by a farm in the Hunter Valley. Held in the presence of the Parish Priest Father David Ranson as well as other clergy, the pageant was a vivid representation of the Nativity story, urging all to remember the real reason behind Christmas.



Commencement Mass

St Pius X College opened its liturgical year with a Commencement Mass celebrated by the Parish Priest the Reverend Father Ranson at our Oxford Falls Campus during February. The Mass was a great opportunity to focus on the theme for the year: 'Seek to Serve – Stronger Together.' Father Ranson used this to underpin his homily. He spoke of the need for service as central to our Faith. In addition to staff, students and parents, the congregation included representatives of the Advisory Council, Christian Brothers and a Diocesan representative. The liturgy featured the College Orchestra comprising students and teachers as well as performance artwork depicting the sacrifice of Jesus.

Each element of the Mass was brought to life through colour, song, and movement thanks to our dedicated altar servers, musicians and readers.



Season of Lent

The 40 days of Lent between Ash Wednesday and Easter is a time of reflection, repentance and spiritual growth. The College commenced this sacred time with the ancient tradition of cooking pancakes the day before Lent, known as Shrove Tuesday. Following this, on 14 February, staff and students joined Christians around the world in the observance of Ash Wednesday.

Throughout the Lenten period the College practiced PRAYER, GIVING AND RESTRAINT. This included sacrifices such as abstaining from meat in the Canteen on Fridays and giving to those in need via Project Caritas.

The local Catholic community commenced Holy Week with Palm Sunday and a Youth Mass before a moving dramatisation of the Stations of the Cross to all students.

Junior School Bible Liturgy and Year 6 Commitment Pledge

In April the Junior School gathered for a liturgy, asking to be guided by the values of the Gospels, and as such it allowed the College to present to each new student a Bible as a way to animate our Touchstone of Gospel Spirituality.



Year 7 Touchstones Day

The Year 7 Touchstones Day was held at Oxford Falls early in Term 1 to develop the values and actions which will help them form an inclusive, just, thoughtful and considerate cohort, in the best traditions of Edmund Rice Education.

The day's learning was based on the themes of Stewardship of Creation and the Edmund Rice Education Australia Touchstones of Gospel Spirituality, Inclusive Community, Liberating Education and Justice and Solidarity.



Faith in Action Through Service

Each student at the College has a suite of 'Faith in Action' opportunities available to them in order to make a tangible difference in the world and to enliven their faith. The programs range from weekly local volunteering opportunities and community-based initiatives to interstate immersion opportunities.

Inspired by the vision of Blessed Edmund Rice, these Faith in Action opportunities are vital in giving students agency and the confidence to build a world that is positive, just and inclusive.

Weekly Service Program Partnerships

Matthew Talbot Hostel – Serving food to the homeless

Young Mentors Program – Mentoring Seniors with technology use and digital safety, Chatswood Library

St Peter's Nursing Home, Lane Cove – intergenerational interaction, technology and sustainability-related projects

Term-based Program Partnerships

Street Retreats – Interacting with, and learning from the Homeless through an accompaniment model

CatholicCare Disability Services – One Day immersion working with people living with different intellectual abilities through an accompaniment model

Bunnings Fundraising BBQs – Chatswood Parish – Supporting the StreetWork Program

College Wide Appeals

Project Compassion Lenten Appeal – Collecting donations and raising awareness for Caritas Australia

St Pius X College Winter Appeal – Supporting Jesuit Refugee Services and St Vincent de Paul, Brookvale

St Pius X College Christmas Appeal – Year group based donations, supporting a variety of charity partners:

Year 7: St Mary's Primary School, Bowraville

Year 8 and Year 9: French's Forest Parish Donation Drive

Year 10: CatholicCare Disability Services

Year 11: St Michael's Meals Initiative, St Michael's Parish, Darlington

Matthew 25:40 Immersion Program

An immersion is an opportunity for our students to use their unique God-given talents that have been carefully moulded and sharpened through their world class education at St Pius X, and to invest them in the betterment of the lives of our neighbour.

The Matthew 25:40 Immersion Program during Term 4 saw Year 10 pilgrims supporting communities from Sydney to the Central Coast, to the Northern Rivers and west to Baradine.

- Sydney pilgrims offered a day of activities to clients with different abilities from Centacare
- Central Coast pilgrims volunteered at the Glen Rehabilitation Centre and with Landcare for Rainforest Regeneration
- Bowraville pilgrims volunteered at St Mary's Primary School as classroom buddies and in meal preparation
- Baradine pilgrims commenced their volunteering at St John's and St Lawrence's as class buddies

Each day, students prayed, reflected and discussed their transformative experiences.





Project Compassion

An integral part of Lent is giving, and the College does this through supporting Project Compassion. The greater St Pius X community rallied together throughout the Lenten period with fundraising taking place through homeroom collections, the College Open Day BBQ, coffee cart and cake stall, Tuesday pancakes and generous online donations from parents and students.

As a result, the College presented Mr Dominic Smith from Caritas Australia a cheque for \$11,361 in April. As the Catholic Church's international aid and development agency, Caritas Australia works hand in hand with the most marginalised communities in Australia and overseas to confront the challenges of poverty. We are deeply grateful to all who supported our sisters and brothers in need.



Pancake Tuesday





Harmony Day Basketballers



Art students visit the Art Gallery of NSW



Chinese New Year

During Chinese New Year in February the College was entertained by Lion Dance Kids who performed a Lion Dance traditionally used to bring about prosperity and luck for the rest of the year. Legend has it that the new year beast was afraid of loud noises, the colour red and fire, so it was a loud and colourful performance enjoyed by all. College Principal Mr Ronchetti was thrown a lettuce as in Chinese the word lettuce sounds like 'to prosper', so it's a tradition to have that thrown to the principal or boss of a business to "pass down the wealth and prosperity". The group then went on to entertain junior students in the Sarto centre with a cultural presentation including some hands on interaction.



EREA NSW Student Leadership Symposium



Year 6 visit the Questacon



Leadership in Action Afternoon Tea



First day of School 2024



Open Day Entertainment



ARTEXPRESS Nomination 2024

The Class of 2023 HSC student and Performing Arts Vice Captain, Henrik Hogg was nominated for possible inclusion in ARTEXPRESS 2024 for his major project titled 'Man is not what he thinks he is, he is what he hides' (shown above). The work is a series of layered black and white digital portraits which survey the challenges of physical and emotional development for young men.

Henrick was also awarded early entry at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music to study Composition.

Student Wellbeing

New Homeroom Structure for 2024

This year saw the introduction of a new format to the homeroom structure with the Year 7 – 11 homerooms being based on House groupings rather than alphabetical order. The aim of the new homeroom arrangement is to build a greater connection between homeroom teachers and their students thus providing improved benefits in the pastoral care of students.

There are homerooms for each house in each year group. This new homeroom arrangement is also one of the new initiatives to promote the house system and house spirit. The following staff are the new House Leaders:

Barron	Mr Anesh Naidoo
Purton	Mr Dennis Lee
Rice	Ms Leigha Zervakos
Treacy	Mr Jonathan Dawson



Mr Jonathan Dawson, Mr Anesh Naidoo, Mr Dennis Lee and Ms Leigha Zervakos

Harmony Week

The College community celebrated Harmony Week (18-24 March) with the 2024 theme 'EVERYONE BELONGS'.

It was a time to celebrate unity and diversity at the College and showcase that we recognise everyone belongs. Staff and students got on board wearing different garments each day to celebrate including green for St Patrick's Day, orange on Harmony Day, family history and favourite sporting team apparel before an exhibition basketball game.



Counselling Services

St Pius X College has three experienced and qualified counsellors and psychologists on staff. They are registered with AHPRA/ PACFA and their offices are located on the level above the Principal's and Finance offices. From left in the photo is Ms Joe McCarthy, Ms Anne-Marie Polidano and Ms Judy Gill.

The counselling team provides confidential support to all students through Years 5 to 12 who are presenting with difficulties that are impacting their learning. Students may self-refer for counselling by attending the counselling department or emailing the counselling team. Parents may also contact the counselling team to discuss any significant concerns and see if a referral is appropriate for school counselling. Full details available on the College website.





Visitors from Mercy College

International Women's Day

During March a special assembly was held for International Women's Day. Special guests were Years 7 and 12 Mercy Catholic College students and their Principal Ms Brenda Timp. Speakers acknowledged the achievements of women and urged students to speak up against injustice in all its forms and on any occasion. The key message was 'Go be the Change'. It was a day of purple to celebrate women's achievements, raise awareness about discrimination and commit to taking action to drive gender parity.

November

It was fantastic to see so many staff and students getting behind Movember. The College community raised \$4,696. The senior students were, for the first time, allowed to participate in the growing of moustaches which provided some fun and competition along the way.



Senior School "Mo-Bros"



Peer Support

This important Pastoral Care program has been taking place during Term 1 with Year 11 peer support leaders meeting weekly in groups which include 8-12 students from Year 5 and 7.

These weekly meetings consist of students working together on set activities that are designed to help the younger students build self-awareness, create friendships and foster a greater school connection.

Camps

Year 7: The Great Aussie Bush Camp

Year 7 attended Great Aussie Bush Camp in Tea Gardens during March. This 2-night, 3-day experience provided the cohort the opportunity to make new friends, develop leadership and teamwork, overcome fear and adversity as they push outside their comfort zones all whilst having a lot of fun! This further cemented their pastoral year theme of 'belonging to a community'.



Year 7 – Great Aussie Bush Camp

Year 9: Pastoral Care Camps

The Year 9 'Rites of Passage' Homeroom camps took place last October at our Workul Koo Retreat Centre, Wamberal. The objective was to engage with the pastoral care theme of Respectful Men of Honour and Gospel Spirituality: 'Go and do likewise' (The Good Samaritan).

The students had the opportunity to challenge by choice, such as stand up paddle board, surf lessons and coastal bushwalks as well as exploring Aboriginal heritage, history and culture.



Year 9 – Terrigal

Cocurricular – Sports

Swimming Carnivals

The year kicked off with both the Junior and Senior School Swimming Carnivals in February. The Junior School carnival was held in warm weather on a Wednesday and then an overnight southerly change brought a drop in temperature and rain for the seniors. Regardless, spirits and participation was high, not just from the top-level swimmers but students of all levels who were pleased to get in and have a go.

Congratulations to the Treacy House for winning the 2024 Senior Swimming Carnival and Purton for winning the Junior School Carnival.

Junior Age Champions

- 10 Dylan Fok
- 11 William Aldons
- 12 Ethan Leong

Senior Swimming Age Champions

- 12 Joel Pagano
- 13 Jack Dunk
- 14 Luca McCarthy
- 15 Jayden Law
- 16 Archer Ferguson
- 17 Derek Jung
- Opens Nicholas Gladen



Swimming Age Champions



Mr Ronchetti and Treacy House Captain, Patrick (PJ) Marren



Junior School Swimming Carnival winners, Purton House

Sporting Success



Second XI Champions

Cricket

Congratulations to the St Pius X College 1st XI Cricketers who were runners-up for the season and the 2nd XI who were the ISA Division 2 Champions for 2024!

The 2nd XI beat Oakhill 2nd XI in the ISA Division 2 Grand Final at Oxford Falls on 9 March. Oakhill won the toss and elected to bat but were all out for just 55 with Charlie Chippendale the pick of the SPX bowlers taking 4/11 in 5 overs. The winning runs were scored by Tom Roche (24no) in just under 14 overs! An exceptional performance all round.



ISA Champions

Basketball

Eight teams made the ISA finals held on 9 March. The 13Ds and 14Ds were successful becoming ISA Premiers. Other teams, 14Bs, 14Es, 15E, 15Cs were unlucky to go down in closely fought games, in some very hot conditions. The 15Fs were particularly unlucky to go down by just two points in overtime, but showed wonderful tenacity, as did all the teams. The depth of talent and competitive spirit across all ages is obvious from these fine achievements. The culmination of the day was a great win from the 17Fs, who led from the beginning against great rivals, St Augustine's.

Squash

Congratulations to the SPX Team 3 of Tom Kneeshaw (left) and Cameron Giang (right) who participated in the final of the NSW Pennants squash competition.



EREA National Football Tournament

During the last week of term the 1st XI Football team travelled to Brisbane to participate in the EREA National Football Tournament hosted by Nudgee College. Seventeen teams from across Australia participated in the tournament. The team finished second with only a goal difference separating them from 1st place and progressed through to the semifinals. The tour was a great experience for all players where both football and team relationships were enhanced.



Sporting Heroes



Matt Hunt won the U20 400m Hurdles in April by nearly two seconds in a fantastic time of 51.59 seconds – the fastest winning time for 26-years at the National Championships. This secured him a place in the Australian team for the World Juniors in Peru in August.



Congratulations to Nick Tozer for his selection to represent CIS at the NSW All Schools Tennis Championships in Bathurst in March.



Congratulations to James Mikan and Cristiano Calcarao who competed at the Australian Track and Field Championships. James achieved Gold in Long Jump, Silver in 90m Hurdles and 4th in Triple Jump. Cristiano placed 4th in 800m and 5th in the 1500m.



Congratulations to Nick Gladen who won Gold in the 17yrs 50m Backstroke at the Australian Age Championships on the Gold Coast in April.



Matthew Krizan (center) was successful in qualifying for the CIS Cross Country Championship in the 12 years age group, to be held in early June.



Dominik Playle competed in the Australian Youth Water Polo Championships in Brisbane in January. His team the Sydney Northern Beaches Breakers Under 12s team achieved a Silver.



Congratulations to Bradley Newman who was nominated by the Institute of Sport Australia to receive a "Local Sporting Champion" Award for his state and national sporting achievements across various sports including Rugby and Touch Football.



Applause to Brandon Abram for securing the first position in the 50m freestyle event at the annual IPSHA Swimming Carnival.



Footballers Ryan Volpato and Ethan Suleman represented IPSHA at the CIS Carnival. Their team won the tournament and both boys were successful in obtaining selection into the CIS team that will compete in the NSWPSA championship.

Cocurricular – Performing Arts & Drama



HSC 2023 OnSTAGE nomination

Congratulations to Caleb Hanrahan for his nomination for OnSTAGE with the monologue 'Death of England'. Caleb worked extensively on this performance, and it is wonderful to see his hard work being recognised by the HSC markers from NESAs.

Christmas Twilight Concert

This jubilant celebration of musical talent was held late in Term 4 and despite some strong wind gusts and patches of rain, the Christmas spirit shone through as strongly as the beautiful rainbow that appeared as the Intermediate Concert Band began to play Jingle Bells. Nothing could dampen the spirits or the high standard of the students' performances. Yuletide spirit was in abundance as was the resilience of our performers and crew.

Some highlights of the evening included stunning solos by our Year 12 students, Max Lenton (guitar), Darcy Forster (alto saxophone) and Sam Cummins (trumpet). Recent graduates and former Performing Arts Captains, Aaron Lau and Henrik Hogg joined us for the occasion. The image of everyone - students and staff alike, coming together to sing carols was truly heartening and highlighted the strong sense of community we have here at St Pius X. The collective voices singing songs of praise resonated far beyond our school walls, spreading some early Christmas cheer throughout Chatswood.



Drumline

Thanks to PAPA, the College have been able to purchase a series of new marching drum instruments which has enabled the creation of the Drumline ensembles. These ensembles will be an important part of our College community and will perform at assemblies, concerts and other events including some sporting fixtures.



Classical Singer

Congratulations to the 2023 Performing Arts Captain, Jacob Chang for being offered an early entry position at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music to study the Bachelor of Music, majoring in Classical Voice.

Cocurricular

Snowy Hike

The 40th Annual Snowy Hike contingent left the College on 27 November. The 12 staff and 62 students broke into small groups to minimise impact on the Alpine Environment before heading into the High Country.

The Snowy Hike, a College tradition, has been taking place since 1983 and is a great rite of passage for Year 11 students. In total they cover approximately 100km's over five days. A credit to the organisers and the College. The 2023 hikers confidently managed difficult Alpine conditions.



Duke of Edinburgh

Congratulations to the following students who were presented with their Duke of Edinburgh's Award during Terms 4 and 1.

Bronze Awards - James Furini, Kazuo Lee and Luke Sissons

Silver Awards - Llewyn Bourke, Aaron Lau and Benjamin Woollard.

The College is proud to offer students from Years 9-12 access to participate in this prestigious, internationally recognised Award program which has three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Students commit to regular extracurricular activities of learning a skill, improving their physical wellbeing, volunteering in their community and undertaking a team adventure to earn an Award.

During March, 15 students from Years 10 and 11 completed a 40km hike from Woy Woy to Wondabyne as part of their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Practice Adventurous Journey. Hiking, camping in tents, cooking on stoves, building campfires, and swimming in the Hawkesbury with their mates was all part of the adventure.



James Furini and Kazuo Lee



CSDA Public Speaking

The CSDA Public Speaking Competition ran in Term 1 and special congratulations goes to Marcus Ng in Year 9 for making it through to the Grand Final which took place at OLMC Parramatta.

Debating is currently underway and continues to run through Terms 2 and 3.



Junior School

Science Incursion

Year 5 enjoyed a science incursion with Mad About Science in Term 4 to consolidate their learning about the three main states of matter: liquids, solids and gases. They loved this experience, in particular getting a large bubble of carbon dioxide and other cool ingredients on their hair. When popped, it created a cool, steam-like gas that smelt like soap.



Canberra Excursion

Year 6 students were excited to meet Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh when they visited Parliament House Canberra on 7 March.

This was a special honour for all our students, particularly given Mr Albanese received his own education by the Christian Brothers at St Mary's Cathedral.



Year 6, 2023 Graduation

At this inaugural event students, parents and staff were transported to the docks at Waterford.

A fantastic rite of passage moment for all graduating students as they walked over the symbolic Waterford bridge, rang the bell, and moved onwards in their St Pius X journey. It was a remarkable experience for not only the students but for all the family members.

Surf and Swim Program

Students in Year 5 spent 4 days learning how to swim or how to improve their swimming with an intensive program at Macquarie Aquatic Centre during Term 4.

Meanwhile, students in Year 6 enjoyed 4 days in the sunshine at Dee Why Beach working with Ironman champ Craig Riddington's team to learn how to stay safe in the surf.



Leadership Symposium

Student leaders in the Junior School were invited to participate in the EREA Leadership Symposium at Oxford Falls in February where they met with student leaders from across the state to discuss ideas and share learnings.

Broken Bay Camp

Year 5 had a great time away on their outdoor adventure camp on the Hawkesbury River in March. Making new friends, learning new skills and working in teams, this camp provides a fantastic opportunity for all students to grow and develop within the St Pius X community.



Artwork by Hugo Hasanoglu

Book Launch

Congratulations to Alexander Zhang, Massimo Guerrera, Liam Gallery, Hugo Hasanoglu and Alexander Nunes whose work has been published in the Chatswood Library's Wildlife Storybook 2024. The Wildlife Storybook is a culmination of a Council-led program that sees each Willoughby Council primary school visited by Bushland Education Officers to learn about the local environment and the creatures within it. The students then work with their teachers to research a particular animal and share stories with their classmates.

The Junior Resource Centre - A Hive of Activity

Recent author visits have included the award-winning illustrator and writer team of Liz Anelli and Pamela Freeman who talked to Year 5 about their newest book *"Seed to Sky"*. They described and talked through drawing a scene from the Daintree Rainforest.

Year 6 were entertained by Joel Slack-Smith (Hugh's father) whose recently published his first book *"Roarsome"*. They also had a visit by Isolde Martyn who co-wrote *"Country Town"* with Robyn Ridgeway and Louise Hogan. Their new picture book is on the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) 2024 shortlist. Isolde's grandson Zach Pereira is a student at the College.



Our Inclusive Community

Welcome Mass and BBQ

The inaugural Welcome Mass / BBQ and Information evening for Year 5, new Year 6 and Year 7 students and families was an outstanding success. The celebration of the Eucharist by Fr David was a wonderful way to welcome new families. Fr David shared the importance of light and how we are all called to share our light with those around us especially as we start a new school year.

Following the Mass, the P&F provided a meal (sausage sizzle). It was great to see so many families with not only their sons but with many other members of their family sharing in the St Pius X spirit.



P&F NEW COMMITTEE 2024

The new P&F Committee would like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of the outgoing President, Mrs Sarah Gillard, for her dedicated service and commitment to the community of St Pius X College over the past eight years. Her dedication and leadership have made a significant impact on the entire College community. The College community is grateful for the time and energy Sarah has devoted to making our College a better place. In 2024 the new P&F Committee consists of:

President – Eoin Geaney

Vice President & Class Parent Co-ordinator – Melinda Zanello

Secretary – Sonya Sancanin

Assistant Secretary – Renee Sullivan

Treasurer – Barnaby Rands

Social Co-ordinator(s) – Louise Johnston, Rossana Bennett & Mikey Koruga

Open Day

What an amazing Open Day! The sun was shining, the College was looking its pristine best as we welcomed over 1,300 guests showcasing the wonderful staff, students, parents and community of St Pius X College. The outstanding young men of St Pius X were enthusiastic tour guides and assisted staff and visitors superbly on the day.

Visitors enjoyed performances from our many music ensembles and the P&F put on a sausage sizzle and coffee cart, slushies and cake stall. Principal Mr Ronchetti, staff and students welcomed guests and spoke about our strong and inclusive community. Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who showcased what a great school St Pius X College is.



Our Proud Guides

VALE

Bishop Peter Ingham (Class of 1955)

The College was greatly saddened to learn that Peter William Ingham, the fourth bishop of Wollongong, died peacefully on 26 April 2024. He was 83 years of age and almost 60 years a priest.

Born in Crows Nest, Sydney, Peter attended St Pius X College, from Years 4 to the Intermediate (Year 9) before leaving in 1955 to study for the priesthood at St Columba's Seminary, Springwood, and at St Patrick's Seminary, Manly. He was ordained by the late Cardinal Sir Norman Gilroy in St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, in 1964. Following various parish appointments in the Archdiocese of Sydney, Peter was appointed private secretary to Cardinal James Freeman, and then as the secretary of the Archdiocese of Sydney. He was nominated as a monsignor by Pope John Paul II in 1986, and in July 1993 he was consecrated auxiliary bishop of Sydney. On 25 July 2001, Peter was installed as the fourth bishop of Wollongong serving the diocese for 16 years, retiring in November 2017. Many other appointments and missions followed.

In 2022, Bishop Peter was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia by the late Queen Elizabeth II for "significant service to the Catholic Church in Australia". Bishop Peter remembered his time at St Pius X College very fondly. He was a valued member of the Old Boy community and visited the College to celebrate Mass on a number of occasions, including 2021 for the start of year as well as the Old Boys function in 2022. Bishop Peter maintained good friendships with his classmates and enjoyed reunions with them. He was a very personable and humble man – very likeable, with a profound faith and wisdom. Bishop Peter was truly "a man of God—a man for the people. May his noble soul rest in peace."



Desmond O'Brien (Class of 1948)

The college extends its condolences to the O'Brien family on the death of Desmond O'Brien. Desmond left the College in 1948 and lived in Willoughby. His brothers John, Peter, Barry and Phillip all attended St Pius X College, as did his sons, Sean and Patrick as well as his nephew Martin.

P&F Cocktail Party

Over 300 parents, friends, staff and teachers from the College community gathered for the 2024 P&F Cocktail Party – the largest since pre-COVID. The thoroughly enjoyable evening was complemented by the warm weather and delicious food. Thank you to the staff, teachers, parents and friends who volunteered and helped to make the evening a success.



Old Boys



St Pius X College Old Boys Business Network Group

The St Pius X College Old Boys Association launched its Business Network Group late last year with around 30 Old Boys from a range of fields of industry.

The group is the brainchild of former SPX OBA President David Bullard (Class of '82) and Sam Loricco (Class of '86) and aims to provide advice, support and mentorship for students and recent Old Boys as they move into the careers around which their predecessors have learned invaluable lessons.

The group will meet twice yearly and provide details through the college's career support networks and affiliated structures. OBA President Mr Barry Wong, Principal Mr Michael Ronchetti, Business Manager Mr Lachlan Skeen and Careers Advisor, Mr Joe Madani were all in attendance to support this great initiative from which the college's students and community can benefit greatly.



Old Boys Giving Back

The College not only employs old boys to tutor students at the newly opened Academic Annexe, but it hosts many old boys each year who volunteer their time to hold career and subject matter talks with current students. In recent months we have hosted Bill James (Class of '67) who presented to Year 10 history students and Carl Fayad (Class of '19) who is currently a 4th year undergraduate student, studying medicine at the University of Newcastle. Carl provided some fantastic insights on the different pathways into medicine.

College Old Boys Elliot Cook and Joshua Sheather (Class of '22), as well as Enoch Lu (Class of '23) presented to students on the Bachelor of Accounting Scholarship from the University of Technology Sydney. All three old boys have received scholarships to study this degree at UTS. They explained to current students details of the degree and provided helpful tips and strategies on the scholarship application process.



Smart Work!

Smart Expressions was on display at the Concourse Art Space during March. The exhibition celebrates the artistic talents and achievements of young people in the Willoughby Council area and featured the work of six local high schools. St Pius X was represented by Class of 2023 students Xavier Domenici, Marco Balverde, Henrik Hogg and Jerome Pickering whose works impressed the many people who attended including Deputy Mayor Nic Wright. Current Art and Photography students were taken to the Art Space to view the works.



Congratulations and Farewell Flynn

Congratulations and farewell to Flynn Paveley from Year 10 2023 who was recruited to develop his basketball talents at the Australian Institute of Sport.



Bill James History Lecture

Year 10 History students listened to author and historian Bill James (Old Boy Class of '67) when he recounted his research and writings on the lost battlefields of the 1942 Kokoda Track campaign.

Bill started his career as a businessman in London co-founding Top Deck Travel then Flight Centre in Australia.

Having hiked the Kokoda Track in the early 1990s Bill began researching and consolidating the history of the Kokoda Track. He wrote the "Guide to the Kokoda Track" and his son Andrew wrote the "Kokoda Wallaby" story of Stan Bisset.

Bill's sons, Andrew and Richard, supported our early Kokoda Expeditions. Bill was so impressed by the pastoral care and positive culture across the College that he provided for the multi-million-dollar James Fellowship which provides College staff grants for international research and study.

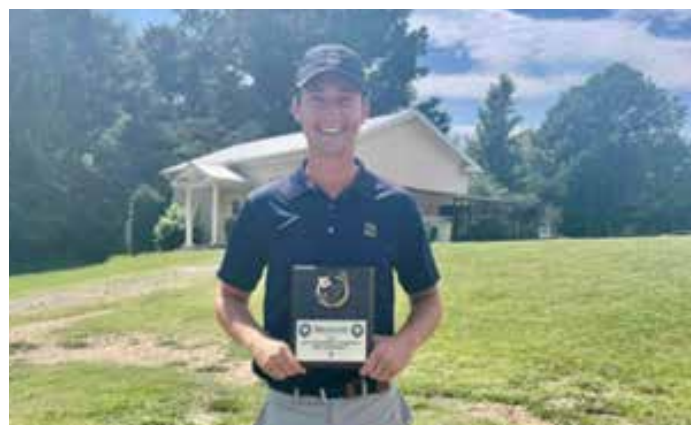


International Football Success

Congratulations to former SPX student Massimo Papallo who signed with Italian Football Club, Calcio Lecco. Massimo left St Pius X at the end of Year 10 (2022) to pursue his dream to play professional football and this signing will see him play against teams such as AC Milan, Inter Milan, Atalanta, Cagliari and Monza, just to name a few.

Gladiator Winner Kalani Lenehan

Kalani Lenehan (Class of '19) recently won Gladiators Australia 2024. Kalani was a House Captain and played in the First XV in 2019 and the Open C Basketball. He was an excellent athlete and received a College Gold for his performance. Athletics was very strong that year – they won the Senior Shield in ISA Division One. The Lenehans have been a well known family at the College for many years. In the well-rounded tradition of the College, Kalani was also a member of the guitar ensemble.



Congratulations Cian Hughes

Congratulations to Cian Hughes (Class of '21) who won the Dan York Memorial Golf Title / Tournament at the University of North Alabama with scores of 70, 68, and 70 to prevail by 3 shots.

Cian was a keen representative footballer before his passion drew him to the Long Reef Golf Club as a junior.

On graduation Cian accepted an NCAA golf scholarship to Alabama University where he currently studies and competes on the NCAA circuit. We wish him every continued success in his endeavours.



ACADEMIC ANNEXE

After school support for students

**Tutors assist with homework,
assignments and exam preparation**

**Open Monday to Thursday
3:20 pm - 5:20 pm**

**A great opportunity to complete study notes,
homework and/or receive additional support**