





Our new College Principal

For our new College Principal, Mr Daniel Mahon, his appointment at John XXIII College represents an opportunity to embrace two powerful charisms and to dedicate himself to Catholic co-educational excellence.

Mr Mahon was Deputy Principal K-12 of Loreto Kirribilli in Sydney and is deeply familiar with the Loreto tradition; however, he is also well-versed in the Ignatian tradition, having been involved in the development of a highly successful program called Companions in Learning, which facilitated a range of sharing and learning opportunities between Loreto and the neighbouring St Aloysius College.

'Of course I knew all about the excellent reputation of John XXIII College, having had the chance to observe the school from the other side of the fence, so to speak,' says Mr Mahon. 'This role really allows me to work with both faith traditions and in a co-educational environment.'

Mr Mahon was selected after an extensive international search for a new leader, bringing a wealth of experience to the College. Having just taken up his role in April this year, he has initially focused intensively on listening to and learning from the College community and is excited about nurturing and enhancing a vibrant Catholic culture and an environment of academic excellence, while using his executive management skills to strengthen the College's ability to navigate an ever-evolving future.

Future-focused education

Mr Mahon is passionately committed to delivering a powerful education that prepares graduates for what he referred to at an address at the Staff Day as a 'VUCA' world; a volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous world.

'We have to prepare our students for their future as opposed to our past,' says Mr Mahon.

'My vision is for John XXIII College graduates to dream big, be enthusiastic about learning, be confident that they can achieve their goals and have a competitive edge in their chosen careers. A well-educated student should know that they can make a difference. They should be passionate about their educational journey and full of courage.'

'John XXIII College's teachers are now working with students whose entire lives have been immersed in 21st-century media culture. Today's students are digital learners who connect to the world through the filter of computing devices. A John XXIII College education should continue to empower all students to become true media-literate world citizens as they research, analyse, synthesise, critique and evaluate.'

Mr Mahon has also spoken of the importance of focusing on 'next practice' rather than 'best practice' and the notion of 'failing forward'. 'I want students to be empowered to try different things, take risks and be encouraged to experiment, and use their mistakes and failures to enhance their growth, resilience and sense of empowerment. We need to create a safe culture of learning and creativity.'

Listening and learning

'One of the most important things for me is to have meaningful conversations with our staff,' says Mr Mahon, who has embarked upon an extensive schedule of one-on-one meetings with every staff member, both teaching and non-teaching. 'I want to know what is life-giving for them, what they are passionate about and what ideas they might have for the future. I also want candid conversations about what might not work. So far I've been incredibly inspired by our staff's calibre and dedication to our values and educational excellence.'

Leading with faith

Mr Mahon's faith is extremely important to him, and he has always strongly advocated Catholic education. 'It's particularly important to me to provide education in a faith that seeks justice,' says Mr Mahon. 'I will forever be grateful for my Catholic education and the values it instilled in me.'

As well as his leadership experience in Catholic schools, Mr Mahon has taught Religious Education and is an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. 'Most important for me, though, is my deep respect for the dignity of all people and the importance of seeing God in all things,' says Mr Mahon. 'I am driven to ensure that my students graduate as faith-filled passionate contributors to their communities who, when confronted with the need to answer difficult questions and face life's inevitable challenges, do so well-informed by the Catholic values they have learnt during their excellent Catholic education.'

Continuing the journey

For Mr Mahon, ensuring that our students continue to be supported on their educational and career journeys after they graduate is vital, and he has some exciting ideas about ways that we can strengthen our Alumni community and nurture our graduates as they find their way in the world.

'If we are serious about our mission to develop people who actively seek justice in the world, we can't just wave them goodbye at the school gates and hope for the best. We need to find innovative ways to build support systems among our Alumni.'

'I'd like to see us implement a program to involve our more senior Alumni in supporting our newer graduates as they progress throughout their studies and transition into the workplace, and then throughout their careers. These kind of mentoring and support networks can be incredibly important for a range of reasons, but particularly in ensuring that our graduates have access to people who can support them in navigating their careers and lives through the lens of the Catholic value system that infuses every aspect of College life.'

'It's evident from my brief time here just how vital a part of College life our Alumni community is,' says Mr Mahon, who recently had the opportunity to attend a Foundation Breakfast featuring Alumni panellists and meet with many members of our wider College community.

'I've led initiatives like this previously, and they have been enormously successful. Having met with many of our graduates and experienced the incredible engagement of our Alumni, I know that there is an appetite for this here at John XXIII College.'

Watch this space for exciting opportunities for Alumni in the future.



Alumni Development



Welcome to the 50th edition of Heritage magazine.

In this edition, you will find articles about our newly-appointed Principal Daniel Mahon, outgoing Acting Principal Kath Negus, our archivist Sr Theresa Elliott, and many exciting stories about the remarkable achievements and journeys of our Alumni. We look at the JTA Hockey Club and the donation of a grand piano from Loreto Nedlands and give you a snapshot of some of the things that our current students are up to, including involvement in the smash-hit College musical *Legally Blonde*, and participation in the Rottnest Channel Swim. We are always grateful for the time taken by Alumni to be interviewed, answer questions and submit personal information to share with our wider community.

So far, this year has seen a range of well-attended Alumni events. A CINI Australia Mother's Day celebration fundraiser was held at the College under the expert guidance and leadership of **Dr Jennie Connaughton** (Class 1970), with a band of volunteers, mainly Loreto and St Louis Alumni. Family and friends gathered for afternoon tea and a silent auction supporting mothers and adolescent girls in India, building a path out of poverty. Together we 'seek justice' in our world.

Following a temporary hiatus in the College Cup Sailing Regatta event due to COVID-19, a crew of Alumni assembled at Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht in May to race against five other private Colleges. The John XXIII College yacht was skilfully skippered by **Adam Glaskin (Class 2009)**, sailing into second place, and winning the 'best-dressed' award.

Mentoring and networking are an integral part of Alumni Development. This month we welcomed **Michael Stamp** (Class 2009) to compere a special Foundation Breakfast featuring Alumni panellists, themed around the topic 'Following your passion'. The event was a great success and a wonderful way to unite our College community.

There are many ways that Alumni can contribute in terms of mentoring, and we are so delighted when our former students continue their association with the College.

Whatever field you are in, we would love you to contribute. For more information please visit:

alumni.johnxxiii.edu.au/#businessnetworkinghub or contact the Alumni Development Office.

Anna Gingell nee Muir (Class 1978)

Alumni Development

Help find lost Alumni

As part of our efforts to stay in touch with our extended College family, we are always looking to expand our Alumni database. Can you help?

alumni.johnxxiii.edu.au/#missingmembers

This page lists all those people in your year group for whom we don't have current contact details. If you can help us get in touch with any of these Alumni, just click on the word 'lost' under their name. You can also click on other options at the top of the page to search for missing Alumni from other year groups.

Are your contact details up to date?

Please take the time to ensure we have your most up-to-date details.

To update your details online visit alumni.johnxxiii.edu.au

- 1. Login
- Under the top navigation select 'Your Account' and click 'Update Your Details'
- 3. Enter your updated contact information and then click 'Save'.

Alternatively, contact the Alumni Office with your updated details:

- 9383 0520
- Anna.Gingell@cewa.edu.au

Stay connected

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SUSTAINING CHANGE

An abiding commitment to the responsible stewardship of our earth is one of the fundamental values of John XXIII College and a principle we aim to instil in every student. One of our Alumni, Viktor Strizek (Class 2017), has recently been awarded a Change Maker of the Year Award for his innovative community business RecyclemanPerth.

After finishing his secondary education, Viktor worked at an Australian Disability Enterprise, but he found that the regimented workplace wasn't the best fit for him and decided to embark upon creating his own business. The challenge was to develop a way for Viktor to provide a valuable service to his community while working towards being independent and creating social connections.

RecyclemanPerth provided a means of doing all this while also helping the environment.

Viktor started by collecting eligible containers under the Containers for Change container deposit scheme and recycling them at the local centre in Shenton Park. He soon realised that many people in the western suburbs wanted to increase their recycling efforts but didn't have the time. Viktor saw a fantastic opportunity and now works across several suburbs, picking up containers from residents and businesses and taking them to be recycled.

As well as earning income to fund his independence and working actively towards increasing sustainable practices, Viktor also enjoys the social connections he makes during his work, which sees him out and about in his community every day.

The Change Maker Awards celebrate the achievements of community groups, businesses, schools, individuals and refund point operators who have embraced WA's Containers for Change scheme. Viktor was announced as the winner of the Individual of the Year Award for 2022. The Minister for Environment, Reece Whitby, called Viktor and the other winners 'waste warriors' and congratulated them for helping the state reduce landfill.

Viktor greatly enjoyed his time at the College and is always thrilled when he sees a student in College uniform out and about in the community, calling them all 'his friends'. Viktor's mother, Sue believes that the College values helped set him on his current path:

'The values of Mary Ward of equality and active ministry can be seen in Vik's work as RecyclemanPerth. Every day he works within our local community as an equal, promoting social equity and change to help our environment.'

Viktor has the following message for the John XXIII College community:

Hello JTC. You can give me cans and plastic and glass bottles. It helps the environment. I miss school and want to check on you and all my mates. Are you collecting containers for change?

Learn more about **RecyclemanPerth** here:

www.recyclemanperth.com.au



As we welcome a new Principal to the College with

the appointment of Daniel Mahon, we also farewell a longstanding and much-loved educational and faith leader in Mrs Kathleen Negus.

Mrs Negus has had a long and distinguished career in Catholic education and has been a profound influence on shaping the character of John XXIII College through a range of different roles she has held over the years, with the most recent of these being as our College Principal for Term 1, 2023, and Vice Principal from 2015 to 2022.



Mrs Negus recently delivered an inspirational 'toast' to the College, in which she spoke about the Italian word aggiornamento in reference to Vatican II and Pope John XXIII's call for the Church to devote itself to renewal and embrace a progressive spirit. Mrs Negus spoke of the ongoing challenge to all Catholic institutions to respond to this call, asking:

'How has our College lived this particular Vatican II intention that we need to open the windows, let in new ideas and build the world anew?'

This challenge is one that Mrs Negus has embraced in every aspect of her teaching, her leadership and her life. Pope John XXIII called for a renewed vision of Catholicism, one which was more accessible and engaging and which emphasised the human and communal nature of the Church rather than the institutional and hierarchical dimensions. Mrs Negus has embodied this progressive vision in her faith leadership and her modelling of Catholic life. Believing strongly that as much as the Church should celebrate and honour its past, it must look also forward and must also speak to the people of today, Mrs Negus has been fundamental to



ensuring that our College embraces the call to open our windows to the world in all that we do.

Mrs Negus' passion for renewal and relevance reached far beyond her faith, informing all aspects of her teaching and leadership. Her association with the College began in 1978 when she was appointed as a Mathematics teacher, and she has held a range of different roles since then.

'You have already heard the word 'aggiornamento' repeated so many times. You see, our Holy Church, forever young, takes the attitude of following the various twists and turns of the circumstances of life, in order to adapt, to correct, to improve and to become more fervent.'

Pope John XXIII

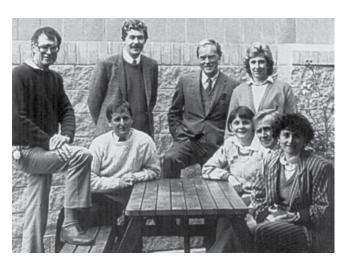
A formidable mathematician, Mrs Negus was an inspirational Head of Learning Area – Mathematics in 2002 and 2003, ensuring that pedagogical practice was contemporary and relevant, and helping to open up the world of mathematics to countless students. As a leader, her staff valued her wisdom, unflagging support and unflagging dedication.

Prior to her appointment as Head of Mathematics at the College, Mrs Negus worked as a Mathematics teacher at both Chisholm Catholic College and Iona Presentation College. She left her position as Head of Mathematics to undertake the position of Mathematics Consultant, Catholic Education WA, where she lead the Catholic Mathematics Community during the controversial Outcomes-Based Education period. Subsequently, she undertook another position at the Catholic Education Office working as a Capital Development Consultant, and then she became Deputy Principal – Curriculum at Seton Catholic College. Mrs Negus returned to John XXIII College in 2015 to join our Leadership Team.

In recent years, Mrs Negus has played a vital role in ensuring that our focus on the wellbeing of students and staff is based on the Ignatian virtue of *cura personalis* (the care of the whole person).

She has also insisted that wellbeing initiatives are founded on the latest research and created through the collective wisdom of academic leaders in the field of Catholic identity, wellbeing science, teacher practice, trauma-informed approaches, positive behaviour support, cultural safety and leadership wellbeing.

Mrs Negus has made sure that all curricular and co-curricular programs at the College create an environment in which students can flourish, and has been inspirational as a mentor and role model for staff.



John XXIII College, 1980s: Standing, L–R: Ray Jackson, Paul Newman, Roger Dracup, Jenny Ford. Seated, L–R: Graeme Walter, Kathleen Negus, Terry Hannavan, Marion Forster.

Our former Principal Robert Henderson returned to the College earlier this year to pay tribute to Mrs Negus and reiterated the importance of her contribution to the College over so many years, stating:

'Kath has been a wonderful friend, mentor, guide and role model for generations of John XXII College students and staff. She is also a wonderful keeper of the faith; not just in the traditional Catholic sense, but in the spirit of Ignatius Loyola, Mary Ward and Pope John XXIII.

'She has a great brain and an even greater love for people. You can truly say that she has a great mind and a good heart.'

We congratulate Mrs Negus on a magnificent career in Catholic education, and thank her for inspiring those around her to see Pope John XXIII's call for aggiornamento as an ongoing call to action for all of us.



COMMEMORATING SR TESS



An exciting collaborative art project to honour the contribution of Sr Theresa (Tess) Elliott ibvm and the Loreto Sisters was undertaken late last year. John XXIII College has always

sought ways to honour and celebrate our Loreto heritage. The various celebratory events held last year to commemorate 150 years of Loreto in Western Australia reinforced for our community just how significant the contribution of the Loreto Sisters has been and what a vital part of our ongoing story it is.



Several Year 7
students who had
displayed outstanding
enthusiasm and
behaviour in a
Visual Arts subject
throughout their first
year of secondary
school were invited
to join the project as

part of an exciting collaborative extension opportunity.

The student artists drew their inspiration from a photograph of Sr Tess in front of the College's Mary Ward sculpture, a much-loved



landmark and symbol of our rich Loreto heritage. The image beautifully conveys Sr Tess' warm, extroverted personality and her pride in Mary Ward and the

Loreto Sisters.

Sr Tess attended Loreto Nedlands as a student and went on to pursue her passion for education at Claremont Teachers College



(which later became Edith Cowan University). She then joined the Loreto Sisters and taught at Loreto Claremont's Koolyangarra and Catholic primary schools in Armadale and Thornlie.

Sr Tess now works as an archivist for John XXIII College, helping to preserve and share our rich history. She has a keen love for the visual arts and enjoys seeing student art displays.

The artwork created by the students has been framed and now hangs in the Circle of Friends Café.

The gift of music

Loreto Nedlands Primary School
has generously donated a beautiful
Monington and Weston baby grand
piano to the College. The piano
originally belonged to Gertrude Flynn
(nee Wood), who was Dux of Loreto in 1939.
It was bequeathed to the Mother John Music
Studio at Loreto Nedlands by the Flynn family in
2011. Loreto past pupils recently gathered to celebrate
this beautiful gift at a musical soiree and morning tea
in the Osborne Room.

Pianist **Joe Ryan (Class 2011)**, now a Music Tutor at the College (who often plays at Loreto functions) entertained guests with an evocative musical repertoire.



and accounting at the University of Western Australia. After travelling in Europe, she took up her first professional role in human resources at RSPCA WA. She joined Ability WA in 2021 as a Recruitment Officer, working in recruiting disability support workers. Guneet then transitioned to the role of Talent Acquisition Officer and now focuses on hiring therapists to join the multi-disciplinary therapy team at Ability WA. 'I've always been attracted to meaningful organisations,' says Guneet, 'and I feel very connected to our mission in helping people to realise their abilities.'

EMBRACING OUR VALUES

Guneet Kaur (Class 2016) has undoubtedly put the values instilled in her during her education to practice, forging a career in the disability sector and helping to provide a range of opportunities and services to people with disabilities. Guneet was recently awarded the 'Think Differently' award by her workplace, Ability WA, a not-for-profit disability service provider that supports people with cerebral palsy, autism and other physical and intellectual disabilities.

Guneet works in recruitment for Ability WA and won the award for her innovative ideas in attracting quality staff. 'Think differently is one of our values at Ability WA,' says Guneet. 'I devised some new ideas to help recruit therapists in this challenging market, including the 'Therapy Mentor Program'. I'm very blessed to work with many passionate leaders who were receptive to wanting to hear and implement my ideas.'

Guneet says that her John XXIII College education played a vital part in helping to shape her values and set her on a career path dedicated to helping others. Focusing on the importance of service at the College was particularly resonant for Guneet. 'People who work in not-for-profits and the disability sector often do it because of their passion for serving the community and making a difference in others' lives,' says Guneet.

After graduation, Guneet completed a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in human resource management

Guneet is enormously fulfilled by seeing her work's impact on the lives of the people Ability WA serves. 'I've had the opportunity to staff some of our new specialist disability accommodation homes, which has been one of my biggest challenges in terms of coordinating the hiring of a full roster against a deadline. It was all worth it after hearing how happy our customers were when they moved into their new homes, and it meant the world to me that they said they trusted the support workers we hired.'

Guneet says that recruitment is particularly difficult in the allied health therapy field, with many organisations needing help finding suitably qualified and experienced staff, and significant competition in finding the right employees for this challenging field. The NDIS also brought about significant changes to the disability sector, resulting in a much higher demand for employees. 'Despite this massive need for support staff, as a recruiter, it is important never to compromise on hiring values-aligned people we trust will look after our customers, rather than rushing recruitment to fill a quota,' says Guneet. 'It's nice celebrating the wins when we hire amazing people to join our company despite these challenges.'

One of the challenges that Guneet is inspired to address is further developing the capacity-building of people with disabilities.

'These people are incredibly capable when given the right supports,' says Guneet. 'I would like to see more inclusion of people living with disabilities into workplaces and greater education for all people in learning how we can be more inclusive as a community.'

Guneet looks back very fondly on her time at the College; 'Some of the most valuable things I took away from my education were gaining confidence and recognising the need for balance. I was a fairly shy kid, especially early on in high school, and it was only in my later years that I became more confident. I was often pushed out of my comfort zone, whether that be public speaking for class presentations or pushing myself to swim at swimming carnivals. You grow so much when you push yourself to do things out of your comfort zone, and I try to do this now in my career and life in general.

'Growing your confidence is a continuous journey that doesn't happen overnight, but I found these experiences help you realise your capabilities. And if things don't go to plan, then that's okay because you learn so much from each experience.

'The need for balance is also very important. School can get hectic, and learning to prioritise your wellbeing can be challenging but valuable, especially when transitioning into the workforce and keeping a good work-life balance.'

Guneet says that one of the other highlights of her time at the College was her lasting friendships and the incredible teachers who inspired and encouraged her throughout her education. 'I had some truly amazing teachers,' says Guneet. 'A massive shout out to Mrs Peters, who was our St Louis Homeroom teacher from Years 8 to Year 12. Being a teacher isn't an easy job, and I'm very thankful for the passion and care our teachers poured into what they did each day.'

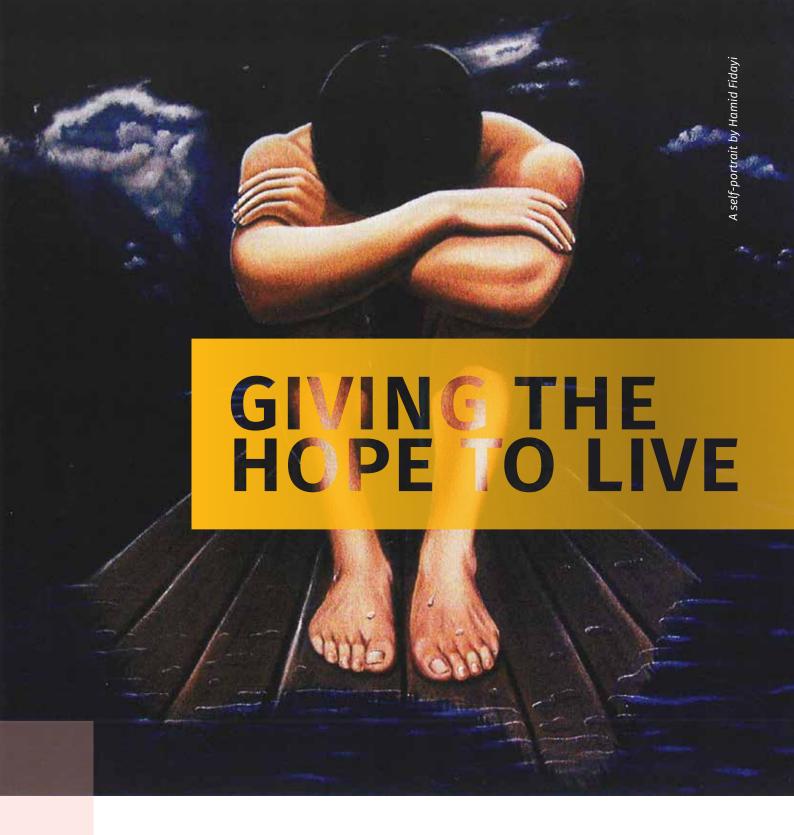
Outside of her challenging work, Guneet loves catching up with friends, eating good food, watching sunsets and taking yoga classes.

Advice to current students

It's essential to explore what you value and what lights you up. It's okay not to know what you want to do; I didn't know what I wanted to do even after graduating uni! My advice is to be super open to exploring different areas, whether that be talking to people in different industries or completing work experience. It's equally valuable finding out what you don't like as what you do like.

If you're considering a career in recruitment or the disability sector, I would encourage you to speak to people already working in these areas (LinkedIn is a great way to connect with people). Universities have some great programs that can connect you with industry mentors. I encourage you to look into work experience and internships during uni to help you understand if it is an area you want to work in.

For any students who are feeling stressed about their exams or what to do after they graduate, I understand how overwhelming it can be. You don't need to put so much pressure on yourself to have everything figured out. It's an exciting time to explore your interests and different opportunities. It's okay if things don't always go to plan. I'm so glad certain things didn't work out, as now that I have the benefit of hindsight, it helped redirect me to where I was meant to be. You've got this!



Our founder Mary Ward famously encouraged those around her to 'give and not to count the cost'.

Since its inception in 1989, the John XXIII College Foundation has provided a vital avenue for our Alumni to embrace the generous tradition of giving that has always characterised our College community, and has provided meaningful ways to support the development of the College and ensure that it thrives both now and into the future.

One of the most important roles the Foundation has played over the years is supporting those needing access

to a quality Catholic education. While this has taken a more formal channel with the launch of the Bursary Program in 2021 and the awarding of annual bursaries to cover all tuition fees for students whose families would otherwise not be able to afford a Catholic education, we have always demonstrated a commitment to providing affordable access to the College.

One of our Alumni who has seized the incredible opportunity provided to him for quality Catholic education is **Hamidulla (Hamid) Fidayi (Class 2003)**. However, for Hamid, John XXIII College was far more than a school; it was his family.

Hamid was named MVP by the College Volleyball Team

Hamid came to Australia as a refugee in 1998, fleeing Afghanistan via Pakistan, Malaysia and Indonesia. Hamid was only 13 years old and had to leave his family behind, travelling with a cousin, hoping to find safety in a new country. He and his cousin, along with 60 other asylum-seekers in fear for their lives, travelled on a small rickety boat. The terrifying journey

took three months, and the boat was eventually found by the Australian Navy. Hamid was detained in Port Hedland before being transferred to Perth, where he was housed with other unaccompanied minors. Hamid was alone and afraid in a bewildering new world, worried about the fate of his family and scared about what the future held.

'Each one of us should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.'

Peter 4:10

Asylum seekers did not have the right to attend government schools unless they could pay high international student fees, which was impossible, so Hamid languished, unable to access an education. The Principal of the College at the time was Greg Clune, who became aware of Hamid's situation and opened a space and a new life for Hamid at John XXIII College.

'I just wanted to go to school. I just wanted to get educated,' Hamid said. 'When I get accepted to John XXIII, it was like winning the lottery. But the jackpot, not just the normal one!'



Hamid seized the extraordinary opportunity offered to him and embraced every aspect of his College education, excelling in a range of areas. In 2003, Hamid was elected as House Captain of Campion and was awarded Most Valuable Player for his efforts in the College Volleyball Team.



He also won the boys' Running of the Colonnades with an impressive time of one minute and 32 seconds. In addition to his leadership and sporting achievements, Hamid received several awards for excellence of effort. His inspirational speech at Valete in 2003 will long be remembered by everyone who heard it.

Hamid said that when he came to

John XXIII College, he felt that he had been reborn and found the hope to live again. The College community embraced Hamid and supported him in every possible way. Hamid had no contact with his family for seven long years, only seeing them again when he was 20. For the terrified young boy, the College became his family. Hamid said that once he was at the College, he never felt lonely; despite being so cruelly separated from his family in Afghanistan, he felt he had found a second family. 'It just felt like everyone cared so much,' said Hamid. 'I felt so much love being here.'

Hamid attended our recent Alumni breakfast event and had the opportunity to connect with other Alumni and meet our new Principal, Daniel Mahon.

Hamid believes that his education was fundamental not just to his successful integration into Australian society, but in changing the course of his life. 'Today who I am is because of JTC,' Hamid said.

Can you help?

Helping a young person to access a quality Catholic education and to become part of the lifelong community that is John XXIII College is perhaps one of the most vital and meaningful contributions our Alumni can make. It is very much part of the call we all have to use our privilege to help others.

Every gift, no matter its size, is important in helping us to provide opportunities and support to those in most need. Please consider contributing to our Bursary Fund to help someone else receive the same outstanding education you benefitted from.

Donating is easy online at foundation.johnxxiii.edu.au/donate

For more, get in touch with Kate Murphy, Foundation Executive Officer:

Foundation@johnxxiii.edu.au

Office: (08) 9383 0403 | Mobile: 0403 345 662



'Following your passion' was the theme of a recent breakfast event coordinated by the Foundation in collaboration with Alumni Development and four passionate Alumni: Christian Golding (Class 1994), Amy Fels (Class 2007), Matt Kinder (Class 1998) and Darren Miller (Class 1989).

Guests were entertained and inspired by a panel of Alumni speakers whose passions have taken them on various fascinating paths. Compered by Michael Stamp (Class 2009), the panel consisted of Justice Robert Mazza (Class 1975), who is committed to the service of justice in so many ways, Tori Anderson (Class 1999), who has spent much of her life fighting for justice in third world countries, and Charlotte Haygarth (Class 2003) and Sophie Lawrence (Class 2003) who have created the internationally successful sugar-free ice cream Denada.

The speakers shared their stories and their words of wisdom. There was much discussion about the importance of following your passion and pursuing the things you enjoy and acknowledgement that life is not always linear and that unexpected detours often take us to the most exciting places. Panel members also stressed that being the best in your field or area of passion is not essential to achieve remarkable outcomes.

The 120 guests at the breakfast also had the opportunity to meet and hear from our new College Principal, Daniel Mahon, who shared his thoughts on the College motto 'seek justice', reflecting on the fact that using the verb

'seek' changes the concept of justice from a static condition to an aspiration for which we are compelled to advocate for equality, listen to the marginalised and act to deliver positive change.

Feedback from guests

The concept is a winner. Engaging guests, good crowd, and interesting topics; I was glad I went and learnt a bit along the way. Hopefully, it is the first of many similar events.

John Townsend (Class 1978)

I was privileged to have been schooled in the Ignatian tradition at St Louis. My children were educated in the same tradition at John XXIII College. For all of this, I have much to be grateful for. Being part of the panel at the Alumni breakfast was a great pleasure, a small gesture of gratitude and a sign of my support for the Foundation.

Justice Robert Mazza (Class 1975)

What an honour to be invited to be on the panel for the first-ever Alumni breakfast event! It was amazing to be there 20 years after graduating, now as an owner and director of Denada sugar free ice cream. It was a great opportunity to reflect on my high school experience and the foundation JTC provided for the journey to where I am today.

Sophie Lawrence (Class 2003)

The Alumni breakfast was a great opportunity to see classmates, meet new people and hear incredible stories and accomplishments from John XXIII College Alumni. I'm looking forward to many more Alumni events.

Josie Wason (Class 2009)

I was privileged to attend the inaugural Foundation Breakfast which provided a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with many parents and former students. The opportunity to briefly meet again Hamid Fidayi and to meet and hear the inspirational speakers was a gift. Their reflections of diverse journeys was illuminating as was their appreciation for the College and support for the Foundation. The morning was thoughtful, engaging and brilliantly delivered – and well worth becoming another John XXIII tradition.

Greg Clune, Former College Principal

Stay tuned for future events!





Bridging the gap between the classroom and the world beyond is something that we are continually striving to do at John XXIII College. As the world becomes ever more complex, it is more important than ever that we find innovative ways to equip our students to navigate life after graduation and to find the path that will be most fulfilling for them.

Our Alumni have always been a vital part of these efforts, and we are immensely grateful for the diverse ways our former students support those who come after them. We have an exciting opportunity to further leverage the skills and experience of our graduates to inspire and inform our current students. We hope that our Alumni will consider getting involved.

Plans are underway for a career and pathways-focused Alumni breakfast event for our Year 9 students later this year. Career education is critical, especially in a world where working roles and expectations are rapidly changing. It is extremely meaningful for our students to have the opportunity to hear our Alumni's stories and be exposed to real-world information about particular professions and career paths. Year 9 students are at an age where they are beginning to think about their future career options, and it is incredibly inspiring for them to be exposed to people who might widen their vision, provide valuable information and insights, and share their stories of the successes and failures that were part of their journeys.

Meeting with Alumni also creates valuable networking opportunities for our young people, providing a forum for them to interact with graduates who have gone on

to have successful careers in various industries. By enhancing our students' networking and communication skills and helping them build relationships that could benefit them in the future, we can help nurture their future careers before they have even left school.

In practical terms, students are also incredibly interested in learning more about the skills, qualifications and experience needed for different pathways, gaining an insider's perspective into a field they may be considering, and absorbing words of wisdom and career and life advice. There is enormous pressure on our young people to settle on their future careers at a young age. Recent Alumni presentations have helped immensely in reassuring them that they don't have to have everything figured out at the age of 17, and that there are multiple different pathways to success, some containing all sorts of detours along the way.

Hearing from our Alumni is enormously important for our students, and an experience that they have nominated as being very meaningful. Whatever your field of work or however circuitous your journey was to get there, we would love you to consider sharing your experience with our students. It's also a great way to strengthen your connection to the College.

The event will occur in November, with the exact date to be confirmed. We encourage all of you to consider being part of this initiative, no matter what field you work in.

You can register by scanning this QR code and completing the form:

Rising up the ranks



Gabe Kaye (Class 2021) has garnered the honour of being named RSLWA Spirit of the ANZAC Cadet of the Year for 2022. 'Winning the award was a great honour,' says Gabe, 'and showed me that the years of training and commitment had been worth it.'

Gabe's interest in the Army Cadets was piqued by a recruitment presentation by the 502 Army Cadet Unit at the College when he was in Year 8, and he joined shortly afterwards. 'It's a good thing I did,' says Gabe, 'because it introduced me to a lot of training and activities that I would never have been able to do otherwise.

There are leadership-focused promotional courses aimed at personal development that provide the opportunity for rank advancement, but what really gets cadets involved are the field exercises, spending days living in the bush undertaking navigational exercises, survival training, practising surveillance and reconnaissance techniques, stealth movements, traffic stops, and the list goes on.

'These skills are taught during weekly parade nights, in addition to the all-important drill, dress and bearing, and then implemented by the cadets on courses ranging from just a weekend course to eleven or more days long. The courses are held in Australian Army, Navy and Airforce training areas; it's a real treat. There's also the bonus of learning and practising live fire shooting yearly. It would be challenging to say what I most loved about it; it'd have to be just about everything!'

Gabe says that the friendships he formed at John XXIII College have been incredibly important to him, both during his school years and after graduation. 'Once you graduate, it's nice to have a good network to fall back on,' says Gabe. 'Even as each person follows a different career path and studies different things at different

places, or goes on to get a trade, it's great to still be mates years after graduating.'

Gabe also greatly values the networking skills he acquired while at the College.

'I was surprised, as you might not think there are many opportunities to network while still in school. However while engaging in different clubs and competitions, and searching for university information, I found that I made lots of useful connections. It was a great asset to have developed these skills.'

Gabe received an early offer of admission to the University of Western Australia and is currently undertaking a double degree in mining engineering and commerce. Majoring in mining has allowed him to take up summer and winter vacation positions at Westgold's Big Bell mine site near the Pilbara, completing a two-weeks-on/one-week-off swing cycle. Gabe says this has given him invaluable industry experience and was his first taste of a full-time job, working 12-hour shifts in various roles one kilometre underground.



Advice to current students considering becoming an Army Cadet:

If you have any inkling of joining the Australian Army Cadets, or if taking part in any of the activities I've spoken about sounds cool to you, then you should definitely give it a go. If you're 12 and a half years old, sign up, get the uniform on, and try it. If it's not for you then at least you can say you tried something new. But if you do stick with it, you can make mates with people from right across the state and even country if you do the right courses. It's a great opportunity not just to learn great new things, but also to have a ton of fun doing so.



Our students continue to achieve extraordinary success in the visual arts, with two of our most recent graduates earning high accolades for their artworks. Their success is a testament to their talent and dedication, and the high quality of our Visual Arts teaching staff, and the important emphasis placed on an arts education at John XXIII College.

Pulse Perspectives

WA's talented young artists are celebrated in this yearly showcase, gauging the pulse of young people who will influence, empower and shape the world we live in. The selected works provide a window into young people's private, social and artistic concerns. It is an inspiring, rewarding and insightful look at the world through the minds of our most talented young artists. The 2023 exhibition celebrates 31 years and features 61 works by the 2022 Year 12 Visual Arts graduates from 36 schools across Western Australia.

Congratulations to John XXIII College Alumna **Kirsten McCormick (Class 2022)** for having her artwork 'Safe' selected to be shown in Pulse Perspectives at the Art Gallery of Western Australia.

Safe, Kirsten McCormick, oil on canvas

'This artwork is a self-portrait influenced by my childhood and the objects from it that I still hold on to, many of which are artefacts of the childhoods of various members of my family. I wanted to convey the sense of nostalgia and safety that familiar objects can bring in transporting me to a simpler time, evoking memories which have the distance and calmness of a dreamlike, sleepy state which is also evident in my use of a soft, desaturated colour palette.

'I was inspired by contemporary realist Teresa Oaxaca's complex and crowded compositions as well as her use of scattered objects which influenced my choice of subject matter. Oaxaca's

> compositions inspired my own in which the figure is dwarfed by the mass of toys surrounding her, signifying a feeling of being overwhelmed by nostalgia.'

Lester Prize for Portraiture

The Lester Prize Youth Awards encourages the creative talents of young, aspiring

and emerging artists. It is open to all secondary school students across Australia from school years 7 to 12. The Youth Award allows entrants to showcase their works and present their unique artistic perspectives, helps build their confidence to further their art practice, and allows them to share their stories with the broader community.

Congratulations to College Alumna Stella Sampson (Class 2022) for having her artwork 'Wrapped in Plastic' selected as a finalist in this year's Lester Prize. The exhibition ran from April to July at the WA Museum Boola Bardip.

Wrapped in Plastic, Stella Sampson, oil on canvas

'My artwork is a self-portrait that depicts myself wrapped in plastic. I wanted to convey a message about consumerism and how it is restrictive to an individual. We often find ourselves fixated by the latest and trendy products, a constant buying of mass-produced items which causes excessive plastic production and harmful waste. We are consumed by the amount of plastic we buy, and my artwork aims to depict this.

'Contrast between saturated, dark reds and bright whites creates the impression of bold reflections and the appearance of crumpled plastic. Saturated and vivid colour contributes to the artificial idea of plastic.'





in the future. He is particularly excited about the opportunity to learn more about Japanese culture and business, and to foster relationships that may prove to be integral to his future career path.

Eloise Budimlich (Class 2019) and **Olivia Torre (2019)** are following their passion for international law all the way to France. They will both be embarking on an exciting study abroad program at the Institut Catholique de Paris (Catholic University of Paris).

NTERMATIO NAL MMERSION

At John XXIII College, we place great importance on helping our students become citizens of the world and expanding their knowledge and understanding of countries and cultures different to their own. A wide range of opportunities is presented to students in this area, both in the classroom, and through several overseas exchanges, study trips and pilgrimages. Three of our Alumni have recently been accepted into prestigious study-abroad programs.

Joshua Taylor (Class 2018) has recently been awarded a Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) scholarship that will see him travel abroad to pursue his interest in Japanese culture and language. Joshua is currently studying at the University of Western Australia and was nominated by the university and selected by DFAT as a 2023 New Colombo Plan Scholar.

The New Colombo Plan, launched in 2014, is an Australian Government initiative to increase knowledge in Australia of the Indo-Pacific region by providing young Australians with scholarships to study and undertake internships in the region. The scholarship program aims to build a diverse cohort of Australians with deeper Indo-Pacific knowledge, capability and connections, forge deeper people-to-people and institutional relationships between Australia and the Indo-Pacific, and connect Australians with government, business and civil society leaders in the Indo-Pacific region.

Joshua will travel to Japan to complete the final semester of his Bachelor of Science degree at Waseda University in Tokyo. Joshua is majoring in finance and mechanical engineering and hopes to work in investment banking Both fourth-year law students at The University of Notre Dame, Eloise and Olivia were selected to study with 20 law and arts students this European summer. The course aims to teach students how law in the European Union functions while immersing them in French culture, art and history. Students will also focus on the 'strike culture' in France, and have the opportunity to study French art and feminist literature.

After graduation, Eloise enrolled in a Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Arts (Journalism) while Olivia elected to pursue a Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Commerce. They will complete their legal studies in 2024.

A talented writer, Eloise recently received the award for highest academic performance in journalism at the University of Notre Dame. She hopes to be able to do some travel writing during her time away.

We wish our Alumni well on their overseas adventures, and hope they will return to share their experiences with our current students.



Kathleen Dwyer and Joshua Taylor

JTA Hockey Club is a dynamic and inclusive community club started by John XXIII College Alumni over 30 years ago. It has provided fun, competitive hockey experiences to players of all skill levels ever since.

JTA is dedicated to creating a supportive and welcoming environment for all Club members. Whether you are an experienced player looking to take your skills to the next level or a beginner just wanting to try something new, JTA has something to offer everyone.

We have two women's teams (grass and turf) and four grass men's teams, including over 40's, over 50's and over 60's. We generally play on Saturday afternoons; all our home games are at the College. We are also training on Wednesday nights this year, though that is very much a casual affair!

JTA is a club that values community and connection, and we do our best to foster a positive and supportive environment for all members. Most of our players have a connection with the College, either Alumni or parents of current, past and future students, or both, and we are very grateful for the fantastic support we receive from the College each year.

We are always looking for new players, especially more recent graduates. Joining JTA is a great way to stay connected with the College and meet new people. Whether you are new to hockey or have been playing for years, JTA offers a variety of opportunities to get involved, meet new people, and have fun.

For more information about JTA please get in touch with Darren Miller (Class 1989) at jtapresident@gmail.com or on 0417 092 120 or Laura Bush at jtasecretary@gmail.com or on 0421 844 789.





This year's College musical *Legally Blonde* was a resounding success, with tickets to all performances selling out in record time and ecstatic feedback received from delighted audiences.



A fabulously fun musical based on the adored movie, *Legally Blonde*, the show follows the transformation of Elle Woods as she tackles stereotypes and scandal in pursuit of her dreams. Action-packed and exploding with memorable songs and dynamic dances, this musical is so much fun, it should be illegal!

Elle Woods appears to have it all. Her life is turned upside down when her boyfriend Warner dumps her so he can attend Harvard Law. Determined to get him back, Elle ingeniously charms her way into the prestigious law school. While there, she struggles with peers, professors and her ex. With some new friends' support, Elle quickly realises her potential and sets out to prove herself to the world.

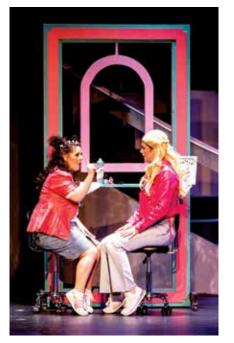


One particular highlight of this year's musical was the support received from professional actors. One of the cast members, Julian, reached out to the Broadway actress Orfeh who originated the role of Paulette in Legally Blonde and was nominated for a Tony award for her performance. Orfeh generously sent the cast a message and wished Holly Denton luck in her performance of the role of Paulette. Julian sent the actress Holly's reaction to the video, which he had filmed, and she retweeted it.

Lucy Durack (Class 1998) also sent a message to the cast members, wishing them luck with their performance. Lucy is an Australian actress, singer

and television personality who played Elle Woods in the Australian production of *Legally Blonde: The Musical* and also played Glinda in the Australian production of *Wicked*. She starred as Tugger in the Australian television drama *Doctor Doctor* in 2016 and as Roxy Karibas in *Sisters* in 2017. It was incredibly inspiring for our student performers to have this kind of encouragement.

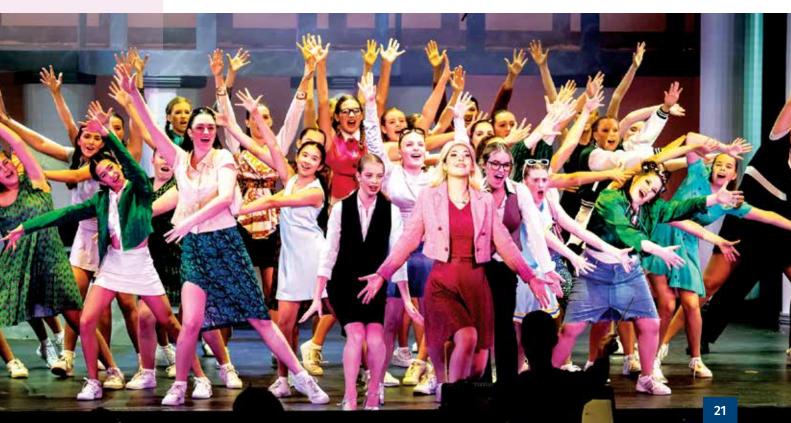
An enormous thank you to our wonderful audiences and the many people who worked tirelessly on the show for weeks. The backstage crew, tech crew, hair and make-up staff, front of house staff, band, parent and Alumni helpers contributed enormously to the production's success. They helped to produce an incredible musical



of a professional standard. Staff members, including Kiri Moore, Kaitlyn Green, David Dockery, James Kros, Jeff Jansen, Jack Purkiss, Ric Del Pizzo and Doug Watson, were instrumental in helping to make this a memorable experience for the students and audience. Thank you also to the Friends of Music and Drama. The cast of students was extraordinary and consistently displayed their talent, energy, passion, dedication and professional attitude. It was an excellent showcase for the College's incredible musical and dramatic talents and a testament to the wonderful spirit of our community.

Next year George Tsakisiris will be leading his 30th musical at the College.







On Saturday, 20 May, a new rowing boat was named after Patrick Boere (Class 2014) and blessed in a ceremony at the John XXIII College Boatshed.



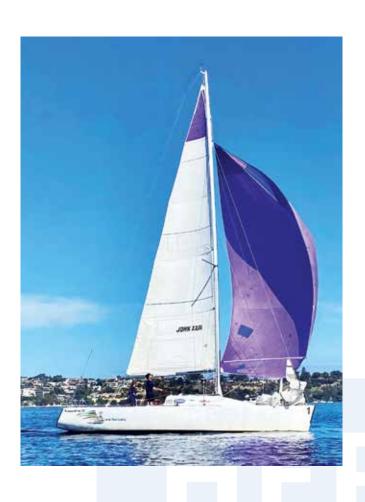
Patrick has accumulated a range of extraordinary rowing achievements in both the Western Australian State Rowing Team and on a national scale. He won the gold medal for the Open Lightweight Men's Coxless Pair and the bronze medal in the Open Lightweight Men's Coxless Four in XXX, as well as representing Western Australia in the Interstate Men's Coxless Four at the 2023 Australian Rowing Championships.

Patrick is a much-loved rowing coach at the College and takes land trainings and coaches Years 7 and Year 8 students. It is an incredible opportunity for our College rowers to benefit from the expertise of such a successful and committed role model. Patrick also works in the College audiovisual team while running his own photography business. He acts as the official photographer for various College events including the Year 11 Dinner Dance, 1st Year Reunion and John XXIII College-hosted IGSSA regattas.

The new boat is a brand-new Sykes Coxed Quadruple Scull purchased as a result of the magnificent fundraising efforts of the John XXIII College Rowing Committee and wider community.

Hosting the 2022 Head of the River and 'Bogan Bingo' night in late 2021 has raised enough funds for our rowers to enjoy high-quality equipment when they train and race for the College.





Sailing continues to be a popular pastime and a great way to stay connected to the College for our Alumni.

This year's College Cup Sailing Regatta, hosted by the Royal Fresh Water Yacht Club, was a great success and an enjoyable day for all.

Congratulations to the John XXIII College sailing crew, skilfully skippered by **Adam Glaskin (Class 2009)**. The crew took out second place overall on the weekend and won the 'Best Costumes' award of the day, as superheroes.

Thanks to The Swan River Sailing Club, particularly **Ethan Prieto-Low (Class 2017)**, for organising the event and Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club for hosting it.

This is an annual event, and the College is always looking for Alumni interested in sailing at this regatta. If you are interested in being involved in 2024, please let us know by emailing alumni@johnxxiii.edu.au





Alumna Sashi Tandon (Class 2019) returned to the College in first term to address students from Year 7 to Year 12 at a High Achievers' Breakfast. Sashi engaged and inspired students by sharing some of the wisdom she has gained along the way and providing helpful study tips, but also giving students a broader perspective for their academic and professional careers, reassuring them that it is not always essential to know precisely what you want to do. Students were particularly inspired by Sashi's encouragement to strive to make their future selves proud and to challenge themselves as much as possible.

Hi everyone. I'm Sashi, and I'm studying film and creative writing. I absolutely loved my time at JTC, so I'd like to share some lessons I learned in school and since then.

First, I wanted to say congratulations on being here. It's so impressive how much you're achieving right now. Don't underestimate it. Almost every adult I know has completely lost the ability to do what you're doing, probably including me. It's remarkable.

I'm going to start off with a study tip just to get it out of the way. I can still remember it after all this time of not



doing any proper study; a tip you probably don't need because you're all here and you've found great study methods that work for you.

I remember doing this for History in particular. After making and condensing all your notes, don't just grab a highlighter and re-read through them a hundred times. Get a giant piece of paper and make a mind-map of everything you can remember about the entire topic. Every date, every quote, every equation, every little fact you can remember. Put it all on there until you run out of space or run out of things to write down. Then go back to your notes and cross-reference. See what you missed out, see what you forgot, and fill in the blanks. Mind maps are the best, trust me. Being in an exam and being able to visually sort through the branches and threads, and colours will drastically change your recall ability.

Also, do not underestimate the power of being verbally tested! Test yourself at home! Annoy every family member and get them to test you on your content. My mum and brother struggled to ask me questions in Italian and listen to me blabbering the answers without them understanding a word. And thank them for their help.

Remember that you don't have to have figured out what you're doing for the rest of your life, not in Year 10 or Year 12. I didn't know what I wanted to do until the middle of my ATAR exams. Just because your timeline differs from everyone else's doesn't make it wrong. And this applies to every aspect of your life.

Careers counselling is a valuable tool to help you solidify what you want out of your future job and to help you understand the things that are important to you in all aspects of your life. Once I realised what I wanted to be doing, it made so much sense and completely fit into place. I realised all the clues were already there. For years I had been making little videos of the trips I would go on, and I absolutely love movies. It took me to talk to a professional to realise, 'Oh yeah, maybe I want to be making movies'.

Keep your options open and do things you enjoy, not necessarily things that will be the most 'useful' for the future. I didn't do media in school, which would have helped in the first year of uni. But it meant I had a different background, which gave me a different perspective. I had to learn quickly, and in the end, it wasn't an issue at all.

Reflecting on my studies at JTC, I have no regrets. It's true that I didn't need to study as hard as I did, and the ATAR I got was not necessary for my chosen path. All I needed was a 70 ATAR in the end. So it's okay for you to relax a little bit. You want to enjoy your time at school, not studying and stressing so hard you forget to look up and around.

That being said, I do not regret the effort I put in. In this time given to you, and in any time in your future, just see what you can do. It is so rewarding to push yourself and see what you can achieve. Not because it is necessary. Because you are taking this life, doing absolutely everything you can with it, and going as hard as possible.

Once, I had a waiter at a restaurant who said he also had a job as a bricklayer. He'd get up every morning at 6am, go to work doing incredibly challenging manual labour, and then move on to his job as a waiter until midnight.

Channel Swim

time of 6:32. We congratulate them for finishing 200th out of 400 overall in the swim and being placed 16/30 in their category.

One of our most talented swimmers, Valentina, must also be congratulated on competing in the One Mile Busselton Jetty Swim and placing second individually in the 15-19 years category. She also competed in the SLSC Club Age Championships, winning all her events.



And when we asked him why he was doing that, he just said he wanted to challenge himself. Push himself to see how far he could go.

You have all already achieved such incredible things and proven to yourself the amazing things you can do. Whether or not it will be required for the career path you choose, you're striving this hard to make your future self proud. Because, at the very least, you can look back at this time and say, 'Wow. I really did that. How cool'. But don't push yourself so hard that you're no longer enjoying it. You want good memories to look back on and be proud of. Not memories of overwhelming stress and zero sleep.

A more logistical and pragmatic reason to be working as hard as you all are is money. A cheeky hot tip for you is that for very high ATARs; there are some excellent scholarships out there. Often, universities will give high achieving students such as yourselves a bucketload of money just for putting them as your first preference—just something to keep in mind.

This school system is made for people like you who naturally thrive on academic challenges, which is so wonderful. Please take advantage of this while you have it because the world isn't always going to give you neat little tests that require rote learning and exams. I'd say I killed it at exams, but I have not had to do a single exam since leaving school. Not one. And because of that, don't take your academic abilities for granted.

Many of your peers are not necessarily suited to this like you are, and maybe they are not recognised for what they are good at yet. Appreciate your skills in whatever form they come and appreciate the talents of others around you.

And try to hold on to your love of academics and learning even when you don't need it so much anymore. Hopefully, one day you can rediscover a love for reading because if you're anything like me, it's probably what got you here in the first place.

I want to talk a bit about the arts and the importance of the arts, because, being in this environment, it's very easy to get into a mindset that a more traditional academic path is the most valuable path for you to take. Plenty of people in my school years told me to use my brain for good, to become a doctor, lawyer or journalist. But you have to pick what's right for you and think not just about what your brain has to offer but your soul and your heart as well.

Slowly discovering myself and what brings me joy, I've realised that I found purpose in the human experience and beauty of this life. I wanted to spend my life sharing that with people and helping others understand and feel the same. In my opinion, this is one of the most important things you can do.

I realised I couldn't live without art, music, film, poetry and emotion. At least for now, I want to be giving that to people.

So, get inspired. Take a look at your life and see what you can't stop chasing, what you wish you were doing. What are you doing when you forget to look at the clock?

Get outside more. In the peak times of school and study, I barely went outside. Get a picnic rug and some mozzie repellent and go study outside! Wear sunscreen!

Romanticise your life. Because that's the whole purpose of all this; just enjoying the passage of time.

Do as many things as you can. Get as many jobs as you can. Get your dream job! In high school, my dream casual job was to work at an ice cream shop, and now that's where I work. And hopefully, I can keep thinking up dream jobs and making it happen.

Make Future You proud. Trust the journey, even if it's not going at the same pace or direction as the people around you.

Thank you so much for having me. I hope you all took something small away from this. Congratulations again, and good luck with the rest of the year.



SAVE THE DATE

We have an exciting range of Alumni events planned for the coming months and would love to see you at one of them.

- 1st Year Reunion Class 202215 September 2023
- Loreto Past Pupils Spring Garden Party
 16 September 2023
- Visual Arts Loreto Past Pupils morning tea
 17 October 2023
- All Souls Day Mass remembering deceased Alumni
 10 November 2023
- 10, 20, 30 and 40 Year Reunions:
 Classes 2013, 2003, 1993, 1983
 11 November 2023
- St Louis All Ages Reunion8 December 2023
- Loreto Past Pupils Annual Mass
 10 December 2023

Further information is available on the Alumni website. Go straight there by scanning this QR code:





Alumni website alumni.johnxxiii.edu.au

College website johnxxiii.edu.au

For more information

about the John XXIII College Foundation, contact Executive Officer Kate Murphy: **T** 0403 345 662 E foundation@johnxxiii.edu.au W foundation.johnxxiii.edu.au

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