

DARANNEWS

11 April 2025

WEBSITE

DARANET



Holy Week Liturgy

Upcoming events

- 12 April
Japan rugby Tour Departs
- 14 - 21 April
DTC Bump in and Intensives.
- 18 - 21 April
Easter Long Weekend
- 25 April
ANZAC Day
Japan Rugby Tour Returns
- 26 April
DTC Opening Night
- 28 April
Pupil Free Day
- 29 April
Students return
- 30 April
ANZAC Ceremony
- 8 May
Year 11 Transition Information Published
- 9 May
P5 Sports Assembly
- 12 May
School Fees Due
6:00pm Music Performance Evening
- 16 May
Daranews Published

From the Principal



**Dear Parents/
Carers, Staff and
Students,**

As Term 1 draws to a close, I would like to thank and acknowledge all of our students and staff for how they have embraced the opportunities, events and activities that have occurred throughout the term. As I look back through the calendar, it has certainly been a hectic but an extremely rewarding term for our community, one filled with hospitality and gestures of welcome. The term and the year began gathered as a community for our liturgical celebrations in this our Year of Hospitality, and we ended the term as we began, with our Holy Week Liturgy to mark the importance of the season of Easter and Lent as a Catholic community. I would like to acknowledge all of the students who were involved in bringing our Liturgy to life today. I would also like to extend my thanks to

Ms Cheryl Hamill, Assistant Principal Mission, and **Natalie Gordon**, College Mission Captain, for their vision and planning of such an important liturgical event. This coming Sunday marks Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. It was heartening to see Pope Francis addressing pilgrims in St Peter's Square last Sunday. We continue to pray for the Holy Father's health, as we do for all of those in our extended community who are unwell and experiencing issues with their health.

Over the past 10 weeks we have held our three sporting carnivals, welcomed our Year 7 parents, Year 7 and 9 attended their respective camps and then completed their NAPLAN tests and in the past week we have showcased the College to prospective families on our Open Evening and held our Try Dara Day yesterday. In addition to all of this, rich teaching and learning has occurred, our Daramalan Learning Routines have been embedded, and students and staff have been able to enhance their learning through a myriad of incursions, workshops and

From the Principal

excursions both within the Canberra region and beyond. It has certainly been a whirlwind of activity and exciting opportunities for our students to be able to experience the rich offerings that we have at the College. I continue to be amazed at the diversity of our expanded co-curricular program which continues to grow year on year and really does offer something for everyone. I would like to acknowledge the staff who have developed these programs after identifying a need amongst our students and worked to put them in place. I would encourage students to check the Daily News for more information about how to get involved and the details of the activities and events that are coming up as we move into Term 2. I would also like to acknowledge our Student Leaders who have created opportunities and initiatives within each of their portfolio areas already this term. I would particularly like to thank and acknowledge all of our students and families who supported our Jugs for Justice Lenten appeal for Caritas. Over \$8000 was raised in a short period of time in conjunction with the awareness raising aspect of the Caritas appeal. The community spirit that was on display on the oval during the event was a true highlight of the term. My thanks especially extend to Social Justice Captain, **Sophie Neighbour**, members of the Social Justice Committee, and our House Captains for making this event so successful.

I would like to take this opportunity to specifically thank the staff who will be accompanying our Rugby Tour to Japan over the holiday break, **Mr Ben McGee**, **Mr Gerard Beattie**, **Mr Nic Whatman** and **Ms Tarni Magyar**. We also extend our thanks to **Ms Sheree Bush** and **Mr Dom Malouf** who will be accompanying the squads in their respective coaching and medical support roles. The tour not only provides an opportunity for our squads to develop their rugby skills but also to experience and be immersed in Japanese culture.

I would also like to encourage families to support the Daramalan Theatre Company's Production, *Romeo and Juliet*, which will be taking place at the beginning of next term. Details of how to book tickets can be found on the following pages.

Open Evening and Try Dara Day

On Thursday 3 April, we held our annual Open Evening to enable prospective families and our wider community an opportunity to view and experience our facilities and see what we have on offer here at Daramalan. We had over 1000 visitors to the College throughout the course of the evening. The displays had a demonstration focus rather than being interactive, and the feedback from families was extremely positive. I would like to commend all of the students who were either Tour Guides or who were helping in the various subject and co-curricular displays. They did an outstanding job of showcasing our College and all the opportunities that are available. A significant number of visitors took the time both as they were leaving, and in the following days, to comment on how impressed they were with the students they met and how welcomed they were made to feel by both our students and staff. This was great affirmation of the enthusiasm of our students and the commitment of our staff. The manner in which our students conducted themselves was a credit not only to themselves, but also their families and the College. As I have mentioned to our staff, it is evenings such as last Thursday that highlight to me just what an amazing community we have here at Daramalan. As you will read in the following pages, our Hospitality and Food Technology students were able to incorporate our College theme of Hospitality on the evening through the preparation of meals for Oz Harvest. Over 100 portions of fresh food were prepared and packaged for Oz Harvest which will be distributed to members of the community experiencing food insecurity.



Holy Week Liturgy



Holy Week Liturgy



Fr Tru at the Holy Week Liturgy



Holy Week Liturgy

From the Principal

I would also like to acknowledge our String Ensemble students who not only performed throughout the evening for our visitors, but who also performed the following evening at an ACT Independent Schools Association function at the National Gallery of Australia. The feedback I received on that evening from the invited dignitaries, Parliamentarians, Principals, Board Chairs and Business Managers from across the ACT and beyond, was absolutely glowing.

We were also able to host a large number of Year 6 students on our Try Dara Day yesterday. I would like to thank the Year 7 and 10 students who acted as Guides and Mentors on the day. My challenge to the Year 6 students was for them to ask lots of questions throughout the day, and the feedback from the Year 7 and 10 students was that they definitely took up the challenge with gusto! I would also like to acknowledge the staff who facilitated sessions and **Mr Steve Carroll**, **Mr Jonathan Hall**, **Ms Damaris Brown** and the Events Team of **Ms Heather Chapman** and **Ms Yvonne Turnbull** for their organisation and preparation both prior to and on the day. Days such as this are significant undertakings at an already busy time, so on behalf of the Year 6 students and families, I extend my thanks to all who made the day possible.

2026 Enrolments

A reminder that applications for Year 7 and Year 11 2026 must be submitted by **Friday 30 May 2025** to be considered in the first round of offers for a place in 2026. This deadline is the same for current families as well as new families. Enrolment forms are able to be completed online via the link on our website, <https://www.daramalan.act.edu.au/>. Enquiries or questions concerning enrolments should be directed to enrolments@daramalan.act.edu.au

Information for current Year 10 families in relation to the process for indicating their enrolment intentions for Year 11 2026 will be sent early next term. There is no need for current Year 10 families to complete a new enrolment application.

Staff Changes

This week we will be farewelling a small number of staff who are moving to new roles in other schools and organisations. **Ms Cheryl Hamill** will be departing the College after 11 years as Assistant Principal Mission to take up the role of Deputy Principal at Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School in Santa Teresa, south of Alice Springs in the Northern Territory. This is a wonderful opportunity for Cheryl, and we wish her much success in the next phase of her career journey and thank her for the enormous contribution that she has made to our community. Also departing at the end of this week is **Ms Marlena Nitsche** who will be taking up a position at Merici College from the beginning of next term. We extend our thanks to Marlena for her role as Assistant Mathematics Coordinator since 2020. **Mr Ravindra Narayan** has been appointed to replace Ms Nitsche as Assistant Mathematics Coordinator from the beginning of Term 2. Also departing at the end of this week is **Ms Carolyn Winchcombe** who has taken a position at the Parliamentary Education Office, and **Mr Mikey Dimuantes** whose contract has come to an end. We thank both Carolyn and Mikey for their contributions to our College since the beginning of the year. Taking leave for Term 2 are **Ms Urmila Kumar**, **Ms Lee Tye** and **Ms Jane Waddleton**. We wish them well for their leave. **Mr Steven Hackett** will replace Ms Waddleton as VET Coordinator while she is on leave. Also, on leave until the end of this year are **Ms Alyce Packer** and **Ms Natalie Sartor** who begin their parental leave at the end of this week.

Jugs for Justice



From the Principal

Winter Uniform

From the first day of Term 2, **Tuesday 29 April**, students will be required to wear their full Winter uniform to school. Can I remind families that hoodies, including Daramalan sports hoodies, and 'puffer' jackets do not form part of the Daramalan uniform and should not be worn to school, at school or from school. Thank you for your support in ensuring that our students wear their uniform, including using the College Backpack for Years 7-10 with pride as ambassadors of the College. Thank you also to those families who have started getting their Winter uniforms organised already. To assist families to be ready for next term, the Uniform Shop will be open during the holidays. The specific dates and times are available on the College website.

Parking and Supporting Student Safety

Given the significant road accident that occurred outside of St Edmund's College two weeks ago, the issue of safety around schools has dominated the media. We keep the St Edmund's College community, the two students, and their families in our prayers as they undertake the long path to recovery. Unfortunately, almost every day I witness multiple near misses outside our College where students have been dropped off and have alighted from cars in No Stopping areas or have crossed the busy roads in between buses, cars or not at the designated pedestrian crossings when being picked up. To keep our students safe when making their way to and from school, please ensure you drive and park safely and legally around our school. Unsafe and illegal parking can reduce visibility of our students and motorists to see each other, creating a significant hazard when students cross the road. Please remember not to park across pedestrian crossings, in No Stopping zones, on corners,

verges or double parking. Our priority is ensuring the safety of all members of our community on the increasingly busy roads that surround the College.

Student Leave requests

A reminder for families that should a student need to be away for 5 or more school days for reasons other than sickness, prior approval from the Principal must be sought in writing via a letter or an email. This includes where a student is absent due to their participation in representative sporting teams and competitions. The request needs to be submitted in sufficient time so that arrangements regarding missed schoolwork and assessment can be made. The preferred email address for such requests is principal@daramalan.act.edu.au.

Students in Years 11 and 12 should be aware that there are strict requirements for attendance stipulated by the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies in order for students to gain credit for a unit of work. Any extended absences from school may have an impact on the student's ability to be assessed even if all the assessment tasks for the unit are completed. Students should seek advice from the Assistant Principal - Curriculum Years 11-12, **Mr Ben Stein**, prior to making plans to miss any school days.

Financial Assistance

Families who are experiencing changed financial circumstances are encouraged to contact the College Deputy Principal - Capacity and Strategy, **Mr James Keeley**, to make an appointment to discuss support that may be available to you. He can be contacted via email on james.keeley@daramalan.act.edu.au.

Open Evening in the Science Rooms



Open Evening in the Library



Try Dara Day



Try Dara Day



From the Principal

School Holiday Reception Arrangements

During the school holidays, Reception will be staffed from 9.00am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday, other than Public Holidays. If you leave messages for Teachers by email or phone, please be aware that these may not be attended to until school resumes on **Tuesday 29 April** at 8.45am.

Monday 28 April is a pupil free day for all students. There will be no supervision available on this day as all of our staff will be undertaking valuable professional learning activities on this day.

Student Achievements

Congratulations to:

Ruby Holden and Aria Wallace

(Year 11) who recently competed in the Braddon Collective busking competition. Ruby placed first in the Youth Division, and Aria received the People's Choice Award.

Over the Easter break, Ruby will be travelling to the North Coast and will be performing at Bluesfest 2025 in Byron Bay before returning to sing the National Anthem at the Queanbeyan ANZAC Day Dawn Service. Ruby has also been selected as a member of the Girls from Oz Choir who will perform in May.



Nikos Vassiliotis (Year 8) who has been selected as a member of the Australian squad to compete at the Barca Academy World Cup in Barcelona this month. Nikos has also been asked to trial with Panathinaikos FC in Greece while he is in Europe.



Gabby Yeung (Year 11) who will be competing as a member of the ACT School Sports squad at the Australian Pizzey Tennis Cup in May.



Gabbie Iglewski (Year 9) who has recently been competing in Pole Vault and Discus at the National Athletics Championships in Perth as a member of the ACT team.



Harry Clark (Year 9) who competed as a member of the ACT Squad at the National Hockey Championships in March.



Hena Lomu (Year 12) who has been selected as a member of the ACT U18s squad to compete at the National Basketball Championships in Brisbane this month.

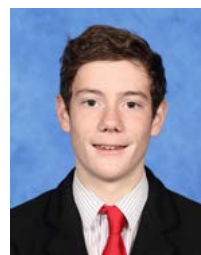


Jaxen Bentley (Year 8) on his selection as a member of the ACT Baseball team who will be competing at the Junior League Australian Championships at the end of May.



Hunter Harrison and Josh O'Keeffe

(Year 10) who will be competing at the Australian Youth Water Polo Championships in Perth as members of the U16 UNSW Sydney team. Hunter and Josh will also be refereeing the 14s and 18s age group competition.



I wish all of our families and our staff a very blessed Easter and a relaxing break filled with quality time with family and friends. For those who are travelling over the break, I wish you safe travels. I look forward to welcoming our students back for Term 2 on **Tuesday 29 April**.

Best Wishes

Rachel Davies
Principal



School News

Term 2 School Fees

Term 2 School Fees will be emailed on **Monday 14 April**. If you set up a payment plan at the beginning of the year, please check your bank account or credit card statements to make sure that payments are being deducted as scheduled. If no deductions have been made, please contact the Fees Office at fees@daramalan.act.edu.au as there may be a problem with your payment plan.

Uniform Shop Holiday Trade

Monday April 14th	10am to 4pm
Tuesday April 15th	10am to 4pm
Wednesday April 16th	10am to 4pm
Thursday April 17th	10am to 4pm



**2026 ENROLMENTS
NOW OPEN**

A School with Heart

Enrolments for Year 7 and Year 11 must be submitted by Friday 30 May

Late applications will automatically be placed on the waiting list

The Resilience Project

We are all very aware that our mental health has a direct impact on how well we function. Daramalan has embraced The Resilience Project for Pastoral Care lesson content for Years 8-10 this year due to the significant independent research that supports the efficacy of this program.

Based on the premise that wellbeing can be explicitly taught, The Resilience Project (TRP) aims to give young people the skills they need to change their thought patterns. By explicitly teaching the key areas of Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness (GEM), TRP focuses on the positive/good things that are present in all our lives. Once these elements are well known, Emotional Literacy is also part of the content, being able to label, understand and express emotions. Please have a look at the following information about TRP and each following Daranews we will include a 'GEM' chat for you to use with your student. Please help us to help them by practicing these skills regularly.

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT™

Gratitude	Empathy	Mindfulness	Emotional Literacy
Paying attention to what I have.	Understanding others' feelings and showing kindness and compassion.	Paying attention to what's happening right now.	Labelling, understanding and expressing my emotions.
Gratitude involves recognising and expressing appreciation for the people, places and things in our lives. Practising gratitude allows us to pay attention to what we have, increasing feelings of happiness and leading to a more positive outlook on life.	Empathy involves understanding others' feelings and perspectives and is practised through kindness, compassion and curiosity. Developing empathy fosters deeper connections, increases our likelihood of acting kindly, and helps us experience positive emotions.	The practice of mindfulness is about an awareness of life as we are living it. It allows us to be responsive to our experiences rather than being reactive, and to live with greater balance, presence and connection.	Emotional Literacy involves learning to identify and label our emotions, as well as developing emotional regulation skills. When we can accurately name our feelings and emotions, it reduces the impact of uncomfortable
Expressing and practising gratitude	Expressing and practising empathy	Practical mindfulness tools and strategies	Naming emotions and understanding feelings
Learning how to form everyday gratitude habits	Strengthening connections	Applying new skills and knowledge	Linking body cues to feelings and emotions
Benefits of regular gratitude practice	Respecting and celebrating differences	Benefits of mindfulness	Understanding that emotions have a purpose
Barriers to an attitude of gratitude	Barriers to empathy	Barriers to mindfulness	Processing, managing and responding to emotions

The Counsellors Hub

Breaking Free from the Rat Race: How to Recognise and Overcome Burnout

What is Burnout:

Burnout is a state of emotional, physical and mental exhaustion caused by excessive and prolonged stress. Burnout happens when we take on too much and when we think we can do the impossible, at the cost of our own wellbeing, our health and even our quality of life. Burnout is commonly associated with work environments but can occur in other areas of life as well. Individuals experiencing burnout may find it difficult to perform their responsibilities and may experience symptoms such as irritability, decreased motivation and difficulty concentrating. It is critical to recognise and address burnout to restore well-being and prevent further negative impacts on health and quality of life. To recognise if we are experiencing burnout, it's important to take some time for honest reflection on our lives and the choices we're making. Below are some reflective questions to consider, and at the end of the article, you'll find a burnout self-assessment questionnaire to help evaluate if burnout might be something you are struggling with.

As honestly as you can, answer the following questions:

1. How balanced is your life currently, in terms of equal parts work, rest and play?
2. How happy are you generally?
3. Has your level of happiness decreased?
4. When is the last time you did something for the first time?
5. Do you delegate enough, or do you do everything yourself?
6. Do you trust others to do things as well as you can?
7. Do you hate asking for help? If so, why?
8. What do you hope to achieve from all your current efforts?
9. How will you know you have achieved your end goal?
10. Does your end goal include finding more peace, satisfaction and enjoyment than you currently experience?
11. When will you allocate time for these things?
12. Can you settle for good enough rather than perfect?
13. Are you afraid of being judged a failure if you give up this situation? Who will be doing the judging, you or others?
14. Do you see driving yourself to the limit as a badge of honour?
15. What do you fear will happen if you just stop everything?
16. How realistic are these fears?

Important reminder - Not everything is a project:

Do you find that even if you are doing a pleasant and relaxing activity, your mind is still in work mode? Bring your attention to this and switch off from work by reminding yourself to just do what you're doing and nothing more. Being present in the moment helps you fully experience life, reducing stress and anxiety. It allows you to enjoy the small joys, connect with others, and appreciate what's happening right now, rather than worrying about the past or future.

Let's explore the example of going for a walk and how to be present whilst doing this:

1. Look at the trees. Notice how the leaves move and the colour and shape of the leaves.
2. Feel the breeze on your face. What does it feel like?
3. Notice the sound of your feet on the footpath.
4. What can you smell?
5. Can you taste anything right now?

Take Responsibility for Your Anger:

- Journaling your feelings and frustrations can be a way of understanding what is really going on underneath for you.
- Working with a mental health professional can be highly beneficial in helping you move through past wounds that may be feeding your anger.
- Strive to be a more compassionate person. Listen more, engage with others, engage in random acts of kindness.

"What you are not changing, you are choosing"

There is never going to be a change for the better in the future unless you make that change in the present. That means if you are unhappy with your situation, you need to make changes for the better now, otherwise your situation will stay the same.

Further resources can be found here:

<https://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/news/how-to-use-self-care-planning-to-improve-your-emotional-wellbeing-even-when-you-dont-think-you-need-it/>

<https://psychology.org.au/getmedia/85f586e3-a856-47f2-a306-d0568e318193/aps-burnout-community-resource.pdf>

References:

Aisbett, B. (2023). The book of burnout: What it is, why it happens, who gets it, and how to stop it before it stops you. HarperCollins Australia.

Psychology Tools. (n.d.). Learn about burnout. Psychology Tools. <https://www.psychologytools.com/articles/learn-about-burnout>

Ms Manar Arabani – Counsellor

Social Justice

EMPATHY IN ACTION - Fr Peter Day (HOME Queanbeyan)

Year 10 students participated in a special Pastoral Care lesson focused on Empathy, one of the key GEM+EL model principles from The Resilience Project, and a focus in our Pastoral Care program.

Fr Peter Day, founder of HOME in Queanbeyan, shared his personal experiences of empathy, both in his work at HOME and in his volunteer efforts at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

The Empathy Q&A Session offered students a valuable opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions about how small acts of kindness can positively impact others. Through this session, students heard about empathy in various contexts, including:

- Understanding Empathy – What it means to truly understand and share the feelings of others.
- Empathy in Action – How simple gestures can make a difference in someone's life.
- Empathy and Faith – The connection between empathy and values grounded in compassion and service.
- Empathy for Personal Growth – How practising empathy can foster resilience and strengthen personal character.

Fr Peter Day certainly encouraged reflection and inspired students to cultivate kindness and understanding in their daily lives. He spoke about the importance of forgiveness in our lives, what this means and how to show this. Fr Peter left us with some important messages, such as:

"We are much more valuable and deeper than we think."

"Never write anybody off."

"Slow down, stop and listen to each other - build relationships, be friends."

"It takes a lot of courage to love."

"Forgiveness is one of the most important traits."

"Forgiveness allows us to get back in tune."

"We can't love at pace. At some point we need to sit down and just be with each other - that's empathy."

In conclusion, Fr Peter's powerful words left a lasting impression on all who listened. His message of compassion, courage and connection challenged students to look beyond the surface, to slow down, and to truly see one another with empathy and understanding. Through his reflections on forgiveness, love and the value of every individual, Fr Peter reminded us of the profound impact kindness can have in our lives and in the lives of others. His visit served not only as a moment of inspiration but as a call to live with greater awareness, empathy and heart.



Social Justice - Jugs for Justice

On Thursday 27 March Daramalan's Social Justice team ran the Jugs for Justice initiative, raising money for Caritas' Project Compassion. Caritas' programs address critical challenges present today, including health, education and clean water access - the latter being our focus this year.

Each House competed in teams of 7, with the goal to move as much water from one side of the oval to their individual House bins, conquering obstacles and using jugs earned from money raised. The initiative was a huge success with the whole school getting behind those participating in the event, and with the support of the Daramalan community, we were able to raise over \$8000 to help those around the world. Congratulations to Lawson House, who not only raised the most money, but also took first place in the event, filling almost a full bin more than second place.

I would like to extend my thanks to **Mr Ben McGee** and all students, parents and members of the community who assisted or donated. Your support does not go unnoticed.

Sophie Neighbour - Social Justice Captain



She Leads Conference



On Friday 28 March, a group of girls attended the She Leads conference. On this day we were not only taught skills that will help us to overcome the challenges women face in their day to day lives but we were also able to hear from a panel of inspirational women and learn about their stories and how they were able to navigate their lives to find success, including Daramalan alumni **Emma English**. We also had the opportunity to meet other people with similar experiences as us.

During the conference we split into groups to do workshops where we got to create connections with girls from other schools, giving us the chance to expand our knowledge on issues women face within our society. We enjoyed working with a variety of students from a range of schools across Canberra and NSW. We learned a lot

about the ways we could make an influence in the world, it could be even as small as just having a conversation with the people around us. Getting to hear from different people in the community and their experiences in life challenged my ways of thinking and how I could make an impact.

The 2025 theme, Unite, focused on the power of leadership to bring young people together. All twenty participating schools had the opportunity to collaborate and discuss common ideas and experiences together in a friendly, welcoming environment.

Ruby Holden, Ariana Puntoriero, Sascha Krauss and Eloise Smith (Year 11)

Year 7 - 8 End of Term

A Successful Start to 2025 for Year 7 and 8

As Term One comes to a close, it is hard to believe how quickly the weeks have flown by. The start of the academic year is always a busy period, filled with new experiences, fresh challenges and plenty of learning. This term has been no exception, as our Year 7 and 8 students have embraced their studies, co-curricular activities, and the overall rhythm of High School life with enthusiasm and determination.

For our Year 7 students, Term One has been a time of transition - getting used to new teachers, subjects and expectations. Despite these changes, they have settled into their routines remarkably well, showing great resilience and adaptability. The older Year 8 students have stepped into their second year of High School with confidence, building on their experiences from last year and taking on new responsibilities with maturity.

The term has been filled with exciting activities, both inside and outside the classroom. Through events like the Year 7 Camp, the inaugural Bagweigh competition, Jugs for Justice and the Swimming and Athletics Carnivals, students have had numerous opportunities to develop their skills and form new friendships. The energy and involvement displayed by our students have been commendable, and their efforts have contributed to a vibrant and supportive Daramalan community.

As we look ahead, the strong foundation set in Term One is a positive sign for the rest of the year. The students' ability to adapt, work hard and engage in school life suggests that 2025 will be a productive and successful year for all.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all families a safe and happy Easter, as well as a restful and enjoyable school holiday period. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for an exciting Term Two!



Greek Independence Day

It has been over 200 years since Bishop Germanos of Patra raised the flag of rebellion at the Monastery of Agia Lavra, signalling the beginning of the Greek revolution for independence. Every year, Greece and Greeks alike celebrate their freedom from Ottoman rule and the pivotal act that brought about this hard-won liberty.

This year, on Tuesday 25 March, Daramalan College held its inaugural Greek Independence Day luncheon.

Organised through the collaborative efforts of teacher **Mr Minos Nikolaidis** and **Ruby Gifford** (Year 12), the event featured a delicious spread of traditional Greek delicacies prepared by students. After feasting on the food, those in attendance wholeheartedly, if a bit uncoordinated, attempted some Greek dancing to celebrate the momentous occasion.

Overall, the luncheon was a terrific, spirited celebration of one of the most significant events in Greek history. The positive atmosphere and sense of cultural pride made it a truly memorable occasion. Thank you to Mr Nikolaidis and the Food Technology staff for making it possible.

Zoe Bertram (Year 11)



Dungeons & Dragons

On Saturday 5 April, the senior students of Daramalan's Dungeons & Dragons Club attended an orienteering excursion at Bruce Ridge Nature Reserve. After being postponed from the previous weekend due to rain, the students were excited to set out on their adventure!

Setting out at the crack of dawn (9am), students were split into three councils, each of whom was provided with a clue to one of the eight relics that would prevent the realm from being destroyed. The councils then had to work together to determine and travel to the location of the relic, at which point they would receive new clues to point them towards the next location. A few wrong turns were made along the way, but the adventurers soon acclimated to the environment of the ridge, learning to navigate using the paper maps and working together to solve the puzzles.

The journey took about 4 hours, and the group travelled approximately 16 kilometres. It was a wonderful and engaging day for all involved that allowed students to develop their teamwork and leadership skills. The seniors are looking forward to assisting in the preparation of similar activities for the club's junior students in the upcoming terms.

Calen Gould (Year 11)



Writers Club

Write a Book in a Day – Opportunity for Keen Writers and Graphic Artists

The Daramalan Writers' Club and the Uhr Information Centre would like to invite students to nominate to be part of a team entering the writeabookinaday.com competition. We are keen to enter this competition for the first time this year and are seeking expressions of interest from

students who would like to contribute collaboratively, either to the writing or the illustrations.

We feel that it is a very worthwhile activity, which raises funds for cancer research, and our students who participate will benefit from this collaborative project.

More detailed information is available on the website: <https://writeabookinaday.com/>

To nominate, please see our Information Centre Coordinator, **Ms Melinda Cashman** or send an email to suzanne.kiraly@daramalan.act.edu.au with the subject headline: **Write a Book in a Day Nomination**.

Year 7 History

Year 7 History Excursion to the National Museum of Australia

Over the last couple of weeks our Year 7 History students had the exciting opportunity to visit the Pompeii Exhibition at the National Museum of Australia. This immersive experience brought ancient history to life, offering students a fascinating glimpse into the lives, art and culture of Pompeii. The students all agreed that the highlight of the visit was the 360-degree recreation of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 CE, complete with

immersive sounds, large-scale digital projections and a visual representation of volcanic ash falling across the exhibition space.

Students explored genuine artefacts, interactive displays and even casts of the city's inhabitants, deepening their understanding of life in the ancient Roman world and the significance of artifacts being studied. The excursion was not only educational but truly inspiring, sparking thoughtful discussion and curiosity among all who attended.



Food Technology

A Sharp Lesson in the Kitchen: Chef Riley Do Santos Inspires Year 7 Food Technology Students

A big thank you to **Riley Do Santos**, Chef from Canberra's two-hatted restaurant Pilot, for generously giving his time to work with our Year 7 Food Technology students this week.

Riley brought with him his culinary expertise and passion for the tools of the trade, particularly the importance of investing in a high-quality chef's knife. He introduced students to two of his own prized possessions: handcrafted Japanese knives. These examples sparked interest and awe in the classroom, as students learned what sets a premium blade apart from the rest. But it wasn't just show and tell, Riley rolled up his sleeves and jumped right into the lesson. He worked alongside the students as they practiced precision knife cuts, sharing tips on the correct knife grip, posture and safe handling techniques. Under his guidance, students quickly understood that mastering these fundamentals is not only essential for safety but also for achieving consistency in the kitchen.



A Year of Hospitality: Students Shine at College Open Evening

As the academic year progresses, our Food Technology students are embracing a curriculum centred on giving back to the community.

At the heart of our department is a commitment to delivering educational experiences that foster a strong sense of social responsibility. This dedication aligns with the values of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) and this year's theme of Hospitality. During our recent Open Evening, students put their generosity into action by crafting fresh pasta and a variety of sauces and soups made from produce dropped off from OzHarvest. This initiative resulted in over 75 pasta meals and more than 30 soups, each thoughtfully portioned and packaged, showcasing not only our students' culinary talents but also their dedication to serving others.

We have a long history of supporting the local work of OzHarvest - Australia's leading food rescue organisation who deliver nutritious food charities for free to feed those in need. According to OzHarvest's **Christine Scott**, "It's tough out there. The demand for food relief has never been greater. Charities tell us they're seeing record numbers of people from all walks of life seeking help. Each week our three vans deliver the equivalent of 28,000 meals to 64 charities across the region, but it's not enough - 70% of those we serve say they need more food."

"The food made by Daramalan students as part of their Open Evening activities has already made a big impact. The meals were distributed on Friday morning to much gratitude. One of the recipients, The Early Morning Centre, a community hub supporting Canberra people who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness, were thrilled to receive such nourishing ready-to-eat meals cooked with heart. Our sincere gratitude and thanks to your staff and students involved in this program."

Languages

French Film Festival Excursions March 2025

Each Year in March, the Association of Alliance Françaises across Australia, in collaboration with the Embassy of France, organise the French Film Festival.

It is the largest foreign film festival in Australia and biggest celebration of French cinema outside of France. Each year the festival is showcasing the best of contemporary French cinema including action, romance, comedy, thrillers, children's films, animation and documentaries. This is a great opportunity for our French students to foster a deeper appreciation of the French language and Francophone cultures and immerse themselves in this major event.

On Friday 14 March and Monday 24 March, Year 9 and 10 French, accompanied by **Ms Carina Merritt**, went to see *All Stirred Up!* (*Tous toqués!*). The film was a Canadian comedy about a French chef whose cooking utensils and gourmet ingredients are confiscated at the border by a particularly difficult border agent, but who then subsequently needs his help when her daughter Lili-Beth decides to enter a cooking competition for children, despite barely knowing how to cook. The students enjoyed the film and understood most of the French, even the colloquial Canadian French.

On Friday 28 March, Year 11 and 12 French, accompanied by **Ms Hilda Visser-Scott**, went to see the *Count of Monte Cristo*, based on the classic novel by French author, Alexandre Dumas, published in 1846. The story explores themes of justice, revenge and redemption, primarily through the journey of its main character, Edmond Dantès, a young sailor who is unjustly imprisoned. The narrative begins to unfold in the bustling port city of Marseilles, setting the stage for the intricate relationships and betrayals that will define Dantès' life.

The novel has been translated into more than a hundred languages and at least 29 films and television series have been made about the story in various countries, with the first film released in 1908. The 2024 version, adapted and directed by Matthieu Delaporte and Alexandre de La Patellière is the first French cinematic treatment of the iconic tale in over fifty years. The film was the most expensive French film production in 2024 (costing €42 million to make), but brought in a worldwide revenue of €100 million and won several of the 14 Academy Awards it was nominated for.

Some student impressions:

Our excursion was an amazing opportunity to immerse ourselves in the French language and we were pleasantly surprised at how much we could understand. The movie we watched was a great choice, as it related directly to what we were learning and was very helpful when we returned to class. It was also interesting to hear the differences between Canadian French, spoken by some characters in the film, and standard formal French from France, spoken by the main character. We all agreed that standard French from France is easier to understand than the Canadian dialect.

Tahlia Kelly (Year 9), **Luci Polegubic** and **Sophie Woodin** (Year 10)

Bonjour tout le monde! Nous avons pris le bus avec la classe pour aller au festival. Le film que nous avons regardé s'appelle 'le Comte de Monte Cristo'. C'était très bien et il y avait beaucoup d'action, et romantisme. Une vraie histoire épique! Merci **Mme Visser-Scott** d'organiser cette excursion chaque année!

Hi Everyone! We took the bus with the class to the festival and saw the *Count of Monte Cristo*. It was full of action and romanticism – a truly epic story!

Alexandra Millea and **Malia Deklin** (Year 11)



Languages Cont...

Year 10 Japanese Lunch Excursion

In Week 9, Year 10 Japanese class had an opportunity to have lunch at Kagawa Japanese Restaurant in Dickson, where students ordered their favourite bento boxes such as Tonkatsu (pork cutlet) and Karaage (deep fried chicken). We also visited Asian grocery stores in Dickson to find out about different Japanese products. The students enjoyed trying ramune juice, mochi and Pokemon noodles. It was a fun, authentic and great cultural experience.



OzCLO Nationals!

Daramalan College once again secured a spot in the OzCLO Nationals! This year, forty-four students from Years 9 to 12 Language classes participated in the Australian Computational Linguistics Olympiad (OzCLO) regional competition during Week 5. Merely entering this challenging competition is commendable, however, one team advanced to the national level, hosted at ANU in Week 8. Congratulations to our Year 11 team: **Sean Loney, Roy Halliday, Tristian Tierney and Thomas Neighbour**, who diligently worked to progress to the next round for the third time! Gratitude is also extended to the Language team for their time and expertise in providing this valuable opportunity to the students, and special thanks to **Ms Carina Merritt** who organised the event.



Preparing to Vote

On Monday 31 March, Year 11 and 12 students had the option to participate in the first Preparing to Vote incursion designed to upskill students for their first voting experience ahead of the upcoming federal election.

As recent data from the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) reveals, civics understanding among young Australians is on the decline, with only 28% of Year 10 students across the country reaching proficiency. This incursion sought to reverse that trend by providing our senior students with the knowledge, skills and confidence to actively participate in our democracy.

The day kicked off with a deep dive into Australia's voting system, where students explored the importance of democratic participation and how government decisions can directly affect their lives. They also gained a clear understanding of the roles of the two Houses of Parliament and the difference between voting for the House of Representatives and the Senate. To make the learning experience more hands-on, students completed a mock ballot on their favourite snacks, practicing preferential voting and discussing above and below the line voting strategies.

After a well-deserved break and some snacks, students engaged in group research to examine different party policies and explore the voting history of Parliamentarians, deepening their understanding of how political representatives align with their values and beliefs.

The final session focused on critical media literacy. Students learned to identify bias in political coverage, understand political advertising laws, and develop the skills to make informed voting decisions.

A huge thank you to **Ms Eve Fitzpatrick** and **Ms Sophie Peacock** for organising this enriching and valuable experience, which helped upskill our senior students with the tools they need to cast their votes with knowledge and confidence come Saturday 3 May!



Science

Earth and Environmental Science Sustainability Conference

Daramalan students took action on sustainability at the 2025 Schools Climate Action Conference.

Eight Year 12 Earth and Environmental Science students attended the Schools Climate Action Conference at University of Canberra, where they explored practical ways to make Daramalan a more energy efficient and sustainable school.

During the event, students workshopped innovative solutions to reduce our campus' heat island effect, proposing vertical gardens on building walls to introduce more greenery, shade, and reduce our energy consumption. They also tackled waste management, brainstorming strategies to minimise rubbish and improve recycling efforts.

The conference provided a fantastic opportunity for students to collaborate with experts, including ACT government representatives, scientists and ministers, who helped refine their ideas. The experience was inspiring, and our students returned with actionable plans to help make Daramalan even more sustainable!

Earth and Environmental Science Field Trip to Wollongong

Our Year 11 and 12 Earth and Environmental Science students embarked on an exciting overnight field trip to Wollongong to gather data for their Scientific Investigation Report. The adventure began bright and early on Sunday, with the team bonding over fun activities and water slides at Jamberoo Action Park.

After a hearty dinner and a restful night in cabins near the beach, students conducted thorough research comparing the human impact on different types of forests (rainforests and open forests) on Mount Kiera. They collected valuable data on invasive species, soil texture, moisture, pH, rock type, foliage cover and light intensity. A big thank you to **Mr Shaun Warren**, **Mr Ben Grant** and **Ms Lucy Beponis** for their dedication and support throughout this amazing learning experience!



Science Cont...



Psychology – Zoo Excursion

The Year 11 Psychology students traded the classroom for the great outdoors with an exciting excursion to the Zoo. The focus of the day was psychological concepts learnt in class, including modelling, operant conditioning and classical conditioning, brought to life through a guided educational tour.

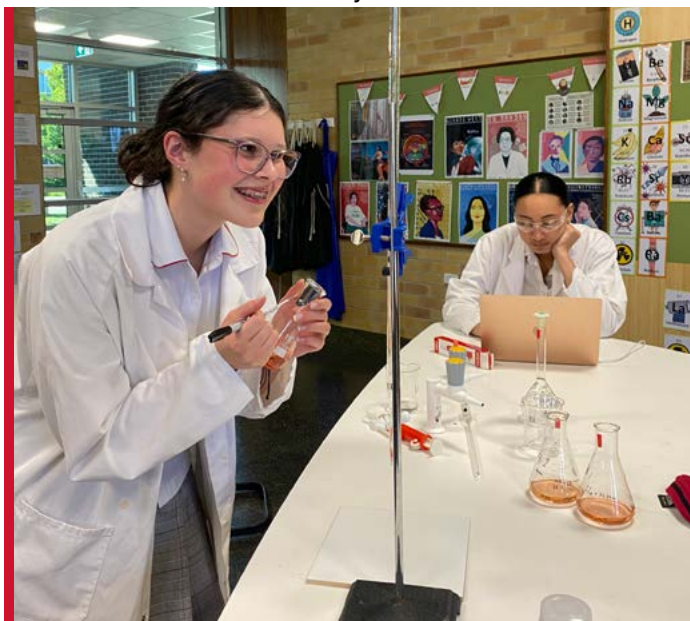
Students had the chance to get up close and personal with the animals—many faced their fears by holding a lizard or snake, and others enjoyed feeding friendly emus and deer. A highlight of the day was watching the sun bears and tigers being trained to voluntarily participate in medical treatments, demonstrating real-world applications of conditioning techniques.

It was a fun, hands-on experience that brought psychological theory to life in the most unforgettable way.



Year 12 Chemistry

Year 12 Chemistry students have started analytical chemistry and are using titrations to determine the concentration of unknown substances. The students are combining their understanding of chemical reactions with precise handling of equipment and attention to recording accurate measurements. The most skilful students will be selected to represent Daramalan College at the National Titration Stakes at ANU in May.



Visual Arts

Visual Arts Excursion to the Art Gallery of NSW and Museum of Contemporary Art

On Friday 4 April, Year 11 and 12 Visual Art and Photography students travelled to Sydney to visit the Art Gallery of NSW and the Museum of Contemporary Art. It was a glorious sunny day in Sydney, the students were able to take some great photos of the city and look at the fabulous Art Express exhibition. The Art Express showcases the top HSC students from 2024.

A highlight at the AGNSW was "The Tank" exhibition, Rites of When by Angelica Mesiti, a video and sound installation that reimagines communal rituals in relation to seasonal cycles, at a time of environmental uncertainty and flux, students were mesmerised by this extraordinary and immersive exhibition.

Visiting these inspiring exhibitions is a great learning opportunity and helps students to prepare a body of work for exhibition. A great day was had by all!

Ms Jo Howard, Ms Jackie Roberts and Mr Scott McQuiggin - Visual Arts Teachers



Dance

Hip Hop Dance Workshop

In Week 9, the Year 9 and 10 Dance class had the exciting opportunity to participate in a Hip Hop workshop led by our guest tutor from Ausdance, **Jonah**. For many students this was their first experience learning Hip Hop, and they embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and determination.

Throughout the workshop, students explored the fundamentals of Hip Hop movement, including rhythm, footwork and musicality. They worked hard to master new choreography, stepping outside their comfort zones while building confidence in their performance skills. The atmosphere in the Joe Woodward Theatre was energetic and supportive, with students encouraging one another and celebrating each other's progress.

It was fantastic to see everyone engaged, having fun, and pushing themselves to try something different. A huge thank you to Jonah for sharing his expertise and making the session so enjoyable. What a great way to start Week 9!



Contemporary Dance Workshop

In Week 9, the Senior and Year 10 Dance students participated in a Contemporary Dance workshop, where they explored renowned contemporary techniques influenced by pioneers such as Merce Cunningham and Martha Graham. Led by **Debora** from Ausdance, the workshop provided a unique opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of contemporary movement.

Through task-based and technique exercises, students experimented with movement quality, spatial awareness and dynamics, pushing their creative and technical boundaries. This workshop challenged students to think critically, adapt quickly, and apply new concepts. It was a fantastic workshop which broadened their skills and artistic expression.



Daramalan Theatre Company

ROMEO AND JULIET

For an unusual and sophisticated night out ...

Daramalan Theatre Company is presenting ROMEO AND JULIET from **Saturday 26 April to Saturday 3 May**. While the show will be innovative and exciting in itself, the event will be enhanced as a sophisticated and entertaining experience by inviting you to enjoy drinks from the bar and delicious Tapas from 6.00pm, for a 7.00pm start.

There are some very talented actors in this production, making for great engagement with the audience and text. The whole cast is working as a beautifully focused ensemble! Come and see Shakespeare brought alive in a most thrilling and unique way.

Tapas orders are available now. Best to pre-order to ensure you don't miss out. [Order HERE on Qkr!](https://events.humanitix.com/romeo-and-juliet-sqee8xcu) once you have bought your tickets: <https://events.humanitix.com/romeo-and-juliet-sqee8xcu>

If you are unfamiliar with Qkr!, [check it out here](#).

As a bonus, see the wonderful pre-show performance by **Ruby Holden** (Year 11) from 6.15pm - 6.45pm. This is another great reason to come early and enjoy the refreshments available.

[Book here](#) for the show. Then go to your Qkr! and the "Events" section to order Tapas.

The theatre will seat about half the audience at tables in cabaret style. Here you may take in drinks from the bar and consume Tapas pre-ordered and picked up on entry. If you haven't booked for a table and are to be seated in the theatre style seats, you may still order Tapas; but you will need to consume food and drinks at the bar tables on the side of the audience areas pre-show.

DTC promises an exciting experience like nothing seen before: a fresh and innovative production of Shakespeare, a beautiful new state-of-the-art theatre, great refreshments and quality drinks and a unique actor/audience relationship. Don't leave your bookings too late! Opening night has already sold out all the table seats, so get in early with your ticket purchase and your Tapas Qkr! orders.

For more information, please contact **Mr Joe Woodward** at joe.woodward@daramalan.act.edu.au

ROMEO AND JULIET by William Shakespeare
Adapted by **Tony Allan**, Directed and Designed by **Joe Woodward**

Lighting Design by **Jennifer Wright**

Pianist: **Hilda Visser-Scott**

Bar and Café Manager: **Libbi Wilson**

Creative Crew: **Angela Dunn, Annette Brady, Gabrielle Adamow, David Kurthi, Kavita Jogia and Amy Thomas**



William Shakespeare

ROMEO & JULIET

26, 30 APRIL 1, 2, 3 MAY

JOE WOODWARD THEATRE
ISSOUDUN PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
DARAMALAN COLLEGE



<https://events.humanitix.com/romeo-and-juliet-sqee8xcu>

Daramalan Theatre Company



Music

I would like to thank members of the String Ensemble and Jazz Band who performed at the recent Open Evening. It was a fantastic way to showcase and promote the Music Program at Daramalan.

Special thanks also to the String Ensemble and their fabulous conductor and player, **Ms Heather Roche**, who performed at The National Gallery for the Association of Independent Schools ACT Executive Director's Farewell on Friday 4 April. The performance was very well received, with many wonderful comments from the audience. The students who performed at the Gallery were **Hannah Chi**, **Ruby Jeremenko** (Year 10), **Anthony O'Brien** (Year 8) and **Patricia Sukardi** (Year 9), along with their dedicated Conductor, Ms Heather Roche.

Private Music Lessons – Unlock Your Musical Potential!

Personalised one-on-one instruction builds confidence, develops technique and inspires a lifelong love of music. Whether you're a beginner or looking to refine your skills, private lessons provide tailored guidance for faster progress.

We offer lessons with experienced teachers in guitar, drums, vocals, violin, cello, bass, trumpet, trombone, clarinet, flute, saxophone and piano.

Calling All New Year 7 Musicians!

If you would like to play an instrument or sing, we have an ensemble for you! Joining a group is a fantastic way to improve your musical skills and make new friends.

The Year 7 Band is now underway with a small but enthusiastic group of young musicians. There is still time to join! No musical experience is necessary. Students can choose from flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone and euphonium.

Contemporary Rock Band – Expressions of Interest

We're looking for students to join a new Contemporary Rock Band program. This group will rehearse one afternoon a week from 3:45 – 5:00pm, led by a professional contemporary musician. We're looking for students who play electric guitar, bass guitar, drums, keyboard or vocals.

For more information on any of the above, please see **Ms Michelle Coggan** or **Mr Michael Jackson** in the Issoudun Building.



Basketball

High School 3 x 3 Basketball Tournament

On Wednesday 9 April, five teams from our College took part in the BACT 3 x 3 High School Basketball Tournament, held at the Belconnen Basketball Stadium. This was a huge event on the school sports calendar, with over 20 schools participating and hundreds of games played throughout the day across multiple courts.

Our students showcased incredible sportsmanship, teamwork and determination as they competed against strong opposition from across the ACT. Each team represented the College with pride and enthusiasm, and their efforts both on and off the court were a credit to our school community.

Here's how our teams placed:

- **7/8 Girls:** 5th in Pool A – A strong effort in a

competitive pool!

- **7/8 Boys:** 4th in Pool B – Fought hard and improved with every game.
- **9/10 Girls:** Semi Finalists – A fantastic run deep into the Finals.
- **9/10 Boys Black:** Equal 1st in Pool C – Dominant performances and well-earned results.
- **9/10 Boys Red:** 2nd in Pool A – Just missed out on the top spot with a great effort all day.

We'd like to extend a big thank you to **Ms Heather Chapman** and **Mr John Gale** for their organisation, support and encouragement, which made the day such a success. Their dedication to school sport continues to give our students fantastic opportunities to grow, compete and have fun.

Well done to all players involved—you should be very proud of your achievements! The College 3 x 3 competition is on later in the year.



DARA V DARA

PRESEASON CARNIVAL



SUNDAY 4TH MAY @ DARAMALAN COLLEGE



9:00-9:30am
9:30-10:00am
10:00-10:30am
10:30-11:00am
11:00-11:30am
11:30-12:00pm
12:00-12:30pm
12:30-1:00pm
1:00-1:30pm
1:30-2:00pm
2:00-2:30pm
2:30-3:00pm
3:00-3:30pm
3:30-4:15pm

COURT 1		COURT 2	
Team 1 Black Singlets	Team 2 White Singlets	Team 1 Black Singlets	Team 2 White Singlets
U14 D6 BLACK BOYS	U14 D4 BLACK BOYS	U14 D5 BOYS	U14 D4 WHITE BOYS
U16 D4 BOYS	U16 D5 BOYS	U14 D5 BOYS	U14 D6 WHITE BOYS
U14 D4 BLACK BOYS	U14 D4 WHITE BOYS	U14 D1 BOYS	U14 D2 BOYS
U16 D6 BOYS	U14 D3 BOYS	U14 D6 BLACK BOYS	U14 D6 WHITE BOYS
U16 D3 BOYS	U14 D1 BOYS	U14 D4 GIRLS	U14 D1 GIRLS
U14 D2 BOYS	U14 D3 BOYS	U16 D5 BOYS	U16 D6 BOYS
U16 D2 BLACK BOYS	U16 D3 BOYS	U16 D4 GIRLS	U14 D1 GIRLS
U19 D6 BOYS	U16 D4 BOYS	U16 D1 BOYS	U19 D2 WHITE BOYS
U19 D2 RED BOYS	U16 D2 WHITE BOYS	U19 D3 GIRLS	U16 D2 GIRLS
U16 D1 BOYS	U19 D4 BLACK BOYS	U19 D6 BOYS	U19 D4 WHITE BOYS
U16 D2 WHITE BOYS	U16 D2 BLACK BOYS	U19 D2 GIRLS	U16 D2 GIRLS
U19 D2 BLACK BOYS	U19 D2 RED BOYS	U19 D4 BLACK	U19 D4 WHITE BOYS
U19 D2 BLACK BOYS	U19 D2 WHITE BOYS	U19 D2 GIRLS	U19 D3 GIRLS
U19 JPL BOYS	U19 D1* BOYS	U19 JPL GIRLS	U19 D1* GIRLS

Cricket

On Wednesday 26 March, we held the Cricket Presentation evening in the beautiful Issoudun Performing Arts Centre and Joe Woodward Theatre. It was excellent to bring the whole Daramalan Cricket community together to celebrate the achievements of our teams and individual players. A special thank you to **Ms Yvonne Turnbull** and the Maintenance and Performing Arts team for their help with setting up and packing up the event.

Together, we were able to recognise excellent performers within each of the teams. We were also able to celebrate the MSC Award winners – **Eamon Kelly, Lucas Gresham** (Year 8), **Angus Ferndale, Xavier O'Brien** (Year 9) and **Cael Heenan** (Year 11). These players demonstrated MSC values such as compassion, hospitality and respect throughout the season, and are excellent examples of the ethos of Daramalan.

Congratulations to those who achieved great Milestones Awards: **James Harmer** (Year 12 2024), **Llandan Vergano** (Year 12), and **Cael Heenan** for scoring 100+ runs in an innings; **Will Harmer** (Year 12 2024), **Owen Baldock** (Year 9) and **Llandan Vergano** for taking five wickets in an innings; and **Benjamin Collett** (Year 9) and **Owen Baldock** for taking Hat-Tricks. **James Harmer** was awarded the Daramalan Cricketer of the Year, scoring 1091 runs at an average of 68.19, taking 19 wickets at 11.53, and taking 20 catches throughout the season.

While it was great to celebrate some individual successes, it was even better to celebrate the success of our two teams who won their premierships. Stage 2 Gold and their coaches **Adam Gresham** and **Jamie McRae** achieved great success in winning both of their premierships in the One Day and T20 competitions, narrowly defeating Queanbeyan in both matches. While

the Colts were unsuccessful in their T20 Final against Marist in late 2024, they managed to beat Marist in the One Day Grand Final and won the competition. Both teams were also recognised at the Cricket ACT awards night on Thursday 3 April.

Finally, I would like to thank **Kai Ryan, Jamie McRae** and **Adam Gresham**, along with **Jake Krause** (Year 12) for coaching teams this season and **Celeste Lewis** for managing. An extra special thank you to **Doug Inwood**, who received the award for Daramalan Club Person of the Year for the third time straight, for his invaluable contribution to Daramalan Cricket.



Rowing

At the prestigious Head of the Lake regatta, our crews stepped up and gave it their all, going toe-to-toe with some of the strongest competition in the region. We saw gutsy efforts across the board, with standout performances in the senior races and some seriously tight battles in the quads. The Head of the River was an even tougher challenge, pushing our rowers to dig deep against some top-tier crews. Despite the intensity, our athletes held their own, proving that determination and teamwork can go a long way in high-pressure races.

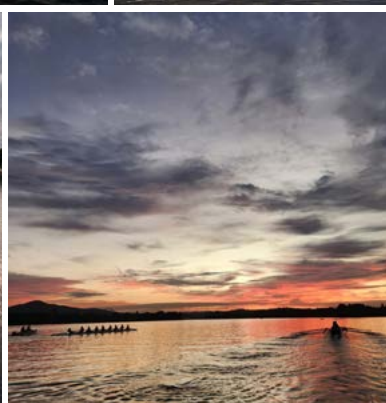
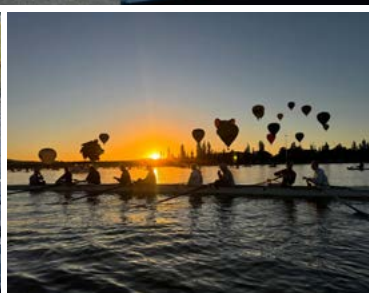
Daramalan finished 7th overall in the ACT Championships, a testament to the hard work and dedication of our rowers. Among our many achievements, we saw strong performances across various events, including outstanding gold medal performances by **Pat Curran**, **Ava Wrathall**, and the duo of **Zoe Glover** and **Olivia Spurrett**.

Overall, we at Daramalan want to extend our extreme heartfelt thanks to our rowing community. Throughout this season we have seen friendships grow, students step up to lead, families volunteer, and many sausages cooked. We also want to recognise and give thanks to the following individuals: **Mr James Keeley** for the early morning supervision as well as for cooking the BBQ – this was

well received by all families and competitors. **Mr Marty Capon**, **Ms Kathleen Whale** and **Ms Rachael Axford** for donating your time to support our rowers whether that be supervising or driving the bus. **Mike Brady** for supporting the coaches, rowers and families and lastly our coaches, **Matthew Philp**, **Emily Olive** (Year 12), **Ronja Staerker-Ashby** (Year 12), **Abi Mitchell**, **Leonardo Quigley**, **Damien Pentony**, **Felix Burns-Jansen** and **Ashley Young**. Our community thanks you and appreciates all that you have given.

Finally, we want to extend our congratulations to the following season award winners:

Most Valuable Rower – **Kaylee Dyska** (Year 9)
 Most Improved Junior – **Jonathan Axford** (Year 8)
 Most Improved Senior – **Emma Williams** (Year 10)
 Ian Mongan Sculling Encouragement Award – **Patrick Curran** (Year 10)
 Enthusiasm, Dedication and Determination – Rookie of the Year – **Ashley Fordham** (Year 8)
 Most Dedicated Rower – **Ava Wrathall**
 Cleaver Cup – Most Successful Crew – **Zoe Glover** (Year 9) and **Olivia Spurrett**
 Volunteer of the Year – **Abi Mitchell**
 Coaches Award – **Frankie Quigley** (Year 10)
 Coaches Award – **Josh Scarlett** (Year 8)
 Coaches Award – **Archie Edwards** (Year 11)
 Coaches Award – **James Allison** and **Hudson Warren** (Year 9)



Rugby Union

Daramalan Rugby Prepares for 2025 Season with Strong Pre-Season Campaign

As Term 1 comes to a close, Daramalan College Rugby has had a busy and successful few weeks preparing for the upcoming 2025 season. With a packed pre-season schedule, players and coaches have travelled across the region to compete, learn and grow – all while proudly representing the school.

One of the standout events of the term was the Ulladulla 7's tournament, where Daramalan teams competed in a weekend of fast-paced Rugby. The Under 14s team took out the title in their division, while the Under 16s narrowly lost to the Vikings in a close match. Three Daramalan players – **Cooper Leslie** (Year 10), **Lachlan Wyeth** (Year 9) and **Abby Jones** (Year 12) were named in the Team of the Tournament, a significant achievement reflecting both individual talent and strong team play.

Another major event was the trial match against St Augustine's College in Sydney. Despite heavy rain, most of the boys' teams travelled north for the match, which was both competitive and enjoyable. The day provided valuable learning experiences and reinforced Daramalan's ongoing connection with Sydney schools, allowing players to challenge themselves against new opposition.

The Vikings Gala Day was another important fixture, involving the Under 13, 14 and 15 Boys teams, as well as the Under 14, 16 and 18 Girls teams. For some teams, this was their final match before the regular season begins. The Under 14 Girls, many of whom are

new to Rugby, showed promising development under the guidance of Coaches **Brianna Patmore** and **Daisy Goodwin** (Year 12), even scoring several impressive tries. The Under 18 Girls team capped off the day with a victory, bringing home a trophy.

Looking ahead, Daramalan Rugby is set to compete in the Battle in the Capital on **Saturday 12 April**, where they will face the touring Power House Rugby Club from Victoria, as well as Canberra-based clubs Royals and Owls. The event will include the Under 12, 14 and 16 Boys teams. Notably, this will be the Under 12s first match as a standalone Daramalan team, the first in many years. It's been suggested that **Mr Sean Connachie** himself played in the last Under 12s team the College fielded.

With the season around the corner, Daramalan Rugby is still welcoming new player registrations, with a focus not only on competition but also on enjoyment, personal growth and skill development. Anyone interested in playing should contact **Mr Ben McGee** for more information.

In addition to players, the club is also calling for volunteers to assist with managing teams, helping in the canteen, setting up fields and running the scoreboard. Community support continues to be a crucial part of the program's success.

Finally, the Daramalan Rugby community wishes to extend its thoughts, prayers and heartfelt support to the St Edmund's College community, standing in solidarity during a difficult time.

With strong preparation and team spirit, Daramalan Rugby enters the 2025 season ready to compete and grow – on and off the field.



Rugby Union Cont...



Sport



Dara Drift Debuts in Ultimate Frisbee Canberra Competition

The Dara Drift team lit up Southwell Park on Wednesday 2 April in their highly anticipated debut match in the Ultimate Frisbee Canberra competition.

Taking the field with energy, spirit and a whole lot of hustle, our senior students faced off against the seasoned Disc-iples X-Force in a fast-paced and competitive game. While the final score didn't swing in our favour, the team's enthusiasm, teamwork and raw talent were clear from the opening pull.

There were plenty of positives to take from this opening game including promising combinations, sharp plays and impressive athleticism, giving every reason to be excited about the season ahead.

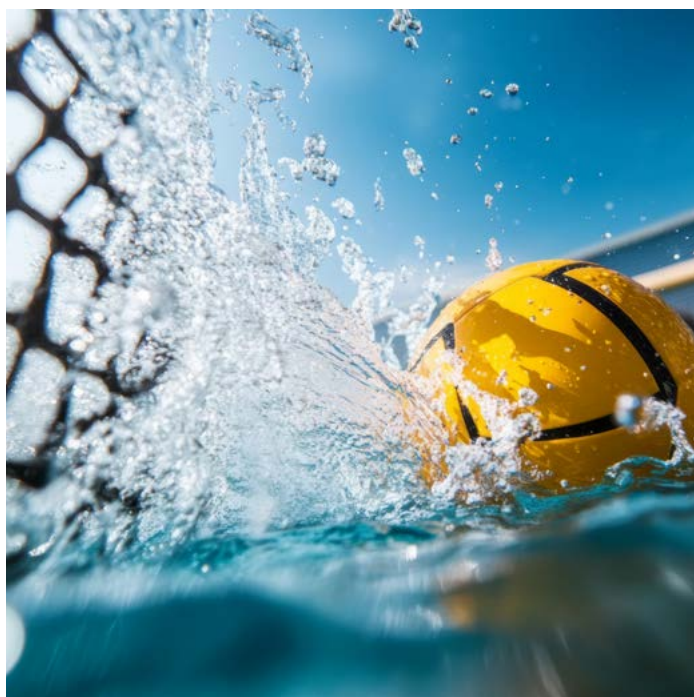
Well done to the Dara Drift for representing our school with pride. We can't wait to see what you bring to the next game!

Rugby League

On Tuesday 1 April, the Under 16 Boys team attended the Alan Tongue 9's Carnival. First up the team played an energetic Karabar High School, narrowly being defeated by one try after Karabar scored all of their tries off kicks. In a similar fashion St Francis Xavier College scored on the bell to narrowly win by one try. The boys rallied and put on two dominate performances against both Amaroo and Gold Creek, winning convincingly in each game though they unfortunately narrowly missed the Final. All players performed well throughout the day with both **Tray Suitor** and **Cooper Leslie** (Year 10) playing huge roles in the middle of the field.



Sport Cont...



Canberra Schools Water Polo Competition

In Term 3, Daramalan will again be entering teams in the Canberra Schools Water Polo Competition. If your child is interested in playing, please contact **Mr Marty Capon** (marty.capon@daramalan.act.edu.au) as an expression of interest.

While no Water Polo experience is necessary, participating students do need to be confident swimmers. More specific details will be sent out in Term 2.

Competition details:

Location: CISAC Belconnen

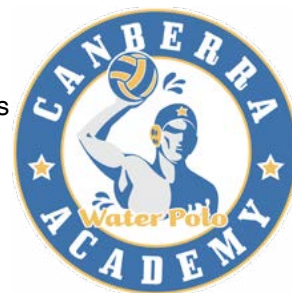
Time: Friday night 6:00pm – 8:30pm

Term Dates: Term 3 **Friday 8 August – Tuesday 9 September**

Costs: \$150 per player

Divisions: Years 6-8 and Years 9-12 – Male and Female divisions

Format: Fast 5's



Winter is Coming: Daramalan College Snowsports Co-Curricular Program for 2025

As the cooler months approach, Daramalan College is excited about the upcoming Snowsports Co-Curricular Program for the 2025 snow season. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to get outdoors, take a break from screens, and participate in a fun and engaging activity.

Students are encouraged to contact **Mr Dean Parkes** at dean.parkes@daramalan.act.edu.au or **Ms Sophie Peacock** at sophie.peacock@daramalan.act.edu.au for more details and to express their interest.

Additionally, we will be hosting an Information Session for parents and students in Week 12, **Wednesday 7 May** at 5:30pm in the Garratt Building. This session will provide an overview of how the program operates and also give participants the chance to ask questions about the upcoming 2026 Japan Tour.

Don't miss this opportunity to get involved in an exciting adventure and learn more about what's on offer for the 2025 snow season. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Dara Snowsports Crew



Careers News

DARAMALAN CAREERS WEBSITE

Please contact **Annette Brady** on 6245 6394 or careers@daramalan.act.edu.au

Book an Appointment with the Careers Advisor

Students can now book a meeting time online through the Daramalan Careers website. If parents or guardians would like to attend for appointments before or after school, please email careers@daramalan.act.edu.au

Work Experience

Students in Years 10 to 12 can undertake work experience placements with the approval of the College. Finding an employer is the responsibility of the student and there must be a meeting with **Ms Annette Brady** to discuss the timing, legal requirements and documentation. Students may only attend work experience for one week during the semester. The completed 4-Way Agreement must be received by the College at least 7 days prior to the placement commencing. Contact careers@daramalan.act.edu.au for more information.

Upcoming Events

Thursday 15 May ANU Direct applications close

Monday 19 May UC Early Offer applications open

Tuesday 20 May UC Explore day

UC Explore Day

Students who have registered to attend must now complete the UC registration process and sign up for sessions on the day. Details and the UC link were emailed to students on Tuesday 8 April. Only students who are registered with UC will be able to attend on the day. This excursion is now limited to Year 12 students only.

Construction Course (White Card)

A reminder for those students who have recently completed the Induction to the Construction Industry courses (White Card) - Students MUST apply for their White Card through [Access Canberra](#) within 60 days of the issuing of their transcript. They will need to apply online via the Access Canberra website. If a student fails to apply within 60 days, they will need to re-enrol and pay for the course again. Note: this is an Access Canberra requirement.

Lets Live UK Gap Years – Applications Close Soon for 2026!

Applications for the 2026 intake for the School Assistant program close on **Friday 18 April**. [Check the Lets Live website for more information.](#)

ANU Direct Applications for Study in 2026

ANU Direct applications opened on Monday 3 March and close on **Thursday 15 May**. Direct applications are free and allow students to apply for admission, scholarships and accommodation in one application. Please contact **Ms Brady** in the Careers Hub if you have any questions or if you need any assistance with the process. Please note, those who intend to apply for the Tuckwell Scholarship should be aware of the different application deadline. [Click here for more information on applying to the ANU.](#)

Charles Sturt Advantage (Early Offer) Applications Now Open

Round 1 - Early bird applications close **Thursday 31 July** and offers will be made from **Monday 1 September**.

Round 2 - Applications close **Sunday 31 August** and offers will be made from **Friday 19 September**.

[Students Apply Here](#)

Virtual Information Session to help students understand how early offers work and get tips on writing their application - **Tuesday 6 May, 5:30pm** - [Register here](#)

UAC 2026 Applications

Domestic UAC applications for 2026 are now open.

International student applications open **Wednesday 16 April**.

Just a reminder that institutions are still finalising the details of courses they will offer in 2026. Over the next few months, courses will continue to be added to the UAC website and the application. Institutions will complete their course updates by August.

[Download application key dates](#)

How to Apply

There are four steps to lodging a UAC application:

1. To start, register their account with an email address and password.
2. Then the student needs to enter their Year 12 student number and UAC PIN. The Year 12 student number is issued by the school (BSSS number). 2025 ACT Year 12 applicants: The UAC PIN was emailed to your school email address.
3. The student's personal details will autofill and must be checked carefully. Then they need to enter their USI and a personal email address (not their school email address). UAC will contact the student about their application via email. Once the personal details are complete, a UAC application number will be issued. Please check your spam/junk email folder frequently.
4. The student can then select their course preferences and submit their application.

Educational Access Scheme

The Educational Access Scheme (EAS) helps UAC applicants who have encountered significant educational challenges. It gives them the opportunity to have their circumstances taken into account when institutions select applicants for courses. For assistance with EAS applications, please contact **Ms Brady**.

Schools Recommendation Scheme

Information on the Schools Recommendation Scheme will be provided in Term 3.

Work Experience with the Australian Federal Police

The 2025 AFP Forensics Work Experience Program gives High-School students in Years 10 to 12 a taste of a career in Forensic Science. Students will learn from AFP specialists regarding:

- the various roles available in Forensic Science
- the career paths some of our specialists have followed.

Applications are now open for 2025 program placements.

[Apply here.](#)

SFC Pilot Academy Open Day – Tamworth – Sunday 25 May

Experience the rare opportunity of free flights, simulator sessions, facility tours and chat with student pilots to hear about their experiences firsthand. Contact **Ms Brady** for more information.

Careers News Cont...

MedEntry

Students interested in pursuing Medicine and Dentistry need to sit the UCAT test in July/August 2025. MedEntry is a government-accredited Registered Training Organisation specialising in UCAT preparation. For more information, please visit <https://www.medentry.edu.au/>

Free UCAT Bootcamp

For parents and aspiring medical students. Dr Ray, Gastroenterologist at Monash Health offers a UCAT mini test, discusses medical interviews, admission process, life as a medical student and career as a Doctor. Watch this two hour Bootcamp from the comfort, convenience and security of your home at any time. <https://www.medentry.edu.au/resources/free-resources#free-bootcamp>.

News from Work Study Grow

The benefits of networking

Think networking is just for professionals? Think again. Networking can have many benefits for students and job seekers alike - find out how.

On campus or online study – What's right for you?

What's the best option for you if you want to study at university - on campus or online? We cover the pros and cons of both in this blog.

Interested in sport? Consider these careers

Do you have a passion for sports? Find out about the huge variety of careers available in this field, from Journalism to Events.

Discover career pathways in Writing and Editing

Learn about the variety of career pathways in Writing and Editing, ideal for keen-eyed creatives and storytellers.

Free Money

Explore ways to fund your life and study plans:

Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards

The Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards seek to capture the imaginations of school students across Australia, inspiring them to express their thoughts and feelings through the medium of poetry in their pursuit of literary excellence.

NYSF Access and Equity Scholarships

The NYSF Access and Equity Scholarship assists participants who may find it challenging to attend the NYSF Year 12 Program.

Think Science!

A free, nationwide Science competition for Primary and Secondary school students in Years 3 to 10. Think Science! encourages students to work as part of a team to perform an investigation using the Science Inquiry skills from the Australian Curriculum and document their process and findings in a video.



ALUMNI REUNIONS

SAVE THE DATES

SAT 18 OCT	1975 YEAR REUNION	SAT 25 OCT	1985 YEAR REUNION
SAT 18 OCT	1990 YEAR REUNION*	SAT 25 OCT	1995 YEAR REUNION
SAT 1 NOV	2005 YEAR REUNION	SAT 1 NOV	2015 YEAR REUNION
SAT 22 NOV	2024 YEAR REUNION		

We are excited to share the dates for the 2025 reunions. Please save the date and share this information with others you are in contact with. More details will be provided soon, and we look forward to reconnecting with you!

*The 1990 reunion is being organised externally by the Alumni.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The College invites members of the Daramalan family to use this Business Directory to locate businesses and services provided by the Daramalan College Community, including former students, Alumni, former staff and other supporters.

If you are in business, and would like to advertise in our Directory, please contact arina.yakovtseva@daramalan.act.edu.au or phone 6163 6523 for more information. Your small fee will go a long way to supporting our Scholarship Fund and your business will be promoted to the wider Daramalan College Community.

This week we are delighted to present the following businesses. [To search all advertisers, please use this link.](#)

Thank you for supporting our community!



**Book an appointment
with us today!**

Telephone: (02) 6299 4822
Part Suite 1, 1st Floor, 23 Antill Street, Queanbeyan, NSW, 2620
Email: contactus@q1dentalcare.com.au
Website: www.q1dentalcare.com.au

Q1 Dental Care

Part Suite 1, First Floor, 23 Antill Street, Queanbeyan NSW 2620

T: (02) 6299 4822

E: contactus@q1dentalcare.com.au

W: www.q1dentalcare.com.au

C: Dr Susan Leonera-Salazar

F: [Facebook](#)

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COMMUNITY BUSINESS DIRECTORY CONT...

ACT Cabs	Hamza	www.actcabs.com.au
All IT Solution	Anthony Cataldo	www.allit.au
AllClass Carpet & Upholstery Care	Peter Nassar	www.allclasscarpetcare.com.au
Australian National Character Check	Hamza	www.australiannationalcharactercheck.com.au
CBR Recruitment	Adam Kowalski	www.cbrrecruitment.com.au
Cedar Husk Café	Nathan	https://www.instagram.com/cedarhusk/
Corver and Co Chartered Accountants	Trevor Corver	www.corverandco.com.au
Element Building Projects	Dennis and Aldona Stravopodis	www.elementbuildingprojects.com.au
Feisty Fox Security	Anna	www.feistyfoxsecurity.com
Griffin Legal	Claire Carton	www.griffinlegal.com.au
Holly Komorowski – home.byholly	Holly Komorowski	www.homebyholly.com.au
Kevin's Auto Repairs	Liesl Hussey	Phone: 6280 6994
Live Better Nutrition	Jeanette Ryan	www.livebetternutrition.com.au
OAUM Securities	Obieze (Obi) Moneke	www.oaum.com.au
Orthodontics Canberra	Vicki Boyd	www.ortho.net.au
Pacific Facilities Maintenance	Justin Hyland	www.pacificfm.com.au
Pinnacle Driving School	Lisa Murphy	www.Pinnacledrivingschool.com.au
Q1 Dental Care	Dr Susan Leonera-Salazar	www.q1dentalcare.com.au
Ray White Canberra		www.raywhitecanberra.com.au
Ray White Rural Canberra-Yass	Simon or George Southwell	www.raywhiteruralyasscanberra.com.au
Red Shed	Sonja Balic	www.redshed.org.au
Sentinel Security & Technology Group	Ellena	www.sstg.com.au
Snowdrop Social Media	Genevieve	www.snowdropsocialmedia.com.au
The Athlete's Foot	Ashleigh Hogan	www.theathletesfoot.com.au
The Energy People	Alex Morrison	www.energypeople.com.au

Do you own a business and want to support the local community?

Consider advertising your services to the larger Daramalan community.

We are excited to announce our Term 1 Special! For just \$70, your business will be featured on the school and Alumni website until the end of the financial year. Additionally, your business will be highlighted in Daranews, the school's monthly newsletter, and on our Alumni social media platforms, which have over 5,000 followers.

All funds raised from annual subscriptions will be donated to the Daramalan College Scholarship Fund to support eligible families whose situation would exclude them from giving their child an MSC education.

Contact **Ms Arina Yakovtseva** for more information arina.yakovtseva@daramalan.act.edu.au and our website <https://www.daramalan.act.edu.au/our-school/community/community-business-directory/>