

DARANNEWS

6 June 2025

WEBSITE

DARANET



Sacred Heart Day Mass



Upcoming events

- 9 June
Sovereign's Birthday Public Holiday
- 12 - 19 June
Yrs 11-12 Examinations
- 13 June
ACT 12&U and 13&O Combined Cross Country Championship
- 20 June
Yrs 11-12 AST Feedback Session and Trial
- 23 June
Yr 7 Grandparents Day, McCowage Hall
Yr 10 Your Choicez
- 25 June
P5 Yr 10 Wellbeing lesson
- 26 June
P2 Yr 7 Online Safety
- 27 June
Feast of the Sacred Heart
Daranews Published
End of Term 2
- 21 July
Pupil Free Day
- 21-23 July
Year 12 Reflection Camp
- 22 July
Students Return

From the Principal



Dear Parents/
Carers, Staff and
Students,

With only three weeks remaining of the term, it is pleasing to see the way that students are engaged in their learning and making the most of the opportunities both inside and out of the classroom. Term 2 has certainly been filled with activities and events. Since the last edition of Daranews, the Hospitality Parent Dinner has been held and was an outstanding success, the Spelling Bee created a buzz in the FLA, four of our Year 7 PTs have experienced their Reflection Days, our Environment Group marked World Environment Day with their Sustainable Market and non-uniform day, and the Winter weekend sporting competitions are well underway. In addition to this, our Bands and Ensembles achieved great success at the National Eisteddfod, the Choir performed as part of the 1000 Voices

for Reconciliation at Parliament House, and three of our senior students have been chosen to be the new Voices of Light Rail by Transport Canberra.

Over the coming weeks we will be collecting donations for the annual St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. I would urge families who are able to donate items of clothing including jumpers, jackets, gloves and socks, as well as blankets and non-perishable snacks to do so to enable us to support those who are most vulnerable in our community. All of the donations will be given directly to those members of the wider Canberra community during Daramalan Night Patrol events. The details of how families can support this important initiative can be found in the following pages of this edition of Daranews.

While it is a busy time, it is important that students maintain a good balance in their lives to reduce anxiety about meeting the deadlines associated with the inevitable assessment that comes at this time of the semester. For many students who have planned their work

From the Principal

and time well, they will find their efforts have paid off in terms of being well-placed to meet all deadlines successfully. Our Counselling team have included an excellent article on this topic later in this edition of Daranews. We wish our Senior students all the best when their formal examination period begins next Thursday.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 and Influenza A and B are well and truly back within our community, and as we have moved further into Term 2 the cold and flu season has taken hold. As I mentioned in the last edition of Daranews, please keep your student at home should they be unwell. Thank you to those families who have done so enabling us to ensure that the impact upon our community is minimised. A number of our staff and students are immuno-compromised as well as those in our broader community and families, so it is important that we are not complacent.

Sacred Heart Day

Today we gathered to celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart with our Sacred Heart Day Mass and community activities. It was wonderful to be able to welcome back **Fr Bob Irwin MSC** to celebrate Mass with us together with our College Chaplain, **Fr Tru Nyugen MSC**. As always, our Mass culminated with his rousing rendition of "Shout out to my Soul". The theme of our Mass was "Hospitality Given Freely" in acknowledgement of our Year of Hospitality. The focus of our Mass centred on the embodiment of love that Jesus, Jules Chevalier, and our faith inspire in us. We were reminded throughout the Mass that as an MSC School we are called to model hospitality through genuine acts of kindness, welcome, service and forgiveness. I would like to acknowledge, in particular **Ms Angela Dunn** and all of the students and staff who contributed to making our Mass the wonderful celebration that it was. We were joined by **Mr Greg Miller**, Principal of Chevalier College, who travelled from Bowral with a large number of their student leadership team; the Director of MSC Education, **Mr Chris McDermott**; a number of former staff, including former College Principal **Ms Rita Daniels** and members of the College Board. At the morning tea prior to Mass we acknowledged and presented three staff members, **Ms Gail Mutton**, **Ms Eve Fitzpatrick** and **Ms Damaris Brown**, with MSC Awards for the first time. These awards have been created to mark the important connection that exists between the four Colleges and our founders, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. It was fitting that the awards were presented by Fr Bob Irwin MSC and the Director of MSC Education, Mr Chris McDermott.

At the conclusion of Mass, we were able to take our annual Heart photograph. This afternoon we will enjoy a shared BBQ lunch cooked and served by our House Captains and staff followed by Dara's Got Talent in the Sports Centre. Images of the afternoon's activities will be included in the next edition of Daranews. Thank you to **Mr Alex Hesterman's** Senior Business class for their organisation and planning of the shared lunch alongside the College Events team. The event provided them with the perfect opportunity to put into practice the real-life application of what they have been studying in class. Thank you also to the members of the P&F Committee and our extended families who volunteered their time to help with our shared lunch.

MSC Visit

As I mentioned in the last edition of Daranews, for several days in Week 14 we hosted a large number of guests from the three other MSC schools in Australia as well as the MSC Provincial Superior and other members of the Provincial's leadership team. The meetings which are held over three days provide a great opportunity for representatives from each of the Colleges, MSC Education and the Chevalier Institute to discuss issues and share ideas. The visitors were treated to a lunch provided by our Hospitality staff and students. They were very complimentary about the warm welcome that they received during their visit and the quality of the meal prepared and served by our Year 12 students!

Parking, Blocking Driveway Access, No Stopping Zones and Supporting Student Safety

I would again like to reiterate my previous messaging relating to parking and student safety around the College. Unfortunately, almost every day I witness multiple near misses 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.

I would also like to remind our families who attend the College out of hours and on weekends, particularly for sporting events, not to park on the nature strips or verges along Morphett and Challis Streets. I have received complaints



Sacred Heart Day Mass



Sacred Heart Day Mass

From the Principal

from our neighbours outlining their concerns regarding footpath access and safety due to illegally parked vehicles. Thank you in advance for your support in ensuring the safety of our community.

Enrolments

The official enrolment period for Year 7 and new Year 11 families for 2026 officially closed last Friday 30 May. Once again, this year we have received a significant number of applications for places in Year 7, 2026. Our enrolment policy provides a clear guide as to the process that we follow when determining the offers of places. Offers of places are scheduled to be made, in line with those made for other ACT Catholic Secondary Schools, by the end of this Term. Families with students currently enrolled in Year 10 are reminded that the Notice of Intention forms for Year 11 2026, emailed to families earlier this term, are due to be returned by **Friday 13 June**.

Uniform

As the weather has turned colder and the foggy and icy mornings have become more frequent, can I take this opportunity to 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. Unfortunately, we are seeing these items creeping in as the weather has changed. There is the option for our female students to wear trousers during the Winter months to alleviate the cold associated with wearing a skirt in the Canberra Winter. Thank you for your support in ensuring that our students wear their uniform with pride as ambassadors of the College.

Scholarship Fund

Application forms for Scholarships for the 2026 school year will be available on the College website in the coming weeks and will be located under Enrolments/Scholarships. Daramalan Scholarships are awarded on the basis of financial need rather than on academic, sporting or cultural excellence. Their purpose is to provide the opportunity for

students to attend Daramalan who may not otherwise have the opportunity due to financial hardship. Our Alumni website has details of how you can support the Scholarship Fund and includes the inspiring stories of a number of our former scholarship recipients. <https://alumni.daramalan.com.au/get-involved/>

With the 2024-25 Financial Year ending on 30 June, some families may be interested in giving a donation to the Scholarship Fund as donations are tax deductible. For information about donating to the Scholarship Fund, please contact the College Accountant, **Ms Rachael Axford**, on 6163 6509 or email Rachael.axford@daramalan.act.edu.au. There is also the option of making a donation through the Qkr! App/Portal.

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

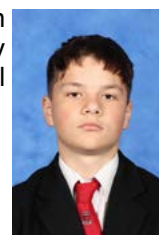
Student Achievements

Congratulations to:

Bailey Sleeman (Year 7) on recently representing Australia in Spain as a member of the Australian All Stars Futsal Team.



Spencer Mostyn (Year 10) who has been selected as members of the ACT U15 Rugby League squad competing at the National Championships.

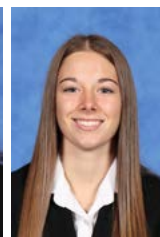


Year 7 Reflection



From the Principal

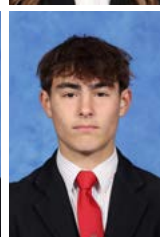
Evie Walker, Mila Cappello and Lilly Pickering (Year 10) who have all been selected as members of the ACT U16 Schoolgirls Rugby League squad.



Ella Higginbotham (Year 10) who has been selected as a member of the ACT U15 Netball squad who will be competing at the National Championships in July.



Harry Clark (Year 9) and **Tom Covey** (Year 10) who have been selected as members of the ACT U15 Hockey Squad.



Zoe Quigley (Year 10) and **Lily Quigley** (Year 12) who have recently competed at the National Touch Football Championships in Coffs Harbour.



Emma Daly (Year 10), **Josie Morse** and **Molly Morse** (Year 8) who have been selected as part of the U15 ACT AFL squad to compete at the National Championships in July.



Bonnie Young (Year 11) who was recently invited to take part in the Football Australia FIFA Talent Development Scheme (TDS) event held here in Canberra.



Llandan Vergano (Year 12) who competed recently in the Australian Men's Netball Championships and NSW vs ACT Mark Kerr Cup. Llandan has also been selected as a member of the Australian All Star's Reserves/u23s team.



BJ Pumpa, Denzel Veikune (Year 12), **Aidan Wunsch**, (Year 11) and **Cooper Leslie** (Year 10) on their selection as members of the ASC Rugby squad.



and ensembles who recently competed at the National Eisteddfod and achieved the following outstanding results:



The Jazz Band won a Platinum medal and Kaaren Talty award. They were the only band to be awarded a Platinum medal.

The Senior Concert Band won a Gold medal for their performance.

The Junior Concert Band were awarded a Bronze medal.

The String Ensemble won Silver medals for both of their sections which were the highest awarded on the night.

I wish our Senior students much success in their examinations which begin next week. For our Year 7-10 students, I encourage you to make the most of the final weeks of term and the learning opportunities offered during this time.

Best Wishes,

Rachel Davies
Principal



Vinnie's Winter Appeal



YEAR 7

Non-perishable snacks: Museli bars, Tinned food, Biscuits etc

YEAR 8

Blankets and Scarves





YEAR 9

Gloves and Socks

YEAR 10

Adult Size Jackets





YEAR 11 & 12

Adult Size Jumpers

Donations can also be made through the Okr app

Our congratulations are also extended to the members of the various College bands

Earth Day and Sustainability Market

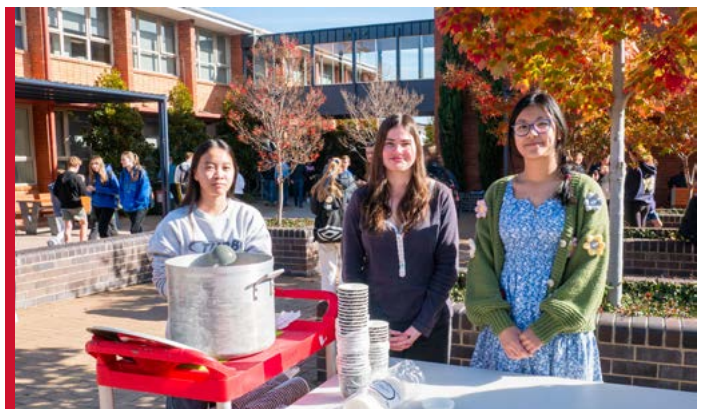
Earth Day Celebration Raises Over \$3,500 for the Sustainable Futures Project

On Thursday 29 May, the Environment Group hosted Earth Day. Students embraced the spirit of the day by wearing non-uniform clothes in exchange for a gold coin donation and enjoyed a market atmosphere at lunchtime which included a BBQ, second-hand goods, sustainable items, baked treats, live music, hand-made crafts and hot chocolate.

The funds raised will go directly toward building a sustainable home in Cambodia through a partnership with Volunteer Building Cambodia (VBC). The home will include solar panels, a toilet block, and a clean water well to provide essential infrastructure for a family in need while promoting environmental sustainability.

Congratulations to our Environment Portfolio Captain, **Georgina Geary**, and the market stall holders for supporting the project which offers Year 12 Captains and Environment Group members a unique opportunity to engage in global citizenship, sustainability and community service.

Thank you to all students, staff and families for your generous support on the day.



Spelling Bee

A Buzz-worthy Week of Words!

What a spell-tacular week it was during Week 14 at Daramalan! The air was absolutely buzzing with excitement as our annual Spelling Bee kicked off, proving that when it comes to words, our students are the bees-knees.

Representatives from each Pastoral Tutor group stepped up to the challenge, ready to put their etymological prowess to the test. The competition was un-bee-lievable, with students showing incredible focus and an impressive vocabulary. Cheers erupted as word after word was nailed. **Ms Anne Brown**, our English Coordinator, was left searching for more challenging words after many rounds of successful spelling.

The tension mounted as the winners from each year group prepared for the ultimate showdown. After a week

of intense wordplay, the stage was set for the Ultimate Spelling Bee Final on Friday 23 May. These linguistic champions went head-to-head, proving once and for all who truly reigns supreme in the world of letters.

Alexandra Linardakis from Year 7 Merrick surprised us all and left the crowd spell-bound when she won the Final after beating representatives from every other year group with her final word being "trigonometry."

Our year group finalists were as follows:

Year 7 Merrick - **Alexandra Linardakis**

Year 8 Cuthbert - **Callum Anderson**

Year 9 Goolagong - **Angus Ferndale**

Year 10 Lyons - **Rachael Matthews**

Year 11 Cuthbert - **Sean Loney**

Year 12 O'Brien - **Sebastian Abbondante**

A huge congratulations to all our participants; you truly are spelling superstars!



ANU Maths Day

From the Swiss Number Contest (the inspiration for Dara 7s) to the Relay, ANU Math Day was full of various activities and challenges.

The day began with the Group Challenge, a set of 10 complex questions, requiring collaboration within teams and combining mathematical knowledge with out-of-the-box thinking. Afterwards was the Swiss Number Contest, consisting of five team-vs-team rounds where students were required to crack a clue and find a rule linking seemingly unrelated numbers. The final events of the day were the Cross Number Challenge (a mathematical cross word puzzle) and the Relay, an event combining athletic and mathematical abilities.

Daramalan's Team 2 was able to secure an impressive 8th place out of the 30 teams in attendance. Overall, the day was great fun, and the students thoroughly enjoyed solving the complicated problems and meeting likeminded peers from other colleges across Canberra and the surrounding regions.

The day ended with a mathematician from the University of Moscow attempt to teach us an abstract method of solving a complex numerical problem. Give it a go! (Hint: Use vectors)

Solve for $(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}$

$$7 = x^2 - yz$$

$$11 = y^2 - xz$$

$$52 = z^2 - xy$$

Team 1: **Alexander Charles, Darcy Fenwick, Lachlan Hynd, Callum Millea and Lidia Swiderski** (Year 12).

Team 2: **Zachary Johns, Sean Loney, Thomas Neighbour, Hayley Parkinson and Lucia Robles** (Year 11).



Voice of Light Rail

On Thursday 29 May, a group of Daramalan College students travelled to Gungahlin College to compete in the Transport Canberra's competition to find five new voices for the announcements, both on and off Canberra Light Rail. The competition was run as a blind test, backstage, so that the students were judged on their vocal presentation skills alone. Our competitors were: **Isla Neumann, Cindy Lucic, Roy Halliday, Archie Edwards** (Year 11) and **Sebastian Abbondante** (Year 12).

Five awards were presented and Daramalan received three of these. Archie, Cindy and Sebastian were our three winners. They will have to go back to Transport Canberra for a recording session before you can expect to hear their dulcet tones on your travels. All 5 students were exemplary in their performance and were interviewed by WIN News on the day. The interviewer was none other than the brother of our **Ms Maddie Ward**! Congratulations to our students on a fabulous effort.



Counsellors Hub

End of Semester Self-Care – Tackling End of Semester Assessment and Year 11/12 Exams

Once again, Daramalan students and staff are entering the final assessment period of the semester. It can equally be a valuable opportunity for students to show their understanding of what has been taught as well as be a stressful few weeks of managing various assessment demands and deadlines.

In order to help navigate this assessment period, the Counselling Team recommends both deliberate self-care and wellbeing strategies as well as the use of effective study and exam strategies. Below are some tips that may be helpful for students and their families.

For students:

Goal setting: One of the most effective ways to prepare and stay focused during the exam/assessment period is by setting specific goals. Much research has found that setting goals is an effective way to persevere, put in extra effort, and sometimes negate the anxieties that generally come with the expectations attached to exams and assessment tasks. Goal setting can help you create positive feelings that will help you stay excited and motivated about achieving those goals. One of the most effective ways to set and focus on our goals is by creating a study plan – preferably using a week-by-week table. This will help you prioritise more challenging subjects and most importantly encourage effective time management. Our librarians, teachers, IET staff and pastoral staff are available if you need help creating a study plan.

Active Learning Techniques (ALT): Passively reading your notes and PowerPoint slides will not be enough to learn and revise effectively. Here are some more effective ALT techniques that you may find helpful.

- **Summarise your notes:** Creating summaries in your own words will not only aid your memory but will help you identify your areas of strength and areas that require more work.
 - This can be in written format, such as using dot points, creating Mnemonics such as “My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Nachos” for remembering the order of planets (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto).
 - It can be in visual form, such as Mind Maps or diagrams.
 - It can also be in audio form, such as recording your own explanations of concepts or key questions and answers.
- **Teach someone else:** Explaining concepts, problems, and theories to another person will reinforce your own understanding and will also help you identify gaps in your knowledge.
- **Use flashcards:** This will help you memorise facts, definitions and key theories.
 - You can make your own flashcards or use the various online flashcard websites available, such as Quizlet.
- **Practise problems:** This will help you familiarise yourself with formulas, methods and equations that may be present in the assessment/exam – particularly with Maths and Science.

Plan breaks: We recommend something like The Pomodoro

Technique, which is a time-management method where you work in 25-minute stretches (a “pomodoro”) followed by 5-minute breaks, with longer breaks (15-30 minutes) after four pomodoros. Give this a try!

Exercise as much as possible: We have all heard that physical activity is important for your mental state. The assessment period can be very stressful so we must seek out as much stress relief as possible. Engaging in physical exercise releases endorphins that trigger positive feelings; exercise such as dancing, running, boxing and yoga will help keep you positive and motivated. It doesn't have to be high intensity exercise, even walking your dog outside will have positive benefits. Apart from helping our motivation levels, exercise also helps with reducing anxiety and depression symptoms. You will also find that you sleep better when you exercise, and this will ensure you are well rested and wake up with a positive mindset.

Nutritious eating and drinking: It is a very common and easy thing to become deprioritised, but eating foods that are good for your brain and staying hydrated are essential. This will help improve your mental focus and keep your energy levels up. So although it might be tempting to reach for sugary snacks or energy drinks to fuel your study session, avoid these and have lots of water and snacks like fruits, veggies with humous, crunchy popcorn or pretzels.

Sleep: If you want your brain and mind to function at its best, you really must aim for at least 7 or 8 hours of sleep. It might be tempting to avoid studying and scroll on your phone or to stay up late and cram, but this will lead to you feeling worse and impacting your academic performance.

Find additional and helpful study tips here:

[Tips from former Year 12 students \(NSW\) on study](#)

[ReachOut: Exam Stress](#)

For parents/carers:

Although the students are going to be sitting the exams, it is important that our families play a vital role in fostering a positive and supportive environment.

As parents/carers, your job is simple!

You have all worked very hard to ensure that your children are where they are today. What you can do from here is to **offer encouragement and positive affirmations** as well as **validate** their concerns. A few words of acknowledging how it can indeed be a stressful and overwhelming time for your child, followed by words of encouragement can make a huge difference in the morale of your child. It helps them put in effort and maintain performance because, guess what? They want to make you proud! A word or two of praise will go a long way. Ensure your children are aware of how valuable, successful and important they are regardless of the results of their exams. Although we want the students to perform to their best, they also need to be reassured that they are loved, cared for and accepted unconditionally. In a period where they all feel stressed, overwhelmed and nervy ... your words of affirmation are a must.

All in all, effective exam preparation is a combination of strategic planning, active learning, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, and resting. Implementing these strategies will not only increase your confidence, but it will also increase your chance of success.

The Counselling Team would like to congratulate all students and teachers in their hard work throughout the semester and wish everyone all the best navigating this final assessment period ahead.

Ms Bobbie Dawson (School Counsellor)

Social Justice

During the holidays, the Joe's program invited the Justice Network Year 12 leaders from Merici, St Clares, St Edmunds, Lake Tuggeranong, St Mary MacKillop, St John Paul II College and Radford to experience being part of the program. Under the leadership of Daramalan Year 12 students **Chloe Fothergill** and **Sophie Neighbour**, the program ran seamlessly. The work Sophie and Chloe put into organising, ensuring the activities not only would be of interest but also keep the Joe's entertained for the two days, was remarkable.

The Joe's children are very mindful of respect for themselves, each other and their environment. In addition to this, Chloe read a story about HOPE, the theme for this program. The Joe's then wrote and talked about what HOPE meant for them and what they wanted to HOPE for in the future.

The many activities included face painting, dress up pageant, tie-dye, soccer and basketball games, and a trip to Dickson Vinnies where they each chose two books to take home. The popular nerf war game took place with the Joe's enthusiastically taking on the Oldies (student volunteers).

The program finished with the "Warm and Fuzzies" awards which Sophie writes out for each Joe's child, positively affirming what they personally have brought to the program. The children treasure these. They then give each other verbal "Warm and Fuzzies" and as Sophie went around the circle it was lovely to hear how much the program and the Oldies meant to each of the Joe's children.



Science

Year 8 Forces

Year 8 students explored the concept of forces by designing and testing paper planes. They experimented with different designs to manipulate the forces involved. Students built launching ramps to control the angle and force of take off.



Year 10 Speeding Cars and Inertia Towers and Bouncing Balls

This term, our Year 10 students have been diving into the world of Physics. In their study of motion, students explored the speed equation - distance divided by time. To see this in action, they headed out to Morphett Street to observe traffic and calculate whether cars were sticking to the 40 km/h speed limit. With stopwatches and measuring tapes in hand, students became real-world speed detectors - thankfully, most drivers passed the test!

Then our focus shifted to Newton's Laws of Motion. His first law is all about an object resisting change – it can take a big force to get moving.... Students could relate to this! We built cup towers for students to test their skills in overcoming inertia. To investigate Newton's second law about how mass and force affect acceleration, students experimented with different types of balls - tennis balls, hand balls and ping pong balls. Through games and challenges, they discovered that heavier balls need more force to get moving, while lighter ones change direction more easily. For all our Star Wars fans..... may the 'mass x acceleration' be with you!

Balloon rockets were a fun way to play with Newton's third law – every action has an equal and opposite reaction.



Languages

Year 12 Japanese Excursion

After an early bus ride to Sydney, my peers of the Senior Japanese class and I arrived at the Nihongo Tanken centre. What followed was an amazing four hours of in-language activities: from personal introductions to game shows. At the beginning of the day, we each joined one of four teams named after a Japanese city. I was a part of team Tokyo, and I found the small team environment was incredible for getting to know my classmates better and sparking a sense of friendly competition to keep us going. The activities were not only fun and engaging, but also on topic with our current learning, focusing on health and wellbeing, serving as great preparation for our speaking exams. We also shared a traditional bento (Japanese lunchbox) together in the garden.

After our visit to the Nihongo Tanken Centre, we headed to Regent Place for some great food and shopping. Most notably, **Burridge Sensei** introduced us to a delicious matcha themed ice cream shop, which I'm already craving again.

The excursion was an amazing experience, and I would like to thank **Burridge Sensei** and **Mr Steven Hackett** for making it happen.

Lachlan Hynd (Year 12)



German Film Festival

Kino for Kids returned as part of the German Film Festival, with Years 8 - 12 German students fortunate to attend a screening of *Die Chaosschwester und Pinguin Paul* at Palace Electric Cinema in New Acton. The film, based on the popular *Die Chaosschwester* book series by Dagmar H. Mueller, follows the story of the Martini sisters (Livi, Tessa, Malea and Kenny) who couldn't be more different and rarely get along. When a dancing penguin named Paul suddenly appears in their house while their parents are away, the sisters are thrown into a chaotic adventure to protect him from a pair of scheming magicians and return him to the zoo. To succeed, the four must put aside their differences and learn to work as a team. Despite relying on subtitles, many students were surprised by how much German they could already understand throughout the film.

Hospitality

Year 11 Hospitality Fish Market Excursion

Recently, our Year 11 Hospitality class had the pleasure of visiting FishCo Fish Market in Fyshwick, an unforgettable experience that gave us a fresh perspective on Canberra's seafood scene.

While Canberra might be miles from the coastline, thanks to FishCo, locals and chefs alike can still enjoy some of the freshest seafood in the ACT. Established in 1997 by the charismatic and passionate **John Fragopoulos**, FishCo has grown into a Canberra institution, known for its high-quality produce and warm, knowledgeable service.

From the moment we arrived, it was clear this wasn't just any seafood shop. FishCo is about more than selling fish, it's about sharing a love for seafood. We were welcomed by John himself, who generously took the time to give us a behind-the-scenes tour. His energy and expertise brought the market to life.

One highlight of our visit was tasting freshly shucked oysters—incredibly fresh and full of flavour. The friendly staff also impressed us with their willingness to chat about cooking methods and filleting tips, making the visit both educational and delicious.

John even let us interact with live seafood, encouraging us to pick up a fish and gently return it to its tank. He jokingly told us that anyone who could catch one with their bare hands could take it home, a fun challenge none of us managed to win, but we all had a great laugh trying!

A huge thank you to John Fragopoulos and his amazing team for their hospitality. We left inspired, informed, and full of appreciation for what goes into bringing the ocean's best to our inland city.



Performing Arts

Daramalan Music Shines at the National Eisteddfod

Daramalan College's Music program has once again proven its excellence, returning from the National Eisteddfod with an impressive collection of awards across multiple ensembles.

The Daramalan String Ensemble performed beautifully, earning two Silver medals for their expressive and technically accomplished performances. The Junior Concert Band also impressed adjudicators, taking home a Bronze medal, while the Senior Band achieved a Gold medal, showcasing the depth of talent among our senior musicians.

In an historic first for the College, the Daramalan Jazz Band was awarded a prestigious Platinum Award—the highest honour of the Eisteddfod and one of only four Platinum Awards given across the entire competition. This landmark achievement was accompanied by the Kaaren Talty Encouragement Award, along with a \$300 prize, recognising the ensemble's growth, innovation and outstanding musicality.

Our talented vocalists also took to the stage with the Jazz Band and performed with confidence and flair. **Ruby Gifford** (Year 12) captivated the audience with her rendition of Beyond the Sea, while **Aria Wallace** (Year 11) delivered a powerful performance of Feeling Good.

Congratulations to all our students and Music staff for their hard work, dedication and passion. These results are a testament to the thriving musical culture at Daramalan College.



Rugby Union

ASC vs CSC

We were lucky to host the annual ASC vs CSC game at Daramalan College on Wednesday 4 June. This saw the best of the ACT Under 18's go head to head as a selection for the ACT Under 18's team. It was great to see so many students on the oval excited to watch the start of the game.

ASC	CSC
BJ Pumpa	Phin Ronan
Denzel Veikune	Uhila Tai
Aidan Wunsch	Nate Pfitzner
Cooper Leslie	Rhon Schwalger
	Pepe Iona
	Moses Kaufusi
	Robert Stuart
	Jamal Nazir

The ACT Junior Rugby Union will be releasing the second half of the draw very soon.

Coming up: Volunteers Day and the Annual T.A.T Building Group Charity Round



As we move closer to the school holiday break, we hit round 5 of the ACT Junior Rugby competition. With one game being washed out, we have seen mixed results across the grades. But overall, things are looking good for the Rugby Club – players are enjoying their rugby, learning new skills and having plenty of fun.

Thank you to all the volunteers, coaches, managers and parents who have been helping out on game days with field marshalling, canteen work or general assistance. You make the club run and the players are lucky to have such a great support network.

Representative teams will be making their way around NSW for their respective competitions this long weekend and we wish all the Daramalan Rugby Club players all the best on their representation.

Under 12 Boys	Charlie Gilligan Kai Parks Lawson Day Liam Cullen Mitch Taylor Noah Patterson
Under 13 Boys	Gus O'Connor Jack Lundy Jett McInerney Louis Monahan
Under 14 Boys	Bryson Hopman Cody Crabb Hamish Eves Jack Gilligan Malakai Tuifua Mokoha Dean Oliver Tawake Victor Cornillion Elliot Will Patterson
Under 15 Boys	Jacob Avery Nicolai Librando Luke Cullen
Under 16 Boys	Charlie Ravouvou Cooper Leslie Harrison McIntyre Leighton Luteru Tommy Connolly Tray Souter
Under 14 Girls	Charlotte Power Lacey Ayres Matilda Dawes
Under 16 Girls	Annabelle Campbell Chartazz Alofipo Evelyn Walker Leila Innes Megan Grice Matilda Primmer Zoe Buckman
Under 18 Girls	Adelaide Norris Amy Maka Daisy Goodwin Hulita Toefoki Jasmine Reid Kayley Maguire Makenna Ravouvou

Sport



Dara Drift Break Through in Canberra Ultimate Autumn Competition

The Dara Drift have been putting in a spirited effort throughout the Canberra Ultimate Autumn competition, and after nine competitive rounds, their perseverance has finally been rewarded.

While the season so far has presented its fair share of challenges, the team has demonstrated clear improvement each week, showing better cohesion, sharper execution, and relentless determination. Though the results haven't always reflected the progress made, the team's development has been evident to all who've watched them play.

In Round 9, the Drift secured a well-earned 12 - 10 victory in a tightly contested game at Southwell Park. The match showcased the team's grit and growing confidence, with everyone contributing to the win in a true team effort.

This breakthrough marks an exciting milestone and a positive turning point in the season. With momentum now building, the Dara Drift look forward to carrying this energy into the remaining rounds of the competition.

Stay tuned for more updates as the team continues to grow and push toward even greater performances!

Photos by Kian Lynn (Year 11 Cuthbert)



Congratulations to **Llandan Vergano** (Year 12) who has had a great start to the year. In March he represented the ACT in Men's Open Reserves Netball in Sydney for the Mark Kerr Cup against NSW. In April, he represented the ACT in Men's Open Reserves in Melbourne for the Australian Men's and Mixed Netball Championships.

Llandan had an excellent championship (even with his injured ankle). At the end of the event, Llandan was selected in the Australian Men's Reserves/u23s All Star 7s team in the Wing Attack position, announced at the championship dinner. It was a gruelling week with 10 games across 5 days, with an enjoyable highlight playing against the Fijian Men's team.



Sport Cont...

GWS Academy

Congratulations to Daramalan students **Georgia Patterson** (Year 11), **Mia Cooper** (Year 12) and **Lily Quigley** (Year 12) for being selected in the Under 18s GWS Academy team to play in the 2025 AFL Coates Talent League.



Senior Boys AFL Gala Day

On Tuesday 13 May, the Senior Boy's Australian Football Team represented Daramalan at the Northside Gala Day at Reid Oval. The team played three games against Hawker, Lake Ginninderra/UC and Radford Colleges. With a few players withdrawing late, the team did it tough without any reserves. Several of the players had never played Australian Football before either, but it was great to see some of their Rugby, Soccer or Basketball skills being transferred across. Regardless of this, the team improved every game, kicked a few goals and despite coming away from the day winless, had a lot of fun. At the very least, they enjoyed the opportunity to put their biceps on display in their sleeveless jerseys.



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

Course Guides

2025 course information guides for most institutions are available in the Careers Hub. Students can drop in and help themselves. These are continually updated throughout the year as they become available.

Upcoming Events

Monday 16 June - UOW Early Entry opens

Tuesday 24 June - CHANGE OF DATE - NSW Police Academy excursion

Thursday 26 June - Dare to Dream: Careers in STEM for Girls excursion

Saturday 28 June - UOW Open Day – see UOW website for details

UC Early Offer Scheme – Now Open

If you are a current Year 12 student applying to UC for undergraduate study next year, you could receive an early admission offer under the Early Offer Scheme using criteria other than your ATAR. [See here for more information.](#)

NECA School Holiday Program January 2026

Please see attached the flyer for the next NECA School Holiday Program which will be delivered **19 - 23 January 2026**. This is for the information of students aged 16 and over. Year 12 students leaving school this year will be considered.

NIDA Open Day – In Person or Select Sessions Online

Thinking about a career in theatre, film, television, dance, opera or live events? NIDA Open Day 2025 is your chance to explore pathways across a range of disciplines into the industry and experience life at one of the world's leading performing arts institutions. [Register here.](#)

ACU Events 2025

Discover Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy at ACU Canberra is a special event for 2025 – 9:00am - 12:00pm, **Wednesday 9 July.**

Students interested in these brand-new courses at the Canberra campus can attend this event to try these courses with hands-on workshops and opportunities to chat with staff and current students.

Bookings are also open for our other future students events including campus tours and discipline guided visits on campus, and for our webinars online. Students and their

On Tuesday 20 May, a group of Year 12 students attended the University of Canberra Explore Day to experience a taste of campus life and study programs the university offers. They had a fun day of exploring the campus and attending mini lectures with other ACT and NSW students.



Careers News Cont...

families can find out more at <https://www.acu.edu.au/study-at-acu/future-student-events>

ACU Open Day on the Canberra campus will be 11am - 2pm on **Saturday 13 September**. There will also be Open Day events on all our campuses from July to September 2025. Students can register their interest to receive updates from the university about these events and other important information at <https://www.acu.edu.au/study-at-acu/register-your-interest>

Charles Sturt Advantage (Early Offer) Applications Now Open

Round 1 - Early bird applications close **31 July 2025** and offers will be made from **Monday 1 September**. [Students Apply Here](#)

Southern Cross University

The SCU [Early Offer](#) program applications are open for 2026. This program allows students to gain entry into a Southern Cross University degree before their final Year 12 results are released.

UAC 2026 Applications

Domestic UAC applications for 2026 are now open. [Download application key dates](#)

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.

Sydney Music Careers Expo – Tuesday 26 August

The Music Careers Expo is a free, one-day event for young people that provides you with insights and information on how to get a start in the Australian music industry.

Please let **Ms Brady** know if you would be interested in attending.

Find out more information [HERE](#).

University of Sydney Year 12 Information Evening (online)

Online event: **Wednesday 11 June**, 6 - 7:30pm
Learn about university entry, scholarships, study options, entry schemes, student support, life as a Sydney student, accommodation options, interstate-specific information and the application process through UAC. The online event will also feature a presentation from UAC and a University of Sydney alumni, and a live Q&A.

[Register here.](#)

ADF Careers – Engineering Career Information Session

ADF Careers would like to invite students to an Australia Defence Force (ADF) Engineering Career Information Session happening at 6:00pm on **Thursday 12 June**, in-person at Sydney ADF Careers Centre, Level 11/6 Hassall Street, Parramatta NSW 2150 or virtual via Microsoft Teams (select which method when registering). [REGISTER HERE.](#)

WEP Australia Student Exchange

WEP Australia is pleased to announce a special promotion for all students enrolled in ACT schools. Please see the attached brochure for more information.

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 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.

News and Resources from Work Study Grow

Guides for students and families:

[Early Entry Guide 2025](#)

[Gap Year Guide](#)

[Open Days Guide](#)

[High school subject selection – A guide for parents](#)

8 jobs for people who love movies

If you want to turn your love of cinema into a fully-fledged career, we have some jobs you might like to look into.

7 ways volunteering can help you

Volunteering isn't just great for the people you help - it's good for you too. Find out the ways volunteering can benefit you.

Navigating your post high-school pathways

We have some practical steps, strategies and resources to help you make informed choices about your post-high school pathway.

Free Money

Ma & Morley Scholarship Program

The Ma & Morley Scholarship Program application process is designed so that a diversity of students have a fair opportunity to access this life changing experience.

The ABC Heywire Competition 2025

The Heywire Competition is where young people aged 16 - 22, living in regional, rural or remote Australia can share what life is like outside the major cities through text, photo, video or audio.

Global Footprints Scholarship

A Global Footprints Scholarship gives young Australians like you the opportunity to travel the world, learn about sustainability and shape a better future for yourselves and the world.

The 2026 Simpson Prize Competition

The Simpson Prize is a national competition for Year 9 and 10 students that focuses on the service of Australians in World War One and World War Two.

NECA Electrical Apprenticeships Electrical Industry Holiday Program

The National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA) is running a **FREE** Electrical Industry Introductory Program in the 2025/26 Christmas Holidays.

Thinking of an Electrical Apprenticeship in 2026?

This Program may be your head start into an electrical industry career...

- Theory & Practical Training
- Personal & Professional Development & Mentoring
- Introduction to Industry work practices
- Linkages to existing Trades, Apprentices and Employers
- National Competency Units.



When: 19–23 January, 2026

Where: NECA Centre, 49 Tennant St, Fyshwick

02 6280 6533 or Courses-act@neca.asn.au

Reward: The Program includes nationally accredited Units of Competency. Students who successfully complete the Program will receive a nationally recognised Statement of Attainment for the Units of Competency completed.

CHRISTMAS IN EUROPE SPECIAL

**ACT
students
only!**

\$750

OFF!

**Spend the 2025 summer holidays
on a student exchange program!**



**MORE
INFO
HERE**



**WORLD EDUCATION PROGRAM
AUSTRALIA**



Alumni

Career Friday Lunch Talk Series

Daramalan College was honoured to welcome back alumna **Dr Cynthia Turnbull** (Class of 2014) for the inaugural event in our Career Lunch Talk series!

Dr Turnbull shared her inspiring journey in the scientific field, provided insights into her experience at ANU, discussed her ideas about a career in Forensics, and explored various fields where knowledge of science, particularly immunology, can be applied.

Students had the opportunity to hear firsthand about the challenges and successes of working in Science, leaving them motivated and eager for future career talks. This was a fantastic start to what promises to be an engaging and informative series!

Our next guests will discuss careers in Trade and Maintenance, as well as provide details about careers in Journalism and Politics. Get ready!



ACT Pre Learner Course

ACT Pre Learner License Course – Semester 2, 2025

Registrations for the ACT Pre Learner License Course Road Readiness Program are now open.

Did you know that the ACT Government has a requirement that all ACT Residents have to complete a Pre Learner License course if they want to obtain an ACT Drivers License?

If your child is within 6 months of turning 15 years and 9 months, and they want to get their ACT Learner Drivers Licence, now is the time for them to complete this compulsory pre learner driver education program. Courses are available through the school for \$70, with up to 3 options for timing available. This is a fraction of the cost compared to completing it through an external provider and with the familiar environment and trained educators on staff, we are able to offer the course in a way that is supportive and suitable for Daramalan College students.

Further information can be sought by contacting **Mr Steve Hackett** on 6163 6532 or email steven.hackett@daramalan.act.edu.au.

Bookings are only available via Qkr!. Courses for Semester 2 start Week 2, Semester 2, with further information specific to each course option available via Qkr! or from the contact above.

This will be the last time the course is offered by the College for 2025, and places are limited to 24 per class, on a first in first served basis. With the popularity of Semester 1 programs, we expect Semester 2 programs will likely book up quickly.



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!



All Class Carpet & Upholstery Care

Carpet and upholstery cleaning, flood restoration, tile and grout cleaning including domestic and commercial properties.

T: 0418 242 013

E: peter@allclasscarpetcare.com.au

W: www.allclasscarpetcare.com.au

C: Peter Nassar

F: [Facebook](#)



CBR Recruitment

CBR Recruitment is an innovative, professional Recruitment and Human Resources company, providing Recruitment and HR services to Small and Medium Enterprise, Corporate, Federal and State Government, and Not-For-Profit sectors.

Level 1, 222 City Walk, Canberra ACT 2601

T: 02 6103 7000

E: hello@CBRrecruitment.com.au

W: www.CBRrecruitment.com.au

C: Adam Kowalski

F: [Facebook](#)

I: [Instagram](#)



The Corner Market

Supermarket – Espresso bar.

113-119 Marcus Clarke St, City, Canberra, ACT

T: (02) 62488881

E: kvolmos@bigpond.com

C: Katherine Olmos

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 Corner Market	Katherine Olmos	kvolmos@bigpond.com
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/>