



BOARDING NEWSLETTER

ISSUE: TERM 3 2026

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As we come to the end of another busy term, we can reflect on a wonderful season of growth, achievement and memorable moments across our Boarding community. Our students have embraced new experiences, strengthened friendships and continued to grow in confidence.

A sincere thank you to our Boarding families for your ongoing support, encouragement and partnership throughout the term. Your support makes a real difference and helps us create a positive, welcoming and connected Boarding community for every student.





TERM 3 HIGHLIGHTS

Term 3 has been a wonderful and eventful term in Boarding, filled with achievements, opportunities and moments of connection. Our students have continued to make us incredibly proud through their dedication across sport, academics, leadership, culture and community.

One of the many highlights this term has been seeing our students excel in sport and extracurricular activities. Congratulations to Leshondra and Janet, who travelled to Brisbane to compete in the Under 14 Rugby Union Q7 Santos Series, finishing an impressive 4th overall in Queensland. Our Under 13 and Under 15 Souths Rugby League teams also enjoyed successful seasons, with the Under 13s making it through to the Preliminary Final. Our AFL team reached the Grand Final, narrowly missing out on the win. In debating, Mai Ly proudly represented the College and won the Junior Debating Grand Final. These achievements reflect the commitment, determination and teamwork our students continue to demonstrate.

Beyond the sporting field and classroom, our students have also embraced opportunities to celebrate culture, personal growth and their future pathways. Our Year 12 First Nations students attended the AIEF Graduation in Sydney, as well as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Graduation Ceremony with Townsville Catholic Education. Larvo, Taijh and Jakaiah also celebrated graduating from the Deadly Start School-Based Traineeship Program with Connect 'n' Grow and Queensland Health. Destiny proudly represented the College at the Hydrogen Grand Prix World Final Qualifier, showcasing another example of our students taking on exciting opportunities beyond the classroom.

These experiences are complemented by the wonderful leadership and values demonstrated by our students throughout the term. Congratulations to our Faith & Mission Prefect, Brooklynne, who was a deserving recipient of the Deus Est Caritas Award. Brooklynne consistently embodies our Mercy Values, leading with compassion, kindness and a genuine commitment to others.

It was fitting to bring the term to a close with our NAIDOC celebrations, providing a wonderful opportunity for our Boarding community to come together, share culture and celebrate the rich identities and traditions of our students. Term 3 has given us so many reasons to celebrate, and we congratulate all our students on their achievements. A sincere thank you to our Boarding families for your continued support and partnership throughout the term.

A MESSAGE FROM MS PAULA

- DEAN OF BOARDING -

At the heart of our Boarding House is a commitment to creating a place of welcome, connection and belonging. For many of our young people, Boarding means living a long way from home, family and community, so we want our Boarding House to be a place where every student feels safe, supported and known.

Throughout Term 3, our Positive Culture in Boarding has continued to be shaped by four simple expectations: we are safe, we are respectful, we are responsible and we are connected. These are lived out in the everyday moments of Boarding through how we speak to one another, care for our spaces, approach study, follow routines and look out for those around us. We know that strong routines help create a calm, predictable and welcoming environment where young people can feel secure and supported.

Each week, we also take time to celebrate the strengths of our young women through our Boarding awards. Our Mercy, Strong Tracks, Make Us Smile and Sister of the House awards recognise courage, commitment, kindness, perseverance and the joy students bring to our community. We are equally proud of the many students who quietly do their best each day by following routines, showing consideration for others, supporting friends and continuing to have a go.

A special highlight this term was Year 12 boarder Brooklyne Stegman receiving the Deus Caritas Award during Catholic Education Week, recognising the way she lives out her faith through her actions and relationships with others.

Our NAIDOC celebrations were another beautiful reminder of the importance of family, culture and connection. It was wonderful to welcome families to Townsville to share food, stories, weaving, dance, song and time together. Culture is not simply something we celebrate on special occasions. It is central to identity, belonging and wellbeing in Boarding.

Creating a strong Boarding community takes many people. We give thanks for our Boarding staff team who bring diverse experience across education, boarding, cultural safety, fitness, sport and youth development. Our Boarding staff work alongside teachers, psychologists, health professionals and coaches to provide strong care and support for our young people. Ms Topsy Mola has also continued important formation work with our young women through a strong cultural lens, providing the SHIELDS of H.E.R.S. programme and transition programme for our Year 9 and Year 12 boarders.

Most importantly, we value our partnership with families. Please continue to contact us with ideas, questions or concerns. Open communication helps us work together to provide the best possible care and support for each young person.

I hope our boarders and families enjoy a safe, restful and happy holiday with time to reconnect, recharge and simply enjoy being together. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in Term 4.



A MESSAGE FROM MS GEMMA

- ASSISTANT DEAN OF BOARDING -
- FORMATION & WELLBEING -

What a fabulous Term 3 it has been in Boarding! The term has been filled with so many memorable moments, with our Mercy Day and NAIDOC celebrations providing wonderful opportunities for our boarding community to come together, celebrate culture and reflect on the values that make our community so special. It has also been an incredibly significant term for our Year 12 boarders, with a number of special events marking their final months with us and giving us the opportunity to celebrate all they have contributed to Boarding over the years. As the term draws to a close, I am incredibly proud of the way our boarders continue to support one another, embrace opportunities and contribute to the strong sense of community within our Boarding House. I hope all of our girls and their families enjoy a well earned break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back for an exciting and very special Term 4.



A MESSAGE FROM MS JO

- ASSISTANT DEAN OF BOARDING - ACADEMIC -

Small Study Habits Can Make a Big Difference

"It is the small everyday deeds of ordinary folk that keep the darkness at bay. Small acts of kindness and love."

- Gandalf, played by Ian McKellen, *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* (2012)

The Hobbit is a great film, full of life lessons, and one of my favourites, perhaps because I am a little bit hobbit-sized myself!

From Monday to Wednesday, Weeks 2 to 8, our regular study sessions are beginning to show how small, consistent efforts can make a big difference. This term, the girls who have committed to their study time are learning a simple but important lesson: you do not need to study for hours every night to improve your learning.

Small study habits, completed regularly, really do add up. Spending just 15–30 minutes reviewing notes, learning a few new words, practising maths, reading a few pages of a book or completing homework can help build knowledge and confidence. If students have homework or assessment pieces, study sessions are the perfect time to get them done.

This term, we have relocated study sessions to the library, where our teachers, tutors and supervisors are there to support students. It has been wonderful to see us working more effectively as a learning community.

Some of my favourite things about study:

- Ranko running Book Club with the Year 7s in the pergola.
- Walking into Year 10 and finding complete silence because everyone is so focused you almost don't want to interrupt!
- Seeing the Year 11s working on Macbeth.
- Any time a student asks for a little bit of help — because asking for help is part of learning.

The most important thing is consistency. A little bit of effort each day is better than leaving everything until the night before. Small steps build confidence, knowledge and independence. Over time, these small habits can lead to bigger improvements and help students take greater ownership of their learning.

We might not be keeping the darkness at bay, but we are building strong habits, growing as learners and setting ourselves up for success.



AIEF GRADUATION

The Australian Indigenous Education Foundation (AIEF) held its annual Year 12 Graduation event on Monday 17 August at Taronga Zoo, Sydney. Our magnificent seven - Cordelle, Larvo, Jakaiiah, Taiijh, Azalia Panai and Kadawa; braved the rain and the cold to celebrate the achievement of completing Year 12 with the support of an AIEF scholarship.

The AIEF graduating class of 2026 comprised of more than 80 students from 58 communities. Our magnificent seven represented six different communities, St Patrick's College and themselves with pride.

From the Opera House to the Harbour Bridge and Taronga Zoo, it was quite the experience. Our magnificent seven stepped into their power on the stage and made some new friends along the way.

Larvo gave a speech at the formal evening event where she showcased her journey and her deep gratitude for all those who had supported her along the way.

The second day was spent in Redfern at the National Centre for Indigenous Excellence (NCIE), the girls were networking with employers and educational institutions about future opportunities and began the process of becoming AIEF alumni.

For our girls it was also an opportunity to reflect on how far they had come and reset ready for a strong finish to their school years at the college.

We are incredibly proud of our magnificent seven and look forward to seeing where their journey takes them next.



A MESSAGE FROM MS DANA

- RESIDENTIAL LEADER - YEAR 7-9 -

It has been wonderful to welcome our girls back to boarding for Term 3. It brought energy, enthusiasm, resilience and sense of belonging. From the moment they returned, there was an energetic buzz as friendships were renewed, routines re-established and new memories started.

Some of the highlights during this term have been watching the girls throw themselves wholeheartedly into their football and union training. Their commitment, determination and willingness to challenge themselves has been inspiring. It has been fantastic to watch them encourage each other, and undoubtedly strong mateship and resilience have been built. Equally as special has been witnessing the girls prepare for their cultural dance performances for NAIDOC. There is something incredibly powerful about seeing their pride shine through as they practice, learn and celebrate their culture together. There is so much sense of connection that cultural dance and stories bring to our community. The most heartwarming of all has been watching our younger grades continue to grow together as sisters. They embrace one another, form new friendships and show genuine care for a sister that may be down.

The dorm has felt like the girls home away from home by eating together and having conversations around the table, looking forward to the weekend activities, and creating strong friendships and sisterhood with one another. It is this care for one another, helping with homework, helping to clean friends rooms or welcoming a new student that help to make the boarding dorm, feel like a home.

Our boarders developing bonds has been a beautiful reminder that boarding isn't just a place to live, it is a community where our girls feel safe to learn, grow and belong together.



A MESSAGE FROM MS HEIDI

- RESIDENTIAL LEADER - YEAR 7-9 -

Term 3 always feels busy and I know everyone is looking forward to a well-earned break and time with their families. Looking back, it has been a term full of hard-work, fun and connection on the junior levels as they have all gotten to know each other and their supervisors better.

This term, the 7s-9s were in the full swing of their footy seasons (union, AFL and league) and it was a delight to watch them embrace the commitment to their sport and support each other throughout the competition. I had the pleasure of watching a few games and their athleticism, team spirit and the way they represented themselves on the field is something I hope each of them is proud of.

We welcomed a resident fish this term. He is a Siamese fighter that the year 9s called Geoff. Geoff has brought a homely energy to the dorms and the girls have clearly enjoyed having something to take care of. He is a very loved member of the boarding family now and he is thriving in his new environment. Students come from all year levels to say hello to Geoff and the juniors seem very proud of having him.

Among the structured activities like the Day on Country and BBQ lunches at Pallarenda Beach the girls and supervisors have enjoyed spontaneous moments together too – like car rides to Bunnings to plan our garden and paintings outside to decorate the dorm. I have seen all of the girls grow in confidence this term. Each of them has their own personality and unique strengths and this term I've noticed how much their friendships with one another have strengthened as well as how they have developed strong, mutually respectful relationships with the supervisors who care for them while they are so far away from home and loved ones.

Next term the juniors' dorm theme is galaxy to represent that they are launching into a new year level. I look forward to watching each of them continue to shine as we work together to maintain routine, keep up our learning and continue to laugh and play along the way.



A MESSAGE FROM MS NICOLE

- RESIDENTIAL LEADER - YEAR 10 - 12 -

Term 3 has certainly been a busy one, filled with adventure, celebrations, laughter and plenty of opportunities for our girls to connect, have fun and make memories together.

Conquering Castle Hill

Earlier in the term, a group of adventurous students took on the famous Goat Track to the top of Castle Hill with me. We set off from school and walked to the base of Castle Hill before tackling the climb via the Goat Track, which includes an impressive 1,300 steps!

After reaching the summit, the girls enjoyed the spectacular 360-degree views across Townsville. With our legs feeling a little wobbly after the climb, we decided that the gradual descent via the road was definitely the way to go — and thankfully, it meant avoiding any more stairs!

Beach Afternoons

An afternoon at the beach is always a great way to socialise, exercise and unwind. The girls have enjoyed a variety of activities, including Touch Football, building sandcastles and of course, swimming. There has been plenty of laughter, friendly competition and time simply enjoying being outdoors together.

Book Week Fun

Book Week brought plenty of colour and laughter to boarding. This year, the whole boarding community got into the spirit by dressing up as purple or yellow Minions. Seeing everyone dressed up together certainly brought plenty of smiles and created some wonderful memories.

Shakespeare in the Park

For those who chose to attend, Shakespeare in the Park was a delightful evening. The costumes and comedy had us all oohing and ahing, with plenty of big belly laughs along the way. It was a wonderful opportunity to experience live theatre in a relaxed outdoor setting.



Year 12 - Class of 2026

Our Year 12 Class of 2026 have been working hard, particularly as they prepared for their Mock Exams. Their commitment and focus have been wonderful to see.

The girls also had the opportunity to frock up once again for a special evening with Ms Pam, who had missed seeing them shine at their formal at the end of Term 2. It was lovely to give the girls another opportunity to dress up, enjoy a special evening and create more memories together.

Beauty Night

The Year 10, 11 and 12 girls came together for a fun and relaxing Beauty Night. We started with cleansing and toning before getting stuck into clay masks and peels. With music playing in the background, the girls danced and laughed while waiting for their masks to dry. It was a great opportunity to relax, socialise and enjoy each other's company.

Overall, Term 3 has been full of activity, connection and fun. From conquering Castle Hill to celebrating together, relaxing at the beach and enjoying special events, the girls have certainly made the most of their term and created many wonderful memories along the way.



TERM 4 - WHAT IS TO COME

Start of Term 4 Boarders' Travel Day	Tuesday 07 October
First day of Term 4	Wednesday 08 October
Boarders' White Christmas	Friday 13 November
Boarders' Concert	Sunday 15 November
Valedictory Mass and Dinner	Tuesday 17 November
Valedictory Assembly	Wednesday 18 November
Year 12 Students - End of Term 4 Travel Day	Thursday 19 November
End of Term 4 Boarders' Travel Day	Wednesday 16 September



PRAYER FOR OUR BOARDING COMMUNITY

Dear Lord,

As Term 3 comes to an end, we give thanks for our students, families and staff, and for the friendships, experiences and opportunities that have strengthened our boarding community.

We pray for our families as they reunite over the holidays. May their time together be filled with love, joy and laughter. Keep safe all those who travel, and watch over our young people wherever they may be.

May this break bring rest, renewal and happiness, so that we return refreshed and ready for the term ahead.

May Your peace and loving care remain with our boarding community, wherever we may be.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



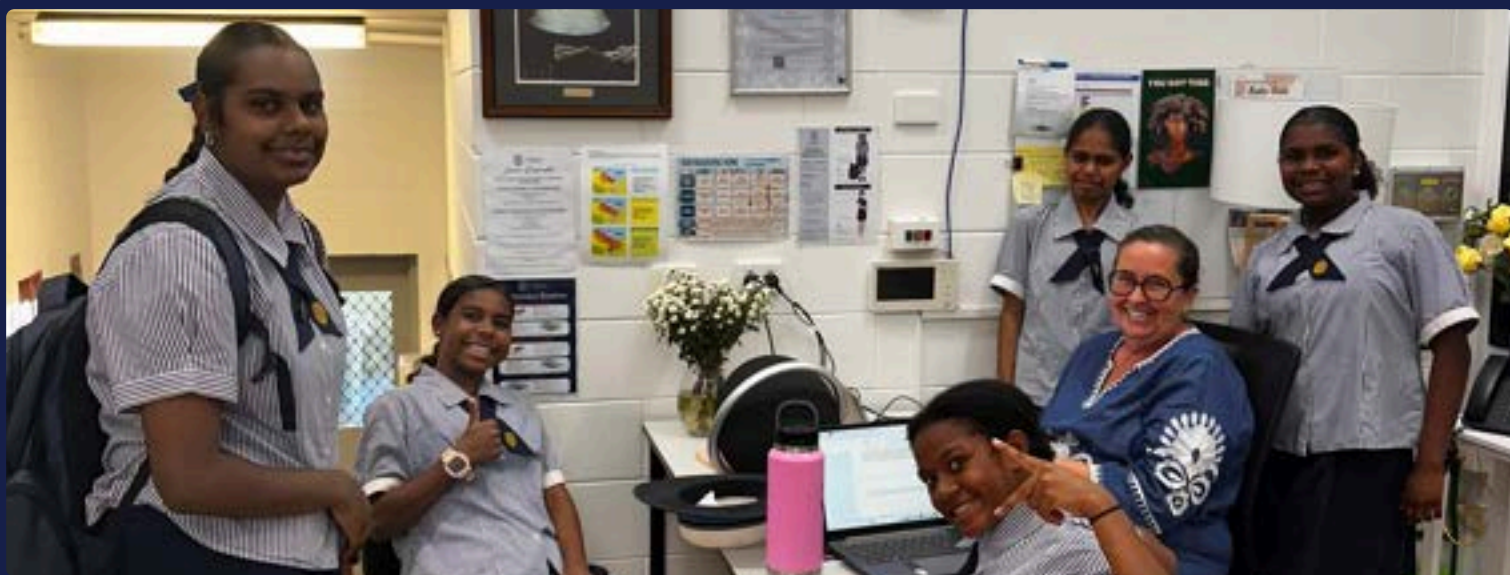
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