



BRIGIDINE COLLEGE ST IVES

Year in Review

2023





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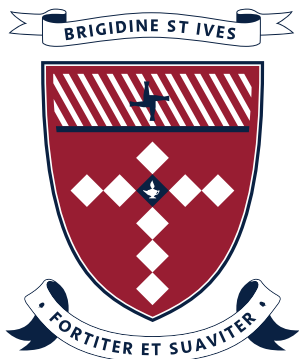
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01 Foreword

Principal's Welcome

Our *Year in Review* invites you into the world of teaching and learning, faith and wellbeing, cocurricular life and school celebrations and events that have taken place at Brigidine College in 2023.

I am pleased to share with you how our staff and students have immersed themselves in the excitement of such a busy and productive year. As always, our students have challenged themselves to achieve their best in a range of initiatives that encompass all areas of College and cocurricular life.

Thank you to our outgoing College Captain Sarah Hudson and Vice Captain Daisy Daddo, the Senior 10 and our Year 12 leaders for their outstanding leadership and abounding school

spirit throughout 2023. Their initiatives and fundraising for their chosen charity, Sock it to Sarcoma, leave an indelible mark in the story of their time at school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff for their ongoing care, commitment and high expectations of the students at Brigidine. Our dedicated teachers celebrate with you the successes and achievements of your daughters this year. The morale of our community is buoyant and focused. We are proud to have such generous and experienced staff.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the College Leadership Team for their ongoing support during this year at Brigidine:

Deputy Principals Ms Leone Smyth and Mr Brian Loughland; Directors Mr Ed Codsí, Mrs Mandy Loomes, Mrs Pamela Malone, Ms Sia Mastro and Mr Owen Vale; and Business Manager Mr Richard Luxford. Thank you to the Brigidine Sisters, Kildare Ministries, the College Board, our Parents and Friends Association and families of Brigidine College for your continued support in all we do.

This year we sadly farewell Ms Kitty Guerin who completes her term as Chair of our College Board. We have been extremely fortunate to have had her wisdom and expertise steering our Board for the last nine years. Working closely with our Board Directors, College Leadership Teams and College Principals,

she has had a clear vision of the needs of the College and how the Board can best support them. We thank Ms Guerin for her generous and unwavering support to Brigidine College in its growth over the last decade.

The *Year in Review* is a celebration of our work with students and the Brigidine community. We are tremendously proud of the achievements of our students, and we look forward with anticipation to a new school year in 2024!

**MS LAETITIA
RICHMOND**
PRINCIPAL
BRIGIDINE COLLEGE ST IVES



Message from the Board Chair

It has been a great privilege to Chair the College Board over the past nine years. I was somewhat surprised when Sister Maree March csb invited me to consider taking on the role at a time when the Bridigine Sisters in New South Wales and Victoria and the Presentation Sisters of Victoria were in the process of handing over their schools to be governed by a new lay led Public Juridic Person known as Kildare Ministries. This new entity has both canonical responsibilities as it was approved by the Vatican and civil responsibilities under the Australian Corporation Act. It has indeed been a journey for Kildare Ministries, Brigidine College and its Board and an exciting one at that!

The members of the College Board have been committed,

hard working and devoted to the ongoing growth and development of the College. A number have been past and current parents, others have been College alumni, while others have had no previous contact with the school. Nevertheless, they have come together to form a united and supportive group who have dedicated themselves to ensuring that Brigidine continues to flourish. It has been a pleasure to have been part of such a dedicated team.

So too, for the Leadership Team, initially led by Mrs Jane Curran and now by Ms Laetitia Richmond, who have supported the work of the Board in such a dedicated way. Their commitment to the College has been unwavering. I would particularly like to thank the

two Business Managers I have worked with during my time as Chair, Mr Greg Smith and Mr Richard Luxford, who have underpinned the work of the Board so conscientiously. They have prepared the papers for the Board and its Committees and ensured that its compliance obligations were met.

I would also like to acknowledge the staff of the College. I have never walked into the Front Office, the Common Room or Bowie Hall without a welcoming smile, a conversation or the offer of a cup of coffee. The same applies to the students, whether I see them walking in and out of the school or at the many functions I have attended. There is always a lovely “Brigo” welcome.

Finally, a big thank you must go to Mrs Vicki Scott, the Minutes Secretary of the Board and the PA to the Board. A day rarely goes by without an email from Mrs Scott sending out the papers, organising meetings and when necessary, reminding me of what is coming up. I wish her well in her retirement at the end of the year after 23 years at Brigidine.

My final hope is for Brigidine College, under the incoming Chair, Ms Michelle Dixon in 2024, to continue to grow and develop in its role of educating the young women in its care to be women of strength and gentleness in the Brigidine tradition. I have no doubt that it will continue to do so.

MS KITTY GUERIN
BOARD CHAIR
BRIGIDINE COLLEGE ST IVES



02 Faith and Wellbeing

Faith and Mission

Part of being a Brigidine student is about discipleship and strengthening our connections with Jesus as a foundation for living a good life. We use our time in Religion lessons, Chapel, Masses and Liturgies to reconnect with Jesus and the way we in which we should strive to live as Christian people. Beyond the community we hope all students use their gifts to enhance the lives of those less fortunate and to be advocates for others who have no voice.

In 2023, Kildare Ministries placed focus on their core value of 'Courage'. In the story of Jesus walking on the water towards his disciples in the Gospels, Peter takes courage and steps out of the boat to be with Jesus. As he feels the wind against him, he begins to doubt and starts to sink. Jesus calls to

him to 'take courage' and have faith. We always encourage our students to be courageous in their lives and in their learning. Taking on responsibility in student leadership, trying a new cocurricular activity outside of your comfort zone, pushing yourself with your study and learning, to not play safe and take the easy route, to be strong and courageous with your own moral outlook. This is courage in action and in 2023 it was shown in a number of ways both in Liturgy and in social justice activities.

The Commencement Mass at the start of Term 1 featured an Indigenous smoking ceremony prior to the start of Mass. Students and staff all passed through the small smoking fires on the College Green before they entered the hall for Mass. This action is symbolic of the

College's desire to embrace the rich culture of our First Nations people and take Brigidine College into deeper connection with local communities. A Reconciliation Action Plan has been prepared in 2023 for launch in 2024.

In Chapel time we focused on personal stillness and reflection exploring themes like Mary, peace and God's creation. Students created individual pledges for caring more for the earth and these were placed on cardboard leaves that decorated the Chapel space. The Community Involvement Program, or outreach, encouraged our students to do volunteer work in the wider community and in College initiatives and advocacy as well. In 2023 the take-up and completion rates were stronger than in previous

years and students were able to appreciate that they could reach out and assist others and build a sense of purpose and meaning through their involvement in this program.

The Year 12 theme of 'Dare to Dream' linked nicely with the exploration of the value of Courage. The Class of 2023 were determined, focused and inspirational in their activities and efforts throughout the year raising much needed funds and awareness of Ewing's Sarcoma through the Sock it to Sarcoma organisation. Years 7 and 8 supported the St Vincent de Paul Society through the Winter and Christmas appeals, Year 11 did great work for the homeless in Homelessness Week in Term 3, and Year 10 focused on our Indigenous people and steps towards reconciliation

in Reconciliation Week. Year 9 focused on Breast Cancer Awareness and held a successful Pink Day after a number of years of it not being able to proceed. A large number of staff and students had their hair cut to support people experiencing chemotherapy in the Cut for a Cause project. Again, courage came to the fore in this activity.

In Term 2 we celebrated a wonderful Founders Day Mass that culminated with the announcement of our 2024 Student Leaders and an enjoyable Founders Day Fair organised by the Class of 2023. At the end of Term 3 we were very grateful to celebrate a beautiful Graduation Mass and Dinner with our Graduating Class of 2023 and their parents.



Our Father's Day and Mother's Day liturgies were successful and well attended by the parent community. We always look forward to these special liturgies to build and affirm the strong ties between our parents and our students.



Our Liturgical celebrations and Chapel time drew us closer together as a community with a common purpose and focus. We know the theme of 'courage' resonated with many students and staff in the College and led to a stronger desire to make a difference to the lives of others. It encouraged us to be strong and gentle, and strive to be our best selves at Brigidine College.



MR BRIAN LOUGHLAND
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
FAITH AND MISSION

Camps and Retreats

We ran a successful and memorable Camps and Retreats program in March which involved the whole College.

Year 7 went to Chowder Bay and Cockatoo Island with the Land's Edge Foundation as our provider. They had three days of water-based activities on Sydney Harbour with time together as a whole group on the middle day at Clifton Gardens.

Year 8 had a day at Camp Kedron exploring personal development and wellbeing, a day of 'giving back' to local schools and charities, and a fun day at Cables Water Park in Penrith.

Year 9 journeyed to the South Coast and the Murrumbidgee National Park south of Ulladulla. They had four days of beach activities, camping, snorkeling, surfing, hiking and Indigenous awareness activities that pushed

them out of their comfort zones to work together and achieve personal goals.

Year 10 went to Wollongong for three days where they visited Wollongong Surf and Leisure Centre and the Nan Tien Temple and participated in beach activities including stand-up paddle boarding, kayaking and mountain bike riding.

This year we also held Spirituality Days for Years 7 and 8. A visit to St Pius X College facilities at Oxford Falls was enjoyed by Year 7 in October with a focus on 'Brigidine and Me'. The day was a celebration and study of our Brigidine heritage and story which will continue through their own journey at the College.

Year 8 had an interactive day with an external provider, Chris Doyle, exploring friendship,

discipleship, connection and faith through music and movement at Camp Kedron, Ingleside. It was a fun, meaningful and noisy day for the students who enjoyed the day immensely.

The Retreats program for Years 10 to 12 are student-centred experiences that allow them to explore and discuss their own spirituality and connection to one another.

The Year 10 Reflection Day was held in November as part of Transition Week for Year 10 students. This special day was a brief chance to stop and reflect on their journey so far and take time to affirm and support one another as they move into senior school.

In Year 11 the Retreat experience was a Street Retreat where the focus was on the marginalised and outcast members of

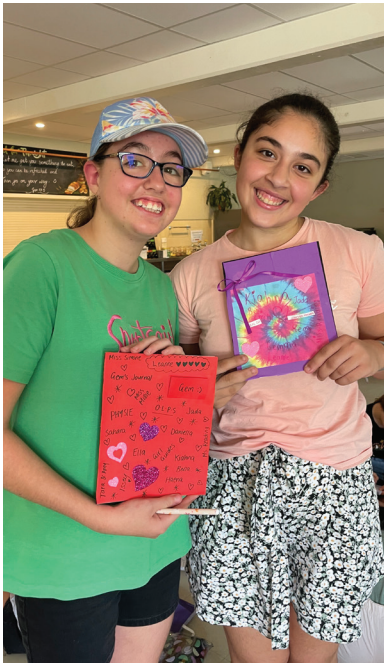
Australian society. It aimed to open up the hearts and minds of our students to a world beyond their own experience and to work out ways of changing this world through action, awareness and advocacy. We held this at the College on the first day followed by two days of experiencing the lives of marginalised communities in Sydney.

In Year 12 the Retreat was a highly successful experience at the Crusader Conference Centre at Galston Gorge. This Retreat focused on the self with an exploration of their own journey of life. At this critical time of change and movement beyond school, it created space for discernment over both the past and the future with consideration of key values and qualities learned and embedded in them along the way. Many Year 12 students saw this Retreat

as a highlight of their time at the College.

The Camps and Retreats program remains a key aspect of our holistic education plan at Brigidine. It is a significant and essential platform for the creation of the grounded, connected and purposeful young women who emerge from the College with a strong sense of self, a sense of humility and an appreciation for the breadth and depth of their education at the College.

MR BRIAN LOUGHLAND
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
FAITH AND MISSION



Social Justice

Thanks to the incredible enthusiasm and work of our Social Justice Captains Maria Ayoub and Anai Fensom along with the support of the whole school community, 2023 has been an extremely successful year for Brigidine social justice.

The captains introduced many opportunities for all students to be involved in a great variety of social justice initiatives. Cultural Diversity Week promoted diversity and fostered cultural understanding within our school community. Cultural games on the Green encouraged friendly competition while teaching us about different sports and activities from around the world. The most striking feature was the cultural background map located on the verandah of the McCammon building, visually representing the diversity within our school. These

activities sparked meaningful conversations about our cultural heritage, fostering a deeper appreciation for each other's backgrounds.

The greatest achievement of our Year 12 captains was organising the Social Justice Forum.

This powerful and thought-provoking event aimed to shed light on the adversity present in our world and inspire action within school communities. One of the key components of the forum was the inclusion of speakers from multiple charities. These speakers shared their experiences and insights, providing a firsthand perspective on the challenges marginalised communities face and the crucial work being done to address these issues. This diverse representation from many schools allowed for a rich exchange of ideas and

perspectives, emphasising the universality of social justice concerns and the importance of solidarity among young people.

In March the Social Justice Leaders embarked on a transformative journey to Melbourne, joining forces with fellow Kildare schools in a collective effort to tackle pressing social justice issues. One speaker illuminated her quest to establish an injection centre in Melbourne, advocating harm reduction and compassion in addressing addiction issues. Another speaker delved into the complexities of sustainable development, emphasising the critical role we play in safeguarding our planet's future.

The leaders visited the Mater Hospital, where they lent a hand at their annual market stalls, raising funds to provide comfortable bras for breast

cancer patients, offering them relief and support during a challenging time.

Daffodil Day was another remarkable success. We joined forces to raise funds for cancer research, helping to bring hope and healing to countless individuals and families affected by this disease.

Years 7-10 students embraced the Community Involvement Program and saw the large impact small acts of kindness have on the wider community. By deepening student capacity to give time to others, it is hoped Brigidine students will continue to develop empathy and compassion for those who are less fortunate.

Whole school Social Justice initiatives were well organised by each year group to support marginalised people and raise

awareness in our community to enable change. From the Winter Sleepout, Pink Day, Cut for a Cause, the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal, Homelessness Week, a petition advocating for women's hijab rights in Iran to organising speakers at assembly, Brigidine students have been encouraged and empowered to work for change and advocacy.

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the incredible support and participation in our social justice initiatives. Together, we have made a meaningful impact on various causes because of the College community's support.

MRS SKYE WACHER
COORDINATOR
DUKE OF EDINBURGH





Wellbeing

The Wellbeing program at Brigidine College has certainly welcomed and embraced the return of an array of wellbeing opportunities to support the growth and development of each student. Throughout the year, our commitment has primarily focused in promoting social and emotional skill sets through many carefully planned and targeted programs across all year groups. We recognise that an integral element of the adolescent formation is through fostering self-awareness, self-control, self-management and in this current world, the importance of continuing to invigorate effective interpersonal skills. Our intention is to prepare

and educate our students to be equipped with effective competencies and life skills to endorse positive and healthy wellbeing.

Within the context of a Brigidine College education, we also recognise the interdependency between learning and wellbeing. Learning, through a contemporary lens, extends beyond academic outcomes and provides an opportunity to support the wellbeing of the 'whole child', an approach highlighted in the Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians (2008). Research indicates that students who have healthier levels of

wellbeing are more likely "to have higher achievement outcomes at school and complete Year 12; better mental health; and a more prosocial, responsible lifestyle" (L Waters, 2019). The purpose of providing a supportive and structured Wellbeing program is so every student feels supported to reach their full potential and strive to develop the necessary skills to help overcome difficult times through safe and appropriate measures. As a community that embodies courage, compassion and care, strong connections and a sense of belonging, we also enable each student to feel known, understood and recognised for their unique gifts and talents.

Our Brigidine College Wellbeing programs this year have continued to address relevant issues during Pastoral time which is structured between Year and House group opportunities. To support our vision, we engaged with effective and highly inspiring presenters, organisations and workshops within each year group to cultivate effective protective factors, whereby "health is created and lived by people; where they work, play, learn and love" (World Health Organisation, 2006).

MS SIA MASTRO
DIRECTOR STUDENT WELLBEING

"Our role with wellbeing education is to provide the opportunity, access, choices, resources and capacities for individuals and communities to aspire to their unique sense of wellbeing whilst contributing to a sense of community wellbeing."



College Captains

What a year it has been! Our Year 12 journey kicked off with a bang, launching our 2023 theme, 'Dare to Dream' and charity, Sock it to Sarcoma. Sharing the launch video and dancing and singing on stage with the whole cohort in our pyjamas at assembly is a memory we will forever cherish.

Our theme and charity have been at the heart of all that has taken place this year and have inspired many initiatives including Trivia Nights, whole school scavenger hunts and Founders Day.

Founders Day is the most loved and exciting fundraising event on the Brigidine calendar. Creating and running our own stalls, singing with our friends in the House Sing Off and cheering for all of Brigidine's talented students participating in the Talent Quest have been defining moments of our Year 12 journey.

We will never forget taking to the court for the 2023 Students vs Staff basketball match in front of the entire school. The gym was

filled, energy was high and the cheers were deafening.

It is this support and enthusiasm that creates the incredibly special culture we will miss here at Brigidine.

While our cohort has accomplished so much this year, it's the little moments shared with peers in classes, meetings and at lunchtimes that have truly brought us together and helped form a sisterhood that will last forever.

2023 has been a busy year, but without a doubt, the most unforgettable. As we reflect on our time as Brigidine students, we have come to realise how quickly the time has flown. We couldn't have dreamed of a better final year.

**SARAH HUDSON AND
DAISY DADDO**
COLLEGE CAPTAINS 2023



House Captains

Our time as Fatima Captains has been nothing short of incredible, filled with unforgettable memories that will forever hold a special place in our hearts. Athletics, Swimming and Cross Country carnivals united us as a spirited and cohesive team, cheering on our fellow housemates and competing with unyielding determination. One of our proudest moments as house captains was winning the Swimming Carnival house chants. The Teacher vs Student Relay added a touch of friendly competition, bringing us even closer as we challenged our teachers with laughter and friendly banter. But it wasn't just about sports and music; our house initiatives strengthened

our bond as a family. Whether it was dominating in netball against other houses and year groups or showcasing our skills in the intense handball competition, we approached every challenge with passion and sportsmanship. As Fatima Captains we couldn't be prouder of the memories we've created together, the friendships we've forged and the spirit we've instilled within our house. Our amazing time as leaders has been a testament to the power of teamwork and the magic that happens when we come together as one. GO FATIMA!

**KEELEY HOLMES AND
MOLLY BACZKOWSKI**
CAPTAINS, FATIMA HOUSE

Having the opportunity to represent a house with such amazing spirit has been an honour for us both. It has been a joy and privilege to see the effort and inclusive spirit every girl has shown during our carnivals, house initiatives, pastoral activities and sports games. We are both so proud of our Kildare girls, seeing the support and energy each girl has given to our racers and participants, especially the Swimming Carnival house relay which saw everyone in the stands on their feet, cheering for our swimmers. Amazingly talented swimmers combined with our spirited house won us the Gold medal!

We cannot forget the blazing heat on the day of the Athletics Carnival which made the event slightly more challenging but as always Kildare represented with full commitment and pride.

We want to thank all of Kildare House for making our leadership journey so memorable. We are very excited for next year's captains to experience the same house spirit we are so grateful to have.

**ELOISE BRADBURY AND
EMILIE HUXLEY**
CAPTAINS, KILDARE HOUSE



It has been a huge year for Lourdes. The Swimming Carnival, held on the first day back of Term 1, set the tone for Lourdes' domination. We swam, we chanted, we "life saved" and we ended up taking the victory and bringing home the trophy.

Only a few weeks later we had our Athletics Carnival. We withstood the heat and enjoyed our "Lourdes Luau" themed day to our best ability in the conditions. We still managed to win the War Cries and the entire carnival.

We withstood the elements once again at the Cross Country Carnival, running through puddles and trekking up slippery

hills, and the Lourdes Ladies showed up proudly and ran their hearts out. Lourdes ultimately won all three carnivals, a first in Brigidine history – what an accomplishment!

The girls should be commended for their efforts this year. As Captains we have immense pride in Lourdes House and we are so happy to have been able to lead such a fantastic house, full of spirit. It's been such a privilege to be part of such a monumental year for Lourdes and we will cherish it dearly. LOU forever!

**SCARLETT JUDD AND
LOLA MEIKLE**
CAPTAINS, LOURDES HOUSE



Being Prague House Captains for 2023 was an incredible experience. Our role was not just about leading, but also inspiring and encouraging the entire Prague House. Collaborating with the other house captains and year leaders allowed us to bridge the gap between different year groups and foster a sense of togetherness across the entire College.

Throughout the year we organised a variety of engaging house initiatives that generated excitement and healthy competition among students. From scavenger hunts around the school, to netball and handball tournaments, we ensured everyone had opportunities to participate and showcase their talents.

Apart from sports events, we actively contributed to charity fundraisers, such as the sausage sizzle, where we witnessed our collective efforts make a positive impact on the community. Moreover, our dedication to fostering friendships and enthusiasm within the Prague House was evident in the memorable cheers and creative costumes we prepared for the carnivals.

As our time as House Captains has drawn to a close, we carry with us cherished memories and the deep bonds of friendship we forged during this journey. Serving as Prague House Captains was undoubtedly a privilege, and we eagerly await the accomplishments of the next leaders in the coming years.

**ALANA REDDY AND
SIENNA WILSON**
CAPTAINS, PRAGUE HOUSE



03 Students

Year 7

New beginnings

About to embark on what seemed like the impossibly huge task of starting high school, our newest members of the community quickly solidified their presence in our Brigidine story by vivaciously participating in the Swimming Carnival, the Athletics Carnival and the Cross Country Carnival all within the first few weeks of their arrival at the College. They participated with all their might, they cheered, they proudly dressed in house colours and themes. Their transition to “Brigo” girls was swift and enthusiastic.

Confidence

The girls continued to show amazing tenacity and determination by representing Year 7 and the College with incredible successes in sport,

dance eisteddfods, music performances, debating, aerobics and through their participation in the many clubs and societies that run at lunchtimes during the week. Not only were they there to take part, they were also there to support, encourage and celebrate the achievements as a cohort, forming the early foundations of a lifelong Brigo family.

Connection

As suggested by Crowded House, this phenomenal group has always fought the weather with them! Glorious temperatures welcomed us to Chowder Bay and Cockatoo Island for the Year 7 Camp. This provided the opportunity to observe some of my proudest moments of their resilience, compassion, kindness and perseverance.

Further sunny skies supported the girls to understand their place in our Brigidine story with their Reflection Day at St Pius X College facilities in Oxford Falls. Again, they took the opportunity to connect with each other and our traditions, participating in “yarning circles” and creating their own St Brigid’s Cross, adorned with their qualities, values and of course, sparkles. The cohort shared another beautiful day of sun and sand at Palm Beach for their joint Science and PDHPE excursion, where they showed their zest for adventure, surfing, exploring rock pools and enjoying a day out of the classroom with their friends. These purposeful activities and events provided valuable opportunities for the girls to connect and build the skills to best prepare them for their high school journey.

Compassion and service

The girls fully embraced the value of service through their involvement in the Community Involvement Program. This saw them participating in five hours of community service to an incredible array of organisations and individuals in the wider community. The feedback we received highlighted the wonderful qualities of our students that we get to observe daily. Under the guidance of the selected Mentor Leaders, Year 7 left their final mark on 2023 with the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. They wholeheartedly threw themselves into organising, promoting, packaging and sending off jam-packed hampers to members of the community in need.

Strength and gentleness

Wound up like springs after their several Covid-19 lockdowns, these little firecrackers have shown determination to succeed, enthusiasm to get involved and excitement and preparedness to move on to the next chapter. They have navigated all the challenges that high school has to throw at them – buses, lockers, friendships, canteen lines, kilt length, books, laptops, and they have faced difficult times within the safety of Synan and the Quad, where we are forging partnerships with our families to embrace and enhance each student’s individual contribution to the tapestry of our story. I sincerely look forward to what they have to offer in 2024.

MRS SIMONE WEBB
YEAR 7 COORDINATOR



Year 7

FRONT ROW: Alyssa Behre, Sybella Hofmann, Natalie Vanza, Olivia Druce, Lily Lunn, Lucie Howell, Sophie Senanayake, Angela Weir, Georgina Baker, Isabelle Rogers, Asha Lagrutta, Olivia Childs, Harper Senanayake, Tiffany Tang, Isabella Miller, Emma Grimley, Angela Geng, Ruby Johnson

SECOND ROW: Hannah Ryu, Tabitha Mimmo, Emily Clear, Constance Brown-Min, Lily O'Connor, Carla Bayldon, Alexandra Danielian, Tzu-Ning Lu, Eloise Halloway, Gemma Elliot, Sienna Osborn, Cara Hatten, Alice Frost, Olivia Carter, Keira Hsiung, Abbey Qasabian, Lucinda Maple, Isebella Tan, Melanie Gordon, Angela Gnawali, Orla Cole

THIRD ROW: Madeleine Surjan, Mary Saraceno, Liya Jonker, Camila Hilton, Megan Penny, Grace Radley, Claudia Monahan, Coco Musgrove, Scarlett Frydman, Eva Marren, Michelina Parker, Grace Reynolds, Mackenzie Leech, Dimitra Fintanis, Lucille Hedgeland, Isla Crapis, Sophie Irvine

FOURTH ROW: Heidi Lillycrop, Jasmine Zervos, Josephine Lovell, Molly Joyce, Alivia Surman-Smith, Hannah Staude, Layla Legovich, Caitlin Paisley, Lucille Noble, Juliette Stewart, Summer Wadling, Katherine Raine, Xinyi Zhang, Tahli Radford, Aemilia Reese Gabila, Asha Wannell

FIFTH ROW: Cordelia Mills, Chloe Baierl, Hannah Walters, Sage McKay, Sofiya Wachjo, Tavnoor Kaur, Nina Spirkovski, Phoebe Byrne, Keira Anania, Jacinta Hamann, Honor Drysdale, Scarlett Whooley, Isabella Phipson, Abigail Asscher

SIXTH ROW: Ava Emmanoilidis, Grace McKay, Willow Peschardt, Joanne Shi, Erin Cran, Xuanwen Xiang, Isabella Gaze-Jones, Sofia Taylor, Mila Lakic, Olga Kotleeva, Charlotte Ross, Ellana Ross, Ella Fraser, Hanne Lofhjelm, Rosie Steger, Anisha Mellers

SEVENTH ROW: Sally Arthur, Scarlett Creswick, Rachael Hartwig, Alice Karcher, Claire Dash, Caitlin Haydon, Elizabeth Copley, Heidi Mair, Bella Grace Nemeth de Bikal, Rachel Le Roux, Lauren Taylor, Evie Tucker, Edith McGill, Natalie Gantvoort, Zara Ellis, Savannah Richmond

ABSENT: Gemma Batchelor, Talisha Bigwood, Charlotte Heunemann, Bismun Kaur, Sabrina Sandrini

Staff: Ms S Webb (Year Coordinator), Mrs E Johns, Mr D Chant, Mrs J Allan, Mrs M Radcliff, Ms E Troha, Ms A Olver, Mrs R Summerfield, Ms E Carroll, Ms V Boyd, Ms J Marino (Absent), Ms R O'Brien (Absent), Ms J Ridgway (Absent)



Year 8

The Year 8 girls can reflect upon 2023 with a sense of pride, knowing they have experienced and embraced a vast array of opportunities that encapsulate our Brigidine values of strength and gentleness.

At the outset of the year, the girls explored their individual character strengths using the VIA survey to consider how they can use them to help others as well as themselves. To showcase our collective strengths, each student contributed to the Year 8 character strengths mural. Using watercolour paints, the girls illustrated their individual strengths and added their contributions to the canvas, highlighting the vast talents and spirit that define this cohort.

With this new understanding and focus on self-discovery, resilience and a positive mindset, the girls welcomed the opportunity of the Year 8 Camp experience. On the first day, the girls were guided by Nikki from Enlighten Education as they embraced the lessons associated with positive self-talk, friendship and self-discovery. On the second day, the girls engaged in community service initiatives, showing compassion through their participation in various activities such as cooking for Dignity Dishes, sewing sanitary items for Days for Girls, visiting local primary schools and participating in an environmental walk. On the third day, the girls celebrated friendship and fun at Cables Water Park.

This sense of friendship was also evident during our Year 8 Spirituality Day held at Camp Kedron in June. Guided by Chris Doyle, the girls revelled in a celebration of love and acceptance, fostering a sense of unity. Through shared laughter, singing and dancing, an understanding of inclusivity, kindness and acceptance was embraced by all.

I commend the altruistic attitude of this cohort, particularly evident in Term 2 as the girls extended their support to the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. Through their compassion and commitment to serving the marginalised in our community, the students donated and packaged snack bags and care packs to those in need.

I would like to acknowledge the generosity and commitment offered by our supportive Year 8 Mentor teachers, who have guided the girls each day.

Throughout the year, the girls have continued to flourish in their academic achievements and cocurricular activities. For Year 8, this has been a time when friendships have continued to thrive within Mentor Groups, lessons and activities. I hope the girls continue to embrace the invaluable lessons of compassion, acceptance and self-discovery in the years ahead.

MRS ANNE READING
YEAR 8 COORDINATOR



Year 8

FRONT ROW: Allegra Raso, Charlotte Clarke-Bruce, Amelie McGuire, Hakone Liceralde, Ebba Cordell, Poppy Telfer, Evelyn Mai, Angie Ho, Veronica Scully, Sophie Walsh, Holly White, Juliette Soady, Hae Na Lee, Willow Kirkpatrick, Phoebe Taylor, Chloe Bell, Anika Nazarian, Abril Blanco

SECOND ROW: Amelia Mather, Poppy Decker, Ava Inglis, Josephina Pellicano, Paige Sullivan-Bunt, Sofia Lenarduzzi, Sahara Ha, Ruby Ossowski, Madison Chan, Metta Brynildsen, Emily Hurst, Gemma Gannon, Charlotte McGregor, Ziyu Wang, Chloe Lee, Billie-Mae McGrath, Elise Shanahan, Alexandra Cornish, Lara Hathorn, Jemima Smith

THIRD ROW: Alexis Theodorides, Tiffany Kisahwan, Lara Bozikian, Chloe Kuo, Beatrix Gardner, Charlotte Croft, Coco Aquilina, Ruby Ryan, Yaejoon Baek, Yuna Han, Lucy Fitzpatrick, Lily Hulley, Poppy Templeton, Mia Soghomonian, Caetlin Ashby, Charlotte Chang, Jamila Rumjahn, Michaela Peters

FOURTH ROW: Adie Beeston, Raneer Wu, SooRim Lulu Gazal, Annabelle Willoughby, Ivy Bateman, Isabella Hier, Scarlett Metcalf, Sophia Benson, Indiana Murphy, Amelia Way, Abigail Roche, Ina Yun, Mae McEvoy, Ella Bruce, Amelia Terry, Ava Wearne

FIFTH ROW: Gemma Basilisco, Nikita Muriti, Isabella Andersson, Lily Cooper, Lucy Fitter, Abigail Julian, Sienna Bryant, Ava Neary, Mia Vale, Matilda Lloyd, Neva Carpenter, Mimi Boffa, Emma Creevey, Kiahna Marashian, Olivia Kilkeary, Sybilla Conn

SIXTH ROW: Ava Poulos, Sienna Poulos, Sophie Jackson, Jemima Sayers, Vienna Kaufmehl, Jasmin Didovich, Annabelle Zreika, Alannah Walesby, Ava Cran, Charlotte Fisk, Poppy Donald, Jada Drape, Inez Taylor, Stella Jordon, Ella Flynn, Madison Dickinson

SEVENTH ROW: Evelyn Howells, Charlotte Trout, Brooke Hanney, Brooklyn Philpott, Scarlett Pratt, Ellie Saunders, Macy Pickering, Sophie Scott, Sofia Ehnbohm, Isabella Scaturchio, Jasmine Cooke, Eva Perry, Joselyn Shen, Valentina De la Torre, Gemma Carson, Sage McConnell, Indianna Vale, Sofia Dewar

EIGHTH ROW: Rose Branagan, Isabella Lipari, Nakita Notaras, Caitlin Millar, Charlotte Rudolph, Jessica Widdup, Whitney Galvin, Livia O'Bey, Mary Formston, Olivia Greig, Samantha Shaw, Ella Wolthers, Clara Ross, Rose McLean-Johnston, Scarlett Nicholson, Isabella Parkes, Claire Mahon, Kate Bromby

ABSENT: Imogen Chorley, Madeleine Cormack, Scarlett Gerke, Sophia McKechnie, Rose McLean-Johnston, Mary Moran, Evie O'Sullivan, Tayah Rodrigues, Charlotte Rudolph, Yiwen Shen, Indigo Yamaguchi

Staff: Ms A Reading (Year Coordinator), Mrs T Suominen, Mr G Aird, Mrs T Byrne, Mrs M Covich, Ms E Goode, Ms M Bobanovic, Mr T Donlan, Mrs C Hatherell, Mr G Johns, Ms M Cooper



Year 9

Within the first few weeks of meeting Year 9 2023, I was so pleased with their outstanding applications for the Junior Leadership Positions. With a future focus this excellent cohort were continually encouraged to step out of their comfort zone and embrace the Leadership, Sporting, Dance, Music, Speech and Community Service opportunities here at the College in 2023 and beyond.

The girls enjoyed Year 9 Camp. The camp experiences included surfing, bush walking, stand-up paddle boarding and an Indigenous talk on the beautiful NSW South Coast. The weather was perfect, and the girls embraced the opportunity to try new skills, get to know each other as Year 9 students, and their Mentor teachers too.

Throughout Terms 1 and 2 the girls completed their 15 hours of community involvement activities. Their dedication to the chosen activities was admirable and a testament to their sense of social justice, community involvement and dedication to the core values of Brigidine College.

The end of Term 2 was an opportunity for 30 of our Junior Leaders to attend the YLead Altitude Leadership Conference at the Chatswood Concourse which was focused on personal growth and leadership development.

In Term 3 the girls prepared for and facilitated the most amazing Pink Day event. Their energy and enthusiasm was admirable and the girls raised \$2,235 to support Breast Cancer Awareness.

The girls have continually applied themselves to the increased learning demands of Year 9, through classroom activities and opportunities. They have shown excellent academic application and ability during the year including with NAPLAN, our College assessment block and their Allwell testing.

Throughout 2023, Year 9 have consistently demonstrated their determination and commitment to the College in every aspect of their learning. The variety of involvement in the College Cocurricular program and external excellence is impressive. Many Year 9 students performed in the Music Festival, Dance Spectacular, Drama Showcase evenings, Debating and all the sports offered on the weekend.

It has been my blessing to be their Year Coordinator this year and to see the girls embrace the opportunities and challenges each day. I have been proud to witness their growth, watch them step outside their comfort zone, build their networks and to look to the future to develop the skills and qualities of young people capable of achieving anything they set their mind to. I am looking forward to being their 2024 Year Coordinator.

MRS KATE RYDER
YEAR 9 COORDINATOR



Year 9

FRONT ROW: Kate Charlize Cochon, Grace Eldridge, Siena D'Alessandro, Chloe McGuire, Jade Beevers, Anabel Clancy, Sophie Reynolds, Amelia Hague, Jiaqi Chen, Emily Anslow, Amelie Breaden, Monique Smith, Jazleen Kandola, Ariel Qasabian, Amelia Edwardson, Emily Sing, Hannah Griffin, Fei Fei Xiao

SECOND ROW: Liliana Klimes, Natasha Lee, Amitiel McJarrow, Anishka Thakur, Nineveh Aniquae Cabigao, Rachel Yang, Evie Sadler, Sophie Clark, Lauren Turner, Ruby Halpin, Adela Zhang, Isabella Bozikian, Kayla Burman, Grace Miles, Bronte Alexopulos, Isobel Bagley, Imogen Cochrane, Anisha Karunakar, Nyzarel Oertel-Low, Yuk Chuk Lu, Jacinda Tam

THIRD ROW: Madelyn Gilio, Hollie Johnson, Dylan Searl, Seraphina Vescio, Serena Millin, Camila Diaz Cerpa, Zara Ong, Amelie Moraes, Erin Bardone, Imogen Cran, Hayley Pember, Eliana Mertens, Lila Bromley, Olivia Halloway, Emma Wood, Joanna Darby, Olivia Arianayagam, Lauren Procter, Amy Brent

FOURTH ROW: Marina Rothmund, Sienna Smith, Nia Harper, Chloe Lee, Zara Beevers, Annabel McKinnon, Matilda Asher, Tess Lever, Stephanie Graeme, Chloe Anania, Livia Hilton, Emily Cashin, Tasha Lillycrop, Chloe Rienits, Arabella Wallace, Melia Adamian, Jessica Kelly, Paige Copley

FIFTH ROW: Isabella Keir, Eliza Le Marne-Court, Zoe Mills, Billie Wadling, Elizabeth Langley, Leila Alami, Alexandra Knight, Kirra Rebec Smith, Angelina Jurisic, Clare Hurford, Sienna Severino, Danielle Scroope, Alice Halpin, Lilah Ogg, Eliza Zadro, Jessica Gannon, Gemma Woolley

SIXTH ROW: India MacNamara, Emily Lovelock, Skylia Lyons, Charlotte Stewart, Edie Scarf, Lia Van Wyk, Lily Lipari, Ailee Campbell, Abbey Pickering, Amelia Janoyan, Caitlin Dunn, Ava Deck, Ashleigh Weir, Sylvie McEvoy, Sienna Beecroft, Olivia Manojlovic

SEVENTH ROW: Niamh Flattery, Jessica Gantvoort, Ava Wilson, Madison Brandt, Georgia Alden, Mia Nemeth de Bikal, Poppy Smith, Jasmine Siddall, Kayla Moane, Isabella Fisk, Rose Aylmer, Olivia Higgins, Ereni Boutsikakis, Charlotte Bensley, Alyssa Sorbara, Gracie Daddo, Arabella Gerke, Greer Woodbury

ABSENT: Sophie Barker, Estelle Batchelor, Michaela Blewitt, Asher Christopher, Sophie Cooper, Hayley Dunbar, Tabitha Ferreira, Stephanie Graeme, Olivia Manojlovic, Lauren Procter, Emily Sims, Sienna Smith, Lia van Wyk, Chloe Walley, Hallie Whitfield

Staff: Mrs K Ryder (Year Coordinator), Ms C McCudden, Mr B Garratt, Mr R Bebb, Mr M Crewe, Mr D Clifton, Ms S Townsend, Mr P De Souza, Ms B Power, Mrs A Kilshaw, Ms E Holloway (Absent), Ms B White (Absent)



Year 10

The year started with our College Swimming Carnival, this proved very exciting for our elite swimmers. It was also a great way for students to catch up with their friends in an informal environment before lessons commenced.

Our Year 10 theme for 2023 was 'The Lotus' and the quote, "Just like the lotus, we too have the ability to rise from the mud, bloom out into the darkness and radiate into the world."

During a session of Pastoral Time in Term 1, we wrote all the things we would leave 'behind in the mud' onto a post-it note. We then folded the note and placed it into a paper cup. Mentor teachers then tipped the notes into a small fire pit, with the fire consuming all the things we wanted to leave behind, creating space for growth and renewal.

As the term progressed, we prepared for Camp. This was an opportunity for the students to

be in cabins with their friends. A highlight was having 'family breakfast' together and eating snacks late into the night. Other highlights included surfing, Trivia Night, and a beach walk to watch the sunset over the horizon as a full moon rose over the ocean. It was beautiful and a reminder to spend time in nature and be grateful for the many joys we experience in our world.

Term 1 concluded on a positive note with an Easter Liturgy and Caritas Rice Day.

Term 2 had a careers and academic focus with Morrisby Careers Profiles and examinations. These stimulated discussions around future subject choices for Years 11 and 12 and possible future careers.

Alcohol and drug educator, Paul Dillon, gave a presentation to Year 10. He spoke about vaping and how 90% of vapes contain nicotine, despite packaging that states they are nicotine free. I

am hopeful that this generation makes wise choices with regards to caring for their health.

Year 10 was also responsible for organising an Indigenous Awareness Charity Day with stalls to raise money for the Year 12 charity, Sock it to Sarcoma.

The term concluded with Founders Day celebrations where the College community attended a mass to honour our founders followed by fundraising activities for the Year 12 charity.

Term 3 commenced with a thought provoking presentation by The Butterfly Foundation. The main message relayed was to 'be kind to yourself' through self talk and actions. Two weeks later Year 10 received another presentation from the Anti-Violence Police which had been mandated to be presented to all students in NSW. The girls were very attentive to the message of 'Respect'.

Before we knew it, Year 12 was graduating and we wished them all the best for their exams and futures.

Term 4 commenced with Year 10 returning to school in crisp, white shirts and a 'senior mindset'. The focus was on preparing for examinations then suddenly the world as news of the conflict between Israel and Palestine broke. With many members of our College community having friends and relatives connected to the Middle East, it caused concern.

The past few years have seen many unprecedented and unexpected global events. Our students are leaning to navigate 'the new normal' with compassion and underpinning it with knowledge gained from reputable sources.

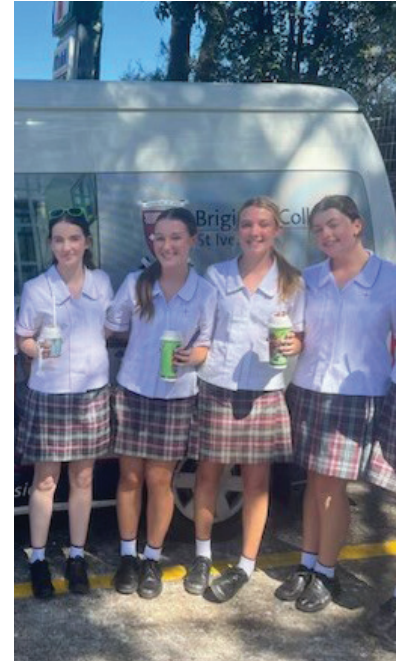
The year concluded with the Year 10 Semi Formal held at Manly Pacific. It was a wonderful

celebration and the perfect way to close the year.

For Year 10, 2023 has been a journey of growth in both their academic and social worlds. They have consistently demonstrated independence, consideration for others and resilience.

As they rise from their junior years with a strong foundation, may they leave the "mud" of Year 10 behind and shine their light into their future educational, creative, sporting, spiritual and social pursuits. May they continue to be young women of strength and gentleness.

MRS DONNA KUPER
YEAR 10 COORDINATOR



Year 10

FRONT ROW: Anita Vanza, Anna Ferguson, Megan Jeremy, Star Howell, Summer Woods, Alexandra Anderson, Alanna Devlin, Alisha Cheng, Bridget Howell, Madeleine Benson, Hannah Gill, Ashley Gerrie, Alana Gonzalez, Daphne Hudson, Deana Little, Arianne Wong, Briella Chung, Annie Zhuang, Lily Parker, Ryka Chakravorty

SECOND ROW: Amelie Hill, Ruby Hills, Holly McKee, Laura Zawodna, Rachel Grant, Sofia Little, Tyla Minns, Gemma Potts, Georgina Thomas, Charli Marks, Freya Lugg, Kiara Korompay, Poppy Kopelke, Caitlin Wilson, Alyssa Richards, Baylie Surman-Smith, Isabelle Osborne, Jimena Blanco, Jasmine Warburton, Rosalind Scott, Grace Osborne, Georgia McDowell, Cynthia Ma

THIRD ROW: Josephine Crocker, Olivia Taylor, Indigo Lake, Kali Day, Chloe Fleming, Isabella Breaden, Olivia Dwyer, Gabrielle Brooker, Sydney Wiltshire, Indira Mellers, Kristen Socrates, Hannah Della-Franca, Emily Moss, Ava Thomas, Alicia Danielian, Ivy Montgomery, Cameron Dalzell, Julia O'Hare, Georgia Potts

FOURTH ROW: Charlotte Fowler, Ava Lenarduzzi, Rena Hu, Alana Munro, Lauren Gordon, Emilia Atkinson-Dicandilo, Zoe Humberstone, Grace Kennedy, Isabella Cardinale, Sophia Willoughby, Jocelyn Lockyer, Alana Horne, Xiaoqi Zhang, Keilana Stoten, Rory Zhang, Olivia Roland, Kelina Vasquez Buzzolini

FIFTH ROW: Jaime Hamilton, Hannah Charlton, Cleo Dorau, Christine Kim, Jessica Surjan, Daniella Grantham, Charlotte Kentwell, Josie Howlett, Lucinda Hudson, Emilea Wallis, Olivia McGrath, Zia Hylton, Sofia Encina, Paria Shielsar, Caitlin Sanders, Ivy Guo, Isabella Ringrose

SIXTH ROW: Grace George, Elleni Turkovic, Sarah Lanyi, Sarah Grimley, Allegra Stritt, Georgie Calleia, Neve McGregor, Ella McSweeney, Cayleigh Hartwig, Marilla Gategood, Georgia Benson, Jamila Metzger, Roxanne Hathorn, Amilie Zhao, Matilda Saunders, Summer Rowland-Smith, Imogen Webber

SEVENTH ROW: Marlia Taylor, Sienna Stead, Chloe Byrne, Amber Hiscox, Paige Kerfoot, Olivia Hackwood, Jacinta Williams, Marta Donald, Cleopatra Westley, Claire Cornes, Olivia Belger, Scarlett Miles, Ariel Simonsen, Laila Pike, Ava Dear, Daisy-Sky Raaff, Alice Brown, Lily Wearne, Sigrid Veidners

EIGHTH ROW: Ciara Magee, Mia Links, Mikayla Chown, Nieve Binns, Olivia Lisle, Chloe Cogan, Mia Walsh, Sabrina Mulhearn, Alyssa Goodall, Elle Seaglove, Georgia Hackwood, Jessica England, Audrey Draper, Chelsea Bannister, Madison Grice, Zara Leslie, Hannah Baxter, Chloe Weber, Olivia Carson

ABSENT: Sienna De-Fina, Haylie Dimitropoulos, Talia Ellis, Georgia Luca, Ophelia Odell, Alexandra Quirk, Emma Walters

Staff: Mrs D Kuper (Year Coordinator), Ms H Holt, Mr R Farr, Ms M Choquenot, Mrs S Bremner, Ms S Singhal, Mrs N Greig, Mrs S Gibson, Ms T Wright, Ms A Campbell, Ms C Arnott, Ms R Carlson, Mr J Holmes, Ms E Preston, Mr F Fu



Year 11

2023 was a great year for Year 11. They grew closer as a cohort and supported each other through carnivals, cocurricular activities and all aspects of school life. The beginning of the year brought exciting new opportunities for students including a common room, free periods and senior leadership positions. Students were offered the opportunity to apply for positions in areas they felt passionate about, later voting, shadowing their current leader and being commissioned in their roles in Term 3. Leaders also attended a camp in Narrabeen to refine their leadership skills and encourage collaboration on exciting initiatives.

Throughout 2023, Year 11 has taken part in many different forms of community service. All students in the cohort led the school by picking up their aprons at home and preparing

meals for Dignity Dishes to support Homelessness Week. This charity initiative was driven by Year 11 and had students collecting meals from every year group and creating bundles for children's buddy packs. The Year 11 Retreat was centred around the idea of community service, with the cohort spending the first day hearing from speakers from the Edmund Rice Centre and William Booth House. Year 11 spent the next two days supporting the community through volunteering in venues such as soup kitchens, clothes sorting facilities for the homeless and guided tours through Kings Cross, listening to the personal experiences of those who have lived on the streets. This retreat was a memorable and rewarding experience for the Year 11 girls as they learnt about gratitude, empathy and kindness. In Term 3, some Year 11 students donated

their hair during the school's Pink Day fundraiser to create wigs for people undergoing chemotherapy treatment. Year 11 embraced the school's focus on community through their contributions in 2023.

It was evident that the cohort had become stronger throughout the year due to an initiative implemented in Mentor time each Wednesday. The Mentor leaders in Year 11 introduced 'Wellbeing Wednesday' which allowed for groups to combine during Mentor time and play games, talk or complete morning activities like the Push Up Challenge. This initiative encouraged the year group to bond and get to know different people. Year 11 students also unified through the 'Random Acts of Kindness' activity in which each girl was assigned one person to anonymously leave affirmations, art, origami, baked

goods, crafts, favourite sweets or small gifts in their locker. This brightened people's days and filled the Year 11 halls with a daily dose of happiness and kindness. In Term 3, the whole year group came together for Book Week, dressed in a *Barbie* theme. Year 11 students came to school in pink clothing and worked together to cut ribbons, make signs and paint their faces. The cohort danced and sang together on stage furthering establishing a unified group.

This was a year when students from Year 11 supported each other through participating or attending the College Musical *Footloose*, the Dance Spectacular, sporting grand finals, school carnivals, representative sports carnivals, Debating, Mock Trial, Duke of Ed and Festival of Music, just to name a few. This support and encouragement was especially highlighted in the

Year 11 play *Happily Ever After...?*, an amazing production written and directed by Miss DiAnne McDonald. The play showcased an abundance of talent and energy in the cohort. Each actor, Girls in Black member, backstage crew member, hair and makeup artist and choreographer all came together supporting each other to deliver a brilliant and entertaining show. It unified the whole community and cohort, allowing all students to support their friends in the show. Year 11 made 2023 a year centred around creating new friendships, nurturing existing ones and bettering both the year group community as well as the wider Brigidine one. Bring on Year 12!

MRS KAREN DUNSMORE
YEAR 11 COORDINATOR

**NATASHA TOWNLEY
AND INDIE SMITH**
COLLEGE CAPTAINS 2024



Year 11

FRONT ROW: Tahli Speter, Jasmine Speter, Sophie McGrath, Layla Dabile, Bronte Lloyd, Poppy Wilson, Joscelyn Campbell, Sabrina Chin, Xin Yi Zhang, Holly Calleia, Elsa Hudson, Livia Pannaci, Koey Chow, Adele Clarsen, Aiyana Misquitta, Raquel Quintal, Hailey Sing

SECOND ROW: Katie Booth, Dhatri Adla, Mia Wastell, Lucy Forman, Ines Teixeira Pinto, Isobel Gardner, Ruby Templeton, Maya Nicey, Cholet Murray, Ella Baker, Eleanor Taylor, Olivia Armstrong, Kate McCrindle, Jemima Johnson, Sofia Bonadio, Chloe Brent, Emily Wardell, Sonia Jerath, Isabella Flaks

THIRD ROW: Katherine Hocking, Nicole Steiner, Nina Vinci, Asha Czastka, Gemma Fleming, Maya Torlakovic, Sienna Perego, Annie Coutts, Charlie Ranucci, Venkata Akella, Charlea Maher, Isabel Czastka, Lucia Pinto-Engel, Saturnina Czastka, Anna Horton, Poppy Howlett, Hanah Bayldon

FOURTH ROW: Chloe Chen, Si Man Wong, Lily Halpin, Sophie Lowry, Zara McCauley, Alys Powell, Charlize Philpott, Madeleine Sedger, Bronte Suominen, Gemma Hatherell, Emma Johnston, Hannah Smith, Zoe Shirdon, Roseanna Huang, Caitlin Smith

FIFTH ROW: Clare Brennan-Lamb, Olivia Conroy, Sofia White, Hayley Christie, Jana Weingartner, Sofija Lakic, Erin Shanahan, Marnie Hilton, Zannah Dixon, Maya Flattery, Olivia Smith, Irlanda Biviano, Adrina Widjaja, Lara Price, Leilani Crowhen

SIXTH ROW: Tami Bettman, Romani Sprigg, Jessie Walsh, Mira Posen, Albee McInnes, Natasha Townley, Sienna Brett, Liliana Angus, Gabrielle Hopping, Zali Helsloot, Mariné Botha, Alara Sheather, Lola Kierans Ball, Lucy Manias

SEVENTH ROW: Leila McDougall, Sienna Newbery, Maggie O'Sullivan, Emily Guerrera, Gisella Sorbara, Annika Ehnbohm, Grace Smith, Emily Brandt, Sophie Watling, Sophie Hemens, Ava Luxford, Stefanija Lakic, Isabelle Banbury, Summer Brennan, Amber Davies, Elishka Fawle

EIGHTH ROW: Mia Perry, Milda Magyle, Keira Hawkins, Indie Smith, Sophie Walters, Sophie Hoppett, Chloe Nemeth de Bikal, Natalia Binks, Sophia Cooper, Caitlin Walley, Zoe Tobin, Annaliese Chan, Olivia Finn, Tatijana Lofhjelm, Isabella Dawson, Lizelle Jeremy

ABSENT: Sienna Achdjian, Liliana Angus, Cadence Barnett, Natalia Binks, Dakota Clifton, Sophia Horbach, Olivia Howell, Hannah McGrath, Madeleine Sedger, Shiyu Shen, Kelly Theodorides, Chloe Tommerup, Georgia Young, Xin Yi Zhang, Sophie Zillman

Staff: Mrs K Dunsmore (Year Coordinator - Absent), Mrs D Gale (Year Coordinator - Acting), Ms K Crowley, Ms C Lim, Mr B Harrison, Ms E Forbes, Ms R Collins, Mrs B Byrne, Ms C O'Flynn, Mrs M Skinner, Ms J Bridges, Mr B Usmar, Mrs D Ballesty



Year 12

The focus for Year 12 was based on the African concept of ubuntu; “I am because you are.” It is the belief that we are defined by our compassion and kindness towards others, and that when we recognise the value of each person and engage with others in a meaningful way, we all become better. With this idea in mind, we started the year with a day led by Ylead. This gave everyone the opportunity to identify their own values and strengths, understand the importance of teamwork and recognise the good in others.

The 2023 theme ‘Dare to dream’ was launched with an incredible combination of film, fairy lights and fun setting the scene for supporting the charity Sock it to Sarcoma. There were bake sales, barbecues, lolly bags and of course Founders Day, all which focused on raising funds for a charity close to the hearts of this year group. In support of the theme, the Dreamer of the Week was awarded to staff and students who were nominated for their kindness, assistance and service to each other and the wider community.

This year’s carnivals were held in quick succession and provided many opportunities to promote house spirit. Year 12 led the way with great themes and costumes. Their energy and enthusiasm encouraged the participation of all students.

Our Retreat was held at a new venue this year and was a great success. The contribution of mentors and students created an amazing sense of community. It provided opportunities to reflect on the past, present and future, as well as the importance of time together.

Year 12 were also encouraged to value self care. They were guided to set achievable goals based on their strengths and to find time to focus on ways to relax. Mindfulness, meditation, journalling, acts of kindness and gratitude all formed part of their journey.

Year 12 enthusiastically embraced the many opportunities available to them across all areas of the College. They led with pride and challenged all to remember to “dare to dream!”

MRS NYREE LOVETT
YEAR 12 COORDINATOR



Year 12

FRONT ROW: Angela Bui, Grace Uther, Sophia Bignold, Alejandra Blanco, Amelie Bunt, Jordyn Stewart, Annabell Devlin, Sarah Hudson, Daisy Daddo, Carla Kopoushian, Jessica Tillotson, Sophie Osborne, Jessica Rheinberger, Sophie Vilensky, Zoe Turner, Bailey Haynes

SECOND ROW: Georgia Sharp, Claire Shin, Bethany Miller, Abigail Mills, Charlotte Enright, Emma Marshall, Mikaela Tregale, Jessica Hildebrandt, Grace Branagan, Stella Tucker, Erin Rothemund, Hester Geeves, Libby Tomkinson, Julia Ober, Louisa Le, Meshma Rajbhandari, Emersyn Murphy

THIRD ROW: Allegra Vescio, Vivien Shakespeare, Caitlin O'Sullivan, Salomie Vogrig, Genna Papaioannou, Annabel Lane, Hei Tung Wan, Jiarui Liu, April Lyster, Sarah Walsh, Alexis Pridgen, Imogen Dinnar, Georgia Lukacevic, Sophie Hart, Amy Masselos, Florentyn Heintz, Caitlin Waugh

FOURTH ROW: Charlotte Theodore, Ellen Mulhearn, Ella Tysoe, Halle Dickinson, Ella Marks, Alexa Hathorn, Georgia Aikman, Scarlett Davies, Mackenzie Russell, Mia Hutchings, Elodie Mouret, Arabella Kingston, Anna Weinress, Taylor Bradac, Jacqueline Lee, Sienna Amoah, Raya Santos, Scarlett Rowland-Smith

FIFTH ROW: Manon Preziuso, Meg Wannell, Sophie Tannock, Maria Ayoub, Morgan Moss, Chloe Osborne, Sabina Arianayagam, Charlotte Sim, Ella Magee, Kate Mullins, Jasmine Mulholland, Scarlett Judd, Zoe Miller, Amelia Smith, Sienna McKenzie, Emilie Huxley

Staff: Ms L Richmond (Principal), Mrs N Lovett (Year Coordinator), Ms S Rae, Ms A Finnerty, Mr H Morgan, Mr C Rutherford, Ms S Cimen, Mrs L McLeod, Miss D McDonald, Mr M Escorrido, Mr R Jones, Ms J Walker, Mrs L Hartwig, Ms J Sinke, Ms K Barnes, Mrs M Jackson

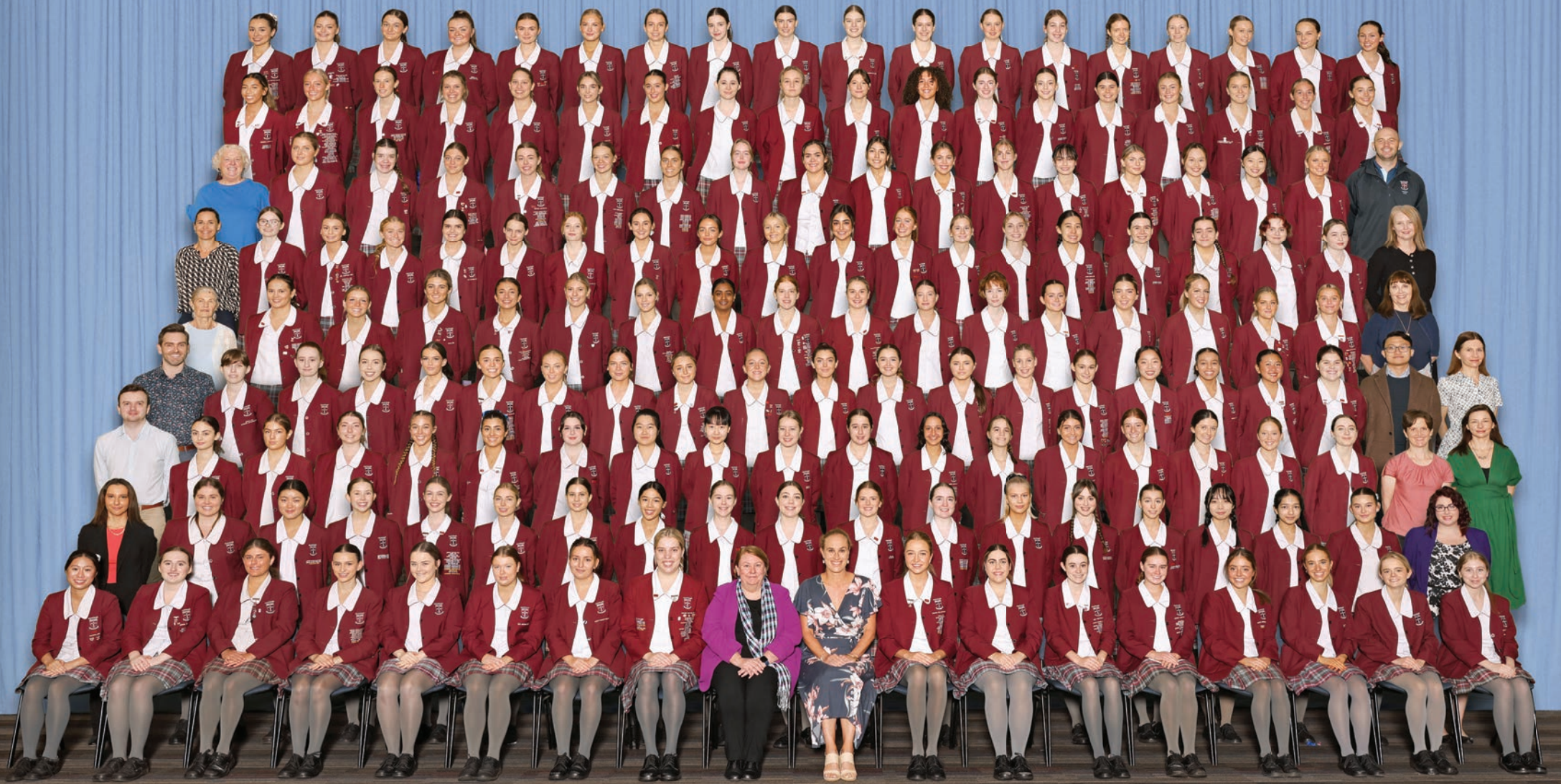
SIXTH ROW: Lulu La Ganza, Olivia Byrne, Charlotte McPhee, Alessia Marrocco, Ashleigh Karcher, Chianti Webb, Mia Wilson, Gabriella Gama, Elise Glase, Maria Kassis, Gabrielle Magee, Chelsey Watling, Ashleigh Cunningham, Erika Barnier, Ruby Klammer, Monique Benson, Anai Fensom, Tara Bardone

SEVENTH ROW: Ilinca Hobincu, Hannah Forman, Bethany Lever, Kirra Gilchrist, Sophie Temple, Amelia Fitzpatrick, Elsa McLean, Samsara Crowe, Sophia Kristiansen, Lola Meikle, Amelia Newton, Elif Caner, Isabella Brooker, Yoo Na Lee, Haneul Chae, Gabrielle Routledge

EIGHTH ROW: Lola Vallaydam, Keeley Holmes, Olivia Chaffers-Welsh, Jasmine Blanco, Zoe Pember, Bridget Nyssen, Lauren Watts, Charlotte Reynolds, Amelia Svanstrom, Isabelle De Ruiter, Grace Mercieca, Madison Lisle, Ashley Noble, Mia Thomas, Jasmine Walters, Alana Reddy, Molly Baczkowski, Eloise Bradbury

NINTH ROW: Sienna Wilson, Olivia Noble, Macy Marx, Ellen Jenkins, Sabine Westley, Olivia Armati, Hannah Thonell, Georgia Dewar, Isla Pegler, Emma Goodall, Zara Macilquham, Sky Faustmann, Isabella Janoyan, Hailey Cerneaz, Sophie Cornes, Ella Kennedy, Charlotte Richardson, Carmen Duncan

ABSENT: Stella Millbank





04 Academic Teaching and Learning

Through the curriculum and extension programs students were given opportunities in 2023 to extend their interests and further develop their learning and study habits. Our academic classes aim to assist students to take responsibility for their learning as well as to encourage critical thinking, creativity and collaboration. Our extension programs are particularly beneficial for students who are keen to explore subjects in greater depth and breadth. These programs provide challenges beyond the standard curriculum, which can be highly motivating for students who are passionate about a particular field.

In 2023 we were excited to introduce Engineering Studies as a senior subject which is a step towards building further student opportunities in STEM.

Accelerated Hospitality was again offered to Year 9 students who are interested in attaining Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications and potentially sitting the HSC examination in Year 11.

This year, we saw the welcome return of excursions, workshops and guest speakers after a long pause due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Students once again had the chance to learn outside the classroom and gain insights from experts across various fields. These experiences offer students the chance to learn in a more dynamic and interactive way, connecting classroom knowledge to the real world.

A special highlight for 2023 was the Year 12 Academic Awards Assembly, where families joined us to celebrate the wonderful

achievements of this outstanding cohort of students. This event was not just a celebration of academic achievements; it was a testament to the resilience and determination of our students. They have navigated through uncertain times and shown that perseverance and hard work truly pay off.

The success of the Class of 2023 was acknowledged further with many of the girls receiving early entry offers to a range of universities. We are also very proud that a number of our creative and performing arts students have received early recognition for excellence, with major works from Design and Technology, Textiles and Design, Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts being nominated for HSC Showcase events.

The following pages highlight that 2023 has been a year of growth and success, thanks to the dedication and hard work of both our students and the teachers who have guided them. Looking ahead, we are excited to build on this momentum, continuously seeking ways to enhance our teaching methods and curriculum to ensure that every student has the chance to thrive and excel. The journey of education is one of constant learning and adaptation, and we are ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, shaping a brighter future for all.

MRS LEONE SMYTH
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
TEACHING AND LEARNING



Academic Enrichment

The Academic Enrichment Honours Program provides students with opportunities to extend their interests and develop a love of learning while enhancing their critical, creative and collaborative thinking skills.

This year students in our Year 7 Critical Thinking classes learnt important skills such as creating pertinent questions and engaging in conceptual thinking, recognising cognitive biases and formulating strong arguments.

Year 8 Honours students developed their research skills and undertook a project of their own interest. This year students researched such topics as The role of classical narratives in Democracies, Pain behind beauty in the ballet world, and Technological solutions to climate change.

Years 9 and 10 Philosophy students delved into the world of Metaphysics, Ethics, Political Philosophy and Philosophy of Happiness. Year 10 students graduated with Intermediate Honours after presenting their Personal Philosophy Dissertations on topics as varied as The Metaphysics of the

Metaverse, Utilitarianism and Suffering: Peter Singer on saving lives, and The Philosophical implications of Disney Princesses.

Our inaugural Stage 6 Philosophy students completed their course by organising a Philosophy Conference with the theme 'Can Philosophy save the planet?'

2023 highlights include

- Reflecting on the impact of Artificial Intelligence and related ethical dilemmas at the Café de Flore conference.

- Receiving an Honourable Mention in the Senior Ethics Olympiads.

- Participating in a program organised by the Jewish Museum on Ethics and Ending Othering.
- Attending the *Thriving Minds Junior Stretch and Challenge - Inspire Ambition 2023* day where they were challenged with new philosophical ideas in the areas of politics, metaphysics, ethics and science.

- Years 8 and 9 students were involved in a Middle School Ethics Olympiad Training Clinic.

- Year 11 Philosophy students participated in the *Speaking for the Planet Sustainability* competition, an art-based approach for youth advocacy for a sustainable world. The focus this year was 'Reaching Net Zero Together. What could we do to support our communities to reduce their energy, waste and transport emissions for a healthier, more liveable city?'. Romani Sprigg won First Prize in the Poetry performance category for her poem on the consequences of human dominion on the environment. Roseanna Huang won First Prize in the Speech category for her speech 'The Promise of Tomorrow'.

- Ten students collaborated with 12 other teams across NSW and ACT in the Middle School Ethics Olympiad. The Brigidine White team won a Bronze medal and the Brigidine Orange team won a Gold medal. They will participate in the International round in February 2024.

MS MARINE CHOQUENET
HEAD OF ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT (ACTING)



Dance

Highlights for Dance 2023

- Brigidine College received 19 Callback nominations from our Year 12 class of 11 students with a total of 33 practical works. This is a huge achievement and our most nominations ever received in Dance!
- The Year 12 Dance HSC Showcase drew a large crowd and was a very entertaining show, showcasing our talented performers and their works
- Many students from other year groups had the opportunity to be composition dancers for HSC works, gaining such valuable experience in learning about the composition process

- Curriculum dancers performed at whole school assemblies
- Year 10 completed their first solo compositions to a very high standard!
- Year 9 completed their first group composition works demonstrating their impressive ability to collaborate
- Excursion opportunities this year included attending *Callback 2022* for Years 11 and 12, showcasing exemplar works from HSC Dance 2022. Our own Coco Yamaguchi (Class of 2022) was accepted into this prestigious showcase. Years 9 and 10 enjoyed seeing a live performance from Australia's leading contemporary

company, Sydney Dance Company's *Up Close: Somos*.

Miss Marrocco and I are extremely proud of the achievement of all our Dance students this year and look forward to another big and exciting year of Dance ahead in 2024! A big thank you to our Head of Department, Miss DiAnne McDonald and the Drama department for their ongoing support and assistance in helping us achieve all the successes in Dance this year.

MRS KATRINA RENNIE
DANCE



Diverse Learning

The Diverse Learning department works alongside the Wellbeing team and all subject departments in order to provide an inclusive and positive learning experience for all students. Brigidine College is renowned as an inclusive and welcoming school which nurtures student potential across a broad range of subjects and activities. Our staff of classroom teachers, teacher assistants, counsellors and specialist support staff provide students with every opportunity for success.

Harnessing the benefits of technology whilst also trying to manage some of its challenges has been a particular focus in 2023. Similarly, balancing the benefits of this technology against the myriad of concerns regarding the online world remains a priority.

MRS HELEN THOMAS
HEAD OF DIVERSE LEARNING



Drama

Highlights for Drama 2023

- Brigidine College received 23 OnStage nominations for our outstanding Year 12 HSC Drama students. This means that our individual and group performances were considered among the best in NSW.

- We had a sold-out season of the Year 11 Play *Happily Ever After...?* (an original play written by Miss McDonald) featuring many of our Drama students.

- Josephine Crocker and Summer Rowland-Smith (Year 10 Drama students) were invited to be the keynote speakers at the Sydney Theatre Company's Education Launch, meeting the Artistic Director Kip Williams.

- Our Drama Showcase evenings showcased our Years 9, 10 and 11 Drama students' talents, featuring individual and group performances, and allowed our audiences of parents and friends to support some of the outstanding assessment performances.

- Drama teacher Mr Rutherford received the World Teacher's Guild Award for his wonderful contribution to the teaching of Drama.

- Many Drama performances were presented at whole school assemblies.

- Both senior Drama teachers were involved in HSC Trial marking at a number of different schools including Knox Grammar School, Abbotsleigh, St Augustine's College and Central Coast Grammar School.

A special thank you to the fabulous team within the department: Mr Chris Rutherford, Ms Cinzia Marrocco, Mrs Katrina Rennie, Mr Gareth Edey and Mrs Michelle Casiglia.

Congratulations to all the amazing drama queens that we work with every day - you truly make us believe that, as Shakespeare once said, all the world is our stage!

MISS DIANNE MCDONALD
HEAD OF DRAMA AND CURRICULUM DANCE



English

This year saw the launch of our wonderful new student-led publication, *The Lamp*. Named in honour of the Lamp of Learning, associated with St Brigid that is symbolic of the light of knowledge and creativity that education brings, this publication comes out once a term and features writing in a range of styles – from narratives to personal essays, to scripts, interviews and reviews. Each edition also features cover artwork designed by a student. Congratulations to our Creative Writing student leader, Josephine Crocker, and her editorial team of India MacNamara, Jacinta Williams, Georgia Potts and Arabella Gerke for driving this wonderful initiative. This team of passionate creative writers also attended a Creative Writing Adventures excursion to the State Library of New South Wales in Term 4.

We were so grateful to welcome back Emeritus Professor Dr Konrad Kwiet, Resident Historian

at the Sydney Jewish Museum and grandfather of Isabella Lipari (Year 8) and Lily Lipari (Year 9) to speak to our Year 8 students about his involvement in the Anne Frank story. Sadly, Anti-Semitism is once again on the rise around the world and, along with the horrors currently unfolding in Israel and the Middle East, our study of *The Diary of Anne Frank The Play Version* had greater resonance than ever this year. Another very welcome return visitor to Brigidine in 2023 was Paul McDonald from The Children's Bookshop who spoke to our Years 7 and 8 students about trends in teen fiction and all the wonderful new books that have been published recently.

Congratulations go to our five Extension 2 students on the completion of their HSC Major Works. These students were Monique Benson, Anai Fensom, Gabrielle Magee, Amelia Newton and Alexis Pridgen. As part of the introduction to the course, the students attended the HSC

Word eXpress English Extension 2 seminar run by the State Library of New South Wales – a full day interactive masterclass featuring some of the most experienced leaders of the Extension 2 course. We are also very proud of Roseanna Huang in Year 11, whose composition *Good Mothers* was shortlisted for the 2024 *What Matters?* Competition run by the Whitlam Institute at Western Sydney University.

Our English department has been a hive of activity in 2023 as we prepare for the introduction of the new Years 7-10 syllabus in 2024. Our new programs feature a range of exciting contemporary texts that we hope will engage the students with timely and relevant issues, expose them to diverse perspectives and voices within quality literature and encourage creativity.

MRS JANET WALKER
HEAD OF ENGLISH



History

2023 was a good year for History at Brigidine College. All students in Years 7 to 10 study the Mandatory History curriculum that has been in place for nearly 10 years. Students are introduced to and develop their skills in research, source analysis and understanding of historical events and issues. One of the challenges we face is the development of Artificial Intelligence, which seems to promise to make it easier to find information, but which requires critical thinking skills for students to be able to discern fact from analysis.

In Year 10 History students studied the Holocaust as one of their two Depth Studies. In Year 9 History Elective students successfully studied a new unit called Children in History, continuing the theme of exploring the often forgotten people in history.

The Anzac assembly focused on the stories of those people who volunteered to fight for their country but who were underage. Many of them survived and went on to live productive and fulfilling lives.

For the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic we were able to run excursions and in April and September the Year 10 History classes visited the Sydney Jewish Museum and spoke with a Holocaust survivor, which was a very moving and poignant encounter.

**MRS SHERRYL
BREMNER**
HEAD OF HISTORY



Languages

It was a vibrant and busy year for Languages at the College.

The Years 9, 10 and 11 French and Italian students took part in the Assessment of Language Competence Certificates. Hailey Cerneaz (Year 12) achieved a most outstanding and very impressive result, receiving the Top Student Award! She attained the highest marks of all the participants who completed the French Level 3 Certificate for Reading and Writing in all of Australasia. This outstanding achievement, a Brigidine College first, was recognised with a special Medal and Certificate.

Harmony Day was celebrated on 21 March. All students were given an orange ribbon to wear. Italian authentic cannoli and French croissants were available at lunchtime, while the Year 10 Italian classes took part in a Scopa tournament run by Mrs Caruso.

The Years 9 and 10 French classes attended the French Film Festival with Ms Carroll for a special screening of *Belle et Sébastien: Nouvelle Génération*. Students were able to gain a deeper understanding of French cinematography, language and culture.

Our Year 12 French class had a very eventful year. They attended an HSC Study Day at Sydney University as well as a Mock Speaking Day in preparation for their HSC Speaking examination. They also enjoyed attending the long-awaited excursion to the Alliance Française. This was followed by a French culinary lunch experience at The Little Snail French restaurant.

In Term 4 the Years 10 and 11 Italian classes attended the Italian Film Festival for a special school screening, followed by a pizza making demonstration and Italian lunch at the long

established and well-known Bar Italia. Italian Film, Italian Passions and Italian Business in Australia are key topics of the Stage 6 Syllabus.

An enormous thank you goes to the amazing Languages team, Mrs Caruso, Ms Carroll, Mr Chant and Ms Forbes for continuing to inspire our students and assisting in opening the doors to a much bigger world.

This year we farewell one of our long term French teachers, Mr David Chant. We thank him for sharing his passion and knowledge of the French culture and language and wish him all the very best. *Heureuse retraite!*

MRS MARIA JACKSON
HEAD OF LANGUAGES



Library

It was another busy year for Kinkead Library. Along with the ever-present promotion of literature and reading for pleasure by Library staff, there were some student led initiatives that deserve a mention. Our Library Leaders, Alexandra Anderson (Year 10), Deana Little (Year 10), Jasmine Cooke (Year 8), Metta Brynildsen (Year 8) and Chloe Baierl (Year 7) diligently organised Book Club activities once a week for a dedicated and loyal group of students. Kahoots was always a popular lunchtime activity amongst students. During Term 2 we read *Always a Monster* by Vanessa Len with the end of term highlight a zoom virtual visit by the author.

Kinkead Library also zoomed into TedxYouth Sydney 2023, with many classes privileged to listen to the passionate leaders of tomorrow speaking about some

very pressing topics. It was lovely to see Natalie Chandra (Class of 2013) hosting the event.

Write a Book in a Day was popular again this year and we awarded more book prizes than ever during Book Week for those students who had read more than 15 books. Students in Years 7 and 8 were lucky to attend an interesting presentation about writing and publishing by young author Ann Liang.

I would like to extend my thanks to the dedicated Library staff who work tirelessly to make the library a pleasant place to study. Our Teacher Librarian and ICT integrator, Ms Byrne, Mrs Nockles our Library Technician and Mrs Konkol our talented Library Assistant.

MRS LEANNE MILLER
HEAD OF LIBRARY SERVICES



Mathematics

We are thrilled to share with you the exciting developments and accomplishments within our Mathematics department over the past year. As we gear up for the upcoming NESA curriculum changes, set to be implemented in 2024 for students in Years 7 and 9, our focus has been on creating innovative programs to provide our students with the best possible learning experience.

The new NESA curriculum introduces a remarkable opportunity for educators to tailor learning programs that cater to the individual needs and abilities of our students. It emphasises the importance of nurturing students along their unique learning paths, ensuring they reach their full potential while establishing a solid foundation for future academic achievements.

This fresh approach means that teachers are no longer burdened with the need to check off every box on a predefined curriculum checklist. Instead, they have the freedom to concentrate on what each student requires most,

fostering a truly personalised learning experience.

At the heart of the new curriculum are two key components: Core content, which all students will engage with, and Pathway content, designed to guide students toward various Stage 6 courses. This dynamic approach provides our students with a holistic education that empowers them to choose their own learning journeys.

This year, we are delighted to have continued our commitment to mathematical excellence with the hosting of our beloved events such as Number Day, Pi Day, and participation in the Australian Mathematics Competition. On Number Day, our Year 7 students embarked on a thrilling mathematical scavenger hunt throughout the College, exploring the beauty of mathematics hidden in plain sight. During Pi Day, one of our exceptional students, Lulu La Ganza (Year 12), astounded us all by reciting an astonishing 1405 digits of Pi. Her determination to reach 1400 digits exemplifies the passion and dedication of our students.

Our department has fostered a strong partnership with Mathspace, which was recently featured on the *Industry Leaders* program on Foxtel. Brigidine College was the selected school to demonstrate the effective use of Mathspace in the classroom during this program. This exciting collaboration highlights our commitment to staying at the forefront of cutting-edge educational practices.

In other news, we bid a fond farewell to Mr Hugh Morgan after his five years of dedicated service to the Mathematics department. His contribution has been invaluable, both within the classroom and on the sporting field. We must acknowledge his remarkable achievement of three consecutive undefeated seasons with Brig 2 Football. As he embarks on a new chapter in his career at Shore School, we wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

MRS JACQUI BRIDGES
HEAD OF MATHEMATICS



Music

It has been an exciting year for Music as we have enjoyed getting back to pre-Covid days with performances, camps and excursions back in our calendar. Music classes continued to explore adventures in composing, performing and listening while our music ensembles have been busier than ever!

2023 Highlights

- Hosting the Association of Independent Schools of NSW (AISNSW) Music Conference.
- Performing our College Musical *Footloose* for a live audience.
- Taking the Stage Band to Bathurst for the *Big Band Blast*.
- Achieving success at the Northern Beaches and Ryde Eisteddfods with our Vocal Ensemble, Chamber Vocal Ensemble, Flute Ensemble and String Ensemble, and at the State Band Championships with our Junior and Senior Concert Bands.
- Having great fun at Music Camp at Collaroy preparing for our three-night *Festival of Music*.
- Visiting the Sydney Opera House to see the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra with renowned trumpeter, Wynton Marsalis.

- Watching our Year 12 superstars perform their repertoire before their examinations at the HSC Music Performance Night. A big congratulations to Jessica Hildebrandt who has been nominated for the HSC *Encore* music concert for her outstanding performances.

As I write my final department report, I am thankful for the wonderful years I have spent at Brigidine College St Ives. I have absolutely loved my time at this amazing school. It really doesn't feel like 34 years, the time has just flown by, and I am forever grateful to have shared my Brigidine journey with you all. It has been a privilege to work with so many outstanding teachers, caring year coordinators, dedicated teaching assistants and helpful support staff who go above and beyond. Thanks to the thousands of students I have been fortunate to teach over the years; you have made each day a joy. I feel incredibly blessed and wish everyone all the very best for the future.

MRS ROS BOYD
HEAD OF MUSIC



PDHPE

In 2023, the PDHPE department at Brigidine seized numerous opportunities to provide our students with enriching experiences, utilising guest speakers and excursions to enhance their learning journeys.

Our senior PDHPE students embarked on a journey towards acquiring fully accredited First Aid qualifications, a valuable complement to their academic pursuits. They also had the privilege of attending a practical sports science lecture, guided by a seasoned professional from a local university.

Years 11 and 12 Community and Family Studies (CAFS) students had a truly immersive experience, collaborating with the 4titude group in a heartwarming excursion focused on assisting adults with disabilities. This excursion seamlessly tied into their study of Groups in Context, providing a meaningful and hands-on context for their learning.

Year 10 Physical Activity and Sports Studies (PASS) students were treated to a unique opportunity by participating

in a learn-to-surf course, further enhancing their skill set. Additionally, they honed their golfing skills under the guidance of a professional, broadening their horizons.

Year 9 PASS students delved into training principles, crafting their training programs and putting their new found knowledge into practice during a biathlon at Mona Vale Beach, offering a practical application of their learning.

For students in Years 7 to 10 PDHPE classes, we strived to provide additional enriching experiences. Our Years 8 and 10 students in particular were challenged and entertained by mastering a fun yet demanding Jazz routine as part of their Dance unit. Year 9 PDHPE classes participated in a lively Ceroc dance day, collaborating with students from St Pius X, adding an element of excitement and social interaction to their curriculum.

Year 10 students further diversified their experiences by engaging in boxing fitness and Zumba classes as part of their

recreation studies, fostering physical fitness and wellbeing.

Year 9 PDHPE students were given the exceptional opportunity to develop their skills in AFL under the expert guidance of Greater Western Sydney Giants players, broadening their athletic abilities.

The year culminated with the eagerly anticipated Year 7 Aquatics excursion, where students ventured to Palm Beach. Here, they immersed themselves in a surfing lesson, practiced essential water survival techniques and gained a deeper understanding of beach safety, rounding off the year with unforgettable experiences and valuable life skills.

In 2023, the PDHPE department at Brigidine continued to be dedicated to the holistic development of our students, providing them with opportunities that extended beyond the classroom and enriched their learning experiences.

MR JOSH HOLMES
HEAD OF PDHPE



Religious Education

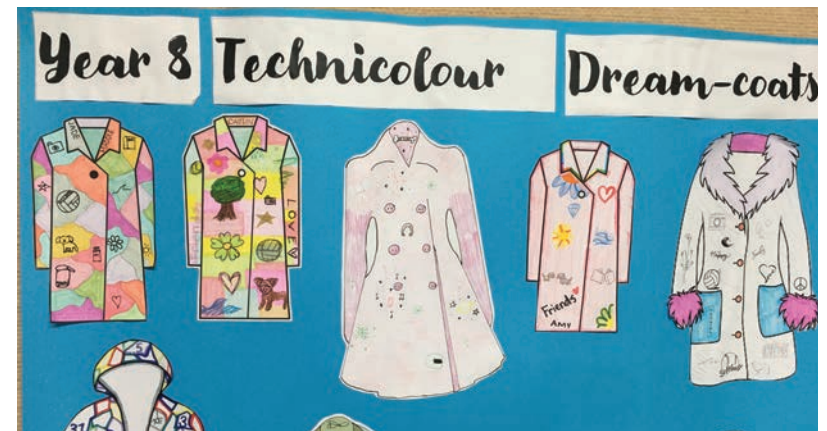
Throughout 2023 the Religious Education (RE) department continued to support the spiritual journey of students grounded within the Catholic faith and practice. Senior students undertaking the Studies of Religion course have explored important personal, social and cultural issues and have developed a greater appreciation for the significance of religion in the modern world. This has never been more relevant than in the global world we live in today. Studies of Religion explores the diversity of religious experience in the world and increases awareness of Australia's rapidly changing multi-faith society. It allows students to become more informed about their own religious heritage and spirituality, but to also identify other belief systems and non-belief worldviews in our pluralist world.

Our junior students in Years 7-10 have also been engaged in their learning, studying a

variety of diverse topics such as prayer in action, social justice issues, reverence for creation, women in faith and other world religions. Throughout the year students have been given regular opportunities to reflect on their understanding of faith and spirituality and how it can be a catalyst for growth and change. Through participating in open discussions students have explored challenging questions that probe the nature of faith, the idea of the transcendent dimension and the complexities of ethical living in today's modern context.

I would like to thank all our wonderful RE staff for their dedication, enthusiasm and encouragement of students to seek greater understanding and insight of the Gospel values and how they can manifest into action and change in the world.

MRS BRODIE BYRNE
HEAD OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Science

The start of 2023 saw the implementation of the new and innovative StileX resource for our junior Science classes. This is an enhancement of the online lessons available to support the teaching and learning of the Science curriculum with booklets that accompany each unit of work, along with a smartphone app that provides the girls with opportunities for deeper learning through explanatory videos, competitions and other activities they can do beyond the physical boundaries of the College. One such example was Veronica Scully (Year 8) winning the Art of Science prize with her wonderful entry for which she was awarded a set of Posca pens, Apple airpods and a \$500 voucher for the Science department to purchase technical equipment to be used in class.

It is wonderful to see so many of our Year 12 girls from our Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental Science, Physics and Science Extension classes gaining early entry offers to so many of the fields of tertiary Science studies for 2024 and beyond. We wish these girls well and trust that their experiences in their Science subjects at school will be of assistance to them in their future studies and careers.

Once again we have had very engaging and successful excursions for Year 11 Biology, Years 10 and 11 to Luna Park and Year 7 exploring the rock platform ecosystem at Palm Beach. Such hands-on experiences are never forgotten and make teaching science that much more fun too!

We have been very fortunate to have such a dedicated teaching team in Science in 2023. We are sad to say good bye to Ms Lindsey Wright and Ms Clara Lim who are leaving us for Brisbane and Melbourne respectively, and Mr Byron Usmar after his 12 years of dedicated service to Brigidine. We also farewell Ms Bri Power who has been filling in for others on leave. We thank them for their highly skilled contributions to the teaching of science, confident that their students have learned new things about the planet we live on and the world around us.

MR ROB FARR
HEAD OF SCIENCE



Social Sciences

2023 has been a year of discovery in Social Sciences as both teachers and students have explored new ways of learning and new topics to learn.

This year our Year 11 Business Studies students went to Taronga Zoo where they participated in a Marketing workshop and toured the facilities to learn more about the zoo as a business. Taking the information they had gathered, they applied their knowledge to create a business plan for a hypothetical new business to compete in the same market. Providing an authentic market for their proposed business led to collaboration and creativity in the businesses put forward.

Year 9 Commerce participated in our first ever Brigidine Shark Tank competition. Based on the popular TV show, students pitched their business ideas to a panel of “sharks” looking for an investment in return for part ownership. Ideas included customisable chargers, a smartphone app to alert allergy sufferers, and a shower with an inbuilt dryer function.

Geography students engaged in a range of fieldwork experiences. Year 11 students went to Bantry Bay to study biophysical interactions, while the Year 10 Elective Geography class travelled to Calmsley City Farm to support their study of Primary

Production. Year 12 students experienced the wetlands at Homebush, toured Green Square and visited Tamburlaine Vineyards in the Hunter Valley. Each of these visits provided valuable opportunities to collect data in the field and add rich examples to case studies.

Thank you to the Social Sciences faculty for their continual efforts to provide rich and interesting learning opportunities for each student. I also wish to thank them for their support in my first year at Brigidine College.

MRS EMMA FORBES
HEAD OF SOCIAL SCIENCE



Technological and Applied Studies (TAS)

What subject can offer experiences such as creating innovative Food Trucks to offer delicious sweet treats to fellow students, create amazing decorative cakes for celebrations of every kind, develop designs for an overpass pedestrian bridge over Mona Vale Road to ensure safe entry to school for students, and also allow students to create award winning Textile designs in a statewide HSC competition?

These are all exciting opportunities that have featured in our TAS learning environment this year. In addition, we have expanded our curriculum by introducing Engineering in Year 11, broadening the horizons of our students.

We were thrilled to welcome two highly talented staff members in 2023: Mr Garth Aird, Head of VET (Vocational Education and Training) and Tech Mandatory teacher, brought a wealth of expertise to the classroom this year, and Mr Mark Crewe, our new Hospitality and TAS teacher, shared his knowledge and

experiences, making learning engaging and informative for his students. Both have quickly become invaluable members of our TAS team.

2023 Highlights

Textiles and Design

In Textiles and Design we celebrated Rose Wood (Class of 2022) whose Major Textile Project was featured in the HSC Textstyle Exhibition and awarded 'Best in Show.' Our Year 11 Textile students had the privilege of visiting the exhibition where they could admire Rose's outstanding work.

This year, Brigidine College received four nominations for Shape 2023, an annual exhibition of exemplary Major Projects developed by HSC Design and Technology, Industrial Technology and Textiles and Design students, which will be held at Walsh Bay Arts Precinct in March 2024. Congratulations to Charlotte Enright, Hailey Cerneaz, Mikaela Tregale and Daisy Daddo.

Food Technology

We enjoyed numerous excursions across the city of Sydney from Year 11 cheesemaking in Roseberry at Omnom Cheese to Year 9 creating a native foods picnic in the Botanical Gardens

Year 12 visited CMS Surveyors to discover the importance of digital modelling in the design process.

Year 9's Food Trucks theme this year was 'Something old is new again. Reinvent a tired traditional sweet or savoury recipe using creativity and innovation.'

Year 10 cake decorating remained a favourite event. Our 2023 winner was Sienna De-Fina.

Year 7 Tech Mandatory cultivated edible herbs in the garden and monitored our native bee hive. A new native observation bee hive was also introduced this year.

MRS ROBYN COLLINS HEAD OF TAS



Visual Arts

This year the Visual Arts department embarked on a transformative journey marked by creative initiatives. One standout venture was the inaugural Bridgies Portrait Prize, seamlessly integrated into the Year 10 Visual Arts program. This project fostered a strong sense of community within our school, offering students an opportunity to collaborate closely with staff members. They honed their skills to capture not only the physical likeness but also the nuances of their subjects' personalities and interests onto canvas. The project's remarkable success bore witness to the students' unwavering dedication, further accentuated by the invaluable guidance of their Art teachers, Ms Bobanovic and Ms O'Brien.

Throughout the year, the dedication of Year 12 Visual Arts students was genuinely commendable. Their meticulous crafting of their HSC Body of

Work was a testament to their artistic talent and determination. Their remarkable effort was acknowledged and celebrated during the HSC Showcase Night held in Term 3, where their achievements and creativity were joyously recognised. We congratulate Isabella Brooker, Sophia Kristiansen and Jacqueline Lee whose works have been nominated for ARTEXPRESS.

Year 11 Visual Arts students delved into diverse artistic expressions, from drawing and collage to time-based art, ceramics and printmaking. This immersive experience expanded their art practice and deepened their understanding of the art world, preparing them up for their upcoming HSC journey.

Year 10 Photography and Digital Media students honed their skills during an excursion to Circular Quay and the Art

Gallery of New South Wales. Upon their return, they curated the *Journey Through Motion* exhibition, showcasing their unique perspectives of the urban environment.

Under the guidance of Ms Bobanovic and Ms Mountfort, Year 8 Visual Arts students created an impressive book featuring drawings they had done in class based on their study of endangered animals. This showcased their talents, creativity and commitment to raising awareness of endangered species.

The passion and talent exhibited this year promises a future rich in artistic endeavours and creative achievements at Brigidine, affirming the department's role as a nurturing ground for a new generation of artists.

MRS ALISON FINNERTY
HEAD OF VISUAL ARTS



Vocational Education and Training (VET)

The Vocational Education and Training (VET) program developed in 2023 with our first group of Stage 5 Hospitality students sitting the Preliminary Examination.

Our community Industry partnerships continued to strengthen with both Business Services and Hospitality students attending work placements this year. Industry placements allow students to experience work life for a week and to understand the expectations that are required in the workplace. Some of the industries that Business Services students attended included Surveying, Plumbing, Arborist, Air Conditioning, and Media. Students were able to develop the employability skills of communication, collaboration, problem solving, creativity

and time management. One of the highlights of this year's work placements was Vivien Shakespeare (Year 12) who was placed at the Greengate Hotel and received the VET Excellence Award from Youth Up Front.

The College was represented in the Catholic Schools Broken Bay Battle of the Chefs cooking competition by Amelia Newton (Year 12), Ellen Jenkins (Year 12) and Ashley Gerrie (Year 10). All students prepared a two course meal from a mystery box of ingredients. This was a hard-fought competition between the schools in the Broken Bay Diocese. Our students demonstrated high levels of creativity, teamwork and calmness under pressure to claim second place.

Years 10 and 11 Hospitality students completed two external courses this year. First aid was delivered by trainers from the Surf Life Saving Australia. This course provides the knowledge and skills to empower our students to act in emergency situations. The Prepare and Serve Espresso Coffee course saw our students learn how to produce and serve a range of coffee-based beverages.

The Hospitality staff and students should be commended for their professional approach to the food preparation and service at the various College events this year. The students' positive attitude and enthusiasm was well received by the College community.

MR GARTH AIRD
HEAD OF VET



Careers

There are several theories of career development that have impacted careers education in schools and other institutions. The most recent is known as the Career Clusters. The clusters offer a new way to visualise work, looking at clusters where there are definite similarities between work environments, tasks, skills and outcomes, rather than being specific industry focused.

This year Brigidine offered three Career Clusters evenings to students and parents. The first evening introduced the concept of the clusters and presented two

clusters: Makers and Innovators. Some of our panellists who work within these clusters included alumni: biomaterials engineer, Nadia Burke (Class of 2010), biomedical engineer Frances Goodman (Class of 2016), and fashion designer Mandy Guberina (Class of 2017). For students interested in the subject areas of Design and Technology, Engineering, Science and Mathematics, this was a most engaging experience.

The Guardian and Informer Career Clusters evening was focused on careers where

skills like supporting others, understanding of mental and physical health, communications, teamwork, information retention and willingness to share knowledge with others, are paramount. Alumni on our panel were corporate lawyer, Corinne O'Sullivan (Class of 2009), social worker Sarah Lhuede (Class of 2017) and doctor of psychology and executive manager of Allied Health Care Services, Natalie Mirabito (Class of 1998). We also had former Brigidine staff member Mrs Becky Lovelock, who now works as a Vice Principal Teaching and Learning, on our panel. This was a diverse and passionate group of women working in various careers to promote education, health and wellbeing. All were great ambassadors for this cluster.

At the third and final Career Clusters evening we heard from Linkers and Coordinators; those who are skilled in research, strategic planning, communication, sales, management and organisation. Alumni who formed part of our

panel for this session were lawyer Celine Nalbandian (Class of 2017) and senior account executive in the health and wellness sector Lucinda Mirabello (Class of 2017). Also on the panel was former Brigidine staff member, Ms Leah Crockett, who is an event coordinator (technical), educator and business owner. The event was co-moderated by Zoe Miller (Year 11) who is looking forward to exploring a career in Business.

Our Years 11 and 12 TVET (TAFE-Delivered Vocational Education and Training) students studied a range of courses off campus, online and in holiday study blocks. The courses included Entertainment Industry, Screen and Media, Nursing, Allied Health, Animal Care, Early Childhood Education and Care, Fitness, Design Fundamentals (Fashion). Well done to our senior students seeking dual qualifications at graduation, TAFE certification and the HSC.

Other important career events held in 2023 included Year 10 Morrisby Career Testing and follow up Information evening,

Morrisby Careers Exploration during Transition Week, lunchtime University Information sessions and the UAC Information evening for Years 11 and 12 students and parents.

At the time of writing we have received the good news that many of our Year 12 girls have been offered early entry into courses across a range of institutions:

- Australian Catholic University Guarantee Scheme (27 students)
- Australian National University Early Entry Scheme (14 students)
- Macquarie University Leaders and Achievers Scheme (44 students)
- University of Technology Early Offer Scheme (60 students)
- Western Sydney University True Reward Scheme (9 students)

Congratulations to these girls.

Thank you to all who supported Careers at Brigidine this year. It was a fantastic year!

MS MICHELLE COOPER
CAREERS COUNSELLOR



05 Staff

Staff Departures

We farewell and thank the following staff who leave us this year. We acknowledge their commitment and dedication. We wish them well as they embark on their next chapter beyond Brigidine.



MRS ROS BOYD
HEAD OF MUSIC

Mrs Ros Boyd is retiring following a distinguished career in education and 34 years at Brigidine. During her time at the College Ros has fulfilled a variety of roles including Music teacher, Head of Music, conductor of choirs, string ensembles and bands, musical director for the College musical and Acting Administration Coordinator.



MS KATE BARNES
SOCIAL SCIENCES

Ms Kate Barnes has been a member of the Social Science faculty over the last six years and has been instrumental in coaching and mentoring our Mock Trial team.

MRS MEGAN BROWN
TAS

Mrs Megan Brown has been a member of the TAS department for six years, since 2018. During this time Megan has shared many student successes including selections and nominations for TEXStyle and Shape.



MR DAVID CHANT
PDHPE, RELIGION, LANGUAGES

Mr David Chant has been a staff member at Brigidine for 23 years and is retiring. Dave has fulfilled a variety of roles including Sports Coordinator, Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator, PDHPE and French teacher, Athletics coach and Swimming coach.

MRS MEREDITH FERRIS
ENGLISH

Ms Meredith Ferris joined the College in 2008 and has been a valued member of the English department for 16 years.



MR HUGH MORGAN
MATHEMATICS

Mr Hugh Morgan has been a member of the Mathematics department for five years. He generously contributed to the Duke of Edinburgh program and Co-curricular sport.



MRS VICKI SCOTT
PA TO THE PRINCIPAL

After 23 years as PA to the Principal, Mrs Vicki Scott is retiring. Mrs Scott has worked with five Principals during her time at Brigidine, all of whom have been grateful for her support and dedication.

MR BYRON USMAR
SCIENCE

Mr Byron Usmar has been a member of the Science faculty for 12 years. Mr Usmar has been a key instigator in the areas of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), Astronomy and Robotics.



MS LINDSEY WRIGHT
SCIENCE

Ms Lindsey Wright is relocating to Queensland after 16 years at Brigidine as a member of the Science department.





06 Cocurricular

It has been a wonderful year for cocurricular programs at Brigidine. The College experienced strong enrolments across all activities, with another year of increased student participation.

An extremely exciting 2023 development was the announcement of the College Master Plan consisting of a Sport Centre redevelopment. This exciting project will deliver huge improvements to court spaces for training and playing, better change rooms and first aid facilities, improved parking and venue access, new staff facilities, and better outcomes for spectators and people

movement. With two new competition standard indoor courts, and a redeveloped synthetic grass covered outdoor court, cocurricular sport will receive much needed and eagerly awaited facility upgrades. The new Sport Centre redevelopment will provide additional benefits and activity space for a broad range of cocurricular activities including Dance and Sports Aerobics.

As a precursor to the pending Sports Centre development, 2023 saw the opening of the newly redeveloped Strength and Conditioning Centre. This facility is now enabling complementary sports specific and general

strength and conditioning programs across all four terms and sporting seasons. Strength and Conditioning classes are now offered as strategically designed and targeted classes under the watchful eye of our new Strength and Conditioning coach Mr Brent Tansley.

This year has been highly successful for Brigidine's Cocurricular program and the following pages are a testament to that.

MR OWEN VALE
DIRECTOR COCURRICULAR



Cocurricular Clubs

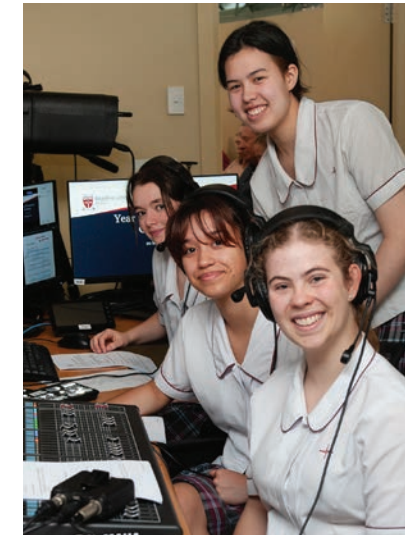
Creative Writing

The Creative Writing Club, made up of Years 9 and 10 students, launched a new Brigidine literary magazine journal this year called *The Lamp*. The publication title is in honour of one of the College's key symbols, the 'lamp of learning'. Students were invited to submit any form of creative writing and cover art for each issue.



Drama

The Drama Club continued to provide junior students with drama activities during lunchtimes. Held on Fridays and run by our 2023 Year 12 Drama Captains, Bailey Haynes and Grace Uther, the club offered students an opportunity to come together to create, communicate and make new friends.



Girls in Black

Girls in Black (GIB) provides not only amazing learning opportunities but also a community, connecting multiple year groups as well as a source for girls to find a hidden passion they might want to pursue that they may not have otherwise discovered. It is taught in a way that is easy to understand whilst also providing in-depth knowledge.

One of the topics we focused on this year was the sound system, from setting it up to understanding the important roles of each aspect of the entire system. These skills were put to good use in practical

opportunities, from the College Musical *Footloose* to the Year 11 Play *Happily Ever After...?* and the Drama and Music showcases. Girls were given the chance to assist in areas such as backstage with props and in the 'bio box' helping with lighting and sound.

These opportunities created a strong sense of unity among year groups while also providing a sense of support and involvement in the countless productions held at the College in 2023.

**MAYA FLATTERY AND
OLIVIA SMITH**
YEAR 11 GIRLS IN BLACK CAPTAINS

Cocurricular Clubs

History

This year, under the leadership of Alexis Pridgen (Year 12), the History Club has seen a surge in popularity. We began the year by hanging up the hieroglyphic canvases completed by the Club in the Synan corridor which read, “May your days be as bright as the sun”, as quoted by St Brigid. Then every fortnight we explored a new area of history with exciting activities making Ancient Chinese lanterns, learning how to mummify bananas just as the Ancient Egyptians did, warming ourselves up with Aztec hot chocolate and hosting an historical outfit dress up with newspaper. Girls also had fun during the Royal Tart Challenge where they had to remember as many of the English Monarchs to be rewarded with a sweet tart. I would like to thank Alexis for her leadership of the club this year, where she has inspired many of the younger students to engage with history.

MRS SAM RAE

HISTORY CLUB CONVENOR



Science

Our Science Club grew to around 15 keen and interested members who, each Friday enjoyed a wide variety of science related activities, from paper making to elephant's toothpaste and DNA extraction from strawberries.

MR ROB FARR

HEAD OF SCIENCE



Cocurricular Dance

The year 2023 for Cocurricular Dance is one to remember, with students from Years 7-12 participating in multiple Dance classes across the board. The excitement, energy and talent was exceptional which evidently holds Brigidine's reputation as being one of Sydney's best Catholic schools' Dance programs. Offering a variation of styles including Jazz, Ballet, Hip Hop, Musical Theatre, Tap, Lyrical, Contemporary and Salsa, our program caters to all students of any ability to get involved and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Our eisteddfod groups excelled with clean, fierce, professional and energetic routines this year as they braced the stage at the I'd Rather Be Dancing Eisteddfod, Dance Life Unite Eisteddfod, Extreme Dance Competition, Sydney Eisteddfod, and Dance

Spec Eisteddfod. Brigidine's Eisteddfod dance groups placed at every competition they competed in. One of the highest achievements of the year was our Company Contemporary group being awarded 2nd place out of 24 competitors with their routine *Always Been You* choreographed by Shannon Riley at the prestigious Sydney Eisteddfod, which was an incredible achievement.

The annual end of year Dance Spectacular showcase was held on Saturday 2 September. With two sold out shows and electric audiences the girls were filled with excitement as they danced their hearts out on stage. Opening the show was our renowned Company Jazz group, followed by a moving piece danced by our Year 12 Dance Captains Erika Barnier and Elif Caner, then an entertaining piece

from our Senior Musical Theatre group, and many more! We closed the show with our talented Year 12 Jazz group. As they danced together one last time, the wings filled with cheers and emotion as we farewelled our dancers. A big congratulations to our Year 12 Dance students who received 19 Callback nominations for their HSC works, and to four students who were offered positions to complete their full-time degree in Performing Arts for 2024.

We would like to thank our talented teachers and students for the incredible choreography, knowledge, passion and dedication to our Dance program in 2023 and recognise the strong sense of community we have built at Brigidine College.

MISS SHANNON RILEY
DANCE CONVENOR



Cocurricular Music

We have had a fantastic year of Cocurricular Music as we have returned to the normalcy of pre-Covid rehearsals and performances. We held our second Music Camp in recent years again at the Collaroy Centre. These two days allowed our ensembles to become closer in comprehensive rehearsals, as well as learning from industry professionals, and have fun playing laser tag, participating in trivia and in the talent show.

We had many successful results at eisteddfods this year:

- Alumni Concert Band (in the Open D Grade Section) and Junior Concert Band both placed 4th at the State Band Championships.
- Chamber Vocal Ensemble placed 1st at the Ryde Eisteddfod with a score of 96/100.

- String Orchestra won the Gold Award at the Australian School Bands and Orchestra Festival in the Loreta Fin Section.

- Vocal Ensemble received a Highly Commended at the Northern Beaches Eisteddfod.

We also had some fantastic performances. Our Stage Band performed at the St Augustine's College *Swinging with Saints* event and travelled to Bathurst in Term 2 to participate in the *Big Band Blast*. These opportunities allowed the group to work on their connection, skill and love of their craft.

The Vocal Ensemble performed at many various College masses including the Opening Mass, Ash Wednesday Liturgy, Founder's Day Mass, and Mother's Day Liturgy. The Chamber Vocal Ensemble and String Ensemble

performed at the Father's Day Liturgy, and the Junior Choir had the fantastic chance to perform at Grandparents Day.

These events culminated in the College's second *Festival of Music*, held in Term 3, which consisted of three consecutive showcase evenings featuring strings, band and vocals. Each of these concerts had performances from different groups, as well as solo performances and special guest appearances. The event included performances from our new Alumni String Orchestra, Alumni Choir, and the Alumni band who joined with our Combined Concert Band.

CHARLOTTE SIM
MUSIC CAPTAIN



College Musical

Footloose was the first musical we have been able to complete with a live audience since 2019. With the world plunged into uncharted territory during Covid-19, our production of *Chicago* due for March 2020 had to be cancelled and we distributed filmed 'Musical revues' in 2021 and 2022 for family and friends to enjoy at home.

It was important to us that the choice of show in 2023 reflected, in some small way, the journey of the past three years. *Footloose* was as a strident metaphor for our collective experience. It is the story of a faith community learning to dance again with the salient reminder that we often find our spirit in the space that exists between people. Through this lens, *Footloose* resonated

with all of us in a post-lockdown world processing what it means to rediscover the things we may have taken for granted.

As always, it was a group effort to put on these shows. The performers were ably supported by Mr Gareth Edey's Girls In Black technical crew whose contributions to the musical are essential. The set was designed by Mr Andrew Hodgson, our Property Manager and built by Mr Glenn Cameron and Mr David Yu from his team. We had additional support from a variety of staff members and on behalf of the Production Team we thank them for their contributions.

MR CHRIS RUTHERFORD
DIRECTOR



Year 11 Play

Could he be the prince of my dreams?

What do you get when you have the three fairytale characters of Snow White, Cinderella and Rapunzel all in love with what seems to be the same Prince Charming? Throw in a magical potion filled with a Fairy Godmother who can rap, a group of sassy bluebirds who can dance, a pair of all-knowing narRATors and a sparkling mirror that answers back? And who will live happily ever after...?

This production was the first original Year 11 Play I have written (with one Shakespearean scene as a homage...) to showcase the magical talents of our strong and gentle students.

We had 55 incredibly enthusiastic and talented Year 11 students on stage in this production and three dedicated and talented choreographers working behind the scenes!

This production was able to literally tap into the extraordinary talents of our Year 11s – whether it was performing, working behind the scenes helping backstage, with costumes or makeup, or creating choreography specially for this production. It gave many students the opportunity to perform on a stage for the very first time and I sincerely hope it left them with a lifetime love of the stage!

As the Fairy Godmother says to the audience “isn’t it always the truth that you wait all your life for one prince and then two show up at once!”. May you and your own debonair, dashing and charming “princes” live happily ever after...

MISS DIANNE MCDONALD
WRITER AND DIRECTOR



Duke of Edinburgh

The students involved in the Duke of Edinburgh program have achieved great things this year. Through all the challenges on expeditions and various components of the award, they have excelled and completed their awards.

Special congratulations to the Year 12 students who had the commitment and dedication to successfully complete their Gold award. They have inspired the younger Duke of Edinburgh students to stay motivated and enthusiastic about their award. It really is a once in a lifetime experience; many of these girls have created memorable moments and developed skills they will carry with them in their future endeavours.

Brigidine students have hiked and canoed many mountains,

lakes and rivers this year and enjoyed completing expeditions. Climbing to the top of Mt Kosciuszko to watch the sunrise was just one unforgettable experience during the many expeditions our Bronze, Silver and Gold students achieved.

As many students finish their awards this year, Year 8 students look forward to the opportunity to join the Brigidine program in 2024.

Thank you to the passionate Duke of Edinburgh Captains, Madison Lisle and Jessica Tillotson, for their leadership and support of all the students involved this year.

MRS SKYE WACHER
DUKE OF EDINBURGH
COORDINATOR



Debating

Debating at Brigidine continued to grow from strength to strength in 2023. Once again, over 65 students competed in three prestigious competitions: Independent Schools Debating Association (ISDA), Independent Girls' Schools Association (IGSA) Archdale Debating Competition, and Schools Debating Network (SDN).

Students attended weekly training sessions to help them learn new skills and practice formulating arguments. Each week students travelled to different schools across Sydney showing their developing skills and making improvements each week. Congratulations to all the girls on their amazing results.

MISS VICKY BOYD
DEBATING CONVENOR

Debating Highlights

ISDA:

Year 9 – Octo finalists
Year 10 – Octo finalists

SDN:

Year 7 – Grand Finalists
Year 8 – Semi Finalists
Juniors – Semi Finalists
Year 9 – Grand Finalists



Public Speaking

Summer Woods (Year 10) led the charge amongst a very talented group of public speakers in being selected for the NSW Final of the prestigious Rostrum Voice of Youth competition.



Theatresports

In 2023 our Theatresports team were Regional Finalists. Congratulations to Lulu La Ganza, Mia Thomas, Bailey Haynes and Zara Macilquham (Year 12).



MR OWEN VALE
DIRECTOR COCURRICULAR

Festival of Speech

The Festival of Speech was held at Ravenswood in October. Our participation grows every year and 2023 was no different. With 14 students participating across every section we saw some outstanding results. Students demonstrated their oratory skills in poetry recitation and public speaking as well as showing their eloquence discussing important current affairs and religious and ethical issues. Special congratulations to Amelia Hague (Year 9) who placed 4th out of 28 in the Junior Public Speaking, Summer Woods (Year 10) who placed 3rd out of 25 in the Senior Public Speaking, and also to Josephine Crocker, Sofia Little and Isabella Ringrose (Year 10) who placed 4th out of 23 groups in Religious and Ethical Questions. With these fantastic results and our incredible participation Brigidine ranked 8th overall. Thank you to all the students who participated, their dedication and hard work was clearly evident throughout the Festival.



MISS VICKY BOYD
DEBATING CONVENOR

Mock Trial

Mock Trial competition is a state-wide competition run by the Law Society of NSW and involves approximately 150 schools. It is open to students in Years 10 and 11 at the College. Brigidine's 2023 team included Emilia Atkinson-Dicandilo (Year 10), Koey Chow (Year 11), Josephine Crocker (Year 10), Sophie Hemens (Year 11), Roseanna Huang (Year 11), Lucinda Hudson (Year 10), Deana Little (Year 10), Sofia Little (Year 10), Anita Vanza (Year 10) and Summer Woods (Year 10). The competition ran throughout Terms 1 to 4 and our team was coached and guided by Ms Goode and Ms Barnes.

The Mock Trial competition is a great opportunity for students to develop skills in forming convincing arguments, public speaking, critical thinking and teamwork. Students also develop their understanding of the legal system and the courts, applying

their knowledge when building a case. This year we have been exposed to a range of legal disputes such as theft and breach of contract, acting as both the Plaintiff/Prosecution and Defendant.

Our team successfully made it smoothly through the first three rounds of the competition, allowing us to progress to the elimination rounds. We then won both our knockout rounds against The Sacred Heart and Redlands, with Brigidine now placing 6th in the State. In a tough Quarter Final, we managed a narrow victory against Sylvania High School. At the time of writing this article, the team won the Semi Finals against Chevalier College and will soon compete in the Grand Final against Loreto Kirribilli, which places Brigidine in the top two teams in NSW.

SOPHIE HEMENS
MOCK TRIAL CAPTAIN



Sport

Sports Aerobics

This year we had 10 teams competing at the National Championships in Adelaide and we came away with two silver medals and three teams finishing in fourth place!

AFL

Our AFL numbers grew again this year with eight teams entered in the Independent Girls Schools AFL competition! Our Open B team went through the season undefeated and came away as premiers after the Grand Final was played in very wet and muddy conditions.

Athletics

We sent 46 Athletes to the Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB) carnival this year, finishing first in the Senior division, fifth in the Intermediate division and second in the Junior division. We then had seven athletes selected to represent CSBB at the New South Wales Combined Catholic Colleges (NSWCCC) carnival.

Cross Country

This year Brigidine won the 15, 16, 17 and 18 years divisions at the CSBB carnival and had 10 runners selected to represent CSBB at the NSWCCC Cross Country. Keeley Holmes (Year 12) then went on to represent NSWCCC at the NSW All Schools Cross Country Championships.

Basketball

This year Brigidine had 13 teams entered in the Independent Girls' Schools Association (IGSA) competition and had one team win their IGSA division. We sent our Senior 1sts to the CSBB Championships where they finished in third place. Alana Reddy (Year 12) and Gemma Hatherell (Year 11) were selected in the IGSA Opens team and Alana was then selected in the New South Wales Combined Independent Schools (NSWCIS) team. Alana was also selected in the NSW Metro U18 team and competed at Nationals in April.

Football

Brigidine had 11 Football teams in the IGSA competition, which was a big leap in participation from 2022. Brig 2 and Brig 8 won their IGSA divisions, with Brig 2 going through the competition undefeated.

Hockey

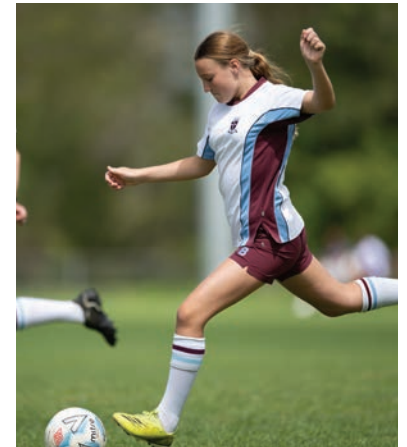
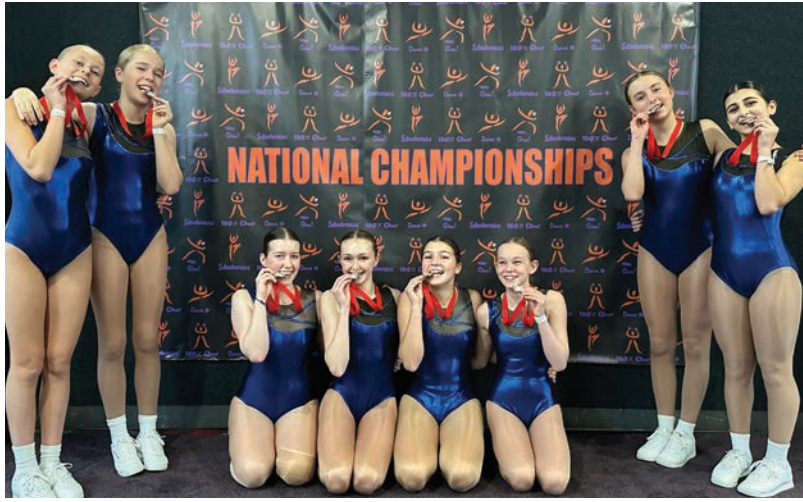
Brigidine had four teams entered in the IGSA Hockey competition, with our Senior and Junior 1sts progressing to the Semi Finals. Our Junior 1sts went on to compete in the Grand Final where they won in golden goal extra time, going through the season undefeated!

Netball

This year we had record participation in Netball with 26 teams. Of those, 20 teams made it to the Semi Finals and 13 teams progressed to the Grand Finals of the IGSA competition! We entered the Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB) Netball Championships with a Senior, Intermediate and Junior team. Our Junior team performed strongly on the day, finishing runners up to Mount St Benedict College. Isabella Parkes (Year 8) was selected in the IGSA 15 and Under Netball team and competed in the NSWCIS Tournament.

Rugby 7s

This was the second year for Rugby 7s at Brigidine. We entered six teams in the Chloe Dalton Secondary Schools 7s competition. The girls continued to develop and learn the game of 7s Rugby. We had five girls selected to represent NSWCCC at the NSW All Schools Championships – our first Rugby 7s representatives! Well done to Molly Baczkowski (Year 12), Annaliese Chan (Year 11), Marnie Hilton (Year 11), Leila McDougall (Year 11) and Meg Wannell (Year 12).



Softball

This year saw the introduction of a new competition, the Invitation Independent Schools Softball (IISS) Competition, which saw Brigidine competing against new schools outside of the IGSA competition. Brigidine entered a Senior and Junior team with both teams making the Semi Finals and the Senior 1sts going through the competition undefeated beating Barker College convincingly in the Grand Final. Five girls were selected to represent NSW CIS at the NSW All Schools Championships – Georgia Benson (Year 10), Kirra Gilchrist (Year 12), Josie Howlett (Year 10), Bethany Lever (Year 12), Natasha Townley (Year 11). Kirra Gilchrist has been selected to represent Australia in the U18 team at the upcoming World Cup Qualifying matches in American Samoa. Sophia Benson was selected in the U14 Australian touring team that travelled overseas to play in the New Zealand Easter Classic.

Snowsports

This year we had 11 students represent Brigidine in the Northern New South Wales and Queensland Interschools Snowsports Championships, equipped with new jackets and helmet covers. It was fantastic to see so many students representing Brigidine! Three students progressed to the State Championships – Sabrina Mulhearn (Year 10), Ava Wearne (Year 8) and Lily Wearne (Year 10). Ava competed in Snowboard Cross, achieving a personal best. Lily and Sabrina came 1st in Division 2 Slopestyle.

Touch Football

Brigidine had six students selected to represent IGSA – Sienna Wilson (Year 12), Leila McDougall (Year 11), Marnie Hilton (Year 11), Mia Links (Year 10), Tasha Lillycrop (Year 9) and Coco Aquilina (Year 8). Leila was then selected to represent NSW CIS at the Australian Youth Championships. We had 21 teams in the IGSA competition and look forward to defending the prestigious IGSA S01 title that we won in 2022.

Swimming and Diving

Brigidine finished in second place in the Senior division, 1st in the Intermediate division and 4th in the Junior division at the CSBB Swimming Carnival, with 11 swimmers selected to represent CSBB at the NSWCCC Championships. Ten of those swimmers went on to represent NSWCCC at the NSW All Schools Championships, with our Senior and Intermediate relay teams performing strongly. Hannah Smith (Year 11) won the 17 Years Springboard event and placed third in the Open Platform event at the IGSA Diving Championships. Hannah also represented Australia in her first international event in Norway, achieving some excellent results.

Tennis

Brigidine entered 15 teams in the IGSA competition held in Term 1. The weather was far more favourable than last year, with hardly any washed-out fixtures. We were unable to enter Tildesley this year due to a calendar clash, however we look forward to returning to Tildesley in 2024.

Volleyball

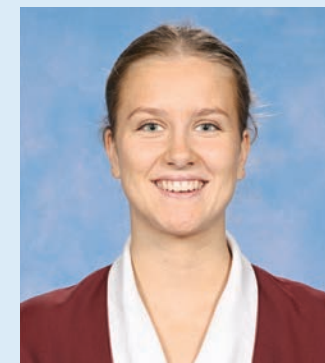
This year we had eight teams entered in the Santa Sabina competition. The girls enjoyed the competition and developing their volleyball skills.

Water Polo

We had an increase in team numbers this year, with nine teams entered in the Pymble Water polo competition, where we won the Junior A and Senior A division and narrowly lost the Year 7 division by one goal. Our Open A, Intermediate Maroon and Year 7 Maroon teams all won their divisions in the Northern Suburbs Schools Water Polo Association (NSSWPA) competition, going through the season undefeated. Albee McInnes (Year 11) and Sophia Cooper (Year 11) represented NSWCCC at the Interstate Challenge in July. Sophia toured with the Australian U17s team during the year and has again been selected in the Australian Squad after the recent National Championships.

Ruth Hackney Memorial Award - Alana Reddy (Year 12)

Alana has been awarded the Ruth Hackney Award for the third year in a row! In the previous two years, Alana has received the award for Outstanding Achievement in IGSA Sport, being selected in three IGSA teams in a year - Netball, Touch Football and Basketball. This year Alana has received the award for Outstanding Contribution to IGSA sport for being selected in IGSA Basketball for four years. To be awarded one Ruth Hackney award is a great achievement, so receiving the award three years in a row is amazing! Alana also received a NSW CIS medal for excellence in Basketball.





07 Community

Our College is made up of many different groups; students, parents, alumni, volunteers and neighbours. Each year these groups come together to get to know one another, connect with the College and make a difference. This year has been no different.

The year 2023 started with the College Welcome Cocktail Party. Bowie Hall was transformed into a tropical paradise and guests were invited to 'Flamingle' as they were entertained with live music and ate delicious canapés served by our Hospitality students.

The term continued with the long-standing tradition of our Lunch and Supper Groups and the newer tradition of Brigo Dads. We welcomed almost 100

Year 7 mums and 50 dads for lunch or supper giving them the opportunity to meet one another over a drink and a bite to eat.

Pioneers and Golden Girls Day is an important date in our calendar. This special group of strong and gentle women, the first students of the College, joined us for lunch and shared memories of their school days. The Classes of 1963 and 1973 celebrated 60 and 50 years since their graduation from the College.

The biggest event on the calendar for the students is always Founders Day. We are very grateful to the parents who came along to cook and serve a sausage sizzle for the whole school.

The biggest event on the calendar for parents, is the P&F Trivia Night and this year it did not disappoint. With the theme 'Brought to you by the letter B' there was a great array of costumes and much frivolity in the hall resulting in over \$32,500 being raised to go towards the upgrade of the College's outdoor court.

Alumni Day was held in November where we welcomed back to Brigidine the Classes of 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2018. It was a wonderful reunion for our past students who loved touring the College to see what has changed since their school days.

Christmas on the Green was another successful event this year with 32 market stalls on display and Christmas cheer being spread by our talented College choir and musicians. It was the perfect celebration to end the year.

All these events have one thing in common: togetherness. It is this togetherness that creates the community that is Brigidine.

MRS PIP INMAN **ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY** **RELATIONS**



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