



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Hope lights the Way

Tenison Woods College Early Learning to Year 12 Co-Educational Catholic College

WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY 2025 WEEK 1, TERM 1

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

Yesterday we warmly welcomed new Reception, Year 7, Poplars and our Year 10, 11 & 12 Cohorts to their 2025 School Year. Today we joined together as a College community for 2025, with all staff and students on-site and ready for a fantastic year.



From the Principal



Welcome

I was thrilled by the start that the Tenison Woods College Community made to the 2025 academic year on Tuesday 28 and Wednesday 29 January. I was particularly pleased to see staff and students looking refreshed and relaxed after the holiday break, ready to greet the challenges of the school year.

I offer a special welcome for all new students and new families to our larger school family. I hope you make many good long-lasting friendships and enjoy your learning at Tenison Woods College.

The Year Ahead and 'Hope Lights the Way'

This year we will be invited to reflect on the theme 'Hope Lights the Way'. Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope." Jubilee Years are times of renewal, repentance, and celebration of God's mercy. We honour in a Jubilee Year the Church's call for a journey of faith, hope, and renewal for individuals and our community.

With the inspiration of **Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"**

We appreciate that God's Word and hope guide us. As such "Hope Lights the Way" connotes a profound belief in the enduring power of hope to guide each of us and our community toward a brighter, faith-filled future. Furthermore, it reminds us to be ourselves beacons of hope, grounded in faith, for students, families, and the broader community.

Making a strong start, where 'hope' becomes action and attitude

In this year where "Hope Lights the Way" we continue to accentuate the importance of making a strong start, encouraging positive habits and regular work routines from the beginning.

Families are encouraged to set clear routines from the very start of the year and hold high expectations in all aspects of school life. Educational research highlights the importance of explicit and clear expectations (from parents, teacher and students).

The first days of the new school year for the whole College are important ones where many administrative matters are attended to and more importantly, information is passed on to our students to ensure a smooth and efficient start to the year. With the start of the new school year also comes a number of important documents. Please keep an eye out for these documents via email, with the majority coming from the EdSmart system.

Parent Community Connection opportunities

At Tenison Woods College, we value parent and community connection which helps to build a strong relationship between families and our College community, thus supporting the wellbeing of your children.

The connection between year groups helps facilitate this community building.



A quick survey

Please complete this short 2 minute survey to help inform us about how we can support your involvement with the College: [Click Here](#)

Messenger Chats

The Faith, Health & Wellbeing Committee of the Tenison Woods College Board invites Reception to Year 7 families to join a Parent/Carer Year Level Messenger Chat. This platform aims to enhance parent connections and support children's development through collaborative communication.

Purpose of the Messenger Chat

- Fosters connections among families to support children.
- Creates a welcoming environment for new and existing families.
- Enables parents to support each other in navigating parenthood.
- Aligns efforts toward children's development.
- Shares responsibilities and ideas.
- Encourages involvement in the TWC and broader community.

Connection Ideas

- Organising out-of-school gatherings (e.g., Valley Lake, Rail Lands).
- Sharing practical tips (e.g., Nude Food, Book Week costumes).
- Facilitating parent catch-ups.
- Coordinating support for school events.

Messenger Chat Protocols

- Two Parent Representatives per year level serve as Messenger Administrators.
- Concerns should follow standard processes by contacting the child's teacher, Wellbeing Coordinator, or Head of School:
- Administrators may address concerns privately if raised in the chat.

Membership

Participation in the Year Level Messenger Chat is voluntary for families and teachers and participants can opt in or out anytime.

To access the messenger chats please click on your child's year level link below (please note this will only work on a mobile device, and can not be joined for the first time via a desktop computer):

Year Level	Chat Group
Reception	Reception Parent/Carer Messenger Chat
Year 1	Year 1 Parent/Carer Messenger Chat
Year 2	Year 2 Parent/Carer Messenger Chat
Year 3	Year 3 Parent/Carer Messenger Chat
Year 4	Year 4 Parent/Carer Messenger Chat
Year 5	Year 5 Parent/Carer Messenger Chat
Year 6	Year 6 Parent/Carer Messenger Chat
Year 7	Year 7 Parent/Carer Messenger Chat

Working Bees, an easy way for parents to get involved in 2025

Over the next month there will be a series of events for parents. Some events will be social, some curriculum-based and some pastoral. I encourage parents to attend and be involved. This partnership provides the best outcome for our students. Two opportunities to get involved are our 2025 Working Bees:

Term 1	End of Week 3	Saturday 15 February 2025
Term 4	End of Week 4	Saturday 8 November 2025

Working Bees are not just about getting some jobs done, but they are way to connect with other families, and build community.

All the best for 2025!

With the understanding that at Tenison Woods College every learner has a place, every learner has a pathway and every learner will shine, we will continue our deliberate attention to the 2022-26 Strategic Plan, with the eight areas of endeavour:

The 2025 Key Initiatives will continue to be:

1. The (critical) literacies of our community EY-12, including an evolved appreciation of numeracy.
2. Resilient Impact and Growth Action Coaching of students and an appreciation of the Circle of Security for our young.
3. Developing our leadership capacity and presence.
4. Systemising and authenticating our ecology and sustainability approach.
5. Simplification of processes.

Recognising Achievement and Excellence in 2024 - School Dux And Academic Awards Assembly

On Tuesday 4 February, our College community will gather in the Barrie Holmes Stadium at 9.00am for our first Whole School Assembly for 2025. During the assembly we will celebrate the achievements of our 2024 Year 12 students with their excellent SACE results and also acknowledge our Middle and Senior School Academic Achievers. Parents are warmly invited to attend.

Standing on the shoulders ...

During our days of preparation we acknowledged the committed service of our wonderful staff. Please refer to the full story later in this edition of the Newsletter.

We greatly appreciate the impact that the above staff have had on the story and culture of the Tenison Woods College learning community and so we acknowledge their contribution with deep appreciation and admiration.

Positions of Responsibility

I offer congratulations and thanks to staff who have taken on new challenges in positions of responsibility this year. I thank staff who offered their talents last year in relation to Positions of Responsibility and I trust the staff who are taking on roles this year for the next two and four years will build on their predecessor's

efforts in a way that offers our community significant security, creativity, and opportunity. A summary of the staff who hold Positions of Responsibility is located on our website [here](#)

Making A Great Start

I hope that all students will settle into a productive routine as quickly as possible. The new year brings all sorts of new opportunities and experiences. In 2025 this is certainly so! It is an exciting time at the College and we look forward to providing many rich learning experiences as the year unfolds.

If you have any queries or concerns, please feel free to contact the College. We believe that it is critically important for your child's educational experience that a positive, healthy relationship exists between their parents and the College. This provides your child with a sense of security which is a foundation for good learning.

I look forward to seeing you around the College in the weeks to come and wish you every blessing in the year ahead.

All the best for 2025!

God Bless,
David Mezinec | Principal



CIM Team News

Welcome back families and students and a particular welcome to new families. As Religious Education Coordinator at TWC this year, I will be working alongside a dedicated team consisting of:

1. Rayhna Stephens, who will serve as the Catholic Identity and Mission (CIM) Coordinator for ELC to Year 6.
2. Chris Lloyd, who will serve as the CIM Coordinator for Years 7-12.
3. Beth Creedy, who will serve as the Liturgical Music Coordinator across the school.
4. Fiona Zwar, who will serve as the APRIM Administration Assistant
5. Teone Brauer and Chris Raymond, who will serve as Sustainability Coordinators.

Each team member brings a wealth of experience and expertise, and they are all committed to supporting the school in fostering an environment of faith, hope, and love. The CIM team works closely with the Parish and our staff to integrate the teachings of the Catholic Church into the curriculum, and assist in leading students in prayer and fostering a commitment to social justice activities throughout the year.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or if there is anything we can do to support you or your child on their faith journey.

Year 12 Retreat

This week our Year 12 students will embark on their annual retreat from Wednesday 29 January to Friday 31 January at Kangarooie Camp in Princetown, Victoria. This picturesque location will allow students to 'retreat' for a little while to reflect on their personal journeys and explore their relationships with God, themselves, their families, friends, and others.

Father Olek will join the retreat to assist in guiding our students, to set the scene for the retreat and to celebrate Mass. His presence will be greatly appreciated as students strengthen their connection with their faith and find meaning in their experiences.

Students will engage in activities and discussions that foster self-discovery, empathy, and a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of our lives. This retreat provides a vital opportunity for Year 12 students to pause, reflect, and gain clarity as they approach a pivotal stage in their lives.

We wish staff and students safe travel and an engaging and thought-provoking time away.

Term 1 Masses in the College Chapel

We look forward to welcoming students into the Chapel next week to celebrate the first Mass of this term. This is a great opportunity for our students to come together as a community. Mass will take place every Thursday at 9:10 am in our school chapel, with a different year level preparing for and attending the Mass each week. We welcome family and community members to attend.

Week 2 Thursday 6 February- Year 9

Week 3 Thursday 13 February- Year 8

Whole School Mass

The Beginning of Year Whole School Liturgy will be held at Marist Park on

Thursday 20 February at 9.00am. Parents and Carers are warmly invited to attend this special event.

FROM THE PARISH

Parish Picnic Day

The Parish Picnic Day will take place on Sunday 9 February in the Deanery Garden of St Paul's Catholic Church following the 11am Mass. Judging by its success in the previous years, it promises to be a great day with delicious food and great company. It's a wonderful opportunity to welcome many new parishioners and to renew friendships.



Upcoming Key Dates

Thursday 30 January

- Year 12 Retreat - Kangarooie
- New Students and new Staff ID Photos - PRC Lecture Theatre
- 12:30pm Uniform Shop Open

Friday 31 January

- 1:30pm Year 7 Parent Welcome BBQ - Gilap Wanga

Tuesday 4 February

- 9:00am 2024 DUX and Academic Awards Ceremony (Years 8-12) - Barrie Holmes Stadium

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Friday 7 February

- 2:05pm Years 4-6 Assembly
- 2:45pm Years 2-3 Assembly



STUDENTS CELEBRATE AN ACTION PACKED SUMMER AT OSHC

From science experiments to water days, and mini-golf to scavenger hunts, the fun hasn't stopped for the OSHC children over the summer holidays. Pictured below, are the children enjoying a Bunnings craft incursion, decorating compostable planter pots, and a trip to the Valley Lakes Playground with a sausage sizzle. We are thrilled to hear all about the wonderful holiday program.



ELCC SOFT PLAY AND UNCLE KEN VISITS

It's been an action packed holidays down in the ELCC, with brand new soft play equipment, and a visit from Uncle Ken who took the children on a Connection to Country walk around the College grounds. The children then made artworks inspired by their favourite plants.



AUSTRALIAN BUSH BUDDIES VISIT THE ELCC

Recently, the ELCC had the pleasure of welcoming back Louise from AUSTRALIAN BUSH BUDDIES. The ELCC children were bursting with excitement and displayed remarkable bravery as they interacted with a variety of fascinating animals, including the opportunity to pet and hold a Masked Owl, Krefft's River Turtle, Glossy Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Ringtail Possum and a Bearded Dragon. What an incredible experience for our ELCC Children to learn about these wonderful animals.





Celebrating Staff Milestones

To start 2025, we welcomed new and existing staff to the College. The day started with a beautiful mass held at St Paul's Church, led by Fr Olek who focused on this year's theme 'Hope Lights the Way' supported by our College CIM team. The College also recognised staff who have completed a Graduate Certificate in Catholic Education and celebrated the service of the long standing staff at the College.

10+ Years of Service

- Daniel Royals
- Rachel Calliss
- Terri Shaw
- Fiona Zwar
- Alana Fensom
- Nola Dixon
- Carlee Ransom
- Louise Drexler
- Jason de Nys



Above L-R: Recognising 20 Years of Service, Sandra Sochacki, Angelique Kenny, Troy Mustey and Kathryn Domaschenz

20 Years of Service

- Sandra Sochacki
- Angelique Kenny
- Troy Mustey
- Kathryn Domaschenz



Above L-R: Micki Greenham - 40 Years Of Service and Trudi Dempsey - 30 Years of Service

30 Years of Service

- Trudi Dempsey

40 Years of Service

- Micki Greenham



Mrs Opperman's Class is Leading the Way

Over the past couple of days Mrs Opperman's Year 5 class have made a tree where parents have written their hopes for their child for the year. We hope all students embrace the years theme of 'Hope Lights the Way'.



Please Observe Road Signs

The Shepherdson Road entrance after school can be very busy. For everyone's safety cars are not to overtake in the driveway. If you are wanting to access Gilap Wanga or Poplars, please use the White Ave entrance. If you are collecting children from the ELC please be patient or alternatively park in Marist Park. Please observe road signs.

Trudi Dempsey | WHS Coordinator



Important Sporting Dates Reminder

WEEK 1

Friday 31 Jan

Student Nominations due for the Swimming Carnival to be in via an online document sent through an email from Ava Collins our new sports trainee.

WEEK 3

Tuesday 11 Feb
Friday 14 Feb

Swimming Carnival @ Wulanda
Interschool Swimming @ Wulanda

WEEK 4

Tuesday, 18 Feb

Catholic Co-Ed Swimming Carnival in Adelaide

WEEK 5

Monday 24 Feb

1500m @ Marist Park
Compulsory for all Sports Academy students.
Timing of age groups TBA.
Tuesday 25 Feb
Wednesday 26 Feb
Thursday 27 Feb
Thursday 27 Feb
7-12 Athletics Carnival: 12pm - 3:20pm.
Please wear PE Uniform in house colours
7-12 Athletics Carnival: 8:35pm-3:20pm.
Dress-up Theme TBA

WEEK 8

Wednesday 19 March

Interschool Athletics @ Naracoorte High School

For further information or any questions, please contact Kaitlin Egan
eganka@tenison.catholic.edu.au



JOIN US AT

TWC Swimming Carnival 2025

TUESDAY, 11 FEBRUARY

8:30AM AT WULANDA RECREATION CENTRE

**SUPPORT YOUR TEAM BY
WEARING YOUR HOUSE COLOURS**

**BBQ FOR TIMOR AND CANTEN FACILITIES
AVAILABLE CASH OR CARD OPTIONS**



2025 Junior School Sports Update

Welcome to the start of an exciting school year! We hope you all had a wonderful break and are ready for a fantastic Term 1. I'd love to welcome our 2025 Sports Leaders – Charlie Winterfield and Alyssa Milich. I am looking forward to working with these two outstanding students.

This term is shaping up to be a busy one for our Year 5 and 6 students, with many opportunities to participate in SAPSASA sports. Below are the key trial dates for students who are eager to represent our school in their chosen sports:

- Monday 10 February** Girls & Boys Softball District Trials (Mount Gambier)
- Friday 7 March** Swimming District Trials (Penola)
- Friday 14 March** Golf District Trials (Penola)
- Friday 21 March** Track & Field District Trials (MGHS)
- Monday 31 March** Boys Australian Football District Trials (Mount Gambier)

State carnivals for Girls and Boys Softball will take place from Wednesday 26 March to Friday 28 March in Adelaide.

Swimming State Championships will follow on Monday 7 April in Adelaide.

Additionally, all Year 5 and 6 students will participate in swimming lessons as part of their curriculum this term. Edsmart notes will come out closer to the dates with further information.

To add to the excitement, our annual Sports Day will be held in Week 5, on Wednesday 26 February and Thursday 27 February. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their talents, cheer for their house teams, and build their sporting spirit.

We look forward to seeing many students embrace these opportunities and represent our school with pride. If you have any questions about the trials or other sporting events, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

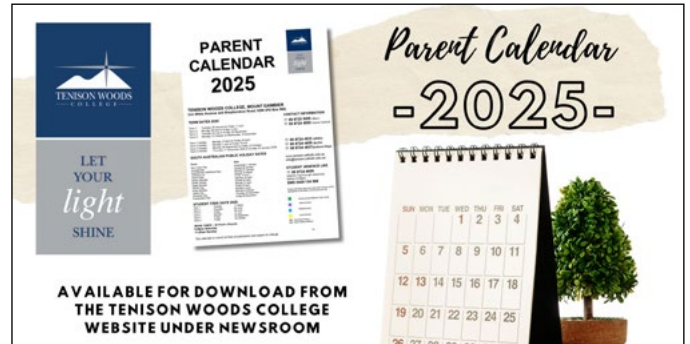
We look forward to a term full of fun, teamwork, and success in sport!

Tina Opperman | R6 Sports Coordinator

Parent Calendar Available

The 2025 School Calendar is available on the Tenison Woods College Website via the Newsroom Page: <https://www.tenison.catholic.edu.au/newsroom/calendar>

The Calendar captures the exciting year ahead for the College and you are encouraged to make it a feature in your family's planning processes.



Jackson Driver



Tayla Graney



Oscar Sneath

Student VET Successes

2024 concluded with three students obtaining apprenticeships. Jackson Driver commenced in Week 6 with Autocare Mount Gambier as an Apprentice Automotive Technician. Tayla Graney will commence a Hairdressing Apprenticeship in the New Year. Oscar Sneath has moved into a full-time Mobile Plant Technician apprenticeship with Fennell Forestry.

All students diligently worked towards this objective, securing work placements and undertaking VET training. We congratulate all three students on this wonderful outcome and wish them every success for the future.



Students Shine At Blue Lake Carols

Before Christmas, our very talented Thunder Drum Corps performed 'Little Drummer Boy' at the Blue Lake Carols alongside Simon Fisher and the Phoenix Choir.

Watch them perform using the below link at 1:46:00.

<https://shorturl.at/lqvTg>

SACE RESULTS

Over the holidays, the College were thrilled to receive the SACE results of our 2024 Year 12 students. It was incredibly rewarding to see their efforts and hard work across the academic year pay off with some outstanding results.



15 students with an ATAR greater than 90

Max Patzel	98.70
Lambrini Robinson	98.15
Lillie Paul	95.90
Geoffrey Slattery	95.30
Jemma Gittins	94.50
Milla Walmsley	94.40
Stella O'Brien	93.90
Heidi Berkin	93.85
Macey Griffith	93.75
Aleisha Brook	93.35
Molly Livingstone	92.30
Paige Luscombe	92.25
Aleisha Pearson	92.00
Ellie Mullan	90.25
Rajat Pandey	90.05

A further 21 students with an ATAR of 80 and above

16% of our students were in the top 10% of the state

Just over 38% of our students were in the top 20% of the state

2 of our students made up the top 3 ATAR achievements of the Limestone Coast.

Pictured above Back L-R: Molly Livingstone, Milla Walmsley, Aleisha Brook, Cara Nulty, Lillie Paul, Phoenix Lomas, Tillie Derrington, Macey Griffith, Lambrini Robinson. Front L-R: Ellie Mullan, Harry Chan, Max Patzel, Teangi Stephens, Rajat Pandey, Jemma Gittins

DUX - Max Patzel (98.70)

Max Patzel achieved the highest ATAR of Tenison Woods College. In 2025 Max will complete his gap year working at Camp Amercia. In 2026, Max plans to return to Australia and attend either Flinders University or Melbourne University to study Veterinary Technology.

Max achieved five A's in his school subjects;

- Spiritualities, Religion and Meaning
- Ancient Studies
- General Mathematics
- English
- Activating Identities and Futures.

He also achieved a Distinction for his two Flinders University Studies Subjects.



Subject Merit

One student gained a grade A+ with Merit. Lambrini Robinson with Spiritualities, Religion and Meaning (20 Credits). She was invited to attend the SACE Merit Ceremony at Government House in Adelaide in February.



Attainment of 'A' Grades



One student, Phoenix Lomas attained 7 A's in her subjects.



Five Tenison Woods College students attained A's in six or more of their subjects:

- Lambrini Robinson
- Aleisha Brook
- Tillie Derrington
- Jemma Gittins
- Milla Walmsley

A further fourteen Tenison Woods College students attained straight A's in 5 or more of their subjects: 15 Tenison Woods College Year 11 students gained an A for their Year 12 subjects completed in 2024, with three achieving this in two subjects.



We commend families and teachers on their contributions to the students' successes. Congratulations to all graduates on your results. We couldn't be prouder of what you have achieved.

2025 Junior Student Leadership



Casey Peterse
Junior Student Leader



Scarlett Pilven
Junior Student Leader



Sabine Teodoro
Mission Leader



Grace Mugavin
Mission Leader



Aaron Chen
Learning Leader



Emily Humphries
Learning Leader



Ava Hayden
Performing Arts Leader



William Mott
Performing Arts Leader



Alyssa Milich
Sport Leader



Charlie Winterfield
Sport Leader



Piper Clements
Sustainability Leader



Angus Robinson
Sustainability Leader



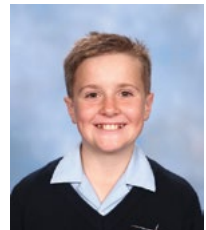
Harlow Dalton
Wellbeing Leader



Ellie Newell
Wellbeing Leader



Josh Lamond
Champagnat Founder Leader



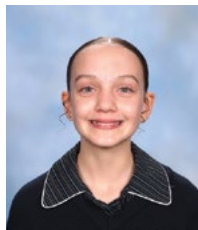
Ted Lucas
Champagnat Founder Leader



Sienna Buntsma
Mackillop Leader



Will Gannon
Mackillop Leader



Hadley Bryant
McAuley Founder Leader



Isaac Lindner
McAuley Founder Leader



Payton Bilney
Woods Founder Leader



Quinn Jennings
Woods Founder Leader





2025 Middle School Student Leadership



Kobe Bromley
Middle Student Leader



Alannah Phillips
Middle Student Leader



Alida Brokken
Mission Leader



Luca Hamilton
Mission Leader



Taylor Fenton
Sustainability Leader



Hiram Webster-Lawson
Sustainability Leader



Xanthia Coles
Wellbeing Leader



Amelia Gruetzner
Wellbeing Leader



Kurtis Bentley
Champagnat Founder Leader



Gretta Doman
Champagnat Founder Leader



Esha Brooksby
MacKillop Founder Leader



Poppy Flint
MacKillop Founder Leader



Tilly Prouse
McAuley Founder Leader



Fergus Tarr
McAuley Founder Leader



Lily Hackwill
Woods Founder Leader



Archie Olsen
Woods Founder Leader



2025 Senior Student Leadership



Andi Corfield
School Captain



Sam Crispino
School Captain



William
Mission Leader



Halle Zwar
Mission Leader



Candice Schreiber
Learning Leader



Jolie Vaughan
Learning Leader



John Gosse
Sport Leader



Mia Gysbers
Sport Leader



Tilly Salmon
Sustainability Leader



Harvey Zerk
Sustainability Leader



Isla Biggins
Performing Arts Leader



Leah Creedy
Performing Arts Leader



Amity Fennell
Wellbeing Leader



Chelsea Lucas
Wellbeing Leader



Finn Dickson
Champagnat Founder Leader



Xan Stephens
Champagnat Founder Leader



Abbie Anderson
MacKillop Founder Leader



Ben Braithwaite
MacKillop Founder Leader



Abbey Edwards
McAuley Founder Leader



Neve Rossouw
McAuley Founder Leader



Samantha Considine
Woods Founder Leader



Kiera McBain
Woods Founder Leader





Uniform Shop Opening Hours

Opening Hours

Tuesday 8:00am – 12:00pm

Wednesday 8:00am – 12:00pm

Thursday 12:30pm – 4:30pm

Online Store

To access the online Uniform Shop please [click here](#).

Kylie Watson | Uniform Shop

Ziana Showcases Talent on the Silk

In the Summer Holidays, Year 9 student Ziana Clarke attended Bend the Air National Aerial and Silk Championships in the Gold Coast. Ziana was awarded 1st Place National Champion (Teen Advanced Silk). Ziana enjoyed having the opportunity to meet competitors from all across Australia, as well as coming away from the event so inspired. A massive achievement, congratulations Ziana.



2025 SA Cycling Track Titles

Year 7 and 8 students Miles Kroon and Molly Opperman competed in the 2025 SA Track Titles in Adelaide in December representing the Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy.

This was Miles' first time riding on the indoor velodrome, trying to master the wooden boards. Molly placed top 3 in all events which was a huge achievement. Both riders wait in anticipation for State Team selection early in 2025.

Position Vacant

We are seeking a suitably qualified
Years 10-11 English Teacher

**YEARS 10/11
ENGLISH TEACHER**

The FTE for this position will be negotiated with the successful applicant.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.tenison.catholic.edu.au/our-college/employment>

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE WEDNESDAY,
5 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 4.00pm**



Position Vacant

We are seeking a suitably qualified
Vet Hospitality Teacher Trainer with T&A.

**YEARS 9/10
VET HOSPITALITY TEACHER
TRAINER WITH T&A**

The FTE for this position is
0.5FTE up to 0.8FTE

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.tenison.catholic.edu.au/our-college/employment>

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE WEDNESDAY,
5 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 4.00pm**



ELCC MacKillop and McAuley Graduation

