



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Hope lights the way

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

WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH 2025, WEEK 8, TERM 1

STUDENTS INSPIRED BY POWERFUL WORDS OF "DUBSY"

This week, during his visit as part of the Catholic School Parent Association of South Australia's South East Tour, Youth Speaker and Author Nathan 'Dubsy' Want spoke with Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students. He provided practical tools to support them in navigating their way through inescapable moments, by fostering growth and resilience through current and future moments. His energetic spirit and 'real' view was received well by students.



From the Principal



Stronger Families: A Positive Parenting Conference

We were delighted that the Catholic Schools Parents South Australia chose the South East of South Australia as a location for their annual Parenting Conference, with two outstanding speakers in two locations; Mount Gambier and Millicent.

We were delighted to hear Madhavi Nawana Parker help parents and carers support children & teens in 'Responding to friendship difficulties and bullying,' while Nathan "Dubsy" Want captivated the audience when he talked about helping teens in 'Navigating inescapable moments.'

On Monday 17 March Dubsy also spoke with Year 9 and 10 students about 'Resilience' and then on Tuesday 18 March he helped Year 7 and 8 students on 'Choices.'

We were thrilled that two internationally recognised authors, speakers and thinkers about child and adolescent wellbeing were able to share their passion, insights and wisdom with our community. We thank Trish Jarvis and Catholic School Parents SA for the opportunity.

Farewell Father Olek

On Friday it was announced that Father Olek will be transferring to Adelaide next month to assume the role of Assistant Priest in the Croydon Park Parish. This move will take place after Easter on 24 April. As Father Olek will be away for three weeks on annual leave from Monday next week, this week will be his last 'school' week at Tenison Woods College.

This is an exciting time for Father Olek but also a time of mixed emotions due to his moving away from the many close friendships he has formed with students, staff, and parishioners alike.

We will be holding a special thank you and farewell morning tea for Father Olek this Thursday to ensure that Father Olek appreciates the significant impact he has made on our College community.

We will extend a warm welcome to **Father Prathap Katta** who will be joining Father Peter Zwaans in the Mount Gambier Parish following Father Olek's departure. Father Prathap is currently Assistant Priest in the Brighton Parish.

Harmony Week - Everyone Belongs

This week we are acknowledging the gift of Australia's cultural diversity, where inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone are celebrated.

Harmony Week is celebrated around Australia and features on 21 March; the United Nation's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Harmony Day is a time to celebrate Australian multiculturalism and the successful integration of migrants into our community. The message of Harmony Day is **"Everyone belongs."** It is about inclusiveness, respect, and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values.

Harmony Day's official colour is orange, and students may wear a 'touch of orange' (accessories only), i.e. ribbon/bow, hair tie/s, wrist band/sweatband, socks, etc., to show support for this day.

On the day we ask students to take a pledge to receive a sticker or an orange ribbon, be involved in lessons, buddy activities, and in inclusive lunchtime activities run by student leaders.

Board Annual General Meeting – 26 March, 7:00pm

I remind parents and caregivers of the Annual General Meeting of the Tenison Woods College Board, which will be held Wednesday 26 March at 7:00pm in the Pam Ronan Centre.

Thank you to the parents who have nominated for the College Board. We greatly appreciate parents who commit to the governance of the school and its sub-committees.

We received nominations from Malcolm Barkle, Gary Camilleri, Jim Cornolo, Warren Fennell, and Peter Holmes. A broadcast has been sent to families today with a voting slip.

The timeline the elections process is:

Wednesday, 19 March 2025	Voting papers sent to parents if required
Monday, 24 March 2025	Voting closes
Wednesday, 26 March 2025	AGM of the School Board

Thank you for your time and attention given to the formation of the School Board for 2025.

South Australian Student Representative Council (SA SRC)

I am pleased to inform you that Travis Webster-Lawson has been selected to represent South Australian high school students on this year's South Australian Student Representative Council (SA SRC).

Following a rigorous selection process, Travis has demonstrated an aptitude for being an inclusive and respectable representative of other students at our College and from the wider community.

An initiative of the Commissioner for Children and Young People and supported by the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA), the SA SRC is a body of 150 students in Years 10, 11, and 12 from across the state, working together to create genuine, student-led change within their own communities.

This project is demonstrating the efficacy of student voice and agency. Travis will play an important role in this program, and will work alongside participants to ensure we create a space where students in South Australia can demonstrate their capacity for participation and active citizenship.



Lenten Season and Project Compassion – Unite Against Poverty

During Lent students are being encouraged in class to develop a communal action during the Lenten season to bring about change in our world. Fundraising throughout the six weeks of Lent will contribute to **Caritas Australia's Project Compassion Campaign**. Once again, this Lent Caritas Australia calls us to support Project Compassion under the theme of **'Unite Against Poverty,'** which is an expression of hope, and reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. It invites us to make the world a better place by working together now and finding long-term solutions to global issues.

Volunteers Enthusiastically Welcomed

If you would like to volunteer in any capacity at Tenison Woods College, please read and complete the [Volunteer Registration Information Booklet](#) and hand it in to the Tenison Woods College Front Office. This booklet includes a Work Health and Safety induction which must be read and signed prior to commencing any volunteering at the College. Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse, and Neglect must also be completed [here](#). You will need to register and create an account before completing the training. Click on the first training option - RRHAN 'Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse and Neglect - Education and Care online training'. Please print the certificate on completion of training.

A Working with Children Check is also required prior to volunteering and this can be arranged through the College free of charge.

For further information, please contact our Work Health and Safety Coordinator, [Trudi Dempsey](#) or our Director of Wellbeing, [Tania Sigley](#).

A quick survey

Please complete this short 2 minute survey to help inform us about how we can support your involvement with the College: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z28NVSK>

Free Internet Access

During 2025 the Federal government is offering an initiative to provide students free internet access until 2028 through the National Broadband Network (NBN).

Called the School Student Broadband Initiative (SSBI) the program aims to provide NBN's 50 download/20 upload speed tier and is available for up to 30,000 families who meet some criteria:

- Have a school age student at home (full or part time), enrolled in an Australian school (up to Year 12 including Reception).
- Not have an active NBN network internet service at your current residential address now or in the past 14 days (having a mobile internet service does not affect eligibility).
- Live in a premise that can access the NBN network through a standard connection.



To check if you qualify and take advantage of the offer:

- Contact the National Referral Centre, on 1800 954 610 (Mon–Fri, 10am–6pm AEDT), or by clicking [here](#).
- Callback, webchat and interpreting services are also available.
- The National Referral Centre team will check your residential address and ask you some basic questions to determine if you qualify for the Initiative.

Full details about the program can be found at the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication and the Arts website by clicking [here](#).

Need a tutor? Studiosity is our free online tutoring service

I remind families that students of Tenison Woods College in Years 7-12 have access to a free online tutoring service. Students are able to connect to expert tutors for live, one-to-one conversations about homework, assignments and exam preparation from 3:00pm – 10:00pm Monday to Friday. Give it a try – I know you will appreciate the service offered by Studiosity!

Caring for One Another – Road Safety in PRC Carpark and Marist Park Area

I remind the community that the carpark adjacent to the Pam Ronan Centre is a senior student carpark and not a kiss and drop zone. Kiss and drop zones are on the driveways running alongside the PRC off White Avenue and in front of the Front Office area off Shepherdson Road. Adherence to this approach will protect the safety of our young and avoid any unfortunate accidents.

I also remind families of the importance to monitor their actions in the Marist Park area, which can be quite hazardous given the terrain and the less organised parking approach given the nature of the property. Please keep an eye out for one another as we enter and leave Marist Park.

God Bless,
David Meziniec | Principal



CIM Team News



Pillar of Lent- Fasting

This week as a school, we are focusing on understanding the Lenten Pillar of Fasting.

Traditionally, we think of fasting as giving up something we enjoy, like a favourite treat or a bad habit. Small acts of self-denial are a reminder and way to strengthen our self-control and grow in faith. In the Catholic Tradition, people abstain from eating meat on Fridays during Lent, as well as

on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

What if we think beyond simply ‘fasting’ from things in our lives? What if we also ‘added’ something? Adding something small but meaningful to our daily routines can deepen our relationships. Consider:

- Going without TV and adding time for family board games or conversation.
- Going without social media and adding time for reflection, an extra prayer, or a prayer from your heart, offered throughout the day.
- Going without an impulse purchase and donating that money to charity.

These simple additions can help transform our Lenten season, not only in acts of fasting but in growing deeper relationships with others and with God.

You can start small by simply sparking conversations with your children about Lent and exploring creative ways to integrate compassion into their daily lives.

Project Compassion

To get involved or make a donation, scan the QR code:



Term 1 Masses in the College Chapel

Mass takes 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. The upcoming roster is-

Week 8: Thursday, March 20 – 9:10 am Year 10 Mass

Week 9: Thursday, March 27- 9:10 am Year 5 Mass, 10:00am Year 1 Liturgy

From the Parish

Fish Friday

After last year’s success, Fish Fridays return this Lent! Join us on Fridays, 21 March and 4 April at the parish hall, followed by Stations of the Cross at St Paul’s Church. The hall opens at 5.30pm with meals served at 6.00pm. Cost: Main Course size \$18, Entrée size \$15 & Children (8 & under) \$8. All meals include hot chips, bread & salad. Drinks are available to purchase on the night. For catering purposes & dietary requirements, please book online or contact the Parish Office. Don't let the cost be a hindrance for anyone to attend. Please speak to one of the priests for assistance. Bookings are now open until 5.00pm Wednesday 19 March. We hope you can join us! <https://www.trybooking.com/CZTDI>

Family Mass and Children’s Choir

The next Family Mass will be held this Sunday, 23 March, at 11am. Family Mass is held on the weekend of the 4th Sunday of the month at St Paul’s Church, Penola Road. Children from the College and St Paul’s Parish help to lead the Mass.

St Paul’s Children’s Choir will be singing at Family Mass this Sunday. If your child would like to participate, please join the rehearsal at 6pm on Thursday night in the choir loft.

The monthly Family Mass is followed by morning tea in the Gathering Space of the church. Students in Reception to Year 6 are encouraged to attend.

Millicent Youth Group

Youth Mass and Youth group will take place in Millicent at St Aphonsus this Saturday 22 March. Mass starts at 4:30 pm, followed by Youth Group from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. If you are interested in attending Youth Group this weekend, or would like to join the mailing list for upcoming events, please email ap@mtgatholic.org.au.

Sally Telford | Religious Education Coordinator



See the Community Noticeboard for posters and notices of upcoming events within our College, and wider community.

Please click [here](#) to view this page.

REMINDER

Harmony Day Tomorrow

Students are invited to wear a touch of orange:
Ribbon/bow, hair tie/s, wrist band/sweatband, socks, etc

In the morning, students may make a pledge to receive a sticker or an orange ribbon, and throughout the day will be involved in lessons, buddy activities, and in inclusive lunchtime activities run by student leaders.



Important Dates

Upcoming Key Dates

Week 8

Thursday 20 March

- Year 6 Swimming Lessons | Wulanda
- Harmony Day

Friday 21 March

- Year 6 Swimming Lessons | Wulanda
- South East Lucindale Field Days | Lucindale, Site 37 Yakka Pavillion
- SAPSASA District Athletics Day | Grant High School, 9:00am
- Years 4-6 Assembly | MacKillop Centre, 2:05pm
- Years R-1 Assembly | MacKillop Centre, 2:45pm

Week 9

Monday 24 March

- Last day of NAPLAN

Tuesday 25 March

- Year 8 Caving and Surfing Camp A (Ryan)
- Catholic Co-Educational Athletics Carnival
- Annunciation of the Lord
- Year 10 Immunisations | Staff Room, 9am
- 3-Way Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences Years R-6 | Child's Classroom, 4pm

Wednesday 26 March

- Year 8 Caving and Surfing Camp A (Ryan)
- SAPSASA Girls and Boys Softball Carnival
- College Board Annual General Meeting 7pm

Thursday 27 March

- SAPSASA Girls and Boys Softball Carnival
- Year 1 Liturgy | Chapel, 10am
- 3-Way Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences Years 7-12 | Pam Ronan Centre, 4pm

Friday 28 March

- SAPSASA Girls and Boys Softball Carnival
- Years R-6 Assembly | Barrie Holmes Stadium, 2:05pm

Week 10

Monday 31 March

- 2025 SAPSASA AFL Boys District Trials

Tuesday 1 April

- SE Zone Stableford/Ambrose Golf
- Mary MacKillop Leadership Pilgrimage
- 3-Way Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences Years 7-12 | Pam Ronan Centre, 4pm

Thursday 3 April

- Year 8 Caving and Surfing Camp B (Lindner)
- 'GRIP' Student Leadership (Junior & Middle School) 8:45am-2:45pm
- 3-Way Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences Years R-6 | Child's Classroom, 4pm

Friday 4 April

- Year 8 Caving and Surfing Camp B (Lindner)
- Caritas Big Water Walk



Engineering Study Boost

Tenison Woods College alumni Will Vaughn has won the KCA Millicent Mill Engineering Scholarship. Will is currently studying Mechanical Engineering at the University of Adelaide. He will be provided with a bursary to support him during his studies, as well as a position in the Millicent Mill's annual Vacation Internship Program, giving him access to valuable work experience and mentors. Will also shared the 2024 Engineering faculty prize awarded by the Aquinas residential College in North Adelaide.

KCA spokesman David Tyack said his company has had several engineers begin their journey through this program.

"They have developed into seasoned leaders over time," Mr Tyack said.

We extend our congratulations to Will.

Year 12 Students Attend University Exposition

A number of Year 12 students attended a presentation on university pathways and the application process on Monday at the Riddoch Arts & Cultural Centre. The presentation focussed on the South Australian and Victorian application processes, accommodation options, scholarships and the offer process. Students were then able to speak to representatives from a number of universities, including Flinders University, Adelaide University, Monash University, the University of Melbourne, Swinburne University, La Trobe University and Victoria University.



Happy Weeks for Chinese Students

Year 7 Students are celebrating their Chinese lessons in Week 7 and 8 as they cook Chinese food, sing Chinese songs and long for their trip to China some time in the future.



TENISON WOODS COLLEGE PRESENTS:

JAPAN 2026

DEPARTING APRIL 2026

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
EMAIL TRENT EITZEN
eitzt@tenison.catholic.edu.au

Tenison Woods College are proud to announce a 14-day Japan Experience, departing 11 April, 2026 and returning 25 April 2026 for students and family members in Year 7 & above. Tenison Woods College has a rewarding relationship with the Calvary English School in Japan, with their students and teachers visiting us for over 25 years. We have visited them twice in 2017 and 2019, but due to Covid, the return trip to Japan has been in recess since 2020. Trent Eitzen and Chris Lloyd will be the hosts of this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Locations Include:

- TOKYO
- KANAZAWA
- SHIRAKAWA-GO
- KYOTO
- HIROSHIMA AND MIYAJIMA ISLAND
- OSAKA



LET
YOUR
light
SHINE

Cricket Success for Tenison Woods College Against Millicent High School



Tenison Woods College claimed a hard-fought victory against Millicent High School, successfully chasing down the target with just 7 balls to spare.

Millicent High School batted first and posted 9/139 off 20 overs, with Tenison Woods' bowlers delivering an impressive performance. Lenny Tunkin (2/15), Ethan Brook (2/18), and Will Harris (2/26) led the attack, while Tom Richards kept things tight with his economical spell. The fielding was also a highlight, with Finn Skeer and Ryder Tilby taking terrific catches off Lenny Tunkin's bowling.

Chasing 140 for victory, Tenison Woods College found themselves in a tough position at 5/62 after 15 overs. However, Teej Lawlor played a match-winning knock, finishing unbeaten on 79, steering the side to victory. Finn Skeer (12) provided valuable support, as the team reached 5/140 in 23.5 overs to claim the win.

A great all-round effort saw Tenison Woods College come from behind in a great contest, with Teej Lawlor's superb batting performance proving to be the difference.

Mitch Larsson | HPE Teacher, HPSP AFL Coach

DO YOU HAVE A HAND TO HELP?

Once again, the Timor Leste group will be fundraising for our sister school in Hatolia, and other communities in need by ushering at the annual **Generations in Jazz** event held in Mount Gambier. This is one of their biggest fundraisers, and they are seeking parent volunteers to assist.

If you can help on **Friday, 2 May**, for the opening concert, **Saturday, 3 May**, in the big tent listening to the top schools compete, or on **Saturday night** for the BIG concert and the awards on **Sunday, 4 May**, please send an email to Jodi Swiggs at swigj@tenison.catholic.edu.au

Any time you can spare is greatly appreciated.



Phoenix Gains Carpentry Apprenticeship

Year 11 student Phoenix Holland has been successful in securing a full-time carpentry apprenticeship with BB Building Co in Mount Gambier. Phoenix has undertaken a number of work placements with carpentry employers during Year 10 and 11, building his experience, skills and understanding of the trade. Phoenix commenced this week and we wish him every success.

Photo: Kelly Agnew, VET Coordinator, Phoenix Holland, and Jody Elliott, Careers Coordinator

Tenison Woods College Open Boys and Girls Tennis

Our Tenison Woods College Open Boys and Girls tennis teams recently competed at Olympic Park, showcasing their skills and sportsmanship against local schools. The boys' team had a strong performance, securing a win against St Martins but falling short against Grant High School. The girls' team played a highly competitive series of matches, drawing with St Martins, claiming victory over Mount Gambier High School, and losing to Grant High School in a competitive affair. Both teams played with great determination and represented the College with pride. Congratulations to all players for their efforts on the court!

James Phillips | HPE Teacher



Girls L-R: Zoe Davison, Keirsten Cole, Alita Huyser, Zara Cole



Boys L-R: Archie Aitken, Bailey Dale, Mason Rogers, Reid Hamilton

SENIOR MUSIC ENSEMBLE LEADERS NAMED



The Music Faculty were delighted this week to recognise some developing student leaders of many of our music ensembles. There will be more announcements to come as we finalise our leaders, but this week we welcomed some students to join our Leadership Team.

Pictured:

Back row- Leah Creedy (Performing Arts Leader), Isabelle Bidese (Senior Girls Ensemble Leader)

Middle row - Ella Williams (Senior Vocal Ensemble Leader), Annabel Waltner-Toews (Woodwind Ensemble Leader), Isla Biggins (Performing Arts Leader)

Front row - Fred Grey-Smith (Music Deputy), Gabe Strachan (Small Jazz Combo Leader), Bryan Van Zyl (Thunder Drum Corps Leader), Henry Sims (Saxophone Ensemble Leader)

Absent - Hayley Bartley (Concert Band Leader), William (Showband Leader), Laura (Brass Ensemble Leader)

Middle and Senior School students involved in any of our senior ensembles also received a special music badge that they can wear with their school uniform to recognise the hard work and commitment to the music ensembles.

Beth Creedy | Head of Performing Arts



**TENISON WOODS
COLLEGE**

**Lighting
the way
in 2025.**

Corner Shepherdson Road &
White Avenue, Mount Gambier
t: (08) 8725 5455
e: info@tenison.catholic.edu.au
w: www.tenison.catholic.edu.au

Early Learning - Year 12 Co-Educational Catholic College



Visit us at
the South East
Field Days,
**Site 37,
Yakka
Pavillion**



YEAR 12 STUDENTS ATTEND P.A.R.T.Y PROGRAM

This week, a group of our Year 12 students participated in the P.A.R.T.Y. (Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth) program at Mount Gambier Hospital. This invaluable experience provided students with insight into the consequences of risk-related driving, including its lifelong impacts and the profound effect it can have on individuals, families, and the wider community.



ILLUSTRATOR OF "HONEY POSSUM'S BUSH CAFE" VISITS LUCKY RECEPTION STUDENTS

"IT'S THE GRAND OPENING OF HONEY POSSUM'S BUSH CAFE. THERE'S PLENTY OF FOOD FOR EVERYONE. BUT NO-ONE IS COMING! HOW WILL EASTER BILBY HELP HIS FRIENDS?"

This week, Reception children welcomed Kristin Martin and Bianca Richardson, author and illustrator of the book, Honey Possum's Bush Café which is the second book in the Easter Bilby's friends series and explains how wild rabbits affect native plants and animals and what we can do to help. We listened to the story and role played the book using puppets. Kristin and Bianca spoke about the process for writing and drawing the book and we had the opportunity to draw the main character of the book, Honey Possum. We had a fun experience and are now feeling inspired to write and illustrate our own stories during our bookmaking lessons.



POSITIVE PARENTING CONFERENCE

NATHAN "DUBSY" WANT AND MADHAVI NAWANA PARKER SPEAK TO PARENTS

As well as speaking to the students at our College, the speakers held a seminar for parents, Madhavi providing practical strategies on identifying differences between bullying behaviour and friendship difficulties and how to manage situations, whilst Dubsy offered tools on how to navigate the inescapable moments.

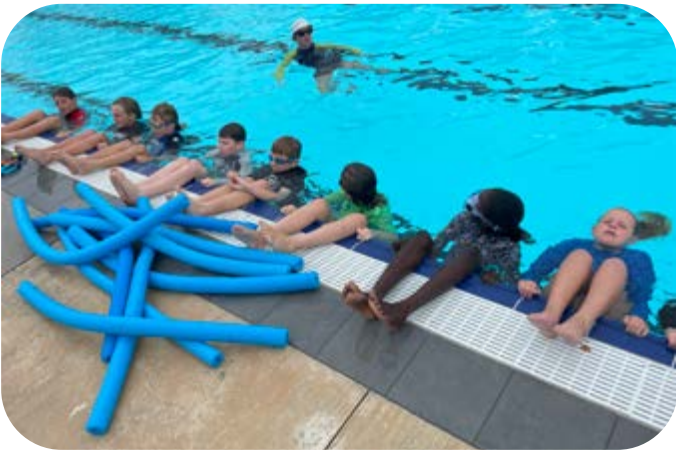


ELCC HOLI FESTIVAL OF COLOUR

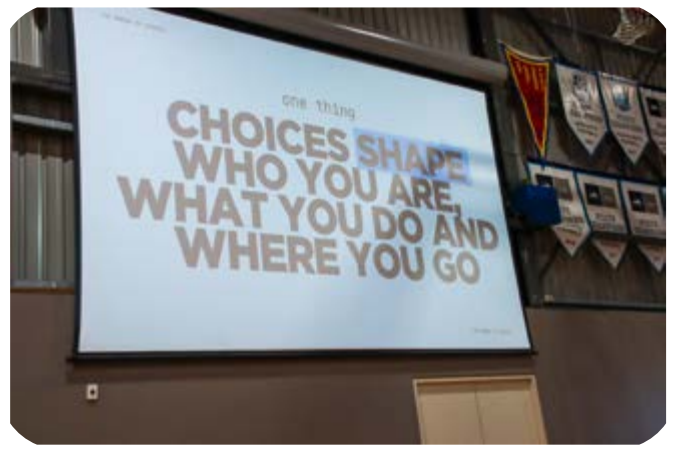
Last week the children at the Early Learning and Community Centre learnt about and celebrated the Hindu celebration of Holi, The Festival of Colour. Holi is celebrated to mark the start of Spring or in our case Autumn. Celebrated with friends and families coming together to sing, dance and have fun with happiness and love. The ELCC created our own festival of colour, throwing powder paint at each other and having a wonderful time! Thank you to all the families that joined us! Happy Holi!



YEAR 6 SWIMMING LESSONS



NATHAN "DUBSY" WANT - GALLERY



FUTURES TEAM

WHO CAN I GO TO
FOR CAREER
SUPPORT AT
TENISON WOODS
COLLEGE?

Miss Sarah Mutch



- SUBJECT SELECTION AND CHANGES
- GENERAL INQUIRIES AND FUTURE ADVICE

Mrs Jody Elliott



- SUBJECT SELECTION AND CHANGES
- UNIVERSITY PATHWAYS/POST SCHOOL PATHWAYS
- FUTURE PLANNING AND ADVICE
- SACE COMPLETION/ATAR REQUIREMENTS
- RESUME AND JOB APPLICATIONS

Ms Kelly Agnew



- VET - VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TAFE)
- APPRENTICESHIPS & TRAINEESHIPS
- WORK PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES/ CONNECTION WITH EMPLOYERS
- RESUME AND JOB APPLICATIONS



Mr Jason Plunkett

- SACE SUBJECT SUPPORT
- SACE COMPLETION



- To make contact: send an email to futuresteam@tenison.catholic.edu.au
- Book a meeting with them through the PRC Admin
- Approach them