



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Hope lights the way

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

WEDNESDAY 26 MARCH 2025, WEEK 9, TERM 1

EVERYONE BELONGS - HARMONY DAY 2025

On Thursday in Week 8, our whole school came together to celebrate Harmony Day. It was a beautiful day supported by passionate staff and students alike, in which we highlighted and acknowledged the cultural diversity within our College. In the morning, our wonderful Student Leaders assisted in handing out stickers and ribbons, with students making pledges to include others, treat everyone with respect, help everyone around them to feel they belong, and to celebrate and enjoy other cultures. Many buddy classes joined together in light of the special day, participating in activities such as cooking, dancing, sports, and arts and crafts. We thank our dedicated Student Leaders and staff for the lunchtime activities which brought our College together.



From the Principal



Harmony Day - Everyone Belongs

Last Thursday 20 March we acknowledged the gift of Australia's cultural diversity, where inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone are celebrated.

On the day we asked 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. A feature was the wonderful traditional dancing of our recent arrival Yazidi students; Julia, Lilav, Saada, and Suada - a true highlight!

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 – we certainly celebrated that with gusto last Thursday.



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 this evening, Wednesday 26 March at 7:00pm in the Pam Ronan Centre Lecture Theatre.

Our guest presenters will be our Director of Wellbeing, Mrs Tania Sigley along with Student Wellbeing Counsellors, Laura Herbert and Mary Castignani speaking on The Wellbeing Approach at Tenison Woods College.

The evening will commence with the guest presentation followed by the presentation of reports from the Annual Report and the introduction of our new Board members.

The Tenison Woods College Board is comprised of members from the school community, parish community and staff. It is an advisory group that oversees the strategic planning, financial management and policy ratification for the College Community.

The President of the Tenison Woods College Board is Father Peter Zwaans. The Board also has 5 Sub-Committees; namely:

- Finance Committee
- Building, Grounds and Asset Management Committee
- Faith, Wellbeing & Health Committee
- ELCC & OSHC Advisory Committee
- Friends of Tenison Committee

2024 Board

Members who were due to retire or seek re-election from the Board are:

- Peter Holmes
- Aleathia Holland
- Jim Cornolo

Continuing Members:

- Peta Baverstock
- Linda Carter-Shepherd
- Shayne Haggis
- Lisa Hogan
- Fran Scanlon – Early Learning Representative

Ex-Officio (non-voting) Board Representatives include:

- Father Peter Zwaans – President
- David Mezinec – Principal/Executive Officer
- Michelle Coote – Deputy Principal

- Neal Turley – Business Manager
- Mary de Nys – Minute Secretary
- Trudi Dempsey – WHS Coordinator
- Amy Turnbull/James Roughana – joint Staff Representatives

Retiring Members:

Chanda Sagar elected to retire from the Board at the beginning of the year. We thank Chanda for her service to the Board and wish her family well with their move to Adelaide.

Aleathia Holland has also elected to retire from the Board as her children have finished their schooling at Tenison Woods College. We thank Aleathia for her significant service to the Board during her 4 year tenure.

New Members:

We accepted nominations from the following community members along with the current Board members renominating:

- Malcolm Barkle
- Gary Camilleri
- Jim Cornolo
- Warren Fennell
- Peter Holmes

Following a voting process verified by Board President, Father Peter Zwaans and Board Chair Lisa Hogan, we welcome Peter Holmes, Jim Cornolo, Malcolm Barkle and Warren Fennell to the Board and invite Gary Camilleri to the Building, Grounds, and Asset Management sub-committee.

Three way Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences - Conversations About Learning

Our three way conversations commenced this Tuesday with our first R-6 session. These conversations provided valuable opportunities for the teacher, student, parents and/or carers to share and learn more about the student socially, emotionally and academically, while at the same time facilitating increased student agency and responsibility. As such, students are asked to attend all conferences with their parents/carers and teachers. The 7-12 Conferences will occur Thursday 27 March or Tuesday 1 April, while the second session of R-6 conferences will take place Thursday 3 April.

Farewell Father Olek

Last Thursday 20 March we held a special thank you and farewell morning tea for Father Olek, acknowledging the significant impact he has made with our College community.

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 after Father Olek's trip overseas. 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 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.

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.

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 aged 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](#).

Care on the Shepherdson Road Driveway

I remind the community that speed on the Shepherdson Driveway and throughout the school is 15km per hour.



Cars overtaking stationary cars on the College two-way roads with oncoming cars from other direction does create a significant safety concern.

Anything you can do to assist in caring for the safety of all in our community would be greatly appreciated.

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!

God Bless,

David Mezinec | Principal

CIM Team News



Pillar of Lent- Almsgiving

This week our Lenten Focus is the pillar of Almsgiving. Almsgiving is the act of giving money, food, or other forms of assistance to those in need. Acts of charity help us to focus more on others and being the best versions of ourselves. This could be shown through fundraising for

Project Compassion, but could also be giving more kindness, time for others or volunteering, or caring for creation. You could write affirmations for others, do an act of kindness or give to your Project Compassion box.

Project Compassion Caritas BIG Water Walk- Casual Clothes and Gold Coin Donation

On Friday, 4 April, we will be holding our annual Whole School Caritas Event. On this day, students are invited to wear casual clothes and bring along a gold coin for Project Compassion. Throughout the day, classes will walk laps along a designated path through the school grounds, being tasked with different challenges at each stopping point, in solidarity with those worldwide who need to walk long distances for basic necessities and who do not have easy access to safe and drinkable water.

Casual Clothes guidelines-

- Students are to wear neat casual clothes that are appropriate for general learning, including sports clothing if it is a PE day.
- Shoes must comply with safety standards: they must be closed in and protect feet: No thongs, sandals, Ugg boots or heels are to be worn.
- General clothing must be of a respectable standard: no brief or skimpy shorts, tops or skirts, or inappropriate slogans will be accepted.



To further support Caritas, you are welcome to make a donation by scanning the QR code:

Giving of Easter Eggs

At Tenison Woods College we discourage the giving of Easter Eggs during the Lenten season prior to Easter Sunday in line with the liturgical calendar. As we finish off this term, we are still in the Church's Season of Lent, where Catholics fast and abstain from luxury items in the readiness for the Easter event. The focus during Lent and Holy Week, is still on preparing for Easter Sunday when the fast ends and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is celebrated. Part of the tradition of Easter Sunday is the giving of eggs as a symbol of new life and joy. It is from Easter Sunday, that we enter the season of Easter with 50 days of joy and celebration until Pentecost.

Students who do wish to share the joy of Easter with their friends or class mates are asked to refrain from doing so at school until after Easter.

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 9: Thursday, March 27- 9:10 am Year 5 Mass, 10:00am Year 1 Liturgy
Week 11: Thursday, April 10- 9:10am Year 6 Mass

[From the Parish](#)

Fish Friday

After last year's success, Fish Fridays returns this Lent! Join us on Friday 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 buy on the night. For catering purposes & dietary requirements, please book online or contact the Parish Office. We hope you can join us! Book [here](#).

Australian Catholic Youth Festival

Our parish is hoping to send a delegation of young people from Year 9 to Year 12 to the 2025 Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) in Melbourne. This three-day festival, running from Sunday, November 30 to Tuesday, December 2, will bring together thousands of young Catholics from across Australia for an unforgettable experience of faith, community, and celebration. The festival is a great opportunity for the youth of parish to connect with other young Catholics, and to share and deepen their faith and relationship with Christ.

If you, or a young person you know, would like to be part of our delegation or would like more information, please contact youth@mtgcatholic.org.au Applications close 11th April.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

DEEPEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

EXPERIENCE THE GREATNESS OF THE CHURCH

CONNECT WITH OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE

BE EMPOWERED TO LIVE YOUR FAITH

MELBOURNE, VICTORIA | 30 NOVEMBER - 2 DECEMBER 2025

We are seeking **expressions of interest** from **young people** who are currently in **Years 9-12** to join a parish group to participate in this festival. **Fundraising** efforts will be organised to help support our young pilgrims, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to take part in this wonderful experience.

Please register your interest by **11 April 2025** to youth@mtgcatholic.org.au

Sally Telford | Religious Education Coordinator

THE BIG WATER WALK

Currently, 292 million people walk more than 30 minutes to collect water. Show your compassion for those living in poverty this Lent and help provide clean, safe water to communities in need.

Join us!

Date: Friday 4 April

Location: Tenison Woods College- Oval

Details: Casual Clothes with Gold Coin Donation

Additional Donations can be made online!



1. Scan the QR code
2. Donate today!

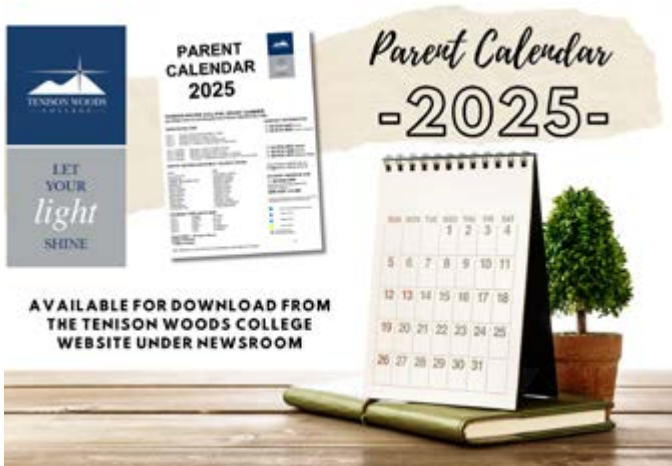
fundraise.projectcompassion.org.au



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

PROJECT
COMPASSION

Printed on a sustainable, purpose-grown fibre and fully recyclable ABN 90 970 605 069



See our Parent Calendar [here](#) for Holy Week dates and ELCC and OSCH opening times during the holiday break.



Upcoming Key Dates

Week 9

Thursday 27 March

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

Friday 28 March

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

Week 10

Tuesday 1 April

- SE Zone Stableford/Ambrose Golf
- Mary MacKillop Leadership Pilgrimage
- 3-Way Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences Years 7-12 I 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 I Child's Classroom, 4pm

Friday 4 April

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

Week 11

Monday 7 April

- Year 7 Reflection Day Penola and Mount Burr
- School Observation of Holy Week
- SAPSASA State Swimming Championships
- Titans New Zealand Netball Information Evening I Pam Ronan Centre 5:30pm

Tuesday 8 April

- Year 7 Reflection Day Penola and Mount Burr
- School Observation of Holy Week
- Year 8 Netball Academy Trinity College Netball Visit 9am

Wednesday 9 April

- School Observation of Holy Week
- Year 8 Caving and Surfing Camp C (Burston)
- Whole School Assembly I Barrie Holmes Stadium 12:30pm

Thursday 10 April

- School Observation of Holy Week
- Year 8 Caving and Surfing Camp C (Burston)
- Year 2 Liturgy I Chapel 10am

Friday 11 April

- School Observation of Holy Week
- End of Term Early Finish R-6 2:15pm, Years 7-12 2:20pm

Saturday 12 April

- School Holidays begin

See the Community Noticeboard for posters and notices of upcoming events within our College, and wider community. Please click [here](#) to view this page.



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 Bernadette Fisher at bernf@tenison.catholic.edu.au

Any time you can spare is greatly appreciated.



Little Leaders Making A Change

Our Little Leaders have been meeting fortnightly to use their student voice to make positive change within our Junior School. We cannot wait to see their initiatives come to life.

Weekly Uniform Focus

Winter Uniform

If the temperature is forecast to be below 23 degrees students may wear winter uniform. In preparation for the cooler weather we ask that families ensure skirts are below knee length and adjust if required.

Please refer to the [Uniform Guidelines](#) for what is included in the Winter Uniform.

Tania Sigley | Director of Wellbeing



Uniform Shop

Online Store

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

Opening Hours

Tuesday 8:00am – 12:00pm
 Wednesday 8:00am – 12:00pm
 Thursday 12:30pm – 4:30pm

Holiday Opening Hours

Wednesday 23 April, Thursday 24 April
 9:00am - 2:00pm

Kylie Watson | Uniform Shop



50 Years School Reunion - Tenison College

If you commenced your second year of high school at the then newly formed Tenison College in 1972, and completed any year from then on with that group till 1975, then we would like to inform you that a 50 year reunion is being planned.

The weekend of October 25 and 26 2025, in Mount Gambier, is being considered but not yet confirmed. A preliminary meeting is planned for Tuesday April 22 2025 at 7:00pm at Limestone Coast Pantry, 1/20 Harold Street, Mount Gambier.

If you would like to be on the committee or can help in any way please contact
Chris Gazzard: 0418 311 207 or Catherine Chandler (Roughana): 0439 344 413



Records Broken at Interschool Athletics Carnival



Congratulations to all Tenison Woods College athletes who broke impressive records during our Years 7-12 Interschool Athletics Carnival. You should all be incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication you have put towards your individual events. You represented our school in a very positive light.

EVENT	PREVIOUS RECORD HOLDER & YEAR	SCORE	NEW RECORD HOLDER	SCORE
13 Yr Female Discus	S Warren (BHS 2022)	24.24m	Hazel Hamilton	24.25m
13 Yr Female 400m	Sophie Pearce (TWC 2024)	1:09.01	Sophie Pearce	1:08.84
13 Yr Female Shot Put	Ebony Steele (BHS 2023)	8.12m	Sophie Pearce	8.74m
13 Yr Female 800m	Remi Pilgrim (BHS 2023)	2:55.93	Maeva Ellis	2:49.61
13 Yr Female 4x100m Relay	Bordertown (BHS 2023)	1:00.62	Tenison Woods	59.85

Agriculture Students Immersed In Clydesdale Experience

Year 8 Ag. classes have been studying Innovations in Agriculture. We have been very fortunate to have Lynette Fritsch share her beautiful working Clydesdales from Lowanvale at Mil Lel with the classes. Not only did students get first hand experience of the way that animals, specifically horses, supported the development of Agriculture but they were also able to see the equipment used.

The lorry the students rode on was used in the Adelaide Hills to transport fruit and vegetables from the market gardens to the fresh produce markets. The lorry also provided examples of technology such as manual brakes and a trailer turn table to compare to modern technology for braking and turning transport vehicles used in Agriculture today.

Students are now preparing a presentation on a selected Innovation in Agriculture to share their research.



Judy Jenkin | Agriculture Teacher



Reminder

3-Way Parent, Teacher,
Student Interviews Weeks
9 and 10

OK

Reception to Year 6 – Tuesday March 25, Thursday
April 3, 4–6:30pm | Student's Classroom

Years 7 to 12 – Thursday March 27, Tuesday
April 1, 4–8pm | Pam Ronan Centre

LET YOUR *light* SHINE



Academy of Hospitality Students Gain Industry Experience

Five Year 10 Academy of Hospitality students served Directors and guests at the Scott Group of Companies Pavilion at the Mount Gambier Racecourse. Working alongside caterers and bar staff, students provided tray service for cocktail foods. We would like to thank Scott Group of Companies for their kind support and for the opportunity to extend students skills in a formal serving environment within the Mount Gambier community. This is invaluable experience towards final skills evaluation and development of confidence!

Jen McCourt | VET Academy of Hospitality Teacher



SAPSASA District Athletics Day

On Friday 21 March a contingent of over 50 students from Years 3-6 travelled to Grant High School to compete in the Lower South East SAPSASA District Athletics day. The day consisted of 7 track and field events where students from each age group represented our College in a fantastic display of competition and sportsmanship. All students represented our school proudly.

We are awaiting further invitations for some students to participate in the Adelaide SAPSASA Competition later in the year. All relevant students and families will be notified via email in the coming weeks. Thank you to the Tenison Woods College staff and parents who supported our students on the day and a special thanks also to SAPSASA Coordinator Tony O'Connell and Grant High School staff and students for a wonderful day.

Tina Opperman | R-6 Sports Coordinator



SAKG Cooking Tried, Tested and Approved

Year 6 students have been working on their knife skills in their SAKG lessons recently. Mrs Davis' class made a delicious veggie-filled stir fry last week and decided they wanted to share their creations with some lucky teachers and staff members throughout the school. Mr Meziniec gave them the tick of approval for their tasty dish!

Allana Madigan | Junior School Teacher



tenisonwoodscollege
Tenison Woods College

Canteen Reminders

- Please ensure the Student Profile in the QKR! App created for ordering is your child's name (not the parent name);
- QKR! App Orders need to be in by **NO LATER THAN 8.30AM** for same day orders;
- Please carefully check day / date of order when using the QKR! App, and the details of all orders before proceeding to checkout.

If you have any questions regarding the Qkr! App, please contact Jess Herring at herrj@tenison.catholic.edu.au.



Leanne Sandow | Canteen Manager



Project Mural in 2025

Our year 9 Project Mural class is busy working away on our latest, very special mural. After being commissioned by and meeting with Dr Rebel Skirving, the students have researched and designed a mural for Gambier Vets. We are currently sketching the designs onto panels and have begun painting them. The finished pieces will be mounted on the retaining walls at Gambier Vets. We are excited to have the opportunity to create for our local community.

Meghan Amoroso | Arts Coordinator

SOUTH EAST FIELD DAYS



Our Marketing Team, Enrolment Registrar Tracey Davey, Deputy Principal Michelle Coote, and Principal David Mezinec attended the South East Field Days in Lucindale over the weekend. It was great to see many familiar faces from our College, as well as past students, and meet and chat with prospective families. We thank our student volunteers Mia Slotegraaf, Archie Olsen, Memphis Pearce, Ella Smith, Oscar Zerker, and Stephanie Bolte for their time and help across the two days, and for the outstanding job they did representing and speaking about our College.



80TH INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

HOSTED BY NARACOORTE HIGH SCHOOL

We are incredibly proud of the Years 7-12 students who represented our College in Naracoorte for the Interschool Athletics Carnival last week. Tenison Woods College was victorious in their pursuit to maintain our title as champions of the Carnival. Congratulations to all of our talented athletes, and we applaud you for wearing your Tenison uniform with pride.





TENISON WOODS COLLEGE PRESENTS:

JAPAN 2026

DEPARTING APRIL 2026

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
EMAIL

japan2026@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



MR SNOT BOTTOM 'ROCKS' POPLARS UNIT

The Poplars students were lucky to experience the fun and laughter of Mr Snotbottom yesterday! As part of the Fringe experience, he brought his signature humour to the school, promoting the arts in regional areas and giving students a taste of live performance. His visit was filled with energy, laughter, and plenty of silly antics that had everyone entertained.



ELCC ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER VISIT

The Early Learning and Community Centre is celebrating children's cultural heritage with a Great, Great, Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal Grandfather singing Tabu Naba with the children. Tabu Naba is a Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal song that is sung to grandchildren about going to the edge of the reef fishing in Meriam Mir language. The children made damper to share, and shown an emu skirt made for an ELCC child from a Gunditjmarra Elder.



CATHOLIC CO-EDUCATIONAL ATHLETICS

CARNIVAL

Congratulations to all students who travelled to Adelaide early this week for the Catholic Co-Educational Athletics Carnival. You should be proud of your efforts and we applaud you for your commitment and hard work that contributed to your placings at such a high calibre competition.



HARMONY DAY - GALLERY

