

# ST JOHN'S COLLEGE BULLETIN

## Term Four, Issue One, 2024

"Every time you say: 'Lord, have mercy on my child,' he will receive from Christ a good thought... The more you Pray the more good thoughts your child will acquire." - Saint Porphyrios of Kavsokalyvia

### Historic Visit of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

Last week, St John's College had the profound honor of welcoming His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for a truly once-in-a-generation event. This historic visit marked an unforgettable moment for our school, our students, and the wider community. The visit celebrated the 100-year anniversary of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in Australia, and our school had the privilege of being part of this milestone.

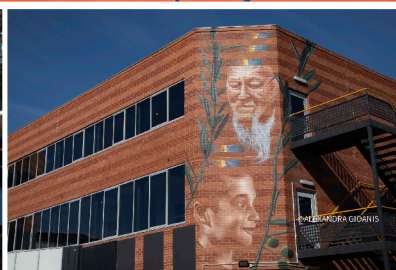
The success of this extraordinary day would not have been possible without the incredible collaboration of our students, parents, and staff. A special thank you to our students, whose dedication and preparation were truly inspiring. They embraced their roles with pride and grace, performing with the highest level of respect and enthusiasm. Their contributions showcased the talent and commitment we have within our student body, and their efforts were a highlight of the event.

To our parents and families, thank you for your continued support and involvement. Your encouragement throughout the preparations and on the day itself was crucial in making this day run smoothly, and your presence made the occasion even more meaningful. A special thank you also goes to the Parents Association for their vital role in supporting the logistics and success of this event.

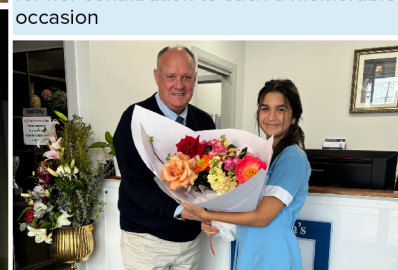
Lastly, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our dedicated staff. Your hard work, professionalism, and teamwork were reflected in every detail of the event. The careful planning and commitment over the past year culminated in a day that we will all cherish for many years to come.

Together, we created a momentous occasion that celebrated our faith, our heritage, and our unity as a school community. Thank you all for making this historic day possible!

*Mr Kristian Raspa - Greek Language and Culture Coordinator*



On behalf of the Sahina family, a beautiful arrangement of flowers was presented to Efthimia in recognition of her moving performance delivered before His Holiness and the distinguished guests during last Tuesday's event. Her captivating presence left an indelible impression on all those in attendance, and this gesture serves as a heartfelt token of gratitude for her contribution to such a memorable occasion



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### The Commonwealth at 75

### Rose Ceremony

Ahead of His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew's visit to Australia, our Principal Mr Andrew Ponsford made his way to London for the special book launch, "The Commonwealth at 75", held at the historic Cloisters of Westminster Abbey.

The official launch was held on Wednesday 9 October. Produced by publisher St James's House in partnership with The History of Parliament Trust – one of the most authoritative academic projects in British history – the publication marks the 75th anniversary of the Commonwealth of Nations. Exploring the origins, history and impact of the association, the fully illustrated publication celebrates the ideas, individuals and organisations that have contributed to the Commonwealth's success, past and present, and explores the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. And St John's College had 2 pages in this 572 paged book.

The launch event, compered by royal correspondent Russell Myers, was attended by more than 500 guests and featured speeches by Canon Anthony Ball of Westminster Abbey, Lord Marland of Odstock and Ransford Smith CD, former Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General. It also included the performance of a specially commissioned piece of music by The Commonwealth Resounds.

Attendees included dignitaries from a wide range of official Commonwealth organisations and High Commissions. Richard Freed, founder of St James's House, said: "We're delighted to be launching this prestigious publication, which pays tribute to the Commonwealth and its member states. The 75th anniversary offers the perfect opportunity to reflect on the organisation's past, present and future." A copy of the book was provided to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and also to His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia at their visit to SJC last week.

