

# XAVIER CATHOLIC COLLEGE



Issue 1, March 2026

## Newsletter

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### COMING UP IN TERM 1 AND 2 2026

Term 1 Week 10: Break N Barriers

1<sup>st</sup> April: End of term assembly (all welcome)

2<sup>nd</sup> April: Last day of term 1

13<sup>th</sup> April: Students and staff return to school for term 2



## PRINCIPAL & ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL Rhett & Angelo

Awana mamanta and welcome to the 2026 school year!

Angelo and I hope that everyone is feeling excited and happy about being back at school. Our students and staff have started the year in a very positive way, with lots of learning happening and LOTS of students attending school. We currently have 110 students enrolled and we see up to 80 students coming to school each day. Let us be sure to keep this positive approach to school going throughout the year. Our seniors have started really well and are leading the way and being good role models.

There has been a change this year - we have a Year 10 class! This class is preparing to become a part of the Year 11/12 class in 2027 and they will try to graduate with an academic Year 12 certificate in 2028.

The Year 10s have started the year like a well-tuned motorcar, firing on all cylinders. There have been only a few changes in our staffing: Morag and Mike (who taught the Year 8 girls and the Year 7 boys last year) have gone back to New Zealand for Semester One, but they return to Xavier in July this year.

Johnny Minjin is a new Tiwi Teacher. He grew up in Palumpa. Niall O'Brien is teaching the Year 10 class. He used to teach at Wadeye. Maryam Mohammadi is our Maths Tutor and is helping the Seniors. She is Niall's partner. Rose Kelly is teaching the Year 9 girls. She comes from Melbourne. William Balme is our new Counselor and is teaching Year 10 PE. He also comes from Melbourne. We welcome them all to their new positions and jobs at Xavier.

At Xavier, we are all committed to quality Tiwi Catholic Education and are really looking forward to a lot of progress in all aspects of our schooling this year. Most importantly, the progress in our students' learning! We also look forward to working with all our families, friends and the community to ensure we have a successful 2026.

All the best!  
Rhett and Angelo





## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL Ally



The new school year at Xavier Catholic College has begun with fantastic energy and positivity. It has been wonderful to welcome such a talented, friendly, and enthusiastic group of new teachers who have already made a great impression on our school community. We are also delighted to see strong numbers of students attending school, and we hope this positive trend continues throughout the year.

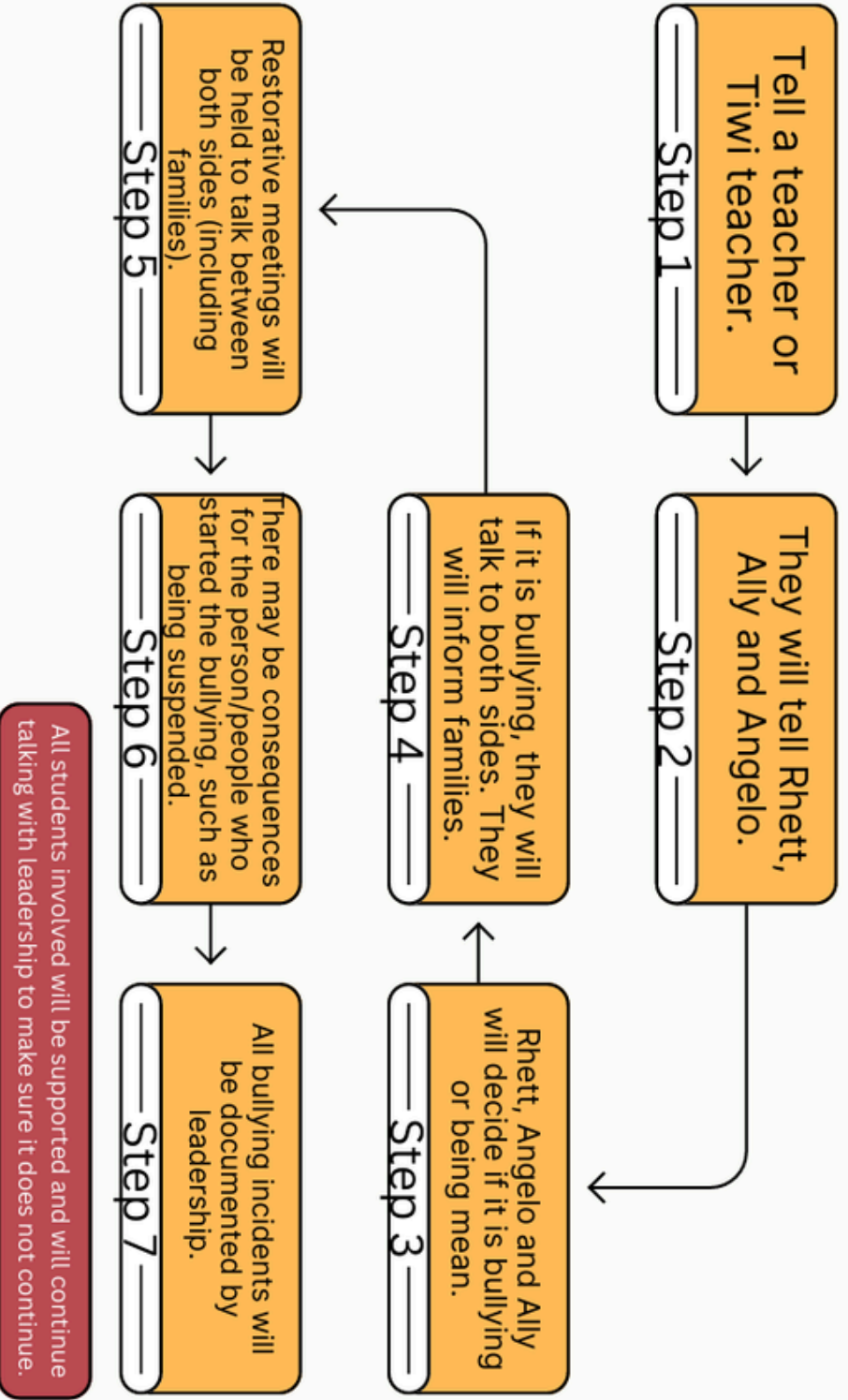
Term 1 has already been busy with a range of valuable learning experiences and celebrations. Our students enjoyed a visit from the Rangers who delivered an engaging Crocwise session, helping everyone learn important safety information about living in crocodile country. We also proudly celebrated International Women's Day and welcomed Catholic Care, who delivered an important session about the harms of gambling. Students have been learning about bullying, including what it is, why people sometimes bully, and what we can do if it happens to us or someone else. Our school has a clear bullying plan in place, and everyone knows to follow the flowchart so that any concerns can be reported and addressed quickly and safely. On top of this, our school photographer visited to capture this year's class photos. Despite the rainy weather, it has been a very successful start to the year, and we are excited to see what the rest of 2026 has in store for our school community.





Bullying is when someone says or does something hurtful and they keep doing it even though you have told them stop and they know you're upset.

# Bullying



All students involved will be supported and will continue talking with leadership to make sure it does not continue.



## IDENTITY & MISSION Sr Monique



Our year began with an Opening Mass for the staff in our Orientation week. We welcomed the new staff of both schools, and they were commissioned to serve by Fr Niran. When the students returned we also had an Opening Mass for both schools. It was on the Xavier basketball courts, led by Bishop Charles, on Friday, 13th February. Our Senior students created the Prayers of the Faithful in their Community Studies: RE/ Art class; they were translated into Tiwi as well, and some Seniors read them out at the Mass. A big thanks to everyone who helped get the students ready for the Mass and participated in some way.



In Week 4 we had our Ash Wednesday liturgy in the library, with our three priests and Sr Anne giving us something to think about in her reflection. We are now well on our journey of Lent, preparing ourselves for the big celebration of Easter. With the grace of God, each of us can come closer to him at this time and be people of light for those around us.



## PRAYER

Loving God, We ask to become closer to you this Lent. Help us to prepare our hearts to celebrate Easter in a new way this year. Thank you for the gift of Jesus your son, who gave his life for us. Help us to be like him and show your kindness and love to everyone. Amen.





## Y8/9B LITERACY AND NUMERACY Matt and Don



Our Year 8/9 boys have been extremely busy lately, focusing their energy on literacy and numeracy skills through hands-on learning and community engagement.

In **literacy**, the boys have been developing their communication skills while giving back to our school community. They have continued to work closely with primary school students, acting as mentors and helpers to improve reading and writing. It has been fantastic to watch the boys build these relationships and grow their own confidence while helping younger peers.

Alongside this, our chicken project continues to thrive! After the holidays, the boys undertook a special task by visiting TITEB (Tiwi Islands Training and Employment Board). They presented a carefully written letter to thank the TITEB team for taking excellent care of our chickens during the school holidays. This was a great opportunity to apply their writing skills to a real-world, community-focused situation.

In **numeracy**, the group has been sharpening their mathematical foundation. We have focused on place value, addition, and subtraction, ensuring the boys are comfortable and confident in these fundamental skills as they progress in their studies.

We are very proud of the dedication shown by the Year 8/9 boys across all these activities.





## Y7B Smart Skills Sean

The year 7 boys have had an excellent start to Xavier catholic college this year! They have settled into their class and have done some amazing learning. They have learnt how to calm down their bodies and minds to be ready for learning through box breathing and feeling checkins every morning.

In Numeracy they have learnt how to use addition and subtraction for everyday maths. In Literacy they have found how to blend all the different sounds together to make three letter words. They can put these words into a range of sentences and will be able to write a full story soon! We can not wait for the boys to keep growing into strong Tiwi men throughout the year!



## Y8/9B Smart Skills Lindsay

Year 8-9 boys have been learning Lifeskills this term focusing on cooking. We have learnt how to wash hands thoroughly before cooking, kitchen hygiene and safety as well in the kitchen. Some knife skills have been undertaken, learning how to slice and dice and the boys have been involved in creating dishes as Luncheon Wraps, Spaghetti Bolognese, Pancake for Shrove Tuesday and a simple Chicken stirfry. We have been using ingredients that can be purchased from the local shops so the young men can help families with food prep at home.





## Y7/8/9 HPE ROSE

This term, the Year 7, 8 and 9 Girls Health and Physical Education class has been fantastic. The girls have shown great enthusiasm and engagement during our practical lessons, where they have been developing their skills in basketball, soccer and hockey. They have demonstrated strong teamwork, supported one another, and enjoyed some friendly competition along the way. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they participate and build up their skills. In Health lessons, the girls have been learning about personal hygiene and women's health, building their understanding of how to look after their bodies and wellbeing. Well done to all the girls for their positive attitude and effort this term.

## Y8/9G RELIGION/ART Sr. Monique

We have had full Term 1 in 8/9 Girls RE/Art this year! Students have explored themes of identity, community, Lent and Easter, and have developed a series of artistic responses to these themes. The class have been working on their Personal and Social capability through their daily activities, being organised and documenting their work carefully, working together and sharing their ideas. Currently they are following a design process to create Tiwi style crosses for the school prayer tables. Congratulations for a great start to the year girls!





## VET Woodwork Brad

This term, students have been working on designing and making a wooden box for family. This box is being made with woodworking joinery and the students have been using a lot of different tools to make them. Students have been focusing on accuracy or timber joints, safety in the workshop and creating designs for the box. Students have also been learning about laser cutters and how they could be used in woodwork and or small business enterprises. Students will continue this work through to the end of the term.



## VET Work Ready Henri

This term in Work Ready, the VET students have been working hard to complete their TITEB unit on Working Effectively in a Business, which contributes towards a Certificate 1 in Workplace Skills.

Students have also been participating in work experience placements at many local businesses, including BIHA, the Nguuu Garage, AFLNT, the Shire Council Mechanic, the Tiwi Rangers and the MCPS Groundsmen.

Lindsay has also taken the students out to the TITEB farm for work experience, where they have been helping with maintenance, looking after the chickens and building a vege patch. Well done to all the senior boys in the VET class!



## Y10 Computers/English Niall

Term One has seen a great start for our Year 10 students as they work towards persuading their classmates, teachers and wider community to advocate for their needs and wants through the study of Persuasive writing. If their messaging is anything to go by, students should be allowed more time to play AFL, spend more time on their mobile phones and eat more lollies. The staff and teachers at Xavier College are struggling to disagree given how strong their arguments have been so far.

Our students were very pleased to have received brand new laptops on day one of term and have been working tirelessly to develop their ICT skills ever since. We have been practicing mastery of our typing skills, accessing the internet and learning how best to use the Microsoft and Google suite of apps in pursuit of ICT success. We are confident that Year 10 will continue to grow into confident and efficient users of technology given their speedy progress so far.

## Y11/12 Community Studies Annie and Niall

The focus of this subject is how art and RE has meaning when displayed in a community setting. That may be the street art at the airport, Blue Shop, on the wall of the Club, at the Clinic or on the outside walls at Tiwi Design and BIMA Wear. The students have been studying why community art is important and the stories it tells about tradition, dance, song and story. This is very important for Tiwi people and for our young people to have an understanding. The students have re-painted Ampiji which is on the outside wall at Xavier. The students wanted to respect the original artists but it certainly needed a fresh coat of paint. The students feel very proud of their efforts and their work.





## Make Your Mark programme Don

In Week 5, students spent an engaging week at the Michael Long Learning and Leadership Centre participating in the Make Your Mark programme delivered by AFL Northern Territory. Throughout the week they took part in a variety of activities including leadership workshops, football skill development, and wellbeing sessions designed to build confidence, teamwork, and resilience. The group also visited Parliament House and attended a STEM program at Charles Darwin University. Students also enjoyed recreational activities including swimming and a visit to Leanyer Recreation Park. Well done to all students who were selected to attend, recognising their strong attendance and the positive way they demonstrate our school rules at all times.

