



ELIZABETH COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

September 2025

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Recently, I was fortunate enough to attend the AFS Youth Assembly in New York City with three students from Hobart. It was an amazing and life changing experience for the 500 18–35-year-olds who attended from 83 countries. They engaged in discussions, skill-building workshops, networking, and ideation challenges, supported by experts and practitioners in the field, with an objective of the youth becoming more equal partners in achieving change, whether that be local, national, or international. Delegates focused on some of the greatest challenges we face such as climate change, inequality, mental health and conflict, none of which are straightforward.

One reason why this experience was so powerful was because of who attended; the power of youth can truly make an impact, fuelled by their relentless energy, boundless creativity, and unmatched passion. The delegates were not pigeonholed by age or perceived experience; they actively sought to engage in important conversations recognising that they are the future but also part of the present. It was a

privilege to attend this youth assembly at the United Nations and New York University with the students and their peers. Thanks to the Tasmanian Government Education International for their support to make this happen, enabling our young people to join the world stage.

On a more local level, we approach the end of term. I encourage all students to take control of their own destiny and do their best given their own circumstances. We acknowledge that no one is defined in life by their grades and scores, but we cannot emphasise enough how important it is to take full advantage of the opportunities that are provided at Elizabeth College. The next few months, if used wisely, can help with consolidation and clarification of teaching and learning and outcomes can be maximised. It is important to use time wisely, including attending lessons as much as possible and using supports on offer.





Below are a few key tips for all students

- **Attend all classes.** Accessing teachers and engaging with peers can help to improve understanding of key skills and knowledge. If classes are missed, so are learning opportunities.
- **Submit all assessment work.** This allows the teacher to grade and give credit for what you know and can do. If work is not submitted, this can't occur.
- **Make use of teachers** who are here to support and guide. Ask for clarification if required, and ask for and act on feedback.
- **Attend tutorials.** These are run by expert teachers and are responsive to student needs. Talk to teachers or check socials for the timetable.
- **Review the My Learning Goals** that were set earlier in the year, consider what progress has been made and what needs to come next.
- **Reflect on what has worked well....** and keep doing it. Consider other approaches where things have not gone to plan.
- **Use the holidays to catch up and consolidate** if needed so Term 4 starts well.
- **Have a balance.** This includes time with family and friends but also spending appropriate amounts of time on studies.
- **Seek proactive support** to keep on top of things before things become too much to manage.
- **Don't give up** if things have not gone to plan. We want students to succeed and will work in partnership to support you.

For those with exams approaching

- Work at a steady pace between now and the exams. This should lessen the burden down the track.
- Make good use of the holiday period, noting it is important to have a balance between being well-prepared and being well-rested.
- Develop a preparation plan between now and the exams, mapping out what needs to be done and when. The next challenge is to not procrastinate or blank it out of your mind, as that puts off the inevitable.
- Action the plan. As things get ticked off the list, a sense of achievement should follow!
- Be realistic about commitments and expectations.
- Study smarter, not harder. Being productive is key.
- Each day is a new day to reset and a new opportunity to build knowledge, skills and confidence.
- Visit the TASC website to view course-related specific sites, past exams and examiner's reports to get inside the mind of exam markers
<https://www.tasc.tas.gov.au/students/years-11-and-12/preparing-for-exams/>
- Remember, your best is all you can do!

Best wishes to all students in the lead-up to the holidays and for Term 4.

Best wishes

Shaue Fuller

Principal



VET STUDENTS SHINE

The Tasmanian Training Awards celebrate excellence in vocational education and training, recognising the outstanding achievements of trainers and students across the state. This year's Awards Dinner was held on 19 September at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, showcasing the talent and dedication within Tasmania's training sector.

Elizabeth College is proud to have two exceptional students acknowledged in the 2025 awards. Ella Allie was named a finalist in the Equity Vocational Student of the Year category, recognising her commitment, resilience, and success in her chosen pathway. Bella Toselli was shortlisted for the VET in Schools Student of the Year award, highlighting her skills, determination, and passion for learning.

At Elizabeth College, we are always proud of the high standards our students and staff strive to achieve. These nominations reflect the strength of our programs and the inspiring efforts of our learning community.



Ella Allie
Finalist
Equity Vocational
Student of the Year



Bella Toselli
Shortlisted
VET in Schools
Student of the Year

A STANDING OVATION FOR MUSIC MAESTRO

After 16 remarkable years at EC, we say goodbye to Jennie MacDonald. A renowned educator, adjudicator, and musician, Jennie has inspired and mentored countless students to pursue careers in Music and the Performing Arts. From coordinating musicals to leading whole-school events, Jennie's dedication has been tireless. Her advocacy for equity in education and her care for every student define her legacy. Thank you, Jennie, for your extraordinary years of service, leadership and music.



MUD, SWEAT AND CHEERS

Recently, students Sam Jonas, Oliver Hardie, Sophie Siberas, and Molly Haste took part in the All-Schools Cross Country event at Symmons Plains. The competition brought together runners from schools across the state.

Each student put in a solid effort on the day, with Oliver Hardie delivering a particularly strong performance. He completed the 6km course in 23 minutes, placing in the top 10 in Tasmania and finishing just 40 seconds behind the winner.

All four runners showed focus and determination throughout the event. Their participation was a great example of commitment to sport and school representation.

Well done to Sam, Oliver, Sophie, and Molly for taking part and giving it their best.



EXCELLENCE IN WRITING

Recent achievements in prestigious writing competitions showcase the depth of creativity and insight within our school community. Year 11 student An Le was announced as the state winner in the Tasmanian Year 11/12 category of the What Matters? writing competition for her moving piece, *broken ground, common dreams*. An's work explores the complex challenges facing young people across the globe today, and we congratulate her on this powerful and thought-provoking achievement. You can read An's piece at <https://www.decyp.tas.gov.au/.../what-matters-tasmania/>

We also extend our congratulations to Year 12 student Billie Lowenstein, whose short story *All That Glitters* won the senior section of the Young Tasmanian Writers' Prize and was awarded the Lord Mayor's Prize. Billie's recognition is a testament to her storytelling skill and creative voice.



GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

2025 has been another big year for the International Student Team at Elizabeth College. With 47 students, we have the highest number of full fee-paying international students studying at Elizabeth College in the history of our school. There are also many other students from overseas studying at Elizabeth College on various kinds of temporary visas. Our biggest group of a single nationality in the full fee-paying students are our students from Vietnam, followed by our groups from Brazil, China, Hong Kong and Japan. We also have students from Taiwan, Switzerland, India, Cambodia, Nepal, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and for the first time, a student from Norway. It has been wonderful to see so many students from so many countries enjoying their time at EC and participating so enthusiastically in our programs. They add to the cultural fabric of our school and teach us much about cross-cultural understanding.

"I really like the supportive teachers and the kindness from the EC ISP Team." **Poppy**

"I love the delicious canteen foods and the lovely canteen ladies!" **Mina**

"I really enjoy the extracurricular activities on the EC Enrichment Program." **Hannie**

"My Australian friends support me in all of my endeavours whether they be sporting or academic."
Andrei





DEFENCE SKILLS CLASS TAKE FLIGHT

This term has provided Certificate I Defence Skills students with a unique blend of vocational exposure and practical field experience, offering a deeper understanding of career pathways within Australia's emergency services and defence sectors.

Students began the term with a visit to the Tasmanian Westpac Rescue Helicopter base, where they explored the state's aerial rescue capabilities. The tour offered firsthand insight into the roles of search and rescue police officers, paramedics and pilots, highlighting the teamwork and precision required in high-stakes operations.

A major highlight of the term was a private tour of HMAS Adelaide, Australia's largest Navy vessel and helicopter aircraft carrier. Students were given rare access to life aboard this floating city, learning about the diverse vocations on board, from sailors, navigators, and ship drivers to air traffic controllers and pilots managing the ship's air fleet.

Lastly, students undertook their final field exercise at Lonnavele at the end of term, where they tested their alpine bushwalking and navigation skills on Hartz Mountain. The two-night camp also focused on field craft and bush survival techniques, rounding out a term rich in experiential learning.



A TERM OF ARTISTIC GROWTH

It's been a busy term in Visual Art, with several visiting artists inspiring all students. Visual Art 3 and Art Studio Practice students learnt about the work of Tasmanian artist Elizabeth Barsham, with an engaging talk by the artist and samples of her work and sketches. Students learnt about having fun with their art and generating ideas from a range of sources including sketching, photographs and collage, and very importantly the imagination and artist's personal vision. Ceramics students were able to learn wheel throwing techniques from master ceramicist Carolyn Canty. A fun, if sometimes frustrating and definitely messy, experience ensued. The session gave students more of an appreciation for the skills involved in wheel thrown ceramic work. Artist Zoe Grey recently discussed her idea generation tips with Contemporary Art Practice students and Mixed Media students. A highlight was Zoe showing how she uses a visual diary as part of her professional practice.



GETTING JAZZY WITH IT

What's better than 2024's three days of music, workshops, great gigs and hanging with the band at Devonport Jazz? Four days at Devonport Jazz in 2025! The cold and rain didn't dampen spirits, nor did it decrease the excitement as students and staff headed north for another epic visit to play, laugh and enjoy good vibes and good music! The EC musicians are always crowd favourites at the festival and 2025 was no different. The Stage Band and Jazz Ensemble were welcomed with open arms and performed to very appreciative audiences during four days of school visits, public performances, workshops and concerts. Good music, good food, good vibes and fun times. Making new friends, lots of laughs and talking about music, it doesn't get much better than that. Devonport, we will see you in 2026!





BOOK AN ADVENTURE

During Book Week, EC was transformed into a literary wonderland as students and teachers embraced the theme "Book an Adventure". From wizards and warriors to detectives and dystopian rebels, the campus came alive with beloved characters leaping off the page and into our halls. Prizes were awarded for best-dressed, most original character, and even best literary group ensemble, proving that imagination is alive and well at every age. Book Week reminded us that we never outgrow the magic of reading.





COMING FULL CIRCLE

The History of Elizabeth College display in our library, originally created for last term's Community Showcase, has become a lasting favourite. Still proudly on show, it recently served as the perfect backdrop for a photo of alumni who've returned to EC as staff, bringing their stories full circle.

Jason Hoare, Class of 1987, reflected: "Being at Elizabeth College really changed my life, in particular the College's Peace Group, and the great subject teachers I had. My besties are still people I came to EC with or met here, including both past students and teachers. Brian Connor's passion for Chemistry really rubbed off and here I am back here teaching Chemistry 4."

Pete MacFarlane, Class of 1994, added: "I graduated as a 'mature age' 21-year-old! I remember the freedom, the academia and the vibrant, often chaotic atmosphere. Also my outstanding Art Teacher, Liz Van Ommen. Favourite quote (a staff member describing one of my so-called essays): "Hmm...it doesn't really stand up to scrutiny, does it?" They were correct, it didn't."

Oliver Close, Class of 1994, painted a vivid picture: "We had a brand-new gym and library. Andy Wilson was principal. Plenty of bad fashion... hypercolour and flannies. West Coast won the flag. EC won the state college cricket final, which was unheard of. Nirvana and Pearl Jam dominated our cassettes."

And Damien Oliver-Black, Class of 2011, shared: "I met my wife when I studied here. Classic tale of 'drummer takes the lead'... Dusty Springfield production of 2011!"

These reflections remind us that EC isn't just a place for learning, it's a place where lifelong connections are made, passions are sparked, and sometimes, the journey leads you right back home.



SLIDING OUT OF WINTER

In early August, the three Outdoor Education classes combined for a trip to Ben Lomond National Park in Tasmania's north-east for three days of snowy adventures! Students were met with beautiful conditions of soft snow and mostly fine weather as the group, most of whom were beginners, took to the slopes to learn how to ski or snowboard. Staff and instructors were impressed by the way they quickly picked up the difficult sport, showing great resilience and determination to keep getting up when they fell down, continually setting and readjusting their goals, seeking out coaching from their peers, and always supporting each other and keeping the positive vibes high. Many were confidently riding the tow to the summit and skiing down the more difficult slope by the end of the week, with many already planning their next adventure.



GROW YOUR MIND

Current and prospective parents, carers and students heard expert advice about how to develop positive study habits and manage workload to support their learning at college and beyond at the Wellbeing Forum led by Phillipa Coward and the Student Services team. Past and current EC students Abbey, Sage and Molly unpacked neuroscientist Lila Landowski's six strategies for learning faster, with reflections and advice about how they have tackled their Year 11 and 12 studies. While learning gets harder as we get older there's lots we can do: exercise, alertness, sleep, repetition, taking breaks and making mistakes are all research-backed methods for building neuropathways to unlock your potential to learn faster and more effectively.



SCIENCE IGNITES

National Science Week 2025 was a vibrant celebration this year, marked by hands-on learning, collaboration and community engagement. Across the week, 436 primary school students from 10 schools, both government and non-government, attended 18 interactive workshops held across the campus. Primary schools included Mt Stuart, Lansdowne Crescent, Campbell St, Bowen Rd, South Hobart, Tarremah, Peregrine, Lambert, St Mary's, and The Cottage School.

The week began with a special event at Government House on Monday 11 August, hosted by Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania. To mark the 25th anniversary of Elizabeth College Primary School Workshops, a celebratory cake was cut alongside Dr Deborah

Beswick and Karen Drysdale. Students from 22 Southern Tasmanian schools joined scientists and mentors for inspiring discussions, accompanied by music from the Elizabeth College Jazz and New Orleans band.

Science Week also featured a Biology 3 immunology practical with Year 10 students from Cosgrove High School, the RACI titration competition, the International Chemistry Quiz, and the Australian Science Innovations Olympiads.

To round out the week, 72 EC students attended the Festival of Bright Ideas at Princes Wharf 1, where the College's science stall showcased our innovation and enthusiasm for STEM.





NEW YORK NEW YORK

In August, Elizabeth College and Tasmania were proudly represented at the 2025 AFS Youth Assembly in New York City, themed *Defying Adversity: Empowering Young Global Citizens to Lead*. Year 12 student, Ella Bridges-Thomsen, attended the event which explored global instability, green skills for employment, youth mental health, and women's leadership.

Students participated in a Model UN simulation focused on sustainable energy transition, negotiating solutions as country delegates. They toured the UN headquarters, including the General Assembly and Security Council chambers, and visited the US Permanent Mission, hearing directly from American diplomats.

Inspiring speakers included Shah Rafayat Chowdhury (Footsteps), Yumi Parajuli (Entreprenari), Peter Vesterbacka (Finest Future), and Cherner Bah (Minister of Information, Sierra Leone), among others. Delegates engaged in workshops, advocacy pitches, networking, and represented Australia in the closing ceremony.

Beyond the Assembly, students explored New York's iconic landmarks: the 9/11 Memorial, MET and Guggenheim Museums, Central Park, Times Square, Empire State Building, a Yankees game, a Hudson River cruise to the Statue of Liberty, Coney Island, Broadway's *Stranger Things* prequel, and Wall Street.

Thanks to Tasmanian Government Education International and Brand Tasmania for their support of this wonderful opportunity.





THE GIFT OF MUSIC

Earlier this term Ryan Dowsley was selected as the recipient of a remarkable musical gift, a PRS SE Dave Navarro Signature guitar, generously donated by a local philanthropist. This award recognises a student who has faced challenging circumstances yet continues to show outstanding commitment and passion for music.

Ryan's dedication to pursuing music beyond college made him a standout candidate. The guitar, known for its exceptional craftsmanship and iconic design, will support him as he continues to grow as a musician.

WELLBEING WEDNESDAY

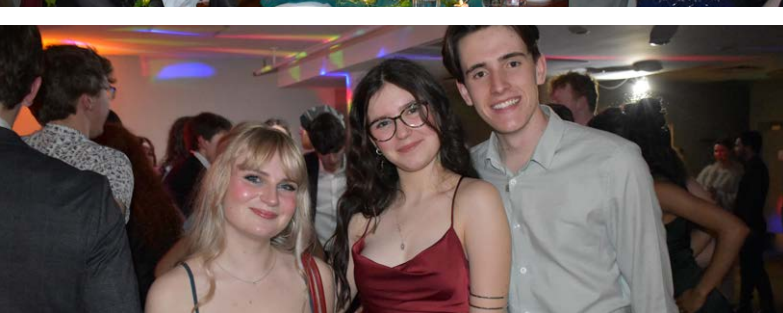
In Week 9, the campus was filled with energy for our annual Wellbeing Expo, a great chance for students to learn about health, wellbeing, and get involved in activities. Local groups like Pulse Youth Health South, Headspace, and Family Planning Tasmania set up interactive stalls covering everything from mental health to nutrition and sexual health. Students asked lots of thoughtful questions, picked up helpful resources (including the popular sensory fidgets), and enjoyed a free, healthy lunch. A big thank you to our student leaders and Student Services staff for making the day welcoming, informative, and full of positive vibes!





AN ENCHANTED EVENING OF CELEBRATION

Elizabeth College's Graduation Celebration was held at the Woolstore in September with 150 year 12 and 13 students attending. Students embraced the "Enchanted Forest" theme, dressing in their finest attire. The night was filled with dancing, laughter, and memories as students captured long lasting memories in the photo booth and enjoyed a light supper. The celebration was a joyous occasion, with students and staff coming together to honour their hard work and successes in a magical setting. This enchanted night was a perfect way to celebrate the students' final year of senior secondary schooling.





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