The Spartan Junior Gymnastics programme is one of the new initiatives formed as a result of the new sports facilities. Join us at the Sports Precinct Open Day on Saturday 5 March, 10.00am to 1.00pm.

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME – LITERACY AND NUMERACY 2016

On Tuesday 10, Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 May all Australian students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will undertake NAPLAN for 2016. While it may appear to be over an extended period, simply put, “NAPLAN tests require less than four hours over three days, four times during a student’s time at school.”

“It is a point-in-time snapshot assessment of a student’s achievements in the areas of literacy and numeracy. We all understand there’s a lot that goes into a student’s education. NAPLAN doesn’t test everything happening in the classroom or a school and isn’t designed to assess a student’s diverse and creative learning, entrepreneurial skills or risk-taking ability.” – Robert Randall, ACARA CEO. The intent of this national testing programme is to provide a measure of how all Australian school students at these Year Levels are performing in Literacy and Numeracy.

The performance of each child will be reported to the College Community using six bands of achievement at each Year Level. These bands enable all students across Australia at these Year Levels to be compared. One of these bands will represent the national minimum standard for students at that Year Level. We certainly view the rich data we receive from NAPLAN as an opportunity to review our annual goals for teaching and learning at the College.

The actual content NAPLAN tests is informed by the National Statements of Learning in English and Mathematics. Test questions therefore cover aspects of Literacy (Reading, Writing, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling) and Numeracy. In Years 3 and 5 these elements will be assessed through four separate papers whereas students in Years 7 and 9 will sit a total of five test papers. These tests range between 40 minutes and 65 minutes depending on the Year Level and will consist of a combination of multiple choice and short response questions.

Leading into these tests, students at the College will be exposed to sample examination papers and have explanatory sessions to become familiar with the format and the expectation of each paper. Further information about NAPLAN can be found here.

Michele Sauer
Dean of Middle Years
PHOTOGRAPHY PERMISSIONS

As explained in the Somerset College Information Collection – Privacy Notice, each year Somerset College publishes various magazines, including the Somerset Times, our weekly newsletter. These publications are included on the College website and social media accounts.

Such publications may include photographs and names of students. If you do not agree to the publication of such details, please advise me in writing immediately and every effort will be made to avoid publication.

John Bacon
Dean of Admissions

SPORT PRECINCT OPEN DAY

The transition into the new Sports Facility is well under way and, despite a few minor delays, the Somerset College Community will have the opportunity to explore the new facilities and programmes with the Sports Precinct Open Day taking place on Saturday 5 March from 10.00am to 1.00pm.

A host of free activities are being planned for the event with a sausage size, facility tours, group fitness class demonstrations and a jumping castle all included. Parents, staff and alumni will also have the opportunity to sign up for their Fitness Centre membership, which for a nominal fee will provide them with access to the facilities commencing on Monday 7 March.

Throughout the day attendees will have the opportunity to view some of the new initiatives that have recently been developed. One of those is the newly formed partnership with Scott Whiting of City Coast Physiotherapy. Scott will be on hand to answer questions regarding the services City Coast Physio intend on providing in the new facility.

There’s so much more to explore at Somerset College in 2016, and the Sports Precinct Open Day is a great way to learn about the Somerset Experience.

Highlights of the Sports Precinct Open Day to include:
- Facility tours
- Group fitness demonstrations
- Face painting
- Jumping castle
- Basketball and netball clinics

Damian Flint
Sports Facilities Manager
Mother’s Day Lunch – Thursday 5 May

Many of you will recall last year’s 'Unforgettable Mother's Day' lunch that sold out several weeks prior to the event. Exciting preparations for this popular event are now underway and the venue and further details will be promoted in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, please note Thursday 5 May from 11.30am in your diary and share it with your friends. An event not to be missed!

At this event we love to pamper the Mothers of Somerset. Consequently, unique marketing opportunities such as in-kind donations are welcomed from interested businesses or individuals. If you can help, please send an email to parentsandfriends@somerset.qld.edu.au or contact me on 0404 643 312.

Josie Kay
President – P&F Association

Year 12 Exit Survey

Late last year, the College conducted a School Results Survey (through MYP Corporation) with final year students of Somerset College in November 2015.

Survey responses were received from 69 out of a total of 128 eligible respondents. This equates to a response rate of 53.9%.

The key areas in which student feedback was sought included: Values and Culture; Leadership and Direction; School Communication; Curriculum; Co-curriculum; Learning and Extension; Teaching Standards; Learning Environment; Resources and Facilities; Homework; Reporting; Pastoral Care/Wellbeing; Student Transition; Parent Engagement; Student Engagement.

To read some of the statements posed (for students to respond to) in the survey under the headings above and student responses, please click here.

Michael Brohier
Deputy Headmaster

The Cubby Project

It started with a drawing, a plan for a cubby. Riley was concerned that the Year 1 playground had no cubby. We tried making one from wood pieces but it didn’t quite work.

We discussed as a group how we could make one and decided some really, really big boxes would be good. Mrs Tayler said she thought her Dad could help, we asked him and John brought in some boxes.

We collaborated together on a plan to join the boxes together to make a two-room house and Mrs Young, who is very good at carpentry, helped us with all the cutting. We met again as a group and decided to add a café and garden and someone suggested we invite the Pre-Preps over to play. We were very proud of our creative problem solving, communication and collaboration. Some students from Year 1E and Year 1S may be thinking of adding a pool.

Year 1 Teachers
THE MOZI RUN

International mindedness and the service of others are core values of Somerset College. In recent years there has been a significant focus on raising the profile of these values through the Service Learning programme, *Impact*.

*Impact* endeavours to promote these values through a three-tiered programme involving awareness sessions, indirect service and direct service activities. This week, students in the Junior School were privileged to be involved in an awareness session, presented by Dr Terry King who founded the African charity Mission Educate.

Mission Educate was established in Mozambique in 2001 and endeavours to provide the children of this nation with an opportunity to attend school from the early years right through to the senior years. In recent times, their programmes have expanded to include tertiary and vocational training for the young people who have graduated from their schooling programmes. While they have been given land by the government of Mozambique to run their programmes, infrastructure and staffing is funded entirely by the generosity of others. As such they rely heavily on the donations of others and community participation in their fundraising events.

“The Mozi Run” is the primary fundraising event of Mission Educate on the Gold Coast and is being held on Saturday 19 March 2016 at 2.00pm. It has been promoted as a fun, family-friendly event that caters for all ages and ability levels from walkers right through to running enthusiasts. Students in the Junior School would have received flyers containing the details of this event at Wednesday’s Chapel. Should you and your family wish to participate in this event, more details can be obtained by visiting [www.themozirun.org](http://www.themozirun.org) or by emailing info@themozirun.org.

Mark Grainger
Senior School Teacher

MEET THE STAFF

Over Terms One and Two 2016, we’ll ask our Junior School staff a few questions about themselves. We invite you to learn what they have to say in their answers below!

1. **Your name?** Kylie Russell
2. **Your role in the Junior School?** Year 2 Teacher and Year Level Leader
3. **How long have you worked at Somerset College?** 6 years
4. **What do you like most about your job?** Being an Early Years Educator, I am privileged to witness the development of our future generations and nurture the progression of children in all shapes and sizes. Children never cease to amaze me with their little quirky comments and just seeing the look on their faces when they have achieved a goal, no matter how small or how long it took, makes my job worthwhile. We are all still on a learning curve and sharing this with the children is rewarding.
5. **Favourite Food?** Anything that someone else cooks! Favourites include; lamb cutlets, lasagna and marshmallow slice.
6. **Favourite colour?** Blue
7. **What other job would you like to do if you were not doing this job?** I’ve mooted a few options over the years; Flight Attendant to satisfy my inner travel bug, Race Car Driver for the adrenalin rush or every girl’s dream ... a Mystery Shopper!
8. **Favourite quote?** “*All it takes is a SMILE*” – First words my dearest friend said to me many years ago.
### Meet The Staff

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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Your name? Lauren Wood</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Your role in the Junior School? Year 2 Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>How long have you worked at Somerset College? 5 years</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>What do you like most about your job? I love seeing the growth in the students throughout the year and getting to share in their joy when they overcome a challenge.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Favourite Food? Cadbury Chocolate</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Nickname at your primary school? Lolly</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Favourite colour? Purple</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>What other job would you like to do if you were not doing this job? I’m not sure – something that helps people.</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Favourite quote? “If you can’t say something nice, don’t say nothing at all.” – Thumper from Bambi</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Your name? Vicki Fuller</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Your role in the Junior School? Year 2 Teacher Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>How long have you worked at Somerset College? 11 years</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>What do you like most about your job? I am passionate about Early Years education and enjoy supporting the students in Year 2.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Favourite Food? Seafood</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Favourite colour? Red</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>What other job would you like to do if you were not doing this job? Early Childhood Teacher</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>What person inspires you the most and why? Mother Teresa of Calcutta. A very selfless saint helping children less fortunate.</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Favourite quote? “Happiness is wanting what you have not having what you want” – H Schachtel</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Your name? Vicky Speight</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Your role in the Junior School? Year 2 Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>How long have you worked at Somerset College? 2016 is my first year teaching at Somerset College</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>What do you like most about your job? I really enjoy watching the students grow over the years and being part of this experience.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Favourite Food? Ice Cream</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Nickname at your primary school? Vicstar</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Favourite colour? Pink</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>What other job would you like to do if you were not doing this job? Hairdresser</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>What person inspires you the most and why? My grandparents are definitely my role models in life and I aspire to be like them one day as they have achieved so much in their lifetime.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Favourite quote? “Be the change that you wish to see in the world.” – Mahatma Gandhi</td>
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First, there was getting used to the Senior School: all the different timetables, buildings and teachers. Then, there was learning the names of all the new, seemingly hundreds of students. And now they want us to go on camp in our third week back at school? Gee teachers, you really are working us hard here.

Luckily, Year 7 Camp didn’t turn out as hard as we thought it would be. While the teachers warned us of the terrible storm and told us horrifying stories of flooded tents, the skies were clear and blue on Mount Tamborine. As the week progressed, some of us actually realised that camp could be fun, of all things, even if some of us missed the beautiful glowing screen of our portable devices.

One of the most heart-pounding, terrifying activities at camp was abseiling. Did I hear you correctly? Do you want us to walk down a cliff? Were the words most likely in everyone’s head as the instructors explained how we were going to abseil. Thankfully, we were in good hands, and there were no serious injuries that day. A good thing too, as we still had many activities to go.

Among all the high ropes, glowworms and bush dancing, I’m sure every Year 7 student would agree that the Camp Concert was the highlight of our camping experience, where we were separated into our Houses and left alone to create a whole play from scratch. That sounds easy, right? With no teachers for guidance, and no planners to help us create a whole play? While some Houses may have got off to a rocky start, we all managed to pull it together in the end with some help from our generous Year 12 leaders. On the night, all of the Houses presented spectacular performances, with Laver taking home the spot of first place.

All of Year 7 would like to thank the numerous staff of teachers and everyone else involved for organising this wonderful camp for us and making our camp experience that much better. We hope that camps will get better and better in the years to come.

Helena Hagan
Year 7 Veivers
Words are powerful. It only took two.
The furthest I had travelled was to the Philippines - an experience which did a lot to open my eyes to a bigger world and which welcomed me to the frustrations of language barriers. It was a strange experience to meet new people with whom I couldn’t communicate. I felt so different from them; I felt so foreign. Yet, I knew the differences weren’t that great. If it weren’t for the fact that I only knew two words – the customary please and thank you, I could even have made some friends. On my return, I told my tales, shared my photos and showed off my spoils of bargain shopping. Soon, I even forgot those two little words and life went back to normal.

Since my own travels hadn’t really had a long-lasting effect on me, it came as a surprise to me when soon after, I was moved so much by someone else’s account of their travels. In a flurry of sentences, my fast-speaking friend was recounting story after story of her time away on our school’s German Trip. And it was two words that stopped me in my tracks. She had gone “ice-skating … outdoors”. Such simple words. Still to do this day, I have no idea why they spoke to me like they did, but these two words stood out. I couldn’t get past them.

While it may seem like such a superficial motivation, this dream of going ice-skating outdoors had me suddenly trying a little harder in my German class - a class, I confess, I used to sit in wondering why we had to do it, wondering what use it would ever be. Things had changed though.

Since making it there and eventually satisfying my wish, my life has been enriched in a myriad of ways. I did not expect to fall in love with the country. I did not expect to find true friends there, and I had never thought I would learn to embrace the challenges of learning another language or get such a thrill from the satisfaction of a full conversation in the language of the locals. As an adult, I am so grateful for all that this language has given me. I have countless memories too precious to share. I have people in my life, I care so truly about, whom I know I would never have met if it weren’t for this strange aspiration to go ice-skating outdoors! The passion that then grew from this has given me a career I love and a life much richer than it would otherwise have been.

I no longer ask why I had to learn a language. I am grateful that I could.

And one of the biggest rewards is that every now and again, I get to witness that moment when a couple of obscure words light that spark in the eyes of a student, and their journey begins.

Sarah White
Assistant Head of Department – Languages
**WORLD READ ALOUD DAY**

On Wednesday 24 February our Junior School took part in World Read Aloud Day. World Read Aloud Day is celebrated by millions of people in more than 100 countries. It was established in 2007 with the aim of motivating children, teens and adults worldwide to celebrate the power of words.

The benefits of reading to children, even for just a few minutes each day, have been proven time and again. Children that are read to from a young age consistently have better vocabularies, cognitive ability and schooling outcomes.

With the Somerset Celebration of Literature just over ten days away, the focus here in the KIP is very much once again on literacy and our great Australian authors.

The gift of a bedtime story for your child each night has never been easier now that eBooks are so accessible. All you need is a smart phone or tablet and an Internet connection and you can access hundreds of age-appropriate eBooks via the Somerset College Library website at any time of day, from anywhere in the world.

We have recently added over 130 new titles to our eBook library, including several by our Celebration of Literature authors, so now is a great time to familiarise yourself with their work.

[Click here](#) to see just how easy it is to get started with Somerset Library eBooks and happy reading!

**Book Covering Morning – Volunteers Needed!**

We have been on a shopping spree and we have approximately 100 brand new books for the Junior School that need to be covered. If you can spare an hour or two after drop-off on Thursday 3 March, please pop into the KIP (Library) as we would love some help. We’ll buy the coffee!

Jennifer Walsh
Information Services

**JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSICAL UPDATE**

The Junior School production of Shrek The Musical Jr. is certainly shaping up to be something spectacular. Students from Years 4 to 6 have been rehearsing between 2 to 3 times weekly, preparing their voices, choreography and acting to ‘wow’ audiences.

The show is based upon the Disney plot of Shrek however features original songs which feature our chorus members and leads, including Shrek himself, Donkey, Princess Fiona, Lord Farquaad, Fairytale creatures and more!

The students are learning quickly how to multi-task as they have to sing beautifully in tune whilst blending in with other voices, remember detailed choreography and lines, and telling a story with musicality. The story telling takes a lot of practise in itself as students learn to sing with diction and expression.

I am very proud of their effort and commitment and look forward to opening night – it’s a family show not to be missed!

Melissa Black
Junior School Music Teacher
**Performing Arts**

This week has seen the conclusion of the House services for the Senior School and the Performing Arts stage start to take shape for the Junior School Musical, *Shrek The Musical JR*.

The Junior School cast are busily preparing for their show with the pit being turned into a swamp and some very mysterious and magical creatures starting to appear on the stage.

**Senior School Musical**
The Senior Musical is well underway with its initial sign-on and auditions occurring throughout these first few weeks of term. This year the Senior School will be producing the musical, *High School Musical*. As can be imagined, the students are very excited regarding the staging of this show. As with all our shows, this is an exciting venture and one for all to be involved. The philosophy of the Senior Musical is to allow all students to have the opportunity to involve in a musical stage production. Although auditions have closed, these are only for principal roles. Any student who wishes to be part of the chorus are most welcome to join in the fun. Rehearsals are on a Thursday lunchtime. Students only need to come along to rehearsal (and perhaps bring their inner Wildcat).

**House Plays**
The House Plays rehearsal process is starting to come to a close as the casts work towards their big, on-stage Technical Rehearsal day this Sunday. The productions are looking extraordinarily entertaining and I encourage all who want to support their House, or just get in a good night’s entertainment with their friends, to come along to the Festival being held next Thursday and Friday nights, 3 and 4 March. Tickets are on sale and can be purchased [here](#), so get in fast before they all sell-out.

**Performances**
During the week, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, we saw the musicians in Laver, Starkey and Veivers Houses participate in their House Chapel services. It is wonderful to see the students contributing to their services using their musical skills. Both the instrumentalists in the band and the members of the choir performed well. This was an excellent way for the members of the House to see their peers in a different light and for all to appreciate the various skills each individual has. Well done to all!

On Monday, we also heard the Junior Concert Band perform at the Junior School Assembly. Well done to all and thank you to Mrs Rowe, for having this group up and performing so early in the term. Also on Monday, the Melodic Mynas contributed an anthem to the Junior School Family Chapel. Well done also to these youngsters as well as a thank you to Ms Black, as this is also very early in the year for performances by our Year 3 and 4 choir.

**Year 9 Drama Excursion**
Monday saw the Year 9 Drama students head off to The Arts Centre Gold Coast for a day excursion to experience a one-off, behind the scenes tour of our local cultural hub. Students were privileged to be taken backstage and on stage to see the mechanics of how the sound, lighting, fly system and all sorts of other intricacies work in this fantastic performance space. This was a hands-on experience where students got to learn microphone technique tips, see the lighting rigs up close, and touch and feel the mechanics used to change lighting colours and shapes.

Following this, the students enjoyed a lunch on The Terrace, a gallery tour of the current exhibition ‘Made in Queensland: Ode to the Souvenir’, and were privileged to be given access to ‘The Space’ (a small blackbox theatre within the Centre) to spend their afternoon completing a workshop session. All enjoyed the experience immensely, and thanks must go to Miss Green for her work with the students on the day.

Sue Roberts and Katrina Fisher
Director of Music and Director of Theatre Arts
Senior Sport News

This week the Senior School enters week three of Winter Sport trials, with official practices beginning on Monday 7 March.

Samantha McInnes, Triathlon
Samantha raced in the State Championships last week and took the bronze medal in her age group, despite still having another year in that age group. She has been selected to go Nationals in April.

Tenyka Chapman, Athletics
Tenyka competed in the Queensland Junior Championships on Friday 12 February where she placed first in the Under 16 3000m Walk and has qualified for the National Junior Championships in Perth on 9 March.

Tenyka also competed in the Regional Little Athletics Championships were she placed first in the 1500m Walk, setting a new regional record, and 2nd in Triple Jump with a new PB of 9.73. Tenyka has now qualified for the State Little Athletics Championships in March for the 1500m Walk, Triple Jump, 400m and 800m.

Nick Pridham, Baseball
Nick has been selected in the 18 Years South Coast Regional Baseball Team to compete in the upcoming State Titles.

Adele Phillips, Oskar Vardy and Jemma Clements, Aquathlon
Adele, Oskar and Jemma travelled to Hervey Bay last week for the State Titles of Aquathlon and have been selected in the South Coast team for the Aquathlon State Championship.

Taka Ishii, Nicholas Pridham, Bryce O’Hara, Baseball
In early December 2015, Taka Ishii, Nicholas Pridham, (Year 11) and Bryce O’Hara (Year 12) were selected to play in the Gold Coast Pirates 16s and Under Baseball team at the Queensland State Titles, held in Ipswich from Thursday 21 January to Sunday 24 January 2016.

Unfortunately, the Gold Coast Pirates were not successful in making it to Nationals, but every player on the team improved their baseball skills and most of all had fun playing against some strong competition from some of the Brisbane teams.

APS Swimming Carnival
Our APS Swimming Team had excellent results, taking out 3rd Place in what is one of Queensland’s toughest school swimming competitions. The team was well led by Toby Wilson and Julia Gibson and as usual, it was the depth from our squad who all gave their best and who showed great team spirit in their support of each other which really stood out. For the full results, see the Resources section of this article.

1. All Saints Anglican School – 2,715
2. Emmanuel College – 2,586
3. Somerset College – 2,418
4. AB Paterson College – 2,200
5. King’s Christian College – 2,156
6. Saint Stephen’s College – 2,120
7. Trinity Lutheran College – 2,068
8. Coomera Anglican College – 2,055

Continued over page...
“Boots for Kids” Donations
The Sports Department is requesting the donation of old or unused rugby, hockey or soccer boots, in order to provide disadvantaged children and teens from Indigenous communities with the ability to participate in sports that require their use in order to play competitively. A bin labelled ‘Boots for Kids’ will be located on the bottom of level of the new Fitness Centre. Please drop your old boots here as soon as possible.

Next Week
Monday 29 February and Wednesday 2 March
• Regional Swimming Trials - Southport

Wednesday 2 March
• Rugby and Netball versus Sunshine Grammar (home)

Friday 4 March
• 12.50pm: Sports Assembly
• 1.15pm to 3.20pm: Winter Sports Trials (3 of 3)

Saturday 5 March
• 10.00am to 1.00pm: Sports Precinct Open Day

Shane Lunniss
Director of Sport