

Magis Matters

August 2026

As we move through the second half of the year, it is worth pausing for a moment to reflect on an important milestone. Six months have now passed since the launch of *Magis 2033* as our system strategy, and while there is still much work ahead of us, there is also much to be grateful for and to celebrate.

I am increasingly encouraged by the progress that has been made. We are defining what a truly holistic education looks like for the young people entrusted to our care, articulating this shared understanding through an extended collaboration between school leaders and Central Office staff.

Among our key projects include the drafting of the Philosophy of Education, our Statement on the Image of the Child and the Graduate Profile. These documents, developed through consultation with principals and assistant principals, have now been to the Core Strategy Committee and the Board for feedback, with further input to come from our school leaders.

Importantly, we are working to define what success looks like as a system. Not simply in aspirational terms, but through listening to your feedback. We are developing a meaningful measurement framework that will help us understand whether we are genuinely achieving our mission.

The next stage of this journey will continue that spirit of discernment. At our upcoming Archdiocesan Day for Principals and Assistant Principals, we will spend time reviewing our key projects, exploring the purpose and grouping of networks and considering what structures will best serve schools now and into the future. As with much of the work under *Magis*, the objective is not change for its own sake, but ensuring that our structures genuinely enable Wonder, Wisdom, Witness and the human flourishing of everyone in our community.

Danielle Cronin, Executive Director



Save the date! Our new visual identity is coming

The countdown is on!

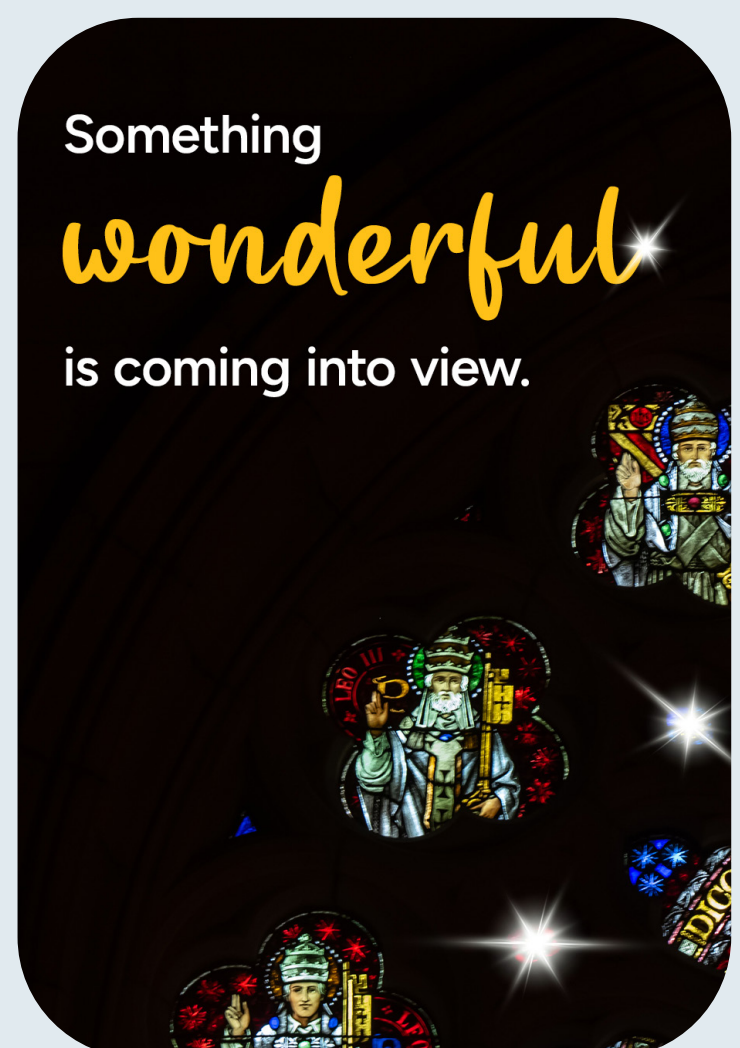
On Monday 17 August, we'll reveal the new Sydney Catholic Schools logo - a fresh expression of our shared identity, mission and future as defined by *Magis 2033*.

Drawing inspiration from the beauty and symmetry of the central rose window at St Mary's Cathedral, it connects us all to our shared spiritual home and celebrates the diverse communities that make up Sydney Catholic Schools.

Following the launch, you'll see the new look appearing across our social media channels, websites, newsletters, emails, publications, event materials and signage as it is progressively introduced.

Until then, follow our social media teasers and visit the [System Identity Hub](#) for updates. A complete suite of guidelines and resources will be available in the hub from launch day.

We're excited to share this next chapter of the journey with you all.



Don't miss your chance to have your say

There's still time to have your say in our Employee Experience Survey. Your feedback helps us understand what's working well across Sydney Catholic Schools and where we can continue to improve the experience of our staff. Each person has received a unique survey link via email, and it takes 15 minutes to complete. If you haven't already, please take a few minutes to complete the survey before it closes on **Wednesday 12 August**.

If you haven't received your survey invitation from Culture Amp, please check your junk folder first. If it's still missing, contact the People & Culture Team for assistance: pcservices@scs.catholic.edu.au.

We're committed to listening to your feedback and turning it into meaningful action. To see how your feedback from our 2025 survey has helped shape change across SCS, visit our 'You said, we did' results on the intranet [here](#). Thank you to everyone who has already shared their feedback!



Introducing our new Project Management Office

A new chapter in bringing *Magis 2033* to life has begun with the establishment of our Project Management Office (PMO).

The PMO will help teams plan, coordinate and deliver major projects across Sydney Catholic Schools. It will provide practical advice, clear processes and hands-on support to help projects stay focused and on track.

By providing greater structure, guidance and collaboration around major projects, the PMO will help ensure initiatives are thoughtfully managed, clearly communicated and implemented across our schools and offices.

As *Magis 2033* progresses, the PMO will connect our system priorities with the day-to-day experiences of staff and schools. Its focus will be on delivering projects that meet real needs, support our shared mission and create lasting benefits for our communities.

SCS contributes to the global conversation on Catholic Education

Representatives from the Mission and Identity Directorate recently presented at the third Global Researchers Advancing Catholic Education (G.R.A.C.E.) International Colloquium at Boston College, joining educators, researchers and leaders from 16 countries to explore the future of Catholic education.

Director of Mission and Identity, Anthony Cleary, and Specialist: Innovation and Partnerships, David Neilson, showcased Sydney Catholic Schools' commitment to evidence-informed practice, faith formation and human flourishing. Their presentations included emerging insights from the SCS Survey of Religious Attitudes and Practices, highlighting encouraging trends in students' engagement with faith.

The colloquium strengthened international partnerships that will support the continued development of the Whole Child framework within *Magis 2033*.



Young musicians shine at inaugural SCS Music Camp

Selected through the Artists' Evolution Talent Development Program, a total of 89 students from Years 5 to 11 across 39 schools came together for the first ever SCS Music Camp at Stanwell Tops for three days of intensive musical development.

The students worked with experienced conductors including Head of Brass at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music Brad Lucas, to extend their performance skills and explore challenging new repertoire.

Amadeus Music Education Supervisor Jacinta Adamson commended the students for their enthusiasm, resilience and commitment to learning.

"Across the three days, I witnessed their growth as performers and young people of character," she said. "They represented their schools, instrumental tutors and the Amadeus program with distinction."



Holy Innocents' bringing generations together

Friendships were formed, stories were shared and plenty of smiles were exchanged as students from Holy Innocents' Catholic Primary School Croydon spent time with residents from Bupa Aged Care Ashfield. Bringing together young and old for games, crafts, conversations and prayer, the visit created meaningful connections, proving that some of the best friendships are those that span generations.

"When generations come together, faith, love and community grow stronger," said Family Educator Cindy Miu. "These moments help children develop empathy, respect for older people and an understanding that even small acts of kindness can make someone feel seen, valued and connected."

Holy Spirit inspired by visit from the Governor-General

The Holy Spirit Catholic College Lakemba community recently had the honour of welcoming Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia.

The Governor-General described Holy Spirit as "a shining example of education at its best" and said its students reflected "modern, successful, dynamic Australia".

Her words were a fitting recognition of the students and staff whose commitment to faith, excellence and community was evident throughout the occasion.



School leaders walk together in faith during the Franciscan Jubilee Year Pilgrimage

During the term 2 school holidays, Sydney Catholic Schools principals and leaders took part in the 2026 Franciscan Jubilee Year Pilgrimage, led by our School Support Directorate.

The 16km pilgrimage, from The Immaculate Conception Church Leichhardt, to St Anthony of Padua Clovelly, offered school leaders a valuable opportunity to pause, reflect and deepen their faith alongside colleagues.

"As *Magis* drives us to deepen our work and purpose, expand our impact and elevate our excellence for each and every child, experiences like today provide our leaders with time to truly reflect, pray and honour our rich traditions" said Peter Watkins, School Support Manager.



Cathedral Choir tours Europe's greatest cathedrals

Students from St Mary's Cathedral Choir embarked on a once-in-a-lifetime European tour, performing in some of the world's most iconic churches and cathedrals, including St Peter's Basilica, St Mary's Catholic Cathedral in Edinburgh, and venues across London, Cambridge and Norwich.

Alongside these performances, the choristers attended Mass celebrated by Pope Leo XIV, visited historic landmarks such as the Sistine Chapel, Colosseum and Edinburgh Castle, and took part in a private rehearsal with the renowned King's College Choir before singing Evensong in King's College Chapel. The tour provided students with an extraordinary opportunity to deepen their faith, musical excellence and appreciation of history and culture while proudly representing St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney Catholic Schools and Australia on the world stage.



Supporting brighter futures through the South Pacific Islands Project

Central Office Services, in partnership with school business managers from across Sydney Catholic Schools, has coordinated the donation of quality classroom furniture to Bitapaka Primary School in Fiji as part of the South Pacific Islands Project.

The initiative gives surplus furniture from our schools a second life, providing students and staff at Bitapaka Primary School with valuable classroom and office resources while supporting improved learning environments.

Thank you to the participating schools and Office Services team for their collaboration and commitment to ensuring these resources continue to make a meaningful difference beyond our own communities. Learn more about the program [here](#).



Celebrating Excellence in Performing Arts Education

Congratulations to Sarah-Jane Barr from Mater Dei Catholic Primary School Blakehurst and Joanne Caletti from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College Kensington, recipients of the 2026 Sydney Catholic Schools Performing Arts Teacher Exemplary Service Awards. Presented annually at the Eisteddfod Showcase, the awards recognise educators who demonstrate outstanding leadership in arts education while championing excellence, inclusion, collaboration and the mission of Sydney Catholic Schools.

The judges praised Joanne for being "deeply invested in nurturing the whole child," creating a dynamic Arts community where creativity, wellbeing and excellence flourish. Sarah was recognised for her dedication, empathy and leadership, fostering a vibrant culture where the arts are embedded in school life, enriching the faith, wellbeing and sense of belonging of students, families and the wider school community. Congratulations to both recipients on this well-deserved recognition.



Have something you want to share in the next newsletter? Email your good news to communications@scs.catholic.edu