



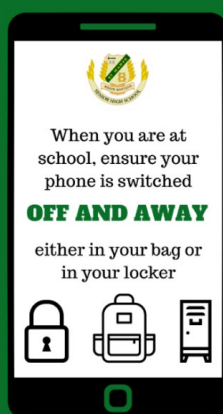
TERM 4 WEEKS 5 AND 6

10 - 21 November 2025

Important Dates – Term 4 2025

W5	Monday 10 November	Year 12 Sign Out Day #1
W5	Tuesday 11 November	Remembrance Day Ceremony
W5	Wednesday 12 November	Year 12 Sign Out Day #2
W5	Thursday 13 November	Year 12 2025 Formal
W7	Tuesday 26 November	School Council Meeting 6pm, online
W9	Monday 8 December	Confirmation of Entry Day, Year 11 2026
W9	Thursday 11 December	2025 School Presentation Day
W10	Friday 19 December	Final day of school, Year 12 2025

Mobile Phone Policy



Principal's Report

I often talk about each term of the school year as having its own flavour. For me, Term 4 always seems to go so quickly for a variety of reasons. As we approach the end of the year it is important to take a moment to celebrate our achievements and the growth we have experienced together as a school community. This term provides an opportunity for reflection on the challenges we have overcome and the milestones we have reached, reminding us of our school values that define our students, parents, carers and staff: inclusive, aspirational and respectful. As you are reading this newsletter the very last Higher School Certificate Examination for 2025, Food Technology has concluded. Congratulations Year 12 2025 – you made it! We look forward to celebrating this milestone with you at your formal.

In this newsletter you will find a 2026 school calendar to help families with planning their holidays. In 2024 the NSW Department of Education made changes to the commencement of the new school year, adding

Continued over the page →



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Principal's Report continued

additional staff development days. This later start will continue in 2026 with all students starting the new school year on Monday 2 February 2026.

As we near the end of the year some of our families take the opportunity to start their holidays early or return from their holidays after school starts in the new year. Travel leave must be approved by the school prior to the student starting the period of leave. The guidelines we follow in relation to the Higher School Certificate are determined by the New South Wales Education Standards Authority (NESA) and our school's assessment policy. Leave will not be provided for periods in which students have an examination type task. To best support students achieve to their potential, it is advisable that holidays are taken during the vacation periods and not during school time.

- It is imperative that Year 12 2026 students speak to Danielle, their Deputy Principal if they are going to be absent from school and require leave. This must be done well in advance of the period of leave.
- For our incoming Year 11 2026 students, as we discussed at our Enrolment Evenings, please contact Leah (leah.havord@det.nsw.edu.au), Deputy Principal for Year 11 2026 to obtain the relevant paperwork.

Last week, St Marys Senior High School launched a text messaging service for reporting student absences to families. This initiative aims to make communication easier and more efficient for our school community. We thank all parents and carers for their engagement and support in using this system. Your feedback is invaluable to us as we strive to improve our processes. Please continue to share your thoughts and suggestions by emailing us at stmaryssen-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au to enable us to provide a service that best supports our students and their families.

The Department of Education is excited to announce that in Term 4, students in Years 5 to 12 will gain access to NSWeduChat, a generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) tool developed by the NSW Department of Education.

NSWeduChat has been successfully trialled in 50 schools since 2024 and staff and students have provided positive feedback about the tool and how students can use it.

NSWeduChat works different to other commonly used GenAI tools. It does not just give direct answers to students. Instead it provides guidance and asks open-ended questions, encouraging students to think critically and express their ideas, reasoning and assumptions. In this newsletter you will find a copy of the parent privacy notice which includes information on NSWeduChat data collection and privacy.



As we enter this busy final stretch of the year, I want to take a moment to wish everyone a wonderful fortnight ahead. Let's finish strong together, cherishing each day as we head towards the second half of the term.

Best wishes.

Sally Smithard

Principal

NSW Department of Education



Dear Parents/Carers/Guardians,

All public schools in New South Wales have the opportunity to take part in an exciting initiative run by the Department of Education. We are excited to share that all students in years 5 to 12 will soon be able to use NSWeduChat, a cutting-edge generative Artificial Intelligence chat tool operated by the department. Unlike ChatGPT and other tools, NSWeduChat has been designed to respond to students with guidance and by asking open-ended questions. NSWeduChat can answer questions and provide information, acting as a useful learning aid for your child. While NSWeduChat is sophisticated, it does not replace human teachers or tutors. Instead, it offers additional support, helping to reinforce understanding and encourage students to explore and share their thoughts and reasoning.

NSWeduChat may also be incorporated into lessons by your child's teachers, helping them learn how to use NSWeduChat in various subjects, about the potential implications of generative AI, and highlighting its capacity to create content that may require thoughtful and responsible use.

NSWeduChat is a powerful tool, but it can provide incorrect or incomplete responses.

What personal information will be collected?

The NSWeduChat AI tool collects data that includes the record of all interactions your child has with the tool, encompassing every question asked and the corresponding responses provided. Additionally, some basic user identifiers, such as your child's name or a unique user identifier assigned by the system, are also collected to enhance the personalisation of the learning experience. These measures help ensure that your child has a seamless, supportive and unique learning journey with NSWeduChat.

In-app surveys may appear which are optional for students to complete. The purpose of these surveys is to inform potential future activities such as monitoring, research, and evaluation.

How will the department use the information?

The information collected during the use of this tool will be used for the following purposes:

- **For your child** – The conversation data collected may be used by NSWeduChat to create personalised experiences for your child, by incorporating characteristics of the conversation in future conversations.
- **In the school** – Your child's teacher may be able to review conversations between NSWeduChat and your child for safety, quality and training purposes. The tool's content filter may trigger disclosures related to self-harm concerns to the school to ensure your child's safety. These staff will know the identity of your child.
- **Within the department** – Both combined and de-identified data will be used by teams to improve the delivery of public education. Where analysis requires looking at individual questions and responses, those interactions will be de-identified so that anyone seeing the question or response will not know which student was involved. Where appropriate, information will be grouped together so that the staff can see overall patterns in the information, not individual student information. These staff will not know the identity of your child.

Within the department, staff members responsible for managing the process of de-identifying and combining the data will be the only additional persons who will know the identity of your child. These staff may combine the NSWeduChat data with other data held by the department prior to the de-identifying and combining of the data where it may assist with improving public education.



Will the information be disclosed to anyone outside the department?

The information will not be disclosed to anyone outside the department unless it is consistent with the privacy legislation or as permitted or required by any other law.

One possible exception will occur in very rare circumstances whereby the department is required to submit a mandatory report to the Department of Communities & Justice. This will occur if the tool's content filter triggers disclosures related to self-harm concerns, the school is contacted, and it is deemed that there is a significant risk to your child's safety or wellbeing.

Staff responsible for supporting your child may have access to information and know your child's identity.

Is participation voluntary?

Yes. Although your child will be provided access to NSWeduChat, it is entirely optional for them to use it. They may choose not to use it at all, or only when they wish to.

At the point of enrolment, the department provides information about the use of online services and obtained parental consent for their use. NSWeduChat is included as part of that agreement.

Where is the information held and how can it be accessed?

NSWeduChat will be delivered electronically to your child's Department of Education student portal.

When your child uses NSWeduChat the 'chat' conversation is encrypted and transmitted over the internet to a department server with a token that identifies your child.

Only when the answer arrives at the department server can it be re-combined with your child's identity.

All information collected by NSWeduChat is stored in Australia using department-owned services.

The department endeavours to ensure that the personal and health information it collects and holds is accurate, complete and up to date by encouraging families to regularly update the information if there are changes and by allowing access to and alteration of the information.

Requests to access and update personal and health information should be made directly to the school. The department's [privacy management plan](#) has information about how requests are handled.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of this tool, please contact your school principal.

Yours sincerely,

Jacky Hodges
Chief Data Officer

Last updated: 3 September 2025



Student Representative Council, Year 12 2026

In Week 3, our students in Year 12 2026 voted for their SRC members across their Cluster Meetings. There were a large number of outstanding applicants to choose between, and we were very proud of how respectfully and seriously our students took this process.

Sherman, Mia, Archaeli and Aaniaa, our School Captains and Vice Captains for 2026, did a fantastic job running the elections – and carefully counting each group of votes, with voting being very close in each Cluster.

Congratulations to our new SRC members, who are pictured below. We look forward to a fantastic year ahead!

Isidro Alfonso

SRC Coordinator, Student Support Officer



Back row, L-R: Aaniaa Sobhan (Vice Captain), Janina Tabungar (Cluster 3), Rhyane Bacher (Cluster 2), Archaeli Florendo (Vice Captain)

Front row, L-R: Sherman Phull (Captain), Jarred Manuel (Cluster 8), Aditya Govada (Cluster 5) Jirah Dela Cruz (Cluster 7), Mia Victorino (Captain)

Not present: Afya Karim, Cluster 6



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Remembrance Day Assembly

A Remembrance Day service will be held at school at the Flagpole Commemorative Garden on Tuesday 11 November 2025, starting at 10.40 am.

Remembrance Day is one of the most important days on our commemorative calendar. It is a day when we acknowledge those who died while serving in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

Remembrance Day is held on 11 November each year. This is the anniversary of the Armistice that ended fighting with Germany and its allies in World War I. People in Australia and many other countries observe one minute's silence at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month because that is when the Armistice came into effect.

Shara Walsh

Head Teacher HSIE

Bell times for Tuesday 11 November 2025

8.20 am - 9.30am	Period 1
9.30 am – 10.40 am	Period 2
10.40 am - 11.10 am	<i>Whole school assembly at the flagpoles</i>
11.10 am – 11.40 am	Recess
11.40 am – 12.45 pm	Period 3
12.45 pm – 1.45 pm	Period 4
1.45 pm – 2.15 pm	Lunch
2.15 pm – 3.20 pm	Period 5



SIGN OUT 2025

Students in Year 12 2025 must attend one of the two scheduled Sign Out Days

Either: Monday 10 November or Wednesday 12 November

Year 12, for sign out day:

- You need to have your **student card with you** and **any outstanding school resources** - for example, textbooks, sport uniforms, CAPA supplies.
- You need to have **completed your Exit Survey**. The link to this survey has been emailed to your school email address – and it is easier to do prior to the day.
- Please do not bring any friends from outside of school or family members onsite with you.

On sign out day, you should follow the steps below:

Step 1: On arrival at school, report to the front of the **Library** to collect your sign out form.

Step 2: Proceed into the library to return any textbooks issued by the library and any library books. The librarian or library officers will sign your form to indicate all resources have been returned.

Step 3: In the library, see the Exit Survey Officer who will sign that your Exit Survey has been completed.

Step 4: In the library, see the Careers Adviser to sign your form.

Step 5: Proceed to CAPA to return any outstanding textbooks or resources.

Step 6: Proceed to the office before 2.00 pm to finalise your payments and collect your portfolio and Formal ticket (if you have paid to attend).

If students, parents, carers and families have any questions, please speak to Amanda, our School Administration Manager, in the Administration Office.



Access to NESA - Students Online

A common inquiry from our alumni involves these former students reaching out to get a copy of their Higher School Certificate and other records generated by NESA, such as their AQF VET Framework Qualification (e.g. Certificate II in Hospitality).

The school does not receive copies of these documents – and student access to Students Online extends for some time into 2026. After this time, access is closed for students and they must pay to get copies of any records from NESA.

To avoid any difficulties, **we recommend that our students go into their Students Online account and download and save their documents to their personal records as soon as they are available.** Doing this early should avoid any difficulties – and allow time to overcome any difficulties.

NESA advise that the HSC PDF Package for each student can be downloaded from 8.30 am on Friday 19 December 2025.

For more information, please visit <https://studentsonline.nesa.nsw.edu.au/>



**Education
Standards
Authority**





Another common inquiry from our alumni involves asking for a copy of their school report(s). It is important that these are downloaded and saved by each student to a personal drive or email account, so they are easy to access in the future.

This is because while a student is enrolled in a NSW Public School, they are allocated user credentials that provide them with access to a range of online services such as email, student portal, school reports, Google G Suite and Microsoft Office 365. They can access these services for free both while at school and from home – or anywhere else.

But what happens when you leave?

Students generally have around 180 days before they lose online access to a range of services, including:

- Their school email account
- Their Google Drive contents
- Any Google Classrooms they were joined to
- Their Microsoft OneDrive contents
- Any Microsoft Teams they were a member of.

So, from the time that students leave, they have 180 days to check all their content and files in these services and download anything they want to keep. **We would encourage students to download their reports and records now, rather than later – so that they do not lose access to important information.**

There is no need to delete what anyone does not wish to keep – anything left after 180 days will no longer be accessible to students.



Calendar 2026

Eastern division



January

M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February

M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March

M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April

M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May

M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June

M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July

M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August

M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September

M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October

M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November

M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December

M	T	W	T	F	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Key dates



First to last days for all students:

- Term 1: 2 February to 2 April
- Term 2: 22 April to 3 July
- Term 3: 21 July to 25 September
- Term 4: 13 October to 17 December

School development days:

- Term 1: 27 January to 30 January
- Term 2: 20 April and 21 April
- Term 3: 20 July
- Term 4: 12 October

Public holidays

School holidays:

- Summer 2025–26: 22 December 2025 to 26 January 2026
- Autumn: 7 April to 17 April
- Winter: 6 July to 17 July
- Spring: 28 September to 9 October
- Summer 2026–27: 18 December 2026 to 27 January 2027



School development days

The dates are determined by the department. Parents and carers should not send their children to school on school development days.

education.nsw.gov.au/school-development-days



Scan me for key dates

education.nsw.gov.au/calendars



SMSHS – SOURCES OF SUPPORT



School phone: 02 9623 8333	School email: stmaryssen-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
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Year 12 2026 Student Adviser, Surnames A-G	Jacqui Crawhall	Jacqueline.crawhall@det.nsw.edu.au
Year 12 2026 Student Adviser, Surnames H-O	Wendi Kambolli	wendi.kambolli@det.nsw.edu.au
Year 12 2026 Student Adviser, Surnames P-Z	Luigi Serra	luigi.serra@det.nsw.edu.au
Year 11 2026 Student Adviser, Surnames A-G	TBA	TBA
Year 11 2026 Student Adviser, Surnames H-O	TBA	TBA
Year 11 2026 Student Adviser, Surnames P-Z	TBA	TBA
Head Teacher, Wellbeing	Melissa Jacka	melissa.jacka@det.nsw.edu.au
Learning Support Team	Carmel Harriden (M, T) Carly McPherson (T, W, T) Anne-Maree Magi (Th, F) Ashlee Pleffer (M, T, W)	carmel.harriden@det.nsw.edu.au carly.mcpherson@det.nsw.edu.au annemaree.magi@det.nsw.edu.au ashlee.pleffer@det.nsw.edu.au
School Counsellors	Tracey Axisa Bilge Yigit	Please text the counsellor phone on 0417228192 during school hours to organise an appointment
Student Support Officer (Rel)	Isidro Alfonso	Isidro.alfonso1@det.nsw.edu.au
Careers Adviser	Cheryll Ruskin	Cheryll.ruskin@det.nsw.edu.au
Deputy Principal Year 12 2026	Danielle Ervine	danielle.ervine@det.nsw.edu.au
Deputy Principal Year 11 2026	Leah Havord	leah.havord@det.nsw.edu.au



Term 4 Weeks 5A and 6B 2025 @ SMSHS

Monday 10 Nov	Tuesday 11 Nov	Wednesday 12 Nov	Thursday 13 Nov	Friday 14 Nov
Year 12 Sign Out Day #1 Year 12 Hospitality – Work Placement Block 2A Laing O'Rourke STEM+ Program	Remembrance Day Ceremony Year 12 Hospitality – Work Placement Block 2A	Year 12 Sign Out Day #2 Year 12 Hospitality – Work Placement Block 2A Year 12 Design and Technology, Task 1 due Year 12 Retail Services, Task 1 due	Year 12 Formal @ Oatlands House Year 12 Hospitality – Work Placement Block 2A Year 12 Geography Excursion to Barangaroo Year 12 Modern History, Task 1 due	Year 12 Hospitality – Work Placement Block 2A
Monday 17 Nov	Tuesday 18 Nov	Wednesday 19 Nov	Thursday 20 Nov	Friday 21 Nov
Year 12 Hospitality – Work Placement Block 2B Society and Culture Excursion, Pop Culture Laing O'Rourke STEM+ Program	Year 12 Hospitality – Work Placement Block 2B Year 12 Ancient History, Task 1 due Year 12 Studies of Religion, Task 1 due	Lunch Concerts Year 12 Textiles and Design, Task 1 due	Year 12 Economics, Task 1 due	

Our Teams

Principal:	Sally Smithard
School Council President:	Sonia Matthews
School Captains:	Sherman Phull Mia Victorino
School Executive:	
- Deputy Principal (Year 12 2026)	Danielle Ervine
- Deputy Principal (Year 11 2026)	Leah Havord
- English (Rel)	Prithy Chaudhary
- Mathematics	Simone Pett
- Science	Lidija Radovancevic
- Commercial Studies	Salochna Reddy
- CAPA	Nicole Bonfield
- HSIE	Shara Walsh
- LOTE	Luigi Serra
- TAS / Computing (Rel)	Raymond Montalban
- TAS / PDHPE	Sharon Francis
- Secondary Studies	Lucas Widdison
- Wellbeing	Melissa Jacka
- First Australians	Leah Havord
- Business Manager (Acting)	Angela Demaio
- School Administrative Manager (Rel)	Amanda Falzon
Student Advisers:	
- Year 12 2026, Surnames A-G	Jacqui Crawhall
- Year 12 2026, Surnames H-O	Wendi Kambolli
- Year 12 2026, Surnames P-Z	Luigi Serra
- Year 11 2026, Surnames A-G	TBC
- Year 11 2026, Surnames H-O	TBC
- Year 11 2026, Surnames P-Z	TBC
Learning Support:	Carmel Harriden (M, T) Carly McPherson (T, W, T) Ashlee Pleffer (M, T)
Student Support Officer:	Isidro Alfonso
Careers Adviser:	Cheryll Ruskin

Contact Us



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St Marys NSW 2760



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St Marys Senior High School Official Site - Facebook



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