Welcome to our new publication. I know many will be saying it is about time. An enormous amount of time and energy has been directed at establishing a model to sustain and strengthen the connection with our old scholars. Firstly the School thanks the tireless work of the old scholars who initiated the Old Scholars Association and established the original membership, constitution and administration. Running a non-for-profit organisation without a formal relationship to the school is a very difficult scenario and the reason why these old scholars found it so difficult to maintain their time and energy to serve this body.

Under this new Foundation Model our long serving Dominican icon, Brother Brendan will remain the patron. The Old Scholars Football and Soccer Clubs will elect a representative and the other community members will be invited to serve for a designated period on the inaugural Blackfriars Priory School Foundation. The Foundation will be administered by Mr Vince Fleming who is employed by the School Board as the Executive Director, Strategic Development. Vince has a wealth of experience in facilitating the successful Rostrevor Foundation. The Foundation will also be supported by Mrs Rachel Elgar our Marketing Officer and Mr Jon Harmer, who many of you will know. Yes, he is still here and passionate about the old scholars. I will also be on the Foundation as a School representative. No doubt you can see that the school is genuine in making this incorporated model a success. For too many years the old scholars have been in limbo and this new measure is not about dwelling on why this eventuated but ensuring that this new model has the right structure and support to be successful.

Many old scholars have approached me and made it very clear that they are not necessarily able or interested in being involved in the soccer or football club, but want to have an involvement in the social aspect and be informed about developments and events at Blackfriars. This is exactly what the Foundation intends to administrate. There will be annual events, significant reunions, regular publications in hard copy, and through the digital media. You will be invited to attend school events and Parents and Friends events and we do hope that the Foundation will be able to generate interest in building projects and pastoral programs. Old scholars have also indicated a strong commitment to assisting in various scholarships and supporting school programs such as pilgrimages and immersions.

The Optimist will also be a valuable forum for celebrating some of our outstanding past and current individual achievements and to promote and market various school and old scholar enterprises. The catalyst for the success of this Foundation is the willingness of old scholars to participate and enjoy the various events and publications. No longer are individuals being asked to carry the burden. The school will directly support the Foundation in administration, marketing and management.

As many may be aware next year Blacks will be celebrating its Diamond Jubilee Anniversary and will be offering a range of activities and events for your enjoyment. In the past years there has been a number of changes to the buildings and grounds and also most importantly the learning and teaching. In each Optimist you will receive news on the many aspects of our school life. Each of you has made our culture and environment at Blacks and I thank you for creating this legacy. As a Principal and a parent of a Year 3 lad, I couldn’t be more impressed by the pride that our lads have. When I first heard the following cry I was a little dubious that it was a little clichéd, now I have heard it and read it so often and witnessed the long term relationships between old scholars that:

Once a Blacks boy always a Blacks boy

Mr Brian Turner  
Principal
It is a pleasure to share the outstanding results of the 2011 Blackfriars students

Last year’s graduates have achieved outstanding success being accepted into their preferred tertiary courses ranging from Engineering to Science, Law, Medical, Commerce, Teaching and Design. These achievements are testament to the close partnerships between the school and home developed over many years and the culmination of wonderful relationships and much hard work.

The results clearly vindicate the academic program on offer at Blackfriars and the success that students can achieve when they apply themselves.

Outstanding results are gained through continued perseverance, organisation and application. All of our high achievers appreciated this importance of a positive, mature relationship with the teacher in the classroom and being actively involved in the co curricular and Dominican aspects of the school that makes Blackfriars so successful.

We congratulate the 2011 graduates and wish them every success in the future.

Mr Brian Turner
Principal

Class of 2011 Results Summary

Six merit certificates, indicating a perfect score, were awarded to Blackfriars students:
Eden Blazejak - Modern History, Physics, Research Project
Eltekhari Saiedi - ESL Studies

This year Blackfriars students applied for a wide range of post school destinations. For courses at tertiary institutions in South Australia, 117 of our students applied and 99 of them received a first round offer (85%). Of the successful applicants 64% received either their first or second preference.

Consistent with previous years, UniSA and the University of Adelaide were the most popular destinations with the majority of our students (82%) accepting a first round offer to these two institutions.

A number of students have also opted to accept TAFE courses in a wide variety of areas.

Blackfriars extends congratulations to all students and teachers on these achievements.

Mr Jamie Mason
Director of Studies

Diversity of tertiary pathways 2012

- Health/Medical - 18
- Engineering - 16
- Art / Design / Architecture - 10
- Arts - 10
- Mathematics / Computing - 6
- Business - 6
- Construction Management - 5
- Education - 4
- Law - 3
- Creative Arts - 1
- Tourism / Hospitality - 1

2012 College Dux, David Hoang 99.65 ATAR, at the Academic Assembly
The Simpson Prize is a national history competition open to all Year 9 and 10 students across Australia, concerning the battle of Gallipoli within Australian History. Each year a different topic concerning Gallipoli is chosen as the basis for study, the issue for 2011 was, ‘Why has Australian commemoration of ANZAC Day increased in popularity in recent years?’ Winners and runner-ups from each state and territory then travel to Canberra to receive a prize and in addition, winners are given the chance to visit Gallipoli. This year, I was fortunate enough to gain this opportunity.

Following an anxious wait and debriefing session in Canberra, it was finally the day to embark on the journey to Gallipoli. After long and sad goodbyes from family and friends, it was comforting to meet the happy, smiling faces of my fellow companions, new friends I had first met in Canberra. In total, our group contained 8 students, and 4 adults, from whom 2 were teachers, and 2 were supervisors from the Simpson Prize Committee. We then embarked on a 14 hour plane trip to our designated location of Istanbul.

Upon arrival, what struck me first about Istanbul was its busy scenery. The hectic city of Istanbul, home to approximately 13 million people, moved like clockwork; nobody stopped. This provided a stark contrast to the quiet, serene backdrop of Adelaide that I am so familiar with. Accompanied by Özgül, our guide, who has worked with the Simpson Prize Committee for many years, the trips through the winding streets of Istanbul visiting ancient mosques and notable landmarks were often humorous and enjoyable. The setting was very casual, allowing our group to interact easily. Although initially anxious about the activities and events I was to encounter in Turkey, I was quickly reassured, making the experience all the more pleasant.

Before long it was time to head to the Gallipoli peninsula, and I could hardly contain my excitement.

Gallipoli was beautiful. The present tranquil setting of the Gallipoli plains masked the brutal violence that once occurred on the battlefield nearly one hundred years ago. To know that the deceased soldiers of the Gallipoli campaign were now left in an undisturbed haven was rather poignant. This was further emphasised on ANZAC Day, when thousands of ‘ANZAC pilgrims’ made the effort to visit Gallipoli and commemorate the sacrifices made by the fallen soldiers. Here I had the privilege to express my thoughts on this celebration for many to hear, and although this was a difficult task, it was nothing compared to the following stay until dawn throughout the cold night. The Dawn Service was rather unexciting, but it was the atmosphere that was unforgettable. To witness the mass participation and reverence of such an event quickly dispelled any belief in my mind that ANZAC commemorations are a dying tradition.

The ANZAC experience has opened my eyes to see another side of the Gallipoli campaign. To actually set foot upon the soil that Australian and Turkish soldiers gallantly fought so many years ago has often changed the way many view this important event throughout world history, and I am no exception. Winning was not the highlight of this competition, but rather, reflecting upon the spirit and thoughts of our soldiers during such a tragic struggle. I strongly encourage other students to participate in this competition, not only to try and win the opportunity to spend time overseas and meet people who share similar interests, but to learn and understand why this important event is celebrated widely across Australia.

Andrew Tran, Year 10
Clarifying the plans, initiatives, activities and outcomes of our dynamic school is of such great importance. The investment in providing this community magazine will significantly improve the communication flow within our community and thus strengthen the connection and understanding of all those who are part of it. I am pleased to provide this inaugural report and would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff, students, parents, Board Members, Old Scholars and Dominican Friars and Brothers that have made me very welcome and have been supportive of me executing my role as Executive to the School Board and Director of Strategic Development. Since my appointment in April there have been a number of key strategies that have been developed and implemented that will facilitate significant outcomes for our school community and ultimately enhance our schools’ provision of quality boys education.

**Master Plan 2013 - 2015**

The Master Planning Committee has been established to discern, prioritise and recommend future facility improvements across the campus. This group meets monthly and will regularly provide reports to the Board and School Executive for consideration. The main objective for 2012 is to formulate a Master Plan for 2013 – 2015 that will be endorsed by the Board and communicated to the wider community. The Master Plan will appropriately reflect the goals as identified and articulated in the new Strategic Plan 2013 – 2015.

**Strategic Plan 2013 – 2015**

It is critical to have a clear direction that is well articulated and supported by the entire community. The new Strategic Plan for 2013 – 2015 is being collaboratively developed with our key stakeholders such as the School Board, staff, students, families and old scholars. Consultations have included:

- the School Board have actively participated in the process with the June Board meeting devoted to providing direct input
- the entire school staff participated in a strategic planning workshop on the 24 July, providing written input individually and in small groups against key questions presented
- Junior, Middle and Senior School students have been consulted in sub-school groups and have responded individually to an online survey, contributing to the formation of the plan
- a community forum was held in August that provided the opportunity for families and old scholars to obtain further information on the Strategic Plan process. Members of the wider community also contributed through an online survey linked to the school website.

A draft Strategic Plan will be generated which has duly embraced the input received. The Board will then finalise the Strategic Plan for 2013 – 2015 in Term 4 2012. The final document will be made accessible through our school website and printed copies will be made available. The Strategic Plan for 2013 – 2015 will be very much a working document that will steer the direction of all facets of the school for the next 3 years.

**Foundation Establishment**

Blackfriars Priory School strives to provide the best possible learning and teaching environment and facilities for its students and the wider community we serve. The Blackfriars Priory School Foundation will be established under the auspices of the Dominican Province to assist in achieving this goal through its primary focus of fund securement, fund management and community capacity building.

The Blackfriars Priory School Foundation objectives will be to:

- provide a source of funds not otherwise available from the annual operating budget
- to encourage and foster the interest and financial support of past students, parents of students and friends of the school
- provide funding to preserve, improve and develop the holistic educational opportunities and facilities at the school
- provide financial assistance for appropriate student programs which include scholarships and allowances
- accumulate a corpus of funds to assist the long term benefits of the school
- provide operational and promotional support to our key community affiliated groups; Blackfriars Old Scholars, Blackfriars Old Scholars Football Association, Blackfriars Old Scholars Soccer Association and the Parents and Friends

The Blackfriars Foundation Board will operate independently of the Blackfriars Priory School Board to secure a sound financial future for the school, however it will work collaboratively with the school to assist in achieving the school’s mission as articulated within the Blackfriars Priory School Strategic Plan.

The work of the Foundation in raising funds will include:

- An annual appeal seeking gifts from all members of the Blackfriars Priory School community
- The Brother Brendan O’Hearn Building Fund to which current parents are requested to make a voluntary tax deductible contribution while the family has boys at the school
- An Endowment Fund
- Bequests

Financial support outside of the operating budget of the school is vital for the school to continue to be at the forefront of education for boys. If you are interested in being a part of this important milestone of the school please contact me for further information. I look forward in meeting and working with you in the future.

Mr Vince Fleming  
Executive Director, Strategic Development
Recent Development at Blackfriars

**2009** Hallinan Senior Library and Music Centre development

**2009** Decking and landscaping the entrance to the gym

**2009** Upgrade to the facade of the Primary classrooms

**2010** Construction of the Frassati Multipurpose Hall
This year the Parents and Friends Association has played an active role in the Blackfriars community with various community events being held. At the beginning of the year we welcomed new parents to the community at the New Parents Welcome Reception. In Term 2 the Wine and Cheese Evening was once again a great success and recently over 200 parents and friends attended the inaugural Blackfriars Quiz Night. The Parents and Friends Association plays an important role in bringing the Blackfriars community together. We are very grateful for the generosity of all our parent volunteers, whom without, these events would not be possible. Parents and Friends meetings are held twice per term and all are welcome to attend.
Like most parents, my mother and father have a picture of me commencing school displayed proudly in their home. For many of you, when your children begin school, the day is filled with emotion, apprehension, expectations and a burst of camera flashes as your boy begins a new stage in both his and your life.

This year was the second time in my life I have experienced a ‘first year’ at Blackfriars. The boy in the photo at my parents’ house is dressed impeccably in a Blackfriars uniform, standing amongst early 80’s décor, about to commence a journey that would see him return to where it all began.

I thoroughly enjoyed every moment as a student of Blackfriars. The mates who I call brothers and still see regularly, the exceptional teachers who inspired me to follow in their profession and the Dominicans who helped shape my spiritual journey, made coming back to Blacks a true homecoming.

It has been twenty years since I was a Year 12 student at Blackfriars and I struggle to comprehend just how much has occurred in my own life since 1992! I began my teaching profession as a Religion, Maths, Science and Biology teacher at Thomas More College and later went on to St Columba College as Director of Spirituality. This was followed by St Paul’s College as Head of Religious Education and Formation and most recently, CBC in the capacity of Assistant Principal Religious Identity & Mission.

For all of us, if we reflect back over our life, we are astonished by how much we have lived through. How many unexpected turns, people, joys, pains and discoveries have we experienced thus far? If we do not take the time to stop, reflect and pray, the traces of God through our life are easily missed in the mayhem of simply existing. My favourite line about God comes from the author Paula D’Arcy, who states that, God comes to us disguised as our life! The Graces of God permeate into our everyday life and shape our own unique and sacred salvation history. This is evident through special people who meet us on our journey, personal prayer, receiving Jesus Christ through the Sacraments, and being open to and aware of God’s life giving presence within us and within every situation. God’s Grace does not make life easy and Jesus’ life was testimony to this! Instead God’s Grace makes us aware of the sacredness and meaningfulness of our own life. God’s Grace slows us down, and gives us the invitation to listen to God’s personal call to us and invigorates us to continue the work of Jesus Christ, in whatever capacity that may now be.

Truth (Veritas) is at the centre of Dominican life. Truth involves having the integrity to be who you truly are called to be. To live truth, is to live so as to bring life to others, especially the disenfranchised. The greatest example and source of divine sustenance in living truth is Jesus Christ. Living truthfully is not easy, but something, through the Grace of God, we can stumble towards. Therefore, our School Theme for 2012 is Living Truth. The question we are invited to reflect on is, how truthfully am I living my life or do I have a cupboard full of masks? Dominicans taught me that above all things we need to be men of truth and it is living truth that has drawn me home.

I encourage old scholars to become involved in the life of Blackfriars. This year we have established a Stewardship Council to oversee the Four Pillars of Dominican life at Blackfriars. The Four Pillars of Prayer, Study, Ministry and Community Life, act as touchstones for all of our strategic planning, visioning and daily life at Blackfriars. They remind us of what it means to be a Dominican School. Currently we are in the formative stages of establishing a chapter of the Lay Fraternity of St Dominic at Blackfriars.

It is an opportunity for men and women, who have a desire to learn more about Dominican Spirituality, to come together in prayer, witness and celebration. Our Dominican family knows no borders. Dominic’s example of following Christ has spread throughout the world, including places a lot less affluent than Prospect! Therefore, as part of our global brotherhood, late next year we will be taking a group of Year 11 students to Vietnam. Students will have the opportunity to work with Dominicans in educating the poor and marginalised in Vietnam.

If you would like to be a part of any of these initiatives, or simply find our more, please email me at Blackfriars ruggiero@bps.sa.edu.au

Mr David Ruggiero
Assistant Principal: Religious Identity and Mission

PS: I think it’s going to take some time for me to stop checking to see if my tie is done up every time BB walks past.
Twenty two degrees in the middle of winter was an omen that St Dominic’s Day was going to be a marvellous celebration.

This was the first year Blackfriars did not have a day off for St Dominic; instead we had a day of celebration at school. This opportunity to celebrate together was a resounding success, as it brought people together in Prayer, Study, Community and Ministry.

There were no formal lessons scheduled for the day instead the program for the day included:

- A whole school Eucharistic Celebration.
- An outstanding address by the Honourable Jack Snelling; Treasurer, Minister for Workers Rehabilitation, Minister for Defence Industries, Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and old scholar of Blackfriars (1989), Prefect and School Spirit award recipient.
- We also welcomed old scholar Danny Huynh (2002), Ministerial Liaison Officer
- Entertaining intellectual activities, including live bands, plays, quizzes, challenges and Br Brendan’s History Tour.
- Primary School mosaic creation of St Dominic.
- An inspiring address by Mr Hieu Van Le, AO, Lieutenant Gov of SA and the Chairman of the SA Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission.
- An extended lunch with fun activities including sponge the teacher, sumo wrestling, rock climbing, staff v student touch football and table tennis competitions.
- Multicultural food stalls that catered from fairy floss to spring rolls and everything in-between.

The St Dominic’s Day Raffle was a huge success and we thank all of our sponsors. Including major prize donor Lenovo, Rockabout Rock Climbing, Foodland Prospect, Dillon’s Books Norwood, City to Bay Fun Run, IDM Sports and Add Value Promotions. We appreciate the exceptional generosity of our sponsors.

Mr David Ruggiero
Assistant Principal: Religious Identity and Mission
Blackfriars is a culturally rich and diverse school community that is bound by a spirit of partnership. The first half of the 2012 school year has presented the Primary school with many celebrations. They are reflected through the Four Pillars of Dominican Life at Blackfriars.

Prayer
As a Blackfriars community, we aspire to centre our lives on the example of Jesus Christ. The Religious Dimension is the core element in everything we do. The students regularly pray, reflect, engage with and interpret the Catholic tradition. They participate in daily prayer, liturgical celebrations and a range of social justice activities.

The celebrations of the Sacraments are a significant moment in the religious life of our students and the wider community. During Term 2 students from the Year 3 class prepared for and celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This celebration was presided over by the school chaplain, Father Mannes and held in the school chapel.

Community Life
The annual Primary Swimming Carnival was held at the Adelaide Aquatic Centre, North Adelaide. This carnival provided an opportunity for all students to compete for their house team. Dowling [Blue Team] were the victorious team on the day.

Study
Our Blackfriars community is dedicated to study and teaching.

The Student Action Council provides an avenue for student voice in relation to issues around the school. The student leaders meet fortnightly and put into action items discussed at meetings. A focus for the Student Action Council this year is to create more outdoor play activities.

During Term 2, the Primary Arts Evening was held to showcase the musical and artistic abilities of our Primary students. It was a successful evening, with all Primary students involved in displaying works of art and participating on stage during the musical performances. The event was very well supported by the school community.

A number of students from Years 4-6 have been engaged in a Maths Enrichment Program. The boys have visited various schools where they have worked on a number of mathematical tasks to broaden and enhance their understanding of various mathematical concepts and skills.

Ministry
We are continuing the work of St Dominic in an active and contemplative manner. The Year 6 students have continued to support the mobile soup kitchen operated by the Adelaide Day Centre for Homeless Persons. Throughout Terms 2 and 3 the students prepare and cook soup, reaching out to those in need.

Mr Todd LaForgia
Head of Primary
Primary Arts Evening

Art by Phi An Trinh, Year 6

Year 5 students at the Book Week assembly

Sharing a multicultural lunch on Harmony Day

Grandparents Day
A focus on personal development in the Middle School

Modern science and research on adolescence, now suggests that period of adolescence is extending from the teenage years, well into the late 20’s and early 30’s. Our students live in an ICT rich and highly globalised world which unfortunately can have some significant negative side effects. Sadly, some of our students are losing the ability to communicate, interact and to build resilience. The building of life skills, including social, spiritual and emotional development and being active community members seems to be diminishing.

Adolescents live in a world of gaming, tweeting, texting and Facebooking. People go to parties and spend the evening on their i-phone. Mass media is telling us to look our body image should be and what clothes to wear. In some respects, there seems to be greater pressure on the current adolescent population than in my generation.

As educators, we know the importance of the development of the whole person, and something we pride ourselves on here at Blackfriars. I often discuss with perspective parents and students, during enrolment interviews what this exactly means. For many of our boys, their world can be devoid of good role models – people who informally guide them through the often turbulent teenage years. Often this responsibility falls onto the shoulders of the staff at school, especially for adolescent students who grapple with the onset of puberty and the social/emotional changes that fluctuate with hormone levels. Sometimes, the need to continue this nurturing can be dismissed as too hard, when this craved and necessary attention manifest itself in negative behaviours and attitudes, both at home and school. That is why boys need to be challenged and mentored – they need opportunities to develop personally and to grow as a person made in the image of Christ.

At Blackfriars we offer many opportunities for our boys to grow and develop lifelong skills; skills that may not necessarily be aligned with academia. Over the last couple of years we have revamped our camp program for boys in Years 7, 8 and 9. The philosophy behind each camp is centred on providing experiences for boys to develop in areas of leadership, organisation, self-challenge, teamwork in an environment free of modern technologies. Our Year 7 students travel to Kuipto forest and complete a high ropes course as well as an overnight expedition. The expedition involves students hiking with a backpack through the forest, planning and cooking their own meal on a trangia and pitching and sleeping in a tent. In Year 8, skills previously learnt are developed further as students travel to Kangaroo Island and spend 4 days and 3 nights engaged in a series of activities that promote self-challenge, leadership and teamwork.

Whilst on the Island they also complete an overnight expedition as they spend a night out in Flinders Chase National Park. In Year 9, the Middle School Camping experience culminates with a 4 day trip to the beautiful Flinders Ranges. The student’s base camp is situated at the foot of Mt Remarkable where they complete a variety of activities associated with bush survival and rescue. Their overnight expedition involves a challenging climb to the summit of Mt Remarkable, where the students pitch their tents and prepare the communal evening meal. Weather permitting; a magnificent sunrise greets the boys as they prepare breakfast and for the decent back to base camp.

Camping is certainly a great experience for the boys, some of whom would not get such an opportunity. All camps are free of modern technology, but not free of fresh air, personal challenge, leadership opportunities and vital ‘chances’ to engage in positive and healthy interactions. In 2013, we will be introducing a new program into Year 9 that further focuses on the personal development of our students. The program is called the Rite Journey and is running very successfully across Australia, New Zealand and the UK. Essentially students study a yearlong course that addresses the journey from boyhood into manhood. The Rite Journey provides unique educational program designed to support the development of self-aware, vital, responsible, respectful & resilient adults. By raising young people’s consciousness about transitioning from child to adult and having conversations with them about what really matters we can assist in guiding their journey into adulthood. The program uses a Rite of Passage framework to deepen the students’ experience of this important life transition. Central to the program is the mentoring program which involves our students working with a strong male teacher at school in conjunction with a male mentor the boys choose from their home or families.

We hope that through offering such programs, when can help our students grow to become fine young men.

Mr Tim Mullin
Head of Middle School
Above: Year 8 Camp to Kangaroo Island

Above: Year 9 Camp to the Flinders Ranges
The old adage “the best way to learn something is by doing it” was certainly true for students from Blackfriars Priory School when they recently took part in an exchange program to Japan.

After a week of sightseeing in Tokyo, Kyoto and Hiroshima, the Blackfriars group spent nine days participating in a homestay program with students from Nagoya Otani High School.

Despite travelling during the spectacular Sakura season (cherry blossoms) the homestay and school exchange was without doubt the most memorable part of the trip for the 11 students and their two teachers.

The Blackfriars group was warmly welcomed, not only by their respective host families but by the entire school community.

Students learnt about Japanese culture by participating in traditional green tea ceremonies and celebrations for Buddha’s birthday.

They watched as Nagoya Otani students practised kendo, and they took part in judo, volleyball and basketball classes.

At home, the boys practiced Japanese as they communicated with their host families while at school they helped the Nagoya Otani students by participating in English classes.

The students sang and danced with the school’s brass band and learnt the school’s song in music class.

They made traditional Japanese lanterns and took part in Japanese calligraphy or Shodo classes.

Students from Nagoya Otani commented that the experience inspired them to learn more English, while the Blackfriars boys returned with a renewed enthusiasm to excel in their Japanese studies.

Although the students recognised significant differences between the two cultures and the two schools, what was most surprising was how much was the same. It didn’t take long for students from both schools to realise the similarities between their values, beliefs, and, most of all, their sense of humour.

There were tears from students, parents and teachers as the Blackfriars boys said their goodbyes to their Japanese families, and many promises to return and visit again soon. Although a hemisphere apart the ties between these two groups will remain strong for many years to come.

Ms Brigitta Ragg
ICT Developments

“each student now has more freedom to work at their own pace and learn in ways that are better suited to their individual skills and abilities.”

Information and Communication Technologies at Blackfriars has undergone vast changes in the past two years with its ongoing infusion into day to day teaching and learning. Despite technology passing many of us by, the students and teachers are taking every opportunity to enhance their learning experiences in the classroom from using the latest technology on a daily basis.

Students in the Primary School are well accustomed now to having Interactive Whiteboards in their learning environments, with students being able to interact with their learning and each other in a very practical way. Each classroom is home to a Hitachi Starboard, where students can touch their learning activity and share their experiences with their peers and teacher on a more public level.

The Primary School has also introduced 90 Lenovo laptops, which are in addition to the stand alone desktops that are in each classroom. These laptops provide the students with the ability to interact digitally, build technology skills and communicate with others to enhance their learning experiences and broaden their knowledge. Being a portable device, the students are also free to move about the school, enabling them to use the technology in and out of the actual classroom. At times when the whole class needs a laptop, teachers can easily and conveniently borrow from a neighbouring class.

In Years 7-10 the implementation of the 1:1 Laptop Program saw each student receive their own Lenovo laptop for use at school and home, to enhance their learning experiences. In the classroom the ability for the laptops to enhance differentiation is immeasurable; each student now has more freedom to work at their own pace and learn in ways that are better suited to their individual skills and abilities. Boys are visual learners and such a device is allowing them to use a variety of technologies to produce fantastic contemporary work.

Some tools that are currently being used in creative ways within classes include Prezi, Glogster, Mathletics, Scootle, Movie Maker and Bitstrips with many assignments being of an exceptional level.

“I like that I have continuous access to the internet. It is really convenient as I have everything with me all the time!”

“The resources available in class now are much better. We have immediate access.”

“It’s nice to be learning more in the 21st Century!”

“I can work at my own pace. I don’t have to always keep up with everyone else now.”

“I like that feedback from my teacher is much quicker because of the laptops. This helps my learning.”

With the implementation of the 1:1 laptop program there was a need for Infrastructure improvements across the School to ensure that all students had full network access at all times, from anywhere in the grounds. This was a large and time consuming task, and we thank everybody involved in the process.

As you could imagine, the continued improvement of ICT has been easily absorbed by the students and they are enjoying the challenges and new found learning. The boys are finding it easier to access new information and present their work. What the future holds at Blacks in relation to ICT is still unknown in many ways as it is forever changing in itself; however we are ready to keep moving ahead and look forward to what the future holds.

Mr Ryan Fleetwood
ICT Coordinator

Inspirational Teacher, Linda Harvey

The school extends its congratulations to Miss Linda Harvey who has received a national NEiTA 2011 ASG Inspirational Teaching Award for her outstanding service to our ESL and new arrival students over many years. Linda has been tireless in successfully applying for grants to establish programs to further assist our students and is an outstanding advocate and ambassador for all students. These awards promote public recognition of the teaching profession and specifically those teachers and leaders whose inspirational approach to education stimulates student learning.

NEiTA is Australia’s only national community-centred teaching awards program that gives Australian secondary students, parents, and school communities the opportunity to formally thank their hard-working, inspirational teachers, principals and directors.

Mr Brian Turner
Principal
Swimming Carnival
It is with great pride that we acknowledge the wonderful achievements of Lucas Ciacciarelli (Denifle House) and Caelen Grooby (Aquinas) at the 2012 Swimming Carnival. Lucas is a very talented swimmer and has for a number of years dominated the carnival. This year Lucas broke three school records, Open Breaststroke 32.31, Open Freestyle 25.64 and Open Butterfly 27.88, this now means that Lucas holds 7 school swimming records!! Also Year 8 student Caelen Grooby broke the U13 record for the Freestyle 32.75 and Backstroke 40.27. Caelen is certainly an exciting prospect for the future. Congratulations to both swimmers on their performances this year.

Final Points
1st Aquinas 482
2nd Denifle 424
3rd Jarrett 416
4th Horten 388
5th Burke 381
6th Lagrange 330
7th Devittoria 273

Athletics Carnival
Congratulations to Burke House, who once again were successful on athletics day last Thursday withstanding a late charge by DeVittoria. Only one record was broken this year, with RJ Acuna lowering the U13 200m time by nearly a second. The record now stands at 27.25 seconds.

Final Points
1st Burke 1564
2nd Devittoria 1499
3rd Aquinas 1429
4th Jarrett 1424
5th Denifle 1354
6th Horten 1290
7th Lacordaire 1213
8th Lagrange 1114

Both carnivals were excellent examples of the school community coming together to celebrate the talents of many students. Congratulations to all boys on their individual achievements, and a big thank you to all the staff and students who volunteered and helped out on the day.

Mr Andrew Wilson
2012 has seen the school community, both staff and students, focusing heavily on the specific characteristics that make this school distinctly Dominican. St Dominic’s legacy is founded on four pillars, the Dominican ideals of prayer, community life, study, and ministry.

Out of the spiritual genius that St Dominic created for us, the daily operations of the Senior School promotes to our Year 10, 11 and 12 students a lifestyle which is balanced, contemplative, dedicated, collaborative, resourceful, while at the same time embracing humanity and remaining grounded.

On many different occasions this year the Senior School cohort have also been spoken and presented to on the virtues of being a “good” – like St Dominic was. The Year 10’s had a Male Mentor focus day; the Year 11’s were spoken to by David Kobler; while the Year 12’s have heard the messages of Bali Bomb survivor Julian Burton.

The underlying message on each of these occasions, plus also within daily lessons and year level retreats, is that the important thing about being a Blackfriars student is about being a good man. The Male Mentor day focussed on our Year 10 boys using strong and positive males in their lives as the preferred role models. David Kobler highlighted to our Year 11’s that manhood is often what happens when no-one is looking at you. While Julian Burton’s message was frank and to the point – good men to live by choice, not by chance.

The Blackfriars uniform also reflects so many of these Dominican values, as does it present our students as good men. Our uniform involves the students and makes each of them a part of a “community” – which is one of the pillars. It does not detract from the individuality of our boys, rather it fosters equality and includes everyone on the same level. The Blackfriars uniform not only displays these values, it also invokes a feeling of school pride. It is the envy of many other students attending other schools throughout the state. Our black blazer and jumper have elegant and sleek symbolic implications, and highlights that our students also have resilience and a bold ambition to learn.

We hope that as our Senior School boys graduate they take with these values, messages and Dominican ideals. If they do they will graduate as good men. Men who will influence the community positively and effectively.

Mr Jarrod Meers
Head of Senior School
Above: Year 12 prefects with guest speaker, Bali Bomb survivor Julian Burton. Above right: Tom Oosterholt, Head Prefect speaking at Mass

Lucas Ciacciarelli donating blood in the mobile Red Cross van as a part of the Blackfriars blood drive

Year 12 Drama students in the production Ubu

Above: Year 12 prefects with guest speaker, Bali Bomb survivor Julian Burton. Above right: Tom Oosterholt, Head Prefect speaking at Mass

Prefects from St Dominic’s, Wilderness and Blackfriars at the combined Careers Exhibition
The Blackfriars v CBC Intercol kicked off with the 1st XI Soccer team taking the first honours with a 3-0 win over CBC to retain and secure the first Championship win for Blackfriars.

George Aslandis was awarded BOG through his great play and goal scoring hat-trick.

The next of the Intercol events was the Open Debating, Middle School Debating and the Open Chess as a first time competition. The Open Debating team won their Championship Debate in a unanimous 3-0 win arguing against the topic ‘That the Olympics should never be held again’. The Team of Henry Luu, Tom Noone and Captain Aaron Day were too thorough and clinical in their debate in front of an enthusiastic crowd.

The Middle School Debating team consisting of William Thomas, Owen Nicholson, Timothy Tedmanson, Sachin Saxena and Jordan Pappas lost their Debate by a narrow points margin 1-2 arguing for the topic ‘That celebrities should not be role models’.

The Open Chess contest went down to the wire with Sebastian Teagle going down in the deciding game by the closest of margins as time forced the game. Blackfriars lost this chess contest 2-3 in the first time the two schools have contested the event.

The Open Debating team win took the Intercol challenge to a Blackfriars 2 nil lead over CBC.

Open Table Tennis continued the winning trend with a 17-7 win over their CBC rivals. This continued the unbeaten running of defending this trophy by Blackfriars teams. With this win Blackfriars secured the Championship win with 3-0 lead.

The Open A Basketball was a tight match with the game close with only a few points separating the teams throughout, unfortunately CBC were able to take their chances and open up a lead in the last quarter to secure 48-60 win. This win saw CBC defend their Basketball trophy and win a Championship Trophy taking the tally to 3-1 in Blackfriars favour.

The 1st XVIII Football team took to the field at Prospect Oval with confidence knowing that Blackfriars had secured the Championship.

The Blacks boys jumped CBC early with score board pressure and countless forward entries. This was the pattern of the match and Blackfriars won the match 15.18-8.5 and won back the Football trophy and secured a 4-1 Championship win for the school.

So over all Blackfriars won the 2012 Intercol 4-1 taking the tally to four Championship wins for Blackfriars to two Championship wins for CBC.

The Intercol is a fantastic way for Blackfriars to round off the winter competition. It brings people from both school communities together to be a part of a special day in the school’s calendar. It is a great way for the students in their final year at school to look back and have a defined memory of their involvement in the Blackfriars community and with their peers. The Intercol experience is one that legends are born from, and that the Blacks boys will talk about over the years when they meet. This is what being a part of a community and coming together demonstrating school spirit is about, shared experiences and memories.

It was a pleasure to see so many boys take part in this special event over the week. Over the Intercol week many people have help come together to help make this a successful event, from the Blackfriars library staff, canteen staff, North Adelaide Football Club, Prospect Cricket Club, team coaches, old scholars and parents. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a successful one.

‘Go Hounds’
Mr Leo Panzarino
The Intercol is a fantastic way for Blackfriars to round off the winter competition. It brings people from both school communities together to be a part of a special day in the school’s calendar.
A Brief History of St Catharine’s and the Highbury Church.

The records show that Mr. John Bradford was allocated 7 sections of land, each about 80 acres in the northern regions outside the city of Adelaide on July 25th, 1838. This was just two years after the first colonists arrived in South Australia. The documents were signed by Governor George Gawler, although he arrived in October of that year. The building of the northern section of the house must have occurred under the direction of Mr. John Bradford.

In 1845 John Bradford sold a small section of 4 acres, including a small dwelling, to a Mrs. Maria Patterson for £32. Two years later she sold this to a Mr. James Harrington for £110. These transactions are not listed on the title deeds for 17 Prospect Road so I assume that the land may have been to the western side of Prospect Road. Mr. James Harrington later purchases the present block on which the school stands in 1867.

Mr. James Harrington, however, is recorded as giving to the Wesleyan Methodist Church a small building on Prospect Road in 1864 which was used as a Sunday School and then, in 1866, as a place for church services. Prospect Road was first called Eliza Road after James’ daughter.

Mr. Harrington was very prominent both in the local area and the church. He was a lime burner and supplied material for many of the grand houses in North Adelaide. It is recorded that his first delivery was made by means of a wheelbarrow from his kiln at the corner of Braund Road and Methuen Street. He was also a foundation member of the Prospect Council. After complaints from neighbours of the bells from the church he donated a section of land in Highbury Street in 1874 to the church and a Sunday school was built there (in 1934 it was replaced by a bigger building, which is now our Drama Block). Mrs. J. Harrington laid the foundation stone on 14/9/74. In 1881 Miss Louisa Harrington laid the foundation stone for the church building next to the hall. In 1883 additions were made to the church to cater for the increased number of members.

A photograph of the Sunday school hall in 1876 shows a two-story building in the background and includes in the photograph Miss Louisa Harrington and a Miss Julia Belcher. The Belcher name appears on documents indicating the ownership of the block of land on the corner of Te Auna Avenue and Prospect Road – the present car park.

Mr. Thomas Richards bought the house and land for £1150 in 1878. Two years later he sold it to Mr. James Angas Johnson who named the house St. Catharines, after his wife. The southern section of the house was built during his tenure; the gardens were developed with exotic plants, trees and vegetables. Mrs. Johnson involved herself in charitable works and, every Tuesday, fresh fruit and vegetables were donated to the Children’s Hospital.

In 1911 the house and land were bought for £4000 by the Lewis family and renamed Comonella after the name of one of their many pastoral properties. After the death of Mr. John Lewis, the property passed into the ownership of his three daughters.

The Dominicans purchased the property in 1951 and opened the school in 1953 with approximately 45 students in 5 classes. The original staff consisted of five Dominican priests and one Dominican brother.

In 1998 the school was able to purchase the Church and Church Hall from the Uniting Church as the members of the parish had decreased significantly.

A letter from Fr. O’Rorke to Fr. John Neill in response to an invitation to be present at the blessings of the extensions and renovations to Comonella in 1985 makes for interesting reading and gives some insights into the personalities involved in the negotiations. Fr. O’Rorke arranged a Mass to be said for the Lewis family in August in the family home, with the hint that he wanted them to vacate the house, and then had the task of preparing the site for a school.

He sought the assistance of a builder, Mio Tosolini, Fr. Bonaventure Leahy and Mr. John Nelligan with various members of the Y.C.W. who were called upon to assist in the heavier lifting and moving. The greatest expense was the building of a toilet block and the outside stairs to the classrooms on the southern side of the building. Stables and out-houses had to be reconditioned and renovated to be ready to be used as classrooms.
Above: Blackfriars Chapel circa 1866 on Highbury Street, Miss Louisa Harrington and Miss Julie Belcher are said to be in this photo, note St Catharine’s pictured in the rear to the left. Above right: Design drawings of the current chapel.

Present day St Catharine’s

Picture from the archives of Old Commonella
Jack Snelling returns to Blacks

Jack Snelling, old scholar and State Treasurer, visited Blackfriars recently as a special guest speaker on St Dominic’s Day. Post assembly Jack took the opportunity to mix with Blackfriars staff and his former teachers. Pictured right is Mario Madonna (1984), Finance Officer and David Ruggiero (1992), APRIM, Rita Purvis and Jack Snelling (1989). All three men are former students of teacher Rita Purvis, staff member since 1978.

“I came to Blacks at the start of the 1978 school year. At this time John Niedzwiecki was in Year 11, but I soon (within 10 years) found myself looking up to him for guidance and leadership as he came back to Blackfriars as a colleague and took on various positions of responsibility. I often found myself having to do what he asked and to meet the deadlines that he set. That was funny, but good too. I love being part of that juxtaposition where teachers begin to look up to the students who once looked up to them. This is certainly true in the case of Mario Maddonna, David Ruggiero, and Christian Martino here at Blacks and, of course, Jack Snelling as the Treasurer of the State.” Rita Purvis

Blackfriars Olympians

It’s a long way from the school yard at Blackfriars but elite cyclist, Old Scholar Rohan Dennis and Men’s Water Polo Team Leader, BPS Staff member Jon Harmer revisited days past when they caught up in the Olympic Village in London recently.

Rohan who was in "Mr" Harmer’s home group in Horten House was originally a better than average swimmer when he arrived at Blacks but as a result of a SASI sports talent ID program was identified as a possible elite cyclist. The rest is history for Rohan, going from strength to strength as a cyclist, breaking the World Record for the 4 man pursuit event and gaining selection for the Olympics in London.

Jon, now back at Blacks post Olympics, says it was great to meet up with Rohan in the village and was able to update Rohan as to what’s the latest news at “Blacks”.

Rohan has yet to return from London as he has immediate competitions in Europe to attend to but is keen to drop back into school on his return and meet the current crop of Olympic hopefuls.

For the record, Rohan won a silver medal in London for the 4 man pursuit event whilst Jon’s Water Polo team finished seventh.

Pictured left: Jon Harmer and Rohan Denis outside the Australian Olympic Headquarters in London.
Foundation Information Evening

Thank you to the old scholars and community members who attended the recent Foundation Information Evening held Thursday 20 September. It was great to see a cross section of graduation years in attendance along with representatives from BOSA Football Club, BOSA Soccer Club and Vikings Water Polo Club. If you are interested in further information regarding the Blackfriars Foundation or you would like to become involved please contact Vince Fleming, Executive Director Strategic Development for further information via phone 8269633 or email vfleming@bps.sa.edu.au.

David Romaldi (1982), Br Brendan O’Hearn, Vince Fleming, Peter Doukas (past parent)


Matthew Nowosilskyj (2007) and Ross Hrisafinas (2008) both representing BOSA SC

Dharmesh Raman (1990), Patrick Kelly (1990) and David Ruggiero, APRIM (1992)

Gary Mavrinac (1983), Michael Den Dekker (1984) and Jon Harmer
Nicholas Brown (2001)

Nicholas Brown (2001) has been highlighted for his success in the Royal Australian Navy. The article published recently states:

“At only 28, Navy Pilot Lieutenant Nicholas Brown is on top of the world. He’s attached to the warship HMAS Toowoomba, and is preparing to deploy to the Middle East on Operation Slipper at the end of the year. And, in May, he’ll match it with Australia’s best pilots, when he show’s off The Royal Australian Navy Sikorsky S-70B-2 Seahawk Helicopter at the RAAF Air Show at Pearce, Western Australia.”

“I joined the Navy straight out of High School in 2002 because I had always wanted to fly, and found the versatility of helicopters particularly appealing,”

“The Navy hasn’t only provided me with an opportunity to fly, but to do so in challenging, exciting and dynamic situations. Who wouldn’t want to fly a performance aircraft, and get paid to do it?” he said.

Image published courtesy of the Royal Australian Navy.

Hoang Kang Nguyen (2010)

Congratulations to International student graduate, Hoang Kang Nguyen who was awarded with the Flinders University International Transition Award. This transition award worth $1000 was awarded to the top international students who studied Year 12 at one of 10 high schools across South Australia and achieved a high grade point average in 2011 in their first year at Flinders University.

Hoang Kang who graduated from Blackfriars in 2010 continued with his studies with Flinders University doing a Bachelor of Engineering (Robotics), Master of Engineering (Electronics).

We are very proud of Khang who was presented with this award for his high achievements and wish him every success in his studies at Flinders University in the future.

In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we have recently recorded the passing of the following Blackfriars old scholars.

Pedro Miguel Sousa Cafe (1990)
Brett Herrod (1997)
Robert Kelly (2007)
Trung Le (1999)
Nicholas Ronan (1967)
Julian Spencer (1983)
Lucas Wocjik (2001)

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.
Raphael Garcia (2011) pictured above following the Laureate assembly this year was awarded the The University of Adelaide Principal’s Scholarship to go towards his study expenses at the University of Adelaide. Raphael is currently completing his first year of a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechatronic).

Old Scholars

Michael Weldon (2003)

Michael Weldon achieved celebrity status at Blackfriars when he came runner up in the 2011 Master Chef competition. Michael visited Blackfriars post competition, to share his experiences with the boys and provide a culinary demonstration. Michael’s family have a long association with Blackfriars, and the whole community was delighted with his success and very keen to support his Kitchen Garden project.

We were delighted to have old scholar Callum Ferguson visit the school as our special guest speaker on Harmony Day this year. He shared his experiences playing cricket for Australia and the Redbacks, and signed autographs for the boys. Callum was presented with a BPS First XI cricket hat and is pictured above on the oval where he scored many a run for Blackfriars!

Jake Farrugia (2010)

Jake Farrugia after graduating in 2010 has pursued a career in the Royal Australian Navy. Jake has commenced active service on the HMAS STIRLING as a Combat Systems Operator (Above Water) and is based in Western Australia.

The Tequila Band

The Tequila Band have reunited for several guest appearances at Blackfriars this year including performing on Open Day and at the Parents and Friends Wine and Cheese Evening. The Tequila Band formed during Music Lessons in 2005 and are well known at Blackfriars. The band is comprised of old scholars (class of 2011) Oliver Dearsley, Nicholas Maczuga, Sam Coppola, Nghi Nguyen, Lachlan McDonald, Navarro Panozzo, Lewis Guerin-Hanlon, Josef Ebel, James Lawler and Lachlan McAllister. We thank them for their continued support of our community events.

Raphael Garcia (2011)

Raphael pictured above following the Laureate assembly this year was awarded the The University of Adelaide Principal’s Scholarship to go towards his study expenses at the University of Adelaide. Raphael is currently completing his first year of a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechatronic).
25 Year Reunion - Class of 1987

Come back to Blacks to see some old faces. Bring the family along and see how much the school has changed.

When: Sunday 28 October at 12 noon
Where: Blackfriars on the oval
Lunch will be provided but please BYO drinks.
Cost: $10 if coming by yourself, $20 for you and your family.

Please RSVP with numbers, names and ages of children, contacting Jon Harmer on 8269 6333 or email jharmer@bps.sa.edu.au.

Any other queries, please contact Rolf Scharfbillig on 0412 225 868.

30 Year Reunion - Class of 1982

A reunion is being organised to be held on Saturday 24 November 2012. Organiser: David O’Loughlin.

Contact: Jon Harmer on 8269 6333 or email jharmer@bps.sa.edu.au.

10 Year Reunion - Class of 2002

A reunion is being organised to be held on Saturday 1 December 2012.
Contact: Jon Harmer on 8269 6333 or email jharmer@bps.sa.edu.au.

Contact us
- Update your details
- Register for a reunion
- Assist in organising a reunion or function for your graduating class

Please contact Jon Harmer in the Development Office via email jharmer@bps.sa.edu.au.

Event Calendar

Please visit our website for the latest information regarding the following events.

Reunions
25 Year Reunion - Class of 1987
Sunday 28 October

30 Year Reunion - Class of 1982
Saturday 24 November

10 Year Reunion - Class of 2002
Saturday 1 December

Community Events
Mass of Remembrance
St Albert the Great Chapel, 7:30 pm
Thursday 8 November

End of Year Mass followed by Christmas Carols on the oval, 6pm
Tuesday 27 November 2012

Save the Date - 60 Year Dinner
Blackfriars Priory School will be celebrating 60 years in 2013. All community members will be invited to attend a black tie dinner dance on Saturday 9 November 2013. Please mark the date in your diaries and invitation will be forwarded in a future edition of the OPtimist.

Submissions
Where are you now? We invite you to submit news and photos for inclusion in future editions of the OPtimist to Rachel Elgar in the Development Office via email to relgar@bps.sa.edu.au.