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22 October 2025

From the Principal



Inspiration and Reflection as Year 12s Reach the Finish Line

As our Year 12 students complete their final assessments, we take a moment to reflect on their remarkable journey at Smithfield State High School. Their dedication and resilience truly embody our core values: aspiration, belief, motivation, and ultimately, success.

This milestone marks more than the end of exams, it is a celebration of years filled with growth, challenges and perseverance. We are incredibly proud

of their focus and maturity, and we commend them for striving toward their goals with determination and heart. To our graduating class: You inspire our entire school community. The future is bright. Believe in it and in yourselves.

Building a Culture of Respect and Positivity

At Smithfield State High School, we believe that respect is the foundation of a thriving school culture. Each day presents an opportunity to greet one another with kindness, enthusiasm and positivity, simple acts that have a powerful impact.

When challenges arise, we rise together. We lift each other up with encouragement and support, creating a safe and inclusive environment where every student feels seen, heard and valued. I see this daily as I walk and talk with students through the school grounds. Let us continue to live our values, believe in each other, motivate one another and work together so that aspiration and success become journeys we all share.

Investing in Facilities for Engagement and Enjoyment

At Smithfield State High School, students are at the heart of every decision we make. We are proud to offer unique opportunities that support learning,



engagement and wellbeing, making our school the school of choice for families across the Northern Beaches and surrounding areas.

Here are some exciting projects recently completed or nearing completion

Inclusive Access Walkway – CADPA (Centre of Athlete Development and Performing Arts):

This newly completed walkway will provide an inclusive, dryweather path for students accessing the CADPA building and wider school in time for the wet season. It enhances safety and accessibility for all.



Year 7 Precinct Challenge Playground

Thanks to the support of our P&C Association and successful grant applications, this exciting new challenge course is being constructed in the heart of the Year 7 Precinct. It will offer students a fun and active space to engage during breaks. Completion is expected by the end of Term 4

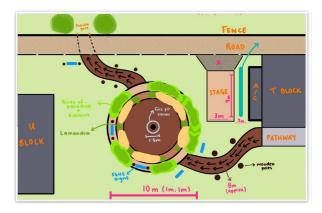




Embedding Indigenous Perspectives – Creation of a Yarning Circle

A significant investment has been made in establishing a Yarning Circle, cultural space that supports both formal and informal gatherings. This project will create

meaningful opportunities for students to connect, share and honour the rich First Nations heritage within our community. Completion is anticipated by the end of Term 4.



Mr Dan Hollis Principal

Deputy Principal - Senior School

Year 12 External Assessment Period (Week 4 to 7):

The QCAA External Assessment period for Year 12 students will take place from Monday 27 October to Tuesday 18 November 2025. This is a crucial time for students as external exams contribute significantly to their final subject results and ATAR calculations.

A copy of the QCAA External Assessment timetable is attached so families can plan accordingly.

Click here to download the Year 12 Exam Timetable

Exam Attendance and Operational Expectations:

- Students must arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of their scheduled exam. The AM session commence at 8:45 am sharp. The PM session begins at 12:15 pm.
- Exams will begin promptly at the QCAA-set time. Late arrivals may not be admitted once reading time has commenced
- All students must bring only permitted equipment in a clear container as per QCAA regulations.
- Full school uniform and appropriate behaviour are expected at all times during the exam period.

 Students are to leave school promptly after their exam unless participating in supervised study or meeting with a teacher by prior arrangement.

AARA – Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments:

AARA is the formal QCAA process that allows students who experience temporary or unforeseen circumstances, such as illness or misadventure, to access equitable conditions for assessment.

If a student is unwell or experiences unexpected circumstances that prevent them from sitting an exam:

- Contact the school immediately to inform staff of the situation.
- An AARA Illness and Misadventure application is submitted through the school as soon as possible on the day of the missed or affected exam.
- Do not attend an exam if unwell, as this may disadvantage both the individual and others.

QCAA does not reschedule external assessments. If an Illness and Misadventure application is approved, QCAA will calculate a result based on alternative evidence (e.g. internal assessment results).

If the reason is medical, QCAA requires evidence that addresses the 3 D's:

- Doctor a clear medical diagnosis from a registered health professional.
- Diagnosis the date the condition or illness was observed/diagnosed, including when symptoms impacted the student. Saying the absence was caused by an unspecified medical condition and is 'unfit for duty' is not sufficient.
- Dates/Duration the expected impact period on the student's ability to complete the assessment.

How to Access Support:

 Notify the school early if your child is unwell or faces unexpected difficulties during the assessment period. The Senior Schooling team will guide families through the required QCAA process and ensure all forms and supporting evidence are completed correctly. More information about AARA and illness and misadventure is available at www.qcaa.qld.edu.au.

This is a significant time for students and families. By understanding the expectations and procedures in advance, we can help ensure a smooth and fair exam period for everyone.

For any questions or support, please contact the Senior Schooling team through the school office.

Year 11 – Block Examinations (Week 3):

This week marks the middle of Year 11's second major block exam period for 2025. Exam schedules have been emailed to students and parents and are also available on QParents and the school website.

As our senior students move closer to Year 12, understanding expectations around assessments—and developing healthy routines for managing the stress that comes with them—is essential. Parents and carers play a key role in supporting this.

Why Assessment Policy Matters:

Success during senior schooling relies not only on content knowledge, but also on students understanding and meeting assessment requirements. Knowing these expectations helps avoid last-minute stress and ensures students' results accurately reflect their learning.

Key expectations for students:

- Submitting drafts and final assessments: All assignments and exams must be completed by the due date. Draft submissions are compulsory and support both feedback and authenticity.
- Attendance at exams: Students must be present at scheduled exam times. Absences due to illness or other valid reasons require official documentation (e.g. a medical certificate).
- Managing non-submissions: Without approved extensions or evidence, students may receive a "Not Rated" (NR) result, which can affect QCE eligibility.

- AARA (Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments): If illness, injury, or other significant challenges arise, students can apply for extensions or alternative arrangements. Early communication with the Senior Schooling Team and supporting documentation are essential.
- Academic integrity: All work must be students' own.
 Plagiarism or collusion can lead to serious academic consequences.



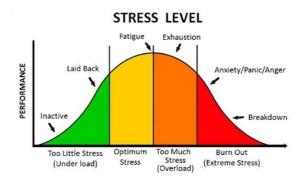
Families play a crucial role in helping students navigate busy assessment periods confidently. You can support your child by:

- Encouraging a structured study routine that breaks revision into manageable chunks.
- Reinforcing the importance of meeting deadlines and communicating early with teachers if challenges arise.
- Supporting healthy habits such as good sleep, nutrition, and physical activity, which improve focus and resilience.
- Promoting open conversations about stress levels and encouraging the use of mindfulness or relaxation strategies.
- Checking QParents regularly to stay informed of key dates and any updates.

Managing Stress - The 'Optimum Zone'

A certain level of stress can actually enhance performance. The Yerkes-Dodson Law shows that moderate stress helps students stay focused, but excessive stress can cause performance to decline.

Remind your child that feeling some pressure is normal—and manageable. Encouraging steady preparation, good self-care, and reaching out for support early can make a significant difference to both wellbeing and achievement.



Final Note:

Year 11 is an important foundation year for external assessment and Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) pathways. By staying informed, maintaining clear communication, and working in partnership with the school, parents and carers can play an active role in their child's success.

For further advice or support, please contact the Senior Schooling Team.

Mr Paul Charles

Deputy Principal – Senior School

Deputy Principal - Middle School

As we begin Term 4, it's an important time for students in Years 9 and 10 to reflect on their progress and focus on achieving their best outcomes for the year. Mid Semester 2 reports were emailed to families in Week 1, providing valuable feedback on student achievement and effort. These results play a significant role in shaping 2026 subject selections, so I encourage all students to use their Term 3 results as a guide for setting clear academic goals. Students are also encouraged to take ownership of their learning by seeking feedback from teachers, revising key curriculum content, and identifying areas for improvement as we move into the final weeks of the school year.

Elective subject selection forms will soon be distributed to all Year 9 students for their Year 10 studies in 2026. We strongly encourage students and families to review these carefully, return forms as soon as possible, and take the time to explore the curriculum handbooks to make informed

decisions about elective subject offerings. Subject selections are an exciting step in shaping students' future pathways and ensuring their studies align with their interests and goals.

Mrs Rowena Cooper

Deputy Principal – Junior School

I would also like to remind students and families of our 'Away for the Day' technology policy. All personal devices, including mobile phones and earbuds, must be switched off and kept away during the school day. This policy is designed to minimise distractions, encourage positive social interactions, and ensure a safe and focused learning environment for all students. We appreciate the continued support of parents and carers in reinforcing these expectations at home.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to ensure every student has the opportunity to finish the year strongly and confidently plan for the next stage of their learning journey.

Ms Tamara Buddle

Deputy Principal – Middle School

Deputy Principal - Junior School

Welcome back, Junior Secondary students!

This term is all about starting strong and setting yourself up for success. Take some time to think about how you can do things differently to get better results. Maybe it's trying new study habits, asking more questions in class, or managing your time better. Whatever it is, set clear goals and work hard to achieve your best!

This term, we'll begin the process of choosing your elective subjects for 2026. It is very important that you attend the parades to collect your subject selection forms and return them on time. Remember, elective spots are given out on a **first-in system**, so the sooner you hand in your forms, the better chance you have of getting your top choices!

We're also excited to celebrate academic achievements this term at Presentation Night. This is a great chance to be recognised for your hard work and dedication.

Let's make this term your best one yet—set goals, stay focused, and keep pushing to be your very best!

Deputy Principal – Inclusion Education

We hope all families and students have had a positive start to the new term.

This term, the Inclusion team has a particular focus on supporting the transition of Year 6 students as they prepare to begin Year 7 in 2025 with Smithfield State High School. This includes reviewing placement options such as mainstream or functional classes, conducting classroom observations, gathering staff input, and identifying individual student needs. The team carefully considers the barriers and necessary adjustments for each student to ensure they have the best possible start in secondary school.

Throughout the year, staff have also been gathering evidence for Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA) submissions for Year 12 students on this pathway. Last term marked the final submission of QCIA documentation for our graduating Year 12 cohort.

This is a comprehensive process that begins in Year 11, with Inclusion staff working closely alongside mainstream teachers to support curriculum access and learning outcomes for identified students. Over two years, staff develop and adapt curriculum, collect a variety of evidence, and make initial submissions in term 2 of Year 12. The school then participates in multiple moderation meetings throughout the remainder of the year. Upon graduation, students receive their QCIA alongside their peers receiving a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE).

Last term, we were pleased to welcome a representative from the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to our school for an information session with families, focused on pathways to post-school life.

The session was highly informative and offered families the opportunity to ask individual questions relating to their child's transition and future planning.

Key topics covered included:

- Planning a pathway to post-school life
- NDIS supports available to individuals
- Mainstream supports and services
- · Preparing for your NDIS planning meeting
- · Choosing the right service provider

If you have any questions regarding NDIS supports or processes, we encourage you to contact your Local Area Coordinator (LAC). You can also reach NDIS directly by calling 1800 800 110 or emailing enquiries@ndis.gov.au

Thank you to all families for your ongoing communication and support of the Inclusion team. Your collaboration is vital in supporting your child's educational journey.

Ms Michelle Messina

Deputy Principal – Inclusion

2025 Presentation Evening



2025 Sports Awards

What an incredible night celebrating the dedication, teamwork, and achievements of our talented student athletes! From early morning trainings to weekend competitions, our students have shown outstanding commitment, sportsmanship, and school

pride across a huge range of sports this year.

A huge thank you to our amazing HPE staff and coaches for their time, passion, and encouragement — your support makes these achievements possible and inspires our students to give their best, on and off the field.

Congratulations to all of our award recipients and teams recognised at this year's Sports Awards — you've done Smithfield State High School proud!

Official photos can be viewed at: https://smithfieldshs.eq.edu.au/calendar-and-news/photo-gallery

Student Services

Thinking in the Age of Thinking Machines:

Recently I found myself watching a group of students use AI to generate ideas for an English assignment. Within seconds, their screens filled with neatly structured paragraphs and vocabulary that would take most of us hours to craft. They looked relieved and the task felt "done."

But as I walked away, I couldn't shake the question: what happens when thinking itself becomes optional?

Artificial Intelligence isn't the enemy. In many ways, it's extraordinary; a tool that can extend our thinking, offer new perspectives, and spark creativity. Used well, it can be a powerful thought partner that encourages students to test ideas, question information, and explore new ways of expressing themselves.

But when it becomes a shortcut around effort or curiosity, something important is lost. True learning often comes from wrestling with uncertainty - from the trial and error, the redrafting, and the gradual realisation that understanding takes time. Those moments of discomfort are what build independence, resilience, and genuine comprehension. Critical thinking isn't about producing the perfect response. It's about questioning, evaluating, and sitting in that space of "I'm not sure yet." These are muscles that only strengthen through use and if we stop exercising them, they weaken.

One book that continues to shape my thinking in this space is The Shallows by Nicholas Carr. It explores how technology has changed the way we read, think, and connect ideas - often trading depth for speed. His reflections feel especially relevant now, as we help students learn to think deeply in a world that prizes instant answers.

Before turning to an AI tool, I often encourage students to pause and ask themselves:

What am I actually trying to learn here?

Is this helping me think or helping me avoid thinking?

What might I miss if I let the tool do this part for me?

Some of the best learning doesn't happen when we get the answer quickly, but when we linger in the question. That's where curiosity takes hold.

This concept reminds me of something my six-year-old said recently when choosing an after-school club: "I already know how to Lego, but I don't know how to chess." He wasn't worried about not knowing, he was excited by it. There's something powerful in that. Learning, at its best, isn't about comfort or speed; it's about curiosity, persistence, and the willingness to explore what we don't yet understand.

Our goal as educators isn't just to prepare students for assignments, it's to prepare them for life. The ability to think critically, navigate uncertainty, and make ethical decisions will matter far more than producing polished text at speed.

Because in a world where machines can think fast, our responsibility is to help our young people think deeply.

Mandy Jeffries Head of Student Services

Humanities & Sustainability



As we count down to the end of 2025, our Humanities and Sustainability students are diving into an exciting array of new learning opportunities this term. Across all year levels, students are engaging in rich, inquiry-based units designed to challenge their thinking and deepen their understanding of the world around them.

Year 7: Exploring Ancient Civilisations

Our Year 7 Humanities and Sustainability students have commenced their inquiry into the fascinating world of Ancient Civilisations, a core unit of the Year 7 Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) History curriculum. This unit explores major civilisations including Ancient Egypt, Greece, China, and Mesopotamia. Students will investigate key features such as geography, belief systems, social structures, and daily life, while building foundational historical skills like source analysis, chronology, and interpretation. This unit encourages students

to understand how ancient societies continue to influence our modern world.

Year 8: Conquest, Culture and Cinematics

Humanities: Year 8 students are undertaking an in-depth study of the Spanish Conquest of the Americas. This unit focuses on the interactions between Spanish colonisers and Indigenous populations, examining the causes, key events, and long-term consequences of the conquest. Students will develop critical inquiry skills through the analysis of sources, perspectives, and evidence-based interpretation of historical events.

Sustainability: In an innovative cross-curricular project, Year 8 Sustainability students are producing historical documentaries. Each student is creating a five-minute cinematic documentary on a significant contemporary historical event, exploring its relevance and lasting impact on today's world. These documentaries will be formally showcased in Week 9 at the Cairns Institute, James Cook University.

Year 9: Electives for Future Pathways

Year 9 Humanities and Sustainability students have been given the opportunity to select from a range of Humanities electives for Term 4. The available subjects include:

- Legal Studies
- Geography
- · Business, Economics & Accounting
- History

These electives are designed to provide a taste of what these subjects will offer in the senior years, helping students make more informed choices for Years 11 and 12.

Year 10: Launching The Smithfieldian

In an exciting first for the school, selected Year 10 students will launch the inaugural edition of The Smithfieldian — Smithfield State High School's very own online Humanities newspaper. Published once per term, this student-led publication will focus on social, economic, and environmental issues relevant to youth both locally and globally. Students with an interest in journalism will research,

write, and edit each edition, gaining real-world experience in media production.

Senior Students: Final Stages of Learning

Year 11: Our Year 11 Humanities students have now transitioned from formative to summative assessment, with their studies now contributing to their final Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) results. The next seven weeks are crucial, and we kindly ask for your continued support in ensuring high attendance and engagement during this vital period.

Year 12: Year 12 students are approaching the finish line, with external exams fast approaching. Students in Legal Studies, Economics, Accounting, Ancient History, and Modern History are currently engaging with a range of past exam questions to hone their analytical and writing skills. Many practice materials are also available online for students to access at home.

Exciting Enrichment Opportunities

2026 Singapore International Study Tour

Planning is now underway for the 2026 Singapore International Study Tour — a biannual overseas learning experience designed specifically for Humanities students. This unique opportunity aims to extend classroom learning into global, real-world contexts. The tour will offer students deep engagement with historical, cultural, economic, and environmental topics directly aligned with senior ATAR curriculum. Each destination is selected to foster inquiry-based learning and enhance students' academic development in preparation for senior studies.

Business Liaison Association Competitions

A number of our students have recently taken part in the Business Liaison Association (BLA) Competitions, including:

- Brett Moller Legal Studies Awards
- Legal Studies Essay Competition
- Junior Modern History Essay Awards
- Senior Modern History Essay Awards
- Keith Goodwin Accounting Scholarship

We're incredibly proud of all participating students and look forward to celebrating their achievements at the BLA Aspire Awards Night in November.

State-Wide Recognition: 2025 Resilient Australia Award Nomination

Following our recent success in winning the 2025 Queensland Schools Disaster Resilience Award, we are proud to announce that Smithfield State High School has been nominated to represent Queensland at the 2025 Resilient Australia Awards.

These national awards, sponsored by the Australian Government and managed by the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR), celebrate initiatives that build community resilience to disasters and emergencies. The awards recognise collaboration, innovation, and the integration of disaster resilience into school curricula — and we're honoured to have our work recognised at this level. Final judging will take place at the end of October.

New Technologies and Innovations in Humanities:

Thanks to the support from the Smithfield High School Parents & Citizens Association (P&C), we have taken delivery in the latest 3D scanning and printing technology from Creality Australia for our students to use. This technology allows students to scan real life objects in seconds and then print them in 3D. We look forward to seeing how our students use this technology in developing products to support their assessments. Visit the link here to see the technology in action: https://store.creality.com/au/pages/3d-scanner

Thank you for your continued support of our Humanities and Sustainability programs. We look forward to an engaging and inspiring end to the year.

If you have any questions about the Humanities & Sustainability faculty, please feel free to contact Head of Department Dan Kaggelis on dkagg1@eq.edu.au.

2025 Keith Goodwin Memorial Scholarship

Congratulations to Ankia in Year 12 who was selected as a finalist for the 2025 Keith Goodwin Memorial Scholarships in Senior Accounting and Business. This prestigious award has been offered annually since 1991 and aims to provide financial support for those students wishing to study accountancy after Year 12.



Ankia did an amazing job representing our school last Saturday during her presentation and we wish her all the best at the 2025 ASPIRE Awards in November when the winners are announced.

2025 Brett Moller Legal Studies Awards

Recently two of our Year 12 legal studies students
Jamie and Leah competed in the 2025 Brett Moller
Legal Studies Awards.
Senior legal studies students across Cairns and Far North Queensland who



demonstrate an aptitude for, and interest in, pursuing a career in law or legal services are entitled to apply for or be nominated by their school.

Both students were shortlisted from interested students across private and public secondary schools across the region and had to undertake a formal interview with two solicitors where they had to demonstrate their aptitude in the field of law.

Both Jamie and Leah did an outstanding job, and we wish them all the best at the ASPIRE Awards Night in November when the winners will be announced.

Junior Learning Academy

The Junior School at Smithfield State High continues to flourish as a vibrant hub of curiosity, connection, and achievement. Across Years 7-9, students are immersed in experiences that strengthen the school's four pillars — aspiration, belief, motivation, success —while also building a foundation for lifelong learning.

Building Pathways Through the Learning Academy:

One of our signature programs at Smithfield State High School is the James Cook University Learning Academy, which fosters academic excellence and future-focused thinking. This year began with the **Commencement, Confirmation, and Commitment Ceremonies**, where students from Years 7–9 proudly received their Academy badges and certificates, symbolising their place in the 2025 program. Junior School Captains Alley and Miko shared heartfelt reflections on the perseverance, resilience, and self-discipline required to succeed, reminding students that hard work and dedication open doors to future opportunities.

Through our partnership with JCU, Learning Academy students also gained access to Studiosity, a 24/7 online mentoring platform that connects them with university tutors for academic support and writing feedback. This initiative helps students take ownership of their learning and develop the independence needed for senior studies and beyond.

Looking Ahead to the Future:

As students move through their secondary school studies and form a clearer idea of their strengths and interests, opportunities expand to connect learning with the wider world. The Year 8 and Year 9 **University Experience** days at JCU this year allowed students to explore university life through hands-on workshops. Many left inspired to begin charting their future pathways, already imagining the possibilities that lie beyond high school.

A Community of Leaders:

Together, these experiences define what it means to

be part of Smithfield's Learning Academy in the Junior School: a community where curiosity is encouraged, effort is rewarded, and students are supported to grow as capable, confident young people. Through exploring their capabilities in an environment where academic achievement is recognised, nurtured and celebrated Learning Academy students in the Junior School are not only learning about the world—they are learning to shape it.





P&C- Harvey Norman Cairns Partnership

In Term 4, Harvey Norman Cairns and LG have proudly partnered with the Smithfield State High School P&C to provide a brand-new LG Al WashTower for the cleaning of sports uniforms and equipment donated by our P&C.

A huge thank-you to Harvey Norman Cairns and LG for supporting our school and helping keep our students' uniforms clean, fresh, and ready for action.

The LG Al WashTower combines a washer and dryer in one smart, space-saving design — the perfect solution for busy school laundries and homes alike. [Learn more \rightarrow insert link]

Exclusive Staff, Family & Friends Offer Simply mention this offer in-store at Harvey Norman Cairns to receive:

- \$150 OFF any LG WashTower or LG Washer & Dryer combo (when purchased together)
- Up to \$300 in bonus Harvey Norman Gift Cards with your washer and dryer purchase

Don't miss out — offer valid from **October 20th until November 30th, 2025**.



The Arts

Join us for the "Sound of Us":



A showcase of classroom music performances and compositions. Friends and family welcome.

Celebrating Success in Film and TV

We are very proud of Year 12 Film and TV student, Leah,

who has been recognised with a Highly Commended Award at the Understory High Film Festival for her film Doppelganger. This festival celebrates the creativity and talent of young filmmakers from across the region and is proudly supported by the Cairns Regional Council.

Leah's achievement is a testament to her dedication, creativity, and storytelling ability, and continues a long tradition of success for Smithfield State High School at the Understory Festival. Over the years, our Film and TV students have consistently impressed judges with their innovative ideas and high-quality productions.

Congratulations Leah, on this outstanding achievement — we can't wait to see where your filmmaking journey takes you next!

Jazz Academy



Jazz Academy Shines in Term 3 Performances:

Term 3 was a vibrant time for our talented Jazz Academy students, who brought music and joy connecting with communities across our

region.

Our performers captivated audiences at the Yorkeys Knob Art Show, adding a lively soundtrack to the visual arts with their smooth jazz stylings.





They also brought smiles and vibe to the Under 8's Day at Trinity Beach State School, where their upbeat tunes kept the youngest members of our community dancing and engaged.





A standout moment came when Alley and Shadayah provided entertainment for Energy Arts launch at the Tanks. Performing as a duo was warmly appreciated by the audience. Alley then performed her original compositions as part of a competition for young artists.





These events not only highlighted the students' musical talents but also their ability to connect with diverse audiences and bring energy and entertainment wherever they go.

Congratulations to all involved for a fantastic term of performances!

Saver Plus – Helping families access support

Families are reminded that Saver Plus is available to assist with education costs.

This is a government-funded financial inclusion program that supports eligible participants with up to \$500 in matched savings to help cover their child's education costs. Alongside the financial support, participants gain valuable budgeting skills that contribute to long-term financial well-being.

As families prepare for new school year levels, Saver Plus can assist with a wide range of education-related

expenses, including:

- · Devices and technology
- · Excursions and camps
- Subject-specific resources
- · And many other approved costs

Families can enquire directly by calling 1300 610 355 or by clicking the 'Enquire Now' button on *The Smith Family* website under the Saver Plus financial literacy program. A Savings Coach will then be in touch for a friendly chat.



The Smith Family is a national charity helping young Australians in need to get the most out of their education, so they can create better futures for themselves.

Technologies

Technology, Design and Esports – Creativity and Innovation in Action!

It's been an outstanding term for our Technology and Design students, filled with achievement, creativity,

and exciting opportunities ahead.

DATTA Awards Success

We are proud to announce that our school achieved exceptional success at the recent Design and Technology Teachers Association Awards (DATTA), with over 15 winners across multiple categories from Year 7 through to Year 12.

Students impressed judges with their originality, craftsmanship, and innovative design thinking across a range of disciplines — from product design and engineering to digital graphics and textiles. This achievement highlights the depth of talent and dedication within our Technology and Design programs.

A huge congratulations to all our students and our amazing teaching team for their continued guidance and inspiration.

Award recipients are reminded to see Mr Mayes regarding formal attire for the upcoming presentation event.

Design through Origami

Meanwhile, in the classroom, design students have been exploring Sustainability through Origami, combining art, mathematics, and environmental design principles. Through this project, students used folded paper to prototype sustainable product ideas, learning how creativity and minimal materials can drive innovative solutions for a greener future. It's been a wonderful example of how design can connect with sustainability and problem-solving in hands-on, engaging ways.





Esports Event

Looking forward, we're excited about the upcoming High School Esports Competition, to be held in Cairns on October 25–26, 2025, at the JCU Ideas Lab, Smithfield.

This free event is hosted by the EsportsAble Academy, an initiative delivered by the Queensland University of Technology and funded by the Australian Department of Social Services. The program promotes safe, inclusive, and positive participation in esports, supporting students to develop teamwork, communication, and digital literacy skills in a structured and supportive environment. Students interested in participating or learning more should see Mr Mayes for details.

Finally, we extend our best wishes to all our Senior students as they prepare for their External Exams. Your dedication and persistence throughout the year have been outstanding, and we know you'll finish strong.

Congratulations once again to all students involved in our Technology, Design, and Esports programs — your innovation and passion continue to make our school community proud!

Year 12 Graduation Night & Farewell



Smithfield Library Temporary Closure

Cairns Regional Council has advised that the Smithfield Library will close temporarily from 1 September for approximately eight months while it undergoes a full makeover.



During this time, the other seven library branches across the region will remain open, and the extensive online library services will still be available 24/7.

We look forward to seeing the newly refurbished Smithfield Library in 2026!



Senior School

2025 JCU Early Offer Program

Congratulations to our Year 12 students who have received their 2025 Early Offers from James Cook University! This is a fantastic achievement that recognises their hard work, dedication, and commitment throughout their senior studies.

Students were presented with special gift packs from the university at Year 12 assembly in celebration of their success.

Congratulations to the following recipients:

We're thrilled to celebrate Year 12 student Alisha, who has received an early entry offer at James Cook University, Australia to study a Bachelor of Education (Primary)!

Your passion for learning and inspiring others will make you a wonderful future teacher. We're so proud of you, Alisha, and can't wait to see where your journey in education takes you!



We're so proud of Year 12 student Ashley, who has received an early entry offer at James Cook University, Australia to study a Bachelor of Nursing Science (Pre-Registration)!

Your dedication, empathy, and determination will make you an exceptional nurse. Congratulations Ashley — an exciting new chapter is about to begin!



A huge shoutout to Year 12 student Charlotte, who has received an early entry offer at James Cook University, to study a Bachelor of Nursing Science (Pre-Registration)!

We're so proud of your hard work, compassion, and commitment to helping others — qualities that will make you an outstanding nurse. Wishing you every success as you begin this exciting journey!



We're so proud to celebrate Year 12 student Bandla, who has received an early entry offer at James Cook University, to study a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)!

This incredible achievement reflects Bandla's hard work, dedication, and passion for learning. We can't wait to see the amazing things you'll accomplish as you take this exciting next step!



A huge well done to Year 12 student Tate, who has been accepted into CQUniversity Australia to study a Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Science!

Your passion for health, fitness, and performance will no doubt lead to great success in this exciting field. We're so proud of you, Tate, and can't wait to see where your studies take you.

We wish each of them all the best as they take this exciting next step toward their future studies and careers.



Congratulations Zach,

We're so proud of Year 12 student Zach, who — after a successful audition and interview — has been accepted to study a Bachelor of Music at CQUniversity Australia.

Your passion, creativity, and dedication to your craft have truly paid off, and we can't wait to see where your musical journey takes you next. Well done, Zach — an exciting new chapter begins!



Congratulations Ebony,

A huge congratulations to Year 12 student Ebony, who has received an early offer to James Cook University to study a Bachelor of Nursing Science (Pre-Registration) in 2026!

Ebony's compassion, dedication, and commitment to helping others will make her an outstanding future nurse. We're so proud of your achievement, Ebony — what an amazing way to start your next chapter!

Year 11 Leadership Camp

Recently our Year 11 students attended the annual Leadership Camp at Camp Barrabadeen.

Throughout the camp, students participated in a range of challenging and rewarding activities including high ropes, canoeing, team-building exercises, and leadership tasks.

This leadership experience was designed to help students develop essential skills such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving qualities that will enable

them to become confident and active leaders within our school community.

The camp was a great success, with students demonstrating enthusiasm, resilience, and a strong sense of friendship. We look forward to seeing the positive impact they will continue to make as emerging leaders at our school. Thank you to Ms Turner, Mr Woodhouse, Ms Millett, Mr Lynam and Ms Sparks for making this happen.





National Youth Parliament 2026



Students aged 16-17 years in August 2026 should apply online before 21 November to participate in the National Youth Parliament which brings together 150 students, each representing one of Australia's federal electorates, for an immersive five-day experience in Canberra free of charge. It's a unique opportunity for them to engage directly in our democracy and learn about parliamentary processes, including how bills are drafted, debated and passed into law.

HPE and Sport Update

Sports Awards

Recently we celebrated school sporting achievement at our annual Sports Awards Evening hosted at school. Thank you to our supporters listed below, most award winners went home with a gift.



A special thank you our Sports Coordinator Miss Knight and Sports Captains Dylan and Holly for organising and hosting the event.

With a 2025 Australian School Sport Representative for Hockey, it was exciting to hear from our Guest Speaker Dean Butler OAM, Olympic Gold Medallist from Athens 2024 for Hockey.

Thanks to all parents/carers, staff and students for another great year in sport!"

Official photos can be viewed a t https://smithfieldshs.eq.edu.au/calendar-and-news/photogallery

Malanda Super Series

We had 51 of our amazing students travel by bus to Malanda to compete in the inaugural Malanda Super Series for Touch Football and Volleyball. We sent 6 teams in total and had a very successful day. The results were:

Senior Mixed Touch Football – 1st Place Junior Mixed Touch Football – 2nd Place Senior Boys Volleyball – 1st Place Senior Girls Volleyball – 3rd Place Junior Boys Volleyball – 1st Place Junior Girls Volleyball – 1st in the CADPA staffroom if required. Place

Finn was named player of the final for touch football.

Congratulations to all of our students who represented Smithfield State High School proudly. A big thank you to our coaches Mr Ralph, Mrs Ryan, Ms Knight, Mr Ale and our student helpers, Charlie and Max.





Weekly sport schedule

Reminder to check our Facebook page or student emails to see what is coming up each week.

Year 11 Health

Certificate II Health students learnt how to safely pick up sharp objects and clean up mess while also practising PPE and hand hygiene practises that they learnt earlier in the year.





School Hats

Reminder it is an expectation students have a school hat whenever outside. Get one from the tuckshop if you haven't already!



Sunscreen

Reminder to bring your own. We have some available

FNQ Volleyball Schools Cup

Our Smithfield State High School girls' teams played exceptionally well at the FNQ Junior Volleyball Schools Cup! Our talented Year 8 team took out silver — an incredible achievement among 13 strong teams!

A huge thank you to Miss Sandra for her wonderful coaching and support throughout the competition.



Women in Sport forum

Last term, our Sports Captain Holly hosted an inspiring lunchtime session with Sonya Barber from CQU, who spoke about the incredible opportunities for women in sport and the challenges they continue to face in the sporting world.

We were thrilled to see around 50 girls from across all year levels take part in this empowering and interactive event — a fantastic opportunity to celebrate women in sport and inspire future leaders!





Netball Academy Gala Day

Congratulations to our Year 10–12 Senior Netball team, who took out the win at the Netball Gala Day at the end of Term 3.

Our players showed incredible teamwork, determination, and skill throughout the competition — an amazing way to finish the term.

A special congratulations to Mathys, who was named Player of the Final for his outstanding performance on the court!

We're so proud of the whole team for their effort and sportsmanship.





Touch Football Gala Day

We hosted our annual Touch Football Gala Day which, despite some unpredictable weather, was a fantastic success!

Our students were eager to hit the field for their first touch footy games of the year and showcased some impressive performances throughout the day.

A special congratulations goes to our Senior Boys team who made it all the way to the Grand Final. A big thank you to Miss Nikita, Mrs Harris, Mr Woodhouse, and Miss Knight for their time, effort, and support in coaching our teams.





Staff vs Students

Our annual Staff vs Students series was once again a highlight of Term 3, fuelled by the current Year 12 cohort who had been talking up their chances since Year 9!

In a hotly contested 7-sport series, the Year 12s managed only a single victory in the basketball. The Staff, however, proved too strong, claiming wins in futsal, hockey, touch, endzone and netball, with volleyball ending in a hard-fought draw.

While it wasn't the result Year 12 had hoped for, the series showcased fantastic school spirit, healthy competition, and outstanding sportsmanship from start to finish.



Year 11 PE

Year 11 PE students have commenced volleyball as their next physical activity. They have been allocated playing numbers and will put together a highlights video of their performance on the court.





Sport out of School

Email out Sports Coordinator if your student has achieved something outstanding outside of school sport. bekni0@eq.edu.au

Over a recent weekend, our Year 8 student Braxton competed in the Queensland State Enduro in Townsville.

Across tow days of tough competition and four challenging stages, Braxton showed incredible skill and determination.

After building a 20 second lead on Day 1, he powered through Day 2 to take out the win with a 30 second led in the Under 15s Queensland State Enduro!



Senior Netball Lunchtime Challenge

At the start of Term 3, four captains were given the challenge of drafting even teams using a pints system.

After eight weeks of intense, hard-fought matches, Mathys and his team took out the win.

Congratulations to all students who took part.

It was fantastic to see the skill, teamwork and passion for Netball on display at Smithfield State High School.



Bentley 7s Football Tournament

Our Year 7/8 students had a cracking day at the Bentley 7s Football Tournament, going undefeated through the group stage and advancing to the Grand Final. Despite a strong performance, the team went down 3–1 to a talented MacKillop Catholic College side. The players showed great teamwork, skill, and spirit throughout the day and with this experience under their belts, they'll be the team to beat next year!

Our Year 9/10 students earned a well-deserved 3rd place at the Bentley 7s Football Tournament. With two wins and a draw, the team performed strongly, defeating Innisfail State College to secure their spot on the podium. The players showed excellent tactical awareness and teamwork and were unlucky not to advance to the final.





Bentley 7s Rugby Tournament

The Year 8 boys certainly showed the Salty spirit with a courageous performance in the Bentley 7s competition.

Training obviously paid off with a number of students representing the school for the first time in rugby and holding their own against seasoned teams.

A special shout out to superstar Sylvain, as man of the match, and Cody, as assistant coach. The boys can certainly hold their heads high after a fearless performance.



E-Scooters – Know the Road Rules

To ensure you and your child stay safe when using e-scooters or e-skateboards, please remember:

Only those aged 16+ can ride e-scooters and e-skateboards unsupervised.



Helmets must be worn with the straps properly fastened (bicycle or motorcycle helmets) and bells fitted for devices with handlebars.

No passengers/doubling – only one person riding an escooter.

Speed limit of 12km/h on footpaths and shared paths.

Serious fines may apply to riders, and parents, if caught breaking the rules.

Always be considerate and respectful to others already using the footpaths.

Click here to view more information
https://streetsmarts.initiatives.qld.gov.au/e-bikes-e-scooters/

Why Term 4 Matters

- Every day of learning adds up missed days mean missed opportunities.
- Consistency builds confidence and keeps students on track
- Finishing well creates momentum and pride heading into the holidays.

If you or your child face challenges - attendance concerns, wellbeing struggles, or academic setbacks - we encourage you to reach out to the school early. We have support structures, strategies, and empathy to help students through the final term.

Let's help our students finish 2025 strong — every class, every day, every effort counts!

School Attendance



Finishing Strong – Let's End 2025 on a High!

As we enter Term 4, it's the perfect time to remind our students that every day counts and that finishing the school year strong sets them up for success in 2026.

Even though the year is winding down, maintaining good habits, consistency and commitment makes a big difference. Regular attendance, steady effort, and a positive attitude help students stay connected, confident, and ready for what's next.

Commitment doesn't mean pressure or perfection — it means showing up, day after day, even when motivation dips. As parents and carers, your support, encouragement, and modelling of perseverance can make a decisive difference in how your child ends 2025.

Parentline



Parentline: Support and advice for all Queensland parents and carers

Being a parent can be rewarding—but it can also be challenging. Whether you're trying to support your child with school issues, friendship challenges, behaviour, or tough moments at home, it's completely normal to feel unsure about what to do next.

Parentline is a free and confidential service available

to all Queensland parents and carers. No problem is too big or too small—and reaching out early can make a real difference.

Parentline offers advice and support on a wide range of parenting topics, including:

- · bullying and friendship issues
- parent-child relationships
- · parenting strategies and behaviour management
- mental and emotional wellbeing—for both children and parents

You can speak with a trained professional by phone or webchat (6am-midnight), seven days a week.

An online bullying support forum is also available. This is a safe, moderated space to connect with others, ask questions, and share experiences.

Call 1300 30 1300

Visit parentline.com.au

Because parenting doesn't come with a manual—but help is here when you need it.

Raising Awareness for Language Disorders

Dyslexia and Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) are often hidden disorders that affect language, reading, writing and spelling development. In every classroom, 5-10% of students will have Dyslexia, and 1 in 14 students will have DLD. Early identification and the right supports make a real difference to these students' long term academic and social-emotional outcomes. In October, watch new videos on the Reading and Writing Disorders website to learn more and raise awareness to help kids find their voice.

Click here to view more information https://readingwritingcentre.education.qld.gov.au/



Dyslexia awareness: Dyslexia can impact reading and writing in many different ways. Better understand dyslexia by watching the short videos at:

Click here to view more information https://readingwritingcentre.education.qld.gov.au/reading-and-writingdisorders/dyslexia



D L D Awareness: Have you heard of Developmental Language Disorder? It's 50 times more common than hearing impairment, but many people don't know about DLD. It impacts language learning, including speaking, listening, reading and writing. Watch the videos about DLD and support available in schools at the Reading and Writing Disorders Website:

Click here to view more information
https://readingwritingcentre.education.qld.gov.au/language-disorders#dld

Q Parents



The annual Student Resource Scheme (SRS) fee is now overdue for payment.

Did you know that you can pay all school invoices using QParents?

Once you are registered for QParents, you will open the app, select the child you're wishing to make a payment for, click on payments and you will be able to select the invoice you would like to pay. It's as simple as that!

If you haven't yet registered for QParents and need any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact our Enrolments 4058 4304 email enrolments@smithfieldshs.eq.edu.au

If you have any questions regarding the Student Resource Scheme (SRS), or would like to arrange a payment plan, please contact 4058 4307 Accounts on email Accounts Receivable@smithfieldshs.eq.edu.au

Payments can also be made by clicking on the BPOINT link at the bottom of your invoice, see below:

PRE-POPULATION OF INVOICE DETAILS





QParents enables you to access and manage inform about your child online. What information is available in QParents?

- attendance details
- report cards and assessments
- invoices and payment history.

parents

for

sheet

Fact

Which schools use QParents?

act your child's school to find out if they are lered to use QParents.

Your child's school will send you a letter or email inv you to register for QParents. You will then be able to register via the secure QParents website (gparents qild edu, au) using the unique invitation code contained in the letter or email.

The following details are securely stored on your QParents account:

- your email address
- your mobile phone number (if provided)
- basic details of any delegated viewers you have invited

Where is my personal information stored?



How current is the information in QParents?

What happens if I don't want my child's information in QParents?

Where can I find help using QParents?

- check the help page at
 detectuau/#/help
- call 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

parents Fact sheet for

QPARENTS - Register Now!

Have you signed up for QParents yet? Smithfield State High School has now using digital consents for excursions and events, providing a quick and efficient way to provide consent for your child to attend these activities.

You can also read and download report cards, notify the school of your child's absences, pay invoices and see your child's timetable and school events.

If you aren't yet registered, your unique school invitation code has been emailed to you (please check your junk/spam inbox if you can't find it). If you didn't receive your invitation code or need assistance all, contact please enrolments@smithfieldshs.eq.edu.au

Cane Train Safety



May 2025

"Watch Out – Cane Trains About" – a note for parents and teachers about Cane Rail Safety

The 2025 cane crushing season will commence in June and MSF Sugar would like to remind parents and teachers of the dangers of children playing on or near cane trains and railway tracks.

Cane trains carry very large loads and have limited ability to brake suddenly, and children often don't realise the danger they put themselve in when they jump on to moving cane trains, play around railway tracks, ride trail bikes along the cane railway and even fish from cane railway bridges.

Occasionally children are seen playing with the track points that guide the train from one track to another or placing objects on the line. This is extremely dangerous as it can cause the train to derail and result in serious injury or death.

Trains operate on our extensive private cane railway network 24 hours per day during the cane crushing season.

Please make your children aware to stay safe and remember:

- Stav away from locomotives and cane bins.
- Don't play around railway lines
 Never walk between cane bins.
- Never go on to a cane railway bridge
- . Never walk behind a train the driver will not see you.
- If you have to cross the railway tracks, STOP and look both ways, LISTEN and only cross when it is safe.
- OBEY Flashing Lights signals and Give Way signage at road

The Dangers of Vaping



Click here to view more information

https://www.thehopefullinstitute.com/the-dangers-of-vaping-for-teens/

Click here to download the vaping factsheet

Thank you





For your continued support of staff at our school.