



Issue. 01

Catholic Education Foundation

May 2025

welcome to our

# Quarterly Newsletter



## In this newsletter:

Welcome 2025, CEF Bursary  
Story, Annual Appeal  
Fundraising Event & Events  
held in Term 1

## Welcome to the 2025 School Year

The Catholic Education Foundation (CEF) is thrilled to kick off another incredible term and share the impact of our mission to create Opportunities for All across our 147 Sydney Catholic Schools.

We have had an amazing start to the school year celebrating creating opportunities for all and having the privilege of meeting our new CEF Teaching Scholarship Recipients for 2025. The CEF held its 3rd International Women's Day Morning Tea and had the opportunity of listening to three amazing women speak about their lives.

We thank you for your support in transforming lives and helping us grow the bursary program so that more students can access a quality Catholic education, no matter their circumstances. Together, we're building a brighter future—one student at a time.

Kathleen Badolato, Janet Freeman & Dominica Pafumi  
Catholic Education Foundation

## Full Financial Bursary Family

At one of our Sydney Catholic Secondary Colleges, a devoted single mother and her determined daughter faced a heart-wrenching crisis when their housing provider, the Salvation Army, issued a termination notice. With the property being sold and no alternative housing options available, they were left with only a place on the government housing waitlist, staring down the terrifying prospect of homelessness.

In this moment of profound uncertainty, compassion stepped in. Vinnies found a rental property nearby and provided immediate relief by covering two weeks' rent and furnishing the home with essential items like a fridge, washing machine, and bedding. Meanwhile, the College stood firmly by the family's side, offering a financial bursary, school uniforms, and daily meals to ease their burden.

The daughter, a bright and hardworking student who excels in every subject, was still missing one vital tool: a laptop for her studies. We are deeply moved and incredibly grateful for the generosity of Austwide Building, who purchased her a brand new laptop. The young lady wrote a heartfelt note of thanks, expressing how she would take great care of the laptop and how it would immensely help with her schoolwork. She was overwhelmed by the kindness and never imagined such support would be given.

This story is more than just assistance — it's a beacon of hope. It's a testament to what happens when community, compassion, and education come together. And it's all made possible by the kindness of people like you.



### Annual Appeal School Fundraising Events Winners

The CEF invites all 147 Sydney Catholic Schools to support our annual appeal fundraiser.

Special congratulations and heartfelt thanks to St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Strathfield South, for raising \$1,031.50, and Holy Spirit Catholic College, Lakemba, for raising \$5,931.73. These schools were the top fundraisers in the Primary and Secondary categories for 2024, and we were delighted to celebrate this incredible achievement with your school communities!

We also extend our gratitude to all other school communities for their support. We look forward to hearing about this year's event and continuing to make a difference together!





## City Link Mentor Program Launch

On Friday, 21 March, we were thrilled to host the 2025 Welcome and Launch of the City Link Mentor Program, where we had the pleasure of introducing 20 new students, along with their families, and 18 dedicated mentors to the program.

This event offered students and their families the chance to meet their assigned mentor, learn more about the program's structure, understand the expectations for accepted students, and explore the many benefits the program offers.

A heartfelt thank you to all our mentors for your continued support in making this program such a meaningful and impactful experience.



## International Women's Day 2025

On Tuesday, 11 March, the CEF and SCS head office celebrated International Women's Day by recognizing the incredible achievements of women in education, leadership, and beyond. Staff wore a splash of pink and gathered to hear from inspiring women, including Danielle Cronin, Executive Director of Sydney Catholic Schools, Piper Schadel, an alumna from Domremy College, and Rachael Beck, performer, educator, and mentor, who shared their personal journeys and insights. The event featured heart-warming vocal performances by Jacinta Drummond, a student at St Ursula's Catholic College, and Rachael Beck. The CEF highlighted programs that empower female students to reach their full potential.

Together, we continue to change, empower, and contribute to making the world a better place. We greatly appreciate all who attended.



## Teaching Scholarship 2025 Recipients Morning Tea

On Thursday 6 February, the CEF were delighted to welcome 21 recipients from across our system to the CEF Teaching Scholarship Morning Tea, where six outstanding alumni from 2024 were awarded a CEF Teaching Scholarship. These passionate and talented future educators are already on the path to becoming some of SCS's finest teachers, ready to inspire and shape the next generation.

For the third year, the CEF Teaching Scholarship continues to celebrate and support aspiring teachers, and we are immensely proud of this year's recipients.

Congratulations to:

- Chelsea Lai
- Gabriella Sultana
- Greta Micallef
- Marissa Deeb
- Rita Jebo
- Roxane Moufarej

We look forward to witnessing and supporting the incredible impact you will have in education!

The Catholic Education Foundation is committed to helping Catholic families to access a Catholic education for their children in one of our 150 primary and secondary Sydney Catholic schools.

Our Vision is that every child from a Catholic family has access to an education in a Sydney Catholic school, and no child is denied this opportunity due to genuine financial, cultural or social hardship.

Our Mission is to raise sufficient funds to sustain our school fee support program to assist Catholic families in educating their children in a Sydney Catholic school.

We would like to thank all of the Catholic Education Foundation's Corporate and Community Partners for their continued generous support of our vision and mission

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