

By Banazir Ameen, year 11.

2026 editor's welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of Ursie Insider. I am Banazir Ameen, a student at the College and honoured to serve as the leader of this remarkable group for 2026, leading on from Eve this year. It is a privilege to assume this role and to continue the excellent work of sharing all the exciting events, updates, and countdowns within our dynamic school community.

My involvement with Ursie Insider began last year, where I quickly realised the power of storytelling to both unite and inform our student body. Being part of this magazine group has not only enhanced my ability to write and report with clarity and enthusiasm but has also taught me the importance of listening attentively and representing the diverse voices that define our college.

In addition to this role, I stood as vice-captain this year, motivated by a strong commitment to leadership and service values that resonate deeply with the ethos of Ursie Insider. I am eager to combine these responsibilities to improve communication, celebrate our achievements, and keep everyone informed and engaged.

As the new editor, working closely with Ms Scott, my aim is to establish Ursie Insider as your primary source for all college-related news. You can look forward to more in-depth articles, creative features, and useful countdowns to key events. I warmly welcome students who wish to join our team, whether to develop their writing and literacy skills or simply to contribute to sharing our college's story.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, let us make 2026 a memorable and inspiring year.

Warm regards,

Banazir Ameen (Incoming editor & group leader; 2026)



By Eve Reimers, year 12.

2024 & 2025 editor's farewell

Since its inauguration in 2019, Ursie Insider has been through many names, many leaders, many eras. Secretaries of Angela, The Serviam, and then Ursie Insider. But the mission of the group hasn't changed – giving every face a place, every event an inside scoop, and every voice a platform.

I took over leadership of the group at the end of 2023 for a 2024 start, I have witnessed the newspaper become an institution of the College, from being a quiet little meeting in the Upstairs Library to now a well-known service initiative.

I've always had a passion for all things English, writing, public speaking, and performing, so rebuilding Ursie Insider has been absolutely wonderful, as I get to use my various passions to create a nice little publication of my own, whilst working with other passionate writers around the school. Not only that, but I also have a huge passion for Mathematics, so with this comes my plans for university next year. I have been accepted with early offer to study a Bachelor of Education (Secondary) at the University of Southern Queensland, specialising in Mathematics and English.

As the outgoing editor of Ursie Insider, I can honestly say it's been an absolute pleasure to give our College newspaper a new lease on life and see its growth. With a heavy heart comes my departure from Ursie Insider, and the College as a whole, but with this comes the election of a new editor, and I congratulate Banazir Ameen on her election to the role. I'm very excited to see what her, Ms Scott, and next year's writers can produce – needless to say I'll make sure I get a copy of each edition to keep up with the happenings around here!

I hope myself and the Ursie Insider team of 2025 have left our legacy on the newspaper, and I can't wait to see what the future brings for the group.

Lots of love,

Eve Reimers (Outgoing editor & group leader; 2024 & 2025.)



The view from the desk of... Ms Scott!

Petals & puzzles: Belly's summer shuffle.

In summer's glow, young Belly stands,
With petals clasped tight in her hands.
"He loves me, he loves me not," she'd sigh.

Two brothers in her heart do dwell—
Conrad, with secrets hard to quell,
Belly doesn't want to be their "love game" boss,
But sometimes she feels she's taking a loss.

Jeremiah, however, smiles, light as air,
With boyish charm but not always tender care,
He laughs, he lifts, he's always near,
Like a friendly stalker, but there is no need to fear!

She plucks a petal, torn between,
The love she's felt, and a love unseen.
Conrad's depth, a stormy sea,
Jeremiah's intensity, a desperate plea.

"He loves me," whispers in the breeze,
Then doubts like tides, "He loves me not," Belly's heart
swings with the tide's dance,
In a continuous cycle of summers and tangled chance.

With every petal, hope and fear,
She craves a love but still unclear.
Will Conrad's silence spark the calm,
Or will Jeremiah's cheating cause alarm?

Oh, summer's game of push and pull,
A love triangle, sweet but cruel.
"He loves me, he loves me not," she sighs,
As under the sun, her future lies.

By Makenna Coombs, year 9.

Gratitude Week

Monday: Grateful for Education: Students came to the Salo at first break on Monday to either participate or watch the 2025 Annual SUC Spelling Bee!!! Lucy Ryan, our College Vice-Captain, won the Spelling Bee, Charlotte Stinson came second, and Sophia Sanson-Male came third, congrats girls.

Tuesday: Grateful for Friendship: Students came to the Salo at first break to play childhood games including potato stack race, egg and spoon race and parachute race.

Wednesday: Grateful for Water: Students attended the front lawn at first break on Wednesday to complete a water obstacle course to earn points for the Desenzano Cup.

Thursday: Grateful for Family: Invitations were sent to all SUC grandparents for a special mass and morning tea, followed by entertainment by students. Performers included the Year 9/10 band, junior guitar band, choir, concert band, vocal solos, instrumental solos, instrumental duets, and Senior Music. Accompanied to this were some delicious quiches and slices cooked by the year 10s.

Friday: Grateful for Adventure: Students found the fun in finding a book character to dress up as, as they track to the Salo at first break to have a chance to win prizes in the fashion show.

Best Overall Costume: Tea Jasinski, Brooke Rashleigh, Brie Reimers and Lucy Ryan (Paddington Bears)

Best Pair: Zoe Schultz and Amelia Garske (Oompa Loompas)

Best Solo Costume: Arielle Wolfenden (Cleopatra)

Immense thanks go to the Student Representative Council for organising such an enjoyable week, where everyone could get involved.

By Sophia Sanson-Male, year 9.

Write a Book in a Day competition

In costumes with creativity, girls from Years 7 to 9 at St. Ursula’s College came together for the annual *Write a Book in a Day* challenge on book day. They split into small teams, designing illustrations and writing chapters filled with heart, humour and hope. These books were designed for children in hospitals across Australia, suffering from life-threatening illnesses. Also, members of the teams and their families set up fundraisers to raise vital funds for kids’ cancer research.

Across Australia, 16005 writers in 2248 teams, in 597 schools and writing groups raised over 1 million dollars for the kids’ cancer research. Our St. Ursula’s students raised over \$200 per team, one team reaching over \$1000, ensuring that their book got published and was judged with a chance to win prizes.

On the day, students bought snacks to thrive and strive throughout the 8 hours. From planning to drafting to drawing to writing, students enjoyed the experience filled with fun and friendship. Fuelled by chips, watermelon, and the occasional burst of candies, each group dove headfirst into their story worlds. Characters were named after inside jokes, and illustrations took shape with colourful flair. Despite the ticking clock, the atmosphere buzzed with creativity and teamwork. Although the occasional headache delayed creativity, the girls powered through with determination and laughter, turning setbacks into inside jokes and plot twists.

“It was challenging to plan but fun to write. Everybody had their own separate ideas; however, we came together with a full story at the end,” said a student from grade 9, Rory Sargent, who wrote a book names *Have you seen my Llama?* Each group was given 5 random words to include in their story, along with a main character, secondary character, a non-human character, setting, and plot. The book also had to have Australian elements such as the ABC Classic Radio or Tim Tams, making the experience even more difficult.

In a whirlwind of creativity and compassion, girls from Years 7 to 9 at St. Ursula’s College took part in the *Write a Book in a Day* challenge, crafting illustrated stories for children in hospitals while raising over \$200 per teams for kids’ cancer research. Fuelled by foods galore and delayed by the occasional headache, after the 8 hours, they delivered excellent books for children in hospitals across Australia.



By Athie Bird, year 12.

The Boarding Beacon: episode 3.

In a season marked by generosity and heartfelt connection, the *Our Country Heart* service group has once again proven that small acts of kindness can ripple outward to create lasting impact. With a dual mission of supporting those in need and enriching their own boarding community, the group launched two standout initiatives: a donation drive for the homeless and less fortunate, and a vibrant Father’s Day stall.

Led by service group leaders Athie and Brooke, and supported by the ever-enthusiastic girls and staff in boarding, the donation drive gathered essential items, including warm clothing, toiletries, and non-perishable food—for those experiencing homelessness and hardship. The initiative was more than a collection of goods; it was a powerful reminder of empathy in motion. Students not only donated but also helped sort and package the items, ensuring dignity and care were at the heart of every parcel.

With the creative guidance of Patricia Backman and the tireless support of the boarding staff, the group transformed the common room into a festive marketplace.

Handmade gifts, baked treats, and personalized cards filled the stall, offering students a chance to celebrate their fathers while raising funds for future service projects. The event was a joyful blend of laughter, love, and purpose, each purchase directly contributing to the wellbeing of the boarding community.

What made these initiatives truly special was their circular spirit of giving. Every effort from the donation drive to the Father’s Day stall was designed not only to serve others but to strengthen the bonds within the boarding house. Funds raised were reinvested into communal spaces, student wellbeing programs, and future service opportunities, ensuring that the spirit of generosity continues to thrive.

“We wanted to do something that made a difference outside our walls but also reminded everyone here that they’re part of something bigger.”

In a world often overwhelmed by headlines of hardship, *Our Country Heart* reminds us that hope lives in the hands of those willing to serve and that sometimes, the most powerful change begins right at home.

By Banazir Ameen, year 11.

2026 Student Leadership Team announcement

We welcome you to the new Student Leadership Team at the College! A dedicated group of young women, taking courage to step up for leadership roles and show their commitment to inspire others.

College Captain: Ainslie Austin.

College Vice-Captain: Emma Stinson.

Service Captain: Banazir Ameen.

Faith Captain: Esperance Tumaina.

Culture Captain: Emily Kropp.

Student Representative Council Captain: Kate Adamson.

Sports Captain: Grace Douglas.

Boarding Captain: Sienna Nielsen.

Carita House Captains: Millie Ryan & Veronica Farrow.

Fiducia House Captains: Georgia McAuliffe & Holly Purcell.

Speranza House Captains: Alicia Farkalun & Grace Oughtred.

Stella House Captains: Monica Chol & Gabriella Kidd.



By Mrs Searston.

Library news – September 2025.

Sunny skies and blooming flowers? That sounds like the perfect reason to twirl into the Library this spring – in your stripey dress, of course!

Spring Into Stories As the weather warms up, it's the perfect time to refresh your reading routine! Access to Wheelers ePlatform changed at the beginning of Term, so pop into the library and have a chat with our friendly Library staff – they'll happily guide you through the new setup.

The Wheelers ePlatform collection continues to grow, with three new eBooks and five audiobooks this month, adding even more variety to our digital collection. Don't miss your chance to explore these fresh additions!

Meanwhile, our graphic novel collection is to be a vibrant favourite – ideal for springtime reading when you're craving stories that leap off the page. We've added two new titles in September, so come take a look and let your imagination flourish.

Join the Storyfest National Writing Competition! Are you passionate about writing? Now's your chance to showcase your creativity and win fantastic prizes!

Choose your challenge:

- Craft a novella (short novel) between 8,000 and 20,000 words
- Or create a poem with no more than 50 lines

Your work will be reviewed by a panel of professional writers – a great opportunity to grow your skills and get your talent noticed!

It's not too late to enter! Visit the Library staff for more details.

A Blooming Good Book Sale! Celebrate the season of renewal by discovering a garden of literary treasures! At our annual book sale every book is just a gold coin – that's right, only \$1 or \$2 each.

Whether you're after fiction, graphic novels, picture books, biographies, autobiographies or something fresh and unexpected, there's something for everyone to pick and enjoy.

Visit the Library and let your imagination blossom!

By Eve Reimers, year 12.

Mathema Gallery excursion

On Thursday 21st August, our year 10 Specialist Mathematics taster course students and our year 11 & 12 Specialist Mathematics students joined with Fairholme College’s year 11 & 12 students on an excursion to the Mathema Gallery in Mount Mee.

Run by Calvin and Rosemary Irons, the gallery pays homage to all things mathematics – the origins, important cultural influences, prominent mathematicians, and what mathematics looks like in the modern world.

Alongside Mrs Lange and Mr Harman, we spent a few hours examining the wall displays and exploring the interactive displays, as well as getting ourselves some merchandise from the in-house retail shop. (B2, Mrs Lange’s classroom is now home to a maths clock, similar to the one you find in Mr Broderick’s room, B12.)

Outside the gallery was a statue of Plato’s Hand - This special piece of work was created by Dr Rhyl Hinwood. She was the creator of the Australia Coat of Arms that is displayed in the House of Representatives at Parliament House, Canberra, along with many significant sites in Brisbane. At the end of each finger is a different 3D shape.

Keeping us sustained were some excellent snacks purchased from Kilcoy on our way up – ranging from spinach and feta rolls, lollies, donuts, and coffees – but also our love for maths.

To the right you’ll see an assortment of photos we took throughout the day.

Students who attended were:

Year 10 – Isabella Whitehouse, Leila Johnston, Olivia Dunlop.

Year 11 – Olivia Sutton, Evelyn Fuller.

Year 12 – Pascal Harboe-Green, Lucy Ryan, Briana Reimers, Sophia Bennett, Eve Reimers, Tea Jasinski.



Left: Pascal Harboe-Green pictured with Pascal's triangle, an important facet of mathematics.

Right: Plato's Hand, found outside the gallery.

By Brooke Rashleigh, year 12.

Assessment & study tips.

Study smarter with short sessions!

When exams are coming up, it’s easy to think you need to sit down for hours at a time. But here’s the thing: your brain actually learns better in smaller chunks.

Try this: study for about 25 to 40 minutes, then take a short break. Go for a walk, grab a snack, or just stretch. When you come back, you’ll feel fresher and ready to focus again.

The best part? Short sessions don’t feel as overwhelming. Instead of forcing yourself through a whole afternoon of revision, you only need to get through one focused block at a time. Do that a few times each day and it really adds up.

So next time you’re feeling stressed about a huge study session, break it down. Small steps can take you a long way toward exam confidence.

By Helen Ameen, year 8.

Grandparents' Day

This year's Grandparents Day was a wonderful way to show love and appreciation for the grandparents in our College community. It began with a beautiful mass just for grandparents, where everyone gathered to celebrate and reflect.

The College Choir sang hymns during the mass, and after the mass had ended, they performed *I Say A Little Prayer For You*, making the day more meaningful for the grandparents.

After the mass, the grandparents were treated to a meal provided by the College, while also enjoying the performances being performed by College bands. It was a great way to thank them for all the love and support they give.



By Eve Reimers, year 12.

Year 12 retreat

As a final wrap-up for us year 12s before our mock exams in week 8 and 9, we ventured off to Maroochy Waterfront Camp for our 3-day Year 12 Retreat.

With cabins right on the Maroochy river, cafes within walking distance, and the pleasure of each other's company, it was a wonderful 3 days reflecting on our time at St Ursula's: whether that be since day one of year 7, or since last year.

Day 1 - Monday 25th August:

After a 3-hour bus ride and a short stop at Kilcoy, we arrived at the campsite. We set up our cabins, prepared the snack corners and fridges in our rooms, and then split off into our activity groups. Although we already know each other, playing 2 truths and 1 lie was quite enlightening - we learnt some more fun facts about one another! We then heard Mr Broderick's story on how St Ursula's has shaped his life, then had an introspective session on the various masks we wear in life, and how different events have shaped our individual stories.

After hearing an inspiring story from Miss Toleman-Glasse, we started on an ongoing activity, lasting over the 3 days. This entailed writing various affirmations and letters to people in the grade, thanking them for being themselves and putting themselves out there.

Day 2 - Tuesday 26th August:

New Eden Garden Café and Flume By the River did a roaring trade, courtesy of us year 12s - we took a brisk morning walk to these lovely little cafes.

Imagine celebrating your 18th birthday while on retreat - this was more than imagination for Tamara Sofio Isla; we wished her a happy birthday with cake and presents.

Finally, on the Tuesday, we received letters from important people in our lives, and wrote back to them - tears were shed, emotions were running high. Our FACE students officially graduated from the program, having a specialised liturgy and receiving certificates.

Day 3 - Wednesday 27th August

At last, it was time to hit the road and return home to Toowoomba. We engaged in our final activities, heard inspiring stories of faith and life from Mr Kelly, and received our affirmation envelopes back, complete with heartfelt messages from our peers.

All in all, Year 12 Retreat was a highly rewarding experience, where we were filled with gratitude for our unique gifts and the important people who support us, inspiring us to reflect deeply and appreciate each connection. We were challenged to seize each day with courage and purpose as we head toward new opportunities beyond school.



