

Get to know class of 2026

By Jemma Jones

These students have almost outgrown their school uniforms and are now preparing to close a significant chapter that will have shaped 13 years of their lives.

The *Free Press* sat down with six students from Kyabram P-12 College's class of 2026 to get their thoughts as they head into their final year of schooling.

We asked them what their goals were, what they were most looking forward to, their advice to the incoming Year 7s, and what messages they would give their end-of-year selves.

Lachie Rodriquez

My goals for this year are ... I want to try and be more motivated than I've been in the past and try and do more homework than I've ever done before.

I'm looking forward to ... spending time with everyone because we've been here since Prep and stuff. So, it'll be good to spend time with everyone.

My advice to Year 7s is ... I didn't really do any homework until last year, so if you can start doing it from Year 7 and just make it a habit as early as possible, then you'll be much better in the later years of school.

My message to my

end-of-year self is ... I hope I'm having fun. I hope I'm not too stressed about everything. I hope I'm still having fun regardless of anything.

Fatima Bahwich

My goals for this year are ... try my best to do everything and put in all the effort. Make it more memorable, because it's the last year of school.

I'm looking forward to ... probably all the dress-up days: the swimming carnival, the athletics days, and walk week. Just having fun with my friends.

My advice to Year 7s is ... take all the opportunities that you get. Have fun but also get in the routine of doing your homework because no-one really does it in Year 7, but then you get up to Year 12 and Year 11 and it catches up to you.

My message to my end-of-year self is ... try your hardest, and don't get really stressed about exams and scores and stuff.

Toby Brassil

My goals for this year are ... mostly just to get through, but I do want to sort of strive to do my best.

I'm looking forward to ... doing everything. Usually, in every other year I'm sort of a bit off on getting involved, but I want to really get in and do as much as possible, such as doing all



Kyabram P-12 College's class of 2026 shares insights at start of Year 12. Photo: Jemma Jones

the events for swimming, sports and that.

My advice to Year 7s is ... have fun. It just gets harder from here, so enjoy yourself as much as possible.

My message to my end-of-year self is ... I hope I'm sort of just proud of myself. I'm proud of him and what he's going to accomplish after school as well.

Ava Turner

My goals for this year are ... just really enjoy it. I also want to try my best and be more focused with everything—like focus on school through and through.

I'm looking forward to ... all the fun we're gonna have. Good parties, all the dress-ups, and just actually

hanging out with each other. We're gonna be so connected—it's not funny. Hopefully everyone gets really into it.

My advice to Year 7s is ... just enjoy your time at school, because it goes by so fast. I don't even believe I'm in Year 12. It feels like it's been two years since I've been in high school. So, just enjoy your time with your friends and your family while you've got it.

My message to my end-of-year self is ... I hope I've made the best of it—the most of it—and hopefully I wasn't too stressed. I just need to remember to breathe sometimes, you know, it's not so important that life is going to end.

be easy—it'll be smooth. Don't try and blend in too much. Just be yourself and hang out with who you want to hang out with and do what you want to do—things will go swimmingly.

My message to my end-of-year self is ... I hope you enjoyed it. Don't worry about things too much. Just take things as they come. Keep people close and do what you want to do. Don't worry about what everyone else is doing just now—this is you. Just keep going forward with what you're doing.

Dakota Scarcella

My goals for this year are ... just get through and along the way find ways to actually help myself more instead of prioritising others. Find little things that can help me get through to the end and graduate happy.

I'm looking forward to ... making memories. It's the last for a lot of things, so getting through it with a good ending.

My advice to Year 7s is ... don't overthink it. Just start off at your own pace, find where you're comfortable and don't work yourself up. Help yourself get where you think you need to be.

My message to my end-of-year self is ... if you love everything you had, then you have everything you need.

New leaders and new legacy

By Bree Lambert

St Augustine's College has welcomed new student leaders ready to inspire and unite the junior and senior school community in the year ahead.

The *Free Press* sat down with this year's captains, Charli Miller and Dylan Priest, to see what the young leaders' plans are for the year.

After a three-stage selection process including written letters, assembly speeches and interviews, Dylan and Charli emerged as the college's chosen leaders.

Dylan said he had wanted to be in this leadership position since he was young.

"I've always seen how the older kids were in that position and I thought it



St Augustine's College captains for 2026, Charli Miller and Dylan Priest. Photo: Bree Lambert

would be pretty cool," he said.

Dylan said he looked forward to representing the college at formal occasions, from Anzac Day services to addressing fellow students.

Charli said she had

always aspired to be school captain because she wanted to create positive change and leave a lasting legacy at the school.

"As school captain, I want to help strengthen the connection between

our primary and senior students so we can feel part of one big school community," she said.

She said she hoped to achieve this through the school's buddy program, where younger students are paired with older students to help support them in their schooling journey.

Charli said she hoped this would foster a fun and happy school community and create lasting memories for students.

Charli is particularly enthusiastic about leading the school's sporting events this year.

As for after 2026, Charli is looking forward to pursuing primary education at university next year, while Dylan is exploring opportunities in the trades sector, with a particular interest in electrical work.



Tongala Primary School student Noah Virivirilau proudly shows his design. Photo: Bree Lambert

Winning redesign for local students

By Bree Lambert

Tongala Primary School is bursting with pride after unveiling its brand-new Year 6 shirts, designed by one of its very own talented students.

All Year 6 students received a blank T-shirt canvas, transforming into young artists as they crafted their own designs.

Following a voting

process, Noah Virivirilau's design was selected as the winner by students and staff.

Noah's winning design incorporates river imagery and meeting places, and displays the school's values of respect, responsibility and resilience.

He explained that his design represented Torres Strait Islander culture and identity.