

AT Home





FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S PEN:

The Pursuit of Excellence – One Step at a Time

As the seasons turn and students move from winter to summer uniforms, we are reminded of the value of presentation and pride. Wearing our uniform well is not a trivial detail; it is a daily act of discipline, a small expression of excellence. Excellence, after all, is not a single event or an isolated triumph, but the cumulative result of consistent, deliberate choices made day by day.

At Fairholme, we speak often of striving for excellence. But what does that really mean? Excellence is not about perfection or about being the very best in every field. Rather, it is about improvement – about growing steadily, intentionally and purposefully.

Sir Dave Brailsford, former Performance Director of British Cycling, captured this idea with his philosophy of 'marginal gains'. He believed that if you could improve every area of performance by just 1%, those small gains would compound into remarkable results. His athletes focused not only on cycling technique and training but also on sleep, nutrition, recovery, equipment, and even how they washed their hands to avoid illness. Over time, those tiny improvements led to extraordinary success: Olympic medals and Tour de France victories.

The beauty of this principle is that it applies far beyond elite sport. It is just as relevant to the classroom, the stage, the debating chamber, or even the way we wear our uniforms each day. A single day's improvement might feel minor – a more carefully written essay, a sharper argument in debate,

a deeper effort at training, or the decision to present oneself neatly and proudly. But over weeks, terms and years, those daily gains accumulate into excellence.

In recent weeks, we have seen countless examples of this pursuit across our College. Our Year 12s celebrating their final

'Excellence is not about perfection or about being the very best in every field. Rather, it is about improvement – about growing steadily, intentionally and purposefully'

- Dr Leigh Hobart

100 days of school, stands as living proof of the growth that steady, disciplined effort produces over time. Achievements on the sporting field – from Ella's softball prowess representing the Green and Gold in the USA to the successes of our High Performance Sports Program – remind us that resilience and incremental improvement are the hallmarks of true performance.

Our Year 7 Debating team's grand final victory, the continued expansion of robotics as an offering, to the creativity on display for our Grandparents and visitors during Book Week, all show the same truth; excellence is built through

persistence, preparation and the willingness to keep improving. The trophies and accolades are important, but the deeper value lies in the habits that made them possible.

This is why I return to Brailsford's lesson. Excellence is not reserved for the few with exceptional gifts. It is within reach of every student, in every classroom, on every field, in every rehearsal. The challenge – and the opportunity – is to make a conscious choice each day to improve, even in a small way.

As parents, educators and supporters, we can help by affirming effort as much as outcome, and by modelling the pursuit of excellence in our own lives. If our young women can learn that excellence comes not from grand gestures

but from steady, incremental improvement, they will be equipped for success well beyond their school years.

So, as we step into the new season of Spring, may we each commit to the pursuit of excellence in our own way. Let us honour our achievements while remembering that excellence is not a moment, but a mindset. Excellence begins with the small things. It is in how we learn, how we play, how we create, how we present ourselves and how we treat others. Let us encourage our young women to keep building the daily habits that, compounded over time, will lead them to extraordinary futures.

Dr Leigh Hobart | Principal



The first of the *lasts*

Our Year 12s and their parents celebrate 100 days to go of school

From Head of Senior, Tom McCormick

Celebrating 100 days has become a common thing in education, whether it is for the Seniors as the countdown to graduation begins or for a celebration of the first 100 days of Prep.

It was a pleasure as the Head of Senior School to recently mark the 100 day milestone for the Fairholme Seniors, a chance to celebrate, not just for our Year 12 students, but for the families, teachers, and staff who've walked beside them.

To me, this celebration signals the first of the lasts. From here, the events, the exams, the farewells, the celebrations come thick and fast. The finish line is in sight, and the last Jump 'n' Jive on the oval is fast approaching. However, at Fairholme, I have recently been championing the concept of taking the time to pause and reflect. Trying to view these moments not just as a focus on what's ahead but savouring what remains. This sense of pause was evident at our recent 100 Days Par-Tea celebration, held in Week 5. This was an opportunity for our Seniors to spend time with their parents.

The event was intentionally low key, a rare and welcome moment of stillness in the busy rhythm of our senior year. There were no speeches to deliver, no performances to perfect, no tasks to tick off. Instead, it was a chance to pause, relax, and simply enjoy each other's company before the whirlwind of trial exams, external assessments, revision schedules, and future plans begins to take hold.

In a world that often celebrates hustle, today was about presence. Seniors sipped tea, shared laughter, captured memories in photographs, and soaked in the moment. It was a reminder that sometimes, the most meaningful celebrations are the quiet

ones, the ones that allow us to breathe and be.

For parents, this gathering may be one of the last glimpses of their daughters before the intensity of exams takes over and their next chapter begins. It was a moment to see them not as students preparing for what's next, but as young women enjoying what is now.

To our Seniors: enjoy the lasts. Now is a

time to lean into friendships, embrace the final Fairholme traditions, and take pride in how far you've come and remember how you finish may define your place within the Fairholme tapestry.

Laugh a little louder, show up a little prouder, and take it all in. These 100 days are yours (or if we want to be precise... only 20 school days are now left) make them unforgettable.





A year of service and *spirit*

Interact President, Lanu Faletau, and Vice President, Chanudi Dissanayake, welcome the 2026 committee

As Fairholme's Interact Club prepares to welcome a new committee, President Lanu Faletau and Vice-President Chanudi Dissanayake reflect on a year filled with teamwork, service, and creativity. Their leadership has seen the group thrive, continuing a legacy of giving back while leaving their own unique mark on the College community.

For Lanu, the inspiration to join Interact came from watching the previous committee lead the powerful Shave for a Cure campaign. 'The work of the previous grade was really inspiring,' she said. Chanudi's motivation was sparked through her experiences volunteering in Middle School. 'It doesn't take much to make a difference,' she shared. 'I thought Interact would be a great opportunity to continue that. It's really fun too and I have a very competitive nature. Every single year I just want to top and do better than last year.'

That spirit of striving and service has been reflected in the projects Interact has delivered this year. Both leaders recall Shave for a Cure as a standout, but there have been many other highlights. Lanu described the joy of planning their first social. 'It was our first project and it was really fun.' The team also took over the Share the Dignity campaign from the previous committee and introduced creative new initiatives, such as Flanny Pants Friday, inspired by their experience at the State Interact Conference. 'Meeting other people and hearing what other school groups were doing in their own communities gave us lots of ideas,' Lanu explained.

Beyond the events themselves, both

leaders emphasised the teamwork and friendships that shaped the year. 'Working together so closely on the team has been a real highlight,' said Chanudi.

'At different times people had a lot going on, and others would step up. I've become closer friends with everyone through that.' Lanu agreed, 'Everyone has such different visions and ideas, and when we all come together, we've made it our own.'

Looking back, they also hope to inspire others to take up the challenge. 'The whole idea of Interact and applying to be on the committee is often quite foreign to a lot of girls,' said Chanudi.

'We've tried to be very visible and reach out to the younger grades. Year 12 can be a lot but being part of Interact is the perfect balance – having fun, giving back, being creative and working on your teamwork skills.' Lanu's advice to our younger girls is simple, 'If you're considering it, just go for it. You're not going to regret being part of it. It's a great opportunity to expand your character.'

As their time at the helm comes to a close, one thing is clear, the 2025 Interact leaders have not only carried forward the spirit of service at Fairholme but have also grown as individuals through the experience.





Dance Showcase



RoboCup *success!*

Our Year 5 students have been busy showcasing their creativity, coding, and teamwork skills at this year's RoboCup competitions.

At the Toowoomba Regional RoboCup, three of our teams put their robots to the test in the Riley Rover Rescue challenge, navigating tricky mazes and rescuing a 'victim' from a chemical spill. The girls achieved fantastic results, placing 3rd, 5th and 6th overall.

Building on their regional success, the teams then headed to UQ for the Queensland RoboCup State Championships. Competing against 22 of the best teams from across the state, our girls refined their designs, pushed their problem-solving skills further and delivered some great results - 10th place and a 15th place tie. Impressive results for their first competition!



Pictures from *Holme*



Performance in *every arena*

*Preparing the next generation of athletes for success
both on and off the field.*

Fairholme is proud to be part of an exciting new partnership with the University of Southern Queensland (UniSQ), through their 2032 Brisbane Olympics Student-Athlete Empowerment Project.

This forward-thinking initiative aims to educate and support student athletes across all areas of sport, health, and performance.

As part of this project, our High Performance Sport athletes and Sport Physiology students are taking part in 'Girls 2 Win', a specialised program dedicated to the education and empowerment of young female athletes.

Led by UniSQ experts in female health and performance, Girls 2 Win focuses on the unique aspects of female physiology and how these can influence wellbeing and sporting success. Students are gaining vital

knowledge about the menstrual cycle, hormonal contraception and the ways in which physiology can impact athletic performance.

Fairholme's Head of High Performance, Miss Casey Reynoldson, said the benefits of the program reach far beyond the sporting field.

'By equipping our Middle and Senior School athletes with tailored strategies and practical tools, the program ensures they are empowered to make informed choices - supporting their health, confidence, and performance in every arena.'

With the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games on the horizon, initiatives like Girls 2 Win play a key role in shaping and inspiring athletes of tomorrow.

In addition, our Sport Physiology students are also involved in the

UniSQ's 'Mind 2 Win' program. This program explores the crucial role of the mind in health, wellbeing and performance.

Through interactive workshops and practical exercises, students are developing key psychological skills such as focus, resilience, self-awareness, and mindset strategies.

These tools will help them manage stress, build confidence and perform under pressure, while also supporting their mental health and long-term success.

'At Fairholme, we are delighted to provide our students with access to world-class education and research in partnership with UniSQ - helping our young athletes take bold steps towards their sporting goals, and perhaps even towards the Olympic stage in 2032.'





AROUND THE GROUNDS

Junior School Interhouse Gymnastics

Our Junior girls from Prep to Year 6 showed off their impressive gymnastics skills as they competed in the Interhouse Gymnastics Carnival. The girls have been attending weekly gymnastics lessons at Allstar Gymnastics during Term 3.

A number of girls will now represent Fairholme at the Andrews Cup Gymnastic competition in Brisbane next term.

Vicki Wilson State Finals

Our netballers have once again shown their strength on the court, achieving exceptional results at Queensland's premier school netball competition, the Vicki Wilson State Finals.

Competing against 24 of the best school teams in the state, both our Junior and Senior Vicki Wilson 1 teams delivered outstanding performances.

- The Junior Vicki Wilson 1 team dominated throughout the competition, securing a brilliant 4th place.
- The Senior Vicki Wilson 1 team went through their pool games undefeated and went on to claim 6th place overall.

These results are a testament to the hard work, talent, and passion of our players, as well as the guidance and dedication of our coaches. A heartfelt congratulations also goes to the many families and supporters who continue to cheer on our girls and contribute to the spirit of Fairholme netball.

South West Qld All Schools Champions

Our Fairholme teams were on fire at the SWQ All Schools Touch Football carnival. With six Fairholme teams playing, three of our teams featured in the finals.

- Champions 18 Years
- Champions 13 Years
- Runners-Up 15 Years

We also had a number of teams playing in the Monday night Swans Schools Cup competition-

- Champions 18 Years
- Champions 13 Years
- Runners-Up 15 Years
- Runners-Up 15 Years B Division

Association Touch Football Winter Season

Congratulations to our Women's A Division team, who secured their place in the Toowoomba Touch Winter Competition Grand Final for the first time since 2016!

The girls went down in the final to a very strong Saints team but showed remarkable spirit right to the final buzzer. Fairholme was strongly represented this season with seven teams in the Saturday afternoon competition, spanning Middle and Senior School, and even featuring some of our Old Girls. Well done to all players.

Rugby 7s Update

Fairholme College has been proudly fielding squads in the 13/14yrs, 15/16yrs, and 17/18yrs divisions in both the SEQ Super Rugby 7s series and the Darling Downs Independent Schools Rugby 7s this term.

As one of just six schools in South East Queensland invited to the inaugural SEQ Super Rugby 7s by Queensland Rugby Union, Fairholme competes alongside schools from Toowoomba, Gold Coast, Brisbane, and Nambour. Each city hosts a satellite series featuring round-robin matches and playoffs to determine final placings. Currently, Fairholme sits 2nd in U18, 4th in U16, and 3rd in U14 overall. Fairholme hosted all SEQ Super Rugby 7s schools on 6 August at Highfields Sport and Recreation for Round 3 of the satellite series. Prior to the event we had 13 girls participate in an intensive half-day Referee course with QRU and

DD Rugby Union officials. Many officiated for the first time, refereeing all 12 U14 games, including finals. While the girls were a little nervous, they received glowing feedback from their Referee mentors.

The next round of the series takes place on 26 August at Nambour.

Andrews Cup Athletics

Despite illness impacting the team, our Fairholme Junior athletes showed incredible resilience, achieving third place in the Andrews Cup Percentage Cup! Many girls stepped up to fill in across events outside their comfort zone, demonstrating true team spirit and determination.

A special congratulations to Year 6 student Eden Broksch, who was thrilled to be awarded the Noel McBride Bursary for 2025 — a well-deserved recognition of her dedication.

Hockey National Championships

Congratulations to Mali Robertson who proudly represented Queensland at the U12 School Sport National Hockey Championships in Bendigo.

Scoring three goals at the tournament, Mali comes home with a Silver medal after narrowly losing to NSW on Day 1 of the championships. Mali says she loved the opportunity to play high level hockey and make many new friends.

QRSS Touch Football

Year 7 student, Jessica Strachan, has returned from the Queensland Representative School Sport Touch Football State Championships in Roma, where she was awarded Most Valuable Player for the 10–12 Years Girls team by the Darling Downs coaches.

This year, 12 Fairholme girls have proudly represented Darling Downs in Touch Football, highlighting the strength and depth of talent across all age groups.

School Sport Australia Swimming

Some sensational results coming in from the School Sports Australia Swimming Championships.

Mackenzie Grimes brings home:

- Silver 17-19 Years 200m Backstroke
- Silver 200m Medley Relay
- 4th 17-19 Years 100m Backstroke
- 4th 17-19 Years 50m Backstroke

Mia Geise achieved:

- Bronze 13-15 Years Multi-Class 50m Breaststroke (New PB!)
- Gold 13/14 Mixed Medley Relay
- 5th 13-15 Years Multi-Class 100m Breaststroke

Queensland Short Course Swimming Championships

Year 7 students, Mia Geise, performed outstandingly at the recent Queensland Short Course Championships at the Brisbane Aquatic Centre.

Mia's medal haul:

- Gold – Open Women Multi-Class 100m Breaststroke
- Bronze – Open Women Multi-Class 50m Breaststroke
- Gold – 11-14 Years Girls Multi-Class 100m Breaststroke
- Gold- 11-14 Years Girls Multi-Class 50m Breaststroke

Australian Short Course Records

Mia lowered her existing SB16 Classification Records:

- Open 100m Breaststroke by 0.58 seconds
- 13 Years 50m Breaststroke by 1.11 seconds
- 13 Years 100m Breaststroke by 0.58 seconds

Mia has also been recognised by Swimming Queensland for her dedication and achievements during 2024/25 season and was selected in the Hancock Prospecting 2025/26 Multi-Class Youth Development Squad.

Australian Cross Country Championships

Four of our cross country runners tackled the mud and cold at the Australian Athletics Cross Country Championships in Ballarat over the weekend. Lucy Barnes ran an incredible race to place 3rd in the Under 14 3km event, with a very fast time of 10:21. She also took home a Gold in the team event for Queensland and a Gold in the team relay. Congratulations also to Eden Broksch, Abi Barnes and Mackenzi Scheffe on their huge efforts. Eden had a brilliant race to place 12th in Australia in the Under 12 3km.

Representative School Sport Selections

Congratulations to the following students who have recently been selected in Representative School Sport teams:

Queensland Orienteering

Senior Girls: Alexandra Edwards

Darling Downs Futsal

15-16 Years: Indie Werner

Toowoomba Range Zone Athletics

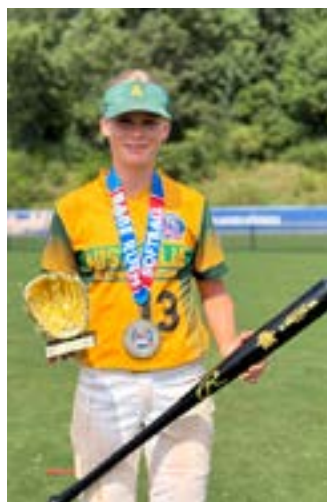
9 Years: Mary Campbell and Ava Ryals

10 Years: Oriana Bourne, Mia Clayton, Adeline Martin and Jamie Sessarago

11 Years: Eden Broksch and Madison Conwell

12 Years: Emily Carrigan, Zara Frame and Grace Grams







Victory for our Debaters

This year's Queensland Debating Union (QDU) Toowoomba Secondary Schools Competition saw Fairholme teams deliver an outstanding season of debating, showcasing sharp thinking, quick wit, and true Fairholme spirit.

'We have such a wonderful culture of debating at Fairholme, with a great number of students keen to participate every year. The growth I observe in our debaters is extraordinary, from their confidence in speaking, to their exceptional teamwork and critical reasoning when preparing arguments on a wide range of contemporary issues', says our Debating Co-ordinator, Mrs Kim Scudamore. A special congratulations goes to our Year 7.4 team, who claimed the Grand Final

victory against Toowoomba Grammar School. They successfully argued the affirmative on the topic: 'That we should actively encourage the use of Artificial Intelligence in classrooms.' Their ability to build persuasive cases and respond confidently to rebuttals was a testament to their hard work and teamwork throughout the season.

Our Year 8, Year 10 and Senior teams also impressed, each reaching their respective Grand Finals and finishing as runners-up after tightly contested debates. Their efforts reflected not only strong debating skills but also resilience and camaraderie in high-pressure settings. In total, 16 Fairholme teams competed this season, with 12 teams making it through to the finals.

Congratulations to every debater who took part in this year's competition. The future of debating at Fairholme is certainly in good hands.

Fairholme Grand Final Debaters:

Team 7.4 - Sophie Cussons, Suzana Yusuf, Abigail Walker, Norah Joseph and Bella Cherry

Team 8.2 - Tanishka Chaudhary, Annabelle King, Claire Fischer and Elaine Mutsando

Team 10.1 - Sophie Haller, Richa Vimal, Brooke Johnson, Caitlin Schultheiss, Isabella Kentish and Georgia Nicholls

Team 12.1 - Ayesha Saleh, Rori Zimmerman, Chanudi Dissanayake and Mabel Galbraith

Junior School
**Book Week and
Grandparents Day**



Year 8 student Ella Phillips

has returned home after an unforgettable tour of the United States, where she proudly represented Australia in the Babe Ruth Softball World Series as part of the Aussie Drop Bears team. Ella's journey began in Dallas, Texas, before heading to Hot Springs, Arkansas, where she participated in a high-level training camp with local college softball coaches. The team also competed in warm-up matches to prepare for the main event in Florence, Alabama.

Competing in the Under 14 division, Ella and her Australian team made it all the way to the double elimination final, narrowly missing out on the championship title by just one run in a nail-biting 8 - 9 loss. Despite the result, their second-place finish is a highlight achievement for Ella.

Ella's individual performance was nothing short of outstanding. During the closing ceremony, she was named in the Under 14 All World Series Team and the Under 14 All Defensive Team, a testament to her talent and consistency on the field. She also ranked in the top 10 for both batting and fielding statistics across the entire tournament. Reflecting on her journey, Ella shared that her softball career began humbly at home in Taroom encouraged by her mum and PE teachers to trial for the South West state team.

That experience sparked a passion for the sport and now plays for Dodgers Softball Club in Toowoomba.

'I've been really lucky with the support I've had,' Ella said. 'The stats don't say everything, but they're the best I've ever had. I'm really proud of how I played in America.'

Boarding since Year 7, Ella has ambitions to study veterinary science but also has her sights set on a softball career. With aspirations to play in the Brisbane 2032 Olympics, Ella is already planning her next steps, including a trip to Japan in 2026 to further develop her skills.

ELLA'S HOLME RUN



IN THE ARTS

UniSQ Future Vision Art Awards

18 Fairholme students have been selected as Finalists in the 2025 UniSQ Future Visions Art Awards.

'Future Visions' is an annual art award for students in Years 10-12 across the Darling Downs and Southeast Queensland that showcases diverse, dynamic, and emerging professional approaches to artmaking. A selection of impressive finalists is chosen each year to be featured in the final exhibition.

Special congratulations to:

Charlotte Thomson: 1st Prize, Environmental Science Award

Yas Lethbridge: 2nd Prize, Environmental Science Award

Future Visions Finalists:

Aria Bray, Millie Bryant-Peterson, Katie Carrigan, Emilia Cleeve, Kaylah Daniel-Stafford, Bron Francis, Indianna Hitchcock, Brooke Hurford, Yas Lethbridge, Liv Laurie, Sally McLean, Sophie Moore, Matilda Morton, Cleo Nestor, Emily Statham, Charlotte Thomson, Chelsea Ward and Sophie Wood.

Women of Strength Luncheon

Some of our Fairholme Middle and Senior Arts students had the privilege of supporting the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation Women of Strength luncheon. Our girls performed for more than 400 guests, helping to raise vital funds for the Regional Cancer Centre.

Crème de la Crème Recital

Our talented Senior Music, Music Extension and Music Scholarship recipients each gave impressive performances at the Crème de la Crème annual recital. The calibre of musicianship was sublime, and audiences were certainly treated to a wonderful evening of refined and highly polished performances.

Paul Morton Choral Festival

Our Chamber Choir performed on the Empire Theatre stage at the Paul Morton Choral Festival - an annual celebration where secondary school choirs unite in a supportive, non-competitive atmosphere to showcase their talents and receive expert feedback.

Simplicity Concert

Talented members of our Junior and Senior Chime Choirs performed in collaboration with Toowoombells Handbell Ensembles at the 'Simplicity' concert at Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Upcoming Arts Performances

Friday 29 August 'Music Through The Decades' Junior School Showcase, Assembly Hall, 6-7.30pm, Tickets \$10 available for purchase in myFairholme

Saturday 30 August Jazz Under The Stars, 4-8pm at Toowoomba Anglican School

Sunday 14 September Perfect Cadence Music Showcase, 2-4pm, Fairholme Assembly Hall, Gold Coin Donation

Monday 15 September Middle School Presents 'A Box of Chocolates', Fairholme Assembly Hall, 5.30-7.30pm



Around The Grounds







FAIRHOLME FASHION WEEK

OCTOBER 25

NOSTALGICALLY YOU

ENTRIES NOW OPEN!

WWW.FAIRHOLME.QLD.EDU.AU/FASHIONWEEK

Upcoming events

29 August

Junior School Showcase

31 August

Junior School Father and
Daughter Build 'n' Brunch

5 September

Pupil Free Day

Mothers' Long Lunch

15 September

Box of Chocolates Middle
School Concert

18 September

Term 3 Concludes

Year 11 Leadership Breakfast

Year 5-7 Mother and

Daughter Luncheon

Year 11 and 12 Jersey

Handover

19-20 September

Fairholme 2026 Orientation
Program

8 October

Term 4 Commences

20 - 25 October

Fairholme Fashion Week

23 October

Presenting Fairholme 2025

24 October

Induction of 2026 Senior
Leaders

25 October

Spring Fair

