"Whether it is sport, music, creative arts, academia or cultural pursuits, our students are continually striving to achieve personal bests."

Mr Christopher Jackman

Our juniors feel the need to succeed

There are so many different opportunities available to students at All Saints’ College that I am flat out keeping up with the successes and achievements of all of our wonderful students. Whether it is sport, music, creative arts, academia or cultural pursuits, our students are continually striving to achieve personal bests. This year has been no different and I am proud to have the opportunity to congratulate both individuals and groups on their great efforts.

There has been a number of standout individual achievements that I would like to make special mention of as they are all great examples of students putting in their best efforts.

Todd Nelson (Year 5) is an enthusiastic runner who, through his excellent performance at the NSW PSSA Championships, gained selection in the NSW team to compete at the National Cross Country Championship in Canberra. Todd came fifth at the National Championships and did a personal best time. A terrific achievement!

Adelaide Cunningham (Year 6) loves horses and is passionate about competing in equestrian events. Adelaide was recently selected in the New South Wales Equestrian team to compete against other states at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre. This is an outstanding achievement as there were only 4 children selected in each age group from New South Wales.

Noah Siede (Year 5) is a member of our Year 5 and 6 debating team who performed extremely well in the Heads of Independent Co-Educational Schools (HICES) debating competition this year. Noah was presented with the award of best overall debater in the entire HICES Junior competition.

Vidu Liyanapathirana is a quiet achiever and very talented scientist. Vidu was awarded a High Distinction in the University of New South Wales ICAS Science Competition this term. A student needs to be in the top 5% to receive a High Distinction and Vidu deserves congratulations for such a great result.

Our music programme offers a wide variety of opportunities where children can display their talents and newly acquired skills. Recently in the Australian Music Examination Board exams, Charlie Croaker (Year 1) was awarded an A in piano as was Jemima McLeod (Year 4).

We have also had many great achievements by teams and groups. Being part of a team gives children the opportunity to develop the many skills needed to work collaboratively with others which are essential life skills.

Our Year 5 and 6 debating team have been competing in the Heads of Independent Co-Educational Schools (HICES) debating competition this year. Their performance has been outstanding and, by winning their regional round robin competition, they managed to make it through to the quarter-finals. This is the furthest a Junior School debating team has gone in this competition and was a significant achievement for all students involved.

Students in our swimming team competed at the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre (SOPAC) at the HICES Swimming Carnival in Term 1. In Term 2 our cross country team travelled to the Bong Bong Racetrack in Bowral for the HICES Cross Country Carnival. At both of these events, the teams won the Points Averages Shield demonstrating their wonderful performances as a group.

We have had much success on the sporting field with our two senior teams, Under 12 football and Under 12 netball making it to their respective grand finals.

The football team lost to Eglinton in a penalty shootout but the netball team took the trophy. Both of these teams have displayed a great deal of spirit and sportsmanship throughout the season.

Playing and performing music is just as much about being in a team as sport. Our Intermediate Concert Band have been working very hard in practice and were rewarded for their efforts with first place in the Cowra Eisteddfod. As I write there are many music ensembles, bands and choirs preparing for performances at the Bathurst Eisteddfod. No doubt they will be fantastic ambassadors for the College whilst participating in this event.

I could go on and on but the list would be far too long for this article. I congratulate all of the Junior School students for their successes so far this year and encourage them to keep putting in their best efforts for Term 4.