



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025  
Term 4 Week 8

P.O. Box 2027  
Ballarat East VIC 3354  
Phone: 5331 6311

Email: [principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au)

### Term 4 (11 weeks)

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Dec

**Mon 24<sup>th</sup> – Wed 26<sup>th</sup> Nov**  
Year 5 Camp

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November**  
6.30pm Foundation  
information night in gym

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November**  
Casual Dress Day - Gold coin  
donation for St Vinnies

Last day for Book Club  
Issue 8 orders

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December**  
Last day for Reverse Advent  
Calendar donations

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**  
Pop Up Uniform Shop

Moving up day for whole  
school

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December**  
9.30am End of Year Mass  
in our Gym

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December**  
5pm Christmas Carols Night

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December**  
Yr 6 Students v Staff annual  
netball match

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**  
5.30pm Yr 6 Graduation  
Liturgy

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December**  
Final 2025 day for students

### On the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Our children have been producing some wonderful work recently. At this time of year, teachers can truly appreciate the fruits of three terms of dedicated learning.

When we begin a new school year, our students stand at the very start of a long learning journey. Teachers understand the curriculum expectations and what each child needs to achieve to reach their expected levels of growth. We call this *growth over time*, and we know that reaching these outcomes requires steady effort and much perseverance. What may feel daunting in February becomes mastery by December. Small, consistent steps lead to significant progress.

As we enter Week 8, we can confidently celebrate a rich year of learning and growth at Saint Francis Xavier School. Our children should feel proud of all they have achieved so far, and our staff can share in that pride. And while the year is drawing to a close, it's not over yet — there is still plenty of learning ahead!

God bless,

Mark Hogbin



**End of Term – Start of Term** Classes cease for the 2025 school year on Thursday 18 December at 2.20pm. Classes will resume for all students on Wednesday 28 January, 2026.

### Staff News

We offer our congratulations to Mrs. Nicki McGannon who will be taking leave from her position at our school to commence a classroom teaching role at St. Brigid's School, Ballan in 2026. Mrs. McGannon has been a valued member of our staff team for seven years and we wish her well for the next exciting adventure. Best of luck Nicki!



### Yr. 5 Camp

We wish our Year 5 students and staff a very happy time on camp this week. The children have been looking forward to their camp for some time now and we can predict that they will have a great time. We wish you well Year 5 and look forward to hearing about your adventures.

*St. Francis Xavier Primary School is a Child Safe School called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition. Through the mission of Jesus within the Mercy tradition, we are called to action in pursuing fullness of life for all.*

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

St. Alipius Parish will hold Children's Liturgy each Saturday evening during Advent at their 6pm Mass. All children are welcome to attend. The children will be taken out after the opening prayer and will return during the Procession of Gifts. While out the children will complete an activity related to the readings for that Mass. We hope to see you there.

### Religious Education News

#### THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday November 23, 2025      Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (Year C)

**Gospel:** Luke 23:35-43

The people stood there watching while the Jewish leaders jeered at Jesus: "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah whom God has chosen!"

The soldiers also mocked him: they came up to him and offered him cheap wine, and said, "Save yourself if you are the king of the Jews!" Above him were written these words: "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals hanging there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

The other one, however, rebuked him, saying, "Don't you fear God? You received the same sentence he did. Ours, however, is only right because we are getting what we deserve for what we did; but he has done no wrong." And he said to Jesus, "Remember me, Jesus, when you come as King!"

Jesus said to him, "I promise you that today you will be in Paradise with me." *(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)*

**Gospel reflection:** In today's Gospel we hear how Jesus is put to death on a cross and is laughed at and made fun of by the people watching. Can you imagine what it must have been like for Jesus in front of all those people, to be in pain and to be laughed at? How do you think Jesus felt?

Even when things are bad, when we are frightened, or hurting, upset or lonely, Jesus is right there with us. He knows how it feels to be laughed at, to be sad, to be in pain. And just like he did with the second thief on the cross, he is always willing to love us and to welcome us.

How do you think we can show our love for others as Jesus asks us to? We can be kind, welcoming and generous. We can make sure that when we have power, we use it as Jesus did – for the good of all people – not just to make ourselves rich and important. We can make sure we include others in our friendships and in our games. We can join together with others to raise money or to change a situation that we think is unfair.

**Our Challenge:** This week, when things are difficult, remember that Jesus is always with you. When you see that things are difficult for others, perhaps you can try to do all that you can to be loving towards them and to help them. *(Adapted from CAFOD website)*



#### FREE DRESS DAY REMINDER:

Our last Free Dress Day this year is on this Friday, November 28.

We are raising much needed funds for our St Vincent de Paul Ballarat East local chapter, so please bring along your gold coin donation, give generously and help us spread the love this Christmas!

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SUPPORT THE WORK OF BALLARAT  
FOOD RELIEF AGENCIES BY DONATING ...



# PASTA & SAUCE



Your contributions will be added to  
**REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR BOXES**  
to be given to families in need.

Please return your  
donations to school by:

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December



Thank you



Reverse Advent Calendar Ballarat  
[schools@reverseadventcalendar.com.au](mailto:schools@reverseadventcalendar.com.au)

Christine Meneely, **Religious Education Leader**  
**MHiPS Leader (Mental Health in Primary School Leader)**



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**Child Safe Standard 6: People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.**



### **SPECIAL REPORT: New Social Media Regulations: What you need to know**

From 10 December 2025, new laws will take effect in Australia to protect young people online by restricting access to social media for those under the age of 16. This important change reflects growing community concern about the impact of early social media use on children's mental health, wellbeing and development.

Research shows that social media can expose children to unrealistic comparisons, online pressure and harmful content long before they are emotionally ready to manage it. While regulation is a positive step forward, real safety begins at home. Families continue to play the most powerful role in helping children build confidence, resilience and awareness in the digital world.

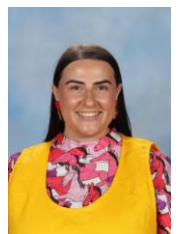
These new regulations provide an opportunity to talk openly with your child about their online experiences and what these changes mean for them. It's also a chance to review family technology habits, reinforce healthy routines and explore age-appropriate ways for young people to connect, learn and express themselves.

This Special Report explains what the new laws mean in practice and offers practical guidance to help families prepare for the upcoming changes.

**Here is the link to our Special Report:** [https://sfxballarat.catholic.schooltv.me/wellbeing\\_news/special-report-new-social-media-regulations](https://sfxballarat.catholic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-new-social-media-regulations)

Sending cheers your way,

Gemma Johnson, **Wellbeing Leader**



- **CHRISTMAS RAFFLE IS LIVE** – Our Annual SFX Christmas Raffle is now LIVE – please scan the QR Code to purchase your tickets! 32 Prizes to be won – some amazing prizes – don't miss out. Thank you to all the Families & Businesses who have donated prizes – we really appreciate your support – please remember to support the Businesses who have made donations
- **CHRISTMAS CAROLS** – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December – 5pm – 8pm  
Food Trucks & P&F Sausage Sizzle & Hot Dog stand  
Pre-order Carboni's pizzas or grazing boxes – order form in the office  
Special visit from Santa!
- **Uniform Shop**  
Our Second Hand Uniform shop is always open, please see the office staff if you wish to have a look at any items in our Second Hand Uniform shop, or reach out to a member of our P&F to help you with any of your Uniform needs – **We will be holding another Pop Up Shop on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – we would love if anyone who has uniforms that no longer fit be donated prior to this date!**
- **Hot Lunches**  
Please note, Flexischools have updated when you are placing your child's Lunch order, you are now able to select if your child has any allergies and it will print on your child's lunch bag label, we ask that you are selecting if they have any allergies as it makes it smoother process when it comes to packing lunch orders on a Friday. Also please note cut off for lunch orders is strictly 10am Thursday mornings.  
Thank you to our Co-ordinators & Volunteers who come and pack all of the children's lunch orders on a Friday!
- **Zooper Doopers - every FRIDAY in Term 4 - \$1 each available at 2<sup>nd</sup> break**

# SFX CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

**32 Prizes to be won - raffle drawn  
at the SFX Carols night**



Purchase  
your  
tickets  
here





# SFX

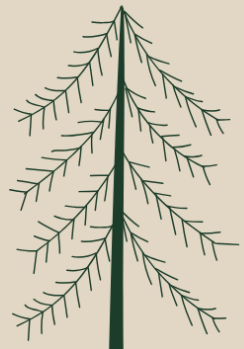
## *Christmas Carols*

TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER - 5PM TO 8PM



- PRE ORDER PIZZA/PLATTER BOX FROM CARBONIS (ORDER FORM IN OFFICE)
- THE PAELLA GUY
- THE DUMPLING MAN
- GELATO IS KEY
- SAUSAGE SIZZLE
- HOT DOG STAND
- POPCORN + SLUSHIES + LOLLIES
- OR FEEL FREE TO BYO YOUR OWN PICNIC (NOTE THIS IS AN ALCOHOL FREE EVENT)

*Special visit from Santa*



# Ministry District Newsletter

Priests Frs Justin Driscoll & Shaiju Mathew  
**Ballarat East Parish**  
 Cathy Prunty and Natalie Gleeson  
 0437 505 517  
 ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
 Tuesday – Friday 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Incorporating the faith communities of Ballan, Ballarat East, Bungaree, Buninyong, Clarkes Hill, Dunnstown, Gordon and Springbank

Our parishes are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults  
 Child Safety Officers: Ballarat East Parish – Emily Clarke; Bungaree & Gordon Parishes – Cathy Prunty

## Solemnity of Christ the King Year C – 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2025

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES			
Weekday Masses			
Tuesday November 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East	
Wednesday November 26 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Mercy Place (All Welcome)	
Thursday November 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am 11.00 am	St Brigid's Ballan Estia Mt Clear Aged Care	
Friday November 28 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	St Alipius' Ballarat East St Michael's Bungaree	
Saturday November 29 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East	
Weekend Masses			
Saturday November 29 <sup>th</sup>		Sunday November 30 <sup>th</sup>	
6.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Ballarat East Bungaree
6.30 pm	Springbank	10.30 am	Buninyong Ballan

### WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

#### THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME  
 Joe Fitzpatrick, Margaret Mullane, Harry Hooker,  
 Frederick G. Giles, Frank O'Loughlin, Mick,  
 O'Loughlin, Mary Toohey, James Jimmy Simpson,  
 George Smith, Doreen Conroy

#### THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

Daren Vukmirovic, Irene D'Arcy, Troy Watson  
 (Steenhuis family), Elaine Conlan, Evelyn Farrugia,  
 Patricia (Patty) Gannon, Michelle Hall, John Healy,  
 Sarah McLachlan, Thelma Keating, Carole Simmons,  
 Owen Widdison

### CATHOLIC EDUCATION ACROSS OUR MINISTRY DISTRICT

[St Alipius Parish Kindergarten - ECKA](#)

[St Alipius Ballarat East](#) – Emily Clarke, Principal

[St Brigid's Ballan](#) – Jayne Bosworth, Principal

[St Patrick's Gordon](#) – Paul McDowell, Principal

[St Francis Xavier B'rat East](#) – Mark Hogbin, Principal

[St Mary's Clarkes Hill](#) – Clare Scanlon, Principal

[Emmaus Mt Clear](#) – Ethan Corfee, Principal

[Damascus College Mt Clear](#) – Steven Mifsud, Principal

[Damascus @ St Brendan's Dunnstown](#) – Campus

Leader - Karen Goonan

[Saints College Bakery Hill](#) – Troy Strybosch, Principal

[Saints College @ Bungaree](#) – Renee Vallance

Deputy Principal

*We acknowledge this land's traditional owners and custodians and pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging.*



## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The Gordon Parish is hosting a Christmas Celebration at Donegan's Farm, 309 Butter Factory Road, Gordon, on Sunday, 30th November at 6.00pm. All welcome, it's a great opportunity for us all to have a get together before Christmas. Nibbles on arrival, roast main and plum pudding. Cost \$40. Bookings to be made through the Parish Office, phone 0437 505 517 or sign up sheets will be in the back of country churches. If you would like a ride to this celebration, please contact us in the office and we will organise this for you.

## OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

The ODC magazine is available in the foyers of our churches. Pick up your copy today, to read the news from around the Diocese.

## SR EMMA JANE LLEWYLYN RSM PREPETUAL PROFESSION

This weekend at St Monica's Church Moonee Ponds, Sr Emma Llewlyn 's perpetual profession as a Sister of Mercy will be received by the Institute Leader Sr Karon Donnellan RSM with a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Peter Commensoli. The celebration of Sr Emma's first vows as a Sister of Mercy was celebrated in St Alipius Church Ballarat East in January 2020 after Emma had spent time in Ballarat East as part of her formation. Emma has been assured of the prayers of our parishes and also for the Sisters of Mercy whose presence amongst us continues to be a source of blessing. The Sisters of Mercy have ministered across our Ministry District particularly through Catholic education: in Ballarat East, Bungaree, Clarkes Hill, Dunnstown and Mt Clear as well as in pastoral ministry in Ballan, Ballarat East, Buninyong and Gordon.

## PILGRIMAGE INSPIRED BY ST PAUL

Parishioners and friends interested in joining this pilgrimage with Fr Justin proposed for mid-June 2026 through Turkey and Greece are invited to an information evening to be held at Lifestyle Travel, 11 Armstrong St North, Ballarat on Monday December 1<sup>st</sup> at 5.00pm. The information session will provide itinerary details, costings, dates, inclusions and a Q&A. Contact Lifestyle Travel to register 5331 8277 or [info@lifestyletravel.com.au](mailto:info@lifestyletravel.com.au)

## NOVEMBER DATES

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup>**  
5.00pm Damascus Year 12 Graduation Mass  
St Patrick's Cathedral

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>**  
5.00pm Parent Information Session RCIC

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>**  
6.00pm Ministry District end of year dinner  
Donegan's farm @ Gordon

## FORMATION IN SYNODALITY

The Catholic Diocese of Ballarat is excited to be joining with the Catholic Theological College to provide formation in Leadership for Synodality in the Diocese of Ballarat through a bursary funded by the Therese D'Orsa Mission Fund. This formation opportunity emerged following the Ballarat Diocesan Assembly at the end of 2024. The Diocesan Assembly Report details the support for building a Synodal Church in this diocese with a prominent outcome of the Assembly being the need to provide formation for synodal leadership. Parishioners interested in joining this formation opportunity can find further information from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/formation-in-synodality/> or scan or click the QR code



## OLHC PARISH WENDOUREE CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

OLHC Parish Wendouree volunteers are hosting a free lunch on Christmas Day in the Parish Hall, 480A Gillies Street North, Wendouree from 12.00noon – 2.00pm (meal at 12.30pm). Bookings are essential as seating is limited, ph. 0491 029217. Thank you to all the very wonderful volunteers for their work in making the Christmas Day lunch at OLHC so special over all the years it has been held. We welcome all those who would like to volunteer on the day - please phone 0467 683504 to register. A Working with Children Check is required for all volunteers.

## COLLECTIONS

The figures below are for last weekend.

Supporting our priests: \$1,003

Supporting our parish: \$ 508.60

Thank you to all who contribute to our parish. Your generosity is appreciated.

## Y.C.W CRICKET CLUB

Former players, family and supporters of the Y.C.W Cricket Club are invited to get together for lunch on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at the Robin Hood Hotel, starting at 12pm. For further details or to book contact Terry on 0401 730 670 or John on 0409 864 080.

## LITURGY ROSTER

During the next week office staff will be looking at the Liturgy Roster for Advent and beyond. Please advise us if you are not available to be rostered at stages during the months of December and January. Please note that we cannot include your name on the Liturgy Roster if you have not provided the office with a copy of your WWCC or VIT registration where appropriate. Please speak to office staff if you have questions regarding compliance.

### BAPTISMS

Ziggie Lee Leckie  
Daughter of Zachary and Megan Leckie

William Laurance Wandin-Dow  
Son of William Wandin-Dow & Bridget  
Beveridge

Jannali Lee Austin  
Daughter of Jindara-Lee Austin & Bridget  
Beveridge

## POSITION VACANT: PARISH ASSISTANT – SOUTHWEST BALLARAT PARISH

(Formerly Redan, Sebastopol and Linton parishes)  
Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the position of Parish Assistant at the Southwest Ballarat Parish, part-time (10 hours a week, Wednesday & Thursday). The position description and application details (closing on November 28, 2025) are available from the diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/employment/](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/employment/).

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

During Advent this year, we will be having the Children's Liturgy of the Word at our 6pm Masses. This program will begin next Saturday November 29<sup>th</sup> and will run each weekend until Christmas.

## VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The cost-of-living crisis has reached a worrying new low. 3.3 million people in Australia are currently living in poverty (that's more than 1 in 8). People are skipping meals so they can afford to feed their kids, pay their rent and keep the lights on. Others are desperately searching for a safe couch to sleep on. Thousands of families have reached out to Vinnies for the first time in recent months, while others are now regularly relying on short-term relief to survive long-term. Without urgent support, many people risk being trapped in a long-term cycle of poverty and disadvantage. Donations can be made to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal

at <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal>

## INTRODUCING POPE LEO XIV: HIS STORY AND AUSTRALIAN CONNECTION

A book has just been published – *Introducing Pope Leo XIV: His Story and Australian Connection* – which tells the story of these visits to Australia. Many photos taken during these visits are also included. In word and image, we meet the man – Fr Bob Prevost – who a decade later would become Pope. Published by St Pauls Publications, the book is available from Catholic bookshops or direct from St Pauls Publications <https://secure.stpauls.com.au/strathfield/introducing-pope-leo-xiv-his-story-and-australian-connection.html>

## RCIA

The RCIA recently commenced our weekly Sunday Dismissals and have a well-established team of 4 running these at St Brigid's Ballan. We are seeking 2 other individuals or couples who could assist us at St Alipius for these important sessions. Dismissals involve leaving the main part of the church after the prayers of the faithful with the candidates and catechumen to guide them in reflecting on the Gospel of the day for about 10 minutes, then returning to the church with them to receive communion. Please contact Dallas on 0412532572 if you are interested in joining this important ministry.

# Celebrating the Boundless Nature of God's Reign

Reflection on the Gospel-Solemnity of Christ the King Year C

(Luke 23:35-43)

Veronica Lawson RSM



Sadly, there have always been those who scoff at others or make fun of them, generally because they themselves feel inadequate or threatened in some way. Those who suffer such bullying behaviour often feel powerless and demeaned. There may be some comfort for such people in today's gospel. We find here a serious case of bullying and two dignified responses that undermine the destructive power of those who taunt or deride.

The first response is that of Jesus who refuses to retaliate when the soldiers mock him or when another convicted criminal ("one of the criminals hanging there") derides him. Another dignified response comes from "the other" criminal. This man has the insight to recognise that Jesus is innocent. He also has the courage to challenge the injustice of what is going on around him. Having offered his challenge, he then turns to Jesus and addresses him by name: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kin-dom." His request reveals his faith in Jesus as the human face of God. It also reveals his knowledge of Jesus' mission, first announced in Galilee: "I must proclaim the good news of the kin-dom of God ...."

Jesus points to God and God's reign or empire. Jesus' criminal companion points in his turn to the reign or empire of Jesus. The reign of God and the reign of Jesus are one and the same. In turning to Jesus and putting his request, this criminal becomes a disciple and receives the assurance of a share in Jesus' life with God: "Today you will be with me...." "Jesus, remember me" is a fitting prayer in the face of all life's struggles. It is a prayer for mercy. Next time we sing these words or pray them in our hearts, we might spare a thought for the one who first uttered them, a convicted Jewish criminal who had the courage to rise above his own suffering and to challenge the unjust oppression of an innocent neighbour. Like Jesus, this criminal was and continues to be an instrument of God's reign. His capacity to challenge the injustice of Jesus' execution might be a source of inspiration for us as we struggle to find mercy and justice for the Earth as well as for the innocent ones who seek asylum only to find themselves subjected to the torture of exile and hopelessness.

The title of today's feast reminds us of the boundless nature of God's rule or reign: we celebrate Christ Jesus as ruler of the universe, of all that is and of all that will be. As our understanding of the universe expands, we find ourselves caught up in the ever creative and saving presence of a compassionate, merciful God who has been revealed to us in Jesus of Nazareth. This feast might serve as a reminder to allow the peace of Christ to reign in our hearts even in the face of derision.

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

2 Samuel 5:1-3

Colossians 1:12-20

Luke 23:35-43

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah: 2:1-5

Romans: 13:11-14

Matthew: 24:37-44

# 2025 VIP SALE

SATURDAY  
22<sup>ND</sup> NOV TO  
SATURDAY  
29<sup>TH</sup> NOV

**Beleza Ballarat**  
22 Doveton St South, Ballarat VIC 3350

Trading Hours  
Mon to Fri: 9:00am - 5:00pm  
Sat: 10:00am - 1:00pm

# 20% OFF\*

IN-STORE ONLY\*



\*CONDITIONS APPLY  
Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer, voucher, or discount.  
Discount available on full priced Beleza branded items only





# BASKETBALL HOLIDAY CAMPS

MEET AND LEARN FROM THE MINERS,  
MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND HAVE FUN

USE CODE **"SUMMER"** TO SAVE 10%

**TUESDAY 13TH, WEDNESDAY 14TH JANUARY**  
**TUESDAY 20TH, WEDNESDAY 21ST JANUARY**  
SELKIRK STADIUM 9AM - 3PM



**SIGN UP NOW**  
BALLARATBASKETBALL.COM





# AUSSIE HOOPS

➔ FREE 'Come & Try" Session ➔

Aussie Hoops session for all girls aged 4–9

Fun, beginner-friendly basketball activities to  
build skills and confidence

Choose one of three sessions!

Monday 8th Dec, 4pm - Buxton Minerdome

Wednesday 10th Dec, 4pm - Buxton Minerdome

Tuesday 16th Dec, 4:30 - Phoenix College

**Spots are limited – register now to secure your place!**

