

Letter from the Chair – Ascham School Council

Tuesday 6 January 2026

Dear Ascham Parents and Carers,

As we step into 2026 and begin to celebrate the remarkable 140-year legacy of Ascham School, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to each member of our community for your ongoing dedication and contribution to our School. For some families, this marks your first year joining us at Ascham; for others, your connection to the School is a treasured bond that has lasted across generations.

Ascham thrives because of the exceptional people within our community – students, parents and teachers, both past and present. I look forward to the opportunity to personally thank you during the special events planned to commemorate this truly extraordinary milestone of 140 years.

I am pleased to share a review of 2025, outline our vision for 2026, and provide the tuition fee schedules for the coming year.

2025 | The Year in Review

This past year has showcased the remarkable accomplishments of our students—whether in academics, on the sports field, through the arts, or in service to the wider community. We extend our warmest congratulations to the Class of 2025 for their outstanding HSC results.

- 9% of our students achieved an ATAR greater than 99
- 20% achieved an ATAR greater than 98
- 59% achieved an ATAR greater than 90

There were six state placements including 1st in Business Studies, 1st in French Continuers, 2nd in French Continuers, 9th in Economics, 11th in Modern History and 18th in Biology. Every academic department has highlighted the valuable impact that Dalton has had on teaching and learning within their subject areas.

For more information, please [visit our website](#).

Throughout 2025, we've remained dedicated to strengthening academic standards by continually refining our curriculum, hosting professional learning events, and reviewing study skills programs. We've also closely examined learning behaviours to further support student growth.

Our Strategic Plan, *Towards 2030*.

We remain committed to our Strategic Plan, *Towards 2030* and it is exciting to see the first phase of our Masterplan, '[Blueprint. For our Future](#)', nearing completion. With the new Fiona Hall and playgrounds already bustling with activity in 2025, we're now looking forward to opening the new classrooms, Art rooms, Staffroom, and Fiona Reception in early 2026.

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We have development approval for new Boarding accommodation at 19 Darling Point Road, which will create the space to redevelop our Northern Precinct, with the scope and timeline to be finalised in 2026. This will be transformational for sport, music and the performing arts for the entire School.

The School's digital transformation *Project Omnia* is well underway. We are investing in major IT systems upgrades, to enhance our operational efficiency and improve the overall student, parent and staff experience. The new parent and student portal known as our *Ascham Hub* and a new App are due to be delivered in Term 2, 2026.

Fees for 2026

The School Council recently approved the 2026 budget, which includes tuition fees. In coming to this decision, the council considered many factors, but central to all discussions were the following:

1. Importance of Teacher retention in a competitive market. Teacher salaries constitute above 70% of total School expenses, with only 6% of School revenue secured through Government grants. Teacher salaries in 2026 will increase by a minimum 4.5% in line with the Independent School's 3 year CMEA, agreed to in 2025.
2. Cost of living pressures on families continue to be a significant consideration. The School has worked hard to actively manage its cost base through spending rigour and tender of services where possible. Funding of new facilities is supported by the generosity of our School benefactors, both large and small.

In the context of these challenges, we will be increasing our tuition fees by 4.9% on average in 2026, with some variability across different year groups. Boarding fees will increase by 4.5%.

You can find and download the updated 2026 Schedule of Fees [on the Hub](#). To assist our families, there are various payment options available to manage fee commitments. If you are faced with unexpected difficulties in paying the fees, please do not hesitate to contact Head of Finance, [Martin Weisz](#) for a confidential discussion.

Further information on payment of School fees, please visit the [My Payments](#) information page on the Hub. If you have any queries in relation to billing or fee account statements, please contact the [Finance Department](#) they are happy to help.

We are excited to welcome 2026 which marks 140 years of Ascham. We look forward to celebrating this special milestone with our entire community.

Yours sincerely,



Sophie Gilder
Chair – Ascham School Council