

TED^x JPC



JOHN PAUL
COLLEGE
with Him is the fullness of life

INSPIRE

IGNITING CURIOSITY ONE IDEA AT A TIME

TUESDAY 25 MARCH

7.00pm - 8.30pm

INSPIRE. Igniting Curiosity One Idea At A Time

TEDx JPC will showcase ideas that inspire critical thinking, creativity, and meaningful conversations.

At John Paul College, we believe in the power of ideas worth sharing. TEDx events have inspired millions around the world by giving people a platform to challenge perspectives, spark conversations, and drive meaningful change. This year, we are proud to host our inaugural TEDx event, bringing that experience to our own community.

This event is more than a series of talks. It is an opportunity for students and staff to share their passions, experiences, and insights with a wider audience. It encourages them to think critically, communicate effectively, and engage with the world beyond the classroom.

Through TEDx, we aim to celebrate learning in all its forms, not just what happens in textbooks but the ideas that shape the way we see and understand the world.

Hosting TEDx JPC reflects our commitment to empowering voices, fostering curiosity, and embracing innovation in education.

We hope tonight's talks leave you inspired, challenge you to see things differently, and remind you of the power of ideas to transform lives.

Enjoy the evening, and thank you for being part of TEDx JPC.

Mr Michael O'Keeffe
Deputy Principal of Learning and Teaching

Acknowledgement

We sincerely thank Paul Kooperman for his generous support in shaping our inaugural TEDx JPC event. With his expertise in storytelling and event development, Paul has provided invaluable guidance, offering thoughtful feedback to both students and staff. His insights have helped create an authentic TEDx experience and given our students the confidence to share their ideas.

A special thanks to students Ashley Sasse, Miranda Misra, Alexander Sofiswith and Jack Bibas for their work behind the scenes. Their hard work in backstage support and filming truly brings TEDx to life. Their passion embodies the spirit of TEDx - ideas worth spreading, powered by teamwork and innovation.

About TEDx

TEDx is a program of local, self-organised events that bring people together to share ideas in the spirit of TED – ideas worth spreading. At a TEDx event, live speakers spark deep discussion and connection around a range of topics, from personal stories to global challenges. TEDx events are licensed by TED but independently organised by communities who are passionate about the power of ideas. TEDx JPC is part of this global movement, giving our students and staff the platform to explore, reflect, and share meaningful perspectives with others.

TEDx Speakers



Blake Livera, Year 12

I am autistic. Is that wrong?

Blake will share his experience with discrimination against autistic people and challenge typical behaviours. He will emphasise reflecting on actions and beliefs, and not judging a book by its cover. Blake will discuss overcoming societal stereotypes and embracing neurodiversity, aiming to inspire others to create inclusive environments where everyone can thrive.

Blake is passionate about justice, leadership, and community outreach. He dedicates his time to volunteering for various school projects and charities. His unwavering commitment to making a positive impact on individuals is evident in every initiative he undertakes. Blake's dedication to justice is exemplified by his role as the Student Representative Council (SRC) student leader, where he utilises his leadership skills to organise events that promote unity and support for the school. Through his efforts, Blake strives to create a positive impact and inspire others to contribute to their communities.



Emily Swannie, Year 8

Bullying cannot be justified.

Emily's TEDx talk will focus on the harmful effects of bullying and picking on individuals who are perceived as "smarter" than others. She believes that this behaviour is not only immoral but also disrespectful, and it's something that should be addressed openly rather than ignored. Emily is passionate about raising awareness on this issue and encouraging others to stand up against this type of bullying.

Emily has always loved volunteering and free writing, and is interested in different views on and the causes of mental health issues. She is a part of the Student Representative Council and helps with bread packing for the Community Companion Van. Outside of school, Emily loves reading, baking, dance and spending time with her cousins.

TEDx Speakers



In a world of deepfakes and AI, distinguishing real from artificial is harder than ever. How do we protect authenticity?

NICK
Year 12

Nick Armstrong, Year 12 ***How to Maintain Trust in an AI World.***

In an online world filled with deepfakes and AI-generated content, trust is increasingly difficult to maintain. How can we distinguish what's real from what's artificially created? Nick explores the crisis of authenticity in the digital age, questioning how we can navigate a world where human identity and AI are becoming indistinguishable. Nick challenges us to confront the deceptive digital landscape and offers insights on safeguarding authenticity in a world dominated by AI.

Nick is passionate about AI and has developed educational websites and applications. He enjoys mathematics, science, coding, badminton, and gaming with friends. In his free time, Nick explores new technologies and works on personal coding projects.

TEDx Speakers



Empathy is the key to breaking down prejudice, and technology can be the tool that connects us all

SYDNEY

Year 9



By using technology to foster empathy, we can break down barriers and build deeper connections with one another.

NADIA

Year 9

Sydney Dave & Nadia Hadjiloizou, Year 9

How simple technology can turn empathy into action.

Our differences have long shaped how we see and treat one another, but what if we could truly experience life from someone else's perspective? In their TEDx talk, Sydney and Nadia will explore how technology can be a powerful tool for creating empathy, breaking down prejudice, and fostering real change in the way we connect with others. They aim to inspire a shift in how we understand and interact with people from all walks of life.

Sydney is an active member of the Student Representative Council, where she contributes to organising school events and representing her peers. Outside of school, she enjoys playing basketball and values spending time at the beach with friends, making the most of her weekends.

Nadia has a passion for teamwork and critical thinking, which she developed while competing in the *da Vinci Decathlon*. She enjoys writing and experimenting with different storytelling styles. When she's not at her desk, she loves unwinding at the beach, whether for a walk or just watching the sunset.

TEDx Speakers



Fewer people are choosing teaching, and more are leaving - if we don't act now, the future of education is at risk.

MICHAEL O'KEEFFE

Deputy Principal
John Paul College

Michael O'Keeffe,
Deputy Principal
***Making teaching cool again:
how to fix education's
biggest crisis***

The world is running out of teachers, impacting classrooms everywhere. In this talk, Michael explores why fewer people are choosing teaching, why many great educators are leaving, and what we can do to change that. Michael challenges us to rethink how we value teachers and reimagine education as a profession people want to pursue. If we don't fix this now, who will teach the students of tomorrow?

Michael is an educator, leader, and advocate for the future of teaching. Dedicated to Catholic education, he has held multiple leadership roles, shaping learning for the next generation. A passionate musical theatre fan, sports enthusiast, and lifelong learner, he inspires students and teachers, ensuring education evolves to meet future needs.



Anxiety can feel like a barrier, but it doesn't have to. Everyone deserves confidence to pursue passions and embrace new opportunities.

ELEANOR
Year 8

Eleanor McCraith, Year 8
***Anxious people can't
get anywhere.***

Anxiety can feel like an invisible barrier, holding people back from chasing their dreams - but does it have to? In her TEDx talk, Eleanor shares her journey of overcoming anxiety to follow her passions in acting, writing, art, and music. She believes everyone deserves the confidence to step out of their comfort zone and embrace new opportunities, no matter their fears. Eleanor hopes to inspire others to show that anxiety doesn't have to stand in the way of living life to the fullest.

Eleanor loves anything in the creative scene. Acting, art, writing, music. Overcoming anxiety and doing what she loves is very important to her. She believes everyone deserves the confidence to put themselves out there. She loves hanging out with her friends and going on bike rides.

TEDx Speakers



We're often told to stick to one career, but what if changing paths leads to growth, fulfillment and adaptability?

ABIGAIL
Year 10

Abigail Arms, Year 10 *Careers are ruining lives.*

We're often told to choose a career path early and stick with it for life - but what if that's not the best way to live? In her talk, Abigail challenges the idea of a single lifelong career and explores how changing career pathways can lead to greater fulfillment, personal growth, and adaptability in an ever-evolving world. It's time to rethink the pressure of sticking to one job forever and embrace the possibilities of change.

Abigail loves performing arts and backstage and has participated in a series of productions over five years. She is also fluent in Auslan and hopes to see an increase in the understanding of Auslan among hearing Australians. She spends her weekends at the gym and painting.



Empathy and communication are the keys to unlocking stories and voices that have been unheard for too long.

RAHUL
Year 12

Rahul Subramanian, Year 12 *Mastering Conversations: how your ability to communicate can change the world.*

A voice unheard is a story untold and a story untold is a legacy unknown. In his TEDx talk, Rahul explores the necessity of empathy and compassion in fostering healthy relationships. He highlights how effective communication and listening are impactful skills that empower others. Rahul challenges societal norms and stigma surrounding intergenerational communication, aiming to reignite the voices that have been silenced for so long.

Rahul loves making friends and developing strong social relationships. Whether it's at school, work, or sport, he is passionate about getting to know new people and actively developing close-knit connections. In his spare time, he enjoys playing guitar in a band, exercising at the gym, and going on fun adventures with his friends.



McMahons Road, Frankston VIC 3199
9784 0200 | johnpaul@jpc.vic.edu.au

jpc.vic.edu.au