



DJARRAGUN  
COLLEGE



CAPE YORK  
GIRL ACADEMY

TERM 1 2026

ISSUE NO. 29



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**Sports, sports, sports!**

**Close the Gap &  
Harmony Day**





# DJARRAGUN COLLEGE NEWS



**DJARRAGUN  
COLLEGE**





# A STRONG START TO 2026: CONNECTION, ACHIEVEMENT AND OPPORTUNITY AT DJARRAGUN COLLEGE

Djarragun College has enjoyed a vibrant and successful start to Term 1, with students and staff embracing new opportunities, strong learning, and community connection.

We were delighted to welcome our boarding students back in January, along with our new Prep cohort into Lower Primary. A warm welcome was also extended to new staff members Ms Chrisstella Fourmile and Ms Lisa Evangels. Boarding students have had an exceptional start to the year, building friendships and connections through activities such as Aloomba Creek swims, trips to Barron Gorge and Palm Cove, Sugarworld visits, gym sessions, weekend sports training, and Friday night football. These shared experiences have created a positive and supportive environment to begin 2026.

In the Middle School, students have demonstrated a strong academic focus, particularly in Mathematics. Year 7 students completed a full unit on Whole Numbers within the first week—an outstanding achievement reflecting clear learning intentions, explicit teaching, and high expectations. Classrooms are focused, students are confident, and learning is deep and purposeful. Engaging, hands-on experiences in Food Technology and Science have further supported skill development and curiosity.

We proudly announced our 2026 student leaders, including Sports House Captains Phoenix Kulla Kulla and Vellington Lui, along with Boarding Captains Sita Wosomo and Jaliam Foote Lawrence, Tamahlia Tabuai and Deja Jingle.

Senior students in Vocational Education and Training have made an impressive start. Construction students have prepared their workshop and begun work on real-world projects, including the demolition of the old sports pavilion. Engineering students are developing practical skills through hands-on projects, demonstrating craftsmanship and pride in their work. Hospitality students showcased their talents by catering a luncheon at our training restaurant, Birrgal, while Health students engaged with industry professionals at a James Cook University Health Breakfast.

A highlight this term is the outstanding achievement of Lailanee Lui, who has been accepted into Connect-n-Grow’s Deadly Starts Program and awarded a Queensland Ambulance Service School-Based Scholarship. Her success reflects determination and a bright future in the health sector.

Our students have also excelled in sport, with many selected for Trinity Coast South teams across multiple disciplines. We proudly celebrated Harmony Day and Close the Gap, reinforcing our commitment to culture and community.

It has been a fantastic start to the year, with students demonstrating pride, engagement, and a strong foundation for success in 2026.





DJARRAGUN COLLEGE



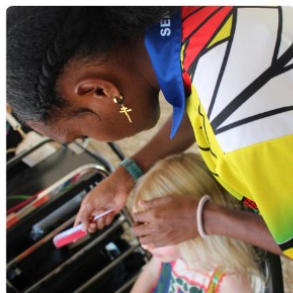
CAPE YORK GIRL ACADEMY



DJARRAGUN COLLEGE



CAPE YORK GIRL ACADEMY



# Come and See us at The Cairns Show

15 - 17 July  
2026



[www.djarragun.qld.edu.au](http://www.djarragun.qld.edu.au) | 07 4043 3777 | [enrolments@djarragun.qld.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@djarragun.qld.edu.au)





# CLOSE THE GAP AND HARMONY DAY CELEBRATIONS

On Friday 20 March, Djarragun College proudly marked both Close the Gap and Harmony Day with a joint celebration hosted by the Netat Bama Kodomir Committee.

Students across the College took part in a range of engaging arts and crafts activities, exploring the themes of identity, inclusion and community. These hands-on experiences provided meaningful opportunities for students to express themselves creatively while learning about the importance of coming together and supporting one another.

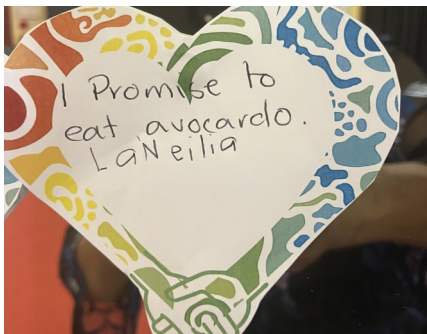
A highlight was the collaboration between our Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care students and our Lower Primary classes. Together, they created a Harmony Day poster, with senior students sharing their knowledge and helping younger students understand the importance of celebrating inclusiveness, respect

and a sense of belonging for everyone. It was a wonderful example of leadership, mentoring and connection across year levels.

The event also highlighted the significance of Close the Gap, raising awareness about health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, alongside the message of Harmony Day—celebrating diversity and promoting a sense of belonging for all.

A clear favourite of the day was the ever-popular photobooth, where students captured fun moments with their peers, creating lasting memories of a special occasion.

It was a wonderful day that reflected the strong sense of community at Djarragun College, reinforcing the values of respect, inclusion and cultural pride.









# PRIMARY NEWS



Term 1 has been a busy and exciting start to the year in Primary, with excursions, sporting trials and the introduction of some new routines across the school.

One highlight has been the wonderful leadership shown by our Year 5/6 students. They have taken on the role of “big buddies”, helping our Prep to Year 2 students find their way to the dining hall for morning tea and lunch. The older students hold their little buddies’ hands, chat with them along the way, and help them plate up their meals before settling them at the tables. It has been lovely to see these friendships developing and to watch our senior students demonstrate such care and responsibility.



Our Year 5/6 class also attended the GRIP Leadership Conference, where they had the opportunity to further develop their leadership skills. Throughout the day, students were encouraged to step outside their comfort zones and challenge themselves—something that can be daunting even for adults. They represented our school beautifully and embraced the experience with enthusiasm.

We also love recognising students who consistently try their best. Students from Years 1–3 were rewarded for their hard work and regular attendance with a special trip to the Cairns Performing Arts Centre to see the delightful production of *Where Is the Green Sheep?*. The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance and a picnic morning tea on the beautiful grounds of the centre.

To finish the term, we held our much-anticipated Easter Egg Hunt. Although the rain tried its best to interrupt our plans, it certainly didn’t dampen the fun! The Easter Bunny cleverly hid the eggs in classrooms while students were outside playing at lunch. It was a joyful way to end the term and celebrate together before a well-earned break.



**Liz Thomas**  
Deputy Head of Campus  
- Primary School





# TERM 1 SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

Term 1 has been an exciting and active start to the year, with Djarragun College students embracing a wide range of sporting opportunities and achieving some fantastic results.

Our Secondary students have shown strong interest and commitment to school sport, particularly with NRL training sessions, which have seen the highest participation numbers so far this year. It has been wonderful to see students building their skills, teamwork and fitness while enjoying the fast-growing game.

A major highlight has been the incredible number of students who trialled for the Trinity Coast South (TCS) representative teams. Their efforts have resulted in an impressive list of selections, showcasing both talent and commitment. Congratulations to Sharntel Evans and Iona Ambrym on their selection in the TCS 16–19 years girls soccer team, and to Delina Sharpe for being named as a shadow player for the 16–19 years girls netball team.

In basketball, Jahleel Ware and Xavier Dodd earned places in the TCS 17–18 years boys team, while four of our students were selected in the 13–15 years girls basketball team. Rugby league has also been a strong area of success, with Piiramu Wilson, Chaston Sands and Darius Hanna selected in the 17-18 years and 15–16 years boys team, alongside four students chosen for the 17–18 years girls team. Piiramu Wilson further excelled with selection in the TCS 16–18 years boys touch football team and rugby union team.

Australian football continues to thrive at Djarragun, with four students selected in the TCS 13–14 years boys team. We also celebrate Kassarn, Jay-Zee, Xavier, Tyrhell, Ernest, Clinton and Kellyana on their selection in the Trinity Coast South AFL team—an outstanding achievement and a reflection of their hard work and talent.

We also celebrate Cenzo, Patrick and Malakei, who competed at the Peninsula trials as part of the TCS boys’ Australian football team for the 13–14 years age group. Their success in being selected for the Peninsula Team is a significant accomplishment, and we wish them all the best as they prepare to travel to Townsville for the State trials in May. And last, but not least, congratulations to Patricia Garadji who made it onto the 13-14 years girls peninsula AFL team, a fantastic achievement.

Well done to all students who participated this term—your efforts and achievements have made Djarragun College proud!





We also proudly announced our 2026 Sports House Captains this term, Phoenix Kulla Kulla and Wellington Lui, who have already demonstrated great leadership and school spirit.

Sport continues to play an important role in student wellbeing and engagement across the College. From structured training sessions to representative pathways, students have demonstrated resilience, teamwork and a strong sense of pride in representing their school.

We look forward to seeing even more students getting involved in Term 2, continuing to build skills, confidence and a love of sport.



This term, Djarragun College had the exciting opportunity to host former NRL stars James Geurtjens, Jharal Yow Yeh, and Jack Reed. The ex-Broncos players visited our school to engage with students and share their passion for rugby league, encouraging participation and skill development. Both Primary and Secondary students thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, gaining valuable insights, tips, and inspiration from these professional athletes. It was a memorable experience that highlighted the fun, teamwork, and dedication that make sport such an important part of school life.



**Kimberley Tate**  
Sports Academy Teacher





**DJARRAGUN COLLEGE**

# ATHLETICS CARNIVAL



**FRIDAY, 12 JUNE 2026**

*Ready to Push Your Limits?*

**STARTS 9:00AM:  
DJARRAGUN COLLEGE  
SPORTS BLOCK**

**WEAR YOUR  
HOUSE COLOURS!**





# GOLD COAST NFL FLAG FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

At the end of Term 4 2025, nine Primary students, accompanied by two coaches, travelled to the Gold Coast to compete in the National NFL Flag Football Championship against the top eleven schools from across Australia. The team demonstrated outstanding effort and resilience throughout the tournament, finishing in ninth place overall.

Despite narrowly missing the finals, the students performed exceptionally well—losing by only one score in three matches and drawing in another. Their determination and teamwork were evident in every game, and they managed to score an impressive number of touchdowns across the competition.

In recognition of their excellent behaviour and sportsmanship, the group enjoyed a well-deserved visit to Movie World, one of Australia’s most popular theme parks. Students had a fantastic time experiencing the rides, collecting souvenirs for their families, and indulging in plenty of treats.

Mr Brodie Robinson  
Sports Teacher





# VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & PATHWAYS NEWS

Term 1 has been a dynamic and productive start for Vocational Education and Training (VET) at the College, with students actively engaging in hands-on learning and real-world pathway opportunities. A major highlight is Lailanee Lui's acceptance into the Connect 'n' Grow Deadly Starts Program, an 18-month school-based traineeship supporting Indigenous students to launch careers in healthcare. Lailanee commenced the program in early February, balancing school with one day per week of paid, on-the-job training while working towards a Certificate II/III in Health Services Assistance. Adding to this outstanding achievement, she has also been awarded a Queensland Ambulance Service scholarship, which provides financial support, mentoring and further career pathway opportunities. Lailanee's journey reflects the confidence and ambition we are seeing grow across our student cohort.

Students across multiple VET areas have been developing practical skills and industry knowledge through engaging and purposeful learning experiences.

In Construction and Engineering, students began the term by taking ownership of their workspace, completing a full workshop clean-out and reorganisation before moving into practical tasks. They have since worked on deconstructing a rotunda and have commenced building a modular deck, learning to interpret plans, measure accurately and collaborate effectively as a team. These projects are building not only technical skills but also problem-solving, teamwork and resilience.





In Early Childhood Education and Care, Jaykitta and Casey have achieved a significant milestone by completing their required placement hours. Both students have shown tremendous growth, building confidence in real workplace settings and forming positive relationships with children, families and staff. Casey’s dedication even led to paid employment during her placement, highlighting the strength of these pathways. Students in this Certificate III course have been preparing for their placements by completing Blue Card applications, ensuring they meet industry requirements for working with children.

Senior students have also gained important industry certifications this term. A number of students successfully completed their Construction White Card training, a nationally recognised qualification required to work safely on building sites. Others have participated in learner driver testing, an important step toward independence and future employment opportunities. In addition, senior students attended the JCU Health Careers Breakfast, where they connected with industry professionals and explored pathways into nursing, allied health and community services.



Career readiness has been a strong focus, with Year 10 students beginning the process of developing resumes. This has encouraged them to reflect on their strengths, experiences and goals, while learning how to present themselves professionally. Our ongoing partnership with Schools2Jobs has also strengthened this work, supporting students in building confidence, preparing for employment and understanding the pathways available to them beyond school.

Through these rich and varied experiences, our students are not only gaining qualifications but also developing the confidence, skills and direction needed for successful transitions into further education, training and employment.



**Jill McIlwain**  
Student Pathways Co-ordinator





# GREETINGS FROM THE NETAT BAMA KODOMIR COMMITTEE

Djarragun College Students are participating in this year's Indigenous Leaders Program.

The Indigenous Leaders for the Future (ILF) and Indigenous Leaders of Tomorrow (ILT) programs are culturally supported school-based mentoring programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Years 5-9 (ILF) and Years 10-12 (ILT) from urban, rural and remote schools across Far North Queensland.

The programs give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students an opportunity to explore and build on their existing cultural identity, leadership qualities and provide them with a greater connection to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cultures. They gain self-confidence and self-esteem to successfully participate and engage in school, community, further study or work force and graduate as confident, healthy and resilient Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

ILF & ILT programs are aligned to the Queensland Curriculum, Assessment Authority and Australian Curriculum, and the Curriculum links to the learning areas of:

- HPE & The Arts for students in Years 5 – 10
- Technologies for students in Years 9 & 10 and
- 21st Century Skills for students in Years 11 & 12; the Cross-Curriculum Priorities (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures) and
- The General Capabilities (Personal & Social Capabilities and Intercultural Understanding).

The Program will be delivered over four compulsory events:

- Mentors Professional Development – 1 day
- Meet & Greet Conference – 1 day
- Cultural & Leadership Conference – 3 days, 2 nights
- Sharing for Success – 1 day

School based staff act as Mentors and they support students in participating, planning and organising school based cultural projects and leadership programs throughout the year. The Mentors build on their existing capabilities to effectively embed the intended key learnings of the program.

Congratulations to the following students who have been nominated to participate in this year's Indigenous Leaders Program:

### ILF Students

Avari Hari, Year 5

Milian Yoren, Year 5

Kenai Burns-Kynuna, Year 6

Jaleesha Hill-Palmer, Year 6

Skye Fourmile, Year 8

Shanita Highfold, Year 9

### ILT Students

Casey Bounghi, Year 12

Peter Levi, Year 12

The Netat Bama Kodomir (NBK) Committee, looks forward to collaborating with the students and Mentors throughout the year in celebrating historical and cultural events of significance.



**Mrs Allison Halliday**

Community Liaison Officer & Chairperson of NBK Committee





# BOARDING NEWS

Congratulations to our 2026 Boys' Boarding Captains, Sita Wosomo and Jalam Foote Lawrence and to our Girls' Boarding Captains, Tamahlia Tabuai and Deja Jingle.

We are incredibly proud to see these four young leaders step into their roles with confidence and commitment. Their leadership reflects the strength, integrity and pride within our Boarding community, and we know they will lead by example throughout the year ahead.

Well done, Sita, Jalam, Tamahlia and Deja — we look forward to seeing the positive impact you will make in 2026!





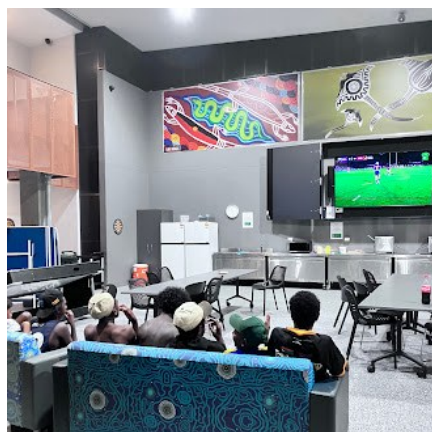
### Boys' Boarding – Term 1 Highlights

Term 1 has been a meaningful and eventful start to the year in Boys' Boarding, as we welcomed both new and returning students into what quickly becomes their home away from home. The beginning of the year was filled with connection, laughter and new experiences, helping students settle into boarding life with confidence. From swims at Alooomba Creek and trips to Palm Cove, Barron Gorge and Sugarworld, to gym sessions, weekend sports training and Friday night football, students have enjoyed a balance of activity, routine and time together. These shared experiences have played an important role in building friendships and creating a strong sense of belonging.

The early weeks also brought important milestones. Families joined us for orientation, placing their trust in the boarding team to support their sons through this new chapter. For many students, this transition came with mixed emotions, and our staff have worked closely alongside them, providing care, reassurance and guidance. Returning students have shown leadership in welcoming new boarders, helping them settle and feel supported.

A highlight of the term was the selection of our 2026 Boarding Captains, where students participated in a respectful voting process around the yarning circle, demonstrating growing ownership and leadership within the boarding community.

As the term progressed, students have continued to develop resilience, independence and a deeper understanding of expectations. There have been challenges along the way, including homesickness and adjusting to routines, but these moments have provided valuable opportunities for growth. Through consistent support, strong relationships and a focus on each student's "why," our young men are learning the importance of commitment, accountability and perseverance. It has been particularly encouraging to see students step outside their comfort zones, whether through sport, learning or leadership. As we move forward, we remain committed to supporting each student to grow into confident, capable young men who are ready to make the most of every opportunity.



**Michael Finau**  
Head of Residential Life





### Girls' Boarding – Term 1 Highlights

Term 1 has been a positive and encouraging start for our Girls' Boarding community, with a strong focus on connection, engagement and creating a supportive home-away-from-home environment. The term began with a range of shared experiences including swimming outings, beach trips, fitness sessions and time spent together as a boarding family. These moments have helped our young women build friendships, strengthen connections with staff and settle into boarding life with a sense of belonging and confidence.

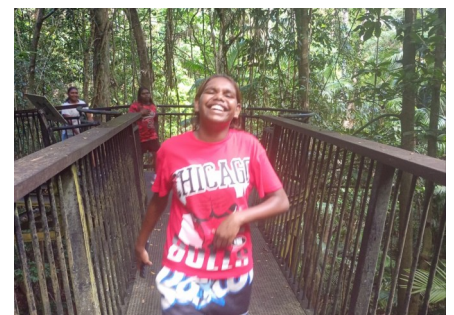
A key highlight this term has been the significant improvement in class attendance and engagement. Our young women are showing increasing responsibility and commitment to their learning, making the most of the opportunities available to them each day. This growth reflects not only their determination but also the consistent support and encouragement provided by boarding and school staff. The boarding house continues to grow, with increasing numbers of students joining the program, reinforcing the strong sense of community and trust that families place in our care.

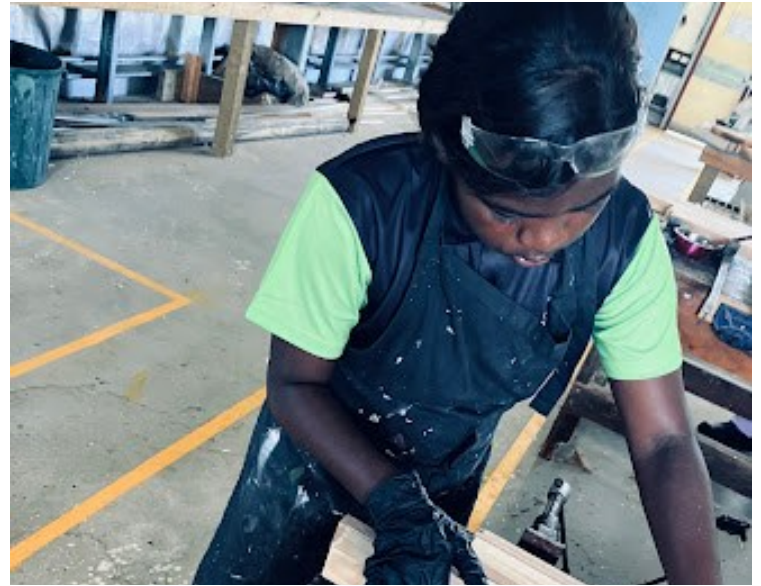
Throughout the term, we have continued to build a culture grounded in accountability, respect and personal growth. Staff have worked closely with students to provide guidance, structure and encouragement, helping them navigate both the challenges and successes of boarding life. It has been wonderful to see our young women developing confidence, independence and pride in themselves and their achievements. As we look ahead, we are excited to continue supporting each student to thrive both in the classroom and within our boarding community.



## Hannah Rosalski

Head of Girls' Boarding





# CAPE YORK GIRL ACADEMY NEWS



CAPE YORK  
GIRL ACADEMY





# GREETINGS FROM THE HEAD OF CAMPUS

Term 1 has been a strong and purposeful start to the year at Cape York Girl Academy, with our young women embracing new opportunities, building confidence, and strengthening their sense of identity and belonging within the Academy.

Across the school, students have settled into routines and expectations, creating a positive foundation for learning. While the early weeks always bring a period of adjustment, our focus has remained on supporting each student with care, structure and strong relationships. We understand that challenges can sometimes reflect underlying stress or uncertainty, and our approach continues to prioritise connection, consistency and encouragement to help every young woman succeed.

A standout feature of learning at the Academy is our unique learning environment. Many of our spaces have been co-designed with students, giving them a genuine sense of ownership over where and how they learn. These flexible, student-informed spaces support engagement, wellbeing and confidence, while still maintaining clear expectations and routines that help students feel safe and focused.

This year has also seen the introduction of our new Academy shirts, designed by students to reflect the journey through Junior, Middle and Senior years. Each design symbolises growth, independence and leadership, and our young women wear them with pride, understanding the responsibility of representing their school and community.

In the Junior Academy, students have made an impressive start, showing enthusiasm and a willingness to step outside their comfort zones. Their engagement in subjects like Technologies has been a highlight, with students taking pride in creating and sharing their work.

Our Middle Academy students have worked hard to establish routines and expectations, particularly as many are new to the Academy. It has been encouraging to see them begin to explore future pathways through subjects such as Hairdressing, Construction and Engineering, helping them connect their learning to real-world opportunities.

The Senior cohort continues to demonstrate maturity and leadership, making the most of the opportunities available to them. Many are actively engaging in pathway programs and experiences that support their goals beyond school.

Throughout the term, students have participated in a range of enriching experiences, including science investigations, industry exposure through health and community programs, and hands-on learning in areas such as engineering and construction. Achievements like completing White Card training and beginning university pathway programs highlight the growing confidence and capability of our students.

As we look ahead, our commitment remains clear: to support every young woman to feel safe, valued and empowered, and to continue building a future full of opportunity, pride and possibility.



**Mrs Shonell Gohier**

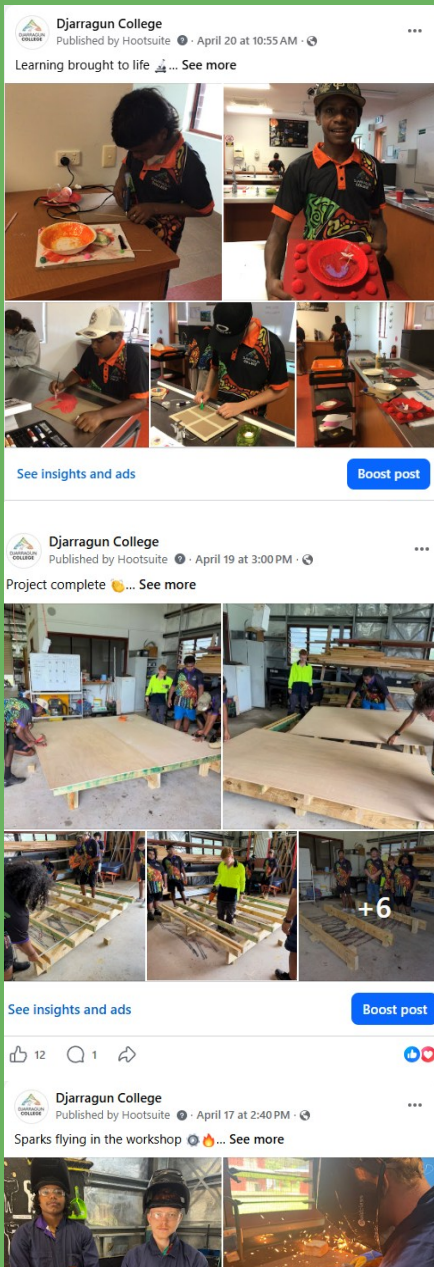
Head of Program - CARE and Cape York Girl Academy







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# UPCOMING EVENTS

- 16 April Boarders travel day
- 20 April Term 2 commences
- 22 April Career in manufacturing breakfast
- 12 May Rio Tinto visit/presentation
- 14 May Gurriny Health Services tour
- 18 May Healthy Harold (Primary)
- 19 May Year 12 CQU university experience
- 28 May Life Ed Talk About it (Primary)
- 4 June Career Expo 2026 (Secondary)
- 12 June Athletics Carnival
- 18 June Year 10 CQU university experience
- 17 June Boarders travel day
- 19 June Last day of term
- 9 July Boarders travel day
- 13 July Term 3 commences

# TERM DATES

- TERM 2** Monday 20 April (First day)  
Friday 19 June (Last day)
- TERM 3** Monday 13 July (First day)  
Wednesday 16 Sept (Last day)







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