



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF STUDENT WELLBEING - SENIOR SCHOOL

On Wednesday 10 September, our Year 7, 8 and 9 students gathered at various times for Verbal Combat, a live theatre experience delivered by Brainstorm Productions. It sparked important conversations that continued well beyond the show.

With just two actors and a simple set, the performance brought to life the real-world challenges our young people face: online bullying, peer pressure, fractured friendships, and the search for identity in a digital world. Students were drawn in immediately, responding with laughter, quiet reflection, and thoughtful discussion. The story didn't just entertain, it resonated.

Teachers and students alike found the presentation deeply relevant and beneficial. Staff appreciated how the show aligned with our wellbeing goals, offering practical strategies for respectful communication, resilience, and help-seeking. Students saw themselves in the characters and left with a renewed sense of empathy and agency.

What made Verbal Combat so impactful was its honesty. It didn't shy away from hard topics, but approached them with care, humour and hope. The post-show conversation in pastoral care classes will also give students space to reflect and connect, reinforcing the message that every voice matters and that kindness is a choice we make daily. I encourage you to continue to have similar conversations with your child so that they can reflect deeply, ask questions, and build the emotional tools they need to thrive online and offline.

Dr Anna Nalla

