



## Restored Chapter House *recaptures past glory*

*Thanks to the vision of the School Council and school staff; the skill and talent of architects, builders and restorers, and the generosity of donors and the School Foundation, Chapter House is now the school's biggest gathering space, seating 486. It is a stunning venue that will be well utilised by the entire school community.*



Chapter House has long been a central part of a student's journey at St Andrew's Cathedral School. The foundation stone was laid on 30 November 1885, the same year as the school. Many school buildings have come and gone since then, but Chapter House, which was extended in 1916, has remained. So when it became evident that Chapter House required significant repairs and restoration, the school stepped up and in partnership with the Cathedral, began the largest capital project in the school's history.

Sitting adjacent to the magnificent St Andrew's Cathedral, Chapter House has provided many fond memories over the school's 136-year history.

Trystan Go (OA2018) recalled his memory of the building. He said, "I remember being completely spellbound by the grandeur of it all and to learn that this building has had such a rich history made coming in here each week for Chapel very special and quite an honour."

Prior to 2000, the building was used for almost every significant school occasion. "The whole focus of my time at school was virtually in this area," says Stephen Halgren (OA1968). "It is where we held Speech Night, weekly chapel, greeted royalty and Prime Ministers, performed concerts and held festivals and celebrations."

For many years, it was the location of school music festivals, plays, dances and musicals, including student performances of *The Sound of Music*, *Aladdin*, *The Mikado* and *Les Miserables*. It was also used for boxing, fencing and gymnastics displays in the 1950-70s.

Over time, it became evident that the facilities no longer met the needs of the Cathedral or a growing contemporary school and so began a 20-year project to transform Chapter House into a stunning performing arts centre that could retain its heritage and long association with the school. As part of the joint project with the Cathedral, the school now has a 40-year lease for the sole use of upper Chapter House from Monday to Saturday, while the Cathedral retains full use of the lower rooms of Chapter House.



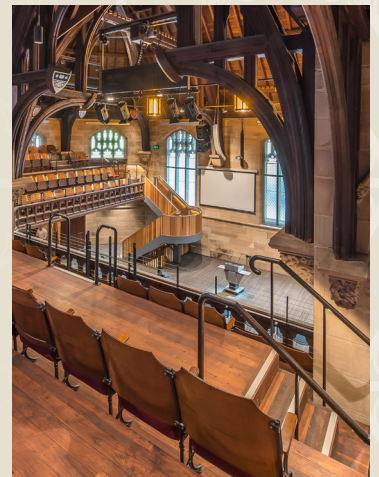


A striking glass atrium between the Cathedral and Chapter House is a highlight of the redevelopment, complete with photovoltaic glass (which filters the UV light). The atrium includes stunning specialist lighting to showcase the stained glass windows and textured sandstone.



The ornate ceiling inside is adorned by 14 hand-painted shields, including the SACS and Gawura school shields, our 8 house shields, our alumni shields and the Cathedral and Chorister shields facing each other.

The gallery's seating has been adjusted and the heritage chairs beautifully restored.



## Thank you!

In 2018, the school community's strong connection to this building resulted in a *remarkable fundraising effort by families past and present - \$500,000 was raised in just 24 hours* for the provision and installation of quality audio-visual equipment, ensuring Chapter House would once again be the home of magical music and drama performances by St Andrew's Cathedral School students.

