

Principal's Welcome

Dear parents and caregivers,

Whyalla Secondary College has now been open and operational for two full years. The second year has seen many improvements, but also ongoing challenges as we continue to shape and mould the culture and expectations of the school. I am very grateful that Deputy Principal Christina Nicholas and I had 15 months prior to the school opening to do our extensive research and have evidence for why we were doing the things that we have implemented. This research is ongoing and continues to shape and mould our direction.

Through my ongoing professional development, I have come to respect and admire Professor Viviane Robinson. I embrace her focus on educational leadership and believe her following quote demonstrates my leadership style. "The more leaders focus their relationships, their work and their learning on the core business of teaching and learning, the greater their influence on student outcomes."



Whyalla Secondary College is an ATRIUM focus school which is evident in everything we do from year 7 to 12. Instead of differentiating the places for education, we focus on providing a personalised differentiated curriculum that enhances student voice, choice and engagement, to make the most of every student's learning journey. In addition to traditional subject knowledge and skills, our curriculum has a central focus on the ATRIUM capabilities where students are actively learning, creatively thinking, relating to others, using language through symbols, ICT and being able to manage self. Competency in all five capabilities assists students in developing effective employability skills, setting them up for success as empowered community citizens.

A highlight for this year was having the opportunity to present at the annual SASSLA conference in Adelaide in August, highlighting how ATRIUM operates at the college.

The school year began with 1,121.6 (as at 6 February census) students and 132 staff and we finish the school year with 1,076 students and 129 staff.

Every single day I witness our three values of Integrity, Innovation and Inclusion in action which results in students everyday inspiring the range of possibilities available to them.

Achievements which really stand out for me are:

- Community open day
- Staggered start
- Sammy D presentations
- Kerrie Sellen PD for staff with a focus on Restorative Practice
- Encounter Youth presentations
- Mobile phone ban
- PFD in conjunction with PLHS
- Violence in Schools summit
- Young Women Lead program
- Snow tour
- House Madness day
- Sports day
- Various award/graduation ceremonies
- SAASTA shield where Whyalla won the event
- Transition days
- Year 12 graduation
- Year 12 formal

Term 1 2024 Staggered Starts

Monday 29 January
Year 7 and Spencer Gulf students onsite

Tuesday 30 January
Year 7, Spencer Gulf, Year 11 & 12
students onsite

Wednesday 31 January
All students onsite

The focus and direction for Whyalla Secondary College in 2024 is to build on our current achievements, continue to build our literacy, numeracy and attendance data and ensure we improve our overall achievement data. We look forward to welcoming 170 new Year 7's next year, which will bring our total enrolment number to 1,148.

I would like to thank the LET team, Ms Terry Sizer and Mr David O'Brien for their ongoing support to myself and the College leadership team this year. Your ongoing help and assistance, along with your belief in our vision is greatly appreciated.

Principal's Welcome

Some personal thank you's and acknowledgements that I need to make are:

- To Deputy Principal Christina Nicholas. I am so very grateful that you have returned from maternity leave. What you have already achieved this term is fantastic. Your work ethic and exceptional curriculum knowledge is a real credit to you. Your friendship and support is appreciated much more than you realise.
- Also, to acting Deputy Principal Andrew Dunn. Your fresh eyes, new ideas and work for the college while Christina was on leave was greatly appreciated.
- To our Assistant Principals Dr Alexandra Holeva, Ms Georgie Christian and Mr Pete Usher for your hard work and constant focus on our school values and vision.
- To Business Manager Ms Mandy Quinn, your job is enormous and complex. Your dedication to the college is greatly appreciated.
- To any staff member involved in the organisation and running of presentation night.
- To Tracey and the Governing Council for your ongoing support to me and Whyalla Secondary College.
- To the entire leadership team for your acceptance of high standards and total commitment to improvement.
- To Kylie Morris my EA, my right hand, my special friend and the one person who understands me the best. You have been on this journey with me from day one and I truly could not continue in this role without you. You are an exceptional EA.
- Most importantly to my husband Phil for your ongoing support, encouragement and understanding and to Tyson and Jade for your patience, love and understanding. I am very aware that this job has meant that at times my family often takes second place. It has not been easy for any of you, but know that I am forever grateful to go home each night to such a supportive and loving family.

We bid farewell to a number of staff who are leaving us at the end of the year. We thank:

Alexandra Holeva, Munsha Tatla, Belinda McEvoy, Michelle Fay, Diane Christie, David Drummond, Kristoffer Dyer, Paige Everett, Greg Genovese, Lachlan Gilbert, Felicia Harding, Punam Singh, Rhys Moyne, Stacey Scott, Chloe Wilson, Kira Zippel, Rachael Anderson, Tegan Curwood, Richard McEvoy and Cherie Monkedeck. I wish you all the best for the future and hope that have fond memories of your time at the College.

I congratulate all prize winners and wish every success to our graduating Year 12 students. The quote that I shared with the Year 12's at their graduation assembly I share with you again: *"You have to do what is right for yourself. Nobody else is walking in your shoes."*

Finally, I wish you all a restful, joyful and happy Christmas and hope that you spend this time with family and friends.

Thank you all for your support of Whyalla Secondary College in our second year of being open and we look forward to an exciting 2024.

Yours sincerely,

Tricia Richman

Important Dates 2024

Monday 22 & Tuesday 23 January – Year 10 laptop collection

Monday 29 January – Staggered start – Year 7 and Spencer Gulf students onsite

Tuesday 30 January – Staggered start – Year 7, Spencer Gulf, Year 11 & 12 students onsite

Wednesday 31 January – all students onsite

Thursday 1 & Friday 2 February – school photos

Monday 5 to Friday 9 February – VET block week

Friday 9 February – 2024 SAASTA Aboriginal Power Cup workshop

Monday 12 February to Friday 16 February – Sammy D Presentations

Tuesday 13 February – school photo catch up day



College Updates



Service Awards

On Tuesday, staff were congratulated for their commitment to improving the lives of children and young people with Service Recognition Awards. Thank you to the following staff for 10 years' service; Richard McEvoy, Cameron Rogers, Kath Tavra, Alistair Gardiner and Justin Pool and to Ronnie Clappis for your contribution of 20 years to public education and child development in South Australia!



End of Year Assemblies

Whyalla Secondary College held the Year 7/8 and 9/10 end of year celebration assemblies which acknowledged the effort and achievement of students across all curricula areas. Congratulations to all award winners. A big thank you to parents, carers and families for attending and supporting our celebrations. A highlight was the performance of our dance troop and Cameron who performed a solo on the piano. Cameron embodies our ATRIUM philosophy as he only started playing the piano this year. What an accomplishment!



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WHERE: Jubilee Park Showgrounds
WHEN: Tuesdays & Thursdays
WHO: Kids (5-12): 6am - 8pm,
Teens & Adults: 7am - 8:30pm

WHYALLA JUDO CLUB

Facebook, Instagram, QR code, Email: WhyallaJudoClub@gmail.com

Check your inbox!

Year 12 families check your inbox! 😊 as links have been sent for this year's formal and graduation photos 📸

Also, if your child received an award at presentation night, a link has been sent to access the photo gallery 😊

The Whyalla SAASTA group recently completed their final event for the year, the SAASTA shield and award ceremony. The SAASTA shield is the major event for second semester and encompassed both the hard work of the students at school and their commitment on camp. Our group was exceptional all semester and whilst on camp. All the hard work paid off, with the Whyalla Academy winning the overall SAASTA shield. This is the first time that Whyalla has ever won the SAASTA shield, and this is a major achievement for all of our students and staff. Along with our academy success we had some individual excellence too, with students winning 2 of the most prestigious individual awards. Brittany won the Empowering Futures Award. This award is given to a student who has been involved in SAASTA for over 2 years, upholds the values and KPIs of the program, shows leadership and has a clear direction with their pathway. Jazmyn won the SAASTA Student of the Year. This award is given to the student who best upholds the SAASTA values and KPIs, is seen as a leader in their school and wider community, has been involved in SAASTA for more than 2 years, has a clear direction within their career pathway, is a proud Aboriginal person who gives back to their community, and is seen by both their school staff and SAASTA staff as a role model for future generations. Overall it was a very successful year for our academy!

College Updates

Year 12 Parent/Caregiver Information for 2024

As your child embarks on their final year of schooling in 2024, we would like to share some key information that is only relevant to year 12 students and families. As a year 12 student, your child is given a greater level of independence and flexibility. They are young adults, so that is how staff will treat them. Things that are only relevant to year 12's are;

Year 12 Common Room

A room only to be used by year 12 students. It is located right next door to the school Mint Café. Year 12's can use this room at break times and during independent study if they choose to remain at school.

Independent Study

When a year 12 has independent study on their timetable, they can sign out and go home to study. However, if parents would prefer that they stay at school for their study lines, they can access either the library or the year 12 common room. Students must ensure that they are marked on the attendance roll with library staff during this time, so that our attendance records are accurate.

Year 12 Hoodies

Senior hoodies are expected to arrive in term 1, 2024.

Year 12 Formal

Please note that the date for formal in 2024 has changed. Next year the year 12 formal will be at the end of term 2 rather than the end of term 4. Any year 12 student in their final year of schooling will be eligible to attend, unless they are on a current suspension or exclusion from school. Make sure you note Friday 28 June in your 2024 calendars now.

Some key tips to managing being a year 12

- Ensure students sleep a minimum of 8 hours per night.
- Maintain a healthy diet.
- Ensure they engage in some form of physical activity. For example walk, swim, dance, play a team sport.
- Allow students to have a part time job if they can manage the workload.
- Encourage them to set up a regular and consistent study plan to ensure all deadlines are met.
- Have open communication so you are aware when assignments are due and key examinations take place.
- Avoid family holidays and days off of school during their final year.

I always use quotes to deliver a message to staff and students. A quote that I often use with my children and year 12's is;
"If you spend all your time being normal, you will never know how amazing you are."

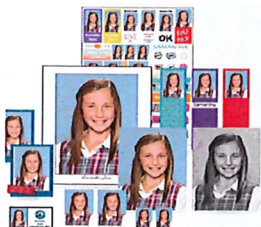
I encourage you to put this quote on the fridge or on your child's bedroom door, so that they can continually refer to it during the year.

Tricia Richman, Principal

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* Whyalla Secondary College wishes you a very Merry Christmas and a safe holidays! We look forward to seeing you all next year. *

Dental Assistant Traineeships

SA Dental is offering up to 30 Dental Assisting Traineeship positions at clinics across the State. The 12-month Traineeship contract includes on the job training and attendance at TAFE where you will gain a Certificate 3 in Dental Assisting while earning \$21,388 - \$39,646 a year.

If you are 17 – 24 years of age (or up to 30 years if Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander) and have finished year 11, you may qualify for a Traineeship.

Applications open 12/01/2024 – 04/02/2024 for the June 2024 intake.

For more information on the Dental Assistant Traineeship please visit: www.dental.sa.gov.au/about/careers

SA
Dental

**DENTAL
ASSISTANT
TRAINEESHIP**

SA Dental is offering up to 30 Dental Assistant Traineeship positions at dental clinics across South Australia.



**Whyalla
Secondary**

Week 9, Term 4, 2023