

Principal's Welcome



Tricia Richman

Dear parents and caregivers,

Welcome to the final newsletter for the year. On Tuesday 3 December our annual Presentation Night was held at the Middleback Arts Centre. I would like to share with you my 2024 Principal's Report from that night.

To our invited guests, students, staff and families of Whyalla Secondary College,

I join our Governing Council and our student compares Stephen, Shalini, Cooper and Amaya in welcoming you here this evening.

Tonight the focus is to celebrate with a special group of students who will be recognised for their achievement and for others a significant personal effort or contribution to the Whyalla Secondary College community.

This is always a very special and emotional night for me as the Principal of Whyalla Secondary College, as it is a time to reflect and celebrate the hard work and significant achievements made throughout the school year.

Whyalla Secondary College has now been open and operational for three full years. As each year progresses we see greater improvements and achievements, as a result of the culture and expectations that have been established. I will be forever grateful that Christina 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. Our research is ongoing and continues to shape and mould our direction.

As I have mentioned on numerous occasions, 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." I now see this in action, with the staff at the college.

With each year of operation ATRiUM becomes more evident with everything we do Year 7 to 12. This means providing a personalised differentiated curriculum that enhances student voice, choice and engagement, to make the most of every student's journey. By having a focus on the five ATRiUM capabilities, we can ensure that students are developing effective employability skills, which will set them up for success as empowered community citizens.

A highlight for the year has been seeing Flexible Learning grow and evolve, which uses ATRiUM as the key focus to hands on learning programs. This year we have 190 students identified as a part of the Flexible Learning program.

I am very proud to 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:

- Finally having the official opening of the college
- Connected Self PD for all staff
- The café in operation each Friday
- House Madness days
- The SAASTA Academy's high level results
- The introduction of a Headstart week
- Staggered start
- Encounter Youth presentations
- Flexible Learning in operation
- Sports day
- Year 12 graduation
- Sammy D presentations
- Success in our IPP programs
- The Horticulture/Aquaculture program evolving
- Various award/graduation ceremonies
- Year 12 formal

The focus and direction for Whyalla Secondary College in 2025 is to continue to build on our current achievements, as well as build our literacy, numeracy and attendance data. That will ensure improvement in our overall achievement data. We look forward to welcoming 116 new Year 7's next year, which will bring our total enrolment number to 1,029 in 2025, with 122 staff.

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. I am so pleased to have Terry Sizer here tonight, so that she can witness the College achievements for the year. Terry has been my mentor since 2016. She has guided and supported me through many challenges. I am so grateful for her ongoing help and support and aspire to be as influential in education as she has been.

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

- To Deputy Principal Christina Nicholas. Each year you have achieved more than I would have thought possible, due to your work ethic and exceptional curriculum knowledge. Your work this year in particular around the pilots and proposals for the College have been outstanding and something you should be very proud of. Your friendship and ongoing support is appreciated more than you realise.
- To our Assistant Principals Ms Rebecca Ramm, Ms Georgie Christian and Mr Pete Usher for your hard work, commitment and focus on achievement and outcomes.
- To Business Manager Ms Mandy Quinn, each year your job has become more complex and demanding. Your management of facilities is outstanding and your dedication to the college is evident.
- To any staff member involved in the organisation and running of tonight.
- 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 and outcomes.
- To Kylie Morris the best EA anyone could ever ask for, but also 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 do my job without you. I am also so glad that the department have recently acknowledged your skills and abilities as well.
- To my Mum Maxine Byles. You have always been my greatest role model and never doubted that I could be where I am today. Thank you for making the effort to be here tonight.
- Most importantly to my husband Phil for your unconditional 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 far too often my family 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 Pete Usher, Jake Miell, James Fox, Dr Sarah Hemming, Lauren Hegarty, Chris Hale, Aidan Kannieappan, Pierre Visser, Emma Ainsworth, Shannon Upton, Olivia Harling, Kylee Seabrook, Penny Callaghan, Veronica Harvey, Layla Colyer, Kylie Clothier and Tricia Potter.

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 tonight 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 tonight: "Your education is a dress rehearsal for a life that is yours to lead."

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 third year of being open and we look forward to an exciting and rewarding 2025.

College Updates & Important Dates

Whyalla Secondary College 2025 Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30-9:00					
9:00-9:30	Care Group	Care Group	Care Group	Care Group	Care Group
9:30-10:20	1	3	4	7	2
10:20-11:10	2	7	4	7	1
11:10-11:40	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
11:40-12:30	3	5	6	3	5
12:30-1:20	4	5	6	3	6
1:20-1:40	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:40-1:50					
1:50-2:30	7	6	1	2	4
2:30-2:40					
2:40-3:30	5	Meetings	1	2	
3:30	After School		After School	After School	After School

Presentation Night 2024 🏆🏆🏆



Presentation Night recognised students across all year levels for their academic achievement, and for others a significant personal effort or contribution to the Whyalla Secondary College community. The night was a real highlight for the college and a great way to celebrate the year that was 2024.



Pop Up Shop

Whyalla Netball Clubrooms
(Ryan Avenue)

Thursday 9 January - 10am to 6pm

Friday 10 January - 10am to 6pm

Saturday 11 January - 9am to 12pm



Senior Hoodie Orders

Whyalla Netball Clubrooms (Ryan Ave)

Thursday 9 January - 10am to 6pm

Friday 10 January - 10am to 6pm

Saturday 11 January - 9am to 12pm

Senior school families are encouraged to attend and place their order.



A sizing kit will be available

2025 Pupil Free Days

Term 1 - Friday 7 March

Term 2 - Tuesday 10 June

Term 3 - Monday 8 September

Term 4 - Friday 28 November

Whole school closure day - Friday 5 September

2025 STAGGERED STARTS

Monday 27 January
Public Holiday - Australia Day

Tuesday 28 January
Spencer Gulf, Year 7, Year 12

Wednesday 29 January
Spencer Gulf, Year 7, Year 11, Year 12

Thursday 30 January
All students

Friday 31 January
All students

The college will close at 2pm on Friday 20 December 2024 and reopen at 8.30am on Monday 6 January 2025



WE'RE OPEN

8.30AM - 4.30PM

weekdays from
Monday 6 January 2025

117 Nicolson Avenue
Phone: 8668 9600



Whyalla
Secondary
College

Week 9, Term 4, 2024

Presentation Night Award Winners

The Arts

Year 7: Ruby Stringer
Year 8: Jayla Woodland
Year 9: Madison Warren
Year 10: Aleisha Kogos
Stage 1 Art: Sophie Papadontas
Stage 2 Art: Caitlin Liebelt

Body and Mind Awards

Year 7: Nyah Schmitt
Year 8: Amy Priestley
Year 9: Allison Bendicho
Year 10: Kyan Cockroft
Stage 1 Health & Wellbeing: Aimee Scharber
Stage 1 Health Science & Physical Education: Amaya Middleton
Stage 1 Recreational Physical Education: Kaitlyn Hallam
Stage 2 Child Studies: Caitlin Liebelt
Stage 2 Health & Wellbeing: Lilly Reid
Stage 2 Health Science & Outdoor Education: Ashlyn Evans
Stage 2 Physical Education Krrish Rajkumar
Stage 2 Recreational Physical Education: Tyler Bodinner

Aboriginal Education Awards

Stage 1 SAASTA - Aboriginal Studies: Georgia Cartwright
Stage 1 Aboriginal Studies: Jordan Gray

Career Development Awards

Stage 1 Exploring Identities and Futures: Jasmine Schofield
Stage 1 Entrepreneurial Learning: Oscar Walkom
Stage 1 Cross-Disciplinary Studies/Mentoring Rhiana Lynne Lacsamana
Stage 2 Research Project: Hertu Ravichandran
Stage 2 Community Connections Hayden Morris
Stage 2 Integrated Learning Annabelle Davidson
Stage 2 Cross Disciplinary Studies Charli Ledington

Future Technology Awards

Year 7: Emma Dawson
Year 8: Shae Jackson
Year 9: Cooper Zimmermann
Year 10: Kirsten Floria
Stage 1: Advancing Technology Cameron Mullet
Stage 1: Digital Publishing Taylor Stainer
Stage 1: Food and Hospitality Matthew Lapham
Stage 2: Advancing Technology Aidan Prunty
Stage 2: Digital Publishing Tyson Edwards
Stage 2: Photography Caitlin Liebelt

Global Perspective Awards

Year 7: Liam Laurie
Year 8: Marcia Murray
Year 9: Layla Hannaford
Year 10: Aleisha Kogos
Stage 1 English: Amaya Middleton
Stage 1 Essential English: Matthew Lapham
Stage 1 HASS: Sophie Papadontas
Stage 2 English: Shalini Sarkar
Stage 2 Essential English: Charli Ledington
Stage 2 HASS: Trinity Appleton

2024 Highest Year 12 GPA

Shalini Sarkar

Universal Reasoning Awards

Year 7: Rohan Kirkwood
Year 8: Sophie-Lee Briffa
Year 9: Cooper Zimmermann
Year 10: Aleisha Kogos
Stage 1 Biology: Hertu Ravichandran
Stage 1 Chemistry & Physics: Zaveir Zaim
Stage 1 Psychology: Yanni Axiomakarou
Stage 1 Essential Mathematics: Jordan Gray
Stage 1 General Mathematics: Sophie Papadontas
Stage 1 Mathematical Methods: Harrison Lindholm
Stage 1 Specialist Mathematics: Zaveir Zaim
Stage 2 Biology: Mazen Ali

Stage 2 Chemistry: Shalini Sarkar
Stage 2 Psychology: Trinity Appleton
Stage 2 Essential Mathematics: Essense Paraki
Stage 2 General Mathematics: Hayden Morris
Stage 2 Mathematical Methods: Stephen Smyth
Stage 2 Specialist Mathematics: Shalini Sarkar

WSC Sports Person of the Year

Hertu Ravichandran

GFG Alliance Excellence in Mathematics and Science Award

Female: Shalini Sarkar
Male: Stephen Smyth

Governing Council Student of the Year Awards

Year 7: Ruby Stringer
Year 8: Tayla Anning
Year 9: Cooper Zimmermann
Year 10: Aleisha Kogos
Year 11: Amaya Middleton

Novita Spencer Gulf Award

Luke Whalley

INATT & Whyalla Suicide Prevention Flex Award

Jaidyn Wiseman

Shooting Stars Student of the Year

Jordan Gray

Eddie Hughes MP Excellence in Leadership, Teamwork and Initiative

Year 7/8 Community: Emma Dawson
Year 9/10 Community: Joshua Clapp
Year 11/12 Community: Tyson Edwards

Ampol Best All Rounder

Year 10: Peter Eades
Year 12: Ashlyn Evans

University of SA Pathway to Success Award

Year 7-11 Amaya Middleton
Year 12 – Trinity Vlachoulis

TAFE SA Whyalla- Vocational Education & Training Award

Jordan Gray

Michelle Richardson – Blights Real Estate Industry Pathways Program Award

Matthew Lapham

Career Employment Group & Eyre Trading Australian School Based Apprentice of the Year

Brock Zimmermann

Government of South Australia Muriel Matters Award

Elysia Parker

Australian Defence Force Long Tan Leadership & Teamwork Awards

Year 10: Kyan Cockroft
Year 12: Stephen Smyth

Australian Defence Force Future Innovators Awards

Year 10: Khayden Barber
Year 12: Jennifer Foulkes

Caleb Scott Memorial Award

Timothy McIntosh

Christine Rehn Memorial Award

Jack Stringer

Rotary Services to Community Award

Year 7-9 Makaelah White
Year 10-12 Elysia Parker

Rowan Ramsey MP School Community Award

Tim Curwood

Minister for Education Volunteer Award

Jared Mullet

Whyalla City Council Principal Award

Justin Pool

Week 9, Term 4, 2024