

Principal's Welcome



Tricia Richman

Dear parents and caregivers,

Welcome to the final week of the school year. It has been another busy and productive term, with the last couple of weeks in particular proving to be both eventful and highly rewarding for our staff and students.

Our annual Presentation Night was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our students in 2025. A sincere thank you to Year 7/8 Assistant Principal Anthony Wilkinson and his team for their exceptional organisation of this major school event. The school band gave heartfelt performances that filled us all with pride and emotion, many of us were truly moved by their talent.

The week concluded with our year level assemblies, which proved to be especially meaningful and personal for each cohort. Congratulations to the Year Level Leaders and Assistant Principals for their excellent work in coordinating these events. Once again, the school band impressed us all with their passion, energy and enthusiasm during their performances at each assembly.

This week staff and students experienced Head Start week. This is a valuable opportunity to see what 2026 will bring. Students have become familiar with their new classes, teachers and locker locations, helping to ease any nerves or anxiety over the holiday break. Meanwhile, staff have had the opportunity to meet and work with their new classes, assisting with planning and preparation during the break. We also welcomed students transition from year 6 into year 7 which was lovely to see.

The end of the school year sees us farewell the following staff; Year 11/12 Assistant Principal Rebecca Ramm, Year 11 Leader Chris Cordingley, Year 9 Leader Samantha Ramm, teaching staff Lachlan Combes, Isabel Dawson, Morgan Dwyer, Harry Dunn, Nicole Grant, Lauren Smith and Sweta Gupta and curriculum SSO's Corey King and Jordan Matthews.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to each of you for your dedication throughout your time at the college, and extend our best wishes for success in all of your future endeavours.

In addition to Presentation Night, Year Level Assemblies and Headstart week, events at the college this term include;

- Year 8 Celebration Day
- Year 10 Civics & Citizenship excursion
- Clontarf Awards Ceremony
- Year 12 Spirit Week
- Market Day
- Year 11 and 12 exams
- House Madness
- Governor's Visit
- Shooting Stars Awards Ceremony
- World Teacher's Day
- ACEE Garden Grand Opening
- Year 11 and 12 Farewell Assemblies

We also had the honour of welcoming Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, to Whyalla Secondary College this term. Her Excellency visited high schools across the state to engage with young people — listening to their ambitions, concerns, and aspirations for the future. We thank the Governor for taking the time to visit our school and speak with our students. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to share their voices and be inspired to continue striving toward their goals.

On Wednesday the new social media age restrictions were put in place. Children under 16 can no longer create or keep accounts on many platforms. These changes aim to protect children and young people from features that encourage too much screen time and from content that can impact their wellbeing. The Carly Ryan Foundation Inc. has created a Social Media Transition Guide to help families and schools support children as they adjust. It's free and full of practical tips for keeping young people safe online. To further support families, the Wait Mate program, which helps parents delay giving children smartphones, will be offered to parents in South Australian schools in 2026-27. It includes presentations, take-home packs, and local parent support groups to reduce peer pressure.

Learn more about the social media age restrictions: <https://brnw.ch/21wYdC8>

Access the Social Media Transition Guide: <https://brnw.ch/21wYdNJ>

Learn more about Wait Mate: <https://brnw.ch/21wYdHL>

Please note that the school will close on Friday 19 December at 4pm and will reopen on Monday 12 January at 8.00am.

Monday will be a very big day for both the college and our year 12 cohort as we eagerly await student's SACE results. This information will be published on social media and in the Whyalla News next week. As I shared at the Year 12 graduation assembly and presentation night, my quote for this newsletter is: **"You define your own life. Don't let other people write your script"**.

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to welcoming everyone back with our staggered start from Tuesday, 27 January 2026. Please see the next page for further details.

Important Information

2026 School Photos

We are pleased to announce that the 2026 school photos will take place on **Thursday 19** and **Friday 20 February**, with a catch-up day on Thursday 5 March.

As a reminder, media consent determines whether your student can have their school photo taken in line with the Department for Education's Media Consent Policy.

Students who have not returned a consent form or who have selected "No Consent" are unable to be photographed, including for their annual school photo.

Below is a quick guide to what each consent level means:

- ✔ Full Consent – Internal, external & promotional use
 - Yearbooks, newsletters, secure platforms
 - Public websites, social media, advertising, and more
- ✔ Partial Consent – Internal & external use
 - Yearbooks, newsletters, secure platforms
 - Public websites, social media, print publications, recognised media
- ✘ Not permitted for promotional materials
- ✔ Limited Consent – Internal use only
 - Yearbooks, newsletters, secure platforms only
- ✘ No Consent – No use at all



If you do not wish to provide limited consent but your student requires an ID card, we can provide an ID Card Consent Form upon request to allow an ID-only photograph.

Please note: Media consent only needs to be submitted once and stays in place for your student's schooling unless an updated Department form is released.

If you haven't yet submitted or need to update your consent form, please contact the school as soon as possible.

Let's ensure every student who wants a photo taken is able to do so!

2026 STAGGERED STARTS

Monday 26 January
Public Holiday - Australia Day

Tuesday 27 January
Spencer Gulf, Year 7, Year 12

Wednesday 28 January
Spencer Gulf, Year 7, Year 11, Year 12

Thursday 29 January
All students

Friday 30 January
All students



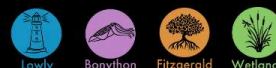
Pop Up Shop

Whyalla Netball Clubrooms
(Ryan Avenue)

Thursday 8 January - 10am to 6pm

Friday 9 January - 10am to 6pm

Saturday 10 January - 9am to 12pm



**SPORTS DAY
2026**

TERM 1: WEEK 7 - THURSDAY MARCH 12TH & FRIDAY MARCH 13TH



CLOSED

**FRIDAY 4.00PM
19 DECEMBER 2025**

RE-OPEN

**MONDAY 8.00AM
12 JANUARY 2026**

College Updates

Leadership Appointment

Whyalla Secondary College is delighted to announce the reappointment of Tricia Richman as Principal of Whyalla Secondary College for the next 10 years. Tricia's leadership, vision and unwavering commitment have been instrumental in guiding the college from its very inception as a bold idea to a world-class educational facility. Her dedication to creating a supportive and innovative learning environment has ensured positive outcomes for all students and a strong sense of community pride.

As the founding Principal, Tricia's passion for education and her deep local connections underpins the outstanding achievements of Whyalla Secondary College. Under her leadership, the college has embraced the ATRIUM focus, fostered student engagement and agency and celebrated remarkable successes across academic, vocational and community programs. We look forward to Tricia's continued leadership, confident in her determination to inspire the next generation and to nurture a culture of integrity, innovation and inclusion. Congratulations Tricia on this well-deserved recognition and ongoing role as Principal.

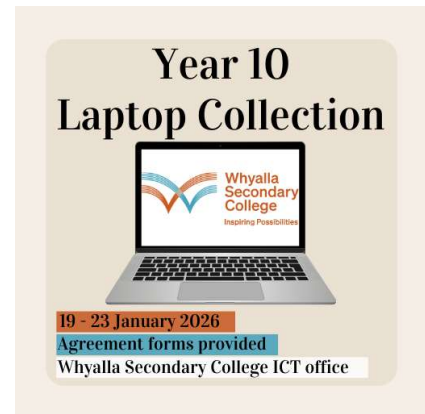


Year 10 Laptop Collection

Year 10 laptop collection will be available from Monday 19 to Friday 23 January 2026.

Please ensure you bring your completed IT Device Lease and Commitment to Pay/Laptop Agreement forms with you on the day. Parents/caregivers responsible for payments must accompany students to collect their laptop. Please note that friends or relatives are not permitted to collect devices on their behalf.

For further information, including all required documents and instructions for collection, please refer to the email sent out on 10 December 2025.



End of Year Assembly Highlights

In Week 8, our remaining year levels came together to celebrate the end of the school year with a final assembly. It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on achievements, acknowledge growth, and celebrate the spirit of our school community.

During the assembly, the Governing Council *Best All Rounder Award* was presented to one outstanding student from each year level. Congratulations to this year's recipients:

Year 7: Angus

Year 8: Flynn

Year 9: Tayla

Year 10: Taleea

We are incredibly proud of each student's dedication, effort, and positive contribution throughout the year.



Presentation Night 2025

On Monday 1 December, Whyalla Secondary College celebrated another incredible year at our annual Presentation Night! It was a fantastic evening recognising our students, staff and community members for their academic success, community involvement, sporting achievements and special memorial awards.

This year we proudly presented 72 academic awards, 35 sponsored awards and 2 memorial awards. Principal Tricia Richman congratulated everyone on their hard work throughout 2025, and Deputy Principal Christina Nicholas shared a snapshot of the amazing learning happening across our 70 subject areas.

Our talented college band impressed the crowd with a French piece, Agitations Tropicales, and a beautiful Māori/English remix of Don't Dream It's Over—a real celebration of our diverse and inclusive school community. After the formalities, guests enjoyed supper, explored the stunning student artwork on display, and snapped photos with our proud award recipients.

A special highlight of the night was announcing our 2026 School Leaders: Peter and Taley! We can't wait to see the positive impact they'll make next year.

