

# Principal's Welcome

Dear Whyalla Secondary College community,

As we approach the end of term 1, I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to all staff, students and their families for the positive approach and commitment to making the start of 2026 a successful year so far.

Our start to the year was made smoother by the staggered return for students, allowing staff and our school leaders to warmly welcome our new year 7 cohort. Many of which I met when we held our Year 7 Meet and Greet earlier in the term.

A real highlight for me this term has been seeing the attendance from both staff and students at the launch of the "last first day" year 12 breakfast. This was a great initiative and I look forward to seeing what our year 12 cohort achieve in their final year at the college.

Thank you to all staff involved in supporting both new and returning students and for the ongoing work with subject changes, timetables and welcoming new staff in the face of continuing HR challenges. Your adaptability and teamwork have ensured continuity of learning, despite vacancies and relief requirements. Special thanks to the timetable and admin teams for their efforts behind the scenes.



*Tricia Richman*

Our focus this term has continued to be on building strong, supportive relationships with our students, particularly our year 7s, and fostering a positive, inclusive school environment. It is encouraging to see so much team teaching and the level of engagement across all year levels.

We have celebrated many highlights this term, including:

- The success of VET block weeks with strong engagement from our senior students.
- The reopening of our student-run café, which continues to thrive. I love seeing the students so passionate and enthusiastic about their potential pathway.
- Excellent outcomes from our Governing Council AGM, Finance Meeting and Finance Audit. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents who volunteer their time to the college for the benefit of students.
- Sporting successes at carnivals and community involvement from both staff and students. This includes our recent WASSAC carnival in Port Lincoln where Year 12 student and male captain, Peter achieved an outstanding result, winning the Open Boys Champion, which is a significant accomplishment.
- Support from our Clontarf, Shooting Stars and Centacare teams, who have been invaluable during periods of high-level student need.

We welcomed several new teaching staff members this year including Emily Pridham, Dominique Wedding, Prabhleen Kaur and Anjaleen Devi.

Tailored Learning Leader Jenna Macdonald, husband Rory and big brother Lachie have welcomed Sonny into their family. Flexible Learning Leader Ema Botei will assist in this space during Jenna's absence, along with Sally Mulyk. We have also welcomed back Anna Hildebrandt who has returned from maternity leave.

Staff who have recently commenced maternity leave include Katie Lee, Priya Choudhary and Sadhana Chilakapati.

I am pleased to announce that Sabrina Stallon-Gibbs has won the Numeracy Leadership position for the remainder of the year. This achievement is a well-deserved recognition of her dedication, expertise and passion for supporting numeracy development.

In SSO HR news the college has welcomed Brooke Hutchesson, Nandana Siju, Christa Gerlach, Daniel Kumar, Jani Dreyer and Chrissie Young to the college.

This week we farewell curriculum SSO's Jenny Dare and Pristine Cook.

The first day of term, Monday 27 April is a Pupil Free Day. The day will be hosted by the English and Literacy team, from the Department for Education Curriculum Directorate. So let's rest, recharge and return ready for a productive and engaging term from Tuesday 28 April.

Wishing you and your families a safe and restful holiday break.

My quote for this newsletter is: "Every step you take is building something meaningful, even if you can't see it yet."

# Term 2 Events Calendar

## Term 2 2026

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	27 April	28 April	29 April	30 April	1 May
	Pupil Free Day				
2	4 May	5 May	6 May	7 May	8 May
	VET block week	VET block week	VET block week NAP- Science and Literacy (NAP-SL) Main Study 6 - 26 May	VET block week	VET block week Do It For Dolly Day
3	11 May	12 May	13 May	14 May	15 May
DreamBIG Children's Festival 12- 22/5 IDAHOBIT 17/5	National Careers Week	National Careers Week VET/IPP/SACE Information Night (Theatre) 5pm Year 10 science literacy NAP test	National Careers Week	National Careers Week	National Careers Week National Walk Safely to School Day
4	18 May	19 May	20 May	21 May	22 May
National Volunteer Week 18-24/5		Year 8 Camp SAASTA SANTOS Power Cup	Year 8 Camp SAASTA SANTOS Power Cup	Year 8 Camp SAASTA SANTOS Power Cup	Year 8 Camp SAASTA SANTOS Power Cup (returning 24 May)
5	25 May	26 May	27 May	28 May	29 May
National Reconciliation Week 27/5 - 3/6	VET block week	VET block week National Sorry Day	VET block week Clontarf Year 8/9 Camp	VET block week Clontarf Year 8/9 Camp	VET block week Clontarf Year 8/9 Camp
6	1 June	2 June	3 June	4 June	5 June
			Mabo Day Clontarf Year 7 Camp (Pt Lincoln)	Try A Trade SACE Performing Arts Antigone Performance Theatre 5pm Clontarf Year 7 Camp (Pt Lincoln)	Pupil Free Day World Environment Day Clontarf Year 7 Camp (Pt Lincoln)
7	8 June	9 June	10 June	11 June	12 June
	King's Birthday				
8	15 June	16 June	17 June	18 June	19 June
Refugee Week 15-21/6			IPP Interviews	IPP Interviews	IPP Interviews
9	22 June	23 June	24 June	25 June	26 June
	VET Block Week Mainstream Health Science camp (Semester 1&2, Stage 1&2)	VET Block Week Mainstream Health Science camp (Semester 1&2, Stage 1&2)	VET Block Week Mainstream Health Science camp (Semester 1&2, Stage 1&2) Clontarf Year 10/11 Camp	VET Block Week Mainstream Health Science camp (Semester 1&2, Stage 1&2) Clontarf Year 10/11 Camp	VET Block Week Mainstream Health Science camp (Semester 1&2, Stage 1&2) Clontarf Year 10/11 Camp
10	29 June	30 June	1 July	2 July	3 July
NAIDOC Week 5-12/7	AHEAD Health Science camp (all students in Health Science)	AHEAD Health Science camp (all students in Health Science)	AHEAD Health Science camp (all students in Health Science)	AHEAD Health Science camp (all students in Health Science)	AHEAD Health Science camp (all students in Health Science) 1.30pm return

Event dates are subject to change

# Important Information

## Pupil Free & School Closure Dates

2026 APRIL							2026 JUNE							2026 SEPTEMBER							2026 NOVEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	27	28	29	30	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30						29	30													

- ☑ Term 2 - Monday 27 April
- ☑ Term 2 - Friday 5 June
- ☑ Term 3 - Thursday 10 September
- ☑ Term 3 - Friday 11 September (school closure)
- ☑ Term 4 - Wednesday 25 November



New school uniform items available via Devon Clothing; Beanie \$16 and Puffer Jackets \$88

<https://devonclothing.com.au>



### STUDENT ID CARDS

AVAILABLE FROM MAIN STUDENT SERVICES

\$6.50 each



Please pay with cash or card, no phone payments  
Only available to collect in break times or before and after school.

- Tracey Watson – Chairperson  
 Nicola Casey – Deputy Chairperson  
 Ali Zimmermann - Fundraising  
 Philippa Cockroft - Parent Rep  
 Keren Burke - Parent Rep  
 Tanya Sharp - Parent Rep  
 Louise Smith - Parent Rep  
 Charmaine Papadontas - Fundraising  
 Maureen Dempsey - Parent Rep  
 Kylie Clayton – Community Rep  
 Tricia Richman - Principal  
 Robert Schofield – Staff AEU Rep  
 Kiersten Humphrey – Staff Rep  
 Taley Bishop - Student Rep  
 Peter Eades - Student Rep



## Governing Council Committee Members

**WE'RE OPEN**

**8.00AM - 4.30PM**

Monday to Friday

117 Nicolson Avenue  
Phone: 8668 9600

# Term 1 College Events



## WASSAC Carnival

The WASSAC event in Port Lincoln recently was a fantastic showcase of athletic talent and team spirit. Our male captain, Peter, achieved an outstanding result, winning the Open Boys Champion, which is a significant accomplishment. Our female captain, Mia, produced an incredible effort to win both the 1500m and 800m races by nearly 100 metres. The Open Boys relay team also delivered a dominant performance, winning by a comfortable margin. It was a superb day overall, with many athletes securing 1st and 2nd place finishes and representing the school with pride.



## Youth Leadership Camp

Our senior school student leaders headed to Adelaide recently for a fantastic camp experience, where they took part in team-building activities and sharpened their critical thinking skills. The highlight was joining the Youth Leadership Academy Australia conference, where they connected with students from other schools. Students also heard inspiring talks from guest speakers, including the CEO of Project Rokit and the CEO of Adelaide Fringe. It was a memorable trip full of learning and leadership!

## Commissioner Heneker

The college recently hosted Dr Kylie Heneker, Commissioner for Children and Young People. Dr Heneker met with our Year 7 and 8 students to discuss the recent social media ban, giving them an opportunity to share their thoughts on how the change is affecting their friendships and wellbeing. Our school leaders, Taleya and Peter, guided Dr Heneker on a tour of the school. We thank Dr Heneker for her visit and for recognising the importance of student voice on such a significant issue.

