



# Samaritan College

## New Parents to Saint John's Information

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# Uniform

- Uniform Shop – has everything (bag, hat, socks etc) but not shoes
- Located on Toal St (old Vinnies building) –college website has map
- Cost can be put onto fee account – no need to pay at the time
- Secondary students need a Winter or Summer uniform + PE uniform
- Girls can wear grey shorts and pants (unisex) – however, at this stage the short sleeve shirt is a boy fit – we are looking for new options for our girls
- Hats worn in Terms 1,3,4
- Shoes: Black leather (or similar), lace up shoes for wear with normal uniform (K-Mart, Harris Scarfe, Spendless etc). Sneakers for PE uniform.

# Uniform

- Student can choose to wear summer or winter anytime of the year. Suggestion is to only buy Summer uniform now and see if they want to wear Winter in Term 2- most students remain in Summer all year.
- For new students, the Uniform Shop know what House you have been allocated. For existing students i.e. from our Primary campuses, you stay in the same House. Your Primary uniform now becomes your PE uniform.
- Full details inc information about jewellery, hair etc is here:  
<https://www.samaritan.catholic.edu.au/enrolment/uniform>

Check website and Facebook for special opening hours. At the moment:

*Wednesday, December 4 and Thursday December 5 (Hours 8:00am to 4:30pm).*

*Monday, January 20 to Friday, January 24, 2025 (Hours 8:30am to 4:30pm).*

## Girls & Boys Summer



Note there is no tie when wearing summer uniform.

## Winter



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Primary Uniform above – which also becomes the Secondary PE uniform. The PE uniform is only worn on the days your child has a practical/double PE (or similar subject) lesson. They will find out what days these are when they get their 2025 timetables on first day of school.

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## Year 7

- Camp (inc in fees) –Aquatics
- Check College Calendar (on website) for dates. 2025 camp is planned for early Term 2.



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## Year 8

- Camp (part inc in fees) – normally an adventure style camp (planned for late July 2025)
- Immunisations from Whyalla Council



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**Calculators** – these are important. **You would be surprised how many students don't bring such an important tool to school!**

- All info here:

<https://www.samaritan.catholic.edu.au/secondary/byod-and-stationery>

- Year 7/8 students, in particular, only need a 'scientific' calculator. Students studying higher level Mathematics in Year 11/12 will need a 'graphics' calculator.
- Year 11/12 students should be purchasing the calculator listed on the website.



## House Groups

- Students are allocated a House (Rice, MacKillop, Benedict)
- Rice wears Green, MacKillop Blue and Benedict Yellow (colour is on their PE tops)
- Year 7-9s and Year 10-12s attend morning sessions in Housegroups (aka caregroup) i.e. all Year 7-9s in Rice House are put into 2-3 Housegroups.
- Creates a stronger house spirit (as opposed to Year Level plus House teams)
- Develop with same staff over their time at Saint John's – staff are also in 'Houses'
- Student leadership development
- Smoother transition between year levels – students remain under the leadership of the same House Leader from year to year.
- Greater cross age peer relationships

## House Groups

- Subject lessons are in grade only i.e. Year 8s do Maths with other Year 8s from all Houses (some electives may be across grades i.e. Year 9/10 Art)
- Some activities are done in Year Levels and not in Houses i.e. Year 12 Retreat, Murray Venture for Year 10s. Sports Day is a House event.
- Age specific sessions in Pastoral Care still maintained i.e. Safe Partying, Police talks etc will be just for older students
- Some age specific areas in yard are allocated to certain Year Levels i.e. Year 12s but there are many general areas for all ages to mix together i.e. oval, grandstand, courts, Xavier grass, library etc

## Well Being

Lots of ways Samaritan supports the well being of the students.  
For example:

- Housegroup Teachers
- House Leaders, Directors of Students
- Head of Campus
- Formalised Pastoral Support Program – a lesson allocated each week to this
- Termly online PULSE checks on well-being
- Counsellors
- Learning Support
- Policies & Procedures on website

## BYOD – laptop **THIS IS IMPORTANT**

- Year 7 -12

### **Minimum requirements:**

- Excellent battery life – this means it needs to be a new laptop or almost new – be wary of second hand laptops or reconditioned laptops unless there is a brand new battery in it.
- Can connect to wifi
- Screen size capable of performing research / creating documents.  
*Tablets/Ipads are not recommended.*
- Active and up to date anti-virus
- Comes to school each day fully charged

## BYOD – i.e. laptop **THIS IS IMPORTANT**

- A protective case or sleeve for your device is encouraged. K Mart sell these.
- Office 365 is provided free – students shown how to access this and can be installed on other family computers at home (up to 5 devices)  
(Office 365 is Microsoft Word, Excel, Teams, Powerpoint etc)
- **Headphones** (why not use a low price corded set rather than expensive Bluetooth ones?)
- Portal on website for those needing help to purchase or buy yourself from a computer supplier
- <https://www.samaritan.catholic.edu.au/secondary/byod-and-stationery>

## Booklist

- You fill the booklist
- But.....only fill it with what you need i.e. if you already have a ruler from last year, then no need to buy a new one. You might only need to buy some lined books and that's all!
- It may look like a lot to get but you will find, especially by the time your child is in Year 7, you may not need any more glue sticks or rulers etc
- Whilst 'school work' takes many forms including online, students are expected to maintain and look after their workbooks – covering them is important.

## Booklist

- No need to take our Booklist to a newsagent and ask them to fill it – it may cost you \$\$\$
- Headphones and mouse are handy for laptops too – look for low cost ones
- Keep checking your child has what they need – many students start the year with all the necessary gear, but often then do not have a calculator or ruler etc
- <https://www.samaritan.catholic.edu.au/secondary/byod-and-stationery>

## Fees

- The first invoice is sent in the first few weeks of Term 1 (or the first few weeks of whenever your child first starts school)
- Fee Help – always ask if unsure – we are here to help – you may be surprised what we can help with and how we can help! Is a very confidential process. Visit here for more info:
- [Samaritan College | School Fees](#)



## Other

- Canteen – info on website – can order in morning or line up at recess or lunch OR use the QKR app. Cash/card/app are our payment methods. Is a pretty good canteen!
- Library – still a very handy place for books but also is place to go to get a spare laptop or to do work before/after school. The library has been completely refurbished in readiness for the start of 2025.
- Subjects: no choice about subjects in Year 7/8. Some choice in Year 9/10 and almost total choice in Year 11/12. If your child is doing a subject they don't like (exc Year 7/8) then they will have a short window to change that at the start of each semester. Morning Notices will tell them how.

## Other

- ID Cards – your child will be given a Samaritan Student ID card. If they do not get one within first week or so, please have them ask their teacher. They aren't used a lot at school but can be required when travelling especially in Adelaide or to even get 'student discount' at the movies! In most cases, your child will have had their ID photo taken on one of their Transition Visits in Term 4.
- Text Books – in most cases, their 'text books' will be accessed online and not be a paper copy. Students will be shown how to do this at school.
- Lockers – your child will be given a locker on first day plus a combination lock. Use the lock!! The locker fits their bag too.

# General Rules and Procedures

- A range of procedures, daily routines and uniform/grooming rules can be found on website under ‘Secondary’ tab.
- Look for the “Parent and Student Guide’ in ‘general information.  
[Samaritan College | General Information](#)
- This guide also lists who to contact if you have a query or how to tell us if your child is absent etc. Being a large multi-campus school, there will be other leadership staff to contact if you have a concern that may not have existed in your previous school. In most cases though, the first person to contact is your child’s Housegroup or subject teacher.

# Communication

Lots of way we communicate with home.....

- SEQTA – a key piece of software for student/staff/parents – you will get more information separately about this important software.
- Website + Student/Parent guide *(this Guide lists which staff are best to contact depending on the issue)*
- Newsletter (Normal + Careers)–emailed fortnightly and copies on website – the Careers newsletter is great!
- Group emails
- Front Office – telephoning
- Teachers telephoning/email
- Facebook
- Microsoft Teams
- Old fashioned ‘notes home’!!

## SEQTA

- This is what most Catholic Schools use as their Student Management System (some DfE schools use DayMap)
- You will be sent separate information about to log in and access this – can be via the web or an app
- You can see your child's ongoing results, timetable, teacher info and your child's school work, assignment etc are all stored there!!
- If you have a child with us already, your 'new' child will be automatically added to SEQTA.

## SEQTA

- SEQTA is also how you will access your child's School Report.
- School Reports are now quite 'brief' at the end of each term as you will be able to see how your child is going, with comments, during the term. Sometimes referred to as "as-you-go" reporting.
- More information about Reports will be shared prior to the first report being ready in Term 1.

## Mobile Phones

- We do not ask for all phones to be put in lockable pouches each morning but.....
- Phones are not to be seen or used during school hours including recess/lunch – *if it is out, we take it. They use it, they lose it.*
- Confiscated and collected at end of day
- Parents/students asked to still use Front Office or staff to communicate school matters
- Please do not encourage your child to text/call you first during school time – have them tell staff or the Front Office.
- Students who choose not to handover their phones, when asked, will have consequences escalated which can include suspension.

## Parent Help!

- Yes, it is still needed and encouraged in secondary school!!
- Canteen – please please volunteer – look for info in Newsletter
- Sporting carnivals, excursions, camps\* – yes you can come (\*if needed)
- Parents & Friends, Board, Board Committees i.e. Uniform, Finance etc
- Look for adverts on Facebook or Newsletter or simply make contact with the Front Office and say you would love to help!
- Screening/Clearances are needed for most of the above.



## Where does your child go on first day of school?

Unless previously arranged the students all meet on the grandstand at 8.35am. (the concrete steps on the oval). If raining, it will be in the gym.

**Students wear normal summer uniform that day and your hat.** Do not send your child in PE uniform please on Day 1.

All students will be taken on tours of the campus on Day 1 to find toilets, canteen, library etc – even if they have been on tours before.

Keep an eye/ear out for our Meet-the-Teacher night (or similar) in early  
Term 1

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# Myths

- Your child will tell you 100% of the truth 100% of the time about what happens at school — not always the case
- We only prepare students for university — wide range of trade and other work options are on offer. We have a high percentage of students doing trades and other non Uni options
- Your fees are ‘cream on the top’ funding for us — we only receive partial funding from the governments compared to a state school — your fees almost brings us level to what most State schools get in Whyalla. We are one of the lowest funded schools in Whyalla including the fees we get from parents.

# Myths

- Private school staff get paid more — incorrect. Once country loadings are in place, our staff are paid less than Department school teachers.
- Catholic schools can and do discriminate based on gender, sexual preference etc — incorrect
- And the teacher did nothing about it..... - maybe but unlikely – let us know if that happens!
- Teachers are available to contact anytime on SEQTA or by email – staff are encouraged to only reply to communication during normal work hours – please do not expect a reply from a teacher after hours. They may not even see your email for another day or so.

## Advice

- Let your child take risks
- Avoid solving every problem for them, especially straight away
- Their friends may change from Primary school – that's OK
- They might get in 'trouble' at times – not the end of the world
- Discourage your child to use their mobile to contact you during the day (they shouldn't be on it anyway)
- Your child may (just may) be the one that caused issue x or y.....
- Be prepared to hear the school's side of the 'story' or the other child's side of the story.

This presentation covers only a snapshot of their time at Samaritan. The rest they will find out along the way!

Their first day of school will not be what the rest of their time at secondary school will be like everyday – whether that was a good or challenging day!



[www.samaritan.catholic.edu.au](http://www.samaritan.catholic.edu.au)

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