



## Year 12

Congratulations to Tom Abdelmalek on being the College DUX for 2024. Tom also received a Merit for Year 12 English. Merits are given for those students at the very elite end of their Year 12 subject. This is the second year in a row one of our Year 12 English students has received a Merit and this is in no small way to the work of Ms Kathryn Pech. Tom attends Government House in a few weeks to receive his award. We are also very proud of the variety of options that our Year 12 cohort have taken since leaving school. A number into work and apprenticeships straight away, some off to Uni, both in Adelaide and interstate, and a number remaining in Whyalla to study plus some students simply having a break or looking to do other courses or work when the time is ready. We acknowledged some of our other high achievers, both in Year 12 and in Vocational work, today at a special assembly. Well done to all.

## Adjustment Factors

Sometimes we are asked about Bonus Points or Adjustment Factors as they are formally known. Samaritan students do not receive adjustments under the Universities Equity Scheme – this scheme can add a healthy increase to the final ATAR and is added to their raw score prior to the student receiving their ATAR and in schools where it is applied, it is applied to every Year 12 in the school automatically. Most, not all, country Catholic Secondary schools in SA do not receive these points. It is not something in our control. Samaritan students, however, can receive adjustment factors if they apply for certain courses and study Maths/English in Year 12. Full information is here: [Adjustment factors – SATAC](#)

## Special Authority Teachers (SATs)

No doubt some of you are hearing this term more and more in recent years. SATs are approved teachers (approved by the Teacher Registration Board) and can teach, unsupervised, in their approved subject or year level. In most cases, SATs are also studying to be teachers at Uni and are often a considerable way through their course – all of the SATs at Samaritan are studying to be teachers. Samaritan has a number of SATs in 2025: Gabby Rodda, Sophie Lynch, Gail Carr, Rachael Anderson, Tully Boyle, Hayden Gill, Karinna Hass, Caitlin Sharp and Kar-Lee Yarwood. All of them teach part time. SATs are used in many schools across SA, especially in the country but SATs are also working in metro schools. In 2024, there were over 300 SATs teaching in SA schools, with another 60 working in early childhood centres and another 120 doing relief teaching. Without SATs many schools would need to decrease enrolments and reduce the amount of subjects they can offer with students then needing to choose something else or study online. One example of this for us is our language offering at secondary. We simply cannot find a suitable teacher for a language and so it is sadly not offered from Year 7-12.

## Aboriginal Support Roles

As our number of Aboriginal students continue to increase rapidly, the college is now employing two new staff to help better support our Aboriginal students and their families. We welcome Amelia Grindell who will oversee our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Support program across all campuses and Kelly Abdulla who will work at Our Lady's Campus with some of our primary students and families. We are very excited about these appointments.

## New Staff

Each Campus will share who their new staff are in their sections of this newsletter. An exciting array of new faces to accommodate the expanding enrolments in 2025. Lots more new students means lots more new staff. Saying that, our 2025 numbers are still slightly less than what the college had across its three campuses around the time of amalgamation in 2008.

## Parent Nights

Our annual "Meet the Teacher" evenings are on during Week 2 – next week. Please see our website or Facebook for details for your child's campus. All are, 7-8 pm and are informal ways to meet your child's teacher, visit their campus or classroom, or to say 'hi' to the campus leadership team. Each campus has a different night.

## Hot Weather

All information relating to what we do and don't do with students or school during severe hot weather can be found in the Parent Student Guides for both primary and secondary which are on our website. In short, students are not sent home from school if we have very high temperatures. Almost all rooms/spaces have refrigerated air conditioning and outdoor activities including recess/lunch are simply moved indoors or postponed.

Please return any forms that were sent home as soon as possible so that the school has your most up-to-date information.

# The Samaritan Way

## Seeds of Hope

*He also said,*

*‘The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.’*

*Mark 4: 26 29*

Welcome to the 2025 school year! The first few days are always an exciting time for our students and staff across all three campuses. It’s a season of many “firsts” – starting at a new school or campus, meeting new teachers and classmates, and forming new friendships. These moments mark the beginning of an exciting journey filled with growth, learning, and connection.

The Diocesan theme for this year is “Seeds of Hope” This will be our theme at Samaritan College for the year as well.

In our Gospel, Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to a farmer scattering seeds. While the farmer sleeps and rises each day, the seeds grow on their own, until they are ready for harvest.

This Gospel reminds us of the quiet, mysterious work of God in our lives. Just as seeds grow steadily without our full understanding, God’s Kingdom grows within and around us in ways we cannot always see.

For our Samaritan community, our Gospel invites us to trust in God’s care and timing. Like the farmer, we are called to plant seeds of faith, kindness, and learning, trusting that growth will come in God’s time.

As we reflect, may we nurture these seeds in one another and trust in God’s harvest of love, compassion, and justice.

Pope Francis has called 2025 a Year of Jubilee and has chosen the motto, Pilgrims of Hope, with the intention of contributing to restoring a climate of hope and trust in the world.

The Year of Jubilee, following in biblical tradition, is a special time celebrated every 50 years, and more

recently celebrated every 25 years. A year of Jubilee reminds us of God’s call to care for one another, restore relationships, and create a more equitable and compassionate community.

We are invited to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

*We pray our Jubilee Prayer*  
*Father in heaven,*  
*may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus*  
*Christ, our brother,*  
*and the flame of love enkindled in our hearts by the*  
*Holy Spirit,*  
*reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of*  
*your Kingdom.*  
*May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators*  
*of the seeds of the Gospel.*  
*May those seeds transform our world in the*  
*expectation of a new heaven*  
*and earth where goodness triumphs.*  
*May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims*  
*of Hope,*  
*a yearning for the treasures of heaven.*  
*May that same grace spread*  
*the joy and peace of Jesus throughout the earth.*  
*To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and*  
*praise for ever.*  
*Amen.*

Please join us at our Opening College Mass on Friday 7 February, Week 2, on Saint John’s oval. We gather together as a whole College to celebrate our Catholic Identity and give thanks in gratitude for the blessings and love we will receive over the coming year. All are welcome.

*Rebecca Sinclair*  
APRIM

# Deputy News

A warm welcome to you all as we begin our school year together.

In addition to preparing teaching and learning resources ready for their first day back in the classroom, teachers have also readied lessons as part of the third-year deployment of our wellbeing and mindfulness programs. These are explained in detail below.

Our Wellbeing team in 2025 consists of the following:

across all 3 campuses	Brett Czechowski	Deputy Principal
Saint John's Campus	Rebecca Clark	Director of Students (7-9)
	Michael Baker	Director of Students (10-12)
	Caitlin Davidson	Benedict House Leader
	Sam Daw	Rice House Leader
	Nick Schulz	MacKillop House Leader
Our Lady's Campus	Matthew Quist	Head of Campus
	Jenna Warren	Leader of Wellbeing & Student Agency
St Teresa's Campus	Jenna Edwards	Head of Campus
	Kristin Murray	Leader of Wellbeing & Student Agency

We continue with LifeSkillsGo as our primary campus wellbeing platform from Reception to Year 4.

LifeSkillsGO (assessed and approved by [BeYou](#)), is an evidence-based, curriculum-aligned online blended learning platform delivering social, emotional and physical learning for students.

- Explicitly teaches and measures social and emotional learning
- Proven to improve concentration, communication, listening and self-regulation skills and effectively support anxiety management
- 150+ age appropriate social, emotional & physical learning lessons
- 200+ videos, activities, games and printables to run or supplement our wellbeing program
- Comprehensive wellbeing reports on individual students

For more information, please visit the website at: [www.lifeskillsgroup.com.au](http://www.lifeskillsgroup.com.au)

At secondary and upper primary we continue to partner with **The Resilience Project**.

The Resilience Project is committed to teaching positive mental health strategies to prevent mental ill-health and build young people's capacity to deal with adversity.

Teachers and students will engage in weekly lessons and activities around the key principles of **Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness (GEM)** and **Emotional Literacy** to build resilience.

Check out their website for more information: <https://theresilienceproject.com.au/>

## [The Resilience Project](#)

It's also worth having a look at 'TRP@HOME'; a place filled with inspiration and activities for the whole family, to help improve wellbeing and build resilience.

## **The Resilience Project @ Home**

Following the success of [Rock and Water](#) for select groups of junior secondary students, we have decided to open this program to all students in Year 7 during Semester 1. The Rock and Water program is an experience that provides young people and adults a pathway to self-awareness, and increased self-confidence and social functioning.

Families will also see, hear and experience more about [Positive Behavioural Interventions and Support \(PBIS\)](#). PBIS is a three-tier framework for creating safe and orderly learning environments while improving social-emotional outcomes for students. It is a proactive approach that includes developing clear behavioural expectations, teaching these expectations, acknowledging appropriate behaviour, consistently correcting inappropriate behaviour and using data to solve problems systematically.

So it's another busy and exciting year for the ongoing development of wellbeing programs across the college!

*Brett Czechowski*  
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

# College News

## Student Accident Insurance

All students attending Samaritan College that sustain any injuries as the result of an accident that occurs at school or on a school organised activity, are covered under the Catholic Education Student Accident insurance policy.

Insurance cover includes payments for medical services where that service is not already covered by Medicare. Depending on the type of injury, a lump sum payment may also be provided.

It is important to note that the policy only covers ACCIDENTS. If an ambulance is called for a health related issue (seizure, anaphylactic, diabetes etc), the ambulance is not covered under this policy. Families of children with pre-existing conditions should always be encouraged to hold their own ambulance insurance.

To make a claim you can access the claim form [here](#) and complete all sections up to Page 5. The forms can then be forwarded to your campus Administration with copies of relevant medical reports. The college will complete the remainder of the form and submit on your behalf.

Further details regarding the policy can be obtained from the insurance provider on (02) 8256 1770 or [claims@csnet.com.au](mailto:claims@csnet.com.au).

Catholic Education - Port Pirie Diocese

Student Accident Policy

Policy Number - 2300112119

Terry Costello  
BUSINESS MANAGER

## 2025 School Card

Families are encouraged to apply online by using the QR code or via the website link:

<https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning/financial-help-scholarships-and-grants/school-card-scheme>

Paper copies are still available in the Front Office at each campus if required.

- ✓ apply online
- ✓ family income less than \$74,189 (one child) to \$78,164 (four children)
- ✓ families eligible for 75% fee remission



<https://www.facebook.com/samcolwhyalla/>



# Primary Campus News

## Welcome back

Welcome back to all our returning families and our new families to the Samaritan Community. This year the Diocesan Theme is 'Seeds of Hope', which truly embraces the diverse nature of our community where within our college, all people have their own opportunity to grow and develop in our inclusive environment.

We approach 2025 with grace and are thankful that we are able to have so many experienced and enthusiastic people in the positions to inspire the children in our school community.

## New Staff

We welcome a range of new teaching and support staff to the Primary Campuses. Due to significant enrolment increase over the last year, we have added additional classes, which comes with required teaching staff. We have also expanded our Learning Support staff to make sure all the needs of our students are being met with academic and well-being intervention.

### St Teresa's Campus

**Miss Cailin Crowe** – Cailin is a former student returning to us now as a teacher at St Teresa's Campus. Cailin worked at Long Street Primary School in 2024, and will be teaching our Year 4/5 class.

**Mrs Lisa Phillips** – Lisa joins Samaritan College from Nicolson Avenue Primary School. She has a wealth of experience and will be the Leader of Learning at St Teresa's Campus as well as one of our Year 3/4 teachers.

**Mrs Alice Fiebig** – Alice is a familiar face at Samaritan College, having worked here for many years in both a classroom and TRT capacity. Alice now joins the Year 3/4 team at St Teresa's Campus working alongside Lisa.

**Mrs Jaime Baulderstone** – Jaimee returns to Samaritan College after a year of parenting leave. Jaimee previously taught at our secondary campus, and before that at Memorial Oval Primary School. Jaimee will teach one of our Year 5/6 classes in 2025.

**Miss Gabby Rodda** – Gabby is a familiar face to St Teresa's families, having worked here as an ESO in previous years. Gabby continues that role but also begins her journey as a classroom teacher working alongside Jaimee in one of our Year 5/6 classes.

**Miss Gail Carr** – Gail joins the St Teresa's Campus as a specialist teacher in The Arts. Gail previously worked at our secondary campus, and will also be running Whyalla Choir cross campus at the beginning of the year.

**Miss Shilo McFarlane** – Shilo is a welcome addition to our learning support team, with much experience in this area. Our students at St Teresa's Campus look forward to meeting and working with Shilo.

**Mrs Jayne Acton** – Jayne joins us as an Education Support Officer (ESO) from Nicolson Avenue Primary School where she lead Literacy Intervention programs. We welcome her to our St Teresa's team in 2025.

### Our Lady Help of Christians Campus

**Ms Kelly Abdulla** – Kelly is starting a newly established role at Our Lady Help of Christians Campus where she will primarily support our Aboriginal Students and their families.

**Miss Sophie Peden** – Sophie is a former student and worked at Memorial Oval Primary School in 2024. She will teach a Year 1/2 Class in 2025.

**Mrs Simran Morani** – Simran has moved from Adelaide to take up a Teaching Position for 2025 in a Reception Class.

**Miss Savannah Crompton** – Savannah is taking a Reception/Year 1 class after moving from Adelaide at the start of 2025.

**Ms Kelsey Coad** – Kelsey, who was Head Girl in 2013, is teaching part-time after working at Long Street PS in 2024. She will be in Year 5/6 Arcobelli/Coad on a Wednesday and Upper Primary Art on a Thursday.

**Miss Sophie Lynch** – Sophie has worked on campus throughout the last 2 years as an ESO whilst undertaking her university study. In 2025 she will be working as a Special Authority Teacher 2 days a week in Year 3/4 Mayne/Lynch and doing Junior Primary Graduate Release.

**Mrs Kylie Clothier** – Kylie joins us from Whyalla Secondary College. She is a long-time active member of the community who is excited to work with our children at Our Lady Help of Christians Campus.

**Mr Nathan Tavra** – Nathan is studying Education at University and has experience working as an ESO at Long Street Primary School.

**Miss Chloe MacDonald** – Chloe is excited to work part-time as an ESO while she commences her University Degree in Primary Education.

## Parent Information Nights

We will be running Parent Information Evenings during Week 2;

**St Teresa's Campus**

**Tuesday February 4**

**7pm – 8pm**

**Shelter Shed**

**Our Lady Help of Christians Campus**

**Wednesday February 5**

**7pm – 8pm**

**Vessey Unit**

This is a great chance to come and say hello to your child/ren's teachers for 2024. Please remember this is designed to be a light, informal catch up and greeting, if you require discussions of greater depth about learning or social/emotional well-being, please book a separate time with the teacher or campus leader so we can attend to the matter with the appropriate time.

## Receptions

What a wonderful sight to see our new cohort of Receptions at both campuses!

We also have a mid-year intake for students born between April 1 and October 31 as well as our Little Stars program which will be up and running on Fridays from January 31 from 9:00am – 10:30am, coordinated by long-term staff member, Chelsea Leech.

## Communication

Samaritan College prides itself on open communication with families. Teachers will have sent home information about the SEQTA Engage app, which is a fantastic innovation for instant information families can receive regarding a range of important aspects for their child's education.

Please be mindful of contacting teachers outside of school hours, although they will provide communication options, it is not an expectation that they will respond immediately or outside of the regular working day!

If you have matters of importance you wish to bring to leadership, please still go through the normal channels like ringing and booking an appointment through the front office or emailing the Campus Leader.

## Parking

Just a gentle reminder to make sure we are not parking in the visitor's parks at both campuses during pick up and drop off time! Please keep these free for parents who are coming into the front office and the various contractors that need to access the facilities!

## Hats!

Just a reminder, particularly while it is hot, that hats are an important part of the uniform. These can get lost after prolonged breaks, if you need a new hat, please contact the front office.

*Matt Quist & Jenna Edwards*  
HEAD OF PRIMARY CAMPUSES

# Secondary Campus News

Secondary attendance hotline: 0473 989 587 - TEXT messages only, otherwise please phone 8645 8568.

## Welcome

Welcome to a new school year! It is a pleasure to welcome you all back and, to our new families, I am looking forward to getting to know you and your children as the year progresses. I hope many of you are able to attend our Parent Information Evening on the Grandstand this Monday (February 3). This is an hour-long informal event starting at 7pm which gives families an opportunity to 'put a face to the name' and meet their children's teachers.

We are very excited to have an enthusiastic group of new staff join our campus. Some have been teaching at other schools, whilst for others this is their first time in charge of their own classes. They are settling in well and are keen to work with your children to help them develop their full potential. There have also been some additions to the campus' leadership team. These are outlined below.

With so many teachers and leadership members on the secondary site, it can be confusing knowing who to contact when issues arise. Hopefully the following helps to clarify who is best placed to assist students and parents/caregivers:

Subject teachers are responsible for designing and implementing lessons and assessment tasks for students in their subjects, including those with additional learning needs. Parents/caregivers are well within their rights to view these materials at any time, and to request information on their children's progress. Any issues or queries relating to course content, assignments and homework should be directed to the subject teacher in the first instance.

Caregroup teachers are the first port of call for parents and caregivers when it comes to uniform, attendance/absence and pastoral care. Caregroup teachers can answer most questions and dealt with most issues. More serious matters will be referred to house leaders.

House Leaders oversee student wellbeing, including ongoing absences, uniform infractions and student behaviour. Depending on the nature of parent/caregiver concerns, they will deal with matters themselves, refer them to caregroup teachers or work with a Director of Students.

Directors of Students work with parents/caregivers and students to resolve serious and/or on-going matters such as repeated misbehaviour and bullying. If required, these matters can also be handled by the Head of Campus and/or the Deputy Principal.

The Director of Campus Administration oversees timetabling and the implementation of curriculum for students on modified programs, for example, students with additional learning needs.

The Assistant Leader of Learning oversees curriculum on the secondary campus.

The Director of Student Pathways oversees the SACE, VET, careers and work experience.

The Assistant Principal – Head of Campus oversees the day-to-day running of the campus and student behaviour.

If you are unsure whom to contact with your query, please provide a brief overview to the front office staff and they will direct you to the appropriate staff member.

Benedict House Leader: Nick Schulz	
JB1	James Baverstock
JB2	Roshni Kowlessur
JB3	Kira Zippel
JB4	Steven Rose
SB1	Euzanne Kruger
SB2	Octavia Rose
SB3	Sean Sheedy

MacKillop House Leader: Caitlin Davidson	
JM1	Dustyn Brauwers
JM2	Sue Fletcher
JM3	Brittany Dunchue
JM4	Genevieve Foran
SM1	Sarah Hemming
SM2	Alicia Bugden
SM3	Sam Custance

Rice House Leader: Sam Daw	
JR1	Alison-Jane Hunter
JR2	Peter Homes
JR3	Bokai Zeng
JR4	Paul Mu
SR1	Antoinette Daniels
SR2	Jessica McKay
SR3	Amber Young



Teachers without caregroups	
Rachael Anderson	Art, Food & Nutrition
Tallulah (Tully) Boyle	Mathematics, Visual Arts
Adel Elhalawani	Mathematics
Hayden Gill	PE, Outdoor Education
Karina Hass	HASS and English
Caitlin Sharp	Science, STEM and Chemistry
Matt Thursby	Technology Studies and Doorways 2 Construction
Jillian Turnbull	Relief Teacher
Kar-Lee Yarwood	Mathematics and Science

Campus Leadership	
Damien Judd	Principal
Brett Czechowski	Deputy Principal (R-12)
Tanya Gibson	Assistant Principal - Head of Campus (Saint John's)
Rebecca Sinclair	Assistant Principal in Religious Identity and Mission
Jodie Hopkins	Director of Campus Administration and Inclusive Education
Bec Clark	Director of Junior Students (Years 7-9)
Michael Baker	Director of Senior Students (Years 10-12)
Sean Sheedy	Director of Student Pathways
Kathryn Pech	Assistant Leader of Learning

## Senior Student Council

At the end of 2024, Year 11 students nominated to serve on the senior Student Representative Council. Voting occurred and interviews were conducted by campus leaders to determine who would hold the coveted positions of Head and Deputy SRC leaders. It is my pleasure to inform readers that our senior leaders for 2025 are:

Head Girl – Mia Perry

Head Boy – Thomas Hobba

Deputy Head Girl – Miley Wilson

Deputy Head Boy – Dimitri Milovanovic

Further to this, students in each house elected house captains, who are:

Benedict House – Amy Gordon-Ramke and Immogyn Spry

MacKillop House – Ruby Main and Lara Free

Rice House – Grace Ernesti and Holly Jaritz

## Library Refurbishment

At the start of Term 4 last year the library was 'off limits' to students to enable it to be modernised. I am pleased to announce that this refurbishment was completed last week and ESO staff have spent this week moving furniture, books and other learning resources back into the library. Earlier this week our Year 12s had a sneak peak of the new space, which includes a larger Year 12 study area and kitchenette, house leaders' office, the IT department and, of course, Jenny T at the circulation desk.

## Breakfast Club

Students might remember a few pop-up breakfast clubs ran on campus last semester. I am pleased to announce that this year, in conjunction with HeadSpace and Country and Outback Health, breakfast club will be a regular event at Saint John's. Dates will be communicated to students and families via SEQTA in the coming days.

*Tanya Gibson*  
HEAD OF CAMPUS

