



Issue 3, 28 February 2025

Important Dates

**TAFE Auto Block
Week (3-7)**

Monday 3 March 2025

**Year 10 Arid Lands
Excursion (Mr
Lambert's Class)**

Monday 3 March 2025

**Parent/Teacher
Learning
Conversations**

Tuesday 4 March 2025

Shrove Tuesday

Tuesday 4 March 2025

**Year 10 Arid Lands
Excursion (Miss
Pfitzner's Class)**

Wednesday 5 March 2025

**Parent/Teacher
Learning
Conversations**

Thursday 6 March 2025

Year 12 Tennis

Thursday 6 March 2025

Years 4-6 Assembly

Thursday 6 March 2025

**Years 10-12
Assembly**

Thursday 6 March 2025

**Student Free Day -
Staff Professional
Development**

Friday 7 March 2025

**Adelaide Cup Public
Holiday**

Monday 10 March 2025

**Sr Mary Laurencia
Anniversary**

Tuesday 11 March 2025

**NAPLAN Testing
(12-24)**

Wednesday 12 March 2025

Year 7 Camp (12-14)

Wednesday 12 March 2025

Year 12 Tennis

Years 7 and 10
Immunisation
Program

Monday 17 March 2025

St Joseph's Day
Wednesday 19 March 2025

R-12 Sports Day
Friday 21 March 2025

From the Principal, Mr Damian Smith

Reflect, Renew, Grow

Next week, we will celebrate the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. The 40 days of Lent provides us all with the opportunity to reflect, grow, and grow closer to God. We will do this through deep personal reflection. Our school theme 'Seeds of Hope' beautifully intertwines with the opportunities Lent will provide us. 'Seeds of Hope' symbolises planting the seeds of positive change and nurturing them to grow into something special and meaningful. Through our Lenten practices and commitment to Project Compassion, we sow seeds of hope by working towards a more just and compassionate world.

God of our journey
we are all pilgrims of hope
brought together by your love
and your wish that we may all be one.
We pray that in this Year of Jubilee
when we are called to greater justice
and care for our common home
that we may Unite Against Poverty.
May we work in unity for the freedom of the oppressed
and the renewal of creation.
May our compassionate minds and generous hearts
help bring about a world where all can live in peace.
May our Lenten pilgrimage of fasting, almsgiving and prayer
bring us closer to your loving heart.
We ask this in the name of Jesus.
Amen

Sr Pat Sealy RSJ

Our College was saddened to learn of the recent passing of Sr Pat Sealy RSJ. Sr Pat was a past Principal of Caritas College (Dartmouth St) between 1972-1975. Under her visionary leadership, she introduced Year 12 to the College. Sr Pat returned to Port Augusta from 2004-2007 to minister to refugees at the Baxter Immigration

Centre. She further demonstrated her commitment and dedication to our school community by filling in as a Year 11 English teacher for a short period of time when the College was short-staffed. May our prayers be with Sr Pat, her family and friends and the Sisters of St Joseph at this time.



Student Free Day

Next Friday 7th March is a Student Free Day. Staff will engage in professional learning that is aligned with our College's strategic directions and annual improvement plan. These days are important for staff to engage in professional learning, which directly benefits your child's education. Dedicated time for staff to engage in targeted learning opportunities allow staff to stay updated with best practice, collaborate with colleagues, and develop new knowledge and skills. This continuous professional growth of our staff ensures high-quality teaching and learning, which ultimately enhances student learning outcomes. Thank you for supporting these important opportunities to invest into our staff.

College Board - Annual General Meeting

Our College Board AGM will be held on Wednesday 12th March at 6:30pm in the Library. Parents/caregivers are welcome to attend. The 2024 School Performance Report will be presented, along with reports from the President, Chairperson, Treasurer and Principal. I encourage parents/caregivers to consider coming along to support the important work that the Board does in its governance of our College.

SA Science Teachers Association Science School

We were pleased to be selected as a 2025 SASTA Science Active School. The Science Active School Program is an initiative by SASTA to recognise and promote schools that show a high level of engagement in science education within and beyond the classroom. Science Active Schools support and encourage the professional learning of their Science Educators through their involvement with, and support of, SASTA. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the wonderful work of all of our science teachers, especially Christine Kemp who has worked closely with SASTA for a number of years.



Wellbeing Initiative - Classroom Pulse 'Check In'

Each term every student in a Catholic School in South Australia participates in a simple online Classroom Pulse Check In. This Check In survey has been developed to ascertain how students are currently feeling about their experience in school. It is tailored to allow your child's teacher(s) to check in and provide immediate feedback and support to them. The Check In survey will be carried out during the school day.

The Check In survey has a range of simple questions about your child's life at school, their identity as a person and a learner, their sense of belonging, safety, and friendships. For each statement, students will select whether they feel it applies to them "most of the time,"

“sometimes” or “not very often”. Students in Reception – Year 3 will have emojis alongside the options to help them identify their feelings.

We are conscious that life in school has ‘ups and downs’ for all students. This is normal and it’s important that students have the opportunity to develop important skills to navigate these situations and circumstances. Your child’s teachers want to understand how they are feeling so they are able to support your child in meeting any social, emotional, or learning needs that they may have.

To enable this, the College follows up on any concerns raised in the surveys and provides support as required. Please be assured that, as your child’s primary caregiver, any support required will be communicated and discussed with you.

A sample of the Check In survey can be found [here](#). In addition to supporting your child, de-identified data from all participating schools will be used by Catholic Education SA to identify trends to assist in future planning for the support of the learning and wellbeing for students across South Australia.

NAPLAN Testing

NAPLAN Testing will again be occurring in Term 1 for students in Years 3,5,7 and 9. The testing window is open from 12th – 24th March. These tests provide useful data for individual achievement in comparison with national results and are a means of identifying particular needs at each year level. They are, however, one mode of assessment in the overall learning program at Caritas College. In addition to NAPLAN, we also use a variety of other assessment strategies that inform and support our teaching and learning. If you have any questions about NAPLAN please contact the College.

CESA Awards

A reminder that the 2025 Catholic Education Awards South Australia will be presented this year as part of Catholic Education Week celebrations on 15th May. Nominations close strictly at 6 pm on 17th March. Please click [here](#) for further information and consider the opportunity to recognise and celebrate a teacher, support person, leader, volunteer or program that makes a positive difference in our school community.



Parent/Teacher Learning Conversations

Teachers are busy planning and preparing to meet parents/caregivers next week for Learning Conversations. These meetings provide a good opportunity for the school to share student growth and achievement. Parent/Teacher Learning Conversations will be guided by the below 5 questions, which reflect our school's vision for learning and support our pedagogical principles:

- *What is the student learning?*
- *How are they going with their learning?*
- *How do you know?*
- *How can they improve?*
- *What support are they getting?*

We look forward to working in collaboration with parents/caregiver to support the learning and wellbeing needs of all of our students.

Please note that the online booking system will close from 6.00pm today, Friday 28 February 2025. For instructions on how to make your bookings, please click [here](#) and use the code **ptz7j** when making your booking.

From the Assistant Principal Religious Identity and Mission, Chloe Shanahan

Lent - a Season of Preparation

Lent is a liturgical season lasting 40 days, reminding us of the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness before his triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We are called to pray, fast and give alms as part of our Lenten practice – simple acts that allow us to imitate Jesus, who taught us to fast, pray and live in service to others, especially the poor, vulnerable, and marginalised. Many people choose to give up a particular indulgence or habit as a form of self-discipline or practice whilst others choose to take up a challenge.

Next Tuesday, we marked the final day before Lent, Shrove Tuesday. This is a day when luxurious items were used up in preparation for the fasting that would occur in the days leading up to Easter. Our Senior students are currently donating pancake mixture and toppings, and our year 12 students will make and serve hundreds of pancakes for all members of our community to enjoy. Pre-orders can be done using the QKR! app, with our R-6 students enjoying their pancakes in the morning and our 7-11 and staff being able to purchase theirs during recess. This will formally begin our Project Compassion fundraising campaign for 2025.

On Wednesday, we will acknowledge the change of the liturgical season with Ash Wednesday liturgies being celebrated throughout the day. It is here, marked with the ashes from last year's Palm Sunday service, that we are reminded that we are drawn into a time of quiet reflection and contemplation of what lies ahead in our Catholic story. We are called to think about Jesus' life and suffering and the many ways in which he continually showed compassion and forgiveness to others, right up to the moment of his death. It is also a reminder for us to think about how we can show compassion and forgiveness to others.

Project Compassion

Compassion creates a ripple effect of kindness throughout communities. Whilst we consider how we can give to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion campaign, we also encourage our students to focus on their gifts that they can offer to others – to create ripples that will improve the livelihoods of our global brothers and sisters, providing hope and support to all.

By supporting Project Compassion, we can proclaim the faith that is in our hearts and help our brothers and sisters in need by sharing the gifts that we possess. During Lent, we are invited to take up the call to fast, pray and give, in solidarity as a global community. Our commitment to those in need is a direct call to our

response, beautifully located in our College entrance statement, 'to act justly, live tenderly, and to walk humbly with our God' (Micah 6:8).

Throughout the six weeks of Lent, students across the College will learn about the work of Project Compassion and how it helps provide hope for individuals and communities across the world.

This week we introduce Toefuata'iga, a thirteen-year-old girl in Samoa, who faced frequent early dismissals and missed lessons due to severe water scarcity at her primary school. Teachers often had to leave class to fetch water, impacting health and hygiene for students.

The situation changed dramatically when Caritas Samoa, in partnership with Caritas Australia, installed a 10,000L water tank at her school. With clean reliable water access, attendance and enrolment rose, student's health improved, and parents felt reassured. The new tank lifted financial and logistical burdens, allowing the school community to focus on education, rather than the constant struggle for water.



Caritas K's Water Walk

Earlier this week, our Year 11 students as part of their Stage 2 Spiritualities, Religion and Meaning course, put their exploration of social justice and our Catholic Social Teachings into action by participating in the Caritas K's Water Walk. Large numbers of children across developing countries need to walk to obtain fresh water for their families, impacting on their ability to access an education as they consider the needs of their family – very different from the life that we have here in Australia. Students walked approximately 4km in the area surrounding the College, carrying buckets of water to understand the great lengths that some children endure to access fresh water.

Students will kick start their Project Compassion fundraising campaign using the online donations portal, found using the QR code or alternatively via this [link](#).



Adelaide Josephite Immersion

Last week our Year 12 leaders were in Adelaide engaging in our annual Josephite Immersion Experience. They spent Tuesday night working together at an Escape Room to put their leadership skills to the test. On Wednesday, the leaders spent time at Kensington at the Mary MacKillop Museum, deepening their understanding of our Josephite charism and the leadership qualities of Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph. Time was spent reconnecting with the leaders of Mary MacKillop College with a school tour and a shared lunch. Students spent time with some of the Sisters who have served in the Caritas and Port Augusta community with many stories being shared about what our school was like and how it has grown into the place that it is today. They also met with past Caritas College students at Aquinas College for dinner on Wednesday night and then began to plan their leadership journey for 2025. They have lots of wonderful ideas and ways that they will lead our community throughout the year. All students were praised by those we visited for their engagement in and commitment to establishing themselves as leaders in the school community.



Sacramental Preparation Program

The 2025 Sacramental Preparation Program will begin in Term 2, with Year 4 students preparing to receive their first Holy Communion. Letters to families of students in Years 3, 4 and 7 should have received an email from the All Saints Catholic Parish advising of dates for family calendars for each sacrament as well as the Parent Information Session, being held on Thursday 20 March, 7:00pm, at All Saints Catholic Church.

If you have a child of Sacramental age in 2025, and did not receive any information from the parish about the program, please contact the All Saints Catholic Church on 8642 2847.

From the Director of 10-12 Learning & Wellbeing, Norah Grover

What's Happening in Years 10-12

The Pastoral Care program in Year 10 and 11 for this semester is strongly focused on careers future planning. Year 11 students are

undertaking a Workplace Practices unit of work which culminates in a week of work experience at the end of Term 2. They are currently working through WHS requirements and investigating possible workplace options.

In Year 10, complementing the EIF (Exploring Identities and Futures) program planning is well underway for our Careers Camp, which will be held in the first week of Term 2. Over 3 days students will have the opportunity to visit a range of workplace and further education sites as well as visiting Aquinas College and catching up with some old scholars, either at our camp site or for a walking tour of the universities. The range of opportunities we have managed to assemble this year are the broadest we have ever had, including visits to BAE, Cavpower, SAMHRI, The Zoo, the Law Courts and Parliament House. A letter with further information and consent form will be sent home in the coming weeks.

The Year 12 group have settled into their final year well. Caregivers are encouraged to make use of the learning conversations scheduled for next week to meet with student's subject teachers. The year will pass so quickly and a strong relationship between school and home during this final year is always beneficial for students.

In an effort to further support our students in planning their career pathway Therese Noll and myself have recently completed a Graduate Certificate in Careers Counselling. Students who would like to have a chat about post school pathways can request a 1:1 session to discuss their ideas and possible options.

From the VET Coordinator, Susy Rogers

VET Report

Our 22 new VET students have had a busy start to the year with attending their various RTO locations either in block weeks or every Friday.

This year we have students studying Certificate 2 in Automotive Servicing, Electrotechnology, Construction Pathways, Certificate 3 in Rural Operations, Health Services Assistance, Early Childhood Education and Care.

Our Four School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships have continued in their 2nd year of Hairdressing, Fitness and Heavy Commercial Vehicle Mechanical Technology.

Our RTO's include TAFE SA, EQUALS, RST (Regional Skills Training), Foundation Education and MTA (Motor Trade Association).

Teaching and Learning

Years 1-4 Swimming

Last week our Years 1-4 students have participated in lessons at the pool. This is something that our students undertake each year and is important in teaching them how to be safe in and around the water. It isn't just about preventing accidents, it is about giving them the confidence to enjoy water activities responsibly.



Year 5/6 Science

Is yeast alive? Our curious scientists put it to the test! By mixing yeast with different ingredients, they explored what makes it activate and grow. Bottles were filled and covered with a balloon to trap any chemical reactions.



Year 12 Child Studies

The Year 12 Child Studies class have been investigating the benefits of children having an awareness of how and where ingredients grow and are turned into the foods they eat.

After surveying the children in Year 1 Gold they chose an ingredient that they could turn into a meal with the children. On Monday the Year 1's visited the Home Ec kitchen where they made popcorn, pasta, honey crackles, yoghurt, icecream, anzac biscuits, juice, lemonade, bread, strawberry jam and apple crumble with the Year 12 students.



Out and About



WE WANT YOUR OPINION!



ON THE GAPS IN SERVICE FOR NDIS PARTICIPANTS IN PORT AUGUSTA

- Are you or your child a NDIS participant? OR do you have experience with the NDIS?
- Do you live in Port Augusta or surrounding areas?
- Are you interested in advocating for more NDIS services to be available in Port Augusta?

THEN..... We would love to hear your thoughts!

Scan here to provide
your opinion on a
survey



Holly



Piper



SHROVE TUESDAY



All proceeds support Project Compassion

4 MARCH

**\$0.50
EACH**



RECESS

PRE-ORDER ON QKR! OR PAY ON THE DAY
Gluten free available - just ask one of the Year 12's!





Attention Students and Teachers!

You are invited to our annual cybersecurity competition!



LOCKHEED MARTIN CYBERQUEST® COMPETITION



Date: Friday, March 28, 2025

CYBERQUEST® is Lockheed Martin's annual high school cyber competition. During the 3-hour competition, teams of students work together to solve cybersecurity challenges. CYBERQUEST® is a cloud-based competition that includes problems created by Lockheed Martin cybersecurity engineers. The Capture the Flag (CTF) format includes multi-step intrusion scenarios, steganography, reverse engineering, full OS hacks, packet capture, web exploits, social engineering, and cybersecurity awareness.

For more CYBERQUEST resources, visit CYBERQUEST Academy:



LOCKHEED MARTIN

Our Canteen Does

Burgers



**Cheeseburgers
Hamburgers
Chicken Burgers
Veggieburgers**



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT



The Parent / Teacher Learning
Conversation Online Booking
System is now **OPEN**.

Visit our website for details on how to
book for the 4th or 6th of March:
[https://www.cc.catholic.edu.au/learning-
wellbeing/parent-teacher-learning-
conversations](https://www.cc.catholic.edu.au/learning-wellbeing/parent-teacher-learning-conversations)





**WEDNESDAYS,
THURSDAYS &
FRIDAYS**

SALAD BOWLS

**SWEET CHILLI CHICKEN
TENDERS / HAM**

MUST BE ORDERED VIA THE QKR! APP

ATTENDANCE SMS SERVICE

Just a reminder to please advise the school if your child is going to be absent. We encourage our families to send an SMS to let us know on 0428 071 211, or, phone the school direct on 8648 9700.





STUDENT FREE DAY

FRIDAY, 7 MARCH 2025

JUST A REMINDER

**Supervision of
students at Caritas
College is provided
from 8.20am.**

**Students should not
be on school grounds
prior to this time
unless otherwise
arranged.**





Caritas
COLLEGE

UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS

Tuesdays:	8.30am - 9.15am
Wednesdays	8.30am - 9.45am 3.00pm - 3.30pm

Fittings are strictly 15 minutes only per child and will be held in the front office. Please ensure that you arrive at your booking on time to allow us to keep to schedule.

APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAY TASTER DAYS



Flinders
University

MONDAY 14 APRIL Into the Wild - Natural Sciences
(from Marine Biology to GIS) at the
Flinders Uni Bedford Park Campus

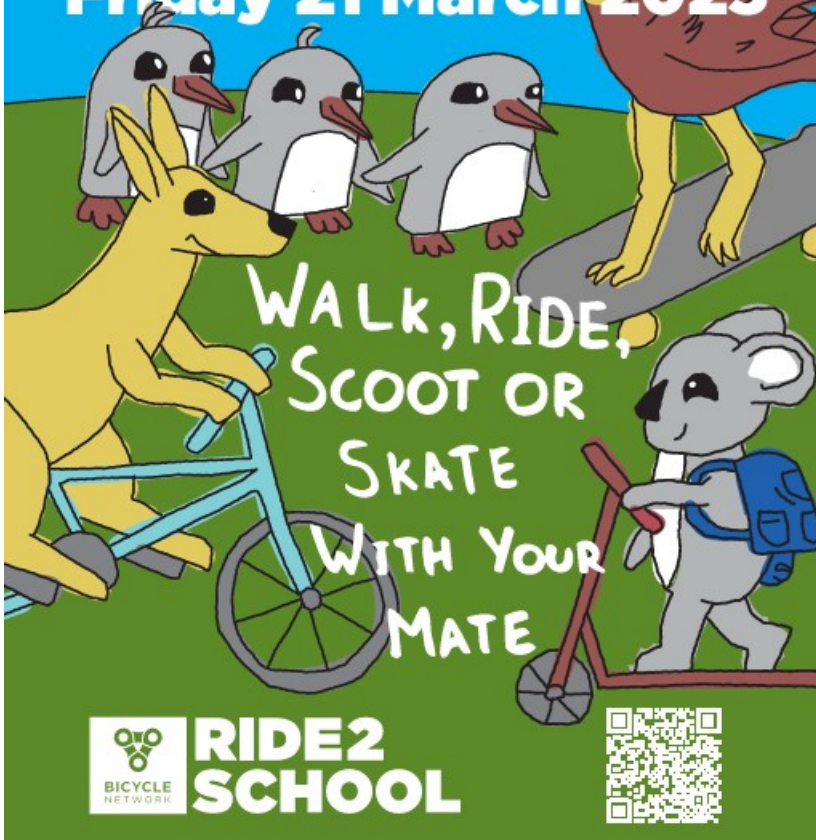
MONDAY 14 APRIL Engineer the Future - Engineering
Taster Day at the Flinders University
Tonsley Campus

TUESDAY 15 APRIL Crack the Code - Information Tech
(from Game Development to AI) at
the Flinders University City Campus

TUESDAY 15 APRIL Murder Mystery - Forensic Taster
Day at the Flinders University
Bedford Park Campus

NATIONAL RIDE2SCHOOL DAY

Friday 21 March 2025



**RIDE2
SCHOOL**

