



## Important Dates

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**Parent/Teacher Learning Conversations**  
Wednesday 6 March 2024

**R-3 Assembly**  
Thursday 7 March 2024

**Year 10-12 Assembly**  
Thursday 7 March 2024

**Student Free Day**  
Friday 8 March 2024

**Adelaide Cup Public Holiday**  
Monday 11 March 2024

**Sr Mary Laurencia Memorial Service**  
Tuesday 12 March 2024

**TAFE - Electrotechnology (12-14)**  
Tuesday 12 March 2024

**NAPLAN Testing Period (13-25)**  
Wednesday 13 March 2024

**Team Events - Sports Day**  
Thursday 14 March 2024

**R-12 Sports Day**  
Friday 15 March 2024

**Years 6 & 7 SEL Days (18-20)**  
Monday 18 March 2024

**Diocesan Assembly (19-20)**  
Tuesday 19 March 2024

**Chrism Mass**  
Wednesday 20 March 2024

**Year 10 Outdoor Ed Mountain Bike Excursion**  
Thursday 21 March 2024

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## From the Principal, Mr Damian Smith

*God of the prophets,*

*You gifted Mary MacKillop with vision and courage.*

*In her we see one who was not afraid to speak fearlessly your gospel of love.*

*We pray for the sensitivity and imagination to read the signs of our times, and to articulate new possibilities for our own day. Like Mary, may we learn to confront all that is oppressive and unjust, and empower others towards true freedom and integrity. Spirit of wisdom, be with us as we face new horizons.*

*Amen*

## JJAMM Conference

At the end of Week 3, our Year 12 Student Leaders travelled to Sydney to attend the JJAMM Conference. JJAMM stands for Julian, Joseph and Mary MacKillop. It is an annual conference that brings student leaders together from over 25 Josephite schools around Australia. Mr Nathan O'Brien accompanied Charlee and Deacon on this amazing experience, which allowed them to learn and grow with other school leaders. They developed their leadership skills and formed ideas to benefit our school community. They now have the privileged task of inspiring their peers and being the catalyst for great things to happen in and around our school community.



## Partnership with Aquinas College

I had the great pleasure of attending the Aquinas College Collegiate Dinner and Awards Ceremony in Adelaide on 24th February. It was wonderful to reconnect with some of our past students from Caritas and see them flourishing in their endeavours beyond school. Aquinas College provides a supportive environment that values and promotes academic excellence, family spirit, respect, faith and justice. All of our old scholars looked certainly comfortable and confident in their 'home away from home'. Congratulations to Lilah Hill who was presented with an award for the Aquinas College Scholarship for the highest ATAR from Caritas College.



## ATSI Family Welcome BBQ

This week, we will be welcoming our ATSI families into our school for an opportunity to meet, chat and share a BBQ dinner with key staff and the leadership team. We will have guest speakers at this event who will share some important insights and advice. This special gathering will play a key role in working in partnership with our ATSI families to support their children and young people.

## Sr Mary Laurencia's Anniversary

Next Tuesday 12th March we will commemorate the anniversary of Sr Mary Laurencia. The Years 5-12 SRC will visit the graveside of Sr Laurencia to honour her short life of service and the work of the pioneering Sisters. Celebrating the life of Sr Mary Laurencia each year helps us to understand and appreciate who we are. She is a key figure in the history of Caritas College and her story, along with many others, continue to inspire the work that we do today.

## College Board - Annual General Meeting

Our College Board AGM will be held on Wednesday 13th March at 6:30pm in the Tappeiner Room. Parents/caregivers are welcome to attend. The 2023 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.

I would like to pay tribute to Sr Helen Duke who will be stepping down from her role on the Board after 10 years. Sister Helen first came to Port Augusta in 1974 as a teacher for three years. She returned to Caritas College 25 years later to support the faith dimension of the school before again leaving to take on the role of Josephite Community Leader at Kensington.

Our school community welcomed her back again in 2010, where she resumed her work in supporting the faith and spiritual formation of students and staff. Despite some stints away from Port Augusta, Sister Helen has remained connected to the Caritas College community since her first posting here in 1974. She was the last Josephite sister to reside in Port Augusta following more than 150 years of continuous connection with the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

Sr Helen's contributions to the school community have been immeasurable and her passion for Catholic education has helped to shape the lives of countless students and families. Mary MacKillop's legacy has been strongly evident in Sr Helen's commitment to our school. I know the school community will join me in giving thanks and appreciation for the true and wonderful gift of Sr Helen.



*Sister Helen Duke, rsj*

(seated, second from left) photographed as part of 150th Birthday Celebrations

## R-12 Sports Day

Excitement is building for our annual Sports Day which will be held on Friday 15th March. I look forward to seeing strong sportsmanship and camaraderie on display when our three house teams - Joseph, Tenison and MacKillop - compete against one another on the day. Our Sports Day always draws lots of interest from families and friends, so we look forward to welcoming plenty of visitors into our school next Friday. More information and important details are available [here](#).

## Positive Behaviour & Intervention Supports (PBIS)

As part of our College's commitment to continuous improvement, we are engaging in ongoing professional learning around Positive Behaviour Interventions and Supports (PBIS). PBIS is an evidence-based system that schools can use to promote positive behaviour and a healthy school climate. It is a multi-tier system framework that integrates data, systems, and practices within a school. The focus of PBIS is prevention (because prevention is better than cure!). It helps schools focus on preventing problem behaviours through positive motivation.

We are unwavering in our commitment to support our students' learning and wellbeing. We are excited that this approach will yield benefits for our students, staff, and families once we begin implementation. As part of our initial implementation, we want to support parents/caregivers to learn about PBIS. As a starting point, I encourage you all to watch a short 5-minute video by clicking [here](#).

## 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.

We are conscious that life in school has its' ups and downs, but I am also confident that your child's teachers want to understand how they are feeling so they are able to support you and 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 prime caregiver, any support required will be communicated and discussed with you.

There are 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.

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

## Out of School Hours Care (OSHC)

Families who use the OSHC service have been informed about some changes to the processes relating to the transfer to OSHC in the afternoons, as well as the notification processes. These changes include:

- Notification process for the afternoon OSHC service - the names of students attending OSHC in the afternoon are now being provided directly to Caritas from the OSHC service at lunch time of that day. Therefore, parents/caregivers no longer need to call or text to notify the front office about attendance each day unless the plans for your child to attend OSHC changes throughout the day. If changes do occur, for example your child is either now going to attend OSHC in the afternoon or will no longer be attending OSHC in the afternoon, you will need to inform Caritas College Front Office staff.
- Transfer to the service after school – students will now walk to the OSHC service accompanied by staff members. Therefore, families will no longer need to provide bus tickets for the transfer to PAWPS. On days of extreme weather conditions this transfer will be managed as necessary.

Thank you for your ongoing support of these process. Please contact the Front Office if you have any questions.

## Student Free Day

Friday 8th March is a Student Free Day. Staff will focus on data literacy to deepen and grow our understanding of each and every student. All staff will work together to synthesise the evidence and data we have on students to know exactly where they are at with their learning and wellbeing. This school-wide use of data strengthens our practices and sets direction for the next steps in supporting our children and young people to grow and learn.

## CESA Awards

A final reminder for the 2024 Catholic Education Awards. Nominations close strictly at 1pm on Friday March 8th 2024. We have another opportunity this year to shine a light on a teacher, support person, leader, volunteer or program that makes a positive difference in our school community. Please click [here](#) for further information.

## 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 13th – 25th 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 and Caritas College uses a variety of assessment strategies. Last year there were some small changes to NAPLAN. The reporting language changed, and students are now identified as 'Exceeding', 'Strong', 'Developing' or 'Needs Additional Support'. This provides more clarity for parents/caregivers and schools. If you have any questions about NAPLAN please contact the College.

## From the Leader of Catholic Identity, Chloe Shanahan

### Project Compassion

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

This week we introduce Leaia who lives with her five children, husband, brother and sister-in-law on the island of Upolu in Samoa. Samoa may be a country surrounded by water, but access to clean drinking water is scarce in some areas, with many families facing extreme hardship as a result.

With the support of Caritas Australia's local partner, Caritas Samoa, a water tank was installed at Leaia's home. She and her family now have a steady supply of clean drinking water at home. Next year, they will also have a toilet built, with the support of Caritas Samoa, which will further improve their health and living conditions.



### Sacramental Preparation Program

The 2024 Sacramental Preparation Program will begin in Term 2, with Year 4 students preparing to receive their first Holy Communion. Parents/caregivers of students in Years 3, 4 and 7 would have received an email from Fr Jim Monaghan this week advising of a change of date for the information session, originally being held on Thursday 14 March. Please note that this will now be held on Thursday 21 March, at 7:00pm, at All Saints Catholic Church.

If you did not receive a letter about the program, please contact the All Saints Catholic Church on 8642 2847 or [click here](#) to access the letter.

## Sr Mary Laurencia Honner

In a couple of weeks, we will mark the 146th anniversary of the death of Sr Mary Laurencia Honner at the Stirling North Cemetery.

In 1874, a young Mary entered the Sisters of St Joseph and was given the name Laurencia. In 1877, she was professed a Sister of St Joseph and at 18, in 1878, Mary MacKillop asked her to live and teach here in Port Augusta. On March 3, there had been devotions in the Church, and as Sr Laurencia and Sr Immaculata were clearing the church and preparing it for school the following day, a kerosene lamp caught fire, burning both the sisters. 8 days later, on 11 March 1878, Sr Mary Laurencia passed away, aged 19 years.

The beautiful stained-glass window which adorns our College Reception area, was donated by Sarah and Richard Honner, Sr Mary Laurencia's parents. This window comes from the old convent chapel on Flinders Terrace.

We continue to give thanks for the Sisters of St Joseph who have responded with enthusiasm and love to the call to serve in the remote and rural areas of South Australia. May we here at Caritas College, continue to walk in their footsteps and to find courage when times are difficult and consolation from the love of those around us.



## Shining a Light on RE - Years 9 and 10

As we continue to animate our theme, 'Let Your Light Shine', across the College, our Year 9 and 10 students throughout the last few weeks have spent time exploring the Project Compassion stories. They have been encouraged to think deeply about the social justice issues within each story and how they can shine a light on the issue or on the work of Caritas Australia. Students have spent time individually reflecting on the theme and our passage from Matthew's Gospel before working together to determine action plans to raise funds for our Project Compassion campaign or to raise awareness of the plight of some of the most vulnerable members of our global family. Classes are now working to implement one of the presented action plans to make a change within their world.

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## Teaching and Learning

## Year 5 - Art

The Year 5's have been busy this term in Art. They have been learning about the elements of art focusing on line. The students have been exploring this by turning our names into artworks, trying to create optical illusions. The students have also been exploring Andy Warhols art and recreating their own versions of his master pieces.



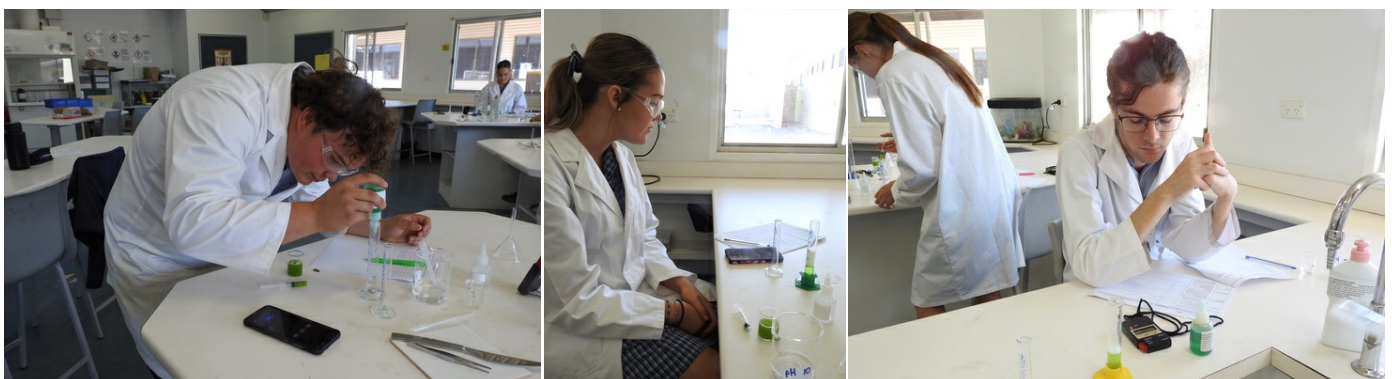
## Year 8 - SEL

On the 22nd of February, Year 8 students participated in a Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Day. Continuing with their work in Year 7, students focused on collaboration and teamwork. This day was facilitated by Beyond the Classroom, a South Australian company providing incursion experiences for schools across the state.



## Year 12 - Biology

The Year 11 and 12 Biology classes have been busy conducting experiments and investigating various aspects for the science of Life. The Year 12s recently tested the effect of pH on the catalytic activity of enzymes that had been extracted from capsicum.





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## Out and About



## FACT SHEET FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND CARERS

### WHAT IS THE NCCD?

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) takes place every year.

The NCCD is a collection that counts:

- the number of school students receiving an adjustment or 'help' due to disability
- the level of adjustment they are receiving to access education on the same basis as other students.

Students are counted in the NCCD if they receive ongoing adjustments at school due to disability. This 'help' allows them to access education on the same basis as a child without disability. The NCCD uses the definition of disability in the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#).

Schools provide this information to education authorities.

Go to *What is a reasonable adjustment?* below to learn about adjustments.

### WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

All schools in Australia must collect information about students with disability.

The NCCD:

- ensures that the information collected is transparent, consistent and reliable
- provides better information that improves understanding of students with disability
- allows parents, guardians, carers, teachers, principals, education authorities and government to better support students with disability.

### Student with disability loading

Funding from the Australian Government for students with disability is based on the NCCD through the student with disability loading.

Students with disability who are counted in the top three levels of the NCCD (extensive, substantial and supplementary) attract the loading. Funding is based on a per-student amount at each of the three levels of additional support. The amount of the loading reflects the level of support students with disability need to participate fully in school, with higher funding for those who need higher levels of support.

Australian Government recurrent school funding is provided as a lump sum to school authorities including state and territory governments, which can then distribute the funding to their member schools according to their own needs-based arrangements.

The Government expects schools and school systems to consider their funding from all sources (ie Australian Government, state and territory and private) and prioritise their spending to meet the educational needs of all of their students, including students with disability.

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE NCCD FOR STUDENTS?

The information collected by the NCCD helps teachers, principals, education authorities and governments to better support students with disability at school.

The NCCD encourages schools to review their learning and support systems and processes. This helps schools to continually improve education outcomes for all students.



## WHAT MUST SCHOOLS DO FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY?

All students have the right to a quality learning experience at school.

Students with disability must be able to take part in education without discrimination and on the same basis as other students. To ensure this, schools must make reasonable adjustments if needed for students with disability. Educators, students, parents, guardians, carers and others (eg health professionals) must work together to ensure that students with disability can take part in education.

The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005* describe schools' responsibilities.

## WHAT IS A REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT?

An adjustment is an action to help a student with disability take part in education on the same basis as other students.

Adjustments can be made across the whole school (eg ramps into school buildings). They can be in the classroom (eg adapting teaching methods). They can also be for individual student need (eg providing personal care support).

The school assesses the needs of each student with disability. The school provides adjustments in consultation with the student and/or their parents, guardians and carers.

Schools must make reasonable adjustments if needed. The *Disability Standards for Education 2005* define 'reasonable adjustment' as an adjustment that balances the interests of all parties affected.

## WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE NCCD?

The definition of disability for the NCCD is based on the broad definition under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

The following students are examples of those who may be included in the NCCD if they need monitoring and adjustments:

- students with learning difficulties (such as dyslexia)
- students with chronic health conditions (such as epilepsy or diabetes).

## WHO COLLECTS INFORMATION FOR THE NCCD?

Schools identify which students will be counted in the NCCD. They base their decisions on the following:

- adjustments provided for the student (after consultation with the student and/or their parents, guardians and carers)
- the school team's observations and professional judgements
- any medical or other professional diagnoses
- other relevant information.

School principals must ensure that information for the NCCD is accurate.

## WHAT INFORMATION IS COLLECTED?

A student is counted in the NCCD if they receive reasonable adjustments at school due to disability.

Each year, schools collect the following information about the student, including:

- their year of schooling
- the level of adjustment received
- the broad type of disability.

For students who have more than one disability, the school uses professional judgement to choose one category of disability. They choose the category that most affects the student's access to education and for which adjustments are being provided.

A high level summary of the NCCD data is available to all Australian state and territory governments to improve policies and programs for students with disability.

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## HOW IS THIS DATA USED?

The NCCD data informs funding and work by schools and sectors. It ensures that support for students with disability becomes routine in the day-to-day practice of schools. The NCCD also supports students in the following ways.

- The NCCD helps schools better understand their legislative obligations and the Disability Standards for Education 2005.
- Schools focus on the individual adjustments that support students with disability. This encourages them to reflect on students' needs and to better support students.
- The NCCD facilitates a collaborative and coordinated approach to supporting students with disability. It also encourages improvements in school documentation.
- The NCCD improves communication about students' needs between schools, parents, guardians, carers and the community.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) annually publishes high-level, non-identifying NCCD data.

## WHEN DOES THE NCCD TAKE PLACE?

The NCCD takes place in August each year.

## IS THE NCCD COMPULSORY?

Yes. All schools must collect and submit information each year for the NCCD. This is detailed in the *Australian Education Regulation 2013*. For more information, ask your school principal or the relevant education authority.

## HOW IS STUDENTS' PRIVACY PROTECTED?

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all students is an essential part of the NCCD.

Data is collected within each school. Personal details, such as student names or student identifiers, are not provided to federal education authorities. Learn more about privacy in the [Public information notice](#).

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your school if you have questions about the NCCD. You can also visit the [NCCD Portal](#).

There is also a free [e-learning resource](#) about the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and *Disability Standards for Education 2005*.

This document must be attributed as *Fact sheet for parents, guardians and carers*.





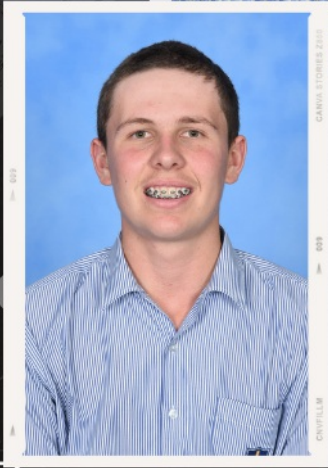
# EASTER RAFFLE

WE ARE RAISING MONEY FOR  
PROJECT COMPASSION AND NEED  
YOUR HELP!

WE ARE HOLDING AN EASTER  
RAFFLE AS PART OF OUR  
FUNDRAISING EFFORTS AND WE  
ARE ON THE 'HUNT' FOR  
DONATIONS. IF YOU ARE ABLE TO  
CONTRIBUTE, PLEASE DROP OFF  
ANY EASTER PRODUCTS TO THE  
FRONT OFFICE

# JOSEPH

2024  
TEAM CAPTAINS



**JOE  
CLANCY**



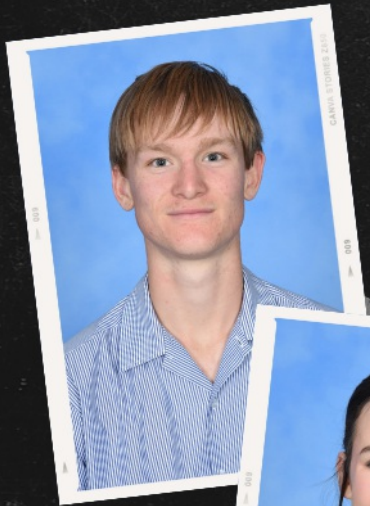
**GERI  
TSCHIRNER**



**BAILEY  
BENBOW**

# TENISON

2024  
TEAM CAPTAINS



**DEACON  
PILLION**



**ZARA  
HERITAGE**



**EDWIN  
RIVANDI**

# MACKILLOP

2024  
TEAM CAPTAINS



**ASHLEIGH  
HOWELL**



**DAMIEN  
HODGE**



**CHARLEE  
MORGAN**



# NAPLAN SCHEDULE

YEAR 7 & 9 STUDENTS  
REQUIRED TO BRING  
HEADPHONES.

Wednesday 13/3

Year 3, 5, 7 & 9 - Writing

Thursday 14/3

Year 3, 5 & 7 - Reading

Monday 18/3

Year 3, 5 & 7 - COL  
Year 9 - Reading

Tuesday 19/3

Year 3, 5G & 7 Numeracy  
Year 9 - COL

Wednesday 20/3

Year 5B & 9 - Numeracy

Thurs & Fri

All catch ups

If you have any questions or concerns please contact your child's  
homeclass teacher.



# MID-YEAR RECEPTION ENROLMENTS

ENROL NOW



**Caritas**  
COLLEGE

# CONGRATULATIONS!

Last year, the Diocese of Port Pirie launched a scholarship program to help support staff at regional schools become teachers. We're happy to announce that Briah Higgins, Shelley McInnis and Max Edwards have been awarded a scholarship to assist with their studies. This program is aiding Education Support Officer (ESO) staff by offering financial and professional support as they pursue a teaching degree. The Transition to Teaching Scholarship program provides financial aid, placements, professional learning, on-the-job experience, mentoring, and coaching throughout the recipient's university course. In return, recipients commit to working as full-time teachers in a Catholic Education South Australian (CESA) regional school for at least two years after finishing their studies. This initiative supports the Diocese's goal of nurturing local talent and acknowledges the valuable skills, experience, and passion of our ESO staff in regional schools.

Congratulations again to Briah, Shelley and Max, and best wishes as they embark on their journey to educate and inspire the next generation!



## STUDENT EXEMPTIONS

If your child will be absent from school for 5 days or more, you must complete and lodge an **Application for Exemption Form**. Such exemptions from attendance of school are approved from the College Principal, and in some cases the Director of Catholic Education South Australia.

This must be completed for students 17 years and under who are seeking an exemption on the grounds of:

- Family Travel - Holiday between 5 days and 12 months.
- Other / Conditional / Ongoing medical condition of less than 1 month.



# thank you

STAFF, PARENTS AND STUDENTS FOR YOUR  
GENEROUS RESPONSE TO VINNIES  
CHRISTMAS APPEAL.

YOUR GENEROUSITY IS MUCH APPRECIATED.  
IT ENABLED US TO GIVE 90 HAMPERS TO FAMILIES IN  
PORT AUGUSTA AND QUORN.

SPECIAL THANKS TO MR HENRY WALLIS FOR  
ORGANISING THE COLLECTION AND DELIVERY  
OF THE FANTASTIC AMOUNT OF FOOD FOR  
OUR HAMPERS.

WITH THANKS  
DENISE GRANTHAM, VINNIES

