



# Issue 11, 27 June 2025

## Important Dates

UniSA STEM Girls  
Academy Whyalla  
(17-18)

Tuesday 17 June 2025

Years 7-8 SSSSA  
Boys & Girls  
Basketball

Wednesday 18 June 2025

SAPSASA Girls  
Football / Boys  
Netball

Friday 20 June 2025

Caritas Cubs  
Reception  
Transition Program

Friday 20 June 2025

Rec-Year 3  
Assembly (1 Gold)

Thursday 26 June 2025

Years 10-12  
Assembly

Thursday 26 June 2025

Caritas Cubs  
Reception  
Transition Program

Friday 27 June 2025

TAFE Auto Block  
Week (30-4)

Monday 30 June 2025

Year 11 Work  
Experience Week  
(30-4)

Monday 30 June 2025

UniSA STEM Girls

Years 4-6 Assembly

Years 7-9 Assembly

Term 2 Concludes

Caritas Cubs  
Reception  
Transition Program  
Graduation

Friday 4 July 2025

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## From the Principal, Damian Smith

### NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC Week is celebrated annually during the first full week of July, and although it falls within our school holidays, it remains a significant occasion for our community. NAIDOC Week is dedicated to recognising the rich history, vibrant cultures, and remarkable achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

As a Catholic school, we are deeply committed to fostering understanding, respect, and reconciliation. Guided by our Catholic values and inspired by St Mary MacKillop's legacy of education and service, we strive to embed First Nations histories and perspectives into our learning. This not only promotes cultural awareness but also empowers our students to become compassionate and informed members of society.

NAIDOC Week reminds us of the importance of engaging the next generation in meaningful conversations about Indigenous cultures and encouraging unity through education and respect.



### Staffing

I am pleased to announce that we have appointed Miss Emily Martin, who will teach our mid-year Reception class starting in Term 3. Emily has already visited our school to meet our newest students and is looking forward to guiding and supporting them as they begin their official schooling journey next term.

At the end of last week, we gave thanks for Briah Higgins who has worked as an Education Support Officer at our school for the last 4 years. Briah has been a committed staff member and wonderful helping hand for students. We wish Briah all the best with the next part of her journey.

At times, you may notice changes in staffing around the school. It's important to understand that, like employees in any other profession, our teachers and Education Support Officers (ESOs) are entitled to various types of leave under the Fair Work Act. This includes sick leave, personal leave, long service leave, and maternity or parenting leave. When staff are away, for whatever reason, our priority is always the continuity of learning for students. We work hard to ensure that routines, expectations, and learning experiences remain as consistent and familiar as possible. This helps students feel supported, even when their regular teacher or ESO is temporarily away from school.

We wish Michelle Antoniciello, Susy Rogers and Angela Fullerton all best as they take periods of long service leave towards the end of Term 2.

# Year 11 Work Experience

Our Year 11 students are busy preparing to engage in work experience in Week 10 of this term. This is an excellent opportunity for them to explore possible future pathways and acquire hands-on experience in a particular workplace or industry. Teachers are providing lots of guidance and support to the students to ensure that this is a positive and meaningful experience. Thank you to the many local businesses who will support our students to gain these valuable opportunities to learn and grow as they prepare to enter the workforce in the coming years.

## Student Attendance

The halfway point of the school year is a good opportunity to take stock of many things. Next Friday students will get their Semester 1 Report. Generally, the first thing students and parents look at is the level of achievement attained in each of the learning areas. There is often a correlation between level of achievement and attendance, which is why we know that attendance at school is important. We know that every day counts when it comes to your child's education.

Consistent school attendance helps to:

- *develop a sense of belonging*
- *develop and maintain friendships*
- *be more engaged at school*
- *progress with their learning*
- *be more aware of career and life options.*

The below information highlights the importance of punctuality and attendance at school each day.

- *If your child is **10 minutes** late to school each day...*
  - *It equates to missing more than a **1 whole week** of school each year.*
  - *If a pattern of being late each continues over the course of their entire schooling, then they would miss almost **2 terms** of their schooling!*

Being late for class often means important instructions are missed and the class is interrupted. School is meant to be organised, scheduled and predictable for students. It prepares them for life beyond school, even from an early age.

Frequent absences from school will also impact on the overall development and growth of a child's learning and wellbeing at school.

- *If your child misses **1 day** a fortnight...*
  - *It equates to **4 weeks** of school each year.*
  - *If this is pattern of non-attendance continues over the course of their entire schooling, then they would miss the equivalent of **1 year** of school!*

Of course, there are legitimate reasons for when students are absent or late. It is important that these reasons are communicated to the school in a timely manner. Parents/caregivers can do this by using the school SMS number or communicating directly with your child's teacher or the front office. Thank you for working with us and ensuring that every day counts for your child's education.

## The Witness

The Witness is our Diocese's bi-monthly publication that specifically targets Catholic faith adults and children. You can access the Witness online via this [link](#).

It is a great way to nurture your faith and stay up-to-date with what is happening around our Diocese.



## Extra Curricular Excursions

This week our students have been involved in some exciting excursions that have added value to the learning that they have engaged in at school. Today, the Year 1s visited Wadlata Outback Centre and the Year 2s ventured to Quorn to experience the Pichi Richi Railway Train to complement their learning in Humanities and Social Sciences. Next week the Year 7 students will visit Point Lowly to learn about the local marine environment and the potential impact of a desalination plant as part of their Science program. It is great that our students can access opportunities in and around Port Augusta to enhance their learning and support the local community.



## Student Free Day - Monday 21 July 2025

The first day of Term 3 is a Student Free Day. Staff will engage in a Staff Reflection Day, which is a vital part of our commitment to nurturing both the professional and spiritual growth of our teachers and Education Support Officers (ESOs). This day allows staff to pause, reflect, and reconnect with the core values that guide our work as a Catholici school.

Inspired by the example of St Mary MacKillop, we will use this time to strengthen our commitment to our school's mission and vision to ensure that every child is supported in their schooling journey at Caritas College. The day will be flavoured with prayer, collaboration, and professional dialogue, helping staff to realign with our shared mission of delivering compassionate, high-quality Catholic education.

We thank our families for supporting the ongoing development of our staf - because when educators grow, students thrive.

## End of Semester Reports

As we approach the end of Term 2, parents/caregivers will be able to access their child's Semester 1 Report via SEQTA Engage from the end of Week 10. These reports provide an overview of your child's level of achievement and approach to learning in each subject.

We encourage families to take time to read through the report together, celebrating the successes and identifying areas for growth. This is a valuable opportunity to acknowledge your child's hard work and to support them in setting goals for the remainder of the year.

If you experience any difficulties accessing the report or have questions about the content, please don't hesitate to contact the school.



## End of Term

As we approach the end of another busy and rewarding term, I want to take a moment to celebrate the many achievements of our students. During the week, I had the privilege of listening to our Year 10 students share their reflections of the term in an assembly. It was a comprehensive recap of everything that has occurred. From classroom learning to sporting events, and community involvement, it's been inspiring to see our students grow, succeed, and support one another.

I would like to thank our families for your ongoing partnership and support. It makes a big difference.

Once the term concludes, I wish all of our families a safe, restful, and joyful term break. I look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for Term 3.

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## From the Assistant Principal Religious Identity & Mission, Chloe Shanahan

### Saints Peter and Paul

This coming weekend, we celebrate the feast of Saints Peter and Paul. These two saints played an important role in Jesus' story and how we understand the impacts of his teachings.

Peter, originally named Simon Peter, was a fisherman called by Jesus and eventually became a leader. Peter stayed loyal to Jesus, even after denying him. Jesus forgave him and had faith in him as the "rock" on which our Church is built on, becoming the first bishop of Rome almost 2000 years ago. It is in the story in Luke's Gospel of Peter fishing with Jesus and being amazed at the number of fish caught that we hear the well known verse, "Do not be afraid" as Jesus calls the first disciples to begin their missionary work.



Paul, originally named Saul, underwent a transformation when he encountered the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus. He then passionately preached the Gospel of Jesus throughout many countries in the first century, establishing the first Christian communities in many towns throughout modern day Turkey. The letters we read in the Bible – Romans, Ephesians, Colossians, Philipians, and Corinthians – have been attributed to Paul. Paul's letter to the Romans has a significance to us here at Caritas College this year with its connection to our theme, Seeds of Hope.

The stories of both St Peter and St Paul are intertwined and complement each other to highlight humility, trust in God, forgiveness, and the transformative power of encountering Jesus.

Loving God,  
May we celebrate the feast of the apostles Peter and Paul  
and be inspired by unwavering faith.  
We humbly ask you to guide us as we endeavour to uphold  
their example and embrace the wisdom they offer to us.  
We make this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Amen.

## First Holy Communion

Congratulations to all the young people from our parish and school communities who celebrated their First Holy Communion over the last 2 weekends. First Holy Communion is a beautiful reminder of God's love and the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist. As Jesus said, *"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty"* (John 6:35). It is not only a personal milestone for each child but a celebration for the whole community, one that our parish and school communities have journeyed alongside the young people and their families. It has been a privilege to watch these young people and their families grow in their faith. We look forward to seeing these young people continue their full and active participation in the Church.

These young people were officially commissioned last weekend at our Children's Masses. We congratulate:

Anika Abesamis  
Oliver Broadbridge  
Bridget Heron  
Kizito Onwumese  
Mia Roebby  
Eleanor Zerbe

Malina Bachmann  
Violet Foote  
Audrey Morris  
Samuel Onwumese  
Aneeshya Samaranayake



## Sacrament of Confirmation

Families with young people receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation are reminded that the second session of preparation will be held this weekend, Saturday 28 June at 6:30pm and Sunday 29 June at 10:30am. Dates for preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation are:

**Session 1** – Saturday 21 June OR Sunday 22 June

**Session 2** - Saturday 28 June OR Sunday 29 June

**Spare Weekends** - 5/6, 12/13, 19/20 July (School Holidays)

**Session 3** - Saturday 26 OR Sunday 27 July

**Session 4** - 2 OR Sunday 3 August

**Spare Weekend** - 9/10 August

**Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation** – Sunday 17 August

**Commissioning of Students and Youth Mass** – Saturday 23 OR Sunday 24 August

If you need to make up Session 1, please contact the Parish Office on 8642 2847. There are spare weekends coming up throughout the July holiday period.

This sacrament has a wonderful connection with Pentecost, the moment when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, giving them the courage to spread God's word to everyone.

## Vinnies Can Drive and Winter Rug Up Day

Continuing this week, our Year 12 student leaders are holding the annual Vinnies Can Drive. The food that is generously donated will be distributed amongst the wider Port Augusta community to assist those most in need this winter. Our community is always so generous for those who are in need and Vinnies have requested the following items (however will gladly accept all non-perishable items):

- Tinned soup
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned vegetables
- Spaghetti
- Baked beans
- Tins of tuna, especially small tins

Today our school held its Winter Rug Up Day in support of those doing it tough during the cold mornings and evenings we've been experiencing. In a spirit of compassion and community, students came to school bundled up in beanies, gloves, scarves, blankets, and Oodies over their uniforms, each contributing a gold coin donation. Alongside this, we received generous donations of warm clothing and blankets. All money raised and items collected will be donated to Vinnies, together with food donations, as we put our faith into action. In doing so, we follow the example of Jesus and Mary MacKillop by prioritising the needs of the marginalised and living out our values with care and dignity.



## Nativity of St John the Baptist

Earlier this week, the Church celebrated the feast of the Nativity of St John the Baptist. John was Jesus' cousin, the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, who was related to Jesus' mother Mary. Elizabeth had no children of her own, so they prayed to God to help them. The angel Gabriel visited Zechariah and Elizabeth one day telling them they would have a son and to name him John and that he would be "*great in the sight of the Lord*" (Luke 1:15). It was at the visitation when John leapt with great joy in the womb of Elizabeth and she knew that Mary was carrying Jesus, the Son of God.





John's public ministry began in the early first century, attracting large crowds to be baptised in the River Jordan. John was the one who baptised Jesus, with the Holy Spirit coming down upon him, establishing Jesus as a priest, prophet and king. John only ever spoke of love and truth, calling all to forgiveness, and was always trying to bring about God's Kingdom here on earth, providing us with a wonderful example of how to live a life in Christ.

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From the Teaching & Learning Coordinator, Secondary, Nathan O'Brien

## Whole School Learning Sprint

Aligning with the school's commitment to student achievement, and particularly numeracy skills, all teachers undertook a 'learning sprint' at the beginning of term 2. This was designed to focus on a fundamental skill which will support student's further learning, but which required consolidation.

Initially, teachers selected their target skill – with most classes having a maths focus. Students undertook a pre-assessment at the beginning of the learning sprint to give teachers an understanding of students' prior/ current knowledge at the time.

Example focus areas include:

- Understanding place value
- Writing our numbers correctly
- Number facts (such as times tables)
- Addition and subtraction

Over the following four weeks, teachers implemented daily reviews of their chosen skill. These were short reviews that were facilitated frequently across each week, providing multiple opportunities for all students to practice the target concept. Whole-class participation tactics such as the use of student whiteboards enabled teachers to get rapid feedback on student understanding throughout the review.

At the end of this period, students were assessed again on the same skill, measuring how each student had grown. This resulted in over 800 points of data on student's skills, a huge effort across the school! Encouragingly, the vast majority of students saw growth in the targeted skill – many showed quite significant growth over this period.

Whole-class supports and interventions such as these are one way we are working to reinforce key skills into long-term memory, narrowing achievement gaps for students.

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## Teaching & Learning

## Year 5/6 SAPSASA

On Friday of week 8, some of our Year 5/6 students participated in the SAPSASA Girls Football and Boys Netball carnival. Our Girls went through the day undefeated and won the Div 1 grand final. Both our Boys Netball teams had lots of success throughout the day with one of our teams ending up as Div 2 winners. Thanks to the students who volunteered to umpire as well as the teachers and all the parents for their support



## Year 10 STEM

On Tuesday and Wednesday of week 8 a group of girls travelled to UniSA in Whyalla to participate in the STEM Girls Academy's Creative Challenge. Over the two days, they were introduced to professionals and engineers from Southcott (Sean Rooney) and the SA Government (Angie Stokes) who posed challenges/problems that each group are currently working through. They followed the Design Thinking model to work through the problems and come up with potential solutions. They worked in groups with students from other schools building their leadership, communication and collaboration skills. The girls will return in week 10 to finalise their projects and present their solutions to Angie.



## Year 12 Chemistry

Hannah, Jorja and Macey, recently showcased their scientific skills in the intra-school stage of the RACI school titration competition. This competition challenges students to accurately determine the concentration of a solution through precise titration techniques and stoichiometric calculations. The competition provided a valuable opportunity to apply classroom knowledge in a real-world context and highlighted the importance of accuracy in chemical analysis.





Out and About





**Last Day  
of Term 2!**  
**Friday 4  
July 2025**







**Caritas**  
COLLEGE

# COME JOIN OUR TEAM!

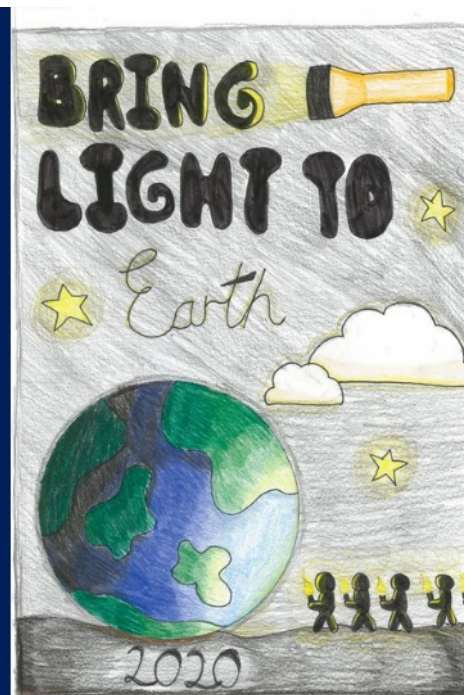
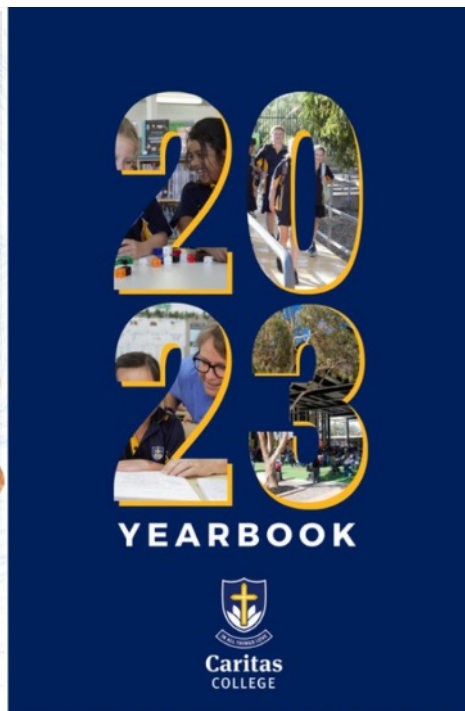
## Education Support Officer (ESO) - Curriculum

R-12 Classroom Education Support

Permanent/Ongoing, Commencing 22 July 2025,

Application details at: [www.cesa.catholic.edu.au/working-with-us/positions-vacant/job-detail/109740](http://www.cesa.catholic.edu.au/working-with-us/positions-vacant/job-detail/109740)





# ATTENTION ALL CARITAS COLLEGE FANS!

Are you on the hunt for that missing yearbook to complete your collection? Head over to the 'Caritas College Memorabilia' section on the QKR! app and grab your MISSING YEARBOOK today!

But wait, there's more... While you're there, you'll find a heap of College Memorabilia for sale—perfect for old scholars, current students, or anyone looking to take a trip down memory lane.

Don't miss out on these iconic pieces of Caritas history!

# MID YEAR BREAK

*PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR  
UNIFORM SUPPLIER,  
PERM-A-PLEAT, WILL CLOSE  
FOR THEIR MID-YEAR BREAK  
FROM MONDAY 7 JULY 2025  
UNTIL FRIDAY 18 JULY 2025.*

*REGULAR BUSINESS WILL RESUME  
ON MONDAY 21 JULY 2025.*







# CHANGE TO BOYS' SCHOOL TROUSERS

Following negotiations with our uniform supplier, a change has been implemented regarding the boys' school trousers.

When the College first partnered with Permapleat, the preferred trouser style was not available as a standard stock item, so a custom design was developed.

Permapleat has now advised that, due to demand, from other schools, they are producing a navy boys' trouser that closely matches our current custom design and is available as a stock line item.

In line with the College's commitment to ensuring the school uniform remains affordable, functional, and accessible, we have agreed to transition to the stock line trouser once existing supplies of the custom-made version are depleted.

Two boys' trouser options are now available on the online portal, showing the range of sizes for both the original custom-made trousers and the new stock line. Please note that there is a difference in pricing between the two options.



# Your nursing career starts here!

Join us for a **Community Nursing Information Session** to learn how you can study a Bachelor of Nursing right here in Port Pirie.

This session is **ideal for senior school students** considering a career in nursing, **and for parents and caregivers** wanting to learn more about how their child can study locally with the support of Uni Hub Spencer Gulf.

- Hear from CQUniversity Acting Head of Nursing Ellie Cutmore and Port Pirie University Centre Manager Adrianna Caputo
- Find out about the Bachelor of Nursing (CL91), and Bachelor of Nursing (Enrolled Nurse Pathway) (CM77)
- Learn about study pathways & entry options
- Find out how local residential schools and placements work
- Discover more about the Uni Hub and the support provided to students

 **Port Pirie University Centre,  
97 Ellen Street (Uni Hub)**  
 **Thursday, 3 July 2025, 6pm**



For more information please  
call Adrianna at the Port Pirie  
University Centre 8656 9951