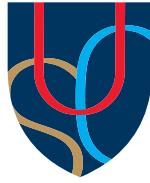




**UNIVERSITY
SENIOR COLLEGE**
ADELAIDE

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



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SENIOR COLLEGE**
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2023

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

2023 has proven to be another exciting year for University Senior College and I am delighted to provide you with a glimpse of achievement and life at the College for the year.

University Senior College continues to be a shining example of superior senior secondary education in South Australia. Student achievement is to be celebrated and the sheer number of enrolment enquiries the College has experienced this year are evidence of the College's reputation and success.

2023 has been a year of learning and experiencing many new things; not just new problems to solve, theories to learn and apply, points of view to consider, new friendships to be forged but ethical questions to deliberate upon also. This activity is evidence that University Senior College has continued to thrive. Our Year 10 cohort grew to 100 and the entire school enrolment reached 470.

The year began with new lightness. No longer were we fixated on the pandemic as we had been in the three years prior, and it was a joyful moment when we were able to hold our first full school gathering on Day One of Orientation for all students and staff. It was a beautiful sight, looking out across the audience of the Scott Theatre on Wednesday 1 February. 470 students across all year levels were

nervously yet excitedly chatting as we officially commenced the 2023 academic year. No social distancing, no masks as we were returned to school in full swing! A shared lunch was back on the menu for Day One and the O Week Expo took place, in much the same way as it was prior to 2020.

At University Senior College learning remained our focus and our students excelled across all curriculum areas and in competitions such as the Mock Trials, the Titration Competition, the Science Olympiad, Mathematics competitions, civics activities and poetry writing. Work Experience, Entrepreneurship activities and links with other independent schools in South Australia and China through a collaboration with AISSA and University of Kansas provided new learning opportunities beyond the classroom. Connecting with our wider community remains forever important. A newfound aspect of the USC calendar was the introduction of a World Challenge adventure. This activity provided an opportunity for twenty students and two staff to travel to Borneo to challenge themselves in physical activities, such as hiking and sleeping in the jungle, to working for a local community, using funds raised at home during the year to support their community initiative.



Staff newly appointed to USC in 2023 include Peter Ellis, Peter Hatcliffe, Kylie Urlichs and Laboratory Managers Kunsheng Hu and Jaimie Cook. However, we farewell some of our staff also as they venture into life beyond USC, including Counsellor and Wellbeing Coordinator Nadia Lovett, Philip Moore, Mathematics teacher and previous Head of Faculty, Meg Worby teacher of English and Olivia Saunders who completed her contract in July. So too, do contracts end for Lesley Day, Callum Iles and Isabella Benvenuto.

The constant in the life of USC is always our staff. Each day, I have had the privilege of witnessing staff at USC go that little bit extra to support the students in their care. The number of Availability sessions I observed on every floor every day, were testimony of the passion our teachers have for education and their subject areas, and their desire to see the lights of learning ignite in students' eyes. The formal and informal interactions between staff and students is truly inspirational and is one of the aspects of USC that I love. It is also something that has stood out time and again, to the many visitors to the campus in 2023. I thank all our staff, teaching and administration for their ongoing professionalism and commitment to the students, and the College more broadly. It is the work of every individual that makes up the positive reputation

and welcoming and safe environment of University Senior College.

I acknowledge each member of the leadership team, the Deans of Student Experience, Ann Rayson, David Place and Anna Bassani, whose ongoing work and dedication ensure our students are well supported, to Vanessa Grave for her outstanding work in Marketing and Community Partnerships, and to Simon Sypek, Matthew Noble and Karen Boyd for their leadership across all areas of the College. Gratitude must also be expressed for the work of our Counsellors Nadia Lovett and Ana Diaz, and of the Mentor Support staff Elly Pfitzner, Michael Jacobsen and Tom Barclay.

Our day-to-day work is always made that bit easier with the support and forward-thinking work of our Council. I extend my sincere gratitude to all Council members, particularly Dr Paul Dalby, Council Chair along with other Council members, Professor Suzanne Le Mire, Dr Ben Grindlay, Ms Yvette Winter, Mr Graeme Hodge, Mr Brian Simons, and Ms Amy Birve-Brooks. Their commitment to USC has allowed us to flourish, remain forward-thinking and relevant. I sincerely thank each member of Council for the contributions to USC in 2023.

Finally, thank you to the students that make up this fantastic school. As I stated to the Year 12s in their



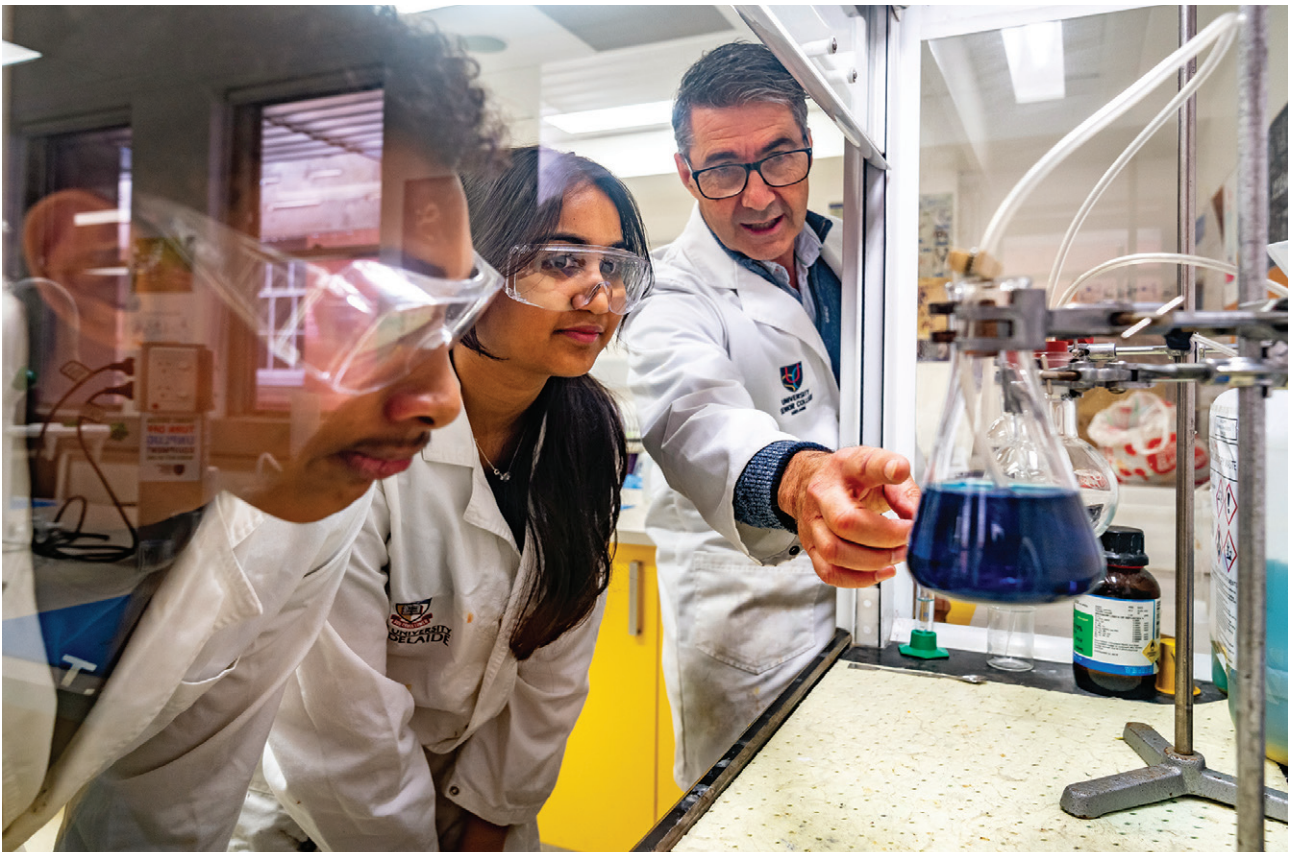
Final Assembly this year, you, the students, are the reason I get up each morning and come onto campus. Your vitality, freshness, and aspirations, inspire me each day. To the parents and guardians of our students, thank you also, for trusting us and for moving your children to USC in their final years of schooling. We don't take this trust lightly.



Best wishes to you all.

Anita Zocchi
Principal

USC Principal, Anita Zocchi presenting Felicity Graham 2023 winner of the USC Create Change Award at this year's Young Achiever Awards.



USC COUNCIL REPORT 2023

2023 has been another excellent year for USC and its staff and students. The challenges of COVID are diminishing and the School is left stronger and even clearer in its mission.

I have been delighted to watch the performance of the School unfold over the year. The academic results have been nothing short of outstanding and USC students continue to outperform in all areas when judged against their peers. Just as pleasing has been the ongoing commitment of staff and students to diversity and respect. This is critically important in creating an effective learning environment, and building resilience in the young people who are in our care. USC is a school that is sought out by students seeking acceptance for who they are and their commitment to academic excellence. Time and again parents and students tell me of their relief of finding a school where students who have a love of learning can quickly fit in, immerse themselves in their studies and be celebrated for who they are. Students experiencing bullying in other schools are regularly referred to USC because of the culture and kindness of our staff and students. It is our School community who make USC such a great place to learn and grow, and the Council and I warmly thank you all.

The USC Council has been working hard to position USC for an even better future, and these plans should come to fruition in the coming years. The merger of The University of Adelaide and UniSA creates an exciting new opportunity for the USC community to engage with what will be one of the largest universities in Australia. We are also reaching out to Flinders University who are building a presence in the city of Adelaide. We are fortunate to see the development of Adelaide as a truly university city, with all of the vibrancy and opportunity that brings, especially for a school that prides itself on being the pre-eminent place for students to prepare for university study. We remain the largest feeder of students to The University of Adelaide.

I continue to be dazzled by the brilliant efforts of the USC team to attract and retain students, and we are almost at full capacity. This bodes very well for the future ahead. I wish those students who are leaving us all the very best in their future learning and careers. These are very interesting and exciting times to be creating a career, and I am a little bit envious. To our current Year 10 and 11 students, we all look forward to your scholarship and progression in 2024.

I would like to thank all of the Council members for their efforts this year. In particular, I would like to welcome and introduce new Council member Amy Brooks-Birve, nominated by the USC Old Scholars, and who has been a driving force on the Old Scholars for some years. We also thank departing Council member Celia Le for her many years of service on the Council. I would personally like to give a special thank you to Council member Yvette Winter who did a herculean job leading a review of governance policies and structures for the Council. This is thankless but important work that will enable the staff of USC to deliver their work ever more safely and effectively.

Finally, a big thank you from the Council members to all of the USC staff whose great efforts and commitment every day make USC the incredible school that it is. You should all feel very proud of what you have been able to create. In particular, a big thank you to our Principal, Anita Zocchi who has shepherded the school through the challenges of COVID and has placed USC in an even stronger position. Her leadership and commitment to the values of the School, and to welfare and performance of both staff and students is inspirational and greatly appreciated by all.



Dr Paul Dalby
Chairperson
University Senior College

STAFF FAREWELLS



Nadia Lovett

Dr Nadia Lovett commenced at University Senior College in its second year of operation.

Recruited as the inaugural Student Counsellor for the

College, Nadia has been able to develop her role to ensure it allowed her to lead with care and to support the College in a multitude of ways. Nadia has always worked to lead by example, show support to students, their families and staff in a consistent and enduring manner, and work tirelessly for positive outcomes.

Each year students have sought Nadia's counsel or her assistance on personal matters, or to create a resume, finalise their Research Project, make a SATAC application, support their interests or prepare to sit the STAT test. Supporting USC students to reach their personal best has been uppermost in Nadia's intentions. Students pursuing leadership and agency always sought Nadia out to assist them in their goals, and Nadia was forever an anchor, supporting every project important to students. During an AISSA project on Student Agency, it was Nadia who led the school in this endeavour and an increased and authentic student voice was the result. Nadia's drive saw Positive Education principles and philosophies adopted across the College and particularly so in the Year 11 Mentoring program.

Staff also, have benefitted from Nadia's leadership and support, assisting them when undertaking a variety of tasks, brainstorming ideas for school improvement or just seeking her out for a chat. A person with a strong sense of self, her positive attributes have left an indelible mark on the College. So too, have her contributions to the wider educational arena. Nadia has been a longstanding member of the Positive Education South Australian (PESA) Chapter and each year she has worked to organise the PESA conferences across the state and encouraged USC staff to attend or indeed to present their work. Nadia's passion for positive wellbeing is felt by all who encounter her.

Nadia's skill extends beyond the counselling office. She has been the go-to person for all manner of USC catering functions. Her delight in cooking sweets and baked goods is part of her trademark. She has been known to bake for staff meetings,

for the annual Art and Design Shows and to raise funds for many worthy causes. This generosity epitomises Nadia. Her willingness to volunteer many hours preparing for the annual O Week Expo, and the various lunches across the school calendar model service and giving to others. The knitting and crochet club, a new aspect to USC offerings, was another initiative where students and staff sat together one lunchtime per week talking and knitting, to provide the homeless with something warm that was created by people who care, while also providing a space for USC staff and students to interact informally. There are countless other activities that Nadia has led and supported to connect students, staff and community, too many to name here.

Nadia's contributions to University Senior College and the wider community are significant and we wish her well as she embarks on her next stage, which is not retirement, but a recalibration and an opportunity to spend time with her family, travel, and a myriad of other activities.

Thank you, Nadia for your long and dedicated service to University Senior College. Enjoy the next phase in your life and leave USC knowing you have influenced many people along the way.





Philip Moore

Philip Moore commenced at USC in 2017 after a long and well recognised career in independent schools in South Australia and abroad. His

reputation preceded him. What has become Philip's signature at University Senior College over the last seven years, is his quiet and unassuming nature, and with equal measure, his sharp wit and critical thinking that formulate his considered ideas and opinions. With the goal of improvement, Philip lent his support to make things happen at University Senior College. One such example was his timetable expertise when planning was underway for the introduction of Year 10.

A well-respected teacher of Mathematics across Years 10, 11 and 12, Philip's passion for Mathematics, and in particular Specialist Mathematics is obvious to all he encounters. Always in search for something new, his MyUni page was filled with interesting clips, different mathematical problems to consider, while also sharing with students the other M's of Philip Moore, his love of memes, music and mountains. Always in attendance at College music and drama performances, Philip supported students and colleagues alike. Of course, his love of mathematics was further demonstrated by encouraging students to attend MASA and Australian Mathematics competitions and quiz nights.

Philip's dedication to teaching, learning and more specifically Mathematics saw him guide many student teachers and enrich the experiences of new career teachers. He could often be found on Level 3 of the Jordan holding Availability sessions for his students and student teachers alike, and in deep conversation in his office. Always willing to assist, Philip took on extra classes when needed to assist the College, and was Head of the Mathematics Faculty for 18 months.

Mentorship is important to Philip. His Mentor Group coffee catch-up sessions were often punctuated with games, riddles, puzzles and fun, and any eyewitness would have seen very clearly the positive relationships Philip built with his mentees. A BBQ chef, his assistance was offered, cooking for students, while getting to know staff and students outside the classroom context. When weekend walks were offered, Philip was there, enjoying the outdoors, and in all these activities his support was appreciated, as was his repartee.

Having decided to leave USC, Philip's future is filled with possibilities, albeit with a different pace. I'm certain the rhythm of USC will not be missed, as his first goal is to take a well-earned break from the classroom.

Thank you, Philip for your service to University Senior College, for your exemplary teaching appreciated by your students and for your leadership. University Senior College is a different place, and the mathematics faculty has reached new heights because of you. We wish you many mountains to climb, much music to explore and mostly we hope you use your many talents creatively. Enjoy your break and best wishes for your future.



Ann Rayson

Ann Rayson commenced at University Senior College in 2020 as the inaugural Dean of Student Experience for the newly established Year 10

program. The popularity of the program was evident from the outset and Ann took leadership of our first class of Year 10 with 60 students. Ann showed her leadership immediately as Dean and Mentor, leading and working collaboratively with other Year 10 Mentors to ensure our Year 10 students settled in quickly and flourished. This task wasn't an easy one, given COVID-19 hit the world and we were sent into lockdowns at the beginning of the year. Despite the complexities COVID-19 brought, Ann led the Year 10 team and our students flourished.

Such was the popularity of our program that we expanded it to 80 students in 2021 and 2022 and this year, Ann led 100 Year 10 students. Ann's leadership extended beyond Year 10, where she taught Year 12 Accounting and in her first year, shared Year 12 Business Innovation. Ann also established herself as a fun staff member to be around, and actively organised and attended social events. Ann's leadership of our program is well recognised, and we are grateful for her time at USC and her contribution to our school history. Thank you, Ann for your professionalism and dedication. We wish you every success in the future.



Meg Worby

Meg Worby began as a teacher of English at University Senior College in 2011. Considered, kind and patient are a few words to describe all of Meg's

interactions, but an outstanding professional is her trademark. Meg's entry into USC was as a student teacher under the guidance of Lisa Temple, and she impressed from the outset. Meg's skill in teaching English and English Literary Studies was enjoyed by students over many years. Her ability to listen carefully, consider opinions and offer suggestions for improvement and sage advice are aspects to Meg that both students and staff benefited from in equal measure.

Meg's professional contributions to the English faculty were always valued. Her insights into texts, their implications to student learning about themselves, life in general, while extending their proficiency and understanding of the English language and culture have been significant.

Always willing to assist the College, Meg also took on the role of Mentor Support at Year 11 and worked collaboratively with Deans and Mentor teaching staff to ensure the mentoring program was well organised and executed.

Meg and her family sought adventure in 2023 and headed to Hobart to work and live life differently. This experience has been a rewarding and enriching one, and consequently, Meg and her family have chosen to remain in Hobart to live, work and play for the foreseeable future.

Thank you, Meg for your wonderful contribution to University Senior College. Students and staff alike have benefited from your time here, and we wish you every success in your new life. Best wishes for the future.



Olivia Saunders

Olivia Saunders began in a Mathematics contract in July 2021 to replace a staff member on long service leave. A new graduate, Olivia impressed from

the start. A willing and eager learner, and a vibrant teacher, Olivia forged positive relationships with staff and students. Olivia was comfortable in a Mathematics classroom, regardless of year level, and inspired her students to achieve their personal best and develop a passion for Mathematics.

We were fortunate to have Olivia continue in other Mathematics contracts until July 2023, but life and family in Western Australia beckoned, and Olivia returned to the West.

Thank you, Olivia, for your enthusiasm, flexibility and the positive energy you brought to University Senior College.

It is also important to express gratitude for staff who leave due to completion of their contracts and these staff include Lesley Day who held a year's contract in English and has decided the life of an author is beckoning; Callum Iles, who joined us for Semester 2 teaching the Research Project and has secured a permanent position at Pembroke School; Isabella Benvenuto who joined us in Term 4 to teacher Visual Art: Art and Creative Arts.



ACADEMIC REPORT 2022 GRADUATES

Dux: Teresa Bueti

99.95 ATAR

Teresa also achieved three Merits in Biology, Chemistry, English, Research Project (2021) and 2 High Distinctions in Headstart Program (Human Anatomy and Physiology 1A and 1 B).

Proxima Accessit: Rucan (James) Liu

99.8 ATAR

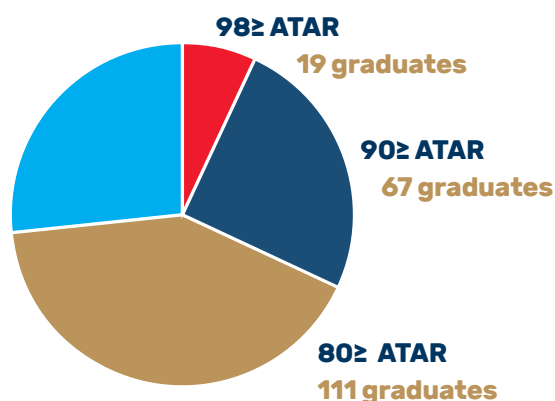
James achieved Merits in Specialist Mathematics and Mathematical Methods (2021) and 2 High Distinctions in Headstart Program (Programming (MATLAB and C) and Object-Oriented Programming Comp).

The following students achieved an ATAR between 98 and 99.95:

▪ Chloe Koh	99.75
▪ Mia Jarvis	99.45
▪ Ruby Cichero	99.40
▪ Janviben Shah	99.35
▪ Georgia McLeod	98.95
▪ Ollie White	98.90
▪ Anika Bruin	98.85
▪ Azalea Li	98.85
▪ Alannah Pham	98.75
▪ Christine Welsh	98.75
▪ Zuhar Alji	98.7
▪ William Li	98.65
▪ Sheida Afshar	98.55
▪ Anita Kaleytnik	98.55
▪ Jack Larkin	98.45
▪ Joseph Bojcesvski	98.35
▪ Archie Goodson	98.20

182 students achieved an ATAR

- 10.44% achieved an ATAR of 98 or above
- 36.81% achieved an ATAR of 90 or above
- 60.98% achieved an ATAR of 80 or above
- Median ATAR 84.85%



USC Principal, Anita Zocchi with 2022 Dux Teresa Bueti.

There were 90 A+ grades with 35 Merits.

Merits achieved in the following subjects:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth and Environmental Science
- English
- English Literary Studies
- General Mathematics
- Legal Studies
- Mathematical Methods
- Specialist Mathematics
- Psychology
- Physics
- Politics, Power and People
- Research Project B
- Visual Arts: Design

25 students studied one or more subjects in The University of Adelaide Headstart Scholarship.

Results were as follows:

- 22 High Distinctions
- 14 Distinctions
- 6 Credits
- 1 Pass

L-R Joanna Beji Daniel and Anita Kaleytnik received perfect scores for their Research Project.



ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST OUR USC ASPIRATIONS 2023

ASPIRATION 1: NURTURE A RESPECTFUL, DIVERSE, AND COHESIVE COMMUNITY.

There was a multitude of events to celebrate and support our community, not only within USC, but also our wider South Australian community. Wear it Purple, Harmony Day, RUOK Day, NAIDOC Week to name a few.

Students and staff attended the **International Women's Breakfast** at the Adelaide Convention Centre in March. This year's Guest Speaker was Ambassador Caroline Kennedy U.S. Ambassador to Australia and the host was the Honourable Senator Penny Wong.

Another group of students and staff attended the **2023 Australian of the Year Luncheon**, with Taryn Brumfitt, a filmmaker, bestselling author and sought-after keynote speaker, and Amar Singh Founder of Turbans 4 Australia and the Local Hero 2023 winner. Taryn Brumfitt is the founder of the Body Image Movement and director of the inspiring documentaries EMBRACE and EMBRACE KIDS. Taryn is a fiercely passionate advocate for social change and her message has reached more than 200 million people around the world. This occasion provided students with an opportunity to learn from a high achieving and contributing member of society.

In August during Homelessness Week, a team of University Senior College staff and students pledged to walk and collect donations to support Hutt Street's cause to end homelessness in South Australia and took part in the **Walk a Mile in My Shoes** campaign. The USC team raised over \$2600 for the charity. Many of the team members walked the last mile from Victoria Park to Hutt Street together with other South Australians.

A new event on the USC calendar, the **Knitting and Crochet Club** commenced in Term 2.

Students, staff and community members made a commitment to make scarves, beanies or gloves for people living rough in South Australia. Together they made over 100 pieces. Many of the woollens were offered to people on the street while the remainder were taken to the Hutt Street Centre to be distributed to those in need.

A team of students and staff took part in the 12-kilometre **City to Bay Fun Run**. On a warm September morning over 20 members of our school community tackled the course.

USC continues its commitment to young people in South Australia by sponsoring the Create Change Award as part of the **Channel 7 Young Achievers Award**. The 2023 Create Change Award winner is Felicity Graham. Felicity launched the not-for-profit Fostering Change Australia to educate, advocate, and change the Child Protection system. Felicity has represented No Capes, a group of young people with care experience, in the co-design of DCP's Child and Youth Engagement Strategy. She has written a children's book, "Oscar's Layers", also to educate children about child protection and help them cope with big feelings.

Glen Gerryn, renowned Australian speaker and director of the **Hope Project** delivered a presentation on wellbeing and goal setting to Year 12 students and mentors during O Week and then returned to the College later in the year to address parents on supporting young people to be resilient and healthy in order to achieve their goals. Feedback from both sessions indicated Glen reached his audiences and provided excellent ideas for students and parents to adopt.



ASPIRATION 2:
SUPPORT STUDENTS TO BE RESILIENT,
CREATIVE, INTRINSICALLY MOTIVATED AND
READY FOR UNIVERSITY.

ASPIRATION 3:
ENGAGE STUDENTS IN LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES THAT CHALLENGE, FOSTER
CREATIVITY, PROBLEM-SOLVING AND
COLLABORATION.

ASPIRATION 4: CAPITALISE ON OUR
ENVIRONMENT WITHIN AND BEYOND
THE CLASSROOM THAT MOTIVATES AND
STIMULATES LEARNING.

For the third year in a row, University Senior College won the **Law Society Mock Trial Grand Final**, held at the District Court. The trial was judged by the Hon Justice Timothy Stanley who oversaw the Wills/Probate matter of Alwyn v Marrin. Mercedes College acted as the Applicant seeking Probate for an alleged last will and testament, and University Senior College acted for the Respondent challenging the purported will. Anvika Navneet, a Year 11 student from University Senior College was afforded the award for 'Best Barrister' of the evening, resulting in an internship with Justice Stanley.

We were excited also to have an exclusive tour of the **Advanced Surgical Training Clinic** in Adelaide as part of our STEM activities on August 9. USC students explored Fusetec, a revolutionary surgical training process, and engaged in demonstrations led by professionals. Unlike traditional surgical training, which involves the dissection of cadavers and living subjects, this clinic is a world-first cadaver-free surgical training environment, where residents and surgeons can rehearse complex surgical procedures without exposure to harmful bacteria.



Stage 2 Environmental and Earth Sciences

(EES) students had the opportunity to explore an eye-opening journey to the historical Brukunga Mine, a former mining site nestled in the South Australian landscape. This site had a rich history, primarily dedicated to the extraction of lead and zinc for several decades before it ceased its operations, inadvertently leaving a haunting legacy of environmental degradation in its wake. The unique geological characteristics and composition of the mine site, coupled with insufficient mitigation strategies and the lack of appropriate closure procedures upon cessation of mining activities, have collectively contributed to the distressing occurrence of acid mine drainage at Brukunga Mine. This enlightening excursion offered students an invaluable opportunity to witness firsthand the sheer magnitude of open pit mining's ecological footprint, driving home the importance of responsible and sustainable resource extraction practices.

University of South Australia and Flinders University were invited to present to interested students at lunchtime events. Students gained information about the following undergraduate degrees which are not offered at The University of Adelaide including:

- Primary teaching
- Pharmacy
- Radiography
- Real Estate
- Paramedicine
- Nutrition
- Cyber security

Anjali Beames was selected as one of 12 Australian representatives and participated in the **Aotearoa Leadership Tour 2023** (UN Youth Australia initiative). Anjali is a very active citizen and an excellent ambassador for USC. She has worked positively to her academic and civic goals and achieved highly in all she undertakes.



ASPIRATION 6: PRESERVE A GENUINE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE, DESIGNED TO PROMOTE A LOVE OF LEARNING.

USC EDGE

In 2022 the College successfully secured a pilot with The University of Adelaide, trialling Extension Studies for a group of students who could undertake Headstart studies through the pilot, called USC Edge. Six students were successful in securing a place in this pilot. The University of Adelaide has agreed to extend the pilot into 2024.

In addition to the Headstart program falling under the USC Edge umbrella, three students also took part in the Flinders University Extension Studies program.

Zahra Pirvali, our STEM Coordinator, made connections within the University and beyond, to enrich the STEM learning of our students. She successfully secured the following new connections within the University of Adelaide, Lot 14 and SAHMRI. These included:

- Petroleum Engineering and Chemical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering, Mining
- Adelaide Microscopy Centre
- Space Agency Lot 14
- X Ray Crystallography SAHMRI
- Astro Physics and the Observatory on campus
- Inovor Technologies satellite company at Lot 14
- Presentation on AI and Extended Intelligence EI.
- The new merged Electrical and Mechanical Eng department

As part of the University Senior College STEM Community Connections and Partnerships, students and staff also had the privilege of participating in an exclusive tour of the **Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (EME)** Department at

The University of Adelaide. The tour included visits to specialized laboratories, such as the Vibrations Lab and the Robotics Lab, where students witnessed engaging demonstrations, including one featuring the Shadow Robot. The experience not only benefited students but also provided valuable knowledge to teachers, enabling them to better guide and support their students.

Partner's Pathway

Forty-two Year 12 students qualified for the **Partner's Pathway Program**, into The University of Adelaide. Students who receive an offer through this Pathway are recognised for their high achievement, that is they achieved predominantly in the A Band in Years 11 and 12 and received an A in their Research Project. 42 students were offered the Partners Pathway in 2023.

Career Pathways

Course Information was provided in a number of ways. Lunch time sessions held by The University of Adelaide for students to learn more about the following undergraduate courses; Psychology, Medicine, the Art, Law, Engineering and Health Sciences. These sessions were in addition to our annual Career's Expo where students and parents were able to speak with Old Scholars currently studying or working in particular fields, University staff in the various degree courses and other organisations such as Deloitte's and the Australian Defence Force.

Six teams (comprising 3 students each) entered this year's **Titration Competition**. Three of these teams progressed to the finals and represented USC admirably.



Visual Arts: Art students visited the Rockamora exhibition at ACE. **Rockamora** is a giant interactive puppet/sculpture that asked the audience to care and empathise with the bully character.

Politics students were treated to a reception, presentation and parliamentary tour with Member for Adelaide, Lucy Hood MP. They engaged in debate, asked questions, and heard about the history of the institution. Everyone was very engaged, and Lucy was impressed by the knowledge and passion of our students.

Twenty-two science students chose to participate in the **Science Olympiads** this year. Six students sat the Physics Olympiad, eight students sat the Biology Olympiad and a further eight students sat the Chemistry Olympiad.

Fifteen students completed the **Hamann School Mathematics Competition** this year, while eighteen students took part in the **Australian Mathematics Competition**.

MATHEMATICS COMPETITIONS RESULTS

DISTINCTION

Madeleine Nishimoto	Year 10
Lex Mobius	Year 11
Ashton Raethel	Year 11
Vincent Zhang	Year 11
Haein (Helen) Park	Year 12
Alexander Welke	Year 12

CREDIT

Owen Hayball	Year 10
Yingge Lin	Year 10
Hyeon Bae	Year 11
Tiancheng (TC) Feng	Year 11
Jackie Xie	Year 11
Jasmine Bills	Year 12
Zoe Eaton	Year 12
Annabel Ryan	Year 12

SCIENCE OLYMPIADS RESULTS

DISTINCTION Top 70-90% of entries

Lex Mobius	Biology, Earth and Environmental Science
Ashton Raethel	Chemistry
Zoe Eaton	Physics

CREDIT Top 40-70% of entries

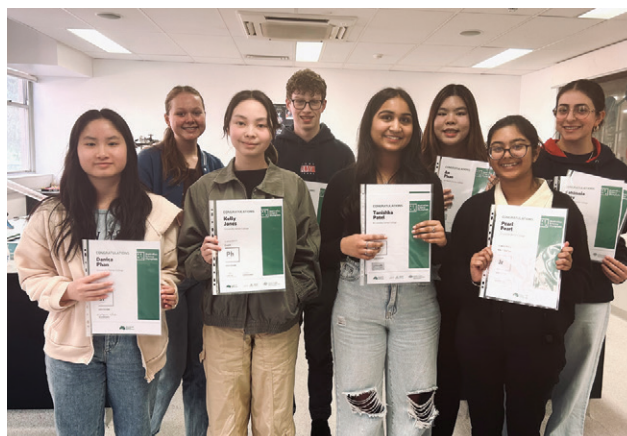
Arshika Arshad	Biology
Amitis (Amy) Fahimnia	Biology
Sienna Nickless	Biology
Ryan Puccetti	Chemistry, Physics
Kelly Jones	Physics

PARTICIPATION Remaining 40% of entries

Lykim (An) Phan	Biology
Louise Shimmin	Biology
Jackie Xie	Biology
Arshika Arshad	Chemistry
Amitis (Amy) Fahimnia	Chemistry
Lex Mobius	Chemistry
Sienna Nickless	Chemistry
Tanishka Patel	Chemistry
Lex Mobius	Physics



Some of the Mathematics Competitions participants.

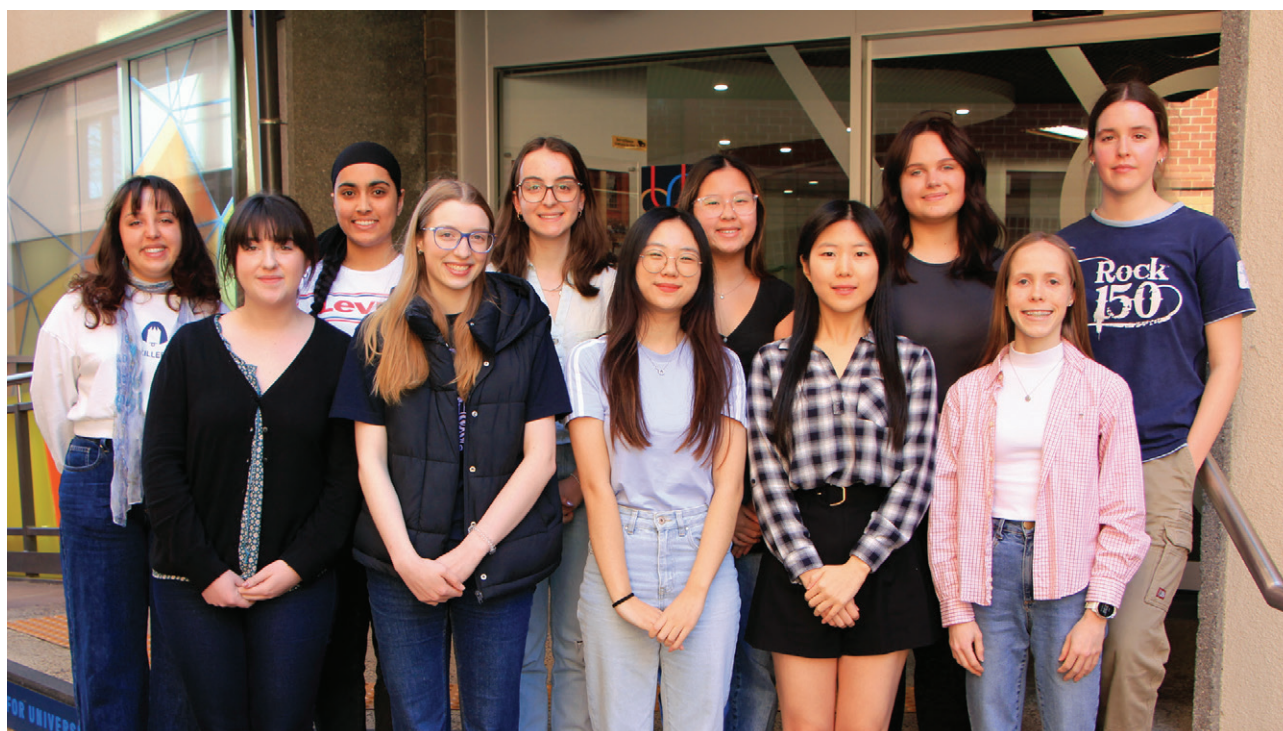


Some of the Science Olympiad participants with their certificates. Back Row L-R: Louise Shimmin, Ashton Raethel, Ly Kim (An) Phan, Amitis (Amy) Fahimnia. Front Row L-R: Danica Phan, Kelly Jones, Tanishka Patel and Pearl Pearl.

HEADSTART 2023

The University of Adelaide's Headstart scholarship program continues to be a popular selection for highly accomplished students in Year 12. This year's enrolment is as follows:

STUDENT	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Anjali Beames	Physical Geography and Human Environmental Impacts	Economy, Environment and Place
Tilda Byleveld	Crime and Criminal Justice	Foundations of Law
Jessica Grasser	Introduction to Gender Studies	Gender, Work and Society
Yashveer Kachharra	Human Anatomy and Physiology IA	Human Anatomy and Physiology IB
Haeun Kim	Human Anatomy and Physiology IA	Human Anatomy and Physiology IB
Maggie Lenger	Human Anatomy and Physiology IA	Essentials of Neuroscience
Errol Martin	Crime and Criminal Justice	Foundations of Law
Suhani Mistry	Human Anatomy and Physiology IA	Essentials of Neuroscience
Halena Nguyen	Health and Illness in Populations	Introduction to Logic
Haein (Helen) Park	Human Anatomy and Physiology IA	Human Anatomy and Physiology IB
Eleanor Rose Phillips	Foundations of Law	Introduction to Global Politics
Orla Prior	Human Anatomy and Physiology IA	Human Anatomy and Physiology IB
Vanessa Rapuano	Introduction to Forensic Sciences	Understanding Criminology
Indyanna Rashleigh	Molecules, Genes, and Cells	Biology I: Human Perspectives
Annabel Ryan	Argument and Critical Thinking	Introduction to Logic
Isabella Xiang	Human Anatomy and Physiology IA	Introduction to Language in Culture & Society



Headstart 2023

Back Row L-R: Anjali Beames, Yashveer Kachharra, Vanessa Rapuano, Halena Nguyen, Jessica Grasser, Orla Prior.

Front Row L-R: Tilda Byleveld, Maggie Lenger, Haein (Helen) Park, Haeun Kim, Annabel Ryan.

Absent: Errol Martin, Suhani Mistry, Eleanor Phillips, Indyanna Rashleigh, Isabella Xiang.

USC EDGE/ THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE EXTENSION STUDIES

STUDENT	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Manasi Benkal	Human Anatomy and Physiology IA	Human Anatomy and Physiology IB
Noah Carey	Human Anatomy and Physiology IA	Human Anatomy and Physiology 1B
Jessica Couper	Introduction to Marketing	Image and Brand
Isabel Ellul	Psychology IA	Psychology IB
Jasmine Gibbons	Foundations of Project Management	Foundations of Law
Ruxin (Miranda) Liu	Human Anatomy and Physiology IA	ANAT SC 1103 - Human Anatomy and Physiology IB

USC EDGE/ FLINDERS UNIVERSITY EXTENSION STUDIES

2023 was the first year students at USC sought enrolment into Extension Studies at Flinders University to complement their Year 12 studies. Enrolments include the following:

STUDENT	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Nadir Abdulle	–	How your body works: Human Physiology and Structure Nutrition, Physical Activity and Health
Ava Cunningham	Mental Health and Psychological Well-being in Later Life	Contemporary Health Issues in Australia
Rebecca Le Leu	Psychology 1A	Psychology 1B



USC Edge Headstart 2023

Clockwise: Noah Carey, Isabel Ellul, Jessica Couper, Manasi Benkal and Ruxin (Miranda) Liu.

Absent: Jasmine Gibbons



ASPIRATION 5: SUPPORT PASSIONATE AND INSPIRATIONAL STAFF WHO ARE LEADERS IN THEIR FIELDS.

Each year several USC staff work with the SACE Board, sharing their expertise and assisting in activity across curriculum and assessment. They include:

- Lynn Jackson
- Daniela Wells
- Matthew Noble
- Daniel Winter
- Ann Rayson
- Elly Pfitzner
- Shannen Thede
- Daniela Wells
- Tyson Wood

Nadia Lovett continued to be a leader in the **Positive Education Association of SA** and was member of its committee, assisting with the development of the 2023 annual conference and presenting also.

ASPIRATION 7: PROVIDE EXCEPTIONAL AND PROACTIVE GOVERNANCE, ENABLING UNIVERSITY SENIOR COLLEGE TO BE A HIGH PERFORMING ORGANISATION.

Staff, leadership and Council have worked over the past 12 months, reviewing the College's strategic plan and developing a plan for the next five years that will challenge and stretch the school and ensure we remain relevant and at the forefront of senior secondary education. The new strategic plan will be launched in 2024.

ASPIRATION 8: BUILD THE REPUTATION AND THE BRAND OF UNIVERSITY SENIOR COLLEGE AS THE SCHOOL OF CHOICE FOR PRE-TERTIARY EDUCATION.

Guided Tours

Guided tours took on a new level in 2023 and Vanessa Grave and Michelle Giavis are to be congratulated on their sterling efforts. There were tours every day of the week in 2023 so that we could keep up with demand. The table here provides you with some insight into the enrolment activity over the last four years and the dedication Vanessa and Michelle have to shown the College.

Year	Tour Events	Students	Families	Total Visitors
2020	76	224	253	335
2021	98	369	360	669
2022	114	393	385	724
2023	210	552	690	1100

In four years, there has been an increase of 134 tours; an increase of 328 students who toured the College; an increase of 437 interested families and a total increase of 765 visitors. This data is truly outstanding and is evidence of a College that is held in high regard and is sought after by many families both here in Australia and overseas.

Marketing

Further evidence of the achievement of this Aspiration are the statistics associated with our social media campaign reach which exceeded expectations. Some examples include:

- Facebook and Instagram advertisements reached 2.5 million impressions.
- Spotify advertisements were also successful with 307, 000 listeners.
- Google advertisements for the year commencing in March attracted 5,283,994 impressions.
- USC Website Traffic analysis shows there were 278, 272 views.
- Reels and Traffic campaigns were the most popular campaigns in 2023.

TO THE 2023 GRADUATES

2023 has been a year marked by many diverse events; the coronation of King Charles III; the Matildas brought out national pride as we cheered them on to reach the semifinals of the Women's World Cup, while the Crows were robbed of a chance at the ALF finals, when a goal umpire incorrectly called a goal a point. Across the globe we watched as climate change was blamed for natural disasters and the hottest summers were recorded in the United States and Europe. Prior to 2023, we experienced three years of disruption due to COVID, and this year, we have seen the commotion and opportunities brought about by AI and in particular CHAT GPT as it exploded into our lives. We have witnessed wonderful moments globally, while almost concurrently we have observed global geopolitical travesties unfold on our screens.

Movies often give us insight into the world at any moment in history, and two movies of the year that stirred reflection, discussion and perhaps controversy are Barbie and Oppenheimer. Much debate ensued when Barbie was out-performing Oppenheimer at the box office. How could a movie, about a doll and her mates smash a movie about real history and the genius and devastating effects of scientific endeavour? Did these discussions include the multi levels in Barbie, the way it dealt with sexual objectification, equality, and self-worth? How could you compare Barbie with Oppenheimer and the scientific advancement that had and still can have devastating effects on humanity?

I confess to loving both movies. I laughed out loud during Barbie, not only as an innate reaction to the humorous moments, but also to the ironies presented to the viewer, and I must admit was astonished at the number of people who left the theatre when they were confronted with

discrimination. Oppenheimer on the other hand, is a serious record of the geopolitical climate during World War 2 and the monumental impact the physicist Oppenheimer and his team had on the world in the construction of the atomic bomb. Having seen the two movies around the same time, I pondered their worth. Did one, both or neither offer anything to us in these times?

Barbie invites the viewer to reimagine feminism and to not discount the struggles of men. It asks us to respect ourselves and others and not fall victims to big corporations' valuing profits over humanity. Barbie teaches us to question the status quo. Barbie also teaches us the power of kindness, and that it is through kindness we thrive, regardless of gender. The movie, and its characters help us to understand we all have a place and have something to offer. The character Ken, while much maligned, offers us some valuable lessons also. Ken doesn't want to be second to Barbie, and the song, "I'm Just Ken" reveals his struggles, although resolved at the end of the movie, Ken stands on his own and isn't defined as Barbie's boyfriend. He too, helps us understand Barbie's messages of equality, acceptance, and self-worth.

Oppenheimer deals with the lethal combination of science and politics, the implications of 'progress' and how we can be our own worst enemy. The movie is a timeless reminder of the capacity of our brilliance, but also our capacity to destroy. At the end of Oppenheimer, we witness an exchange between Einstein and Oppenheimer, and come to understand they both knew they had created a device, in this case, the atomic bomb, which caused mass destruction. It may have ended World War II, but in the process doomed humanity with something that could bring about mass destruction. The subsequent ethical dilemmas from this genius





have been played out many times over.

Despite two very different movies, set in totally different times, both caution us and offer salient lessons. Notwithstanding the surface frivolity of Barbie and the deep and intense recount of events in Oppenheimer, we still have much to learn about human nature, its amazing capacity and its dark side, and the need to question, to understand and to show compassion.

Barbie and Oppenheimer remind us to be kind, to think for ourselves and develop our critical analysis; all essential qualities that will be increasingly important as we decipher real news, deep fakes and their bombardment on social media and AI. We live in an uncertain world which demands us to not lose sight of what it means to be human, to apply ethics, knowledge and our capabilities in the opportunities presented to us. These are all skills we hope you have learnt at University Senior College. The world requires this of you now and in the future. You cannot risk being passive receptors at the mercy of AI and the media.

So, bringing things back to Adelaide, right here and now, ask yourself what have you learned over the past 12 years of your life? What remains in your mind, your heart, and your senses? How are you going to use what you have learned about yourself

and humanity and all that was presented to you at school? How are you going to use your talents? What values will guide and drive you as you move into the next stages of your lives?

Strive to be courageous, curious, inclusive and to contribute, but don't be in a hurry and have fun. You can't leave yourself out of your own destiny and you will find your purpose, so leap forward to something that sparks your fire and is for the greater good. You have been delightful to watch. You certainly have been a group of focused and mature individuals. You have applied yourselves in the best way possible and I think you have also enjoyed your time with us.

Thank you for being part of University Senior College. You have contributed to another chapter in its history, and are the graduates of its coming of age, in its twenty first year.

Finally, as Barbie would say... bye, bye now!

Best wishes to you all.



Anita Zocchi
Principal

STAFF LIST 2023

COLLEGE COUNCIL

Dr Paul Dalby (Chair)	Mr Brian Simons (Secretary)
Ms Amy Birve-Brooks	Prof Suzanne Le Mire
Dr Ben Grindlay	Ms Yvette Winter
Mr Graeme Hodge	

ACADEMIC STAFF

Anita Zocchi	Principal	BA; G Dip Ed; G Cert Curriculum; M Ed. Leadership
Dr Thomas Barclay	Chemistry and Science	B Sc (Hons) PhD Chem, M Teach
Corey Barrett	Coordinator: Digital Pedagogies, Biology and Earth and Environmental Science	B Sc (Hons) G Dip Ed
Anna Bassani	Dean of Student Experience (Year 12) General Mathematics	B Ed; G Dip Ed (Rel Ed & Ed Comp) G Cert (Maths Ed)
Tony Begley	Chemistry and Biology	B Sc (Hons) G Dip Ed
Isabella Benvenuto	Visual Arts Studies (Art)	BA (Contemporary Art), M Ed
Michele Blackman	Visual Arts Studies (Design)	BA (Design) G Dip Ed
Valerie Bradshaw	Biology and Science Faculty Leader	Bs (Bio), M Sc (Teach, Learn & Lead)
Simon Butters	English and Drama	BA; G Dip Ed.
Alexandra Buxton	Music	B Music Ed; BA (English) G Dip Couns and Psych
Janine Campbell	Legal Studies and Modern History	BA (Hons), G Dip Ed
Ondine Caon	Learning Support Coordinator	B Spec Ed; M Ed Stud; M Spec Ed; Dip T Grad, Dip Psych.
Suzanne Close	Visual Art Studies (Art)	Dip A (Fine Arts); BA Visual Arts; B Vis A (Hons) (G Dip Ed (Sec), G Dip A Hist; MA (Curatorial and Museum Studies)
Lesley Day	English	BA; Dip Ed
Ana Diaz	Student Counsellor and Wellbeing Coordinator	B Psych (Hons) M Ed.
Tammy Di-Giusto	Ancient Studies	BA Hons, M Phil, G Dip Ed; G Cert Ed.
Samuel Franzway	English, Research Project, Society and Culture	BA (Hons) M A, M Teach
Alana Giles-Lawson	Visual Arts (Art and Design)	P Psych Sc; BA (Vis Art), M Teach
Callum Iles	Research Project and Business	B Comm, M Bus (Property), Grad Dip Ed
Lynn Jackson	Drama, English and Arts Faculty Leader	B Ed
Ryan Jackson	English and English Faculty Leader	BA , M A Ed Sec

ACADEMIC STAFF

Michael Jacobsen	Business and Innovation and Economics	Bed, MBA, M Ed (TESOL) G Cert Ed
Angela Joy	Science, Chemistry and Biology	B Sc, B Teach
Kelly Keeling	Biology and Chemistry	B Sc (Eco chemistry), B Sc (Hons) G Dip Ed
Lisa Lanchester	General Mathematics	B Ed Sec, Dip Teach Sec
Dr Nadia Lovett	Student Counsellor and Wellbeing Coordinator	PhD; M Soc Sc, D Couns, G Dip (Read and Lang) Dip Teach (Prim)
Liesl McPeake	History and English	BA (Hons); Grad Dip Ed.
Judith Mohan	English and English Literary Studies	BA (Hons) English; MA Linguistics (ELT), Dip Ed (TESL)
Philip Moore	Mathematics, Mathematical Methods and Specialist Mathematics	B Ed (Ma and Sc)
Matthew Noble	Director School Operations, Economics and Accounting	B Ed (Secondary Business)
Bryant Pan	Mathematical Methods, Specialist Mathematics and Physics	B Eng; B E(Hons) Mech and Aero, Dip Teach
Elly Pfitzner	Philosophy, English and Modern History	BA, B Teach
Zahra Pirvali	Physics and Coordinator, STEM Community Connections and Partnerships	B Sc, G Dip Ed (Phys and Ma)
David Place	Dean of Student Experience (Year 11) and English	B Ed (Eng and Hist), DELTA
Ann Rayson	Dean of Student Experience (Year 10) Economics/ Business Innovation and Accounting	B Mgt, B Sec Bus T
Michael Salter	Mathematics, General Mathematics and Specialist Mathematics	B Ss (Hons) G Dip Ed
Olivia Sauters	General Mathematics	B Comm and M Teach
Simon Sypek	Director Academic Programs Chemistry and Science	B Ed (Sec Sc) G Cert (Ed Prof Learning)
Lisa Temple	English Literary Studies	BA, Dip Ed
Shannen Thede	Psychology	BA, B Teach
Alana Thompson	Economics, Politics and Research Project	BLLB, BA, Dip Ed, Dip LP
Daniela Wells	Psychology	B Sc, G Dip Ed Psych, B Teach (Hons)
Nigel Wilson	Mathematics, Mathematical Methods and Specialist Mathematics	B SC, PGCE
Daniel Winter	Mathematics, Mathematical Methods and Specialist Mathematics	B Ma & Comp Sc, G Dip Ed
Tyson Wood	Accounting, Politics Power and People and Research Project	M Teach Sec, B Int St, B Com Acc, Dip Lang.

ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT STAFF

Brenda Adcock	Education Support Officer	Cert III Business (Office Administration)
Karen Boyd	Finance Manager	B Eco, CA, Cert Gov (Prac), G Dip (App Finance)
Jaimie Cook	Laboratory Manager	
Michelle Giavis	Enrolment Officer	Cert III Business (Office Admin)
Vanessa Grave	Director of Marketing and Community Relations	Dip Teach, B Ed, B Bus, M Arts (Comm)
Michele Landers	School Accountant	B Comm
Lisa Maiorano	ICLT Administration and Support	B Media Arts, G Dip Comm (PR)
Carmel Prentice	Education Support Officer	Cert III Business Admin (Education), Cert IV Business Admin
Natasha Pressley	International Registrar PA to Principal	Cert IV Workplace Assessor, Dip Int Ed Serv
Di Prosser	Timetable Manager	Associate Dip (Accounting)
Penny Shen	ICLT Technician and Support	B Comp Sc and Applications
Laurene Trus	Education Support Officer	Cert IV Bus (Frontline Mgt)







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