



## Important Dates

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College Board Meeting

Wednesday 31 May 2023

Yr 6 St Joseph's School Barmera Immersion Day

Thursday 1 June 2023

Parish and College Mass

Wednesday 7 June 2023

Yr 5 & 6 Immersion Day - St Albert's School

Thursday 8 June 2023

Student Free Day

Friday 9 June 2023

King's Birthday Public Holiday

Monday 12 June 2023

Yr 6 Immersion Day - St Joseph's School Renmark

Thursday 15 June 2023

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**REMEMBER** If you are reading this newsletter from your email don't forget to click 'read more' to expand your view and access all of our feature photos!

# *Acknowledgement of Country*

We acknowledge that we meet today on Meru Country, and recognise the Erawirung and Ngintait peoples as the Traditional Custodians of this land. We recognise their continuing connection to the earth and waters, and thank them for protecting this land and its ecosystems since time immemorial. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging and extend that respect to all First Nation peoples present here today.



## From the Principal

### *Laudato Si' Week*

In Australia, Laudato Si' Week is being celebrated from May 16-24. Laudato Si' Week, is a celebration of Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si' and is a call to action for Catholics around the world. With the Australian Bishops releasing their statement Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor in 2021, and the release of the documentary 'The Letter' last year, there is a deliberate focus on the Laudato Si' Platform Goals over the next 7 years. All things on our planet are interconnected and with profound care for each other, our Creator, and all of creation, we are building a better future together. The theme for 2023 is Hope for the Earth, Hope for Humanity.

This week our school community has celebrated connecting closely through our College ethos 'Laudato Si'. Some of our students have spent time cleaning up around Bookmark Creek during their Religious Education classes.

### **Catholic Education Week**

May 15 – 19 was Catholic Education Week, celebrated across all CESA schools in South Australia. Schools within the Port Pirie Diocese also celebrated with some specific initiatives across the week. Wednesday May 17 was a particular highlight when the College hosted St Albert's School, St Joseph's School Renmark, St Joseph's School Barmera, and Our Lady of the River School.

The Port Pirie Diocesan theme is 'Called to Community' and our day began with a Liturgy with students and staff from all schools participating, demonstrating our Riverland Catholic Community.

The five schools spent the afternoon participating in a range of organised activities, grouped in four rotation sessions, based on: Creative Arts, Novelty Games, Sports Games, and Design and Technologies.

It was an outstanding celebration and a very special day bringing everyone together. Our year 9 students were terrific role models as they facilitated the Sport and Novelty activity stations throughout the whole afternoon.

## National Reconciliation Week - Be a Voice for Generations

Beginning this Friday 26 May - National Sorry Day - through to Saturday 3 June, members of faith communities across Australia are encouraged to offer prayers for reconciliation between Indigenous and other Australians. The theme for National Reconciliation Week 2023, Be a Voice for Generations, encourages all Australians to be a voice for reconciliation in tangible ways in our everyday lives – where we live, work and socialise. For the work of generations past, and the benefit of generations future, we are invited to create a more just, equitable and reconciled country for all.

National Day of Healing, or Sorry Day, commemorates the anniversary of the tabling in 1997 of HREOC's Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their families, 'Bringing Them Home'.

National Reconciliation Week occurs from Saturday 27 May to Saturday 3 June each year, as these two dates mark important anniversaries in Australia's history. On 27 May 1967, Australians passed a referendum that removed clauses from the Australian Constitution which discriminated against Indigenous Australians. On 3 June 1992, the High Court agreed with the position put in the Mabo case, that Australia had been occupied prior to European settlement, and as such, certain rights to native title were preserved by the Indigenous population. These two historic steps forwarded the recognition of Indigenous Australians and their rights, as they both reversed previously held beliefs.

Reconciliation is a journey for all Australians – as individuals, families, communities, organisations and importantly as a nation. At the heart of reconciliation is the relationship between the broader Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. To foster positive race relations, our relationship must be grounded in a foundation of truth. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have long called for a comprehensive process of truth-telling about Australia's colonial history. Our nation's past is reflected in the present, and will continue to play out in future unless we heal historical wounds. National Reconciliation Week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

**BE A VOICE  
FOR GENERATIONS**

**NATIONAL  
RECONCILIATION  
WEEK 2023**

**27 MAY — 3 JUNE**

**ACT TODAY FOR A RECONCILED TOMORROW**

#NRW2023

[NRW.RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU](http://NRW.RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU)



National Volunteer Week (NVW) is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteers. From Monday 15 May to Sunday 21 May, NVW celebrates the significant contribution of Australia's almost six million volunteers. The week-long event recognises the vital support that the millions of volunteers provide to their communities and encourages people to consider volunteering. National Volunteer Week 2023, with the theme The Change Makers, is a celebration of our power to drive change and ensure volunteering is inclusive of all members of the Australian community.

At St Francis of Assisi College, we are so thankful to the parents, caregivers, students and staff who volunteer their time to our school and parish community in a variety of ways, and this is an area we are committed to growing moving forward.

We thank the volunteer support for initiatives such as school excursions and camps, significant events such as Sports Day, Catholic Education Week, and assistance with general maintenance around the College.

Any parents who would like to offer their time as volunteers, please contact Mrs Claire Smith on 8595 4500, or [claire.smith@assisi.catholic.edu.au](mailto:claire.smith@assisi.catholic.edu.au).



## **2024 Enrolment of Students**

I am very pleased to see that the College is experiencing significant demand in relation to enrolments. Current projections indicate our two year 7 classes will fill to capacity by mid-2023 and parents planning to enrol their child are encouraged to do as soon as possible.

To assist with our medium and long-term planning I encourage parents to lodge an enrolment form with the school as soon as they have decided to enrol their child at the school.

There remains places for enrolment open in years 8, 9 and 10 for 2024.

Should you wish to discuss this further please contact our College Registrar, Claire Smith (phone 8595 4500, or email [claire.smith@tenison.catholic.edu.au](mailto:claire.smith@tenison.catholic.edu.au)).

## **Staff Professional Development Day – 9 June**

Families are reminded that Friday 9th of June is a Pupil Free Day, and college staff will be coming together for a professional learning day, with a specific focus on teaching and learning.

I trust students and parents will experience the benefits of the work that occurs on this day through our service to students and families.

# Catholic Education SA (CESA) COVID-19 Approach

The most recent CESA Covid-19 procedures state the following:

Schools should continue to emphasise that students, staff and site visitors who are showing COVID-19 symptoms should stay away from school until acute symptoms (runny nose, sore throat, cough and fever) have cleared.

Staff are required to notify the school if they return a positive COVID-19 test.

Families are recommended to notify the school/centre if their child returns a positive COVID-19 test.

**Nathan Hayes, Principal**

## Leader of Learning

### Education Perfect Maths Competition

From May 23 to May 25, all students at the College were able to participate in the ANZ Education Perfect Maths Competition where they were able to revise and deepen their understanding of a variety of mathematical concepts.

Our overall results were outstanding!

The following are some of our notable achievements:

**1st overall in SA** out of 53 schools

**16th overall globally** out of 1,563 schools

**2nd overall in the 101-250 students category** out of 241 schools

**10th overall in Australia** out of 1,103 schools

**2nd in Australia for the 101-250 students category** out of 168 schools

**1st in SA for the 101-250 students category** out of 8 schools

The student who achieved the highest score at was **Armann K** with 5,370 points. This was an outstanding effort, placing him 90th in Australia.

Other notable achievements:

Elite Awards (4,000 points)

Armann K

Aaron K

Emerald Awards (2,500 points)

Samuel D

Campbell D

Jack O

Gold Awards (1500 points)

Henry D

Riley B

Tejdeep S

Sebastian C

Avreet K

Tate S

Silver Awards (1000 points)

Gurtaj N

Henry M

Yvette K

Denver K

Heath K

Riley L

Hugh R

There was also 14 students who gained a Bronze Award (500 points) and 62 students who gained a Credit Award (200 points).

Congratulations to all students who achieved an award and to all the students who participated. Also, many thanks to the Maths Teachers for their support and encouragement of the students. The end result is a whole school effort.

The award winners will be celebrated on assembly in Week 10. We look forward to being involved in the competition again next year.

### **MathsPathway**

At St Francis all our Year 7 and 8 students engage in the MathsPathway program in their maths classes. Traditionally in schools, it has been extremely difficult for one teacher to cater to the learning needs of 20 individual students. As a result, not every student has experienced success in maths, with many students finding it particularly stressful or difficult. Our teaching team has been working very hard to change that, by evolving the way we teach maths so that instead of all students learning the same topic at the same time, each student will focus on only what they are ready to learn. This means that **every student** can experience success in maths. There are a few things that happen in the classroom that might be different from your previous maths experience:

- Class wide rich learning tasks that aim to get your child excited and engaged in problem solving using the maths skills they've developed, alongside their friends.
- Tailored mini-lessons rotated through smaller groups of students. Teachers can hone on specific mathematical topics with smaller groups of students who will benefit most from that lesson.
- Your child will receive maths that they're ready for. Each student will have their own maths program tailored to what they're ready to work on next while working with their teacher to figure out how they can continue to develop their learning skills. That includes regular check-in tests and goal setting to figure out what your child wants to achieve next.
- One-on-one teacher support and feedback. When students are stuck on a particular piece of maths, their teacher will help them out as needed.

This structure has been proven to increase student learning and engagement in mathematics.

We encourage you to chat with your child about their progress and learning goals for MathsPathway.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's maths teacher.

**Natalie Meuret, Leader of Learning**

## College Community Wellbeing

### **Student Transitions**

This week we welcomed Year 5/6 students from Our Lady of the River School, Berri for the first Immersion Day of Term 2. The students were well-hosted by our student leaders and engaged in Science, PE, and Digital Technology lessons.

We look forward to welcoming St Joseph's School, Barmera next week!

<b>School</b>	<b>Term 2</b>	<b>Term 3</b>
<i>OLOR</i>	25 <sup>th</sup> May (Week 4)	3 <sup>rd</sup> August (Week 2)
<i>St Jo Barmera</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> June (Week 5)	10 <sup>th</sup> August (Week 3)
<i>St Albert's</i>	8 <sup>th</sup> June (Week 6)	17 <sup>th</sup> August (Week 4)
<i>St Jo Renmark</i>	15 <sup>th</sup> June (Week 7)	24 <sup>th</sup> August (Week 5)

The College will share further communication via your child's classroom teacher at all four catholic primary schools. If your child is enrolled at a non-Catholic school, please contact the College on (08) 8585 4500 or via email [info@assisi.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@assisi.catholic.edu.au)

# Yr 5 & 6 Students from OLOR Immersion Day



## Wellness Hub



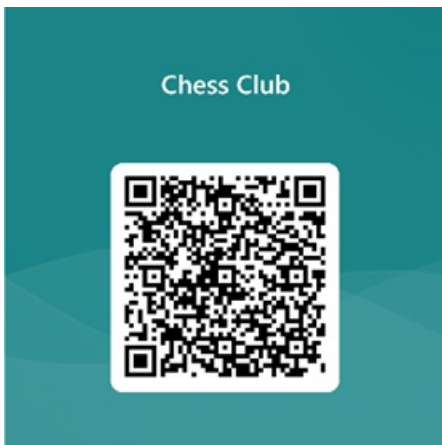
A reminder to pop your name down for the Breathwork and Meditation session with special guest Val, for Wellness Hub on Tuesday, Week 5!

Sign up sheet is on the student notice board.

## Laudato Si' Action Group

### Laudato Si' Action Group

The Laudato Si Action Group are seeking to gauge interest for a Chess Club. If you would like a Chess Club at the College, please complete the form using the QR code below or click here: [Chess Club Form](#)



Laudato Si' Action Group	
Bookmark Creek	Peer Support
Inclusion and Diversity	Arts Development
Student Clubs	Community Outreach

*"Every person on this earth is full of great possibilities that can be realised through imagination, effort and perseverance."*

– Scott Kaufman

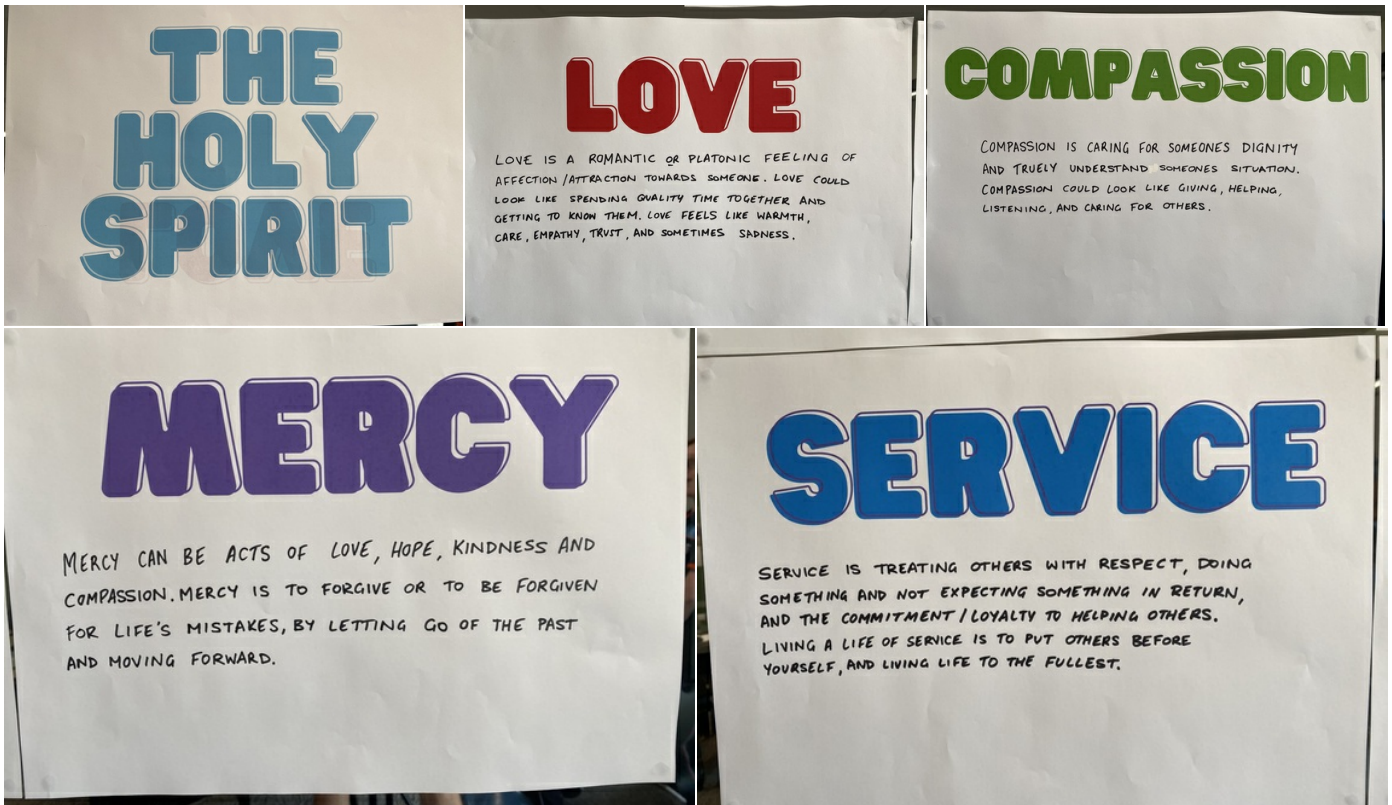
**Luke Cotter, Leader of Wellbeing**



# Combined Catholic Education Week Celebration Day



## Year 9 Religion



As part of a Year 9 Religion unit, students worked together to create class definitions of the 4 elements which make up The Holy Spirit. Students first explored provided resources, then created their own sticky note definition which was shared with the rest of the class. From there we agreed on what we thought encompassed Love, Compassion, Mercy and Service.

## Thank You & Best Wishes - Teagan McCarthy

This term we have been privileged to support our first pre-service teacher, Teagan McCarthy. Teagan is studying teaching through Swinburn University and today has completed a four-week practical placement at the College.

Teagan has been involved in a range of teaching tasks which have included Fraser Sampson's HPE classes and Amber Burgess' cooking classes. She has been a great help at the rowing sessions and was a keen contributor during our recent Combined Catholic Schools Celebration Day.

We wish Teagan the absolute best in her teaching career, and know that she is, and will be, a fabulous teacher.

## Rowing Program Update

### **Yr 7 HPE Rowing**

Year 7's are continuing their rowing practicals during HPE at the Renmark Rowing Club. Students are enjoying getting onto the water, showing a growth in confidence from start to finish. They are progressing well with their stroke sequencing and learning to row together.

Here is a short video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRDBkF4Vle8>

### **Stephanie Turnbull**

### **Rowing Coach**



## Riverland students take part in state teams' championship in Adelaide...



# On your bike

St Francis of Assisi students Louis Brown (year 7), Hamish Pitman (year 8), Harry Pfeiffer (year 8) and Jenson Sheene (year 7) placed 20th out of 82 teams in the year 7 and 8 boys race. PHOTO: Elyse Armanini.

LOCAL students from two high schools recently travelled to a school-based mountain bike teams' championship to compete against schools from across the state.

Competing for the first time, year 7, 8 and 9 students from St Francis of Assisi College and Loxton High School headed down to Sturt Gorge Recreational Park in Flagstaff Hill on Thursday, May 11 and Friday, May 12.

In the year 7 and 8 boys event, the St Francis team placed 20th and Loxton High School placed 26th, out of 82 teams.

St Francis of Assisi College co-ordinator for the event, Luke Prokopec, said the school entered the competition with a philosophy of "there is a sport for everyone".

"If they're active, they're healthier and happier, and they're more willing to extend themselves," he said.

"We want to ultimately give kids as good a range

By **ELYSE ARMANINI**

photos@murraypioneer.com.au



of sports to choose from as possible, just to give them the chance to dip their toes in everywhere."

Following the flood event, Mr Prokopec said the school looked at several options for mountain biking around the school ahead of the race, including along Ral Ral Creek. However, flood damage to the area and safety concerns forced them to look elsewhere.

"So many kids were keen to race, but giving them a place to race was pretty tough," he said.

"Alvanos Earthmoving were preparing the land for the new year 10 to 12 classrooms. They said, 'We'll bulldoze you a track, you just have to plan where you want it'."

"We got out there with a GPS and marked it out with Anthony Pickering from the

Riverland Mountain Bike Club.

"Without help from the Alvanos crew, we wouldn't have had the track to race on and we probably wouldn't have gone down to Adelaide."

Sixteen St Francis students were selected to go to Adelaide following a school race, in which students completed as many laps as they could in 30 minutes.

"These kids went out (at Sturt Gorge) and they absolutely smashed out times, keeping up with kids who ride those tracks probably every weekend," Mr Prokopec said.

"Out of our group of 16 we only had two who had raced before. One student, until about 15 minutes before the race, didn't really know how to change gears properly."

"At the end of the day, some of the comments coming out from the kids on the way home showed how pumped they were about their efforts.

"Some of them were coming back from stacks, all grazed up, but smiling from ear to ear about how much fun it was.

"One kid we had there tries everything, but he hadn't found anything that he was really good at. He was part of the mixed team who came second... He won the medal and the entire way home he said, 'Mr Prok, I'm never taking this off. I'm so proud of this medal and I've finally found a sport I'm really good at'."

"It was totally worth it, and we're looking forward to next year. There's a bit of talk about how we can improve and kids wanting to start up a riding group to ride at lunch.

"Every single one of the kids that went down over the two days had to push themselves past physical boundaries. They realised if they get around a competitive atmosphere you're in a position where you might not necessarily win but you'll be challenged by other people."



St Francis of Assisi students Noah Warner, Sebastian Coote, Blossom Kimberly and Max Cozens with their SA School Sport medals for mountain biking. PHOTO: supplied



Loxton High School students Levi, Tyler and Jarred completed nine laps to come 26th in the year 7 and 8 boys event. PHOTO: Facebook

Our Year 7, 8 and 9 team mountain bike riders completed in the Schools SA Mountain Bike Teams Championships in Sturt Gorge Recreational Park at Flagstaff Hill recently. The day was very successful and super fun for the teams. Big thank you to Luke Prokopec for coordinating the event that was held over two days, and to our parent volunteers who assisted on the day and helped to transport the students to and from Adelaide.

[Mountain Bike Teams Championships video](#)

[Mountain Bike Teams Championships Results](#)



## St Francis of Assisi College - Cross Country

Congratulations and well done to all students who competed for their house in the 2023 College Cross Country Championship. A big thank you to Mr Cotter and all staff who assisted in the running of the event. A summary of the results is below:

Position	House	Overall Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	Terra	75
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ignis	61
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Aqua	52
4 <sup>th</sup>	Ventus	45

	U13 Boys	U13 Girls	U14 Boys	U14 Girls	U15 Boys	U15 Girls
1st	Jack O	Amber M	Hamish P	Chelsea D	Noah B	Marissa F
2nd	Seb C	Emma Mc	Kaiden N	Ael A	Aaron K	Cleo L
3rd	Samuel D	Shyanae P	Armaan K	Billie A	Mitchell E	Leappyea S

## Stage Two Build - Progress Photos



## Relay for Life

#RelayForLife



We are  
Relay  
For Life



Celebrate.  
Remember.  
Fight Back.

This year 43 students from St Francis of Assisi College will be participating in Relay for Life!

Our students have a goal to try and raise \$8,000 and would love your support.

Through your support of this event we are getting closer to a cancer free future every minute, every hour, every day.

Your fundraising ensures that Cancer Council SA continues:

- Support Services:** Cancer Council supports all Australians impacted by cancer.
- Advocacy:** Cancer Council works with the community to change laws and policies to reduce cancer risks and improve cancer care.
- Research:** Cancer Council conducts and funds world-class research to reduce the impact of cancer.
- Prevention:** Cancer Council empowers all Australians to reduce their cancer risk.

Students will be broken into house groups: Ignis, Terra, Aqua and Ventus. This will create a in-house competition and give all students more time on the track doing laps.

More information about upcoming fundraising events and student registration will be shared soon. Please email: [amber.burgess@assisi.catholic.edu.au](mailto:amber.burgess@assisi.catholic.edu.au) if you have any further questions.

## South Australia Commission for Catholic Schools



**An outstanding opportunity to make an impact...  
South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools**

**The South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools (SACCS) is calling for expressions of interest from members of the Catholic school community to serve on the Commission.**

The South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools:

- has oversight of education in all Catholic schools and sets directions, allocates resources and develops policies for Catholic schools in South Australia;
- assesses the changing needs of, and opportunities for, Catholic education throughout SA;
- accounts for educational practices in all Catholic schools to appropriate State and Commonwealth Government bodies;
- acts as an authority pursuant to State and Commonwealth Governments;
- is a collegial Public Juridic Person established by the Archbishop of Adelaide, according to the Code of Canon Law.

You may wish to nominate if you are:

- an eminent member of a business or professional community with extensive experience in a corporate leadership capacity;
- can demonstrate previous ability to interpret financial information, experience in corporate governance and risk management processes;
- someone who is politically astute and possesses highly developed communication, relationship management and advocacy skills operating within a complex environment;
- a person with significant experience, expertise and skills relevant to the needs of the Commission and the governance of Catholic education in SA;
- able to attend monthly Commission meetings and other meetings as required.

For further information regarding the application process, please contact Jackie Phillips at the Catholic Education Office: [Jackie.Phillips@cesa.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Jackie.Phillips@cesa.catholic.edu.au) - Applications close COB on Thursday May 25 2023.  
*Membership of the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools is voluntary.  
All applicants are required to successfully undergo our police and screening processes.*

South Australia Commission for Catholic Schools is calling for nominations to serve on the Commission applications to [jackie.phillips@cesa.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jackie.phillips@cesa.catholic.edu.au)

## Riverland Youth Theatre

Checkout RYT's latest newsletter:

<https://mailchi.mp/eda9d227aa82/a-newsletter-for-john-dawes>

## College Uniform Update

Yates Menswear supply our College uniforms directly to families. Jenny, from Yates, has let us know they have the following knitwear and softshell jackets available:

**Softshell jackets sizes: 10, 12,14,16, XS, S, M and L**

**Rugby knit jumper sizes: XS, S,M,L,XL and XXL**

**Knit jumper sizes: 12, 16, 18, 20 and 22**

A number of other winter uniform items are due for delivery to Yates in two - three weeks time.



St Francis  
of Assisi College  
*Laudato Si'*

## **ENROLMENTS OPEN FOR 2024**

We anticipate our Year 7 enrolment capacity will fill quickly for 2024! To ensure your child's position at the College, please contact Claire Smith on 85954500 or [claire.smith@assisi.catholic.edu.au](mailto:claire.smith@assisi.catholic.edu.au)

Enrolments can be made for students in Years 8, 9 and 10!

Students currently attending the College do not need to re-enrol.



# STOP OCEAN PLASTIC POLLUTION

**We need to help save the ocean so that we and future generations can enjoy a fun and healthy environment.**



## WHAT WE CAN DO!

- . USE AND BUY NUDE FOOD
- . RECYCLE AND REUSE
- . BUY REUSABLE PACKAGING
- . PICK UP ANY RUBBISH AROUND YOU
- . SUPPORT ECO FRIENDLY BUSINESSES
- . PURCHASE ECO FRIENDLY PRODUCTS/ITEMS



**RUBY  
MAEGAN**



Renmark Paringa  
Council

# Youth Sponsorship



## ARE YOU:

- An individual aged 24 years and under and live in the Renmark Paringa area?
- Participating in events representing the District, State or the Country within South Australia, Australia or internationally, for example sport and recreation, the arts eg visual, creative, performing, music, dance; debating; youth leadership eg youth parliament, youth forums; community, culture and heritage; First Nations; environmental; technology and innovation; events or workshops that develop personal or professional skills and experience; leadership programs or conferences or something else?
- Looking for funding to help you attend your event?

Renmark Paringa Council offers youth sponsorship funding to assist youth attend these type of events. All you need to do is complete the application form and submit to Council to be reviewed and assessed.

Download the application form at

[www.renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au/community/grants/youthgrants](http://www.renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au/community/grants/youthgrants)

Contact Emma Warner or Laura John for more information - 8580 3000 or [grants@renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au](mailto:grants@renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au)



## Mental health support for children and young people impacted by the River Murray flood

Families living in the River Murray flood affected areas, who have a child or young person experiencing severe and/or complex mental health concerns, are encouraged to contact their GP or other Health Practitioner.

They will help direct you to the most appropriate service for your child. Where that is the Child Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), please call 1300 222 647 during office hours.

CAMHS offers appointments through its Berri and Murray Bridge offices, outreach locations and telehealth.



For any urgent injuries, illnesses or mental health, contact the Child and Adolescent Virtual Urgent Care Service, 7 days a week, from 9am to 9pm.

**For more information visit [wchn.sa.gov.au/camhs](https://wchn.sa.gov.au/camhs)**



**Government of South Australia**

Women's and Children's  
Health Network

