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## From the Head of College

As we embrace the start of another enriching school year at Concordia College, I am filled with immense gratitude and optimism at the opportunities that lie before us. With dynamic new leadership and enthusiastic staff, we look forward to a school year of excellent learning opportunities for our students.

The ELC-12 Commencement Service, a vibrant event that brought our entire College (1400 students and 180 staff) together in the new Fortiter Gymnasium, was a celebration and a heartfelt invocation of God's guidance for the year ahead. This service, deeply rooted in our Lutheran tradition, reminded us of our collective journey in faith and learning. It was a moment to renew our commitment to each other and the values that make our community unique – inclusivity, support and a shared pursuit of knowledge under God's grace.

Similarly, the Concordia Campus Installation Service held a profound significance. Witnessing our new staff and Student Leaders commit to their roles was a powerful testament to our ethos of servant leadership and Christian service. This ceremony emphasised our responsibility to shape an environment where every individual can flourish in the light of God's word. These services remind us that at Concordia, we are more than a College; we are a community united in faith, dedicated to nurturing young minds and hearts.

Seeing the large turnout of parents at our three campus Parent Information Evenings was particularly heartening. These occasions were informative and a wonderful opportunity to begin a new year of parent partnership in a social and engaging environment. The enthusiastic participation of our parent body is a testament to the strong, collaborative spirit that defines our Concordia community.

As we move forward into this academic year, let us carry with us the spirit of these services – a spirit of unity, purpose and faith. Let's support one another in embracing challenges as opportunities for growth and celebrating student achievement.

We are poised for a year of significant learning, growth and community building. Here's to an exciting year ahead at Concordia College, filled with the joy of learning and the warmth of our caring community.

In His Service

**Paul Weinert**  
Head of College

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## **Student Leader Presentation Breakfast**

Our 2024 Year 12 Student Leaders and their parents gathered on Monday 29 January for breakfast and the presentation of leadership blazers and ties.

Mr Weinert and Ms McKenzie shared some words of wisdom about service being at the heart of leadership at Concordia, while Mr Rathjen prayed for the year ahead.

It was wonderful to see our Student Leaders and their families share a moment of fellowship before the commencement of the busy school year.

**Daniel Wood**  
Senior School Leader

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## **Student Leader Training Day**

For the first time this year, our Year 12 Student Leaders were joined by our Middle School Leaders and leaders from Concordia College's St John's and St Peters campuses for a fun and challenging morning of team-building and fellowship. Facilitated by 'Beyond the Classroom', our students worked in teams to build bridges, finish puzzles, fire slingshots and complete myriad tasks requiring them to collaborate, communicate and demonstrate resilience, patience and creativity.

It was a wonderful morning full of enthusiasm, healthy competition and relationship building across our campuses, with our leaders developing skills to hold them in good stead for the challenges they will face in the year ahead.

### **Daniel Wood**

Senior School Leader

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## **Nature Play SA at St Peters Campus**

St Peters Campus ELC-Year 6 students joined together for a Nature Play SA incursion on Wednesday 7 February. This whole-campus initiative promoted wellbeing and community building by providing an outdoor experience that encourages creativity, teamwork and connection. It sets the foundation for a positive and inclusive school environment for the year ahead.

### **Nicolle Jakube**

Primary School Learning Leader - St Peters Campus

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## **New Fortiter Cafe Open - 7.30am-12 Saturday**

Pop in for a coffee and snacks while you enjoy a plethora of sport competition this Saturday 10 February. Our new Fortiter cafe will be open 7.30am-12noon.

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## **Welcoming Visiting International Students**

Concordia continues to offer opportunities for overseas families to participate in a short-term

study experience where their children explore western education and engage with local students in an inclusive cultural exchange. St Peters Campus Principal, Bronwyn Wilson, student buddies and staff recently welcomed families from Korea and China who were in complete awe of the beautiful fauna and flora surrounding the school.

### **Steve Eden**

Head of International Student Programs

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## **Key 'Go To' College Contacts**

As we commence the new school year, please find below links to documents containing key 'Go To' lists of contacts here at the College.

- [St John's Campus \(ELC-Year 6\)](#)
- [St Peters Campus \(ELC-Year 6\)](#)
- [Middle School \(Years 7-10\)](#)
- [Senior School \(Years 11-12\)](#)

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## **Music Notes**

The Music Department has *swung* back into 2024, with all ensembles already rehearsing in preparation for a busy year of extraordinary performances in and out of the school. Students involved in 'Chicago: High School Edition' are already polishing numbers and our big bands and vocal ensembles have begun preparations for Generations in Jazz early in Term 2.

Any students that would like to participate in instrumental lessons or join an ensemble/choir are encouraged to talk to Mr O'Loughlin in the Music Office. Alternatively, you can email [music@concordia.sa.edu.au](mailto:music@concordia.sa.edu.au) with any questions you may have.

### **Kellie Rich**

Head of Music Performance ELC-12

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## **Concordia College App - Stay Up to Date with Subscriptions**

### **Updating Your Child/ren's Year Level Selection/s**

To ensure you are only seeing relevant information for your family, please remember to update your settings on the Concordia College app by following the steps below.

- Go to 'Settings' in the app (gold cog icon in the bottom right corner)
- Choose 'Subscriptions'
- Ensure the correct campus is selected (e.g. St John's Campus or St Peters Campus)
- Deselect any year levels that are not relevant to your family

Please note that by default first-time users have all year levels selected, and continuing users may still have last year's settings, so managing your subscriptions initially and keeping them up to date each year is essential to ensure you only receive communications relevant to you.

Thank you.

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## **Community Coffee Morning - Friday 9 February**

All parents and caregivers are warmly invited to join us for a Community Coffee Catch-up this Friday morning. Please see key details below.

- **Date: Friday 9 February 2024**
- **Time: 8.30-10.00am**
- **Where: Oval Shelter Shed at the western end of the College oval, Highgate**

This is a free event, kindly supported by the P&F.

See you there!

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## **St Peters Campus students on the Concordia Heritage Trail**

Year 3-6 students from St Peters Campus spent some time learning about the 134-year history of Concordia College on Friday 2 February.

After a presentation in the Heritage Centre, the students went outside to follow the Heritage Trail around the school and identify important buildings and landmarks.

### **Sue Kleinig**

Archive and Alumni Manager

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## **Vale Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG**

Concordia acknowledges the recent death of revered Yankunytjatjara woman, Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG, aged 91, on Sunday 4 February 2024. We extend our sympathy to

her family and friends.

A highly respected, influential and formidable Aboriginal leader, Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG dedicated her life to the rights, health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. She listened, spoke and acted with strength, determination, grace and dignity. Her work and achievements are extensive, including being a co-founder of the Council of Aboriginal Women of South Australia (1965), transferring from the South Australian Department for Aboriginal Affairs into the role of Federal Senior Liaison Officer, Canberra and Adelaide (1973), leading the National Aboriginal Conference (1978) and Aboriginal Development Commission (1980), becoming the first Aboriginal person to address the United Nations General Assembly (1992), being declared an Australian National Living Treasure (1998), working as an Advisor to South Australian Premier Mike Rann on matters relating to the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands (2004), receiving the NAIDOC Lifetime Achievement Award (2009) and many more.

Her profound legacy will continue through the work of the Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation.

With gratitude for her service to so many people throughout her lifetime, we pay our respects.

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## **Don't miss out! Daughters and Dads Cricket - Registrations Extended**

There are a small number of places remaining in our Term 1 Daughters and Dads cricket program, to be held at the College on Sunday afternoons starting this Sunday 11 February.

The program is an amazing way for dads to strengthen their relationship with their daughters (aged 6-12 years) and improve their daughter's enjoyment and engagement in cricket. It also helps children to develop their cricket skills and build confidence, self-esteem and resilience.

[Download a flyer](#) for more information or [visit the website](#) to register today.

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## **Enrichment and Extended Learning News**

At Concordia our goal is to connect, empower and challenge our learners. In the first weeks of school, students can begin to connect with a variety of enrichment and extension activities. My role includes being the key contact for the following opportunities. There are many more competitions/extra-curricular opportunities that will be promoted in a variety of ways across the academic year.

- Duke of Edinburgh's International Award (Year 9 and above)
- CARE@CC (Community of advocates for respect and empathy - Years 10-12)
- 26 Book Challenge (Years 7-12)

- Rostrum Voice of Youth (Years 7-12)
- Youth Environment Council (Years 7–11)
- Brain Bee Challenge (Year 10)
- *What Matters?* writing competition (Years 5–12)
- Sleek Geeks Science Eureka Prize (primary and secondary)

To learn more about these opportunities, [click to download an overview](#) of these opportunities in 2024.

## **Emma Rieger**

Enrichment and Extended Learning

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## **Year 7 and 10 School Immunisation Program 2024**

Together with SA Health, the School Immunisation Program will be offered at Concordia College by Eastern Health Authority (EHA) in 2024

### Immunisation for Parents/Legal Guardians of Year 7 and 10 Students

All Year 7 students will be offered:

- one dose of the human papillomavirus vaccine, Gardasil®9
- one dose of the diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough vaccine, Boostrix®

All Year 10 students will be offered:

- two doses of the meningococcal B vaccine, Bexsero® at two separate visits (8 weeks apart)
- one dose of the meningococcal ACWY vaccine, Nimenrix®

**The first Year 10 Immunisation will occur on Friday 22 March. The Year 7 Immunisations will occur on Friday 14 June.**

**Immunisation consent packs will be sent home with all Year 7 and 10 students.** It is important that you read the information contained in the packs before you give consent for your child to be vaccinated at school.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact *Eastern Health Authority* on 8132 3600 or visit [www.eha.sa.gov.au](http://www.eha.sa.gov.au)

If you do not receive an Immunisation Consent pack from your child, please ask at the school office.

All parents/legal guardians are to **complete, sign and return the Consent Cards, even if you do not consent** for the student to be vaccinated at school. Students aged 16 years and above can consent for themselves.



If you do not want your child to be vaccinated at school, please contact *Eastern Health Authority* to arrange for your child to receive the free vaccines at an EHA clinic located at your local Council.

- Email: [eha@eha.sa.gov.au](mailto:eha@eha.sa.gov.au)
- Phone: 8132 3600

Provider number: S56311L

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## **Year 10 Immunisations - First Visit Reminder**

- Two doses of the meningococcal B vaccine, Bexsero® at two separate visits (8 weeks apart)
  - One dose of the meningococcal ACWY vaccine, Nimenrix®
- 

The Eastern Health Authority (EHA) will be visiting Concordia College on **Friday 22 March** to complete the meningococcal B and ACWY vaccine, Bexsero® and Nimenrix® immunisations for Year 10 students where consent has been provided. Please [download a fact sheet](#) for more information.

If you did not receive an immunisation consent form from your child, please ask at the Student Services Office for one. If unavailable, please contact EHA on 8132 3600.

**If any information you gave on the original consent form has changed, please inform the Authority's immunisation staff before the date of vaccination on 8132 3600.**

Please notify us if:

- Your child has already completed the Meningococcal B, ACWY vaccine and/or Bexsero® and Nimenrix® immunisation program with another provider.
- You wish to withdraw your consent.
- Your child's medical condition has changed.

Remember: It is your responsibility to advise the vaccinator on the day of immunisation of any change in the information on the consent form, in particular, your child's medical condition. A signed and dated note presented to the vaccinator on the day of immunisation, from a parent or guardian in your child's diary, is acceptable.

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## **Year 7 Orientation Week**

Throughout the first week of school for 2024, the Year 7s engaged in a four-day orientation program to help develop an understanding of the College's processes and daily organisation, fostering a smooth transition into Middle School.

The first day consisted of a number of get-to-know-you activities allowing students to connect with those in their Home Class and participate in a Bible Ceremony, where students received their College Bible for use across their schooling.

During the week, students were introduced to key members of staff through a series of workshops, including:

- Service Learning with Mr Mark Rathjen
- Spirituality with Ms Isobel Yeend
- Counselling information with Ms Heather Quinn
- Organisation with Ms Alva Barton
- An introduction to the library with Ms Hajnalka Molloy
- MYP and assessment with Ms Emily Borowicki

Students participated in SEQTA workshops and a Home Class vs Home Class competition of Tunnel Ball on the oval. LifeChanger also ran an immersion session, focusing on connecting with others. Students were encouraged to work together with their peers, building stronger connections.

It was great to see students enthusiastically engage in their first week of Middle School. We look forward to the exciting year ahead.

**Rachel Hogan**

Year 7 Leader

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## **Road Safety around the College**

The safety of all community members is our highest priority. With increased traffic loads and much movement in the streets surrounding the College during drop-off and pick-up times, we ask all road users to take note of the information below.

- [Australian Road Rules: Children, Schools and Traffic](#) - information distributed by the City of Mitcham
- [Keep Kids Safe: Road Safety Around Schools](#) - information distributed by the City of Unley
- [How to safely use a school Kiss and Drop Zone](#) - information by the City of Unley
- [A guide to parking in Unley](#)

Parking Request

Please take care when parking around the College, ensuring adherence to all relevant signage and road rules. We ask that all Concordia road users be considerate of our neighbours. We can do this by:

- staff and students using the designated car parks provided on site
- parents/caregivers and anyone parking on the road being mindful of keeping driveways

clear

Thank you for your understanding and your cooperation in keeping our school and wider community safe.

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## **Inclusive Learning in the Middle and Senior School**

Welcome to the new school year. It has been great to meet new families and students and welcome you all to Concordia College.

This year, we also welcome Shelley Badenoch as she resumes her role as an Inclusive Learning teacher for Numeracy and Science and the Inclusive Learning Team continue our previous roles from 2023.

### **Inclusive Learning Team**

- Danielle Nak – Inclusive Learning Coordinator (Leadership, coordination and support)
- Emma Rieger – Extension and Enrichment for Years 7-12
- Alva Barton – Year 7 and 8 Inclusive Learning Teacher
- Lauren Bone – Year 9 and 10 Inclusive Learning Teacher
- Danielle Nak – Year 11 and 12 Inclusive Learning Teacher
- Shelley Badenoch – Numeracy and Science Inclusive Learning Teacher
- Sian Lloyd – Learning Support Officer

### **Specific Student Support**

This year we are committed to further developing and improving our inclusive practice to support the varied needs of all students. We passionately believe that students experience inclusive education when they can access and fully participate in learning, alongside their similar-aged peers, supported by reasonable adjustments and teaching strategies tailored to meet their individual needs.

The Inclusive Learning teacher's key role is to support the classroom teacher in enabling students with learning needs to access and participate in the curriculum on the same basis as their similar-aged peers. We consult with parents, classroom teachers and therapists to ensure the educational priorities for students with disability are met. We assist teachers in the provision of resources, create differentiated curriculum plans, and share strategies to enable teachers to work effectively with students with identified needs. We also engage with students to ensure their learning needs are met, to create Student Support Plans (SSPs) and provide additional intervention in collaboration with their class teacher.

Throughout Term 4 of 2023, Inclusive Learning teachers facilitated Student Support Plan review meetings. Students who have an identified learning difficulty/disability, and their parent/carers, were invited to attend to review key learning goals and discuss any specific support needs. New Year 7s were also invited as an introductory meeting to formalise their Student Support Plans. These SSPs were updated and shared with the students' teachers to

allow them to plan for and implement these adjustments for their education.

This term, our priorities are to:

- Share information and support teachers to identify student needs and adjustments
- Support new students to transition to the school
- Identify and timetable in class support
- Consult and collaborate with parents/caregivers regarding required Student Support Plans
- Collaborate and work with teachers to plan, implement and differentiate curriculum

The Inclusive Learning teachers will be in contact within the coming weeks to schedule support meetings for students with identified learning needs within their year levels of responsibility. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning needs, please contact the Inclusive Learning teacher for your child's year level.

We look forward to working in partnership with you and your child to ensure successful learning outcomes.

**Danielle Nak**

Inclusive Learning Coordinator (Years 7-12)

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## **Modelling Responsible Behaviour**

At Concordia College, we are committed to safety, wellbeing and inclusivity as we strive to maintain an environment where individuals make informed choices, fostering a culture of moderation and mindfulness. In line with this commitment and our desire to model healthy choices for young people, we believe in fostering a community that prioritises the responsible use of alcohol. Our guidelines are shaping a future where celebration and socialisation coexist with a responsible and respectful approach to alcohol consumption, ensuring a positive and thriving College community.

We appreciate your commitment to following our [responsible use of alcohol guidelines](#) for Concordia-related events.

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## **Volunteering at Concordia College**

Concordia College values and actively supports the involvement of volunteers in the many and various aspects of College life. Your interests and talents contribute positively to the Concordia community.

We are committed to ensuring that any volunteers who support the College are able to work in

a safe environment and in a manner that maintains the safety and wellbeing of volunteers, students and staff members.

Details on required screening and online training are listed below and are also available via the Parent Lounge on the College website: Parent Lounge > School Information > Volunteer Information and Screening.

- Working with Children Check (WWCC) valid for five years
- Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse and Neglect – Education and Care (RRHAN-EC) valid for three years (Link to PLINK website – Non-Department for Education staff login where volunteers access online fundamental course)
- Acknowledgement of Volunteer Code of Conduct – through the College SINE system when entering College. All volunteers are to sign into School Office/Reception as “Volunteer” and must be wearing a Visitor Badge.

**From 2024 all Direct Contact Volunteers are also required to complete:**

- Valuing Safe Communities training valid for three years

A **Direct Contact Volunteer** is a volunteer that provides support, guidance and supervision directly to students. This includes providing support on school excursions and in classrooms.

Details of these checks are to be advised by email to St John’s Campus - [sjmail@concordia.sa.edu.au](mailto:sjmail@concordia.sa.edu.au), St Peters Campus – [spmail@concordia.sa.edu.au](mailto:spmail@concordia.sa.edu.au) and Concordia Campus - [mail@concordia.sa.edu.au](mailto:mail@concordia.sa.edu.au)

An **Indirect Contact Volunteer** is a volunteer that does not provide support, guidance and supervision directly to students and volunteers. This includes providing support for Parent and Friends functions.

Concordia College requires all Indirect Contact Volunteers (including parents) to have the following:

- A record that you have completed induction training
- Acknowledgement of the Volunteer Code of Conduct

**Insurance**

Concordia College is committed to providing adequate insurance cover for volunteers whilst carrying out their volunteering roles that have been approved and authorised by us. The following insurances are in place:

- Professional Indemnity Insurance
- Public Liability Insurance
- Statutory Liability – WHS Insurance

Vaccination Requirements – as Per COVID Vaccination policy updated 1/1/2023

Concordia College strongly encourages all volunteers to maintain an up-to-date vaccination status against COVID-19, with a COVID-19 vaccine that has been approved by the Therapeutic

Goods Administration.

## **Sally Staggs**

Manager of Risk and Operations

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## **Kelly Sports Programmes for Reception-Year 2 at St Peters Campus**

Kelly Sports are running a weekly one-hour programme at St Peters Campus for eight weeks in Term 1, focusing on the following sports:

- Athletics
- Cricket
- Teeball
- Tennis

Participation helps give children skills and confidence in a fun environment, as well as giving them a greater enthusiasm for sport.

Sessions begin on Thursday 8 February and run from 3.10-4.10pm, meeting in the courtyard pick up zone.

[Download a flyer](#) for more information, including details of how to register.

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## **SchoolTV Special Report**

The Wellbeing Barometer survey has proven to be an invaluable tool for schools, providing insights into the state of youth mental health and wellbeing. Whilst last year's results focused the spotlight on areas of concern, there were also many highlights that demonstrated the resilience and adaptability of students and emphasised the necessity of prevention strategies.

Participating in this year's survey, will assist in identifying areas of strength and concern, as well as pinpointing opportunities for early intervention. Previously gathered information has helped support families as they navigate difficult conversations that enable understanding and foster connections to build relationships.

This survey is part of an ongoing, longitudinal study, with the results being instrumental in tailoring support for students and their families. Participation is strongly encouraged, as it provides a comprehensive view of students' experiences, challenges and achievements over the past year. Its aim is to capture a comprehensive picture of young people's lives, allowing for a tailored approach to enhance mental and emotional wellbeing.

We encourage you to take a few moments to complete a survey for each of your children. This

will help us determine the nature and extent of your concerns and how best to support families in the months ahead. Responses remain anonymous and will only be reported on an aggregated basis. You are asked to base your responses on observations made in the last 12 months.

Acquiring the skills for future independence, taking healthy risks and giving young people the opportunity to emancipate from parents, are key developmental tasks that are essential if we are to stave off the impact of mental illness in the future. Please reflect on the information offered in this Special Report, and as always, we welcome your feedback. If this raises any concerns for you or your child, please reach out to the school or seek professional medical advice.

[View the Special Report \(opens an external website\)](#)

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## Noticeboard

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### Diary Dates

To view upcoming diary dates, please refer to the [Events Calendar](#) on our website.

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## The School Shop

### Term Time Opening Hours

#### **General trading – no appointment required.**

- Monday: 8am - 4pm
- Wednesday: 12.30pm - 4pm
- Thursday: 12.30pm - 6.15pm
- Friday: 2.30 - 4.30pm (Terms 1 and 4)

(Closed on Public Holidays)

### PE Polo Shirt

The old style gold and navy PE polo shirts are now discontinued and students are required to

have the new navy PE polo shirt.

## PE Socks

The CC Sport Socks with the logo are required to be worn by all students from Reception to Year 12 with their PE uniform. Students in Years 7-12 are also required to wear the CC Sport Socks with their formal summer uniform.

## Uniform Orders

Phone 08 8291 9302 or email your order to [schoolshop@concordia.sa.edu.au](mailto:schoolshop@concordia.sa.edu.au)

Our staff will contact you for payment and let you know when your order is ready for collection.

Students in Years 7-12 are emailed to advise when their orders are ready to be collected. For students in ELC-Year 6, email advice is sent to parents/caregivers.

## Secondhand Clothing

If you have uniforms you no longer need, they may be donated or sold on consignment in The School Shop ([click to download a secondhand uniforms consignment form](#)).

Please note:

- Blazers and winter skirts/pinafores must be dry cleaned with a receipt attached.
- Jumpers must be washed using a wool wash detergent.
- All other items must be in good condition, stains removed, washed and ironed ready for sale.
- Summer hats must be hand washed.
- Any uniform items in need of repair e.g. broken zips, seams unstitched, missing buttons, etc. must be repaired prior to acceptance for sale. Buttons are sold in The School Shop.
- Garments presented on hangers are preferred.
- Old logo and discontinued styles – uniforms with the old school logo and discontinued styles are no longer saleable in The School Shop but can be dropped off for overseas charity donation.

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## CC Café Term 1 Menu

Our CC Café Term 1 menu is here! Download a copy of the menu to see what is on offer this term.

- [Brief Menu with Price List](#)
- [Full Menu](#)

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## Public Notices & Events

- **Kismet Drama** is running weekly acting classes for theatre, film and television. Classes are available for youths (10 to 16 years of age), adults (17 years of age and older) and over 50s. [Download a flyer](#) for more information.
- **Unley Girl Guides** are seeking girls aged 5-17 years who might be interested in joining Girl Guides. [Download a flyer](#) for more information. They are also opening a [new Guide Unit](#) for girls aged 10-14.
- **Young Adelaide Voices** is running an Open Day for interested young people to find out about their world-class choral education. [Download a flyer](#) for more information.

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