Concordia Connect

2026 Term 1 Week 3

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From the Chair of the College Board

Welcome to a new school year at Concordia. In particular we welcome families who are new to Concordia and the rewarding and enriching learning we offer at the College. We are also delighted to welcome Mrs Alison Ronoastro as our new Principal at St Peters Campus, Blackwood. Alison comes to Concordia from Christian Brothers College and is looking forward to embracing her new role. She brings with her a strong understanding of faith-based education and a passion for learning.

Concordia is proud to offer an education that prepares students for their future. Our vision is ‘inspiring and equipping hands, hearts and minds for a world of possibilities’. We recognise the wide variety of young people in our learning community, the breadth of goals they have for their future and the importance of providing a holistic education to meet their needs.

The Concordia Board is strongly committed to supporting excellence in education by fostering data-informed approaches to teaching and learning as well as providing contemporary facilities in support. Staff and student wellbeing is important in achieving these goals. All that we do is informed by our understanding that the Gospel of Jesus Christ informs our College

relationships and our activities. We balance our teaching and learning with our understanding of what it means to offer eduction in a Lutheran school. Lutheran schools and early childhood services deliberately and intentionally share and live the good news of Jesus Christ with students, families, staff and the broader community (read more about this from the Growing Deep Leadership and Formation Framework).

This year we will be launching a new strategic plan instigated by the Board and drawing on input from the College community. It also draws on data from school surveys, student achievement and interviews with various stakeholders. This plan will inform our decision making during the next three years. We appreciate the work of Sam Molloy, who led us through the process.

On behalf of the Board, I am delighted to welcome you all to a school year full of promise and opportunity, where we can reflect on and be guided by the word of God.

Dianne Eckermann
Chairperson – Concordia College Board

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Q&A with Alison Ronoastro – Principal, St Peters Campus

1. Where were you before this and what persuaded you to join Concordia?

Prior to joining Concordia, I worked at Christian Brothers College for eight years as Head of the Junior Campus. After 19 years in Catholic Education, with a strong focus on boys' education, I was ready for a new challenge. When this opportunity arose, I was drawn to the strong sense of community at St Peters Campus, which I have already come to value greatly.

2. Three words to describe you.

Humourous, empathetic and relational.

3. What is your motivation or inspiration in your role?

My primary motivation is to bring joy to the students of St Peters Campus and to ensure that our staff and families feel genuinely supported and valued as members of our community.

4. If you had a superpower, what would it be?

If I had a superpower, it would be the ability to travel through time—just a short way into the future, perhaps to 2027 or 2028—to see whether the plans and vision I have for St Peters Campus truly made a positive difference.

5. Who would you invite to a dinner party of six guests and why? Alternatively, tell us something you might like to share that we could not possibly know?

The six people I would invite to dinner would be Boy George, George Michael, Freddie

Mercury, Elton John, Billy Joel, and Stevie Nicks—so we could enjoy karaoke late into the night, singing our way through all of their greatest hits.

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2026 Installation and Commencement Services

Across the first two weeks of Term 1, our Concordia Campus Installation Service and whole-of-College Commencement Service provided significant opportunities for students, staff and invited guests to gather, to commit the year ahead to God, and to install new Student Leaders, House Leaders, Middle School Student Leaders and staff into their roles for 2026.

We look forward to the contributions each one will make as they serve and lead within the Concordia community this year.

Concordia Campus Installation Service

Concordia Campus Installation Service

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Concordia Campus Installation Service

Concordia Campus Installation Service

2026 Year 12 Student Leaders

2026 Year 12 House Leaders

2026 Middle School Student Leaders

Whole of College Commencement Service

Whole of College Commencement Service

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Congratulating our 2025 Concordia College Dux

On Monday, we welcomed 2025 Concordia Dux Michael Pope back to the College for the presentation of his Dux medallion.

The College Dux is awarded to the student with the highest ATAR, or Australian Tertiary Admission Rank. Michael achieved our highest ATAR of 99.65 and achieved Merits for Chemistry and Ancient Studies.

At Concordia, we pride ourselves on developing students who can learn well and who have a holistic approach to life and learning. We are proud of all of our graduates from the Class of 2025, and we are particularly proud of students like Michael who have pushed themselves hard to achieved the best possible outcomes.

Following the presentation, Michael spoke to the 2026 Middle and Senior School students, encouraging them to put in their best effort at school and to enjoy the opportunities that come their way in such a supportive learning environment. He particularly encouraged our Year 12s to embrace all that this milestone year has for them, to keep things in perspective, to work to the best of their ability while also making time for rest and for fostering friendships. You can read some excerpts from his speech below.

"*... Throughout the entire year, last year, I had everyone doing everything that they could to support me. Everyone went above and beyond, and it was, truly, extraordinary.*

The school lived up to its motto in every way. And since I read it on the wall in the gym, I have spent a lot of time pondering and appreciating all the ways in which it does. Fortiter in Re, Suaviter in Modo. Firm in Principle, Gentle in Manner. ... The school's principles are not harshly enforced. The school rather nurtures. It supports you to do your best. Concordia believes in academic excellence, believes in the well-rounded person, and believes that its students can and should be extraordinary. Yet, the school takes your hand and encourages you to achieve your own goals, in your own way.

... Look after each other this year. Although you have different goals, you are all in this together. So, support your friends and encourage them. Spend time together and be understanding.

... If you get to the end of the year and feel like you did everything that you could, you should feel so incredibly proud of yourself... and, this will look different for everyone. I think that the most important part is that you know that it was your best. And that is the challenge that I set all of you."

We wish Michael and his peers from the Class of 2025 all the very best for their future endeavours.

Laura Austin
Senior School Leader

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Informatics School of Excellence

During the summer holidays, I had the privilege of attending the Informatics School of Excellence, representing my College and state. I'm really thankful to Concordia College for supporting and encouraging me to participate in the Australian Informatics Olympiad (AIO), which serves as the selection competition for this program. Through the AIO, I was honoured to receive a gold award and to be recognised as 'Best in Year 9' in South Australia. These are some achievements that I could only have dreamed of without the support from the College. I would also like to give a special thanks to Mr McCusker, Mr Nicola, Mrs Rieger, Mr Egan and Mr Smart for their guidance and motivation throughout this journey.

The Informatics School of Excellence is a nine-day intensive program for high-achieving students, bringing together passionate individuals from across Australia to develop advanced skills in computer science, problem-solving and competitive programming. During the program, tutors from Australian Maths Trust (AMT) introduced us to a range of algorithmic concepts, such as dynamic programming, graph theory, and techniques to optimise code for greater efficiency. The training was intensive and challenging, but it was also extremely beneficial. It made me think more logically, write code more efficiently and with better conventions, and become more persistent when dealing with complex problems.

Beyond the skills I gained, the experience itself was truly memorable. The flight, accommodation, and meals were all well-organised, which made the camp comfortable and enjoyable. Being surrounded by some of the most talented informatics students in Australia built my confidence and motivated me to push my limits and excel further. I have also developed my ability to stay calm and think analytically under time pressure. These are all qualities that will serve me well in my future competitions and studies.

This experience has strengthened my passion for informatics and competitive programming and encouraged me to continue striving for excellence. I am extremely grateful for the support from my school and the opportunity to participate in this program. I look forward to applying the skills, techniques and mindset that I developed during the camp in future competitions and academic pursuits.

I hope that by sharing this experience, more students will feel encouraged to step outside of their comfort zones and pursue opportunities in fields that they are passionate about—whether it’s computer science, mathematics, sport, public speaking, science or the arts. You can never get achievements like this without trying it out in the first place. With dedication, perseverance and the support from our school community, anything is possible. I encourage everyone to challenge themselves, take initiative and work toward their own goals.

Jacob 10HLEW

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Enrichment and Extended Learning News

Welcome to a new school year. At Concordia our goal is to connect, empower and challenge our learners. In the first weeks of school, students can begin to explore a variety of enrichment and extension activities. I am delighted to share the following opportunities, for which I am the key contact. There are many more competitions/extra-curricular opportunities that will be promoted in a variety of ways across the academic year. Students should look for promotional posters, emails from teachers and listen out for Assembly announcements.

- Duke of Edinburgh's International Award (14+ years)
- CARE@CC (Community of Advocates for Respect and Empathy) – a club for students interested in medical and health-related careers (Years 9–12)
- 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)
- Oliphant Science Awards (Years 7 – 12)
- Inklings writing group
- Youth Parliament (age 15 +)

To learn more about these opportunities, click to view a PDF with more information.

Each fortnight, remember to check this section of the newsletter to learn about all the amazing opportunities on offer.

Emma Rieger
Enrichment and Extended Learning (Years 7–12)

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Little EdVenturers Playgroup

Launching in Term 1 2026, Little EdVenturers is Concordia's new playgroup at our St Peters Campus in Blackwood.

Designed as a warm, nurturing and play-rich space, it's where little learners from six months to three years of age can explore, create and build early connections. It's also a place where families can connect and feel part of a welcoming community.

Led by experienced educators and volunteers, children will enjoy both indoor play and our exciting new nature play area.

- Where: Concordia College, St Peters Campus – 71 Cumming Street, Blackwood SA 5051
- When: Starting in Term 1, Week 3 (Thursday 12 February) and running each Thursday during term time
- Time: 9:30am–10:30am
- Cost: Each session is $5 per family (pay on arrival)
- Bookings: Register online

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Stage 1 Theatre Design and Technology Skill Building

To begin the semester, the Stage 1 Theatre Design and Technology class have been exploring different theatrical roles and developing their skills during in-class tutorial lessons.

Students have worked on special effects makeup, shaping materials to create believable cuts, bruises and other wounds, and then applied their efforts to forming realistic stage food props for theatre.

With little introduction, the class has created some phenomenal results! If you are interested in the world of performance outside of acting, then this class is for you!

Daniel Lynch
Drama Teacher

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New Canteen Provider and Ordering System

In Term 1 we have welcomed Rory's School Lunches as our new College canteen provider. Along with this change, the College is now also using Flexischools as the new ordering system.

Make sure you've downloaded the Flexischools app and set up an account if you want to be able to place orders. Simply download the app from the App Store (iOS) or Google Play Store (Android), or register for an account at the Flexischools website.

Follow these instructions to help you to get started:

- How do I register for a Flexischools account?
- How do I add a student to my account?
- How do I place an order?
- How do I top up my wallet?
- How do I add a daily spending limit?
- Can I give my student their own login to place orders?

For any questions or issues, please ring the canteen parent support line available Monday to Friday between 8:30am and 4:30pm on 08 7084 1801.

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Music Notes

2026 Music Ensembles in Full Swing

All music ensembles have now commenced at Concordia College, marking a vibrant start to the year across our co-curricular music program.

Concordia offers a diverse range of ensemble opportunities, including choral, band, string and percussion ensembles, designed to support students at all levels of experience. Ensemble participation is a vital part of musical development, building confidence, teamwork, discipline and a strong sense of community.

Alongside ensembles, Concordia also offers a comprehensive instrumental and vocal music lesson program, to support students' musical growth and ensemble involvement.

If you are new to the College and have not yet joined a music ensemble or commenced Music lessons but would like to be involved, we warmly encourage you to get in touch. There are still opportunities available across a number of areas.

For further information, please contact our Music Administrator, Andrew O'Loughlin.

SHREK the Musical

Friday 27 and Saturday 28 March
at Futures Church, Paradise

Excitement is building at Concordia College as preparations continue for this year's school production of *SHREK The Musical*.

Students in the cast and crew recently took part in three intensive rehearsal days, filled with focused rehearsals, set and prop building, and plenty of energy as the production began to take shape. Adding to the buzz, students also received their official production shirts, marking a special milestone in the rehearsal process.

With momentum building and rehearsals well underway, tickets will go on sale very shortly. Audiences can look forward to a vibrant, high-quality production that showcases Concordia's strong tradition of outstanding school musicals.

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Child Safe Policy Update

Concordia College is strongly committed to maintaining a child safe and child friendly environment.

The College Board has approved updates to policies and other documentation relating to Child Safety, which are available on our website and parent lounge. As we start a new school year, families are invited to review the following important documents:

- Child Safe Policy

- Child Safe Policy – Child Friendly Version
- Child Safe Adult Code of Conduct Policy and Procedures
- Students' Child Safe Code of Conduct Policy and Procedures
- Child Safe Code of Conduct – Child Friendly Version

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Stage 1 Geography Welcomes Old Concordians

Our aim in the Humanities Faculty is for students to link their learning at school to real-world contexts and experiences. During Week 2, Old Collegians Elijah (Class of 2022) and Lincoln (Class of 2025) returned to the College to speak to new Stage 1 Geography students about their experiences of the subject and how it shaped their career and study pathways. Additionally, they advocated and encouraged for the pursuit of all Humanities subjects in the cenior years as vessels for not only successful ATARS, but for the critical and analytical skills the subjects provide. A very worthwhile discussion for our new Geographers!

Vanessa Narino-Terry
Humanities Teacher

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Kelly Sports Summer Programmes at St Peters Campus

Kelly Sports is running summer sports programmes for students in Reception to Year 2 at our St Peters Campus, focusing on the following sports:

- cricket
- athletics
- tee-ball
- hockey

The eight-week program runs on Thursdays from 3.10–4.10pm and is a great way for students to develop new skills.

Download a flyer for further information.

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School Immunisation Program for Year 7 and Year 10

Together with SA Health, the School Immunisation Program will be offered at Concordia College by Eastern Health Authority (EHA) in 2026.

All **Year 7** students will be offered:

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

The **Year 7 immunisations will occur on Monday 1 June**.

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 **Year 10 Immunisations will occur on Friday 15 May (first visit) and Friday 14 August (second and final visit)**.

Immunisation consent packs have been 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.

Please note more information for each year level is attached below:

- Year 7 Immunisation Information
- Year 10 Immunisation Information

If you have any questions about this program, please contact Eastern Health Authority on 8132 3600 or visit www.eha.sa.gov.au

If you have not received 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 provide consent for themselves. **Please return all Consent Cards by Friday 20 February.**

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
Phone: 8132 3600
Provider number: S56311L

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Farewell and Thank You to Maria Chiarolli, Senior School Counsellor

With gratitude for her years of dedicated service to the College and its students, we warmly farewell Maria Chiarolli, who has recently made the decision to transition to retirement.

Starting at Concordia in 2007, Maria has been involved in many initiatives that have helped support students in our Care. Some examples include:

- writing and delivering presentations and workshops to students in Years 7–12
- running staff and parent information sessions on topics such as safe partying, drug proofing, mindfulness and restorative practices
- assisting with the scope, sequencing and development of the Year 7–12 Wellbeing Program in collaboration with pastoral leaders
- working alongside other Lutheran learning communities and Lutheran Education SA/NT/WA (LESNW) on various projects, particularly in relation to gender and equity matters.

Notably, Maria also established the Lutheran Counsellors Network, a supportive professional network which continues today.

All of this was in addition to her day-to-day work of supporting individual students, which she did with grace, peace, and a steadfast commitment to meeting students 'where they are at' and valuing each student as a unique individual made and loved by God.

We thank Maria for her commitment and dedication to the College, which has been significant, and we wish her all the very best for the future.

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SchoolTV: School Transitions Edition

Whether it is starting school for the first time, moving up to a higher grade or embarking on a journey through secondary school, there is no doubt that any school transition is a very exciting time for children and parents. It means your children are growing up!

However, transitioning to a different stage of the school journey is an ongoing process. It can continue long after students have entered their new environment and they may encounter difficulties at a number of different stages. These stressors may appear as anxiety and frustration and result in negative or disruptive behaviours. Such behaviours can become problematic, making the transition process even more difficult for children and parents.

In this edition of SchoolTV, parents will learn practical strategies to assist your child during the transition process and reduce stress and anxiety levels.

Read this Edition (opens an external website)
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Advance Notice: Year 7–12 Winter Sport Nominations

With Term 1 well and truly underway, it will soon be time to nominate for Year 7–12 students' involvement in winter sport at Concordia College.

The Sports Department asks families to please note the following key dates:

- **Monday 23 February** - Nominations Open
- **Monday 2 March** – Nominations Close

Further information will be distributed to families via the College app.

We look forward to an exciting season of winter sport, with many students involved across the Middle and Senior School.

Ric van Wachem
Director of Extra- and Co-curricular Sport

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Instrumental Lessons at St Peters Campus

Is your child interested in learning guitar, piano, singing, music theory or musicianship?

Novar Music are currently accepting co-curricular music enrolments from St Peters Campus students who are keen to learn a musical instrument.

Lessons are available after school on weekdays.

Visit novarmusic.com for more information.

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Welcome to Your First German Lesson, Receptions

Our Reception students began their very first German lesson with a special tradition from Germany—they received a “Schultüte”. In Germany, the first day of school is a major rite of passage called the “Einschulung”. Every child receives a large, decorated cone known as a Schultüte (“school cone”), filled with sweets, small gifts and school supplies. This 200-year-old tradition marks the exciting beginning of formal schooling and no German child starts school without one.

To share this meaningful custom here in Australia, each Reception student was presented with their own Schultüte at the start of their first German lesson. The excitement and curiosity in the room were wonderful to see, as students looked forward to discovering the surprises inside

once they got home. The Schultüte symbolises encouragement, celebration and new beginnings—a perfect way to start their language-learning journey at St John's Campus. We look forward to many happy milestones ahead.

Vicky Miegel
German Teacher

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City of Unley Youth Art Showcase

Celebrate SA Youth Week 2026 by showcasing your creativity in the Unley Youth Art Showcase. Young artists aged 12–25 (that live, study, work or play in the City of Unley) are invited to submit 2D artworks—painting, drawing, photography or visual design—for display at the Hughes Gallery, Fullarton Park Community Centre.

- **Exhibition Dates: Thursday 9 April – Sunday 3 May 2026**
- **Launch and Awards: Thursday 9 April 2026**
- **Entry Deadline: Sunday 22 March 2026 (midnight)**

There are great prizes to be won, including cash and mentoring opportunities with Carclew and professional artists! In partnership with Carclew.

For Terms and Conditions and to apply, visit: www.unley.sa.gov.au/youth-art-showcase

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SchoolTV Special Report: Talking About Bushfires

Events such as bushfires can be distressing for children and young people, even when they are not directly affected. Ongoing media coverage, changes within communities and conversations about loss or danger can influence how children understand safety and uncertainty. While some children may appear largely unaffected, others may experience worry, confusion or changes in behaviour as they try to make sense of what they are seeing and hearing.

Research shows that large-scale disasters can have emotional effects that extend beyond the immediate event, with responses varying depending on age, temperament and level of exposure. For families, this can raise questions about how much information to share, how to reassure children effectively and how to recognise when additional support may be needed.

By providing clear, age-appropriate information, maintaining routines and encouraging open conversations, parents can help children feel supported and secure during uncertain times.

Read the Special Report (opens an external website)
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Student Achievements

Congratulations to **Madison 9LBON**, **Isabella 9LBON**, **Eliza 9SFOR**, **Annabelle 11HPAA** and **Kaitlyn 9SFOR** on being selected to represent South Australia in the State Indoor Netball team, which is preparing to compete in Brisbane later this month. We wish the girls all the best for the competition!

Congratulations to **Awak 11HPAA**, who has been selected as a member of the U17 Australian basketball squad—an outstanding achievement!

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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

(Closed on Public Holidays)

Winter Uniform Fittings

A communication containing booking information will be sent to families who have students new to the College this year and for students in Reception and Year 7. Booking times will be available from March until the end of Term 1.

Uniform Orders

Email orders are also welcome and purchases may be collected from The School Shop during opening hours. Please email schoolshop@concordia.sa.edu.au and include:

- your child's name and year level
- size
- your contact details

The School Shop staff will contact you for payment and advise when your order is available to collect. 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 Uniform Sales

The School Shop advises that our terms and conditions for the sale of secondhand uniforms have been updated, along with the consignment form. Secondhand uniform items can now be donated or sold on consignment according to our new Terms and Conditions for the sale of secondhand uniforms.

Download a consignment form

Umbrellas

The following items are now available in The School Shop:

- Golf umbrellas - $38 each
- Fold-up umbrellas - $28 each

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Public Notices & Events

- **Southern District Police, in partnership with the Australian Federal Police (AFP)**, will be delivering Think U Know parent/caregiver presentations in 2026. Think U Know is a nationally delivered cyber safety program suitable for parents and carers of primary and secondary school-aged children. Download a flyer for more information.
- **Kenilworth Kookaburras Football Club** hosts Auskick sessions every Wednesday, commencing Wednesday 18 February at 5.30pm. Download a flyer for details. The Club is also soon to commence its 2026 season with junior trainings on Tuesday 3 and Thursday 5 March and they are currently welcoming new junior players across a range of age groups. The Club offers a fun, inclusive environment where children can learn the game, build confidence and be part of a supportive community. Download a flyer for more information.
- **Forestville Hockey Club** is seeking new players interested in trying hockey at their new state-of-the-art hockey pitch in Netherby. Bookings are made on the FHC website. There are have two programs to join:

    - Hook in 2 Hockey for ages 5–10 | Starts Sunday February 22 for a six-week program
    - Stick It & See for ages 11–16 | Wednesday 4 March and Wednesday 11 March (Year 5 and up). This program is new to the club and free.
    - Finally, the Club is expanding their current community volleyball program to include Under 12s in 2026. Visit their Facebook page for more information.
- **kidsinadelaide.com.au** has compiled a Best Adelaide Fringe Shows for Kids 2026 Family Guide. Visit their website to see the shows they recommend for families with children this Fringe season, which runs from Friday 20 February to Sunday 22 March.

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