Concordia Connect

2026 Term 4 Week 6

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From the Principals

From our youngest Primary School students to our Year 12 graduates, the final weeks of the year are when learning becomes visible. Across all three campuses, students are sitting exams, presenting to audiences and putting their ideas to work in the community. Here is a look at what we are celebrating.

Year 12 SACE Exams Complete

Our Year 12 students finished their Stage 2 SACE examinations on Friday 13 November. Months of revision, practice papers and early starts came to an end that day, and we are proud of the persistence and maturity they showed. Their results will come later; for now, congratulations on finishing. Our thoughts turn next to our Stage 1 students, whose exams begin on Monday 23 November. We wish them every success and thank the families and teachers supporting them through the exam block.

Creativity on Stage

Earlier this term, the MADD Festival (Primary School) and our College Dance Showcase (Year 5–12) brought Music, Art, Drama and Dance to the stage. These events give students a real audience and a deadline, and the rehearsal time behind each performance was visible on the night. Thank you to the students, staff and families who made both events possible.

Year 9 Community Project: Learning That Serves Others

Our Year 9 Middle School students are currently working on their Community Projects, which is a culmination of their MYP journey. Each project asks students to identify a need beyond the school gate and plan a response to it. It is learning that asks students to think about who benefits from their work, and we look forward to hearing how the projects unfold.

Year 6 Milestones at St Peters Campus and St John's Campus

Our two Primary School campuses are marking the end of our Year 6s' primary years in their own ways. This week, St Peters Campus Year 6 students present at the Year 6 Summit, sharing their learning with an audience. At St John's Campus, Year 6 students are presenting their PYP Exhibition on Tuesday, the culminating project of the Primary Years Programme. Both events show students who can research, organise their thinking and speak with confidence, which is a strong foundation for the move to our Middle and Senior School campus.

FestivALL: The Whole College Celebrates

FestivALL brings the three campuses together to celebrate learning from Reception to Year 12. Among the highlights are the Year 12 Art, Media and Design pieces, which represent the final work of students who have spent years developing their craft.

It's taking place on Friday 27 November from 3.30pm, and we warmly invite all families to come and see what our students have achieved.

Thank you to our staff, students and families for a year of effort and growth. We look forward to celebrating with you.

Penny McKenzie
Principal – Concordia Campus

Paul Bannister
Principal – St John's Campus

Ali Ronoastro
Principal – St Peters Campus

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Q&A with Margie von Doussa, School Counsellor – Concordia Campus

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

I've just come from working with South Australia Police, where my role was to support police officers to maintain their wellbeing in the complex and often challenging environment of policing.

Over the past 15 years, I've also worked across different areas of the criminal justice system, including supporting children who had been witnesses to or victims of major indictable offences. Before that, I spent 10 years as a relationship and family counsellor, with a particular interest in grief and loss, especially within palliative care.

I was ready for a big career change, and it was actually while working with cadets at the Police Academy that I realised how much I loved the education and preventative space. I found myself feeling increasingly drawn to school counselling and the opportunity to support young people before life's challenges became overwhelming.

By the end of my interview at Concordia, I knew this was where I needed to be. I am so incredibly grateful to be here and feel very lucky to have found a place where my experience and passion come together so beautifully.

2. Three words to describe you.

Extroverted, loving and loyal.

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

The inspiration behind my entire career comes from lived experience and a deep belief that we have an incredible capacity to survive—and even thrive—despite the hardships of life.
I hope to help students prepare for all that life brings them. For me, that means helping them develop the skills, emotional fortitude and, perhaps most importantly, the belief in themselves and their own capacity to live well.

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

I wish I had the superpower of song! If I were a wonderful singer, I would be absolutely unbearable. I'd be singing to everyone, everywhere and at every possible opportunity! Music, for me, is such a powerful experience of connection and healing, so being able to use my voice

like that would be pretty special.

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?

This is a very hard question because my dinner party would need to have a good mix of fabulous food, great music and plenty of laughs!

- First on the list would be Kirsty Allsopp, the British television presenter from Location, Location, Location. I absolutely love real estate and have convinced myself that Kirsty and I would be great friends if we ever met!
- I'd also invite Tracy Chapman and Carole King for the music.
- Kitty Flanagan would definitely be there for the laughs.
- Nagi Maehashi from RecipeTin Eats would be invited on the strict condition that she brings a plate. I know that whatever she turned up with would be beyond delicious!
- The sixth and final place would have to go to my closest friend, who I've known since I was 12. Otherwise, I'd have to spend the next day relaying every detail of the dinner party to her!

So really, the guest list is a combination of people I admire, people who make me laugh, people who make incredible music, someone who can feed us all… and one person who absolutely needs to be there for the debrief afterwards!

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Year 12 Class of 2026 Graduation Dinner

Well, that's a wrap!

The final celebration of the Year 12 journey took place on Tuesday night with our Graduation Dinner in Fortiter, bringing together our Class of 2026 to celebrate the end of an important and memorable chapter in their lives.

The evening was filled with laughter, delicious food, heartfelt speeches and plenty of special moments, including a surprise entrance on a motorbike (thank you, Mr Bright), which certainly made for an unforgettable arrival!

While the evening marked the end of their time as Year 12 students, it was also a chance to recognise just how far these young people have come. We have watched them grow, challenge themselves, support one another and develop into the wonderful young adults they are today. They leave with so much more than memories of their school years; they take with them friendships, experiences, lessons and connections that will stay with them long after they leave our gates.

We could not be more proud of our Class of 2026 and all that they have accomplished. As they close this chapter and look towards the exciting opportunities and adventures that lie ahead, we wish each and every one of them every success and happiness for the future.

Congratulations, Class of 2026. You have so much to be proud of, and we cannot wait to see where life takes you!

Laura Austin
Senior School Leader

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Year 12 Design, Technology and Engineering

With a record three Year 12 Design, Technology and Engineering classes running in 2026, demand for the subject has never been greater. Just as impressive has been the high standard of work produced by our students, whose creativity, dedication and attention to detail have resulted in some exceptional products.

Thank you to all students for your hard work and commitment throughout the year.

Congratulations to our award winners:

- Most outstanding Product: **Ethan (12SBAC)**
- Peer Assessed Best Product: **Ben (12CFIN)**
- Resilience: **Sophie (12CFIL)**
- Overall Subject: **Oliver (12CRID)** and **Josh (12CFIN)**

Shane Beitz
Faculty Leader – Applied Technologies

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Wild Learning at Adelaide Zoo

The Year 1 explorers took our EdVenture unit, *Sustaining Life on Earth*, out of the classroom and into Adelaide Zoo, and what a day it was!

We explored a wide range of living things and the habitats that support them, noticing how each animal's home provides food, water, shelter and space to survive. We also thought deeply about the role zoos play in caring for animals, protecting endangered species and teaching people how to look after our world. Our thinking was on display as we carefully observed, sketched and labelled in our nature journals, just like real scientists.

At the panda talk, we were amazed to learn that pandas still have carnivore teeth because their ancestors were meat eaters but our biggest highlight was meeting Geronimo the squirrel glider!

We were such great learners that the zoo staff even invited us to do a special job: helping to feed the goats. We showed responsibility taking on this role with care and confidence. Most

importantly, we grew our knowledge, understanding how zoos protect animals and that caring for living things and their habitats is a job we all share.

Thanks to our wonderful parent helpers for their support on our excursion. We really appreciated it.

Nicolle Dupree
Year 1 Teacher – St Peters Campus

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Reminder: Join us for FestivALL on Friday 27 November

Plans are coming together for our biggest community event of the year—FestivALL, a vibrant event celebrating the creativity, curiosity and learning of our students—and the wonderful community that surrounds them. Families from all three campuses are warmly invited to join us for this special evening.

- **Date: Friday 27 November**
- **Time: 3.30–7.30pm**
- **Location: Fortiter Gymnasium, Wirrkuta Trruku and the College Oval, Highgate**

Look forward to...

- Learning Exhibitions
- Music performances and festive favourites
- Food trucks
- Bar and refreshments
- P&F Market Stalls and activities, including student *Makers' Market (cash only);* free henna, face painting and PLAI space circus skills; plus a *Pick 'n' Win* stall
    - Makers' Market stalls include 3D printed fidgets, student artwork, crochet items, slime, jewellery, key rings, dog treats, seedlings, Christmas decorations and much more.

Find our more about what's on offer at FestivALL and please refer to our recent email to parents and caregivers with all you need to know, including donating items for the Pick 'n' Win stall or volunteering to assist on the night.

We can’t wait to celebrate with you!

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State Theatre Company’s Young Theatre Makers' Award

On Friday 30 October, Year 11 Drama students performed their devised work, *Our Way of Life*,

to more than 100 fellow students at Matthew Flinders Theatre, for the State Theatre Company's Young Theatre Makers' Award.

In a storytelling competition designed to celebrate emerging artists, Concordia College was well represented with a cohesive submission responding to the prompt word of 'truth' and the style of physical theatre.

The panel of judges noted the company's aesthetic approach and symbolic connection between design elements and story. They admired the ensemble's commitment to role, generating an affective, unsettling and highly stylised exploration of a world in which the truth is tightly controlled by the authoritarian Mr Mendax.

Congratulations to the class on their submission, which exemplified the student-driven approach of SACE Drama, with student playwrights, a student director, student designers and an onstage ensemble of eleven students!

Daniel Lynch
Key Teacher – Drama

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Careers and Pathways Update

> "Whatever the job you are asked to do, at whatever level, do a good job." - Madeleine Albright

Term 4 has continued to race along as the end of the year approaches. I've assisted students with the process of obtaining part-time work, and one-on-one counselling continues, with quite a few Year 11s reaching out to chat about their subjects and explore post-secondary pathways. We've also had some students attend work experience (construction industry and SAPOL) and I've been building new connections with industry and other external parties to gather more knowledge and information about programs, events and offerings that could be beneficial to our students.

I attended an excellent Careers PD about the hidden careers in property and construction. It was incredibly relevant, particularly with the amount of construction and development underway in Adelaide and beyond! Whether you like hands-on work, being inside or outside, using Maths, Physics or Geography, problem-solving, being creative or focusing on business, finance or money, there is pretty much a job for you in this industry. Further to the day, I am hoping to access spaces for some of our students at next year's Property Council of Australia's Girls in Property program.

I'd like to thank everyone for their support this year as I've settled into my Careers and Pathways Advisor role at Concordia College. It has been a wonderful first year in Adelaide and at Concordia and I am looking forward to working with our students in 2027.

Save the Date

Considering a career as a doctor or dentist? Not 100% sure but curious to learn more? Then mark Thursday 18 February 2027 on your calendar to attend Concordia College's Medicine, Dentistry and UCAT information Night. Hear from universities, students currently studying Medicine and learn about the UCAT and how you can best prepare for it. This will be a valuable opportunity to have your questions answered and speak with those who have travelled these paths.

Current Year 9s – 2027 Work Experience

Before the end of this term, I will have the opportunity to address the current Year 9 cohort to get them thinking about work experience next year. The upcoming holidays present an excellent opportunity for students to catch up with family and friends and while doing so, pose the question, "I know you work in... industry, is there any chance you would be able to host me for a week of work experience?"

Finding work experience can be challenging in some industries due to privacy or limited availability e.g. psychology, medicine and nursing. In these instances, I encourage students to think outside of the box—perhaps working with a podiatrist will still expose you to how surgeries are conducted, just in a different capacity.

Some work experience must not be undertaken without completion of required certificates. Anyone considering work experience in a Primary School, ELC or industries attended by children will need a Working With Children Check and to complete RRHAN Fundamentals training (online). Any work in the construction industry (including landscape gardening) will require students to obtain a White Card certification. All of this required documentation will need to be provided well before work experience, so it's important to plan ahead.

Work experience is held in the final week of Term 2 and all Year 10 students are expected to participate in a week of work experience. I'll be providing details about next year's work experience via email to Year 9 students and their parents/carers after the meeting. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Seeking Parents/Carers Willing to Share Their Experiences

I've commenced planning for next year's Exploring Futures Careers Expo, which will be held on Thursday 17 June, 2027.

I am inviting parents who would be willing to participate on the night by speaking to students about their Career to please contact me for a chat about what is involved.

I am looking for people confident sharing 'in the life of' reflections that provide an honest and authentic account of what they actually do in their job on a daily basis. Due to student interest, I am particularly interested to speak with parents in careers in all aspects of construction/property, allied health, medicine, business and finance, and engineering but I am also open to other careers that would be beneficial for our students to learn about.

Canteen Australia – Careers and Education Support

Did you know that if you have been impacted by cancer (own diagnosis, even in childhood or a parent/carer or sibling) Canteen Australia provides support and resources through their Education and Career Service (ECS) for secondary school and beyond? The service is for young people aged 12–25 and helps those impacted by cancer to stay connected to study or work. For more information, visit Education and Career Service | Canteen Australia or drop by my office for more details.

Reminder: Year 12 Results and Change of Preference

After Year 12 results are released on Monday 14 December, I will be available to meet with Year 12s on Tuesday 15 December in the Careers and Industry Connections Office at Concordia from 9am to 3pm. Year 12s wanting to speak about pathways, courses or other plans for 2027 and beyond can drop in to see me, no appointment is necessary. I am also available after exams and encourage Year 12s to reach out with any queries.

Post-results being released, students can continue to change their preferences in SATAC until **11.59pm on Wednesday 6 January**. First round offers will be released on Monday 14 January, second round offers on 28 January and subsequent rounds commencing on Thursday 4 February and continuing every Tuesday and Thursday until Thursday 11 March.

Adelaide University will be hosting a 'Your Next Steps' session for Year 12s on Wednesday 15 December, 3pm–7pm to explore pathway and study options. Students can register online or just drop in to Hub Central, Adelaide University, North Terrace, Adelaide during these times. Year 12s can also reach out to the AU Future Students Team—either drop in, call or pre-book an appointment. More details available are available via the University's website.

Flinders University will be ready to take Year 12 student calls on 1300 354 633 (option 2), or students can drop into Flinders Connect at Bedford Park, or visit the City Campus with any questions. No appointments are necessary. The Flinders University team will be available to support students right up until 1pm on Christmas Eve. Further support will then be available from Monday 4 January.

Upcoming Events

Academy of Interactive Entertainment (AIE) Open Day – Saturday, November 21, 2026
Discover the courses designed to get you started in game development, 3D animation, film and visual effects at the AIE Open Day on Saturday 21 November, 2026. This event will be held at AIE Adelaide Campus from 10am to 3pm. AIE's Open Day is a great opportunity to meet their teachers, staff and students. The day will cover everything you need to know about the:

- careers in games and VFX that they train students for
- studios and industries that they work wit
- courses they offer—from beginners to professional mastery, an
- the software, skills and knhttps://www.concordia.sa.edu.a...owledge they teach.

AIE's Open Day will also include presentations on entry requirements and how to apply.

Visit their website for details and to register.

How to Learn More About Careers…

Picturing careers is hard. You might think you know or have a vague idea about what a doctor or an engineer does, but it could really pay to get more insight into the jobs you're interested in exploring, or discover new paths you didn't even know about. As well as attending Concordia College's annual Exploring Futures Careers Expo, YouTube may also help. Lots of people now share honest, behind-the-scenes looks at their work. Below are tips on a few channels worth exploring, what to look out for while you watch, and how to find career insight even if you can't get online.

Why Career Videos are Worth Watching

A job description tells you what a role involves on paper, but a video, interview or podcast provides real insights and perspectives from people actually doing the work. You can hear how they talk about their work, what they love or what gets them excited, and what aspects they find tough.

Short videos are also low pressure. You can watch a two-minute clip about marine biology on the bus home and see if it sparks anything. If it doesn't, nothing's lost. If it does, perhaps you've found something to dig into.

YouTube Channels Worth a Look

Look for channels that focus on real people talking about real work, particularly with educating the public in mind (rather than entertaining them or just getting clicks). If you're ever unsure whether a video is right for you, check with a parent, carer or teacher.

- Dr Jeff Yoo is an emergency doctor based in Canada. His Shorts feature doctors from all kinds of specialties talking about what they do. If you're curious about medicine, it's a quick way to see that "doctor" covers far more than one job. Some videos talk about medical emergencies, so they may not suit everyone.
- icould is a UK charity with more than 1,000 video stories of people explaining their job and how they got there. You'll find everyone from carpenters to care workers. Many of the stories cover the mistakes and turning points along the way, not just the highlights.
- Max Klymenko makes videos about careers, business and economics. He has four university degrees and has worked in law and corporate consultancy before starting his own business. His Shorts are a quick way to pick up career ideas and see how different paths can unfold.
- On Salary Transparent Street, regular people are stopped in the street and asked: what they do, and how much they make? It's a quick way to discover jobs you've never heard of and get an understanding of what people in those roles earn. Most interviews are filmed in the USA, so pay will differ compared with Australia and I never recommend salary as the sole basis for making career decisions—watch with an open mind.
- CharliMarieTV is run by Charli, a web and graphic designer who is half Kiwi, half British and based in Valencia. She shares videos about the tools and projects she works on, plus vlogs of her life as a designer. It's a great pick if you're curious about creative work.

Remember, It's One Person's Story

A video is a snapshot. It shows one person, in one workplace, at one point in time, out of their whole working life. Think of it like reading a single review of a restaurant. It's useful, but you shouldn't judge the whole menu on it.

A nurse in a busy city hospital will have a very different week from a nurse in a small rural clinic. Training routes and qualifications also vary from country to country, and some videos may be a few years old. So, treat what you see as a starting point, not the full picture.

Videos are great, but wherever you can, it's always best to talk to people in person. A real conversation lets you ask follow-up questions and hear the things people might not say on camera. Family friends, neighbours, teachers and local business owners are often happy to chat about their work. In fact, if you're polite and chat with anyone about their day, an open-ended question about what they do and how they got there could provide a wealth of knowledge.

What to Look Out For When You Watch

It's easy to scroll through video after video without really taking anything in. Try watching with a few questions in mind instead:

- What does a normal day look like? Look past the exciting moments. Most jobs involve plenty of everyday tasks, like emails, meetings or paperwork.
- How did they get there? Notice whether they went to university, did an apprenticeship, changed careers or took a less direct route.
- Which school subjects helped? This can show you how the things you're learning now link to real work.
- What do they find hard? Every job has tricky parts. Ask yourself whether those are challenges you'd be happy to take on.
- What skills do they use? Teamwork, problem-solving and communication come up again and again, across very different jobs.
- How do you feel watching it? If you find yourself wanting to know more, that's worth paying attention to.

If you're really keen to explore something further it's worth making a note on your phone or in a notebook. Over time, you might spot patterns in what interests you, and if not you'll still be learning about just some of the options out there.

No Internet? You Still Have Options

You don't need Wi-Fi to explore careers. Some of the best insight comes from offline sources.

- A meeting with me can point you towards useful resources and people to speak with.
- Libraries often have career guides, biographies, and books about different industries.
- Careers expos and open days let you meet people from lots of different fields in one place.
- Work experience gives you a first-hand feel for what a workplace is really like.
- The adults around you are a great place to start. Make a list of people you know and

what they do, have a chat or ask if they'd be happy for you to send them some questions, you might be surprised what you find out.

Ready to Start Exploring?

When your YouTube scrolling becomes future focused, your parents might even get on board! Watch with curiosity, learn about jobs and pathways you'd never heard of, note down what grabs your attention, and then take the next step by talking to someone who does that work. Every conversation adds another piece to the picture.

Careers and Industry Connections Office

Don't forget to swing by and see me in the Careers and Industry Connections office, located off the hallway in the Concordia Campus Library (opposite the Art and Artists books). Grab some resources, have your questions answered or just come by for a chat. Or email me to make a meeting time.

Tarsh Boyko
Careers and Pathways Advisor

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Year 10 Camp

Our Year 10 students recently enjoyed four days away at camp, taking part in a range of outdoor activities designed to challenge them, build confidence and strengthen connections with their peers.

Throughout the week, students had the opportunity to step outside of their comfort zones, with activities including abseiling off the Bluff at Encounter Bay, mountain biking, surfing at Goolwa Beach, bushwalking through Deep Creek National Park, and kayaking. These experiences gave students plenty of opportunities to challenge themselves, develop new skills and support one another along the way.

Beyond the activities, the camp was a great opportunity for students to spend time together outside the classroom, build friendships and create lasting memories.

A big thank you to all of the staff who gave up their time to support the camp. It was fantastic to see our Year 10 students getting involved, giving things a go, and making the most of the experience.

James Divitkos
Year 10 Leader

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Enrichment and Extended Learning News

Katherine Obst Year 8 Lutheran Schools Public Speaking Competition

On Tuesday 3 November, **Audrey (8SMAR)** and **Elsie (8MCAS)** proudly represented Concordia College at the annual Katherine Obst Year 8 Lutheran Schools Public Speaking Competition, held this year in the magnificent Discovery Centre at Encounter Lutheran College, Victor Harbor. Against a stunning bushland backdrop, 10 talented young speakers delivered thought-provoking and inspirational three-minute speeches, judged by Rostrum adjudicators. Both Concordia students impressed the judges and audience alike with their meticulous preparation, insightful and inspiring choice of topics, and confident, expressive deliveries. They were outstanding ambassadors for Concordia, representing our College with distinction. We thank the Encounter Lutheran team for their warm hospitality and friendly competition.

Duke Of Edinburgh's International Award

Isabel (11SCOO) recently embarked on an unforgettable five-day sail training voyage aboard the One and All, travelling from Port Adelaide to Kangaroo Island. Made possible through the generous sponsorship of the Mitcham Rotary Club, this challenging adventure provided opportunities to develop resilience, teamwork and leadership. This voyage fulfilled the Residential Project component of her Gold Duke of Edinburgh's International Award. Trainees worked in rotating four-hour watches around the clock, sharing bunks and adapting to the unpredictable conditions of life at sea. Isabel learnt essential sailing skills, including navigation, steering, sail handling and understanding the vessel's complex rigging, while overcoming physical challenges such as climbing 25 metres above the ocean to manage sails. Working collaboratively, following instructions precisely and maintaining a safe, orderly vessel were vital to success. Throughout the voyage, trainees developed independence, discipline, confidence, leadership and communication skills as they learnt to trust one another, overcome fears and contribute to the shared responsibility of sailing the ship.

Isabel's highlights include:

- witnessing a blood moon, sunsets at sea and sailing through bioluminescent algae
- experiencing a pod of dolphins riding the ship's bow wave
- a beach day with challenges and sport
- starting the journey as strangers and finishing as a tight-knit group.

26 Book Challenge

A final reminder to all who have taken part in our 26 Book Challenge – Symphony of Stories. Your reading record sheets must be submitted to the library. Our celebration is imminent.

Emma Rieger
Enrichment and Extended Learning

Katherine Obst Year 8 Lutheran Schools Public Speaking Competition participants

Snapshots from life aboard the ‘One and All’

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Lutheran Women of South Australia and the Northern Territory Encouragement Award

On Monday 16 November, we welcomed Pastor John Ridenour and former staff member Marjorie Ridenour to Concordia to present the 2026 Lutheran Women of South Australia and the Northern Territory Encouragement Award.

The award was presented to **Keziah (11NMCG)**, in recognition of her demonstration of Christian values in all aspects of her involvement in Concordia College. Keziah is engaged, enquiring, thoughtful and respectful. She always does her best, and her care and compassion for her peers is evident. She excels not only in her studies, but also in a range of extra-curricular activities. Keziah is a positive and encouraging team member and seeks out opportunities to display servant leadership, including as a member of Forum. Congratulations, Keziah!

Judy Harris
Year 11 Leader

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SchoolTV Special Report: Puberty & Relationships

Puberty is a time of significant change, bringing new experiences, emotions and questions for young people and their families. Alongside physical development, children and adolescents are navigating changing friendships, growing independence and an emerging sense of identity. These changes can feel exciting, confusing and sometimes overwhelming.

Conversations about puberty and relationships need to start early, before these changes begin. Introducing age-appropriate discussions about bodies, feelings, personal boundaries and respect helps lay the foundation for later conversations about consent and intimate relationships. For adult carers, this means creating regular opportunities to talk, listening without judgement and letting children know their questions are always welcome.

This Special Report provides practical guidance to help families start these conversations early and keep them going as children grow.

Read the Special Report (opens an external website in a new window)
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A Special Visit from the Westpac Rescue Helicopter and Sammy Seal

Wednesday 4 November was an exciting day at St Peters Campus as we welcomed the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service and the much-loved Sammy Seal!

There was great excitement as students watched the helicopter land, providing a wonderful opportunity to see this incredible aircraft up close.

Our students learnt about the important work of the rescue helicopter team and how they help save lives across our community. It was fantastic to discover more about emergency services, teamwork and the courage of those who help others in times of need.

Of course, Sammy Seal was a huge hit, bringing plenty of smiles, laughter and excitement!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter team for taking the time to visit St Peters Campus and providing our students with such a memorable experience. What an unforgettable day!

Alison Ronoastro
Principal – St Peters Campus

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Novar Music Instrumental Lessons at St Peters Campus

Novar Music will again be offering instrumental music lessons to St Peters Campus students in 2027, with lessons available on weekdays after school. The following will be on offer:

- guitar
- piano
- singing
- music theory
- Musicianship Club

Visit the Novar Music website for more information or to enrol.

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Languages Update

Staff News

Our congratulations go to Mr Matthew Casey, Year 7–9 Chinese teacher at the Middle and Senior School campus, who has recently received a Language Immersion Scholarship as part

of the 2026 Education Minister's Awards. Matthew was presented his award by Hon. Lucy Hood MP and AISSA Chief Executive Anne Dunstan at the Educators SA World Teachers' Day celebration at Adelaide Oval. The Minister's awards acknowledge and celebrate the dedication of educators to 'inspiring students and creating meaningful learning opportunities'. Each award recipient receives up to $8,000 to support their professional learning. Matthew will be undertaking a two-week intensive course at the Chinese Language Institute in Guilin. He will also visit Hong Kong and Beijing to connect with different linguistic and cultural contexts, and plans to develop authentic teaching resources to enhance the learning experiences of his students.

Congratulations, Matthew!!

SACLO 2026: A Celebration of Language, Logic and Problem-Solving

In Term 3, Concordia entered two senior teams in the South Australian Computational and Linguistics Olympiad. Computational Linguistics combines languages, maths, computer science and analytical thinking, and students must work collaboratively and under time pressure to solve a number of problems. Students are challenged to discover how languages work by identifying patterns, interpreting unfamiliar language systems and applying logical reasoning. Although Concordia has participated regularly in the National Competition (OzCLO), this was the first time that students have competed against other South Australian schools. Nine schools and approximately 150 students were involved in the competition this year, and to our delight, our two Concordia teams placed second and third in the senior division—an outstanding achievement!

Congratulations to the following students.

Second Place

- Jacob (Year 11)
- Oliver (Year 11)
- Kenzie (Year 11)
- Mike (Year 11)

Third Place

- Paige (Year 11)
- Sophie (Year 11)
- Benjamin (Year 9)
- Lewis (Year 9)

Trish Prenzler
Faculty Leader – Languages

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Year 10 Drama presents 'Selfie'

A reminder that on Thursday 19 November at 6:30pm, the Year 10 Drama class will perform their Group Production, *Selfie* by Bradley Hayward, in the Drama Centre.

A fast-moving exploration of adolescent experience in the technological age, Selfie follows a group of young people as they navigate the final year of their schooling. The class has driven all components of the show, from performance to lighting, sound, costume and multimedia.

With just a handful of free tickets remaining, please book now to secure your seat.

Daniel Lynch
Key Teacher – Drama

Book Free Tickets (opens an external website in a new window)
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Little EdVenturers — a Wonderful First Year of Playgroup at St Peters Campus

What a wonderful first year it has been for Little EdVenturers at St Peters Campus Early Learning Centre! Each Thursday during term time, our playgroup has welcomed little learners aged six months to three years—along with their parents, grandparents and carers—to enjoy a morning of play, exploration and connection.

Throughout the year, we have shared so many special moments as children explored our play-rich, nature-connected environment, discovered new interests, experimented with different experiences and began forming friendships. It has been equally lovely to see the connections grow between families, with opportunities to meet new people, share experiences and develop a sense of belonging within our wider community.

We are so grateful to all the families who have joined us and helped make our first year so special. Seeing familiar faces return each week, watching little friendships develop and welcoming new families has been a real highlight.

We look forward to continuing the fun and welcoming even more little EdVenturers in the year ahead!

Little EdVenturers runs on Thursdays during school term time, from 9.30am–10.30am in the ELC at St Peters Campus, Blackwood. New families are always welcome. Click for more information and to register.

Sarah Midson
ELC Director – St Peters Campus

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Reminder: Road Closures East of Adelaide City in Week 7

A reminder that the Adelaide 500 event set up is due to commence in the eastern parklands of the city.

Road closures will commence at the end of this week and will continue through next week. The event is scheduled from the Thursday 26 to Sunday 29 November. In the past, these closures have resulted in a large area of commuter traffic to the east of the city during the morning and afternoon peak "rush hour" periods.

Therefore, please be advised that some school bus services will be affected and result in a delayed arrival at the College.

Our bus service operators will be monitoring the affected services and if required will detour to mitigate the impact of late running.

Thank you for your understanding.

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Once Upon A Festival

Students from St John's Campus, St Peters Campus and Concordia Campus came together to enjoy a day with a range of popular Australian Young Adult, Middle Grade, and Junior Fiction authors, hosted by Immanuel College. Students listened to author talks and participated in workshops by Jack Heath, Will Kostakis, R.A. Spratt, Nat Amoore, and many others. Students also had the opportunity to meet the authors in person, to learn some of their skills, including practice writing techniques, mapping out their next story, and tuning up their illustrations.

The day inspired our students to continue enjoying the world of reading, writing and drawing, and provided a great opportunity to meet like-minded emerging writers and illustrators from across South Australia.

By the Library Team

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Year 8 Community Service Craft

A Little Heart Just for You

As we approach the end of Term 4, the Year 8 students have been hard at work doing acts of community service across the school. One of the activities the students are participating in is sewing small felt hearts for the new students in Reception. These hearts, made with care, are a small token to say ‘welcome’ to Concordia’s newest students. They can also provide comfort in a time of big changes, serving as a reminder that they are loved and cared for by the people around them.

By the Library Team and the Year 8 Team

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St Peters Campus Year 2/3 Camp at AFL Max

What an adventure our Year 2/3 students had at their recent AFL Max overnight camp! The excitement started building the moment bags were packed, and it stayed high for the whole stay.

Of course, there was plenty of football, with students practising their kicking skills on the oval. They also learnt about ways to take care of our bodies through healthy habits, rest and movement. Teamwork challenges had everyone listening, sharing ideas and encouraging one another. Students showed great courage on the rock-climbing wall, raced through the ninja course and had lots of fun on the inflatables.

For many children, this was their first night away from home, and we were so proud of the independence they showed. Our students came home tired, happy and full of stories.

Kathryn Watkins
Year 2/3 Teacher

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Join us for Carols Service 2026

Come and celebrate the Advent season as we look to the coming of Christ. This is a wonderful opportunity to give thanks for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, and for the gifts He has so freely bestowed upon us.

- **Wednesday 2 December 2026**
- **7.00pm–8.15pm**
- **Free event**

Led by Pastor Dale Gosden and our Music students, this will be a joyous occasion, and all are welcome to attend. We hope you will join us!

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Employment Opportunity: Part-time Bus Driver

Concordia is seeking an experienced bus driver to assist with part-time College bus driving duties, including morning and afternoon shifts and the potential for work during school holidays, supporting our Vacation Care program of planned excursions. Applicants will require an LR or MR licence.

If you or someone you know is interested in driving our bus, please contact our People and Culture team via email: employment@concordia.sa.edu.au

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Middle School Vocal Concert

It was a delight to see our Year 7–9 singers take to the stage at the Middle School Vocal Concert in Week 4. The evening showcased the talent, dedication and enthusiasm of our students, with outstanding performances from the Year 7/8 Choir and the Testosterphones as well as over 20 soloists.

What was particularly inspiring was the genuine support and encouragement students showed one another throughout the concert, creating a warm and positive atmosphere that reflected the strong musical community we have at Concordia.

A special thank you to our Instrumental Music staff for their work in preparing students for this event. I would also like to acknowledge Simon and Andrew, whose invaluable behind-the-scenes support helped ensure the concert ran so smoothly.

Kellie Rich
Head of Music

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SchoolTV Special Report: Disordered Eating

Changes in eating habits are a normal part of growing up, but sometimes they can signal something more concerning. Disordered eating can develop gradually, often beginning with behaviours such as skipping meals, avoiding certain foods or becoming increasingly focused on healthy eating, exercise or body image. When these behaviours become restrictive or distressing, they can affect a young person’s physical and emotional wellbeing.

Recognising the warning signs can be challenging, particularly as disordered eating can affect children of any age, gender or body size.

This Special Report provides practical guidance to help you recognise concerning behaviours, encourage positive relationships with food and body image, and understand when to seek professional support.

Read the Special Report (opens an external website in a new window)
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Cubbies, Creativity and Movie Night

Last week our Reception and Year 1 students from St Peters Campus swapped the usual home time for a fantastic afternoon and evening of adventure.

The grounds came alive with Nature Play SA. Small teams worked together to build wodlis (tents and cubbies), deciding where the sticks should go and how to keep the sheets up. Others painted; mixed up mysterious potions from leaves, flowers and mud; or turned crates, planks and pipes into bridges and hideouts. As the sun went down, everyone gathered to share pizza, and the Year 1s finished the night with a cosy movie.

The evening was a wonderful extension of our EdVenture program. Through play, children were curious, worked together, solved problems and got creative outdoors, just as they do in their EdVenture learning. It was a joy to watch them try out ideas and proudly share their creations with friends.

Thank you to the staff and parents who made the event possible and to our families for their support. We know there were some very tired, very happy children at pick-up!

Nicolle Dupree
Primary School Learning Leader – St Peters Campus

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Concordia Campus Counselling and Youth Work Update

The Counselling and Youth Work service has been through a period of change in 2026. With the departure of Izzy, Maria and Heather came the arrival of Georgie in January, Jack in March and Margie in early September.

Georgie is currently studying Speech Pathology and brings her own experience as a former Concordia student to her role as Youth Worker. Guided by her faith, Georgie is passionate about supporting students and building meaningful relationships with them. Working alongside both the Ministry and Counselling teams, Georgie feels incredibly blessed to work in such a special place. She particularly loves being in the classrooms, joining a variety of classes and connecting with students in their everyday learning. Often regarded as an older sibling, Georgie strives to create a welcoming and supportive environment where students feel comfortable, valued and known.

Jack's background is in psychotherapy, supported by a Master's Degree in Counselling and Psychotherapy and previous experience working within the disability sector. He brings a person-centred philosophy to his work with children and young people, recognising that each individual has their own unique experiences, strengths and needs.

At its core, psychotherapy is a collaborative process between the therapist and the individual, providing an opportunity for both parties to better understand thoughts, emotions and behaviours, develop self-awareness, and build strategies to equip the individual for life's challenges. Jack aims to provide a safe and supportive space where young people feel heard, understood and empowered to work towards positive change.

Margie is both a post-graduate qualified counsellor and holds a master's degree in social work.

People understand the work of counselling but are often unsure of what a social worker brings to a counselling setting. This definition captures the essence of social work.

"The social work profession promotes social change, problem solving in human relationships and the empowerment and liberation of people to enhance well-being. Utilising the theories of human behaviour and social systems, social work intervenes at the points where people interact with their environment. Principles of human rights and social justice are fundamental to social work." (Parker & Bradley)

Jack and Margie bring an approach to the counselling service that is shaped by these professional backgrounds. School counselling at Concordia is an appointment-based service with flexibility embedded into our service so that the team can respond to urgent needs within the school. You will see them participating in events across the school, working with student groups.

With the new team comes a freshly renovated space for students to feel comfortable to have confidential, supportive and transformational conversations. The counselling foyer is gradually being re-imagined. The addition of music has already enhanced relaxation while you wait for an appointment. It also ensures additional privacy to avoid voices being heard in the foyer area.

There is an opportunity for anyone in Years 7 to 12 to contribute to this space. If students would like to create any type of art or sculpture piece for the waiting area, we would love to hear from you. We are hoping to fill it with student art that will be a permanent connection to the school and contribute to the wellbeing of future students. If you are interested, please contact us.

All students can self refer to the service by completing the counselling request form available on SEQTA.

Georgina Archibald
Youth Worker

Jack Castine-Price
School Counsellor

Margie von Doussa

School Counsellor

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Stage 1 Earth and Environmental Science

During their final assessment for Earth and Environmental Science, Stage 1 students conducted experiments to explore concepts to simulate groundwater contamination. Testing for porosity with different materials, the class applied their classroom understandings to the lab, and made conclusions that will transfer directly to their Science as a Human Endeavour task—exploring scientific solutions to an existing problem within South Australia. I look forward to following the learning and careers of these of these future environmental change-makers!

Vanessa Narino-Terry
Engish and Humanities Teacher

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St Peters Campus Kindness Day

St Peters Campus celebrated World Kindness Day, and our school bloomed with friendship flowers! It was a joyful reminder that small acts of kindness, like a smile, an invitation to play or a kind word, can make someone's whole day.

At our school, though, kindness isn't a one-day event. It's something we practise every day.

Through Friendology, our whole campus shares one language of friendship. Children learn the 4 Friendship Facts, so they know every friendship has ups and downs. They check in with the Friend-o-Meter to notice how a friendship feels. They use the Friend-o-Cycle to put out "Friendship Fires" and come back closer. They also learn the big difference between a Friendship Fire and someone being Mean on Purpose.

The result? Confident, caring kids who can solve small problems before they grow, and who stand up for themselves kindly. This is EdVenture in action: *citizenship* as they care for others, *agency* as they find their voice, and *thinking* as they reflect on how others feel.

Nicolle Dupree
Primary School Learning Leader – St Peters Campus

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Year 11 Pancake Breakfast

On Wednesday of Week 5, the Year 11 cohort enjoyed a pancake breakfast prepared by their

Home Class Captains. With exams just around the corner, it was a great way to relax and enjoy each other's company outdoors, whilst experimenting with a wide range of different pancake toppings.

Thank you to the Home Class Captains and staff who helped to make the pancake batter, cook the pancakes and of course clean up afterwards! It was a valuable opportunity for community building in the lead-up to Year 12.

Judy Harris
Year 11 Leader

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Student Achievements

A hearty congratulations to **Alex (8JAPE)**, on an outstanding international music achievement! After competing against exceptionally talented young pianists from across the seven continents of the world, Alex has been invited to perform in London in May 2027 at two prestigious musical institutions: the world-renowned Royal Albert Hall and the Royal College of Music. This is an extraordinary honour and a remarkable recognition of Alex's musical ability and commitment to his piano studies. One particularly exciting highlight of this opportunity is that Alex will have the privilege of performing on the magnificent red grand piano owned by Sir Elton John, an instrument associated with one of the world's most celebrated musical entertainers. Being selected for such an internationally recognised performance opportunity is a tremendous accomplishment, placing Alex, who is a piano student of Ursula Gruszewski, among an outstanding group of young pianists from around the world. We wish Alex every success as he prepares for this exciting international experience in London in May 2027. We look forward to following his journey and celebrating this wonderful milestone. Congratulations, Alex—an achievement to be immensely proud of.

Congratulations to **Lucy (4/5LS)** on her wonderful achievement of a High Distinction in her Grade 3 Cecchetti Ballet examination, the highest possible result. This achievement is a testament to Lucy's dedication, persistence and commitment to her ballet training—what an incredible result!

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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: 1pm–4.30pm
- Thursday: 1pm–6.15pm
- Friday: 1pm–4.30pm

(Closed on Public Holidays)

The School Shop will be closed from Tuesday 8 December 2026 and will re-open on Wednesday 20 January 2027.

Exchanges, top-up purchases and collection of orders can be made during Holiday Opening as seen below.

School Holiday Hours – January 2027

- Wednesday 20 January: 8.00am–4.00pm
- Thursday 21 January: 1.00pm–6.15pm
- Friday 22 January: 1.00pm–4.30pm
- Monday 25 January: 8.00am–5.00pm
- Tuesday 26 January: Closed (Public Holiday)
- Wednesday 27 January: 8.00am–4.00pm
- Thursday 28 January: 1.00pm–6.15pm (Term time hours resume)

Online Ordering

We are excited that online ordering is now available. You will find the link to our online store in the College app. Click on the 'Links' tile and locate 'The School Shop Online Store' to browse and order online.

If you have any problems using the online ordering system, are unable to find what you're looking for or have any enquiries about the school uniform, please contact The School Shop team by email: schoolshop@concordia.sa.edu.au or phone on 8291 9302.

Blazer Orders for 2027

All students in Years 7–12 are required to wear a blazer in Terms 2 and 3. To ensure your size

is available, we request you place your order by Friday 4 December 2026. No upfront payment is required until you collect your blazer in Term 1 2027.

Poly-cotton Jumper Orders

As an alternative to the wool blend jumpers, we offer the option of a poly/cotton jumper in both the blue Reception to Year 9 jumper and the grey Seniors jumper for Years 10–12.
Please place your order before Friday 4 December for delivery early in Term 1 2027.

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

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Public Notices & Events

- **Code Camp** is running Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) camps in the local area during the summer school holidays, for young people aged 5–13. All camps are led by a qualified teacher. Families can save up to $50 using the discount code on the Code Camp flyer (click for more information).

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