

Access Gazette

Providing OAC students with a voice and access to school news.

In This Issue

- Gripping writing pieces
- Beautiful Artwork
- Eye-catching Photography
- Interesting Articles

Access Gazette

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Welcome to our first edition of
2023!

In this new edition of the *Access Gazette*, we have work from students of all ages and from across the world. Inside, you will see creative writing, artwork, photography and more.

Please read and enjoy the content!
We hope all of you have had a wonderful first semester!

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Writing Pieces

Disclaimer: If you find any content within this magazine uncomfortable please chat with your Student Wellbeing Leader or visit [Beyond Blue](#)

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The Girl

There was a girl sitting with her friends. She had inky black hair that reached her belly. Her mouth put on a smile that didn't quite reach her dark eyes. Lily had just made some joke that wasn't really funny but everyone laughed anyway, including the girl. The girl was called Lindsey. Someone sat down next to her, "Hi guys," said Lotty in a cheerful voice.

"Oh hi," said Lily rather slowly. Lindsey didn't say anything but did offer a tentative smile towards Lotty.

"We were just talking about me and Tayla's hair appointment on Wednesday," informed Lily.

"Oh cool," responded Lotty, without much enthusiasm.

"What about you Lotty?" asked Lily.

"What about what?" responded Lotty looking confused.

"What are you going to do to your hair? It seems like it's time for something a little more... interesting." Lotty's face promptly turned a shade of scarlet red. In fact, Lotty had quite pretty hair, it was very long, bouncy brown, and very shiny.

"Oh, um, I actually wasn't planning on doing anything to it," responded Lotty. The corner of Lily's mouth curved up into a slight smirk.

"Ok, well we were just about to go and get some snacks before class, weren't we girls? Do you want to come with us?" She said this while tossing her pile of coins from one hand to another.

This caused Lotty's cheeks to turn pink again. "I actually just remembered I have to go and do something before class starts," said Lotty as she got up and walked quickly away. Everyone at school knew that Lotty didn't have a lot of money.

"I'll catch up with you guys in a minute, I just have to go to the bathroom," said Lindsey as they headed in the direction of the canteen.

When she pushed open the bathroom door she saw Lotty standing at the sink sobbing. Lotty looked up when Lindsey walked in and quickly tried to wipe away the tears. Lindsey turned her head, pretending not to notice. It felt kind of weird but she didn't know what else to do.

Later that afternoon, in class they learned about bullying, and about by-standers. Throughout the whole class all Lindsey could think about was the incident earlier that day. She couldn't stop thinking about how it had been bullying and she was pretty sure that she was a by-stander. When she got home from school she went straight to her room. This strange sick feeling started to build up in her, knowing that she had done something wrong made her want to throw up. She didn't know what to do, it was a very unpleasant and overwhelming feeling. She was very quiet all through dinner and went to bed early. She felt a little better in the morning and was determined to confront Lily. At lunch break Lindsey walked bravely over to the group of giggling girls.

The Girl

In her new mindset she realised how ridiculous they all looked, sitting there giggling hysterically over things that weren't funny, poking fun at kids around the yard and spreading all the local gossip. Lindsey walked right up and sat down.

"Hi Lily," started Lindsey.

"Hi Lindsey, how was sitting with Boring Brunette Lotty this morning, ha, do you like our new nickname for her?" Lily replied.

Really? That's so mean, and not even a good nickname, thought Lindsey to herself, but all she said was, "Yeah, about that, I was going to say that I don't think the way you're treating her is right, if I'm being quite frank, you're being really rude to her and that's not ok."

Lily looked very taken aback and quite angry, turning bright red. But she quickly regained her composure and said with a sickly sweet smile, "Oh Lindsey, you're overreacting. We're just joking around and you take it so seriously. Confronting us like you're actually one of us, not just that one girl who always followed us around and we gave up trying to shake. You're so weird and awkward."

Lindsey gasped, she was shocked that Lily could so quickly be so mean. She could see her vision start to blur and rapidly blinked her eyes. The last thing she wanted to do was cry in front of them.

"There's no reason to bully her other than the fact you're jealous of her and there's no reason for the rest of us to sit around talking about things we don't find interesting," countered Lindsey.

"Lindsey's right," agreed another girl, "We don't have fun and we end up feeling guilty and taking the blame for your actions, Lily."

There was a murmur of agreement from the girls. Lily looked confused. You could tell by her face that she didn't quite know what to feel. It was distorted in a funny way, her eyebrows were pointed downward but the corners of her mouth were also slowly sliding down, as if she was torn between angry, guilty and sad. She looked like a child that didn't get her own way. Her shoulders slumped and she let out a long sigh, "I know it was wrong and I'm sorry." She got up and went over to apologise to Lotty. After school, Lotty came over to sit with Lindsey. "I saw what you did earlier, standing up for me. I'm sorry they treated you like that."

"No, I'm sorry they treated you like that. I'm sorry I treated you like that." Lotty smiled "It's OK, and what Lily said about you wasn't true you know. You aren't weird and awkward and you haven't been following them around," said Lotty fiercely, and Lindsey smiled, "Thanks."

After this incident, Lindsey and Lotty became better and better friends every day. You know if there has to be rain for the plants to grow, sometimes there has to be a little rain in our lives too.

By: Elodie Y7

The End

Off A Beetle's Back

Anni lifted her face, relishing the late morning sun. These were the moments when she felt she was one with the world. When she sat atop her plodding beetle's back, her twig-like legs folded beneath her. She was caught up in the sound of the burbling brook they approached and the whispering breeze teasing the undergrowth. The trooping caravan around her was strung together by a song, each pixie atop a pack beetle adding to the spritely travelling tunes wafting through the air. She felt the dried mud beneath her fingernails and smelled the perfume of damp moss and soil, mingling with the dry promise of summer on the wind. This was where she belonged. She stood, her curled toes gripping the hard surface of the beetle's back and strained to look over the heads of the troop as her beetle splashed into the shallows. They travelled onward to perform and entertain at the many festivals of the forests. "Sit down, will you?!" a pointed voice behind her said, pulling her from her reverie, "You really should be paying more attention, we're exposed on this water, and you're too busy staring buggy-eyed at the same forest we've been travelling through for days on end. One of these days, something is going to happen to you." Saying the last bit under her breath, betraying her care. Anni turned around dejectedly and glared at Navy.

She supposed her prickly companion was right, which didn't surprise her much since the pragmatic pixie was right about most things. She mock saluted the dark haired girl but stayed standing, tilting her head up to the wide blue sky. They may be vulnerable in the open, but Anni enjoyed the sight of the sky too much to regret it. "Don't you ever wish you could go up there?" No answer "I'm going to become a caravan scout, so I can ride on the back of a dragon fly and touch the clouds.."
 "Dragonflies don't fly that high." Navy said, receiving another deathly glare.

How can she be so unfeeling!?

"Fine, I'll become a bird then. Birds can touch the clouds..."

"A bird!" Navy interrupted.

"Yes...that's what I said," Anni said, concern tinting her voice.

"No! A bird!" Navy yelled, pointing wildly. Something slammed into Anni, and her feet were lifted off the beetle shell. She felt a scaly grip around her waist. Navy yelled a fearsome battle cry. The world was a rising and falling blur, and the wind rushed past Anni's face too fast for her to take a breath. Her eyes burned. She twisted upwards and stared at her captor. Beady eyes, a sharp beak and inky black feathers

By: Aida Y11

Off A Beetle's Back

A bird. The shaft of a staff flew up past Anni and the bird squawked, veering right and flapping its wings wildly to gain control. Another staff flew towards them and the bird was hit. It cried out. And its grip loosened. And then Anni was falling. She hit the surface of the water with full force. She hadn't had time to take breath before she was submerged. Any air left in her lungs left in an explosion of bubbles as she sank in the water. She was being pulled further down the brooke's current. The water's undertow was faster, dragging her along. Her world was made of white foam, muddy water and a burning in her chest.

A hand grabbed her arm. Anni was pulled upwards, out of the water. Coughing and spluttering she was dragged up onto the blessedly warm back of a dragonfly. The scout on it checked her over before the buzz of the dragonfly's wings took them to the pebbly shore. The caravan had split to either side of the water to find cover but people were slowly starting to emerge again, regrouping and counting heads. A dark blur sped towards Anni and the air was knocked from her lungs for the second time that day.

"Great gliding tree frogs, Anni! This is what you get for not listening to me! You..you could have died!" Navy blustered, grasping Anni in a bone crushing hug.

"Navy! I'm okay, really!" Anni wheezed, fighting for breath, "Wet, and weirdly hungry, but fine!" Navy pulled back and scanned Anni from head to toe for injuries with eyes narrowed, as if she were harbouring deadly mushrooms somewhere on her person.

"Only you could be thinking of food at a time like this." she groused.

Anni smiled innocently, batting her eyelashes and, as nonchalantly as possible, reminded her friend of some chocolate covered cranberries Navy had stashed in her saddle bag.

"How do you know about those?" Navy accused as she stalked back to their place in the caravan. Anni looked back at the brook. That had been a close call, and she was slightly more shaken than she let on. With a deep breath she consoled herself with the thought that one day, today's events would make a thrilling story to tell. So she turned to followed Navy back to their beetles, where, she saw with delight, some mouth watering cranberries had magically materialised.

The End

By: Aida Y11

Wellbeing Week 2023

The Wellbeing Week for *Open Access College* was an amazing success. It was filled with lots of fun and amazing activities!

Wellbeing Week ran from the 11th - 14th of April. Throughout the week, there were lots of activities for everyone to enjoy! But one activity that really stood out was the African Drum Circle at the end of the week. This event had students, teachers, and parents getting involved!

Other activities included tasting Native Australian Foods, painting, craft activities, game designing with AIE, and meeting Australian animals. There were also Wellbeing Week sessions for parents which were full of tips!

At the end of the week, there was a barbecue, a band, an African drum circle, an animal farm, face painting and Balloon making for everyone to enjoy!

We would like to thank all the amazing work of the Wellbeing team, who organised the event and the teachers, students and families that were involved on the day.

By: Tayla Y7



Images courtesy of An Tran, Open Access College

Elodie Y8



A Mango Shaped Space is an adventure novel by Wendy Mass. It is an inspirational story about a thirteen-year-old girl called Mia, and it is set in present-day Illinois. Throughout the story, we meet Mia's little brother, big sister, mum, dad, and friends. The book also follows Mia as she grieves from the loss of her Grandfather.

Mia has a big secret. Sounds, letters and numbers are all linked to colours and shapes in her mind. But nobody except her seems to experience this. Mia thinks that if people knew, they would think of her as a freak, so she keeps it quiet.

One day Mia is forced to expose her secret and finds out that she has synesthesia. Throughout the story, Mia learns to embrace her synesthesia and not care what others think. We see Mia go through many hard things, but she shows strength and learns to love herself and persevere even when people don't understand her.

All in all, *A Mango Shaped Space* is a gripping book for all ages, written for everyone to enjoy. It is a well-executed and unique concept. It has a 4-star rating, and I would absolutely recommend it. Definitely worth your time.

Artwork

Poppy

Watercolour on paper

Elodie, Year 8



This is a watercolour painting of a poppy, done on Anzac Day.



Needy Looking Up (2023)
Digital
2048 x 2048 pixels

Artwork by Gray
(Year 11)



Girl in Kimono (2023)
Digital
2480 x 3508 pixels

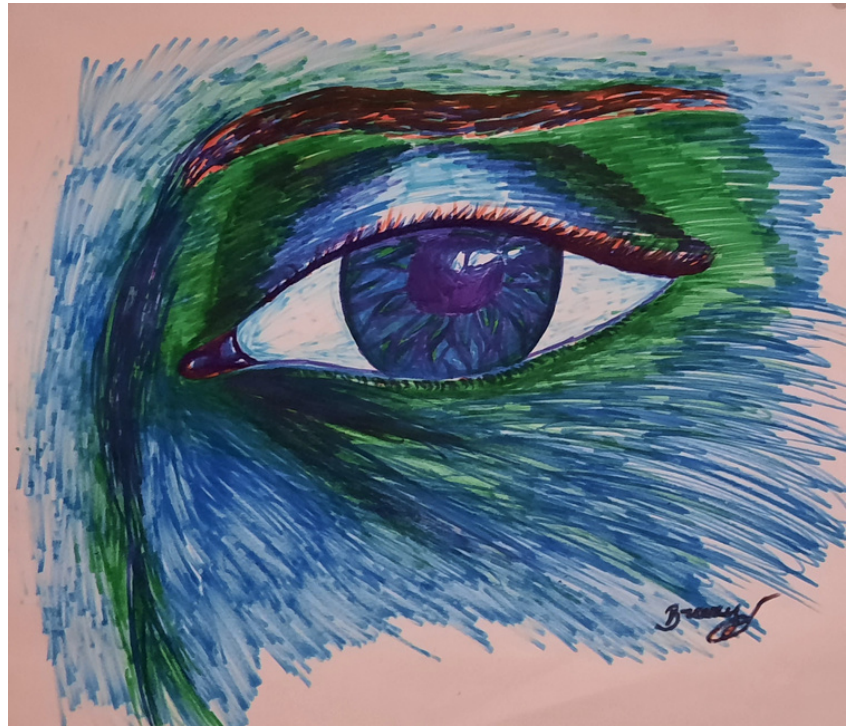


Mushroom Girl (2023)
Digital
1920 x 2715 pixels

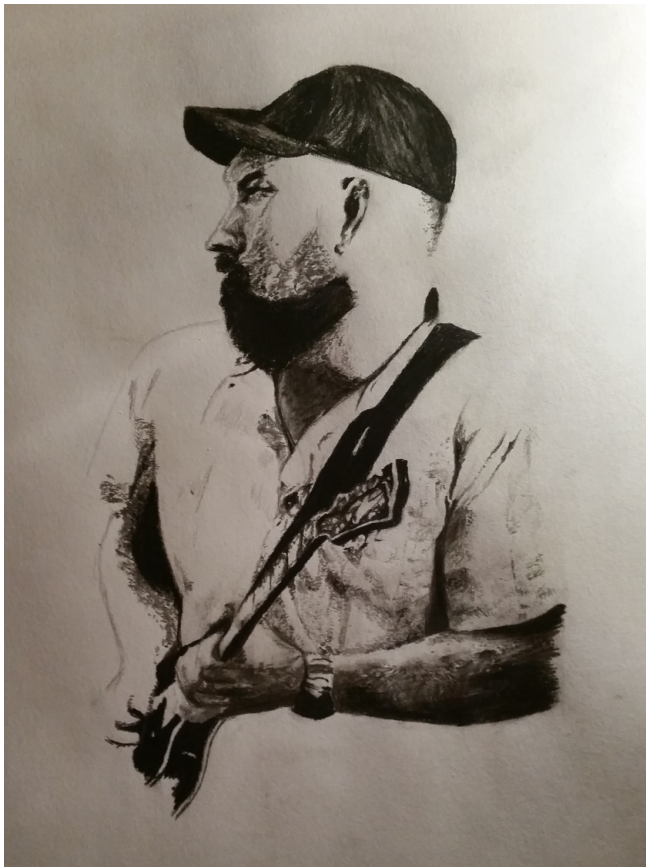
Artwork by Bri, Year 11



Vintage Tattoo Girl (2023)
Mediums used: lead pencil, digital vintage effect



Eye Of A Goddess (2022)
Mediums used: texter



Guitarist Jamie Boyington (2023)
Mediums used: charcoal, lead pencil



The Light After The Dark Artwork (2022)
Mediums used: lead pencil, coloured pencil

Photography

Stage 2 Photography
Photos by Jasmine and Aria

Task details: Students were asked to take a photoshoot that captured essential image capture techniques such as camera angles, depth of field, using the rule of thirds and creating focal points.



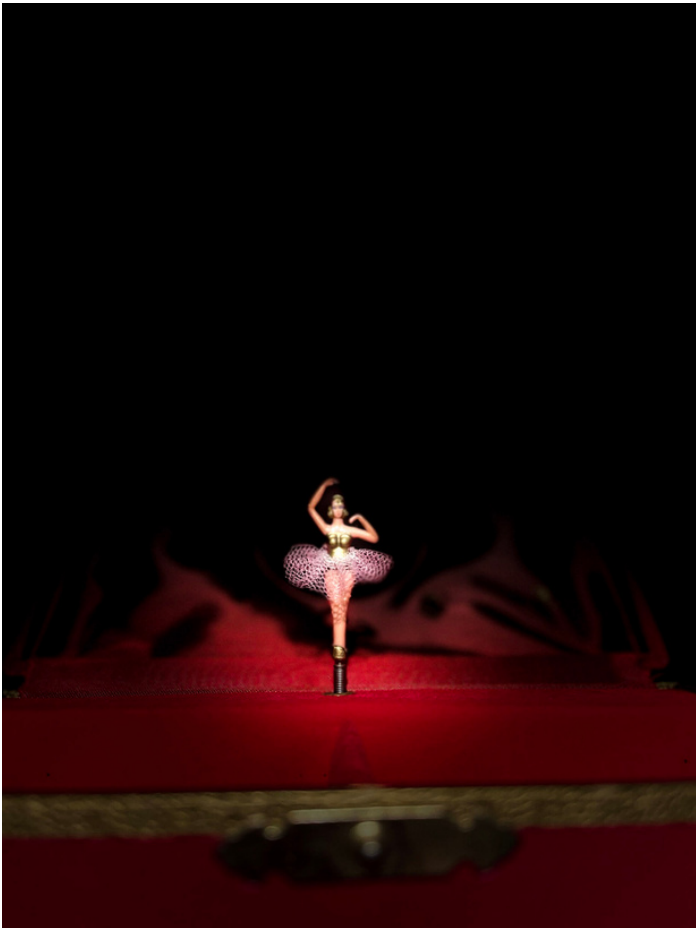
Jasmine, Year 12



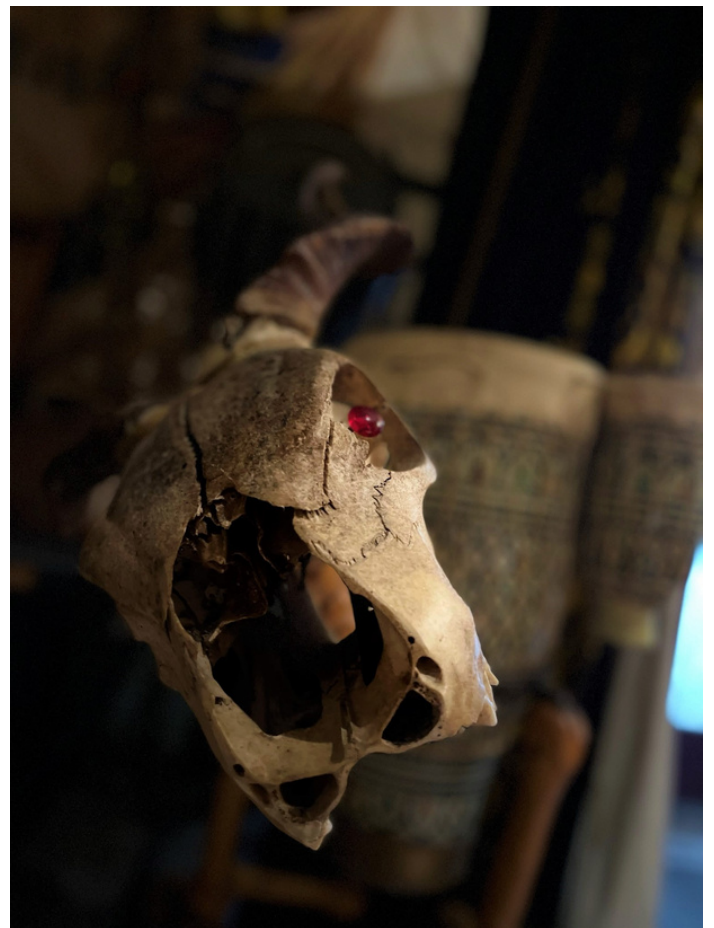
Jasmine, Year 12



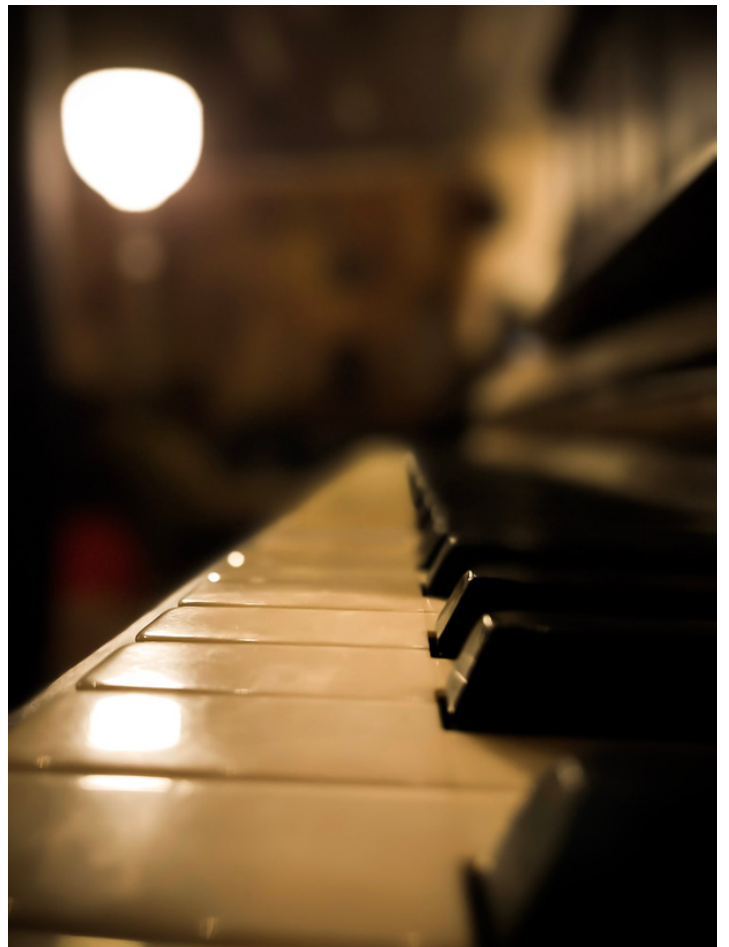
Jasmine, Year 12



Aria, Year 12



Aria, Year 12



Aria, Year 12

Events

Latest News

Port Pirie Connection Day: A Successful and Fun-filled Event →
Posted: July 26, 2023

VET Courses for 2024 - Information Session →
Posted: July 25, 2023

Student work spotlight →
Posted: July 24, 2023

Years 11 & 12 Formal 2023 →
Posted: July 04, 2023

Careers Month →
Posted: June 29, 2023

Upcoming Events

07
Aug
2023 Student Free Day - no lessons
August 07, 2023

08
Sep
2023 School Closure Day
September 08, 2023

29
Sep
2023 Term 3 Ends
September 29, 2023

02
Oct
2023 Public Holiday - Labour Day
October 02, 2023

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ISSUE 5

Issue 5 of Access Gazette

Posted: December 14, 2022

Issue 5 of the Access Gazette is now published! OAC's student newsletter is chock full of fresh articles, artwork, reviews, recipe's and more.

August

Student Free Day - August 7th
Senior Years Come in Day - August 17th
Career Expo - August 17th

September

School Closure Day - September 8th
Term 3 Ends - September 29th

October

Public Holiday - October 2nd
Term 4 Begins - October 16th

Check out the school website for exciting events and latest news:

<https://www.openaccess.edu.au/events>

Careers Month

1 - 31 AUGUST 2023

Open Access College is hosting Careers Month, an event throughout August for students, parents and caregivers. Careers Month will run throughout August, with opportunities to learn about career pathways through on site and online events. Please see the official DfE Events Guide attached to this email to see what is on offer throughout South Australia.

Monday 3 July, 2.30pm

ICT and Cyber Security

Guest Speaker

Years 10 - 12, Online

Palo Alto Networks, the global cybersecurity leader, are coming to speak to OAC students about the ICT and Cyber Security Industry. It is an opportunity to learn more about the industry, job opportunities and pathways.

Monday 14 August, time TBC

Inspiring the Future

Years 7 - 12, Online

Broaden your awareness of career options by being inspired and motivated by volunteers from a range of occupations and industries. This will be an interactive session where you will guess the occupation of the volunteer before hearing more about their occupation and pathway.

Wednesday 2 August, 3.00pm

VET Information Session

Years 10 - 12, Online

Come and learn about the benefits of a VET pathway from Harry Sanders, 2021 SA Apprentice of the Year. This will be followed with information about eligibility, requirements and how to apply for a 2024 VET Course.

17th August, Thursday

Senior Years Come in Day

- SAVE THE DATE

Years 10 - 12, Onsite - Open Access College
More information to be released in Term 3.

17th August, Thursday

Marden Career Expo

Years 10 - 12, Onsite - Marden Senior College - F4/F5 Building

Join us on site to explore your pathway at our Career Expo! You will be exposed to a vast range of university and career pathways, be able to speak to people in the field, and walk away with a greater understanding of future career options. Parents are welcome to attend too.

Thursday 3 August, 2.00pm

SATAC Year 12 Information Session

Year 12, On Site - Marden Senior College

Join us on site to learn about ATAR calculation, SATAC application process, admission pathways for universities and how to navigate selecting your preferences.

August is full of exciting opportunities to learn about pathways and your future! Get more information and register online now:

<https://www.openaccess.edu.au/news/careers-month>

2023 MARDEN CAREER EXPO

Come and meet
representatives from a wide
range of tertiary education and
career pathway organisations!

THURS 17 AUGUST 2023

11.30 AM - 1.00 PM

MARDEN SENIOR COLLEGE – 600 BUILDING UPSTAIRS

- AI Group Apprentice and Trainee Centre
- Australian Nursing and Midwifery Education Centre
- 'Born to Build' - Master Builders Association of SA Inc
- CDW studios
- EASVA
- Flinders University
- HITsa
- MADEC
- Marden Senior College RTO
- MAS National
- MAXIMA
- MEGT
- Motor Trades Association
- Rising Sun Pictures
- SAE Creative Media Institute
- SYC Job Prospects - School Leaver Employment Support
- TAFE SA
- Together We Can International - NDIS Provider
- University of Adelaide
- UniSA

PRESENTATIONS

- 11.30am MADEC – VET pathways in Community Services, Hospitality, Early Childhood and Individual Support
- 11.50am Australian Nursing and Midwifery Education Centre - Health Care Careers: Aged Care, Disability & Nursing Pathways
- 12.10pm Motor Trades Association – Automotive Industry Pathways
- 12.30pm MAS National – Career Pathways and Job Seeking Assistance

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your pathway to success



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

For more information contact Michelle van Wyk at Michelle.VanWyk437@schools.sa.edu.au



University of
South Australia



TOGETHER WE CAN
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Acknowledgements

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Tayla Y9

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Jasmine Y12

Gray Y11

Aria Y12

Bri Y11

Teacher Team

These are the teachers who organised, supervised and encouraged the students in the making of this digital newspaper.

Gabrielle Mundie

DO YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR WORK IN THE GAZETTE?

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We are looking for:

- Artworks
- Music
- Creative Writing
- Science Facts
- Articles
- Anything you would like to share!

PLEASE SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO:

gabrielle.mundie772@schools.sa.edu.au