

UNIVERSITY
SENIOR COLLEGE
ADELAIDE

**ANNUAL REPORT
2025**

STRATEGIC PLAN

MISSION

To inspire, empower and nurture lifelong learning.

PURPOSE

University Senior College

- Empowers students and staff to find their place in a rich learning environment, promoting growth in wellbeing and academic achievement.
- Encourages and celebrates success.
- Embraces the opportunities for learning in a complex world that requires reflection, critical thinking and collaboration.
- Is authentic, inspiring students and staff to excel in the present and to be prepared for the future.

VALUES

- Mutual Respect
- Trust and Integrity
- Diversity and Inclusivity

Our Aspirations are the pillars of our Strategic Plan.

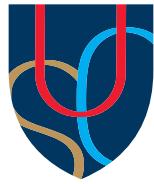
ASPIRATIONS

1. Be renowned as the senior secondary school of choice for pre-tertiary education, bringing together the most aspirational students, and passionate and inspirational staff, seeking excellence.
2. Nurture and actively maintain a cohesive, respectful, and diverse community.
3. Seek new experiences and opportunities, to contest our thinking and be ready to embrace the future.
4. Create challenging learning opportunities that lead to individual and shared success.
5. Utilise the opportunities provided by our environment within and beyond the classroom.
6. Strengthen our genuine partnership(s) with The University of Adelaide, and other organisations to offer exceptional experiences for staff and students.

GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

1. Empowered, resilient and ready to succeed in their chosen fields and in the world beyond school.
2. Effective communicators, collaborators, and leaders.
3. Innovative, divergent, and critical thinkers.
4. Empathetic, ethical and globally minded citizens.

BE READY FOR UNIVERSITY



**UNIVERSITY
SENIOR COLLEGE
ADELAIDE**

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

CONTENTS

Principal's Report	2
USC Governing Council Chair Report	4
Staff Farewells	5
Academic Report 2024 Graduates	8
Academic Achievements 2025.	12
Parent Satisfaction Data.	22
To the Graduating Class of 2025.	24
Staff List 2025	22

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

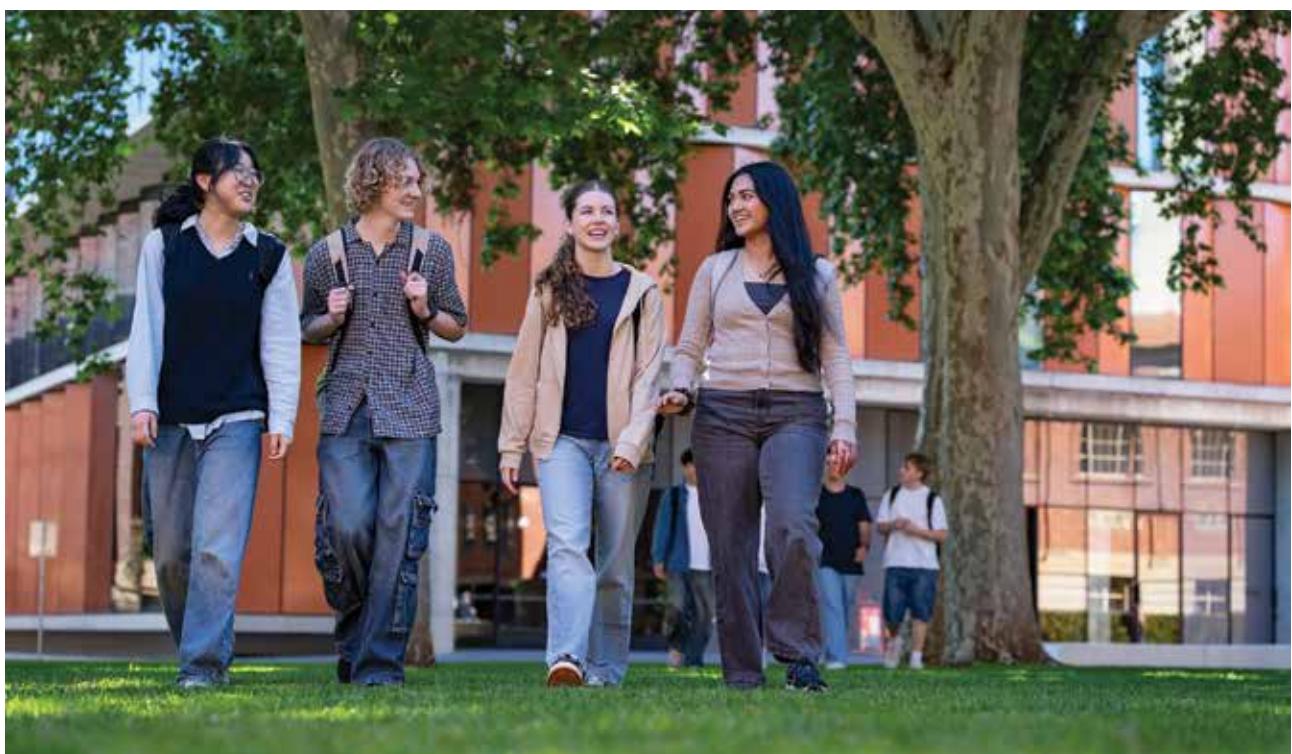
It is with pleasure I present an overview of 2025 at University Senior College. The following pages provide an outline of the year; however, it is not an exhaustive account of life at USC in 2025. It aims to provide an insight into the aspirations and achievements of students, staff and the Governing Council. There have been many throughout 2025, and I can attest to the professionalism of staff, the dedication of our students and the forward thinking and strategic planning of our Council.

Some strategic activity of significance for 2025 includes the signing of the new Agreement with the newly formed Adelaide University. The importance of this milestone cannot be underestimated. It has secured USC's genuine partnership with Adelaide University and our place in the Jordan building. This allows our College to continue to live, work, learn and relax on the grounds of the University and provides students and staff with unique and bespoke learning opportunities. In addition, I am very excited to announce another key strategic goal reached this year was the securing of a new learning environment on North Terrace which we will occupy at the end of 2026. Given the growth of the College, and the desire to improve our learning environment, we will move into a new space encompassing three floors of open and light filled spaces while remaining in the Jordan building. USC has always been a unique vertical senior secondary

school and continues to be so. Furthermore, our international student program began to flourish. We enrolled seven international students in 2025, and at the time of writing this report, it is envisaged we will have enrolled eighteen international students by Semester 2 2026.

2025 has been another year of significant growth in the College. In response to the ever-increasing demand, Year 10 began the year with 130 students, and this number grew 150 students by the beginning of Semester 2. Our Year 11 cohort reached 170 students and our Year 12 group was at 201. The school has never been so sought after. This is a testimony to many things, our adult learning environment, our values and the ambitions of our students, our exemplary and committed staff and a supportive and astute Governing Council.

An exciting initiative for 2025 was the formation of a Parents and Friends Committee. This group of parents expressed interest in supporting the College in various ways and has used 2025 to garner interest, develop Terms of Reference and welcomed the 2026 Year 10 Parents at an event in Term 4. Many thanks to Andrew Vlass who has taken on the role of Inaugural President and Mike Tolson who is also a key lead parent in this group. I look forward to working with them into the future to make USC even more supportive of our students.



As always, students and staff have worked within and across disciplines and the learning programs in each year level have been enriched with extension activities, visits to various faculties within the University, excursions in and around the city, beyond the confines of the city and indeed beyond Australia. Our students visited the Andy Thomas Space Centre, the Waite Institute, the Naracoorte Caves, Hallett Cove, Beijing (as part of the international and interdisciplinary project through YEE Education and Kansas University), and our second World Challenge to Borneo took place. Within the classroom and beyond its walls, our students have continued to develop their personal capabilities, engaged in real life learning, and followed their passions.

Each year during enrolment interviews, students clearly articulate their desires to be challenged in their learning and be in a school environment where students value learning. The achievements of our students in 2025 demonstrate these desires.

Orientation Week activities were fun and well attended, and one of the outcomes from our O Week Expo was the continuation of student led clubs. This year the Dungeons and Dragons group reached their fifth year of existence; the Debating Club formed two teams, had many wins and reached the semi-finals; our knitting and crochet club provided many warm beanies and scarves for the Hutt Street Centre; our Breakfast Club was well attended on Thursday mornings; we had two teams enter the VEX Robotics competition for the first time, performing brilliantly and reaching the National championships. In addition, a small group of students and staff attended the Australian of the Year luncheon, and the National Leadership Summit. Regular features in the USC calendar such as the Australian Mathematics Competition, the Science Olympiads and the Titration Competition saw students achieve outstandingly. Our Year 11 Legal Studies students engaged in the Mock Trials once again and there was USC representation at the Governors Civics Awards.

While we were busy focusing on learning and student achievement and wellbeing, we were also working with the newly formed Adelaide University. We secured our Agreement going forward. I am pleased to inform the community that we have finalised the Agreement, including USC Edge, which will be part of Activate Adelaide program. The Partner's Pathway with the University of Adelaide saw 61 Year

12 students in 2025 receive unconditional offers into a variety of undergraduate degrees.

This year, we welcomed new staff members, including Laura Medlin, April Bickley, Blair Breeding, Brenton Harris, Hayley Horton, Kyla Llorando, Xavier Russell, Aphra Walton-Humphrys and Deb Woodard-Knight. We also farewell Lisa Temple, the last original academic staff member of the founding staff of USC, Lisa Lanchester, Ondine Caon, Jessica Smith, Paul Taylor, Chiao Wang, Karl Grice and Vanessa Grave.

I acknowledge all staff for their professionalism and the care and support they show our students. They are truly dedicated to the ideals, values and aims of USC and our students. I would like to acknowledge the leadership team, including the Deans of Student Experience, Elly Pfitzner, Anna Bassani and Steve Todd, Simon Sypek, Director of Academic Programs, Matt Noble, Director of School Operations, and Karen Boyd, Director of Finance. Our student support team has worked tirelessly all year, and thanks go to Ondine Coan, Learning Support Coordinator, David Place and Lexi Buxton our Counsellors, and Nicole Letch our Psychologist. Our faculty leaders have led their teams superbly and their focus on our learning and teaching programs is unwavering. Many thanks to Tyson Wood (Humanities), Simon Butters (English), Tess Medlin (EIF, AIF and Careers), Lynn Jackson (The Arts), Valerie Bradshaw (Science) and Kylie Urlich (Mathematics).

The USC Governing Council has worked tirelessly on strategic issues, such as the Agreement with the new University and accommodation for the future. I wish to extend my immense gratitude to Dr Paul Dalby, Chair of USC Governing Council, and each Council member who has given of their time and expertise for the betterment of the USC community. Many thanks to Dr Benjamin Grindlay, Prof Peter Burden, Ms Yvette Winter, Mr Kevin Richardson, Mr Graeme Hodge, Ms Fiona Stapleton and Ms Amy Brooks-Birve.

Finally, I express my deep gratitude to our students, whose energy give life to USC and who are the reason I work to make USC the best it can be. I know that each of them will make a difference in life as they move forward, with the capabilities, understandings, empathy and ethics needed most certainly in our world today, and into the future.

Thank you for a memorable and successful 2025.

Anita Zocchi
Principal

USC GOVERNING COUNCIL CHAIR REPORT

2025 has been another stellar year for University Senior College, with academic results improving yet again. Academic improvement over the past ten years has been truly remarkable, and a testament to the focus, skill and enthusiasm of all the staff, and the passion and drive of the students and their families.

As well as its academic program, USC has a very strong civics program which promotes the idea of responsible citizenship amongst the students. There are many outstanding opportunities for students to practise leadership skills, and I particularly commend Chloe Yew who was selected to represent Australia at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Ohio, and Abinav Muragappa who was selected to attend the UN Youth National Conference in Canberra. Thank you for being such exemplary representatives of USC and your community.

This year we formalised our relationship with the new merged university of Adelaide University, and we thank the senior leadership of Adelaide University for their commitment to sustaining this important relationship. From 2026, USC will be co-located and closely associated with a university that will be one of the largest in Australia, with 70,000 students, and an exciting new course design that ensures all students have a grounding in the core capabilities needed to thrive in a fast-changing world.

I am delighted that USC will be opening a new campus on North Terrace next year. This will represent a substantial upgrade to our facilities, with a magnificent new three-story space in the heart of the education precinct of Adelaide.

Student enrolments at USC continue to increase and we passed 500 students this year for the first time, and we look like increasing student numbers again in 2026. This speaks to the growing

reputation of USC in delivering an outstanding educational experience for students who have a passion for learning.

We welcome two new members of the Council, Fiona Stapleton and Professor Peter Burdon. Fiona is an alumnus of USC and has built an outstanding career as a lawyer and has recently been made a Partner with Thomson Geer Lawyers. Fiona brings outstanding expertise in governance and legal matters to the Council. Peter joins Dr Benjamin Grindlay as an Adelaide University representative on the Council. He is a professor in law and is also the Deputy Executive Dean and Deputy Dean (Learning and Teaching) for the Faculty of Arts, Business, Law and Economics at the University of Adelaide. We warmly welcome both new Council members to the school.

Facilities and partnerships are very important, but the performance of any school is mostly due to the efforts and abilities of the staff, and we are very fortunate to have such a high-quality leadership team and staff here at USC. Council extends our deepest thanks to the staff at USC who have made it such an amazing school.



Dr Paul Dalby
Chairperson
USC Governing Council

STAFF FAREWELLS



Lisa Temple

How does one begin to adequately capture and honour twenty-five years of leadership, creativity, education, and mentorship?

Frog cakes, iced yoyos, and Farmers Union Iced Coffee are more than local delicacies – they are enduring symbols of South Australian culture, recognised and cherished across generations. In that same spirit, Lisa Temple stands as a true icon – not only of University Senior College, but of South Australian education itself. Along with her leadership and skills in English, Lisa is genuine in her care and concern of others, staff, students and their families alike. Many would attest to her warmth and her positive outlook, always showing the light at the end of the tunnel to others, particularly to those students she nurtured as Dean of Studies.

Lisa was the inaugural USC Dean of Studies for Year 12, an integral component who shaped the culture of USC, and more specifically the mentoring and the academic programs of the College. Lisa can recall sitting on makeshift furniture, literally building the plane as the school was flying and she worked tirelessly for USC, a school she holds dear. Lisa should be rightly proud of her leadership and work as Dean of Studies for Year 12, managing the multiple complexities that come with that role in an exemplary manner. Lisa supported, inducted and led a group of dedicated and enthusiastic mentors of Year 12 for 18 years, worked alongside administration and counselling staff to lead the process of the Partner's Pathway and supported students when undertaking the UCAT, or UMAT as it was previously known. However, it didn't stop there. Lisa organised and attended 18 years of formals and graduations, and most importantly, supported countless students at USC to thrive and achieve their goals. On many occasions, I witnessed Lisa model the ethos of the College, specifically what it means to be part of an adult learning environment.

As any humble Year 12 English Literary teacher will tell you, the standout poetry text for Year 12 was Lisa's own anthology, *Blue Light, Clear Atoms*, which she complied with Peter McFarlane. Lisa was the driving force behind USC's Year 12 English Literary Studies program and influenced greatly the courses in Years 10 and 11. Her creativity, her deep

knowledge of language its power and use, and her insatiable appetite for literature has ensured our students have been taught challenging and unique courses. Beyond USC, Lisa supported students in both the state and independent systems and was Head of Boarding for two different schools.

Possessing an insatiable love of literature Lisa gave more broadly to the community, modelling lifelong learning. She participated in various writers' panels, was compere at the Adelaide Writers Week, keynote speaker at several conferences, spoke on radio about Year 12 and worked with the SACE Board on the development of courses, and as a marker and examiner.

USC stands on the shoulders of giants, and Lisa is one of those, perhaps not in height, but in character. On behalf of students and staff, past and present, we wish you well in the next phase of your life and thank you. We are indebted for your work which assisted in the establishment of USC, for your professionalism and the way you have nurtured USC to be what it is today. Go well Lisa.



Lisa Lanchester

Lisa Lanchester has been an integral part of the mathematics faculty since 2004. During Lisa's time she has witnessed many changes at USC, one of which is the changing locations of her offices. I do wonder, how Lisa will keep up her 10,000 steps each day, as she heads into retirement, but in all seriousness, she took on those challenges and genuinely worked with the school for the betterment of our students.

Lisa's students, past and present will attest to her kind, considered nature, and her love of mathematics. Lisa held the role of Mentor Support for Year 11 for several years and the role of Faculty Leader for Mathematics. Staff and students alike, have always been treated with respect and consideration. Administration staff too, were always greeted with kindness and some of Lisa's enduring qualities are that she is interested in others, is an exceptional listener and empathetic to a fault. Student teachers also, were guided by Lisa, who showed care, consideration and generosity in supporting them to become the teachers of mathematics of the future.

In fact, some may describe her kindness as $f(t) = e^t$, which for those of you who don't understand mathematics, means her kindness is like an exponential function. Or if excellence had an equation, she would be the solution: Excellence(x) = You. Or, to use another mathematical equation, the derivative of her greatness is always positive.

Lisa has always supported the College, assisting with co-curricular activities, ensuring students showed their talents in mathematics competitions and several of her students have gone into tertiary studies using their mathematics.

Thank you, Lisa for your kindness, your care and consideration and the warmth you showed everyone you encountered. We wish you every happiness in your retirement and thank you for your service and professionalism over the years.



Ondine Caon

Ondine Caon began at USC in 2022, as the first Learning Support Coordinator the school had employed. Ondine can be described as a person with a strong work ethic, a person of high calibre and someone who models the values of mutual respect, trust and integrity.

Ondine began with great vision, and her vision was soon realised. Students and staff sought her guidance, professional support and expertise and I can attest to the countless students who have reached their goals and felt supported and cared for, because of Ondine. Ondine shared many talents with us, one of which is her incredible skill in crochet, which saw her take part in the regular knitting and crocheting club that culminated in many beanies and scarves being donated to Vinnies and the Hutt Street Centre.

Ondine has a quiet nature, but with that comes great care, and insight into those she has supported so well. She was a crucial member of the Year 10 mentoring team for three years and in her final year chose to follow her students into Year 11. Her deep comprehension of young people saw her membership of the school's support team as integral to its success, which ultimately led to improved student wellbeing, self-esteem and achievement.

Expressions that could be used to describe Ondine include fair and firm, meticulous in her work;

supportive and insightful; leader and collaborator. Ondine has contributed significantly to student success and wellbeing at USC, and we are forever grateful that she chose to finish her teaching career with us.

On behalf of many students, their parents and staff of USC, thank you Ondine for the care and professionalism you have shown and your leadership in the role of Learning Support. We wish you all the very best into the future.



Vanessa Grave

Vanessa Grave commenced at USC in 2019 and brought with her a number of personal strengths and experiences. During her time at USC, Vanessa held the role of Director of Marketing and Community Relations until February 2025.

We thank Vanessa for her outstanding work, dedication and professionalism. She played a key role in making USC a preferred choice for secondary education in South Australia and was a valued member of the USC Leadership team. Vanessa was a pivotal member and leader of the enrolment team and has been a key person in the introduction of new events at USC such as the Parent Welcome Drinks, the Graduation Dinner, the 20th Anniversary of USC in 2022 and the success of the USC Old Scholars Association.

One of Vanessa's strengths is her positive approach and her ability to build strong relationships, which will assist her in her future endeavours.

We wish Vanessa all the very best for the future and thank her for her service.



Paul Taylor

Paul began his time at USC as our lead Supervisor and Invigilator for Year 11 and 12 examinations and then was employed as a Year 12 Physics and Year

10 STEM teacher. Having held senior leadership roles in other schools as well as being a highly accomplished teacher of Physics and Science, Paul brought to his roles at USC a quiet sense of confidence and calmness along with a great sense of professionalism and care for others.

Paul is a genuine person, who shows care and respect towards others, and quickly adapted to the rhythms of USC, contributing positively to the overall running of the College and of course to our learning program.

Life beyond school has increased demands on Paul, and it is with some sadness that we say goodbye to him as a teacher, but we welcome the fact that he will continue to be lead invigilator for our Year 12 examinations into the future. In one conversation with Paul, he disclosed that he wished he had learned about USC earlier in his career, and USC could say the same thing right back to him.

Best wishes for the future Paul, and thank you for your service, professionalism and empathy.



Chiao Wang

Chiao Wang began as a newly appointed teacher at USC in 2024, and taught Business Innovation, EIF and Accounting. During her time with us she quickly

earned the respect and trust of students and was a collaborative and positive member of staff. All can attest to her professionalism and her desire to do her best; however, we sadly said goodbye to her part way through this year, as she secured a role in another school, teaching her love, Economics.

We thank Chiao for her work and support of USC and wish her all the very best into the future.



Karl Grice

Karl Grice began working at USC in 2024 and quickly established himself as a very professional and experienced teacher of Science, particularly

Physics and STEM. During his time at USC he worked collaboratively with other staff in STEM, led the revision of our STEM course, and taught Year 12 Physics in collaboration with Zahra Pirvali. Unfortunately for USC, the University lured Karl back by encouraging him to complete his PhD.



Jessica Smith

Jessica accepted a part time contract with us to cover additional English classes in Semester 2. Jess quickly established herself as a well-

versed teacher of English and someone who is passionate about learning, the English language and literature. This year, Jess continued at USC teaching English and Activating Identities and Futures (AIF).

During her short time at USC, Jess has shown a strong sense of inquiry, professionalism and a keenness to educate students to her highest ability. Students in her care, were given time and care, and it is with a sense of sadness that life beyond USC has called and Jess is leaving us at the end of 2025.

Thank you, Jess for your work ethic and your expertise and we wish you all the very best for the future.



Jamie Cook

Jaimie's association with USC has been broad, in that she was a student who then went on to undertake a Bachelor of Science, to then return as our Laboratory

Manager. Jaimie was reliable, responsible and mature in both of her roles at USC. Unfailing polite and professional, she lived the school values of mutual respect, trust and integrity, and set high expectations for herself and others.

After four years at USC, Jaimie spread her wings and was fortunate to win a position at the SA Forensic Science Department. I sincerely thank Jaimie for stepping into the role when USC needed a new Laboratory Manager and for the way she conducted herself, making the transition from student to professional with ease. We wish Jaimie all the very best in her new career and we know she brings great skills and acumen to the role.

ACADEMIC REPORT 2024 GRADUATES

DUX

Ashton Raethel ATAR 99.95

Ashton excelled with Mertis in Chemistry and Mathematical Methods, A+ grades in Specialist Mathematics, Physics and Research Project, and earned 2 High Distinctions through The University of Adelaide's Headstart Program.

PROXIMAE ACCESSIT

Vincent Zhang ATAR 99.80

Vincent attained Merits in English as an Additional Language and Mathematical Methods, along with excellent results: A+ Specialist Mathematics, A for Economics and A- in the Research Project.

The following students achieved an ATAR between 99.95 and 98:

Ashton Raethael	99.95
Vincent Zhang	99.80
Michaela Dubsky-Smith	99.65
Charlie Philips	99.60
Ryan Puccetti	99.60
Sydney Villis-Chatfield	99.55
Fahimnia Amitis	99.50
Tanishka Patel	99.35
Alexandra Buechle	99.30
Kelly Jones	99.30
Ava Arnold	98.95
Haoyang Li	98.85
Sophie Hight	98.65
Kayla Fratini-Ellis	98.60
Wantong Zhong	98.40
Pak Sum So	98.25
Lyla Fisher	98.05
Miguel Tolentino	98.05

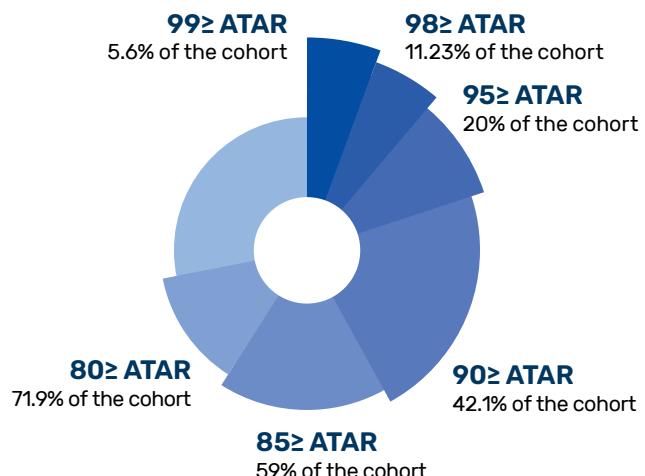
There were 110 A+ grades and 544 A grades overall. 85% of the grades awarded were in the A Band.

The graduating class of 2024 successfully achieved 100% SACE completion.

34 Merits for the SACE were achieved across all learning areas.

Merits were awarded in the following subjects:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Business Innovation
- Drama
- Earth and Environmental Science
- English as an Additional Language
- English
- Mathematical Methods
- Music Performance: Ensemble
- Music Performance: Solo
- Modern History
- Physics
- Politics Power and People
- Psychology
- Philosophy
- Research Project
- Visual Arts: Art



Outstanding results were achieved in The University of Adelaide's Headstart Program and Flinders University Extension Studies.



HEADSTART RESULTS 2024

STUDENT	SEMESTER 1	Result	SEMESTER 2	Result
Kelly Jones	CRIM 1002 Crime and Criminal Justice	HD	ECON 1008 Data Analytics	HD
Tanishka Patel	ANAT SC 1102 Human Anatomy & Physiology IA	HD	ANAT SC 1103 Human Anatomy & Physiology IB	HD
Charlie Phillips	MATHS 1011 Mathematics 1A	HD	MATHS 1012 Mathematics 1B	HD
Ashton Raethel	ECON 1008 Data Analytics	HD	CORPFIN 1002 Business Finance	HD
Nichapat Rittichai	ANAT SC 1102 Human Anatomy & Physiology IA	HD	ANAT SC 1103 Human Anatomy & Physiology IB	D
Aryan Sharifi	PSYCHOL 1000 Psychology IA	DN	HLTH SC 1001 Essentials of Neuroscience	CR
Nidhi Sobti	ANAT SC 110 Human Anatomy & Physiology IA	HD	ANAT SC 1103 Human Anatomy and Physiology IB	HD
Lerisa Theodoropoulos	CRIM 1002 Crime and Criminal Justice	HD	SOCI 1004 Social Problems	DN
Sydney Villis-Chatfield	ENV ENG 1001 Introduction to Environmental Engineering	HD	CIVILENG 1002 Introduction to Infrastructure	DN

P = Pass • CR = Credit • DN = Distinction • HD = High Distinction



Headstart, USC Edge and Flinders Extension Studies 2024

Back Row L-R: Ashton Raethel, Kartik Sharma, Vincent Zhang, Zijie (Jackie) Xie, Abhideep Rajagopal, Aubrey Schunke.
 Middle Row L-R: Lexie Buechle, Angela Chen, Sienna Bradley, Amitis Fahimnia, Ryan Puccetti, Miguel Tolentino, Sofia Styler.
 Front Row L-R: Ly Kim An Phan, Viet Linh Nguyen, Kelly Jones, Sydney Villis-Chatfield, Mizuki Brine, Nidhi Sobti, Tanishka Patel, Claudia Antonino, Anvika Navneet.
 Absent: Robert Daka, Haoyang (Tom) Li, Isaac Pham, Charlie Phillips, Lucien Della Porta, Nichapat Rittichai, Aryan Sharifi, Christa Skordas, Scarlett Spees, Lerisa Theodoropoulos, Alexander Wee, Jace Woehle, Mudita Ukhral.

EXTENSION STUDIES; USC EDGE RESULTS 2024

STUDENT	SEMESTER 1	Result	SEMESTER 2	Result
Claudia Antonino	ACCTING 1002 Introduction to Accounting	P	MARKETNG 1001 Introduction to Marketing	P
Mizuki Charlie Brine	ANAT SC 1102 Human Anatomy and Physiology IA	HD	HLTH SC 1005 Principles of Human Health and Disease	HD
Alexandra Kate Buechele	LING 1101 The Wonder of Language: An introduction to Linguistics	HD	CIVILENG 1002 Introduction to Infrastructure	HD
Angela Chen	HLTH SC 10000L Introduction to Forensic Science	DN	HLTH SC 1001 Essentials to Neuroscience	DN
Amitis Fahimnia	ANAT SC 1102 Human Anatomy and Physiology	HD	ANAT SC 1103 Human Anatomy and Physiology IB	HD
Anvika Navneet	LAW 1501 Foundations of law	CR	Polis 1102 Intro to global politics	P
Linh Nguyen	Marketing 1001 Introduction to Marketing	DN	HLTH SC 1001 Essentials of Neuroscience	DN
Ly Kim An Phan	ANAT SC 1102 Human Anatomy and Physiology IA	HD	HLTH SC 10000L Introduction to Forensic Sciences	DN
Ryan Puccetti	ANAT SC 1102 Human Anatomy and Physiology IA	HD	MARKETNG 1001 Introduction to Marketing	DN
Xavier Schatz	CRWR 1001 Creative Writing: The Essentials	D		
Kartik Sharma	ECON 1012 Principles of Economics I	DN	CORPPFIN 1002 Business Finance	HD
Scarlett Spees	PHIL 1101 Argument and Critical Thinking	CR	POLIS 1102 Global Politics	CR
Miguel Antonio Tolentino	ANAT SC 1102 Human Anatomy and Physiology IA	HD	ANAT SC 1103 Human Anatomy and Physiology 1B	HD



FLINDERS EXTENSION STUDIES RESULTS 2024

STUDENT	SEMESTER 1	Result	SEMESTER 2	Result
Sienna Bradley	HIST1703 Turning Points in World History	HD	HIST1704 History's Killing Fields: From Medieval to Modern	HD
Abhideep (Abhi) Rajagopal	BUSN1013 Economics for Business	HD	NUTD1106 Nutrition, Physical Activity and Health	HD
Xie (Jackie) Zijie	PHIL1060 Critical Thinking	HD	NUTD1106 Nutrition, Physical Activity and Health	HD
Lucien Della Porta	COMP1002 Fundamentals of Computational Intelligence	HD	PHIL1060 Critical Thinking	HD
Robert Daka	HLTH1004 Human Bioscience	DN	HLTH1306 Understanding Health, Illness, and Health and Social Care	CR
Mudita Ukhral	MMED1005 How Your Body Works: Human Physiology and Structure	DN	MMED1007 Histology: The Building Blocks of the Human Body	P
Vincent Zhang	BUSN1001 Recording Business Transactions	HD	PHIL1060 Critical Thinking	HD
Isaac Pham	CRIM1101 Introducing Crime and Criminology	CR	PHIL1060 Critical Thinking	HD
Sofia Styler	VEED1402 Core Studio 1	CR	VEED1411 Art and Design Practice 1	CR
Alexander (Alex) Wee	VEED1402 Core Studio 1	CR	VEED1411 Art and Design Practice 1	F
Aubrey Schunke	VEED1402 Core Studio 1	CR	VEED1411 Art and Design Practice 1	P
Chrissa (Neo) Skordas	VEED1402 Core Studio 1	CR	VEED1411 Art and Design Practice 1	P
Jasmin (Jace) Woehle	VEED1402 Core Studio 1	CR	VEED1411 Art and Design Practice 1	CR
Haoyang (Tom) Li	ENGR1711 Engineering Design	DN	ENGR1201 Electronics	DN

ADELAIDE CENTRAL SCHOOL OF ART VANGUARD PROGRAM RESULTS 2024

STUDENT	COURSE	Result
Charlotte McCarthy	Drawing 1.1	DN

P = Pass • CR = Credit • DN = Distinction • HD = High Distinction

ASPIRATION 1:

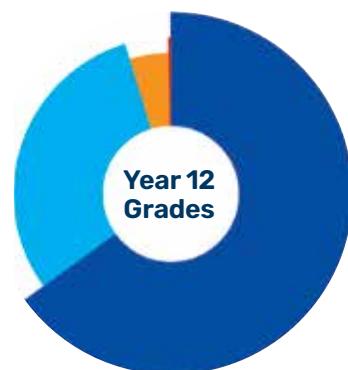
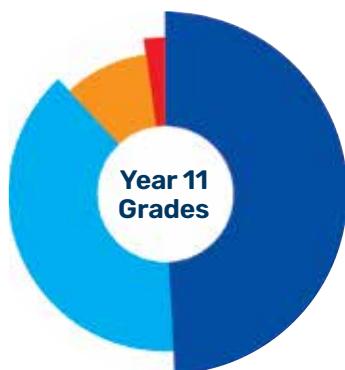
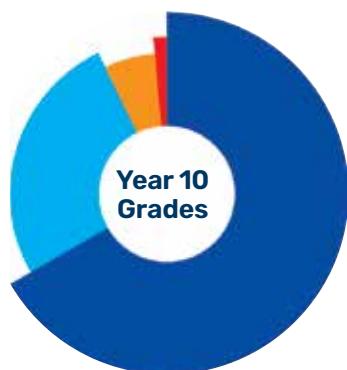
BE RENOWNED AS THE SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL OF CHOICE FOR PRE-TERTIARY EDUCATION, BRINGING TOGETHER THE MOST ASPIRATIONAL STUDENTS, AND PASSIONATE AND INSPIRATIONAL STAFF, SEEKING EXCELLENCE.

The following extracts provide an insight into the events and achievements at USC in 2025. They are representative of the hard work, dedication, creativity, ethic and critical thinking of our students. They are testament also of the professionalism and dedication of our staff. In addition, they provide evidence of achievement against the USC Strategic Plan, our Mission, stated Values and Aspirations.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT 2025

Academic results across all year levels in 2025 demonstrate students' commitments to their learning, their focus on development and improvement in the various disciplines, capabilities, skills and knowledge.

The following is a grade summary for School Assessed grades for Terms One, Two and Three for each year level.



Grade band	Year 10
A	1051 – 66.6%
B	409 – 26.1%
C	89 – 5.6%
D	21 – 1.3%

Grade band	Year 11 (Stage 1)
A	895 – 52.2%
B	603 – 41.5%
C	176 – 10.1%
D	40 – 2.3%

Grade band	Year 12 (Stage 2)
A	594 – 65%
B	279 – 30.2%
C	45 – 4.5%
D	3 – 0.03%

RESEARCH PROJECT / AIF

This year was the first year USC undertook the newly reformed **Research Project**, namely the **Activating Identities and Futures** (AIF). Consequently, the following results are for those Year 11 students in 2024, who undertook the Research Project and the 2025 Year 11 students who undertook the AIF in Semester 1 2025.

Across the two cohorts, forty-seven percent of students achieved in the A Band, with ten percent achieving an A+ Grade. Students who achieved A+ grades include:

RESEARCH PROJECT

Hamdan Ayaz
Jasmine Chloe Batara
Mae Dalgarno
William Liang
Abbie McKenna
Allegra Musolino
Danica Phan
Chloe Phung
Andrew Turaka
Samiha Zaman

AIF

Kate Andritsakis
Priyanka Kamalakkannan Bhuvaneswari
Jordan Lucas
Abinav Murugappa
Alisa Norris
Sierra Schutz
Tammy Tang
Panayiota Tolis
Juliette Way

HEADSTART, USC EDGE AND EXTENSION STUDIES 2025

This year there were 61 students who were enrolled in Headstart, USC Edge, Extension Studies and Accelerated courses across all universities in South Australia.



Headstart and USC Edge participants 2025



Flinders Extension Studies and UniSA Accelerate Studies participants 2025

HEADSTART UNIVERSITY SENIOR COLLEGE 2025

STUDENT	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Mae Dalgarno	Human Anatomy & Physiology IA	
Shani Fox	Foundations of News	Foundation of Law
Owen Hayball	Human Anatomy & Physiology IA	Human Anatomy & Physiology IB
Dowon Kim	Business Finance	Introductory Accounting
Angela Lam	Mathematics 1A	Introduction to Infrastructure
Zhi Qi Lim	Molecules, Genes and Cells	Essentials of Neuroscience
Yingge Lin	Business Lifecycles	Introduction to Forensic Sciences
Izaac Sinton	Music Technology Foundations	Foundations of Law
Yshi Tan	Foundations of Law	Introductory Accounting
Dominique Tolentino	Psychology IA	Social Problems
Ash Townsin	Digital Platforms	Introduction to Logic
Alice Wight	Foundation of Law	Introduction to Global Politics

USC EDGE, HEADSTART 2025

STUDENT	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Hannah Anderson	Creative Writing: The Essentials	Morality Society and the Individual
Jasmine Chloe Batara	Human Anatomy & Physiology IA	Human Anatomy & Physiology IB
Alessia Bruno	Human Anatomy & Physiology IA	Introduction to Forensic Sciences
Linda Do	Business Lifecycles	Introduction to Forensic Sciences
Isaac Hii	Human Anatomy & Physiology IA	Essentials of Neuroscience
King Sang Lee	Human Anatomy & Physiology IA	Introduction to Logic
William Liang	Human Anatomy & Physiology IA	Introduction to Logic
Allegra Musolino	Psychology IA	Psychology 1B
Lara Pengilly	Human Anatomy & Physiology IA	Human Anatomy & Physiology IB
Jessica Pham	Business Lifecycles	Introduction to Forensic Sciences
Matilda Ruge	Introduction to Gender Studies	Foundations of law
Vitrene Tan	Introduction to Forensic Sciences	Introduction to Logic
Andrew Turaka	Human Anatomy & Physiology IA	Introduction to Logic
Navya Shah	Human Anatomy & Physiology IA	Introduction to Forensic Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA ACCELERATE 2025

STUDENT	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Danica Phan	Personal Finance	Public Relations: Theory and Practice

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY EXTENSION STUDIES, INCLUDING CDW 2025

STUDENT	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Oluwatimilehim Adetutu	Recording Business Transactions	How Your Body Works: Human Physiology and Structure
Hamdan Ayaz	Psychology 1A	Psychology 1B
Gregory Binu	Marketing Principles in the Digital Era	Organisational Behaviour
Diana Chen	Core Studio 5	Art and Design Practice 5
Anna Chen	Psychology 1A	How Your Body Works: Human Physiology and Structure
Kenza Claudon	Core Studio 1	Art and Design Practice 1
Alexandre Damiani	Critical Thinking	Recording Business Transactions
James Davies	Marketing Principles in the Digital Era	Organisational Behaviour
Nickan Fathallahzadeh	Recording Business Transactions	Interpreting and Visualising Business Data
Audric Ghosh	Recording Business Transactions	Organisational Behaviour
Tanayah Hartley	Introducing Crime and Criminology	Nutrition, Physical Activity and Health
Lotti Ielasi	Psychology 1A	Psychology 1B
Aston Joshy	Introductory Spanish Part 1	Introductory Spanish Part 2
Aman Kalro	Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence	Mathematics 1A
Ann Rose Liyo	Human Bioscience	Disability Across the Life
Alice Maycock	Discovering Archaeology	Introduction to Animal Behaviour
Jonathan Nguyen	Core Studio 2	Art and Design Practice 2
Jola Nowrozy	Introducing Crime and Criminology	Nutrition, Physical Activity and Health
Halyn Oh	Sociology of Everyday Life	Understanding Health, illness and Health and Social Care in Australia
Ruby Osborn	International Relations: An Introduction	Ideas in Politics
Kaitlyn Pannell	Introducing Crime and Criminology	Issues in Sociology
Pearl Pearl	Human Bioscience	Nutrition, Physical Activity and Health
Matilda Pfluger	Core Studio 6	Art and Design Practice 6
Achsah Mariam Rajees	Human Bioscience	Digital Graphics and Imaging
Madeline Raspe	Essential Legal Skills	Finance and Accounting for Leaders
Thomas Rayner	Interpreting and Visualising Business Data	Organisational Behaviour
Eyshull Seth	Core Studio 3	Art and Design Practice 3
Riya Shah	Human Bioscience	Nutrition, Physical Activity and Health
Garvit Singh	Marketing Principles in the Digital Era	Organisational Behaviour
Aida Tafari	Psychology 1A	Nutrition, Physical Activity and Health
Aimi Tong	Perspectives on Disability	Interpersonal and Interprofessional Communication
Genevieve Tran	Sociology of Everyday Life	Gender, Power and Change
Eleftheria Vasili	Critical Thinking	Nutrition, Physical Activity and Health
Conor Weir	Core Studio 4	Art and Design Practice 4

**ASPIRATION 2:
NURTURE AND ACTIVELY MAINTAIN A
COHESIVE, RESPECTFUL AND DIVERSE
COMMUNITY.**

**ASPIRATION 3:
SEEK NEW EXPERIENCES AND
OPPORTUNITIES, TO CONTEST OUR THINKING
AND BE READY TO EMBRACE THE FUTURE.**

**ASPIRATION 4:
CREATE CHALLENGING LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES THAT LEAD TO INDIVIDUAL
AND SHARED SUCCESS.**

**ASPIRATION 5:
UTILISE THE OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY
OUR ENVIRONMENT WITHIN AND BEYOND THE
CLASSROOM.**

**ASPIRATION 6:
STRENGTHEN OUR GENUINE PARTNERSHIP(S)
WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE,
AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO OFFER
EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES FOR STAFF AND
STUDENTS.**

Our year began with a strong **Orientation** program for all students and culminated in an evening for parents to meet each other and USC staff and Council members at the **Parent Welcome Evening** on the Johnson lawns. It was a delightful evening, with sublime weather, good food and company, with a record number of parents in attendance. This was quickly followed by a lunchtime celebration for **Chinese New Year**, where students and staff were treated to Chinese food and a dragon dance.

Weekly Careers Sessions ran each Thursday lunchtime for interested students. Staff from the universities, old scholars and other organisations

spoke about the varied degree pathways, processes and professions. Presentations included: UCAT (presentation by USC Old Scholars) and applications for AU: Medicine and Dentistry; Veterinary & Bioscience, Business & Law, Science, Technology & Engineering; Education, Media & Humanities; Health; Computer Science, IT, & Mathematics. University of Melbourne, ADF, University of Sydney, ANU, Flinders University: Medicine focus, presentation.

A small group of parents indicated early in the year they would like to show support for the College and formed the very first **Parents and Friends (P&F) of USC!** Many thanks to Andrew Vlass and Mike Tolson for their leadership, the development of Terms of Reference for the group and for bringing together other like-minded parents. We look forward to what the P&F can do in 2026. Thanks also to Steve Todd for being their USC Support staff member.

Seven students and three staff attended the **Australian of the Year Luncheon** and were fortunate to learn from 2025 Australian of the Year Neale Daniher, co-founder of Fight MND.

Student Led and Staff supported clubs 2025 included Knitting and Crocheting; Dungeons & Dragons; Maths, Study group; SRC & Volunteers; Badminton; Jewellery making; Table Tennis; Fossicking; Volleyball; Breakfast; Yoga.

Parent Evenings with Katy Walker was held in March and again in late May. The themes of the evenings were 'Allies in Anxiety' and explored the concept of 'functional worry'. Katy explored how parents can coach their children to deal with and conquer anxiety and understand that we all go through anxious moments in our lives.

In March we celebrated **Harmony Week** and came together at lunch and enjoyed live music, cupcakes, and playing various games while demonstrating respect, inclusivity and belonging. Later in the year



we enjoyed lunchtime activities such as tug-of-war, volleyball matches, lawn games and sweet treats for **Move for Mental Health** week.

Paws and Claws visited the school during a lunch break once again so that students and staff could have some time to de-stress and play with puppies. Interacting with animals has been shown to reduce stress and support mental well-being, and the popularity of this event supports this research.

On Friday 29 August we held our annual **Wear It Purple Day** celebrations, supporting our diverse community. Lunch time activities included sharing food, cupcakes, a student band performance.

During 2025, USC students achieved across all year levels and entered various competitions, state and national events. Notable achievements include the following:

Alyssa Emmerson was awarded the **Commendation of Excellence** for her outstanding participation in the Virtual War Memorial Australia (VWMA) School Program. Alyssa's contribution commemorated Australia's servicemen and women. In 2024 Alyssa entered the premier's Spirit of Anzac Memorial Prize and conducted significant research based on depth of her chosen Australian war veteran, Horace Hill. The VWMA selected students based on the depth and detail of their research and their contribution to the VWMA website.

Chloe Yew was selected to represent Australia at the **Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF)** in Ohio, USA in May this year. ISEF is the world's largest global science competition for high school students, bringing

together the brightest young minds from over seventy five countries to showcase their research in STEM. Chloe was one of ten Australian and New Zealand students. Her research explored how agar and glycerine concentrations affect the mechanical and physical properties of algal bioplastics, with the goal of making them more commercially viable.

Melanie Cavanagh, one of our Year 11 students achieved outstanding results in the **Adelaide Eisteddfod** (March) and at the **Balaklava Eisteddfod** (August). In addition to her achievements at the Eisteddfods, Melanie was awarded Bronze and Silver also at the **AMEB Performance Awards**, a national program that supports and celebrates the work of developing musicians, dancers, actors and performers across Australia.

Year 11 student, **Abinav Muragappa** was selected to join the **South Australian Student Representative Council for SA**. He took part in a group of 150 students across the state. This initiative, led by the Commissioner for Children and Young People and supported by the Foundation for Young Australians, empowers student to take action on issues that matter to them. Abinav was also selected to attend the **UN Youth National Conference** in Canberra during the July holidays.

Destiny Nguyen graduated from the Youth Leadership as part of the **Governor's Leadership Foundation** and her work focused on equity and the mental health and wellbeing of students.

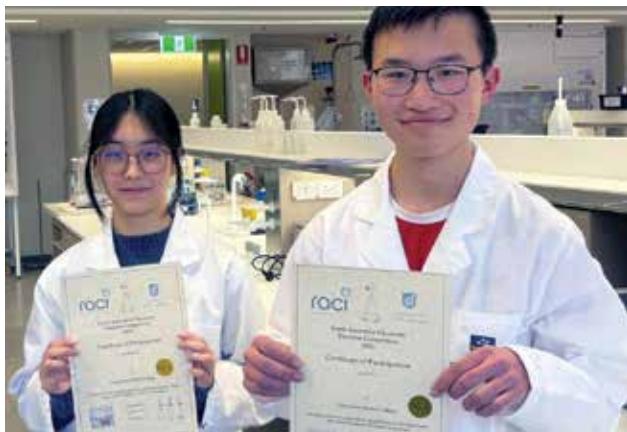
We entered two **debating teams** in this year's competition. They both performed well, and both teams reached the quarter finals in the Senior B division. The participants were: Destiny Nguyen, Julia Littlejohn, Zoe Mann, Abinav Muragappa, Deejai Weston, Devesh Anavka, Ridhima Mitra and Rashmi Adiga.



Year 12 students, **Andrew Taraka, King Sang Lee and Gigi Lam** competed in the **SA Titration Competition** in August. Each of these students received Gold awards and their combined results saw USC with the best score of all forty-five school teams competing on the day.

SCIENCE OLYMPIADS

Once again, students have competed in the **Science Olympiads**, examinations for high achieving students across all the sciences. Sitting these examinations, is the first step towards the international competitions, which is our aim. This year, we were fortunate to have fourteen students from all year levels take part in the competition across all sciences offered at USC.



Student achievement was outstanding, and the results are as follows:

HIGH DISTINCTION Top 10%

Isaac Hii Biology

DISTINCTION Top 70-90%

John Turaka	Biology
Isaac Hii	Chemistry
Andrew Turaka	Physics

CREDIT Top 40-70%

Chloe Yew	Biology
King Sang Lee	Biology
Andrew Turaka	Biology
John Turaka	Chemistry
Phoebe Urquhart	Earth and Environmental Science
Isaac Hii	Earth and Environmental Science
Cooper Daniel	Physics
Isaac Hii	Physics
John Turaka	Physics

PARTICIPATION Remaining 40%

Ridhima Mitra	Biology
Subyta Ahammad	Biology
Chloe Yew	Chemistry
Subyta Ahammad	Earth and Environmental Science
Chloe Yew	Physics
Phoebe Urquhart	Physics

MATHEMATICS COMPETITIONS

There were several co-curricular activities offered to USC students in relation to Mathematics.

Thirty-five students took part in the **Hamann School Mathematics Competition**. This competition is highly challenging, and results were as follows:

CREDIT

Yuanning Song	Intermediate
Isaac Hii	Senior
William Liang	Senior
Edward Mason	Senior

Forty students attended the **MASA Quiz Night**, and one intermediate team won best team overall in their division. These students included Henry Faulkner, Soren Petrie, Angus Schiller, and Ekaagr Verma.

One senior team, comprised of Timi Adetutu, Isaac Hii, King Sang Lee, Andrew Turaka won best in Mathematics for their final MASA Quiz Night.

Twenty-seven students from all year levels competed in the **Australian Mathematics Competition**. Results are as follows:

HIGH DISTINCTION

Yikai (Kane) Shi	Year 11
Yuanning Song	Year 10

DISTINCTION

Marvy Awads	Year 10
Cooper Daniel	Year 11
Isaac Hii	Year 12
Lachlan Huddy	Year 12
King Him Lee	Year 12
Owen Monaghan	Year 10
Soren Petrie	Year 10
Henry Salter	Year 12
Angus Schiller	Year 10
Andrew Turaka	Year 12
John Turaka	Year 11
Ekaagr Verma	Year 10
Jack Vlass	Year 10
Ziqian Zhang	Year 10
Zizhou (Joe) Wang	Year 11

CREDIT

Eunyu (Chloe) Kim	Year 10
Kevin Le	Year 12
Liam Le	Year 12
William Liang	Year 12
Anna Lim	Year 10
Edward Mason	Year 12
Jacob Urlich	Year 12
Chloe Yew	Year 10
Ziju Zhu	Year 10

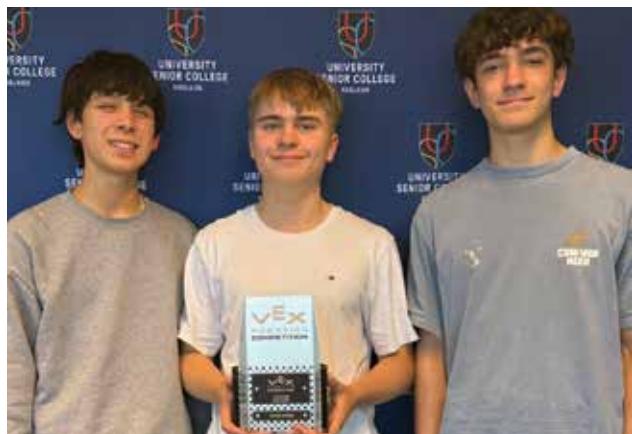
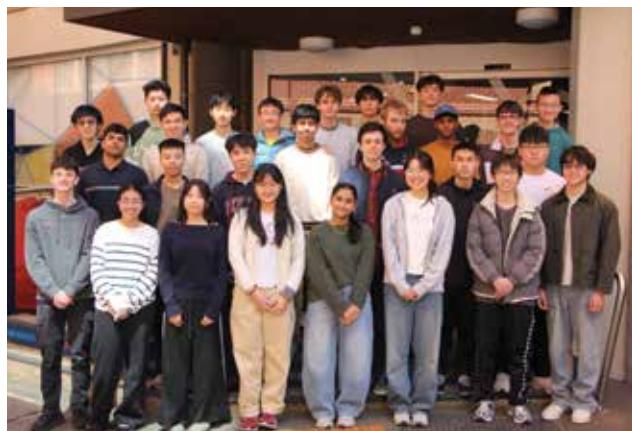
This year, we entered two teams of students in the **SA/NT Ethics Olympiad** for the first time. One team, comprising Christie Chapman Wardy, Lily Samuel, Liam Le, Maxine Bray and Rebecca Vanstone placed third overall, earning a Bronze Medal. The second team, comprising Abinav Muragappa, Juyoon Yi, Lucy Boundey, Leela Moore and Maggie Carty, achieved a fourth-place finish. Students demonstrated their ethical reasoning,

communication and teamwork skills as they tackled a complex moral issue. They engaged in a variety of ethical cases including 'Spotify, Surveillance and You', and "Tobacco Bans".

Maggie Tan and Charlotte Victory were both recognised in this year's **Dorothea McKellar Poetry Awards**.

Mikayla Yap, a Year 12 student was the recipient of the \$5000 **Marta Sved Scholarship** to study Mathematics at **Adelaide University** from 2026. Included in the scholarship is mentoring from a staff member at the university, as well as exclusive opportunities for the duration of the degree.

A group of USC students, Abinav Muragappa, Hang Sang Lee, Melanie Cavanagh, Danica Phan, Nathan Rooney, Liam Young, Zoe Mann, took part in the **Youth Leadership Conference** this year which was held at the Adelaide Convention Centre. The event focused on empowerment, resilience and leadership skills. A highlight of the event was the guest speaker, **Amber Brock-Fabel, a USC Old Scholar and the 2025 Young Australian of the Year for South Australia**.



Learning opportunities and experiences within and beyond the classroom this year included:

Year 10 Society and Culture students took part in a walking tour of the University of Adelaide guided by local historian Will Sergeant OAM. The tour highlighted key sites tied to South Australia's history of gay rights reform.

Year 10 Art students began the year by taking advantage of our school's city location, visiting the Radical Textiles exhibition at the Art Gallery of South Australia and Dale Chihuly's glass installations at the Botanic Gardens. **Year 11 students of Art** visited the SACE Art Show, where 2024 graduate Charlotte McCarthy's body of work Echoes of Becoming was exhibited. Highlights of the year for **Design students** included excursions to CDW Studios, the South Australian Museum, and the Adelaide Zoo—opportunities that inspired, challenged, and expanded students' understanding of design in action.

Year 10 Drama has continued to challenge students to think broadly and creatively in theatrical performance and film making. **Year 11 Drama** presented "Shuddersome: Tales of Poe" by Lindsay Price. This vignette play presents several stories and poems by Edgar Allan Poe, delivered in a wide variety of performance styles. The students dove into this work with gusto and developed the stories into effective theatrical moments through the additional mediums of dance, song and music. **Year 12 Drama** presented "I Chorus" by Ian McWethy and "In The Forests of the Night" by Del Martin provided the students with a wide range of learning opportunities from Performance to Design. The thematic messages of the comfort

of conformity, and the importance of stretching beyond it were very apt for our graduating students.

Year 10 Music students participated in a diverse range of practical activities, including performance and song writing. They researched First Nations' Musicians and prepared podcasts on these artists and their stories. **Year 11 Music** students engaged with personal Music Explorations projects, composing and producing their own music, teaching themselves new skills and developing their own musicianship. They also honed their skills in performance, participating in both solo and ensemble performance and having regular opportunities to showcase their work. **Year 12 Music** students explored musicality in various forms through their work,

In **Modern History** and **Ancient Studies**, students have brought the past to life through inquiry-based learning and experiential opportunities. They have stepped into the shoes of world leaders in a dynamic League of Nations simulation, debated the morality of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and took part in a lively historical figures speed dating activity that helped them explore the complexity of twentieth-century personalities. Senior students tackled revolutions, the Cold War, and ancient texts with remarkable maturity.

In **Business, Economics and Accounting Year 10s** showcased their entrepreneurial flair by designing social enterprises to address issues like sustainability and poverty, while also sharpening practical skills in budgeting, banking, and the ASX Sharemarket Game. **Year 11s** explored the financial viability of start-up ventures, including food trucks and service businesses. They also identified and selected existing businesses to analyse and recommend ideas and strategies to become 'Better at Humanity'. The **Year 12s** gained firsthand insights



into business operations by creating pitches, developing marketing plans and collaborating widely. Year 12s extended their learning through two major external events: the **Commonwealth Treasury Event** where officials unpacked fiscal policy challenges, and the **Reserve Bank Evening at the University of Adelaide**, where students engaged directly with RBA representatives about monetary policy and interest rates.

Legal Studies and Politics students visited the **State Parliament**, engaged with local MPs, and participated in external programs such as **Youth UN, SACON, the Constitutional Convention, Youth Parliament and Parliamentary Question Time**. Workshops with the **University of Adelaide and Flinders University on AI in politics**, the influence of social media and the dangers of misinformation stretched students' thinking on how democracy functions in the digital age.

The **Science as a Human Endeavour (SHE) investigations for Psychology** included the following wide ranging and compelling topics:

- The remarkable work of Zimbabwean grandmothers delivering community-based talk therapy
- The potential of AI chatbots to support mental health care
- Innovative AI glasses designed to assist people living with dementia
- The growing popularity and psychological benefits of cold-water swimming
- The nuanced discussion around social media's impact on mental health, including evidence both supporting and challenging calls for a social media ban

Earth and Environmental Science students engaged in learning in and out of the classroom. Hands-on mineral and rock identification practicals allowed them to connect theory with real specimens, while excursions to the **South Australian Museum** deepened their appreciation for mineralogy and rock formation. A memorable field trip to **Hallett Cove** brought these concepts to life, giving students the opportunity to see the grandeur of natural geological processes firsthand. A further highlight was the excursion to Bio-R, where **Professor David Paton** spoke about the importance of revegetation and biodiversity in the **Mount Lofty Ranges**. Students also participated in bird banding, gaining insights into how revegetation programs support species with specific habitat needs. As part of the SHE tasks, students were fortunate to listen to **Ingrid Lundberg (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water)**, who shared insights into international climate negotiations and Australia's preparations to host COP 31.

Beyond the **Physics** classroom, our students engaged with the broader scientific community through unique and enriching experiences. Highlights included visits to the **Institute for Photronics and Advanced Sensing (IPAS)** with **Associate Professor S Afshar**, where students witnessed cutting-edge research in action. Guest lectures from leading experts, ranging from the University of Adelaide's **Astrophysics Department** with **Professor Gavin Rowell** to medical applications of **nuclear physics** with **Professor E Bezak**, further expanded their horizons and connected theory with practice. An exciting addition was the tour of the **Engineering Department**, where students experienced the flight simulator, along with the continuation of our collaboration with the **Adept Rocketry Program**.

Science students also had an exclusive tour to the **University of Adelaide's Waite Campus**, where they explored cutting edge research on PFAS contamination. They learned how PFAS move through the environment, to exploring water technologies and discovering how plants can help reduce contamination in crops. Thanks to **Dr Shervin Kabiri** for sharing their expertise and passion for solving global environmental challenges.



PARENT SATISFACTION DATA

Feedback from parents in 2025 has been sought formally through surveys at the beginning of the year, after specific events, such as Meet the Mentor Evening and the Careers Expo, and was provided informally also during and after parent evenings such as Parent Teacher Interviews, and Parent Welcome Drinks at the commencement of the year. Feedback has also been sought from future parents and students after they have participated in our tours and enrolment processes.

Parent attendance at this year's Parent Welcome Drinks was the highest ever, and feedback on the evening was supportive of the College and positive in relation to the start of the year for our students. New parents to the school welcomed the opportunity to meet staff, the Chair and other members of the Governing Council along with other parents in a relaxed and informal setting. They shared how their children felt about their new school or return to school after the Orientation program and the fact they welcomed this opportunity to mingle with members of the USC community.

The parent feedback from Term 1 focused on the different learning environment and model that USC offers students and parents. As an adult learning environment, students are given agency to take on the responsibility of their learning and personal growth, with the support of staff and involvement of parents in a different but successful manner. Parents who participated in the Meet the Mentor evenings reported feeling positive about the College, appreciated having the opportunity to meet mentors in a less formal way, and to learn more about the school. Many also enjoyed the opportunity to hear from a respected psychologist and adolescent coach, Katy Walker, on parenting and supporting young people to grow and reach their potential.

Parent feedback from the Careers Expo was positive, and the highest representation of families were from our Year 11 students followed by our Year 10s. Feedback indicates the format was good, that families attended school led sessions and then chose which organisations, universities or businesses they were most interested in. Attendance at the university and professional presentations on the health medical sciences, engineering and law were the most popular.

Staff have been involved in a myriad of professional learning opportunities, either as a whole staff during staff meetings, or extraneous from the College.

Professional Learning activities include:

- Master of Education and Wellbeing
- Professional Leadership coaching for Middle Leaders
- STEM for a Changing World: Flinders University
- ACEL SA Hot Topic: Masterclass with Dylan Wiliam: Leading School Excellence
- ACEL SA Hot Topic: "AI is revolutionising the workforce... but should it revolutionise education?"
- ACEL Hot Topic: Dr Tom Porta - The Dilemmas of Inclusive Education: Everyone's Right or No One's Reality?
- Education for the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Seminar with Charles Fadel
- South Australian Aspirant Leaders Seminar - Good Governance, Great Schools: Best practice for Leaders
- National Australian Council of Educational Leaders (ACEL) Annual Conference
- Dr Fisk: Data Champions
- Managing Psychosocial Safety
- Highly Accomplished Teacher (HALT) accreditation
- Psychological Safety for School Leaders
- Distributed IT Annual Compliance
- Economics Teachers Society Annual Conference
- Reserve Bank Briefing
- Treasury Briefing
- Educate Plus SA/NT Chapter Annual Conference
- Mathematics Teachers Association of SA (MASA) workshops
- ASIST (Suicide Prevention Training)
- Thrive by Design
- Adaptive Leadership
- Edutech National Conference
- Australian Institute of Company Directors

USC staff are involved in numerous professional associations, and some staff take active leadership roles. These include:

- Economics Teachers Society SA President
- Economics Teachers Society SA
- Business Education Teachers Association SA
- President of the Geography Teachers Association of SA
- Board Member of the Australian Geography Teachers Association
- Board Member of the Royal Geographic Association of South Australia
- Legal Studies Teachers Association
- Youth Advisor Council (Campbelltown)
- Eastern Health Advisory Council
- South Australian Branch of the Australian Council of Education Leaders

Some staff also taught in the tertiary sector and taught the following:

- Performing Arts Curriculum Specialisation: Developing Curriculum for the Senior Years.
- The Professional Educator
- Teacher as Researcher
- Teaching Associate HASS Curriculum Specialisation
- SA Law Society

As a senior secondary school, learning from and involvement with the SACE Board is a priority for teaching staff.

SACE Board activity includes:

- Moderation Training and Moderation
- Exam Vetting Training and Exam vetting
- Paper Examination Marker Training
- Paper Examination Marker
- Calibration – School Assessment
- Lead Practitioner
- Subject Renewal Committees

Academic staff involved in SACE Board activity include:

- Tyson Wood
- Simon Butters
- Dan Winter
- Tess Medlin
- Matt Noble
- Lynn Jackson
- April Bickley
- Matt Noble
- Elly Pfitzner
- Deb Woodard-Knight



TO THE GRADUATES OF 2025

Once upon a time, tucked away in a quiet corner of the University of Adelaide, there stood a very special school – USC – a senior secondary college like no other.

Each day, you walked through its doors: individuals full of hope, strength, imagination, and yes – occasionally hiding your use of AI. You came ready to stretch your minds, challenge yourselves, and work with a staff whose quirks may be too many to name, but whose passion for helping young people has always been unwavering.

And today, here you are – the graduating class of 2025.

You've been guided by many great educators, and I would like to draw your attention to two in particular—Anna and Steve.

In preparation for tonight, I asked a few students to describe Anna and Steve.

Steve, they said, is a meerkat. And I can see that. Meerkats are known for being social, alert, fiercely loyal to their tribe – and when needed, protective with a healthy dose of attitude. That's Steve.

If you know Steve, you know he has a way of just showing up. With a smile, a joke, a nudge, or a full-blown intervention about deadlines, attendance, or something else you weren't quite ready to talk about. But it was always out of care. Steve taught you that success isn't just about marks. It's about showing up. It's about laughter. It's about owning your choices, treating others with respect, and honouring your word.

He made you feel seen. He reminded you that what matters most is how you walk through life – not just where you're going. So, as you step into the next chapter – into work, university, travel, or just figuring it all out – take a little of Steve with you. His humour. His compassion. His quiet insistence that you can do better.

And then there's Anna.



Students described her as something feline. Fierce. Loyal. Strategic. Protective. A lioness. Anna is always the one you'd want in your corner.

She's strong, smart, calm, and quietly determined. Anna has supported you endlessly – offering encouragement, tough love, tissues, snacks, and more cups of tea than I can count. She also held the line. She kept you focused.

But Anna also brought heart. Whether it was planning formals, supporting you through designing jumpers, or pulling off graduation nights like this one, her fingerprints are all over your USC experience, often in the background, and always with care.

To all the other people who've supported you, your subject teachers, mentors, and behind-the-scenes administration staff and your families, I hope you find a moment tonight to say thank you and acknowledge their part in your adventure this far.

Each year I try to offer one thing to carry with you as you step beyond the safety of USC. Something to think about as you face the unknown. I believe that looking back helps us find a way forward and tonight marks the end of twelve years of school, twelve years of experiences, relationships, failures, growth, and moments that shaped who you are.

You grew up with Despicable Me 2, Frozen, Planes, The Muppets – and a world that has changed rapidly and dramatically over the past decade, indeed over the past twelve months. You've faced things no generation before you quite has, and yet, here you are. Still standing. Still showing up and not just sixes and sevens.

I hope you've learnt also that fictional superheroes aren't real; that the real heroes in our lives aren't usually wearing capes. They're the ones who show up when things are hard. They step into the mess with you. They remind you that you are strong, even when you forget. Another thing I hope you have learnt is that we flourish individually when we take care of each other. So, be a Steve for someone. Be an Anna, an Elly, Simon, David, Ondine, Nicole, Lexi or any other staff member you look up to and

respect for that matter. There are too many to list here. Be the person who lifts others, makes others laugh and can laugh at themselves also; be the person who thoughtfully holds others and themselves accountable.

Please remember the world needs every single one of you. Be bold, but humble. Strong, but tender. While it may seem that 2025 has had the forces of darkness take hold of our planet, there are rays of light and hope, and you are part of this strength. It's a remarkable thing, to be alive and human. As the maelstrom of hubris tries to take hold, be a force for good – especially when it's hard. That's your greatest challenge.

So, on behalf of all the staff at USC – we're proud of you. We believe in you, and we're excited to see what you'll do next. I hope you take our values of mutual respect, trust and integrity with you. If you do, you can't go wrong.

Go out and do good in the world.

With my very best wishes,



Anita Zocchi
Principal

STAFF LIST 2025

COLLEGE COUNCIL

Dr Paul Dalby	Chairperson	Cert Gov; Exec Dip Bus Planning; PhD Soil Sci; BSc
Mr Graeme Hodge	Vice President	FCPA; GradDip Acc; BEcon
Ms Amy Brooke-Birve	Council Member	B Mathematical & Computer Sc; B Commerce.
Prof Peter Burdon	Council Member	PhD; LLB (Hons); BA (History); GCert.Ed (Higher Education)
Dr Benjamin Grindlay	Council Member	PhD (Psych); BSc (Hons) Psych; BSc Behav Sci; Ehrenberg-Bass Inst
Mr Kevin Richardson	Council Member	B.Ed
Ms Fiona Stapleton	Council Member	M Liberal Arts (Mgmt & Finance; Bus Admin & Mgmt); LLB (Hons); BComm (Mgmt)
Ms Yvette Winter	Council Member	M Crim; LLB; GradDipEd; BBus

ACADEMIC STAFF

Anita Zocchi	Principal	MEd Leadership; GCert Curriculum; GDipEd; BA; GIACD
Dr Thomas Barclay	Chemistry and Science	PhD Chem; MTeach; BSc (Hons)
Corey Barrett	Coordinator: Digital Pedagogies, Biology, and Earth and Environmental Science	BSs (Hons); GDipEd
Anna Bassani	Dean of Student Experience (Years 11 & 12) General Mathematics	BEd; GDipEdl (Rel Ed & Ed Comp); GCert (Maths Ed)
April Bickley	EIF and AIF	MIntSt; MTeach Sec; BMedia
Tony Begley	Chemistry and Biology	BSc (Hons); GDipEd
Valerie Bradshaw	Science Faculty Leader; Biology & Earth and Environmental Science	MSc (Teach, Learn, Lead); BSc (Bio)
Blair Breeding	AEIF, AIF and History	BArts; BEd Sec
Simon Butters	English and Drama	BA; GDipEd
Alexandra Buxton	Music	BMusicEd; BA (Eng); GDip Couns & Psych
Ondine Caon	Learning Support Coordinator	MEdStud; MSpecEd; BSpecEd; DipTGrad; DipPsych
David Court	English	BA; DipEd
Lesley Day	EIF and English	BArts; GradDipEd
Tammy Di-Giusto	Ancient Studies	MPhilo; BA (Hons); GDipEd; GCertEd
Dr Samuel Franzway	English, Research Project; Society & Culture	PhD Eng; BA (Hons); MA; MTeach
Alana-Giles Lawson	Visual Arts (Art and Design)	MTeach; BA (VisArt); MTeach; B PsychSc
Karl Grice	STEM	BEng (Hons); Mast PGCE(S)
Brenton Harris	Accounting, Business	BEd; BComm; MEd (Teach Sec)
Peter Hatcliffe	Biology; Specialist Mathematics	BSc (Zoo, Eco, Ento); BSc (Hons); MTeach (Bio & Maths)
Hayley Horton	EIF, Science, STEM	BEd (Sec); BSc; MEd
Lynn Jackson	Arts Faculty Leader; Drama; English	B Ed

ACADEMIC STAFF

Ryan Jackson	English Faculty Leader; English	BA; MAEd Sec
Michael Jacobsen	Business Innovation; Economics	BEd; MBA; MED (TESOL); GCert
Angela Joy	Science, Chemistry and Biology	BSc; BTeach
Kelly Keeling	Biology and Chemistry	BSc (Hons); BSc (Eco Chem); GDipEd
Lisa Lanchester	General Mathematics	BEd Sec; DipTeach Sec
David Lane	Mathematics	B Law & Sci (Exp/Theor Phys); Mteach
Michael Martin	Mathematical Methods & Specialist Mathematics	BEd (Math); DipTeach
Liesl McPeake	History	BA(Hons); GradDipEd
Tess Medlin	English and Research Project	BA; BEd; GradCert Learn Design
Matthew Noble	Director School Operations; Economics and Accounting	BEd (Sec Business)
Bryant Pan	Mathematical Methods; Physics	BEng(Hons Mech/Aero); DipTeach
Elly Pfitzner	Dean of Student Experience, Year 10; Philosophy	BA; BTeach
Zahra Pirvali	STEM Coordinator; Physics	BSc; GDipEd (Psych & Maths)
David Place	Student Counsellor; English and EAL	BEd(Hons); GDipEd; DELTA
Adam Rogers	Visual Arts; Art and Design	BEd; MArHist
Izabella Rosenzweig	Mathematics	BMa & CompSci; BTeach(Sec)
Xavier Russell	Philosophy	BHSc; MEd(Sec)
Michael Slater	Mathematics, General Mathematics and Specialist Mathematics	BSc(Hons); GradDipEd
Jessica Smith	English and Research Project	BEd(SecSci); GCert Ed Prof Learning
Simon Sypek	Directors Academic Programs; Chemistry	B Ed (Sec Sc); G Cert (Ed Prof Learning)
Paul Taylor	Physics, STEM	BEd
Lisa Temple	English Literary Studies	BA; DipEd
Shannen Thede (Goodman)	Psychology and English	BA; BTeach
Alana Thompson	Legal Studies; Research Project	BLLB; BA; DipT; DipLP
Steve Todd	History and Research Project	BA; GradDipEd
Kylie Urlichhs	Mathematics; Mathematical Methods, Specialist Mathematics	MEd Leadership & Wellbeing; BSc; BTeach(Hons); GradDip Math; M Scientific Studies (Math)
Aphra Walton-Humphrys	ELF, English	BEnvPolMgt; BA; MTeach(Sec)
Chiao Wang	Business Innovation; Accounting	BEco; BSedTeach
Daniela Wells	Psychology	BSc; BTeach(Hons); GradDipEd Psych
Daniel Winter	Mathematics; Mathematical Methods; Specialist Mathematics	BMa & CompSci; GDipEd
Tyson Wood	Accounting, Politics Power & People and Research Project	MTeach(Sec); BIntSt; BComAcc; DipLang
Debra Woodard-Knight	Specialist Mathematics	MSpecMaths; BSc(Hons Math); DipEd; BSc

ADMINISTRATION STAFF

Aryan Azard	Laboratory Manager	PhD (NanoTech); MSc; BSc
Karen Boyd	Executive Finance Manager	BEco; CA; CertGov(Prac); GDip AppFin
Jaimie Cook	Laboratory Manager	B Sc
Michelle Giavis	Enrolment Officer	Cert III Business (Office Admin)
Michele Landers	Schol Accountant	BComm
Nicole Letch	School Psychologist	PGDip Family Therapy; MClinPsych; GDip App Child Psych; GDipEd(Sec); BSc(Psych)
Kyla Llorando	Finance Officer	BCommerce
Lisa Maiorano	ICLT Administration & Support	BMedia Arts; GDipComm(PR)
Laura Medlin	Education Support Officer	BA (in progress)
Carmel Prentice	Education Support Officer	Cert III Bus Admin (Ed); Cert IV Bus Admin
Natasha Pressley	International Registrar, Office Manager PA To Principal	BBusMan; Cert IV Workplace Assessor; Dip Int Ed Serv
Di Prosser	Timetable Manager	AssocDip Accounting
Penny Shen	ICLT Technician & Support	BCompSci & Applications
Laurene Trus	Education Support Officer	Cert IV Bus (Frontline Mgt)
Jessica Zhang	Director International Student Program: Marketing, Recruitment and Program Management	B Accounting & Commerce



Leadership Group

L-R: Simon Sypek, Steve Todd, Anna Bassani, Elly Pfitzner, Anita Zocchi, Karen Boyd, Matt Noble



Marketing Team

L-R: Jess Zhang, Tash Pressley, Anita Zocchi, Michelle Giavis, Karen Boyd





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