
Specialised Assistance School for Youth (SASY)

THE SASY SCOOP

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SASY GRADUATION AND SENIOR DINNER 2026

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QUOTE OF THE TERM

“Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations”

-Unknown

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

SASY is open for those who need support during part of the school holiday period.

We are staffed and open for young people on the following dates between 10am-3pm.

Tues 14th & Wed 15th April

Tues 21st & Wed 22nd April

**Middle School Campus
Middle School Students Only**

A MESSAGE TO THE SASY COMMUNITY

Dear SASY community,

As I look back on the term, I want to acknowledge the incredible challenges the fire at Chesser St has caused for us all. It has also shown the adaptability, determination, innovation, and resilience of our staff, young people and broader SASY community.

SASY is first and foremost a community, and its strength is in its people, who always come together and support one another and ultimately to ensure that the school can always continue to support young people. I think what sets SASY apart is our community and SASY is grateful for it, now more than ever.

SASY commenced this year with two campuses for the first time ever, opening our Middle School campus in Thebarton at the start of the Term, re-opening our Senior School campus in Chesser Street to be senior school students only, and welcomed many new young people and families to our school.

A very exciting milestone for SASY this Term was opening the new campus, and it has been a successful term, with students and staff settling into the new site and routines of the school well. Stakeholders, families, young people and staff came together to celebrate the opening of the campus during its official opening by the Hon. Blair Boyer. Coming together to celebrate the achievements of the school and the creation of an innovative space for SASY young people to learn and connect.

I would like to thank Nathan, our Head of Campus for Middle School, for implementing these changes and leading the campus successfully through its first term, and the Middle School staff for helping to create a supportive, creative, thriving SASY community in Thebarton at our new campus.

A more challenging milestone in Term One, was the fire on Chesser Street that significantly impacted our Senior School campus in February. This was a distressing event that has resulted in Senior School operating entirely out of one building for the past two months. The remaining three buildings continue to be under significant works and assessment. As per communications to Senior School families, we aim to have buildings 27 and 29 operational by Term 2 for young people and staff, meaning we will operate out of 3 buildings (30, 27 and 29). However, building 25 will remain under assessment and refurbishment for the foreseeable future due to the more extensive damage it suffered.

What has been SASY's most significant challenge to date, has also been the most astounding display of community, with staff, students, leadership, stakeholders, board and families coming together to offer help, pitch in, support one another, and collaborate to make the most of a challenging situation. Some examples include:

- students making a handmade card to gift to Avalon Photography Studio who lost their business in the fire
- parents and carers offering help where possible
- stakeholders working overtime to get campuses operational in the early hours after the fire
- staff supporting one another, checking in to make sure they're ok via phone calls, coffees, and online meetings as some of our team had to go fully remote,
- and perhaps the most inspiring, is the adaptability and motivation of the Senior School staff and young people to make the most of their situation and band together as a campus.

Whilst the circumstances at the Senior School Campus have changed many times this term due to the unpredictability of the building works, sometimes minute by minute, the staff and young people have demonstrated genuine flexibility and ability to take change in their stride and openness to new ideas and ways of doing things.

There are many people who have contributed long hours into ensuring Senior School remained operational this Term. I would like to specifically acknowledge Bruce, Head of Campus Senior School. Bruce has tirelessly led his team onsite at Chesser St through this adversity during his first term as Head of Campus. He has maintained his cheery disposition despite everything thrown his way, ensuring his team have everything they need. His passion for supporting young people and SASY in general should be commended, especially during this time of crisis.

In addition to this, I would like to highlight Nic, our Head of Operations, member of Senior Leadership and Co-Founder, who has worked many long nights and early mornings to ensure both campuses are operational, working with stakeholders and staff so that the staff and students can continue their school days with minimal interruption.

The last person but certainly not the least, is our Chief Executive Karen, who has led SASY through a term of significant change, both positive and challenging, and done so with innovation, support and care. She has embodied SASY's community; prioritising teamwork and collaboration, supporting one another, checking in, and the importance of a cup of tea when things are tough. She has inspired and motivated us all through some very significant milestones in SASY's history, and I would like to thank her on behalf of the team for her endless work and dedication to the school.

With all of this said, I think a term break is well earned! It has been a big eleven weeks, and we wish you a relaxing and restful school holidays.

Kelly Chambers, Head of Business Development

SASY SENIOR DINNER AND GRADUATION 2026

The SASY Graduation and Senior School Dinner 2026 was a memorable and heartfelt celebration, marking an important milestone for our senior students.

Adorned in a Winter Wonderland theme at the Adelaide Convention Centre, the evening brought together graduates, families and staff to reflect on the achievements, growth and perseverance shown by SACE Graduates of 2025 and Senior School Young People.

Students enjoyed a special dinner and the chance to celebrate their journey alongside their peers and educators who have supported them throughout their time at SASY.

The night was made especially meaningful through Graduate speeches delivered by Taiaha Thompson, followed by current Senior Student Holly Ayles, both of which captured the challenges, resilience and sense of belonging that define the SASY experience. Their words resonated strongly and were a highlight of the evening.

Thank you to all our staff who were involved in the preparation and set up of the event, nights this showcase all of the hidden talents staff have and we are incredibly thankful.

We wish our Senior School students a great year ahead and extend our warmest congratulations to all graduates and wish them every success as they take their next steps beyond SASY.



MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS OPENING

SASY was very excited to officially welcome our community to the brand new Middle School Campus, opened by Education Minister, Hon. Blair Boyer in February of Term 1.

Uncle John Lochowiak performed a smoking ceremony and Welcome to Country to welcome and connect our community on Kaurana Country. The event officially kicked off by a speech made by Hon. Blair Boyer, followed by SASY's Chair of the Board Rob Snowdon and SASY CE Karen Taylor.

Young people and families had the opportunity to walk through the campus and despite it being a hot day, we are thankful to all for attending and celebrating with our community.

We would like to thank all involved the project, from staff and young people to the construction workers and builders, and especially our amazing Architects at Liminton Design, Richard and Faye who once again made SASY's vision a reality, as they have with our previous buildings in Chesser Street.

Special thanks to Kelly Chambers, Head of Business Development who was the Project Lead. Despite challenges and setbacks, she remained level headed and focused on the big picture, and her guidance and vision helped create our beloved Middle School Campus.



MIDDLE SCHOOL



This term has marked an exciting chapter for SASY community with the official opening of SASY's new Middle School campus.

The space has already begun to buzz with energy, curiosity, and creativity as young people settled in and have started to make it their own. SASY Middle School campus is quickly becoming a place where young people are starting to feel a strong sense of belonging and pride.

Alongside this milestone, SASY young people have taken part in a range of meaningful learning experiences that extend well beyond the classroom.

SASY welcomed Life Education this term, with engaging sessions that encouraged young people to think about and explore the impacts of smoking, vaping and alcohol. This provided young people to build their knowledge, resilience, and confidence to make healthy choices for their future.

SASY also appreciated a visit from RAA, who worked with SASY young people on vital road safety education. Through interactive presentations and real-world scenarios, young people explored safe decision-making as pedestrians, passengers, and future drivers, an important step in helping young people navigate their growing independence and safety.

Connection and celebration were on full display during Harmony Day, which SASY proudly celebrated with a visit to Bonython Park. Young people embraced the opportunity to recognise and value the diverse cultures, backgrounds and experiences that make up our community. It was a joyful day filled with shared stories, laughter, and a strong message of inclusion and respect.

Creativity has also shone this term through student-led projects focused on reimagining SASY spaces.

Young people have been busily decorating, designing, and pitching ideas to make these areas more inspiring, welcoming, and reflective of youth voice and identity. From colour schemes and artwork to functional design ideas, their enthusiasm and imagination highlight the importance of young person agency in shaping SASY learning environments.

As SASY looks ahead, SASY is incredibly proud of how Middle School young people have embraced new spaces, new learning, and new opportunities.

This term has truly reflected the values of growth, connection and young person community. SASY looks forward to all that's still to come throughout the year.

Nathan Dalziel
Head of Campus - Middle School

MIDDLE SCHOOL CONT...

'Sew What?'

In the program 'Sew What?' students have created some very creative and high quality pieces of work.

Students have created a pin cushion and are in the process of designing patches for their tote bags. These patches include their initials, their favourite object and a unique design of their own. All of the pieces of work have been hand stitched, with many of the students displaying great accuracy, creativity and a willingness to try different stitches and alternative sewing methods.

All of this has been completed under a framework of Ethical Fashion with students participating in a mock sweat shop to highlight the terrible and unfair conditions under which some people have to work, with little to no rights. Participation and engagement in the program has been excellent and demonstrate the wide range of creative skills many of our students possess. Well done to everyone. –**Senior Teacher Al**



Harmony Week 2026

To celebrate Harmony Week, our Middle School students enjoyed a fun and engaging excursion to Bonython Park.

Harmony Week is a national celebration that recognises Australia's cultural diversity and promotes inclusivity, respect and belonging.

At Bonython Park, students took part in shared activities that encouraged teamwork, friendship and cooperation. It was great to see students connecting with one another and bringing the values of Harmony Week to life in a positive and relaxed environment, including a lunch cooked by our amazing Chefs Anna Maria and Zach.

The excursion was a fantastic way to reinforce the message that everyone belongs, and a memorable experience for all involved.

As we conclude the Term, it is important to acknowledge that this has been a period unlike any other for our Senior School community.

The Chesser Street fire had a significant impact on our campus operations, presenting challenges that tested our systems, adaptability and collective resilience.

Despite only having access to approximately 25 per cent of our available learning spaces, the SASY community rallied together to ensure that learning continued and that our site remained operational. I would like to commend our staff and young people in particular, who demonstrated remarkable flexibility, patience and determination in navigating the complexities of a significantly reduced campus footprint. Their resilience has been nothing short of outstanding.

Looking ahead with optimism, we are pleased to share that next Term will see two additional buildings recommissioned, bringing us to three of our four buildings operational. This marks a significant milestone in our recovery and allows us to continue restoring a sense of normality to campus life.

Throughout the Term, students continued to engage in a range of offsite programs and excursions, ensuring learning remained rich, connected and experiential despite onsite limitations.

Adventure students embraced new challenges, with opportunities to snorkel, surf and tree climb, as well as enjoying a planned picnic at the Mt Lofty Botanical Gardens. While the Photography program was impacted heavily onsite by the fire damage, it remained active within the community, with student visiting Adelaide Gaol and the Botanic Gardens, continuing to build creative and technical skills.

Health and Wellbeing students have also been actively refining their golf skills, while staff member Telithia led a group of students to experience the excitement and cultural vibrancy of The Fringe, an experience that was thoroughly enjoyed. These opportunities reflect our ongoing commitment to providing meaningful learning experiences, even in the face of logistical challenges.

Early in Term 2, families will have the opportunity to meet with staff, strengthening the important partnership between home and school. They will also be able to see the new (interim design) of the Art and Digispace areas that were so heavily affected. 5th May 6pm – Book here:

The faculties were essentially “gutted” with all resources and equipment needing to be replaced.

In Term 2 Week 10, we will also host Rhythm Design Week, once again welcoming parent and caregivers into our community to share in student learning.

“I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank each and every one of you for your patience, understanding and support throughout what can only be described as a resilience-testing period”

Whilst there is still work to be done, we have most certainly turned the corner, and I am confident that brighter and more settled days lie ahead for our Senior School.

Thank you for standing with us during this time.

Bruce Woodcock
Head of Campus – Senior School

RAYS OF SUNSHINE



'Rays of Sunshine' is a special section of the SASY Scoop dedicated to sharing feel-good moments and glimmers of hope from across our community. It celebrates achievements big and small, positive experiences, and uplifting stories. These moments remind us to pause, reflect and celebrate the successes that brighten our community.

"Animals Anonymous visited Middle School as part of the Lab Rats program. Everyone also got a chance to have a selfie with their quokka" –Senior Teacher Dina



"SASY had 15 SACE Graduates in 2025!"

"Shout to all the new young people who joined SASY this term, from finding your feet to engaging with staff and peers, we see your growth!"

"SASY Assassins had their end of Term Ice Factor Tournament, winning 3 games losing 1, SASY are super proud of our players and how far they have come in just one term!" –YW Gianni

"SASY's Receptionist Chloe who went on Maternity leave late last year gave birth to a beautiful baby boy! We miss you Chloe and wish you all the best!"

"Youth Worker Gianni was faced with some real adversity this term but conquered the challenges and was able to contribute to some outstanding outcomes" –Senior Youth Worker Dylan

"Teacher Brittany recently got married! SASY Wishes Brittany and Jai the very best for their future!"



If you have a 'Ray of Sunshine' you'd like to share with the SASY Community email Sunny: js@sasy.sa.edu.au

CHESSER ST FIRE

A shocking call woke our Senior Leaders at midnight of February 18th, Fire Fighters were called to Chesser St after a fire broke out from Avalon Photography, located next door to our SASY buildings 29, 27 and 25. The incident was a shock to the local community, and our thoughts remain very much with the Avalon team, who tragically lost their photography studio of more than 20 years.

While SASY's buildings were fortunately only mildly impacted thankfully to the fire fighters who worked tirelessly to save what they could, the disruption that followed presented a number of challenges.

For almost two months, Senior School and administrations operated from a single building or worked from home, requiring flexibility, patience and teamwork from everyone involved. During this time, the strength of the SASY community truly shone, with staff, students and families rallying together with understanding and support.

We are pleased to share that staff have now been able to re-enter Building 29, marking an important milestone and the closure of a truly challenging and unforgettable Term.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to emergency services for their swift response, and to our SASY community for their resilience, kindness and unwavering support throughout this period.

See below the remarkable photos captured by a witness on the night.





MIDDLE SCHOOL HARMONY WEEK @BONYTHON



CHESSER ST FIRE



WELCOME TO COUNTRY- MS OPENING



SENIOR SCHOOL WELCOME TO COUNTRY, SMOKING CEREMONY PERFORMED BY ROBERT TAYLOR



SACE GRADUATE OF 2025 TAIHAHA & HIS SISTER



MS OPENING- ROB SNOWDON, KAREN TAYLOR, HON. BLAIR BOYER