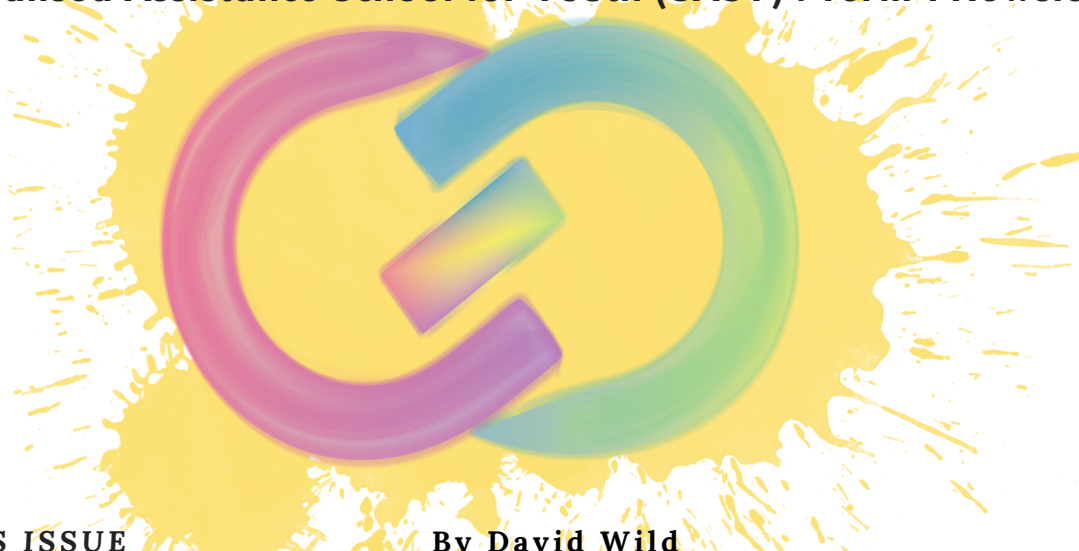


THE SASY SCOOP

Specialised Assistance School for Youth (SASY) | Term 1 Newsletter



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By David Wild

Term 1 of 2021 has been a big one for SASY, with many new opportunities, challenges, and achievements, there is so much to reflect on.

Firstly I want to take the time to acknowledge the new people to join the SASY community. To the 23 new students who joined us at the beginning of Term 1, your presence is warmly welcomed, and it's been fantastic to see you all settling into our learning community. New staff also joined us at the start of Term 1, to whom I also say welcome, and reflect on how great it is to have the breadth and depth of new skills coupled with your passion and values for the work at SASY.

In addition to new people, there are also a number of other new initiatives that were confirmed this Term. The new SASY operating structure was launched in Week 1, which now sees the school operating with four parallel teams; staffed with Youth Workers and Teachers, the teams all have a slightly different focus, programs and learning aimed at meeting varying student needs. We call the teams Hubs, and they have the following names that are reflective of their core function; Connect, Ignite, Inspire, and Empower.

On February 11th, our new STEAM centre on 25 Chesser St was officially opened by the Minister for Education, the Honourable John Gardner with additional speeches from Helen Connolly, Commissioner for Children and Young People (SA), Rob Snowdon, SASY Chair, and the star of the opening, SASY student Courtney Cole.



HON. JOHN GARDNER OFFICIALLY OPENING THE
NEW STEAM CENTRE

Construction of the \$1.1m state-of-the-art centre was completed late in 2019 and was made possible thanks to funding from the State Government. The centre houses leading-edge equipment, including 3D printers, high-tech robotics equipment and videography gear, which will support SASY's transition to project-based learning.



SASY CHAIRPERSON ROB AND C.E. DAVE WITH
SASY STUDENT COURTNEY, HON. JOHN GARDNER
& RACHEL SANDERSON MP

February also saw us confirm the lease of our 4th CBD building, 29 Chesser St, the old Chesser Cellars. Works have begun, and we can proudly say that the space will be the SASY Wellbeing Centre, with additional learning spaces including a commercial kitchen, digital music lab, and mixed use recreation areas.

Another highlight was the recent Graduation of our senior students. SACE completion is felt by many as the highlight of the year and on the 26th of March our students, staff and community came together to celebrate the achievements of the eight graduates from 2020. It was a fantastic night which not only gives the SASY community a strong reminder of why we do what we do, but also gives us hope for the community at large. The positive impact these eight graduates will have in the coming years within their own new and emerging communities is clear and something to be excited about. Congratulations to our eight graduates!

Upon reflecting on the Term 1 achievements and highlights, I want to mention one last thing; take care and focus on your 'why'. In the busyness of our lives, work and study, sometimes the 'why' of what we do gets blurred by the how, what and when. I urge you all to pause, take care of yourself and others, and reflect on your own why, and use this as an inspiration for your next steps forward in your journey ahead.

The latest scoop

The first SASY student newsletter

SASY has published its first student led newsletter by the same name! Written by students, for students, the newsletter will be published fortnightly and includes content such as student artwork, interviews, review of activities, Hub updates and anything else students come up with! A big thank you to Zac B, Ethan Y, Briana R, Oscar G, Taiaha T, Emmanuel Z, Jemma S and Shaylee H for their contributions to the first edition.



THE FIRST EDITION

Celebrating our students' success

Con-grad-ulations are in order!

SASY has recently celebrated its fourth cohort of Year 12 SACE Stage 2 graduates! On Friday 26th March, SASY held a graduation ceremony at Adelaide Town Hall for the students who graduated in 2020. We are all so proud of these 8 students who reached this milestone and can't wait to see what they do next!

Our 2020 graduates are Alex Boyd, Bianca Beetge, Drew Cuffley, Giovanni Rocca, Jai Chapman, Josh Boulderstone, Kellcie Ferguson-Carr and Tamara Staunton. Congratulations again on your achievements.



DAVE PRESENTING TO THE GRADUATES DURING THE OFFICIAL CEREMONY

Community Night

Opening our doors to the community

The School held its first open night for the wider community on Thursday 18th March.

More than 100 people attended to hear presentations from each of the SASY Hubs and learn more about what SASY has to offer. More events have been scheduled for Terms 2, 3 and 4 and will be publicised in coming weeks.



VISITORS LISTENING TO A PRESENTATION ON PROJECT BASED LEARNING IN THE EMPOWER HUB

Project Based Learning

by Learning Coordinator, Allira

In 2020, SASY started the process of transitioning to Project Based Learning or as we prefer to call it, Student Centred Learning. Student Centred Learning is a teaching approach that engages students in learning that involves real-world, meaningful projects. This allows teachers to meet the achievement standards set by ACARA while building life skills in our young people. Each Hub at SASY is approaching this in it's own unique way and are offering both group and individual projects to students.

SASY has teamed up with New Tech Network Australia (NTNAU), an international organisation that specialises in supporting schools in the implementation of Student Centred Learning. NTNAU works with many Australian schools but SASY is the first school in South Australia to partner with them. We have had many online sessions and several face to face visits with NTNAU lead consultant Brad who has been working intensively with the SASY team to develop projects driven by the ideas of our young people.

Each project includes a focus on 1 or 2 specific skills that are explicitly taught and role-modelled throughout the project. These skills include:

- Verbal communication
- Giving and receiving feedback
- Perseverance
- Resilience
- Written communication
- Group norms
- Asking questions

Building the capacity for these skills equips our students with the real world life skills and abilities for them to grow and contribute to the world as they move through SASY and into the greater community.

"..a teaching approach that engages students in learning that involves real-world, meaningful projects."

Examples of both group and individual projects currently being undertaken at SASY include:

- Design and building skate parks
- Creating a drag costume from rubbish bags
- Filming a stop animation horror film
- Up-cycling and decorating a Hub mascot
- Tie-dying a t-shirt
- Designing and producing a custom web page

SASY is very excited to see what our young people can produce and how they continue to grow and learn.



'SASY SKATE' PROJECT WORK

Modified SACE

by **Senior Teacher, Tom**

In 2021, SASY is rolling out a variety of modified subjects available to eligible students to provide a flexible and meaningful way of completing their SACE. These modified subjects focus on student capabilities and personal learning goals that are unique to each student and provide a means of completion that emphasises evidence of learning over time instead of standard assessment tasks. This allows students to engage in practical tasks that are relevant to their interests and needs that will enable them to participate in the broader community and help build their own independence.

These subjects are delivered in a highly individualised way, encouraging student discovery, expression and real-world skills that students will need in the future. Modified subjects are also not graded from a typical A to E based on achievement, instead focusing on completion and achievement of personal goals set by the student.

Currently, we are offering the following modified SACE subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Personal Learning Plan
- Research Project

In Term 2, we are also offering a variety of elective subjects to students. These have been designed based on student interest and allow the students to investigate areas of relevance to them outside of the core curriculum subjects.

Elective subjects on offer beginning in Term 2 are:

- DREAMLAB
- Drama
- Guitar Lessons
- Tourism
- Aboriginal Studies
- Science

- Health & Wellbeing
- Creative Arts – Art
- Design, Technology & Engineering – Photography
- Language & Culture – Japanese
- Business Innovation – Make It – Sell It

Labs 'n Life

by **Inspire Hub Team Leader, Nathan**

Labs 'n Life is a school program that empowers and engages senior students in learning how to train Labrador Retrievers to work with vulnerable youth, sometimes as young as Year 1 and 2.

Our SASY students are asked to commit to a Term of weekly sessions where they are paired up with their own dog and participate in training that ranges from very basic commands to more intense, specific obedience training. For our students, this program helps to build life skills such as an understanding of citizenship and their role in a wider community, relationships with peers and animals, patience, empathy and kindness. We have been working in partnership with the Labs 'n Life team since 2019 and continue to offer this amazing program to our SASY students.



STUDENT BRIANA WITH LABRADOR 'CRICKET'

Hot off the press

SASY's recent media releases & partnerships

SASY has recently been featured twice in The Advertiser. The first article 'Little school steaming ahead' was featured on December 6th 2020 and the second, titled 'Skating through school' was published on February 15th 2021 (pictured below).



SASY STUDENT ANGELINA FEATURED IN THE ADVERTISER 'SKATING THROUGH LIFE' ARTICLE

SASY has recently partnered with several organisations to provide more opportunities to our students. Connections such as that with The University of Adelaide provides our students with access to learning spaces on campus, the gym and training sessions, and participation in select uni clubs. A partnership with not-for-profit TABOO has given our students access to free sanitary care at school, whilst city-based retailer Fast Times Skateboarding have provided our students with discounted equipment to use for PBL subjects.

These partnerships help to provide students with opportunities to grow, to be empowered and to feel connected, not just to the School, but to each other, and to the wider community.

SASY Governance

Introducing SASY's newest Board member

The SASY Board recently welcomed Sean Kelly as a Director. Sean has extensive experience at

Board and Senior Executive levels in Commonwealth and State Governments and the Private Sector, predominantly in the energy industry. His expertise includes business and financial strategy, governance and risk, customer service, people and culture, business transformation and regulation.



SASY DIRECTOR SEAN KELLY

Sean considers access to education, whether that be trade, vocational or academic as fundamental to an individual's wellbeing and life opportunities. He looks forward to contributing to SASY's growth and success.

A hub of activity

Implementing SASY's four new Hubs

SASY started Term 1 with a new layout: 4 Hubs over three buildings, appropriately named Connect, Ignite, Inspire and Empower. Students were grouped into Hubs based on criteria such as wellbeing, year level and ability and each Hub has their own space. Ignite, run by Team Leader Daisy is situated on the ground floor in 27 Chesser, Connect is led by Jodie in the basement of 30 Chesser, and Inspire and Empower can be found upstairs in 30 Chesser, and are led by Nathan and Adrian respectively.

Each Hub has their own staff group, and students start and end each day in their Hubs. Timetables, or 'rhythms' as SASY calls them are set by Hubs and each 'home' space is designed to suit the needs of their cohort. Some Hubs are decorated with lava lamps and beanbags, some have boxing equipment, and some have art; each Hub is unique, just like our students.