

Media Release

February 2 2022



Over 48,000 students return to the classroom today

It is a day of firsts for Catholic Education South Australia:

- **48,000** students have returned to schooling
- **4,000** Reception students are attending school for the first time
- **2** brand new schools have opened
- **4** regional schools have Year 8s for the first time as they expand to R - 9

“2022 is a year of expansion and growth for Catholic Education SA. We’ve got over 48,000 students across Catholic Education’s 103 Catholic schools including two brand new schools opening their doors for the first time today,” says Dr Neil McGoran, Director, Catholic Education South Australia.

“With another four regional schools extending to Year 9, we’re expecting our largest ever number of students attending Catholic schools across South Australia.

“Whether starting in class or online, we are ready for the best possible start to the school year, and we are committed to ensuring that students continue to thrive in our Catholic schools.

“We were expecting 40% of students to be doing online/remote learning today.

“Some schools have indicated that large numbers of students are attending for supervised learning. I’m confident our staff will support all our students – whether they are in the classroom or at home – to have a great start to the 2022 school year.

“We have COVID-safe measures and processes in place for students and staff across all of our schools.”

Background – new schools and school expansions

Compass Catholic Community, Davoren Park

Catholic Education SA's first fee-free school, Compass Catholic Community at Davoren Park, is providing a unique learning community for 17 to 24 year olds who have not thrived in mainstream schools.

St Francis of Assisi College, Renmark

The first Catholic secondary College in the Riverland, St Francis of Assisi College, has also opened with the inaugural Year 7 and Year 8 classes on site today. The College will offer an additional year level annually until it expands to Year 12 by 2026.

Expansions in Regional areas

Four other regional schools are expanding from their current Reception to Year 6 status to offer Reception to Year 8 from 2022 (Year 9 added 2023):

- St Mary MacKillop School, Wallaroo
- St Joseph's School, Peterborough
- St Joseph's School, Clare
- St Joseph's School, Murray Bridge.

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