Media Release August 2023



Catholic schools open their doors to all during annual Open Week

Catholic Education South Australia (CESA) is making it easy to explore the benefits of a Catholic education during its annual Catholic Schools Open Week.

From August 21 to 27, the 101 Catholic schools across SA will host over 120 school tours and open days, inviting parents and carers from all backgrounds who are considering schooling options to come and discover what a Catholic education can offer.

"Catholic Schools Open Week is an opportunity for any parent considering a Catholic education for their child to meet their local Catholic school and discover how we work in partnership with families to educate and nurture young people," says Dr Neil McGoran, Executive Director Catholic Education South Australia.

"As an educational sector we are committed to providing excellence for every child and young person whose education is entrusted to our care. We want every student to experience success according to their own unique talents and discover a love of learning and values for life."

As part of Catholic Schools Open Week, Catholic education is 'front and centre' across the state in a major advertising campaign – one of the largest annual promotions in SA.

Over 90 students from Catholic schools throughout the State participated in a series of photo shoots earlier this year, including from regional schools.

Open Week provides an opportunity for interested families and students to explore some SA's newest and most innovative school buildings, with 35 capital development projects completed in 2022 and a further 29 projects underway or due to start in 2023 or beyond. These include brand new and refurbished indoor and outdoor learning spaces, playgrounds, ovals, halls, gymnasiums, offices, technology upgrades and landscaping.

The developments ensure Catholic schools throughout South Australia continue to provide stateof-the-art facilities that meet the requirements of today's teaching and learning both inside and outside of the classroom, as well as being beautiful and inspiring places for students to learn and thrive.

The Open Week event comes a month after the free 2023 mid-year intake that saw over 1,400 Reception students commence at a Catholic primary school at the start of this term. Families whose children commenced Reception in July at a Diocesan school will pay no school tuition fees in Term 3 and Term 4 in 2023.

"This fee decision is part of our commitment to support for families at a time when they are being financially impacted by the effects of rising living costs and inflation," says Dr McGoran.

Over 20 Open Week events are planned in regional schools with other schools offering individual tours on request.

A full list of Catholic Schools Open Week activities planned at participating schools can be found on the <u>Catholic Education SA website</u>.

Schools can be contacted directly for comment, photos or more information about specific activities.

Media contact: Corrin Wakely-Young Communications Officer, Catholic Education South Australia 08 8301 6124 corrin.wakely-young@cesa.catholic.edu.au