



21 January 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

I wish to add my welcome to that of Head of Schools, Mike Potter, in his letter to you on Tuesday 18 January. We are preparing in earnest for the start to the year, with all its pandemic variations. We look forward to the School opening on Monday 7 February, with year level specific details below.

Staffing Update

Further to announcements made in my letter to families on Tuesday 14 December 2021, I can now inform you of the following staff changes for the new school year.

- Kylie Toogood will be part-time as one of the Early Learning Centre Teachers, replacing Emma-Jayne Daddow three days per week.
- Stacey Hombsch will also move into an Early Learning Centre teaching role and will be well known to families, having been an ESO with us for two years.
- Luke Allen will commence as a full time ESO for the new Reception to Year 3 Small Class.
- Shannon O'Brien will commence one day each in both Year 1 classes, working with Kirsty Watson and Marizelle van Altena, who are the other Year 1 teachers.
- Craig Farlam will teach three days per week as the Year 4 Teacher working with Joel Munro; Craig replaces Jess Leslie who has stepped into the acting Deputy Principal role replacing Cameron Lock for 12 months.
- Jennifer Ongalo has been appointed as a Middle and Senior School English Teacher.
- Elisabeth Murray has been appointed to replace Veronica Greenfield, Junior School ESO.
- Natalie Perkins has been appointed as our acting Enrolments Officer for Term 1 while Anne Bryant takes long-service leave.
- Tanya Mikhail will work in the Uniform Shop throughout Term 1, replacing Sue Dalton; many will know her as a volunteer who has previously assisted Sue so well.
- Craig Sanders has been appointed to our Grounds, Property and Maintenance team, replacing Paul Logan for 12 months.

At the end of this letter, you will find introductions to new staff, including a photo where possible.

School Start

Firstly, **Vacation Care** is going ahead for those already booked. Families will have received separate communication regarding the programme from Kelly Carter, ELC Director.

It is our intention to maximise learning experiences for all students, irrespective of whether they are learning at home or at school in Week 1 and beyond. In preparation for your child/ren's learning, please note the following.

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1. Students in ELC, Reception, Year 1, Year 7 and Year 8 will return to school and experience face to face learning as normal from Monday 7 February. Only parents/carers of Reception and ELC students will be allowed on site and will be required to adhere to all COVID precautions including mask wearing, social distancing, QR code checking in and remaining outdoors.
2. **Year 12 students** will remain at home during Week 1 (7 - 11 February) to receive home-based learning support, as will students in Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11. Our Year 11 and Year 12 students have combined classes for many subjects so we could not have Year 12 at school with Year 11 at home simultaneously.
3. Vulnerable students and children of essential/critical workers will return to school and be supervised by staff by attending the classroom shown on their timetable, whilst accessing the learning from home programme with the rest of their cohort online.
4. Vulnerable students and children of essential/critical workers must have their planned attendance booked by using the form accessed via this link: <https://bit.ly/3tCqxsC>
5. We will issue laptops to new students and those who do not already have a school issued laptop for all students in Years 4 to Year 12. Please see below.
6. Learning will be conducted via Dojo for Junior School students, supplemented by Zoom for Years 4 to 6. Canvas (our online learning management system) will continue to be used for all students in Middle and Senior School.
7. For ICT technical support for students and parents (e.g. login issues), please phone this number 1300 Tyndale (1300 896 325).
8. Students must bring water bottles to school, so that they do not need to use the drink fountains with their mouths.
9. Classrooms will be well ventilated by leaving doors and windows open, unless extreme temperatures require the use of air conditioners.
10. Reminder, all parents/caregivers will be required to wear masks when at school. Students from Year 7 to Year 12 will be required to wear masks whilst indoors. Students from Year 3 to Year 6 are strongly encouraged to wear masks whilst indoors.
11. Students accessing our **OSHC** before and after school service will still be able to do so, however, they will be kept separated from the ELC students.
12. All students and staff must stay home if unwell, even if symptoms are mild.
13. Counselling support will still be provided, and student appointments can be made via the Wellbeing tab on the School's website. All new students will receive an appointment invitation from one of our counsellors once all students have returned on site. Additionally, parents may request an appointment for their child using the link below.
<https://tyndaleschool.force.com/posimente/s/parentconcern?Location=Strathalbyn>

Uniform Shop Opening Hours

Booking is now essential, so please do not arrive at the shop without using this booking system first. Please use this link. <https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code/nqj3f>

- Thursday 27 January – 8:00am to 4:00pm by appointment only.
- Friday 28 January – 8:00am to 4:00pm by appointment only.
- 15-minute allocations per child have been provided over the two days.

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Things to consider:

1. All current families who know their uniform needs and sizes will NOT require an appointment for a fitting, e.g. hat or next size up shirt. Please pre-order using the form on our website (link below) and email to Tanya Mikhail at TanyaMikhail@tyndale.sa.edu.au.
<https://tyndale.sa.edu.au/app/uploads/sites/4/2022/01/ST-Uniform-Price-List.pdf>
Your order will be put together with payment taken over the phone and will be ready for collection on Thursday 3 February. No appointment on the above days is required.
2. If you are a family with more than three children requiring uniform or a new family to the school requiring a **full fit out**, a minimum of two time slots will be necessary.
3. If your children are learning at home for the first week, you might like to consider postponing a uniform fit out.

The Uniform Shop will reopen from Monday 7 February at the regular school term times of:

- Monday 8:30am to 10:00am
- Wednesday 2:30pm to 4:00pm
- Friday 8:30am to 10:00am

Bookings for Week 1 and Week 2 (at a minimum) will be essential.

Stationery, Textbook and Laptop Collection

In order to reduce the number of times families need to attend the School to collect materials, the originally planned stationery and laptop collection days will be combined into one day – **Thursday 3 February**. Attendance will be by appointment only.

Please use this link to book: <https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code/czv9k>

The collection day will run from 8:00am to 5:00pm in the Gymnasium. Thirty-minute timeframes have been provided for up to 15 families at a time over the course of the day. For those collecting a **laptop**, you will be asked to sign an agreement stating your acceptance of Tyndale Christian School's Terms and Conditions. For your review, links to the Device Agreement and the Acceptable User Agreement are below.

Acceptable Use Agreement:

<https://tyndale.sa.edu.au/app/uploads/sites/4/2022/01/Acceptable-Use-Agreement.pdf>

Device Agreement:

<https://tyndale.sa.edu.au/app/uploads/sites/4/2022/01/ST-Device-Agreement-2022.pdf>

Year 10 students who retained their laptop from Year 9 in 2021 will need to bring their current laptop to school to handover before they can receive their new laptop. Originally, there was a predicted delay in the delivery of new devices. Fortunately, they have arrived on time. Please be aware returned devices will be subject to a physical inspection to assess their condition. Charges for damage may apply.

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Calendar Changes

A list of events cancelled or postponed are below.

- Stationery Collection Day – postponed to Thursday 3 February (details above)
- Acquaintance Night, Thursday 3 February – **cancelled**
- Commencement Service, Wednesday 9 February – **cancelled**
- Year 7 and Year 8 Camp, 16-18 February – **postponed** to June
- Student Leadership Training – date to be determined
- Swimming Carnival, Friday 4 March – **postponed**, new date to be determined
- Tiny Tyndalians Playgroup is cancelled for all of Term 1

School Buses

If you are a new family requiring bus travel, our bus coordinator Bruce Cameron will call you closer to the start of the school year to confirm your route and stop details. If you have questions relating to bus travel in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact Bruce on 0427 528 774 or by email to BruceCameron@tyndale.sa.edu.au.

Carparking on 26 East Terrace Property

The Geue family have very generously permitted members of the Strathalbyn community, including School staff, students and family members, to park on the southern side of their home adjacent to the School's driveway for many years. This access has never been taken for granted by the School and always been a privilege for which we are grateful.

I met with the Geue's over the break to discuss the deteriorating condition of the retaining wall on our shared boundary, which runs along the School driveway. The Geue's have since written to me withdrawing their permission for members of the public to park vehicles on their property. We respect and support this decision, noting that the same message will need to be conveyed to all members of the wider community. This decision has come into immediate effect, so please action accordingly. I have written a reply to the Geue's thanking them for their generosity in allowing use of their property for the purpose of carparking over many years.

If you have any new school year related questions, please contact the school via phone on 8536 5400 or email strathalbyn@tyndale.sa.edu.au. Note, our Administration staff return to work on Monday 24 January 2022.

Finally, as the Omicron variant moves through the population, my prayer is that you and all of your loved ones remain safe and as well as possible.

Yours sincerely

Sam Cheesman, Principal

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New Staff Introductions

Reception - Year 3 Learning Support Small Class ESOs

Hi, my name is Luke Allen and I am super excited to be starting in the ESO role in 2022. I have spent the last ten years working in Early Childhood Education as an educator and directing a local youth theatre group on the South Coast. I live with my wife and two children in Mt Barker, and in my spare time I love to make short films and getting out into nature as much as possible. I can't wait to join the Tyndale family, and I look forward to getting to know everyone!



Hi, my name is Melanie Fergusson. I am a mother of two beautiful children. I live on a farm and love country life. We have a lot of different animals, cows, sheep, ducks and a dog. I enjoy a wide range of sports; Netball is where my strength lies. I have also worked in a leadership role with our Church youth group, and I love to sing! I am excited to be joining this team in educating your children and being a part of their growth socially, emotionally, and intellectually. I have enjoyed developing relationships with students who will be a part of the small class this year. It brings me such joy to assist the students in their journey of reaching their full potential.



Small Class Teachers

Louise Davies initially found her love for teaching and learning in North Wales, United Kingdom before her calling to emigrate to Adelaide in 2010. She is a highly experienced, passionate, and dedicated Early Years and Junior School Educator, who devotes her time to investing in each and every child and to instill a love for learning. In her spare time Louise loves to spend time taking advantage of the amazing opportunities that South Australia affords with her husband, son, and lovingly pampered Border Collie. Louise is really looking forward to being part of the Tyndale community where she knows inclusive Christian education, excellence and close community relationships are at our heart.



Hello, my name is Melanie Macrow and I love learning! One of my favourite things is to see children understanding new concepts and getting to know the special way that God made them to be as an individual. Together with my husband I have five children and I have my first grandchild on the way. As a family we enjoy exploring new places, spending time outdoors admiring God's beautiful creation, gardening, and doing puzzles during holiday times. I also love cooking for lots of people, doing artworks of various kinds, and having a cup of quality tea. This year I am looking forward to joining the Tyndale family, meeting new families, growing with students and staff, and continuing my learning journey through my teaching.



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Junior School ESO

Hello, I'm Elisabeth Murray and am excited to be starting at Tyndale Strathalbyn as an ESO. I've recently moved from Sydney where I worked for 8 years at a large Christian school, focusing on secondary Maths. My husband is Australian and I am English. We have three young adult children, and our youngest begins a degree at Adelaide Uni this year. For my degree I majored in Physics and French. I love working in Christian education as it gives me the opportunity to serve school families in a context where Jesus is honoured. I particularly enjoy helping students to reach their potential and flourish as learners. I'm really looking forward to getting to know the Tyndale Strathalbyn community.



Year 1 Teacher

Hi, I'm Shannon O'Brien. I am a recent Early Childhood graduate from the University of South Australia. I am a committed, enthusiastic and passionate educator that loves learning from and working with early years students. I call the Southern Fleurieu Peninsula home and love spending time with family and friends. I'm an avid book lover and I cannot wait to share that love with the students. I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to work in a professional environment that fosters Christian education and cannot wait to meet you all in the near future.

Year 4 Teacher

My name is Craig Farlam and I am from Liverpool, England. I love sports, in particular soccer, basketball and cricket. I also love mountain biking and kayaking. My chill out time involves me jamming on my guitar. I have been an Outdoor Instructor since I was about 18 and I have also worked for Baptist Care in the Emergency care department. I moved to Australia nine years ago after meeting my wife, Brianna, in Scotland. We have three awesome kids, Summer who is 6, Micah who is 4 and Reef who is 1; and a puppy called Paddington. I attend a local Baptist Church with my family and enjoy playing my guitar in the worship band. I am excited to be taking on a new chapter and joining Tyndale Christian School!



Secondary English Teacher

Ms Jennifer Ongalo is from Kenya via Melbourne. She has taught English and English as an Additional Language in Kenya, USA, Costa Rica, and England, having held positions of responsibility including Head of Faculty and Deputy Principal. Getting to know the students, interacting with them, and sharing their learning experiences are her favourite parts of teaching.

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