

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

The partnership with the University of Adelaide began in 2011 with the launch of Adelaide Compass . The links between our school and the University of Adelaide have grown dramatically since that beginning in May, 2011.

Our programs now are many and varied across all aspects of the University.

Adelaide Compass

This program is based on the successful 'Compass – find your way to higher education' program run by the University of Sydney since 2009. Mark Oliphant College B-12 was the pilot school for the program. We were awarded a NAB Schools First Grant in 2011, to develop the Adelaide Compass model that would work in the northern region of Adelaide.

The key goal of Adelaide Compass is to build attainment and aspiration within selected school communities, showing students that university study is possible, practical and achievable for them. Many of the students involved do not have close friends or family members pursuing higher education and consequently do not view it as a realistic pathway, with practical benefits for them. By increasing familiarity with university campuses, staff and students through visits to the University and hosting university staff and students at local schools, perceptions about the relevance and accessibility of university study can change.

Adelaide Compass is a curriculum linked program that says clearly to students that what they learn at school is directly linked to what they can aspire to do after they leave school.

A range of strategies are used to engage students including activities such as cultural and / or learning activities at the University, University experience days, programs and activities at primary and secondary schools supported by University students and staff and homework/ study groups supported by University students.

Teaching Partnership School

We have a teaching partnership the School of Education (Faculty of the Arts). An important part of this is the placement of pre-service teachers at MOC. This resulted in MOC being awarded both a Mentor Teacher of the year award (2014) and Teaching Partnership Award (2014)

We have also negotiated for units of the Masters of Education to be delivered at MOC to our staff.

Confucius Institute

A critically important development has been in our work with the Confucius Institute. This partnership supported the introduction of Chinese Language and Chinese Cultural Studies into our curriculum through the sharing of resources and expertise. They have also supported our cultural awareness programme through staff visits to China.

Children's University

Children's University (CU) is run in Australia by the Adelaide University. The parent organisation is the Children's University Trust. The trust operates through more than 100 centres across the UK and Europe.

The basic premise is that activities must take place outside the normal school day and are always voluntary. Activities can include clubs which run before school, during lunchtime, after school or at weekends and during holidays. The learning is linked to higher education course provision. All activities are validated/checked by the Adelaide University Children's University representatives for the quality of learning they provide.

In December 2012 representatives of MOC attended the CU conference in Manchester, UK. They were convinced it had the potential to provide the umbrella for many of the activities the college wanted to provide as part of an extended school day program. In August 2013 the first pilot group began the program. Thirty four students began a vacation and after schools program. Activities included visits to the Museum, Art Gallery, Glee Club, Sports, Cooking- and many more.

Twenty two of these students completed the requisite 30 hours in under eight weeks! These students attended the first ever CU Graduation in Australia- held at Bonython Hall University of Adelaide on Monday 25th November 2013.

The program continued in 2014 with over forty students graduating and many more participating.