

Access Gazette

Providing OAC students with a voice and access to school news.

In This Issue

- **Creative writing pieces: short stories**
- **Learn some school strategies to help you at OAC**
- **Space news and science facts**
- **A great recipe for muffins and a chicken stir fry**
- **Amazing artwork and photography!**

Access Gazette

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Final Edition for 2022!

Welcome to our last edition for 2022 at Open Access!

In this brand new edition of the Access Gazette, we have work from students across the College, including creative writing, recipes, and artwork. Please read and enjoy the content. As we near the end of the school year, we want to wish you a wonderful and safe holiday break and we will see you back next year!

Congratulations to all of our Year 12 graduates and we wish them all the best for their future.

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Writing Pieces

Disclaimer: If you find any content within this magazine uncomfortable, please chat with your Student Wellbeing Leader or visit [Beyond Blue](#)



Here are some excellent writing pieces and reviews by our fellow students: please read and enjoy!

Crazy What Love Can Do

Story by Noah, Year 11

Inspired by David Guetta *Crazy What Love Can Do*

She sighed, *I do truly hate these outings*. All we seem to do is see some pompous gentleman's fancy mansion. Alexandra settled back into the settee, bored, and stifled a yawn. If only there were someone or something truly interesting. "And pray tell, Ms Densmore, what is your opinion of the estate?", came a voice, breaking through her yearning. It was Mr Highland.

"It is quite large," Alexandra replied simply, "however, I rather think it incredulous that our society still stands when its higher class seems intent on out-performing and out-dazzling each other." Mr Highland didn't move, his face frozen in shock. An awkward moment passed.

"I could do with some refreshments," broke Mrs Densmore.

"Oh, yes of course," replied Mr Highland hurriedly.

"Alexandra was quite liberal with her opinion today, at Mr Highland's," dropped Mrs Densmore.

"My dear Alexandra ...".

"But Papa, these outings are so boring!" cried Alexandra, interrupting.

"That's not the point and you know it," countered Mr Densmore, "outings and seeing our neighbours is a part of our society and so you must somehow manage to bear it." Alexandra rolled her eyes in disgust, playing with her dinner.

"There is a new person in town at the moment," said Mrs Densmore, changing topic. "Goes by the name of Mr Henry. I hope you don't mind Mr Densmore, but I have invited him over for tea sometime."

Leaning back, he replied, "Yes, I have heard of him. That should be fine."

"Papa! How could you?!"

"Calm down Alexandra," consoled Mr Densmore. "We don't need Rasher; we have plenty of others. Mr Henry loves horses and will take good care of him".

"But I had a connection with him!" she wailed.

"Seriously, Alexandra, it's just a horse," piped Mrs Densmore, bewildered.

"I am so fed up with everyone!" cried Alexandra, running off. Her heart pounded with every step, as she dashed to the muddy stables. Wiping tears away, Alexandra grabbed a horse and galloped off. *I hate the way things are, they are so...so...so stifling*, she sobbed, clutching the reins. *It's like I have no air to breathe.*

Crazy What Love Can Do

Story by Noah , Year 11

Mama and Papa will be sitting down for tea around now. Mr Henry will be coming over too, thought Alexandra melancholically. *I hope he likes Rasher and takes good care of him.* Alexandra recalled what Mr Henry said to her and her father, "...the fresh wind on my face when horse riding is invigorating". Alexandra sobbed again, riding on, I will miss Rasher; there will be no one to talk to about the problems with this society.

As the sky darkened, Alexandra thought to herself, *I have got to get out of this storm.* She shivered. It was raining hard and soaking her through to her bones. All sense of direction went as the storm came, leaving her cold and lost. *Was that a hoof beat?* She raised her head, turning in that direction. It was Mr Henry!

"Miss Densmore! Are you all right?" came Mr Henry, slowing down.

"Just a tad wet," replied Alexandra.

Mr Henry's eyes twinkled, "If you wanted a swim, you should have organised to go to the coast". Alexandra grinned broadly. "I hope you don't mind my asking, but why did you run away, let alone in a storm, anyhow? It's dreadfully cold."

"Because our society is dreadful. Cover me in gold or wrap me in diamonds, nothing this society can buy will win my heart, ever," replied Alexandra with determination, sitting straight in the saddle. Mr Henry nodded understandingly.

Days later, Alexandra was still in bed fighting off a cold. Mr Henry came around the morning after to check on her, but during those days she had lots of time to think. *I can't believe what's happening to me. I have been hating this society and all of a sudden, this gentleman comes along. I obviously didn't care for anyone else, but now I do. I had given up on romance until Mr. Henry. It's crazy what love can do.* Smiling happily, Alexandra drifted back off to sleep.

The Wonders of 2040

Story by Elodie, Year 7

Brrrrriiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiing. My eyes flew open. The world was a blur. I blinked and rubbed my eyes. As things started to come into focus I realised I was outside. When I sat up I realised I had been lying on a roof. *Where am I?* I thought to myself. There was something strangely familiar about this place but I couldn't place it. When the incessant ringing finally stopped, I realised it was a recess bell, but not just any school bell, it was my school. Or at least kind of. The roof looked like mine but it was covered with plants and all the roofs that I could see were the same. I got up and went over to the stairs which looked pretty much the same, just a different colour. 'What is going on?' I went down the stairs, and walked to my classroom, but when I peeked inside it was not Mrs Simon that I saw but some other younger woman. *A relief teacher maybe?* I wondered. As I stood there, a teacher rounded the corner and saw me. "Excuse me, what are you doing out of class?"

"Um, I was just about to head in. I came from the bathroom," I added hoping it was more convincing. She looked at me with a bored expression, "Alright, well best you head in now," she replied. I sighed and walked in. The teacher wearing a badge that said Miss Philips looked up as I entered. "Hello, what can I do for you?"

"Um, sorry I'm late. I'm new here."

"Huh, strange nobody notified me. You sure you're in the right class?"

"Um, yep"

"Ok, well you just sit down then, we were just about to start history."

I found a seat near the back and sat down. Miss Philips started talking about the terrible events of Covid in 2020, which was just another thing to add to my list of confusing things. When the class was finished I got up and followed everybody else out into the hall. A girl came up to me and said, "Hi, I'm Miriam. You can stick with me today if you like."

"Thanks, that would be great. I'm Autumn by the way."

"Nice to meet you," she responded with a bright smile. I walked with Miriam to the next class which was science. When we were all settled in our seats the teacher began talking about the self-driving cars and the plants that were everywhere. "Did you know that even just 20 years ago they were still driving and owning their own cars, and only some of them were electric? And there were hardly any plants in the city."

'Umm...okay... weird, apparently I'm from 20 years ago.' After that class, it was time for lunch so I sat at a table with Miriam and some of her friends. Thankfully, there was a canteen so I was able to get food. "This is Lily and Mia," she was saying. They both smiled though not as brightly as Miriam. Miriam had medium-length dark brown hair and tan skin, she had hazel eyes and lots of freckles all over, even on her arms. She seemed to have a permanent smile stuck to her face and an easygoing attitude. As for me, people always say that I am the spitting image of my mum, which I take as a compliment because my mum is very beautiful.

I have long auburn hair and dark chocolate brown eyes, or at least that's what I like to describe them as because I just love dark chocolate. After lunch, there were a bunch more classes and I was relieved when the bell finally rang.

The Wonders of 2040

As we were walking out of class Miriam asked, “So, you coming to the school footy game today? You can come with me if you want.” Not wanting to leave the only person I knew in this strange new world, I agreed, so we set off towards the bus stop.

“We just have to stop at my place on the way if that's ok with you,” she commented as we hopped on the bus to her house. She lived in a very nice apartment with her parents, whom I met there. They were both very warm and shared Miriam's bright smile, though Miriam resembled her dad more. After that, we hopped back on the bus to the oval. About halfway through the game, Miriam got a call from her parents asking if she was still with me, something about the school realising I didn't actually attend there. She looked at me, smiled and then told her parents that I had left halfway through the match.

“Thank you so much, and before you ask I can't really explain why, but just know that you have really helped me.”

“O...k?” She replied, half smiling.

“Oh and one more thing, do you know a place where I can stay the night?”

“Tell you what, come to my house at 10 pm and come around to the back. I will let you in my window and you can sleep there. Sound good?” I thanked her again and we settled back in to watch the final quarter. After she left I wandered around the city for hours observing and taking everything in. I found a park to lay around in and then Hungry Jacks for dinner. At 9:30 pm I hopped on a bus to her house. When I arrived I looked around trying to act inconspicuous but thankfully there was no one around. Their gate wasn't locked so I eased it open and slipped through. Walking in a half crouch I carefully walked around to the back feeling very nervous. After what felt like an eternity I made it to the back window. It was dark inside but I could see Miriam pretending to sleep in her bed. I lightly tapped the window and she jumped up to unlock it.

“Hi, thank you again,” I whispered.

“No problem, my parents just went to bed,” she whispered back. There was a bean bag in the corner of her room which she had thrown some blankets and pillows on so I curled up and closed my eyes, quickly drifting off into a deep sleep.

Brrrrrrriiiiiing. My eyes flew open. The world was a blur. I blinked and rubbed my eyes. As things started to come into focus I realised I was lying on the floor of my room. I sat up and walked to my window feeling a strange sense of *deja vu*. I heard my mum answering the phone downstairs and everything outside looked normal to me. I breathed a sigh of relief.

In the following weeks, I gathered up all the information I had learnt in 2040 and presented it to my science teacher. It included all the info I knew about self-driving cars and the plants to clear pollution and the solar grids on every roof. I ended up winning an award for it. As weird as my trip to 2040 was, I was glad I had it because I was able to discover so many things and help so many people.

Love is a Feeling

Story by Issy, Year 8

Love is a feeling. A feeling I feel for my ベストフレンド、 Kaito. He's calm and collected, he soars through work like it's nothing. The opposite of me. I can barely get anything above C-. My brain is full of music and working on friendships. I'm basically friends with everyone at my school. People call me bubbly, bright and 美しい. I find Kaito fascinating, he's always reading or doing work. Sometimes I can find him in the art room making a new masterpiece. He's so nice to me. My heart skips a beat whenever he's around, and when we touch. あの, I melt. I don't know if he's noticed yet, but I かも知れない want him to. The way his ウバタマ hair falls in front of his deep ちゃいろ eyes, and that scar on his right cheek. It's hella 格好いい.

I was walking down the school corridor, with the こうしょく mustard wallpaper, trying to take my eyes off him but I couldn't. "Akemi, are you listening?" Kaito asked me.

I immediately made my back straight and tilted my head a bit. "Sorry, what were we talking about?" It was hard to focus when my hand was so close to his. He suddenly got オタオタ and put his hand on his backpack strap. I could see the red on his cheeks as he tried to carry on the conversation. If only he looked and saw I was redder than him.

RING!!! The end of school finally! The school's いぬ came running up to me. "Hi, Tommy!" I said and leaned down to pet him. "Such a good boy!" I ruffled up his こんじき fur.

"What the hell," I said, holding my face. She's right there, being too dang 可愛い. I couldn't help but check her out. I know I shouldn't since she's my ベストフレンド but I couldn't help it. The way her eyes light up at the sight of me makes my heart flutter. Those gorgeous hazel eyes. Don't get me started on the way her long ころ hair falls over her shoulder. I could tell people were looking at my cheeks redden at the sight of her bent down. "Oi, Kaito! Just kiss her already!" one of the most annoying いじめっこ on the planet yelled. I clenched my fists at the sight of him. "Stop picking on him, jerk face!" Akemi suddenly bounced in front of me like her life depended on it. She has so much 自信, it's one thing I admire most about her. He immediately backed off like she was the leader of the school. If only I could get the 自信 to do that. That probably won't happen anytime soon.... I'll just smile and nod when I get saved. Then it hit me, her scent. バニラ、 sweet sweet バニラ. I wanted to hug her so badly but I couldn't. Not yet.

Science facts!

By Tayla

Science is fun! So here are some Fun facts about science!

A surprising fact is that cold water heats up faster than hot water! This is known as the Mpemba effect. (Good thing to keep in mind the next time you're cooking pasta)!

A jellyfish which is said to be immortal has been discovered! The *Turritopsis dohrnii* jellyfish can technically live forever.

The Great Barrier Reef is the largest living structure on Earth. It covers roughly 350,000 square kilometers and is over 2,000 kilometers long. It is the only single living entity visible from space.

There are approximately 50 billion galaxies that we know of in the wider universe. That's impossibly big when you consider that we are only a very small part of the Milky Way!

Food & Media

By: Elodie, Year 7



Food has come a long way in recent years, in many ways, but one of the ways it has changed the most is in media. Nowadays we have cooking shows like The Great British Bake-off or Master Chef, and Youtube channels, all surrounding food, like Tasty. These channels not only give you recipes and tutorials but they also make fun challenges related to food (e.g make a three course meal with these ingredients). But it doesn't stop there, we have people who don't do anything even remotely connected to food but are doing food related challenges as some of their content. And one of the biggest changes is that there are so many food hacks or easy recipes going around on things like TikTok or Youtube. Food has become a very interesting and entertaining content topic to watch even if you aren't very good at cooking yourself.

A blog comes from the term weblog which was later shortened to just blog. A blog is a site where someone writes about a certain topic. A blog about food, for example, could hold all sorts of things, like recipes, reviews, news, and basically anything else related to food.

A vlog on the other hand is a video log meaning it is just someone documenting something by filming (e.g someone vlogging their day would just be them filming what they are doing). But vlogging, when it comes to food, would be someone filming the process of them creating or eating food, take TikTok as an example. There are so many cute aesthetic videos of people filming the process of making a food or drink as well as hacks and easy recipes.

The question is: why do people do this? Well there are multiple reasons but the most obvious is for people's enjoyment. Lots of people find it entertaining to watch a short cute clip of someone making food or to read a blog about food and learning new things. That brings me to the second reason which is: they are informative, if someone wants to know how to do something it is so easy to just look up a recipe either in video form or in written form.

Space news!

By Tayla

Full Lunar Eclipse

A full lunar eclipse happened on the 8/11/22. The moon appeared red for around 3-4 hours! What makes this so special is that this was the last lunar eclipse until March 2025!



Photos by Tayla

Artwork

Waterloo Collage



This is a collage of the hill at Waterloo, Belgium. This was done by a student who lives in Belgium for an Art class. They had to choose a landmark and she chose this one because it is somewhere she has actually been. The art is inspired by Jeanie Baker who does collages using nature (e.g. real grass).

By Elodie, Year 7

Artwork

Cherry Blossoms in Spring

By Catherine, Year 2



Artwork

Digital Art by Todd, Year 7

This is some digital art that I made using an online photo editor called Photopea. I removed the background of the image, and then edited it.

Red Pandas are endangered, mostly due to habitat loss. They live mainly in China, in the Eastern Himalayas, but the forests they live in are being cleared, forcing them to be driven out of their home.

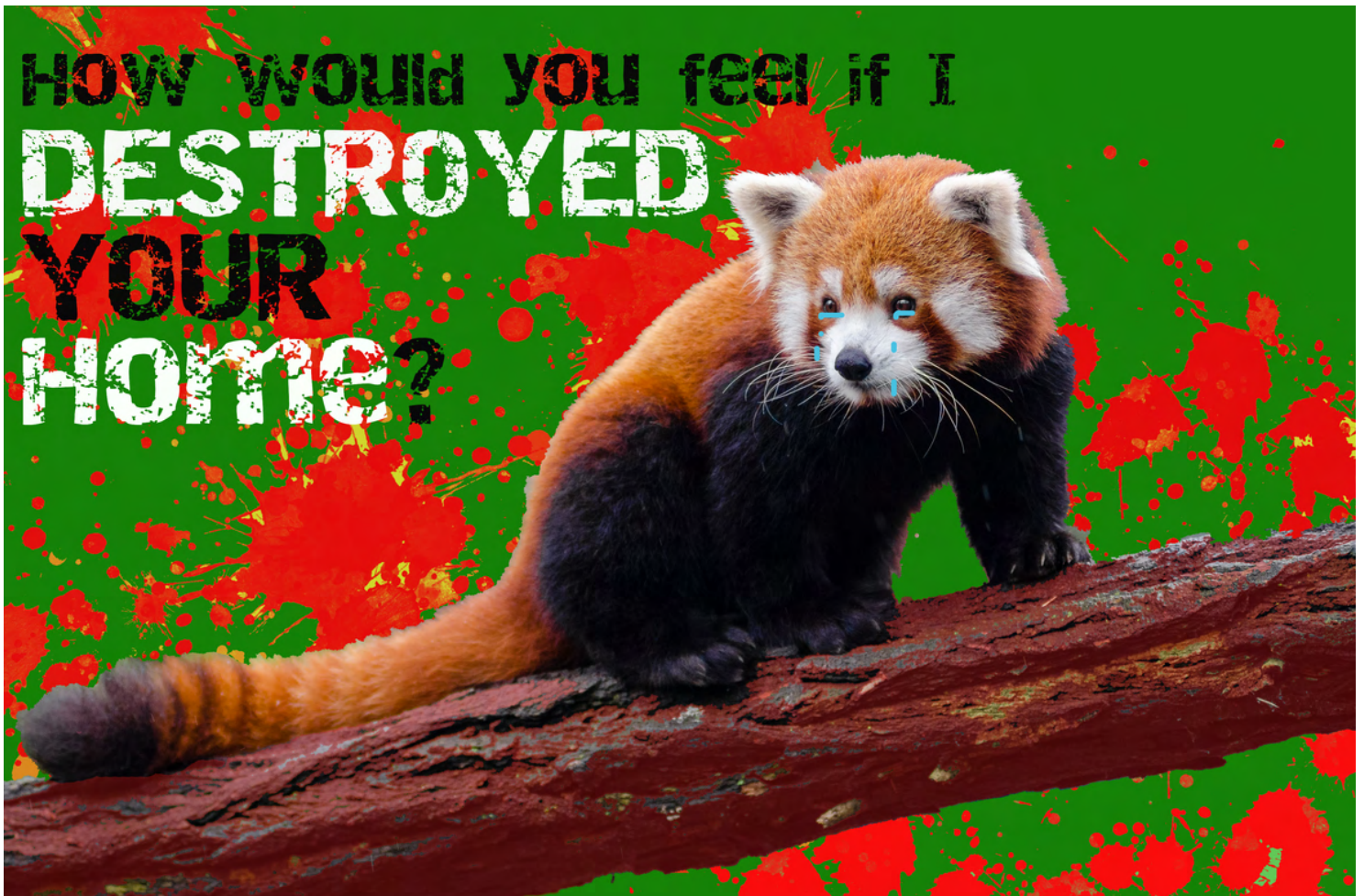


Photo Credit: Wikipedia

Artwork

Digital Art by
Daniel, Year 12



Photography

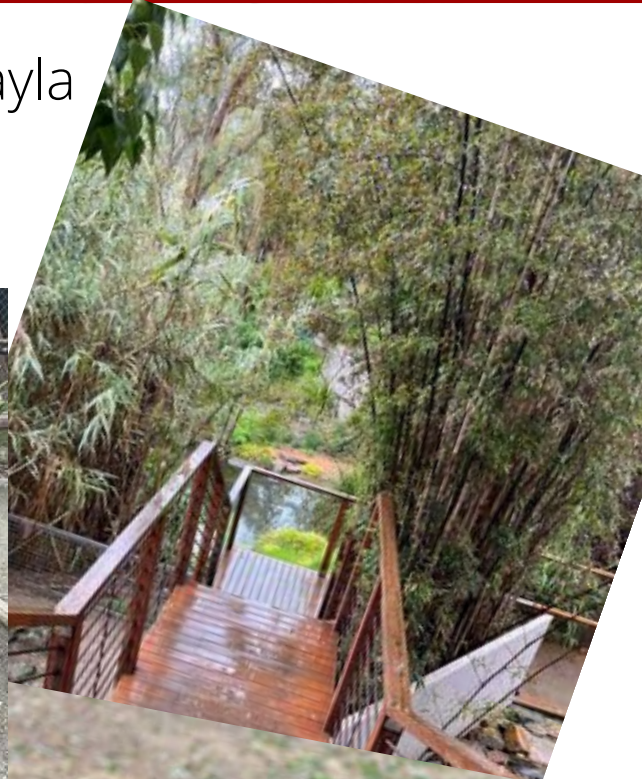


Photography and Digital Art Composite
by Daniel, Year 12



Photography

Photography by Tayla



Photography

Animal photography by Todd, Year 7



Photography

Photography by Todd, Year 7.



Fashion Design

Fashion Design By Aida, Year 10

These jeans were created by a Year 10 student Aida, when she altered them for a fashion design class. She cut out the knees and bleached them before sewing them back together and then added some embroidery to the bleached part.



Recipes

On the next pages, we have some beautiful and delicious looking recipes for you to try. Enjoy!

Chocolate Chunk Banana Muffins

Chicken Noodle Stir Fry

Photos and recipes by Elodie, Year 7



Choc Chunk Banana Muffins

Ingredients

- 1 & 1/2 c of plain flour
- 2/3 c of sugar
- 1 & 1/2 tsp of baking powder
- 1/4 tsp of salt
- 1 c of mashed up banana
- 1 large egg
- 1/2 c or 113g of unsalted butter (melted)
- 1/4 c of milk
- 1/3 c of choc chunks

Method

- 1** Preheat oven to 150°C & line muffin tray with cupcake liners.
- 2** Mix flour, sugar, baking powder and salt in a large bowl.
- 3** Mix mashed bananas, egg, melted butter & milk in a medium bowl.
- 4** Stir banana mixture into the dry ingredients until just combined.
- 5** Stir in choc chunks.
- 6** Divide the batter between the cupcake liners, fill them up until about 3/4 full.
- 7** Bake until the tops are a pale gold or about 30 minutes.

Choc Chunk Banana Muffins



And here are
the results



By: Elodie, Year 7

Chicken Noodle Stir-Fry

Ingredients

- Noodles (Udon)
- 86g Carrots
- 136g Broccoli
- 130g Snow peas
- 3 Button Mushrooms sliced
- 93g or 1/2 a Bok Choy
- 1 Chicken breast
- 1 Onion (red or yellow)
- 4 cloves Garlic
- Ginger

For the sauce:

- 1/4 c Soy sauce
- 2 tbsp Mirin
- 1 1/2 tbsp Hoisin
- 1 1/2 tbsp Brown sugar
- 2 tsp Cornstarch



By: Elodie, Year 7

Chicken Noodle Stir-Fry

Method

1. Prep your chicken & veggies by chopping them into bite-sized pieces.
2. Prep sauce by adding all the sauce ingredients into a bowl or jug and whisk until combined.
3. Heat oil in a wok. Then add your meat to the wok and stir until cooked all the way through before removing from the wok.
4. Using the same wok add your onions, garlic and ginger. Stir until lightly cooked.
5. Add veggies to the onions and cook until soft but not overly soft or mushy.
6. Once cooked, add chicken, noodles and sauce. Stir until everything is heated/re-heated and well coated.
7. Garnish with spring onions & sesame seeds then serve.

Note: Once the sauce is added to the stir-fry if it is too thin just add a little more cornstarch and if it is too thick and gluggy add a little water.

By : Elodie, Year 7

School Strategies

Struggling with motivation?

- Use a candle, incense, or diffuser
- Put on 'easy listening' music
- Make a drink
- Use natural light

Don't understand the task?

- Re-read through it
- Ask parent or friend
- Send teacher email
- Put aside until I know what I am doing

Not enjoying the task?

- Use highlighters/colours
- Play my favourite music
- Look for a positive in the task

Tips:

- Write down helpful notes as well as your struggles
- 25 minute work timer, 5 minute break
- Not heaps of tabs open at once - overwhelming
- Phone on silent, can check in breaks
- Lists!!!
- Ask for help - no question is dumb

Remember...

It doesn't matter how or when you get to where you want to be, as long as it works for you and you don't stop trying.

Acknowledgements

Student Gazette Team

- Todd (Year 7)
- Elodie (Year 7)
- Tayla (Year 8)

Student Contributors to this Edition

- Catherine (Year 2)
- Todd (Year 7)
- Elodie (Year 7)
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- Daniel (Year 12)
- Noah (Year 11)
- Madz (Year 11)

Teacher Team

These are the teachers who organised, supervised and encouraged the students in the making of this digital newspaper.

- Gabrielle Mundie
- Kieran Hodgson
- Kristy Evans



THE ACCESS GAZETTE

JOIN OUR TEAM!

BE PART OF THE TEAM

The Access Gazette is a student-led magazine filled with work and writing from the students at Open Access College. Our team is made up of students from years 7-10 who collaborate on the magazine. By joining your team you will be able to help create the magazine, share your voice, and meet new friends!

OR

SEND US CONTENT

We would love to hear from you!

We are looking for any work that you would like to share!

- Artwork
- Creative Writing
- Articles
- Science Facts
- Recipes
- Game/Book Reviews
- Anything else you would like to share!

CONTACT US

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