

PERTH MODERN SCHOOL

Exceptional schooling. Exceptional students.



Harmony Week brings all cultures together

There was a fabulous vibe at Perth Modern School with staff and students celebrating Harmony Week. Throughout the week, students participated in various cultural activities and enjoyed a selection of cultural dishes from the Food for Thought cafe. It was a fabulous celebration of all the various cultures and places our student body hail from.

The event culminated in a dress-up day, with students wearing their cultural dress and enjoying a concert at lunchtime which included performances of Bollywood, K-pop and Spanish dance, Egyptian and Chinese traditional music, and Tamil martial arts.

A very special thank you to Year 10 Student Councillor, Mahek Aribenchi (pictured below far right), who organised the spectacular lunchtime concert—a new tradition for Perth Modern School—that attracted a very supportive crowd.

#EmbraceDiversity
See more on pages 10 and 11













PAGES 4–6 'Old Hollywood' Ball



PAGE 13 Art brings Modernians together



PAGES 26–27
Where are they now? Music at Mod

From the Principal

Harmony Week was a wonderful occasion for our students and staff to come together and celebrate and appreciate all the various cultural backgrounds they hail from. Perth Modern School has many students and families who have migrated from all over the world, seeking new opportunities and the fantastic lifestyle for which Australia is renowned. Since 1945, more than 7.5 million people have migrated to Australia and the Australian people identify with around 300 ancestries. Harmony Week is about celebrating those cultures and promoting the idea of all cultures and people living together in harmony. It was fabulous to see our students in their cultural dress, eating food from a variety of cultures, participating in the cultural activities, and celebrating the wonderful cultural performances at the special lunchtime concert. A special acknowledgment to Year 10 Student Councillor, Mahek Aribenchi, who organised the fantastic inaugural Harmony Week concert.

Term 1 was another fabulous and event-filled term, with one of the special highlights being the **Year 12 School Ball**, held at Optus Stadium. The students looked very glamorous and stylish in their gowns and suits, inspired by the theme of 'Old Hollywood.' The Hollywood-style decorations really added to the atmosphere, and there was even a paparazzi to greet students as they arrived. Thank you to Year 12 Coordinator **Scott Marshall** for coordinating the event, along with the members of the Ball Committee for their fantastic work and all staff in attendance.

The **2023 House Swimming Carnival** was another hotly contested affair with students enjoying battling it out for top honours. The atmosphere in the stands was electric, with students enthusiastically supporting their peers as they had fun racing in the water. The novelty events were also a tight contest. Ultimately, there can only be one winning House and, in 2023, that was **Downing**. Well done also to the swimmers from **Parsons** for winning the Novelty Cup.

Community Day, formerly called Mufti Day, was another fantastic event for students that allowed some time to relax and have fun outside of the classroom. Students were asked to dress up inspired by 'My Favourite Decade' for a gold coin donation. For their organisation, thank you to the Student Council led by Alison Soraru, all the stallholders, and the staff and students who participated. Around \$10,000 was raised for Meals on Wheels—a tremendous effort.

It was wonderful to hear about the connection made between Year 12 Student Benedict Widjaja and Modernian Gordon Ewers who is a spritely 107-year-old.

Benedict took part in the Centenarian Portrait Project and was assigned Gordon, a terrific match as they had so much on common. The amazing portrait that resulted is testament not only to Benedict's talent as a portrait artist, but also the friendship that was forged between the pair. More about this story features on page 13 of this newsletter.

Well done to our Student Council for organising a sensational **World's Greatest Shave** event that saw many students, and some staff, having their hair spray painted in bright colours for a gold coin donation. **Rishita Sarkar** in Year 12 had her significantly long hair chopped into a stylish bob with her hair being donated to a wig making charity. Money raised was donated to the Leukaemia Foundation, a very worthy cause.

It was another great year judging the Year 9 Improvisation Evening performances with my fellow judges, Manager of Senior Years, **Monica Franz**, and Drama Captain for 2023, Year 11 student **Sophie Harris**. Students displayed their on-the-spot brilliance and creativity, with plenty of laughs and thought-provoking moments on show. Congratulations to the winning team 'All That Jazz', featuring **Stella Anthony**, **Hannah Shaddick**, **Grace Dowley** and **Avash Shakya**, who took home the coveted Improvisation Cup.

Year 10 students attended the very informative and thought provoking **RAC bstreetsmart** event held at the RAC arena. It features a crash scene re-enactment with students seeing the possible consequences of an accident caused by drink driving, speeding and distracted driving. This is a very worthwhile event for students to attend as it really does open their eyes. Thank you to **Sarah Lightfoot** for organising our students to attend every year.

Perth Modern School held an **International Women's Day** Breakfast organised by Associate Principal **Robyn Verboon**. This event aims to celebrate women's achievements and promote a world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive.

Rowing at Mod has gotten underway in earnest, with students enjoying building their strength and fitness as well as the serenity of being on the beautiful Swan River. The Rowing Club is run by **Kate Holland** and is looking for new members—see page 29 for more information.

I congratulate the following students for their successes in Term 1:

- Chudy Isidienu and Jessica Bruining in Year 11 were both Grand Finalists in the WA Lions Youth of the Year competition.
- Ellie Malonzo in Year 9 has been announced as a winner of the MetSO Young Artist award for 2023.
- In the invitation only Australian
 Mathematics Olympiad, Joel Barris and Atharva Sathe in Year 11 and Max Judd

- in Year 12 achieved Silver medals, Rayden Oliveiro in Year 9 and Ethan Yap in Year 11 achieved Bronze Medals, with Beatrice **Chong** in Year 10 receiving a Participation.
- Rishita Sarkar, Grace Sinclair and Max Judd in Year 12 and Ethan Yap, Joel **Bariss** and **Atharva Sathe** in Year 11 took out First Prize in the MAWA Have Sum Fun Senior Competition, achieving a perfect score.
- Ethan Ang, Aadityapal Arora and **Ashvin Balavignan** in Year 7 and Sushree Mangla, Mark Lee and Sam Vallabhaneni in Year 8 achieved First Prize in the MAWA Have Sum Junior Competition.
- Catherine Yu, Rayden Oliveiro, and Jayden Yip in Year 9 and Ishika Balram, Beatrice Chong and Anoushka Gupta in Year 10 received First Prize in the MAWA Have Sum Middle Years Competition. This team also achieved a perfect score.
- Jaanhvi lyer in Year 7 has been selected for the School Sport WA Cricket 12 Girls' team.

- In the Table Tennis Australia National **Tour** in Canberra, **Jasmine Wu** in Year 10 won Gold in the U17 Girls Singles while younger sister **Chelsea Wu** in Year 8 claimed Bronze in U13 Girls Singles.
- **Kye Ng** in Year 7 has been selected to represent WA in the **Table Tennis Championships** at Olympic Park in Sydney in July, alongside the Wu sisters.
- Fearne Van Beek has won a State Title in Discus at the WA Track and Field **Championships**. She was also a silver medallist for Shot Put.
- **Jem McGrath** in Year 9 has won a bronze medal in the Under 13 Girls Épée.
- **Thomas Cooper** in Year 7 has been selected to represent Australia at the 2023 Optimist European Championship.
- In A Division SSWA Champion School Swimming, Tristan Lin was the Year 9 Boy Champion, Marc Dickson was the Year 11 Boy Runner Up, Heidi Gstaettner was the Year 10 Girl Runner Up and Sasha Ginige placed third for Year 9 Girls.

- **Jaun Yum** in Year 11 has been selected for the WA team for the **Pizzey Cup Tennis Tournament** being held in Canberra.
- Crystal Lee in Year 9 has won multiple singing and dancing awards at the **Showcase Australian Dance** Championships, Amadeus International Music Awards, Birmingham International Music Competition and **Euterpe Music Awards.**
- Conor Blycha in Year 12 is first in Australia in the 16/17 Years category in CrossFit, and fourth in the world. Last year, he ran 162 km in under 23 hours and raised \$2500 for the charity 12 Buckets.

Mitchell Mackay, Principal

New School Board Chair

Dr Bronwyn Rasmussen

Bronwyn works in the agricultural sector with more than 25 years' experience in the Australian sheep breeding industry. She is involved in sheep breeding research and teaching at Murdoch University and is the Chair of the Western Australian Livestock Research Council. Bronwyn is a member of the City Beach Residential College Local Input and Communication Committee and is Chair of the Geoff Rasmussen Fund Scholarship Board.



P&C Executive

Congratulations to the parents below who have been elected to the P&C Executive for 2023:

President

Monojeet (Jeet) Ghosh

Secretary **Steven Paradiss**

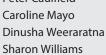
Jill Champion Treasurer

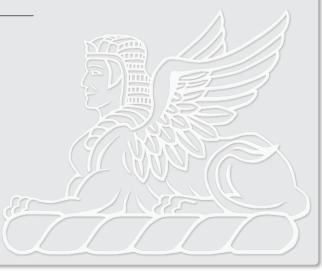
Executive Committee Shane Best

Vice-President

Peter Caulfield

Matheesha Jayasekera





Old Hollywood celebrated at the Year 12 Ball

DATE

DIRECTOR

CLASS OF 2023

SCOTT MARSHALL, HEAD OF YEAR 12



The Year 12 Ball was a glitzy affair, with most students dressing perfectly for the Old Hollywood theme ... even Miss Monroe made an appearance, dressed in her famous white dress.

Optus Stadium was the venue for the night, where football boots were traded in for high heels and shiny shoes.

Spirits were high and the ballroom looked an absolute treat, complete with red carpet, clapperboard and even some sneaky paparazzi upon entry, hoping to get a glimpse of our amazingly dressed Year 12 students.

The food was delicious, and the tunes were banging. The dance floor was always full, due to the quality of our DJ.

The vibe was super positive throughout, with students dancing, laughing, singing and having a great time all the way to the end of the evening.

Special mention to all the teachers that attended and helped make the evening such a success and the Year 12 students that were part of the Ball Committee, who put in so much hard work to make the evening a night to remember.



Best Dress: Esther Santoso

Best Suit: Spencer Scarporolo

Most Hollywood: Nicholas Burns-Richardson

Best Dancer: Greg Foster Best Vibes: Rohan Mendez

Most Adam Sandler: Gary Azam

Best Couple: Bryan Wee and Sophia Zhao

Most Likely to Win an Actual Oscar:

Emanuel Foundas



















Downing takes the House Swimming Carnival trophy

 (\downarrow)

It was a fabulous day at the House Swimming Carnival, with tremendous effort exerted in the pool and a fantastic atmosphere in the stands.

Well done to the swimmers from Downing, our House Swimming Carnival Trophy winner for 2023! Congratulations also to Parsons House for winning the Novelty Cup.













Well done also to our Year Champions and Runners Up below:

- Year 7 Female: Ella Ward (Downing)
 Runner Up: Madison Thiel (Parsons)
 Male: Olaf Jastalski (Brown)
 Runner Up: Griffin Murray (Sampson)
- Year 8 Female: Jacinta Kearney (Parsons)
 Runner Up: Arya Sims (Brown)
 Male: Sam Vallabhaneni (Sampson)
 Runner Up: Joseph Esler (Sampson)
- Year 9 Female: Sasha Ginige (Sampson)
 Runner Up: Stephanie White (Downing)
 Male: Tristan Lin (Sampson)
 Runner Up: Kenneth Cheong (Brown)
- Year 10 Female: Helen McCaul (Parsons)
 Runner Up: Amber Chai (Downing)
 Male: Harrison Sartori (Sampson)
 Runner Up: Aidan Jang (Downing)
- Year 11 Female: Madison Naylor (Sampson)
 Runner Up: Sarah Harris (Parsons)
 Male: Marc Dickson (Parsons)
 Runner Up: Santi Chua (Parsons)
- Year 12 Female: Lillie Sartori (Sampson) Runner Up: Kiara Arthur (Brown) Male: Ethan Chua (Brown) Runner Up: Arkie Disney (Parsons)





Brilliant vibe at Mod for Community Day



Community Day 2023 was a fantastic success, providing students with the opportunity to have some relaxation time outside of the classroom, join in some fun activities, play sport, listen to a student concert, eat some delicious food, and raise money for a great cause—Meals on Wheels.

Community Day is the new name for Mufti Day, with the name change representing the importance of the whole community coming together to enjoy themselves and raise money for a charity.

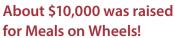
Well done to the Student Council, stallholders, staff and students for making the day such a great success.

Prize Winners

- Santi Chua (Year 11) PS4
- Aiden Papalia (Year 8) Airpods
- Claire Champion (Year 9) Office Works voucher \$200
- James Daubney (Year 12) Rebel voucher \$100
- Isaac Lee (Year 8) JB Hifi \$100
- Front Office Staff Coles voucher \$50
- Lewis Chen (Year 7) Nerf Gun

Thank you to our generous donors for their donation of great prizes:

- Data League: Pardha Saradhi Varada
- Alma Dental Surgery: Dee-Anna Luong
- · Mills Family
- Soumya Menon
- Kye Ng and Family
- · Bangayan Family





Community Day Prize Winners: Jessica Buchan (Front Office), Santi Chua, James Daubney, Claire Champion, Aiden Papalia and Lewis Chen (Isaac Lee not pictured).

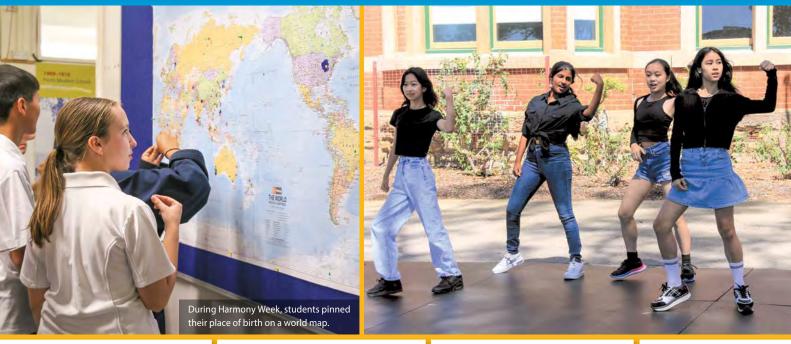








All cultures celebrated for Harmony Week @ Mod























Mini World Futsal Cup

AARON BELL,

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

During Harmony week, a mini 'World Cup' was held with students dressed in their teams' colours. We had team Brazil in yellow, Nigeria in green, England in white, China in red and Netherlands in orange. Students enjoyed a fun morning filled with goals, tackles and smiles.

Mod Futsal Club has been in full swing every Friday morning since the start of the year. Students have enjoyed learning the technical skills of the game, whilst interacting with their peers across Years 7 to 10.



World's Greatest Shave



Modernians, 90 years apart, connected by art



Perth Modern School student Benedict Widjaja has crafted a portrait of Western Australia's oldest man who graduated from the same school himself 90 years ago.

The Year 12 student participated in the Centenarian Portrait Project by Teenagers, an intergenerational arts initiative where teenage artists create portraits of WA's centenarians.

As part of the project, Benedict was paired with former Perth Modern School student Gordon Ewers who attended the school from 1929–1933, graduating 90 years ago.

At 107 years old, Mr Ewers is the oldest man in Western Australia, and third oldest man in Australia.

Throughout the project, Benedict visited Mr Ewers at his home in Brightwater Madeley, as well as at Joondalup hospital when he was in rehabilitation.

Benedict said the pair had many common interests. When they first met, they began making music with Benedict on the piano and Mr Ewers singing.

'Getting to know each other was easy, due to our shared Modernian identity, and many other shared interests such as, music, literature, travel and Christianity,' he said.

Benedict used the skills and techniques he learnt as a Year 11 ATAR Visual Arts student to craft his portrait.

'You can never make me look pretty, but you can make me look happy,' Mr Ewers jokingly told Benedict.

Those are the words that stayed in his mind as Benedict created the portrait, depicting Mr Ewers' big warm smile, with some of his poetry adorned in hand-lettering in the background.

In his artist statement, Benedict said:

'I, and many others, find Gordon to be so special, as he never fails to make whoever he meets smile, whether that be me, the cameraman, or the nurses at the hospital he briefly stayed at.'

The project culminated in a state exhibition at the Wilkinson Gallery at Claremont Showgrounds.



∧ Benedict and Gordon at the Wilkinson Gallery.



△ Benedict Widjaja's finished portrait of Gordon Ewers.
 ✓ Gordon was thrilled with the final outcome.



Student Accolades

Conor is tops in CrossFit and raises \$2500 for charity '12 Buckets'

Conor Blycha in Year 12 is a keen athlete and has recently had great success in CrossFit. CrossFit can be generally understood as the 'sport' of fitness with variety in events including weightlifting, gymnastics, rowing, etc.

In 2022, Conor was ranked first in Australia and 20th in the world for 16/17-year-olds. This year he was again first in Australia and fourth in the world.

At the end of last year, he ran 162km in under 23 hours and raised \$2500 for the charity 12 Buckets. This charity helps provide one-on-one mentoring to children who may be displaying less resilience at school due to adverse childhood experiences or trauma.

Well done Conor—what a star!









Chudy and Jessica compete in the Lions Youth of the Year State Final

Chudy Isidienu and Jessica Bruining in Year 11 recently competed in the Grand Final of the hotly contested WA Lions Youth of the Year competition.

The Lions Youth of the Year contest is aimed at all young people who seek to improve their skills before entering the workforce or other endeavours. Participants are judged on their achievement and experience in the following areas: Leadership, Personal Improvement, Sportsmanship, Citizenship, Community Involvement and Public Speaking.

Although neither were the winner, they both performed admirably in the final and continued the Perth Modern School tradition of producing outstanding contenders in this competition.

TOP: Chudy Isidienu was the Fremantle Lions Club Youth of the Year.

FAR LEFT: Jessica Bruining competing in the Lions Youth of the Year. LEFT: Many Perth Modern School students are successful in the Lions Youth of the Year District Finals. Here is Samanmalee Azam receiving her award certificate.

COURTESY LIONS YOUTH OF THE YEAR

Ellie named winner of the 2023 MetSO Young Artist Award

Ellie Malonzo in Year 9 has been announced as a winner of the MetSO Young Artist for 2023. The competition was open to artists up to 30 years of age and was awarded after an auditioning process. Ellie is an accomplished and award-winning violinist who regularly performs in front of audiences.

MetSO invited young West Australian instrumentalists, vocalists and composers to audition for the opportunity to perform as soloists, or have their work performed during the MetSO 2023 Concerts Series.

Ellie will perform with MetSO as soloist violin at their September concert this year. Well done Ellie!

Ellie Malonzo



Fearne finds a first-rate throw

Perth Modern School student Fearne Van Beek has won a State title in discus at the WA Track and Field Championships. She was also a silver medallist for shot put.

Fearne started Little Athletics at Belmont Little Athletics Centre when she was eight years old.

'I specialise in discus and shot put,' she said. 'I've always been better at shot put and it has therefore been my favourite, but recently I've grown to like discus a lot too. I enjoy these events because I like the technical aspects and it makes me feel strong.'

Her favourite part of competitions is the challenge of being mentally and physically prepared to compete.

'[Competing] has really helped in building my resilience,' she said.

Fearne trains at the Gerry Archer Reserve in Belmont one to two times per week and is coached by her dad, Ross. She also goes to the gym regularly to help build her strength.

On winning the State title, she said, 'I felt like my hard work had paid off and it was all worth it. I felt so happy and relieved to achieve my goals.'

Fearne now hopes to perform well at the Nationals Track and Field Championships in Brisbane in April, with the goal of throwing a personal best in both events.

In the medium term, Fearne said she is working on winning a medal at the national level.

'Ultimately, I would love to throw at the home Olympics in Brisbane in 2032,' she said.



Fearne Van Beek on the podium as State Champion in discus.



Jaanhvi lyer to represent WA in cricket

Congratulations to Jaanhvi Iyer who has been selected for the SSWA Cricket 12 Girls' team.

She will be travelling to Darwin in June to represent WA.

Her coaches said they were rapt with her endeavour and talent, and the talent pool was very impressive, so being selected to represent WA is a real accolade for Jaanhvi.

Jaanhvi has shown her keenness to embrace opportunities, as she has also been elected as an Advocacy representative for 7F.

Jaanhvi Iyer in Year 7 will be representing WA in cricket.

Jem is an Épée **Bronze Medal winner**

Congratulations to Jem McGrath in Year 8, who is the winner of a Bronze medal in the Under 13 State Épée competition.

What is épée?

The épée is the largest and heaviest of the three weapons used in the sport of fencing. The modern épée derives from the 19th-century épée de combat, a weapon which itself derives from the French small sword.

As a thrusting weapon, the épée is similar to a foil (contrasted with a sabre, which is designed for slashing). It has a stiffer blade than a foil. It is triangular in cross-section with a V-shaped groove called a fuller. The épée also has a larger bell guard designed to protect the user's arm. In addition to the larger 'bell' guard and blade, the épée weighs more than the foil and sabre which contributes to its reputation of being the slowest form of fencing. The techniques of use differ, as there are no rules regarding priority and right of way. Thus, immediate counterattacks are a common feature of épée fencing. The entire body is a valid target area.





Jem McGrath (right) won the Bronze medal in the Under 13 Girls Épée.

Mod team is valiant runner-up in the Tennis West **Grand Final**

KELLIE MORGAN, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER

Tennis West hosted the State's high school tennis tournaments at Alexander Park where our students competed against various other schools. Our school has cultivated a formidable tennis team over the years and has developed a solid reputation for competitive play.

The Senior Years Girls' team consisting of Emma Black, Jessica Wilson, Ishika Balram, Jasmine Wu and Jaun Yum were extremely successful. The girls made the Grand Final and achieved a draw against Applecross in an unfinished match due to an unfortunate



Jessica Wilson, Jaun Yum, Emma Black, Jasmine Wu and Ishika Balram.

shower of rain. The final was rescheduled at the Applecross courts where their tennis specialist students proved too strong after a number of fiercely fought matches

The Senior Years Boys' team, consisting of Oliver Porter, Baxter Kakulas, Josh Vong and Chudy Asindu, also dominated their pool and worked their way into the finals.

In some further fantastic news for Perth Mod tennis, top tennis talent Jaun Yum will be representing WA in the Pizzey Cup Tennis Tournament in Canberra from 13-20 May.

Jaun is following in the successful footsteps of Class of 2022 student Gayle Leong, who was part of the winning team who won the Pizzey Cup for WA in Perth last year.







ABOVE FROM LEFT: Bronze medal winner Chelsea Wu: Jasmine Wu with her Gold medal: and Kye Ng in action.

Three Mod table tennis stars

The Wu sisters have continued their outstanding results in table tennis, both winning medals at the Table Tennis Australia National Tour in Canberra in April.

Jasmine Wu in Year 10 performed admirably to win Gold in U17 Girls Singles while younger sister Chelsea Wu in Year 8 competed well to claim Bronze in U13 Girls Singles.

This championship followed their training with the National Junior Squad at the

Australian Institute of Sports (AIS) in Canberra in January earlier this year.

As WA State Champions in their respective age groups, the sisters are gearing up to represent WA in the upcoming National Championships

In addition, another top talent is emerging, with Kye Ng in Year 7 being selected to represent WA in the Table Tennis Championships at Olympic Park in Sydney in July, alongside the Wu sisters.

Thomas to represent Australia in Optimist Sailing

Well done to Thomas Cooper in Year 7, who has been selected to represent Australia at the 2023 Optimist European Championship in Thessaloniki, Greece, in July. Thomas is a member of the Royal Fresh Water Bay Yacht Club.

LEFT: Thomas Cooper (right of photo with his coach David White and fellow Optimist sailors) is to represent Australia at the 2023 Optimist European Championship.







Crystal's singing and dancing awards

Crystal Lee in Year 9 has had an incredible start to 2023, winning multiple awards in national and international dancing and singing competitions.

Crystal has won:

- Showcase Australian Dance Championship on the Gold Coast (Ballet Solo and Jazz Solo Teen categories):
 - High Gold for both solo dances
 - in the Top 10 Solo Champion for Teen category
 - Third in the Superstar Awards for Teen category
 - Winner of the Photogenic competition.
- · Amadeus International Music Awards, Salzburg, Austria
 - Gold Prize for Voice Intermediate Talent category
 - Winner for Best Little Star Voice.
- Birmingham International Music Competition, United Kingdom
 - First Prize for Voice Junior 2 category.
- Euterpe Music Awards, Berlin, Germany
 - Gold Prize for Voice Junior C category.

Wow, congratulations to Crystal on her amazing efforts.



Clean sweep of the MAWA Have Sum Fun Competition

MARK WHITE, HEAD OF MATHEMATICS



It was a very exciting Friday evening in Term 1 when Perth Modern School won First Prize in the prestigious Maths Association of Western Australia (MAWA) Senior Have Sum Fun Maths competition.

More than 30 schools from all sectors competed in teams of six students attempting four rounds of gruelling pure and applied maths problems to be solved without the aid of calculators in under three hours.

- Not only did Perth Mod win First Prize but we achieved a perfect score! Congratulations to
- students Atharva Sathe, Ethan Yap, Joel Bariss, Rishita
- Sarkar, Grace Sinclair and Max Judd.
- Special thanks to teachers Ms Khetarpal and
- Mr Young for escorting students on the night,
- parents for their support and the maths teachers for preparing our students.
- On Friday, 17 March, hot on the heels of winning the
- First Prize in the Senior MAWA Maths Competition,
- we entered teams in the Junior and Middle School
- MAWA Have Sum Fun competitions. We won both
- divisions with another perfect score in the Middle
- Years competition.

Australian Maths Olympiad

We also did extremely well in the invitation-only Australian Maths Olympiad, achieving three Silver awards and two Bronze awards.

Joel Bariss – Silver

Max Judd - Silver

Atharva Sathe - Silver

Rayden Oliveiro - Bronze

Ethan Yap - Bronze

Beatrice Chong – Participation.



Have Sum Fun Junior Division First Prize winning team: Ethan Ang, Asvin Balavignan, Aadityapal Arora, Sushree Mangla, Sam Vallabhaneni and Mark Lee.



Have Sum Fun Junior Division Second Prize winning team: Angela Huang, Hannah Nguyen, Chelsea Wu, Akshayan Mukunthan, Menagan Manoharan and Shanjayi Jeyageethan.



Have Sum Fun Middle Division First Prize: Catherine Yu, Beatrice Chong, Rayden Oliveiro, Jayden Yip, Ishika Balram and Anoushka Gupta.



Have Sum Fun Senior Division First Prize winning team: Grace Sinclair, Max Judd, Rishita Sarkar, Atharva Sathe, Joel Bariss and Ethan Yap.

Year 10 students bstreetsmart



As part of the 'Keys for Life' program all Year 10 students attended the RAC bstreetsmart event at the RAC Arena on Wednesday, 5 April. More than 10,000 high school students from across Perth watched this event.

RAC bstreetsmart features a crash scene re-enactment attended by the emergency services, just as it would occur at a real crash site. The presentation demonstrated the consequences of distracted driving, speeding and drink driving.

The students also had the opportunity to listen to speakers who have been directly impacted by road trauma and talk with emergency services personnel.



Marley Fradd, Oliver Cresp and Oliver Tucker with St John Ambulance officer Nikki at RAC bstreetsmart.

International Women's Day Breakfast

For International Women's Day, the staff of Perth Modern School enjoyed a special breakfast to celebrate women's achievements and the aim of achieving a world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive: a world where difference is valued and celebrated.







Jenny Bickers and and students showing their support.



Year 10 Geography Excursion examines mining rehabilitation techniques

Year 10 Geography students are very excited to be participating in a brand new, highly current and topical course with the title 'Environmental Change and Management.' In the course, students are examining the concept of environmental change with an emphasis on climate change and biodiversity.

As part of their studies, students recently participated in a fieldwork excursion to North Dandalup Dam, and ALCOA's Huntly Bauxite Mine and Alumina refinery in Pinjarra. Constructed in 1994, the North Dandalup Dam is the newest dam serving Perth. It serves as a water capture and storage facility with a catchment area of 153km² and a maximum capacity of 75 billion litres.

Bauxite mining activities in the region provide a significant boost to the local, state and national economies but are often controversial as they are undertaken within the SW Jarrah Forest. Students saw first-hand the mining and refining processes conducted at the sites and also examined the sustainable practices conducted by ALCOA where they aim to restore and rehabilitate the sites post extraction to 100 per cent of their original condition. The students were surprised to see that they could not really tell the difference from a non-mined site to a mined site that had been subsequently restored and rehabilitated.

RICK MCMAHON, SENIOR GEOGRAPHY SPECIALIST TEACHER



Lodinu Kalugalage, Damini Chu, Sebastian Vera and Haydn Furness at the North Dandalup Dam.



Smiles on delivery of a Valentine's Day Rose

As is tradition, the Student Council organised Valentine's Day Roses. Students can order a rose to be delivered to a friend at school via the Student Council, to brighten their day.



Student Councillors Ian Lewis, Rishita Sarkar, Avicknash Davanandan and Jessica Bruining with some of the roses that were delivered.



Student Councillors Rishita Sarkar, Swara Mali and Anjitha Antony.

Sustainability explored at the Hikone Higashi International Science Forum

It was an exciting opportunity for students to participate in the Hikone Higashi International Science Forum involving schools from Indonesia, China, India, Japan and Australia, held on 22 March.

This year's theme was sustainability, and we were asked to investigate environmental issues for the creation of a sustainable society. In our chosen groups, we brainstormed various ideas and topics for researching, and finally decided on testing water filters. We had to ensure our scripts were written in a cohesive and clear manner as many students from other schools were not native English speakers—however this added to the experience.

On the day, prior to the breakout groups for presentations, we were able to watch introductions of each participating school along with an informative keynote presentation about bioluminescence by an experienced scientist from Osaka University, who identified the discovery as a potential renewable light source of the future.

In addition, there was a wonderful Koto performance, which is the national instrument of Japan. We then split into groups for presentations related to our corresponding themes, which for us was Earth Sciences. It was fun to learn about various topics.

After the presentations finished, we took the opportunity to socialise with students from Hikone Higashi High School about cultural related aspects that differed for each country which was very insightful and enjoyable.

A special thank you to the Languages and Science departments, and the other participating schools, especially Hikone Higashi, for making this forum a reality and an invaluable learning experience for all students involved.

BEATRICE CHONG AND MONROE WANG, YEAR 10







Yul Kim and Adam Kapp (front) and Zivon Ng

Shwetha Rajkuma, Mai Lan Hoang, Shamary

Japanese Language students participating in the Hikone Higashi International Science Forum. Amelie Dalla-Costa (back).





Welcome to our New Teachers and Teaching Assistants





Lisa Black – GT Online (English)

This year the Gifted and Talented Online Program shifted from Kelmscott SHS to Perth Modern School, and I decided to come too! I have been teaching gifted and talented students both online and face-to-face for 25 years and I absolutely love teaching English. My teaching practice is driven by my desire to empower and enable individual students to achieve their potential. I have two teenage daughters who were both identified as gifted and talented, and this parental experience has further enriched my understanding and practice. I enjoy engaging in creative pursuits like pottery and basket-weaving and I'm compelled to read and eat chocolate every day! I am really looking forward to the year ahead and would like to thank everyone for making us at Gifted and Talented Online feel so very welcome.



Yongbin Cho – Mathematics

Excited is an understatement to describe the opportunity of being part of this amazing and welcoming community. After graduating from Curtin University with a Bachelor of Education (Mathematics), I became a teacher because of my passion for mathematics and providing a learning experience where mathematics is approachable to all students. I am looking forward to working with students and teachers in Perth Modern School who are inspired and will inspire.



James Casey – Humanities and Social Science

Originally from Melbourne, I graduated from Monash University after extensive studies in Ancient History and Philosophy before moving to Western Australia in 2015. While in WA, I taught for a year in Esperance, seven years at Churchlands SHS, and completed a Diploma of Mental Health and Wellbeing in Education at UWA before making the big move to Perth Modern School. Teaching Ancient History and Philosophy are my passions in life, and so I look forward to doing so here for years to come.



Sarah Coney – English

I graduated from The University of WA with a Bachelor of Arts in English and French Honours with a DipEd to teach in both areas some years ago and have never lost my passion for learning and Literature. I love the 'aha' moments that students and I can share in the classroom (I seem to be having a few more this year). I came to Perth Modern having taught English and Literature at Carine Senior School for over ten years and was excited and nervous about the move. I have to say though that making the change this year has probably been one of the best decisions I have ever made. The staff are knowledgeable, professional and generous. The students are challenging, motivated and fun. The environment is steeped in history, tradition and new ways of seeing. I have felt very welcomed.



I am thrilled to be a part of the Arts and Technologies team at Perth Modern School. As an experienced Level 3 classroom teacher with more than 17 years of teaching experience, I have successfully implemented various innovative projects and initiatives in my previous schools, such as coding clubs, robotics competitions, online learning platforms and digital portfolios. I am looking forward to working with the students and staff with amazing talent at Perth Modern.



Miu Ebihara – Languages (Japanese Assistant)

I came to Perth from Japan in April. This is my first time in Australia, so there are many things I don't understand, but I am enjoying life in Australia. I am a fourth-year university student, and currently on a leave of absence. I am studying Japanese Language Education at university. I like watching movies and listening to K-pop, and I am planning to explore many good things about Perth. I am very honoured to be able to support students at Perth Modern School as an assistant. I would like to challenge myself in various ways so that students can learn Japanese in a fun and positive way.

Nick Karasavas – Languages (Japanese)

I'm very excited to be joining the Languages Department at Perth Modern. I graduated from Murdoch University with a Bachelor of Arts (Japanese), followed by a Master of Teaching – Secondary from The University of Western Australia. I am passionate about the Japanese language, and I am grateful for the opportunity to share this passion with both staff and students.

Leah McGlashan - Science

I've always been interested in science so, after high-school, I completed two Bachelors of Science at Murdoch (Molecular Biology, Biomedical Science and Forensic Science) and a Master of Forensic Science at University of Technology Sydney. After doing a variety of random jobs, including cleaning up crime scenes in Sydney, I fell into a Lab Technician position for a year at Comet Bay College. I realised, through interacting with the kids as I prepped their Science experiments, that I enjoyed the process of teaching. I then completed a teaching internship at the school while studying a Graduate Diploma of Education at Murdoch. After six or so years at Comet Bay College teaching Science and ATAR Chemistry, I have moved to Perth Modern! I've really enjoyed experiencing the genuine enthusiasm and interest the students have towards learning Science, and I look forward to many more years of it to come.

Kate Pyper Janfaza – Humanities and Social Science

I am incredibly happy to be a member of Perth Modern's Humanities and Social Sciences Department this academic year. Originally from Canada, I obtained a Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science from UWA before enrolling in Education at Curtin. I have been a teacher for nine years, working in several metropolitan area schools, and I am incredibly appreciative of the chance to work at the top institution in WA. This year I'm teaching Middle School Humanities, Year 11 Modern History, and a Year 7 Advocacy Group. Through Humanities, students have a significant opportunity to learn more about the world they live in, improve their critical thinking abilities, and broaden their analytic knowledge. I am incredibly excited to impart my interests and knowledge in the humanities to Perth Modern's exceptional students.



Marius Rambourg – Languages (French Assistant)

I recently arrived from France, and I am grateful to be working at Perth Modern School as a French Language Assistant. I came here with a program that promotes the French language by sending French students and teachers all over the world. I graduated from Université Catholique de l'Ouest in 2021 with a Bachelor of Science de l'Education. I then started a Master of Teaching (Primary), but I decided to pause my Masters to come to Australia. Through this experience, I want to explore more about the world of education. I am very excited to share the culture and the language of my lovely country in class. I want to give to the students the desire to go overseas and discover France and the world.



Meisha Raynes – Design and Technology

I am a new graduate teacher at Perth Modern School. In 2021, I obtained my Bachelor's degree in Education specialising Visual Arts and Design and Technology from Edith Cowan University. During my university studies, I had the opportunity to work with experienced teachers and observe their teaching styles. I was fascinated by how they could make a difference in the lives of their students by not just imparting knowledge but also by fostering critical thinking, creativity, and independence. My teaching career began at Perth Modern School, and I must say that it has been a fantastic experience so far. I have been able to put into practice the skills I learned during my studies and have had the opportunity to work with bright and curious students who are eager to learn. I am thrilled to be teaching at Perth Modern School, and I look forward to continuing to work with my students and colleagues to make a difference in the lives of young people.



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Marie-Jo Real – Languages (French)

I am very excited to be teaching at Perth Modern and be able to share my expertise in Language Education. I bring more than 30 years of teaching experience in a range of educational settings, starting with Steiner Education then transitioning to public education for more than 20 years during which I also worked at ECU as a French tutor. More recently, I taught younger children at a Montessori school until returning to teaching senior students in a public school specialising in Languages for GATE students. My involvement at the Alliance Française of Perth as a casual teacher, assessor of DELF and DALF exams and a member of the Alliance Française Examination committee for 20 years has developed my passion for the French language and to share my knowledge with students from all walks of life.



Sue Thomson – GT Online (Humanities and Social Science)

I grew up in the Great Southern and attended UWA and Nedlands Teacher's College before beginning my teaching career at Northampton DHS in 1981. I became an inaugural staff member at Roleystone DHS in 1983 and then moved to Kelmscott SHS in 1996 where I was lucky enough to be asked to teach the Gifted and Talented Online Humanities Program. Hove teaching HASS to gifted and talented rural and remote students and providing them with as many of the same opportunities as their Metropolitan peers as possible. The GTO Humanities program moved to Perth Modern this year and I am very happy to be teaching here. I enjoy the very positive and happy vibe around the school.



Mali Wakamatsu – GT Online (English and HASS)

For eight years I have been a part of the Gifted and Talented Humanities Online program at Kelmscott Senior High School, teaching remote and rural students English and HaSS online. When the program was set to move to Perth Modern School in 2023, I was very grateful for the opportunity to join the Perth Modern community. I am passionate about working with students to provide a supportive and stimulating environment, wherever they may be located. I believe it is important all children have access to programs which allow them to flourish through receiving the necessary enrichment and providing opportunities for students to make meaningful connections with different people outside of their community. I graduated from Curtin University in 2014 with a Bachelor of Primary Education, and now specialise in working with Gifted and Talented students in Year 7. I look forward to continuing my teaching and learning journey at Perth Modern School.



Robert Watterson - English

I am thrilled to have joined the English Department and the wider Perth Modern School community for 2023. I graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a Bachelor of Education (English) and a Bachelor of Arts (History/Politics and International Relations). I come to Perth Modern School having had the privilege of working in a variety of learning environments including Willetton SHS, Clontarf Aboriginal College, and a brief period working at the United States Consulate General in Perth. As a passionate educator, I am dedicated to fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment that encourages critical thinking and promotes academic excellence. I am thankful for the warm welcome that I have received from the Perth Modern School community and am looking forward to an exciting year ahead.



Crystal Wieringa – GT Online (Humanities and Social Science)

I have joined Perth Modern School in 2023, continuing in my role as a HASS teacher as part of the Gifted and Talented Online Program. I am thrilled to be working in a school where extending gifted students is at the forefront of the curriculum and I'm looking forward to finding new ways to engage and challenge my students. I began teaching in 2010 and have experience in both regional and metro schools, catering to a very diverse range of students. I am a firm believer in the fact that every student can learn and make meaningful connections between their learning and their own lives, especially in the context of Humanities. History is my passion and I endeavour to make the learning of history relevant, engaging and thought provoking. We can always learn something from the past!

Vale Dr June Stephenson (née McLeod)



Perth Modern School Student 1948-1952

June Stephenson was 'A proud Perth Modernian who lived her life on her own terms. June was a determined and effective educator, forthright in her commentary on people and events and a wonderful friend. She is already missed. Robyn, Loren, and Perth Modernian Society Museum volunteers.'

The West Australian, Saturday, February 11, 2023

Whatever Dr June Stephenson set her heart on became possible, and she always admired the following lines from the Australian poet, Adam Lindsay Gordon's Ye Wearie Wayfarer:

Question not, but live and labour Till yon goal be won, Helping every feeble neighbour Seeking help from none; Life is mostly froth and bubble, Two things stand like stone, Kindness in another's trouble, Courage in your own.

The school motto, Savoir C'est Pouvoir, also had a personal significance for June. June's translation of it was 'to know—it is to be able,' that is, to be able to choose to do it well.

After leaving Perth Modern School, June completed a Bachelor's degree at the University of Western Australia and became a secondary school teacher specialising in English at senior school and Mathematics at middle school levels. Until the late 1970s women employed in Government schools earned three-quarters of the male wage, and the regulations were such that women could not become Principals in secondary schools. June had been promoted to a deputy principal position at Busselton Senior High School, which she enjoyed for several years. She realised, however, that promotion was not possible, and, in her own words, 'I knew there was more in life than what I was doing, so in 1973 I decided to resign and take my skills with me.'

June returned to UWA where she completed a Master's degree over four years, sometimes full-time, sometimes part-time, depending on her employment in the university sector. At various times she was engaged to do research for education lecturers at the recently established Western Australian College of Advanced Education in Nedlands; she also taught 'Special Education' to undergraduates, and counselled mature age students with their academic requirements.

An opportunity to study for a Doctorate in Education on a 'studentship'—a working



June Stephenson receives the Moderna Scola Award 2018 from Perth Modernian Society (then) President Peter Farr.

scholarship—at West Virginia University presented itself, and from August 1979 to February 1982, June experienced the '... best two-and-a-half years of my life! It reminded me of Modern School. There were 35 of us in our group working for our Doctorates and my fellow students were very sociable and welcoming. We worked hard. Our teachers were well-prepared and had high expectations, there was a strong sense of camaraderie and a robust exchange of ideas. My specialisation was research methods and statistical analysis, and reading and the language arts. The teachers let me do it the way I wanted, the assumption being that I would be good at it. It taught me to be confident in myself.

'All students at that time were poor. We just had to live within our means. My studentship meant that I had to teach students in the Master's program, the campus where I taught was close to Harper's Ferry, about 160 miles from Morgantown where I lived. I had to drive over the Appalachian Mountains, deliver lectures and tutorials from 4 o'clock until 7.00 o'clock, and from 7.00 o'clock until 10.00 o'clock, then return to the university for work the next day.

'It was an interesting time in the United States. Jimmy Carter was President and I took a great interest in American life and politics, and there was the disaster of Mount Helens in Washington State erupting with considerable loss of life and damage to property. During vacations I travelled to the great cities, which I loved—New York, San Francisco, Detroit.'

June graduated in December, 1981 and made her way home via England and Manilla. Soon after arriving home, she saw an advertisement for the Director of Education Centre in Whyalla South Australia, the 'steel' city founded and run by BHP. Education Centres were Commonwealth-funded institutions for the engagement, support and professional development of teachers in the regions. June won the position and held it for 18 years until she retired.

'There were around 2500 teachers in that part of South Australia, north of Whyalla to the border with the Northern Territory and west to the border with WA. The Education Centre was allocated within the campus of the University of South Australia and I was also appointed as an adjunct senior lecturer for the university. Working in the United States had taught me how to work with politicians. I remained on the council of the university for South Australia for four years, appointed by both Labor and Liberal Governments. It has also proved to be a useful skill in my retirement. I enjoy a challenge.'

June retired in 2000 and became a resident at the Hollywood Aged Care Village in Nedlands. When the village was purchased by new owners who wanted to redevelop the site, June was instrumental in the successful campaign and court case preventing 'the memorial' being removed from the title deed. The memorial guaranteed residents financial security in the event of the owners becoming insolvent. Again, in 2017, June was prominent in the Save Perth Modern School campaign. She donated generously to the fighting fund and raised the significant petition which was presented to the WA Parliament Legislative Assembly by the Hon Bill Marmion. The Sphinx Scholarship Fund and the Museum Association were also beneficiaries of June's philanthropy. For her support over many years the Perth Modernian Society bestowed on her the honour of Moderna Scola in 2018.

June began losing her sight, owing to macular degeneration, soon after she retired. Undaunted, she not only modified her life to retain her independence but also, from her experience, wrote a book, Picking Up Sunshine, a motivational manual of handy hints for those with macular degeneration or other sight difficulties and for their relatives and friends (June Stephenson and Elizabeth Mansutti, 2007.)

The book is full of wit and good sense, and her philosophy of what she calls her 'slogans' for keeping the glass half-full is applicable to any circumstance: turn anger into application; turn disability into discovery; turn 'couldn't care less' to curiosity; turn frustration to full steam ahead! They resonate well with the words of Adam Lindsay Gordon and Savoir C'est Pouvoir.

A history of Music at Mod

For the past two years, Museum Association volunteers Roger Stubbs and Alison Woodman have focussed much of their time on collecting stories and photographs in order to record a history of the Specialist Music Program at Perth Modern School that commenced in 1968.

These stories will form the basis of a hardback coffee table book titled Music at Mod: A celebration of the Specialist Music Program at Perth Modern School 1968–2010 and of the musicians before and after by Roger Stubbs which is set to be published in 2023.

What follows is a sample only of those graduates of the Specialist Music Program who have enjoyed success as professional musicians. The short paragraphs have largely been informed by material each person or their agent has posted on the Internet. Many more will be featured in Music at Mod...

The research was undertaken as the COVID-19 epidemic began to have an impact. Given the effect it had upon the entertainment industry, it may be that the personal circumstances of individuals have since changed.



Georgia Browne.

Georgia Browne 1990–1994

Georgia is a flautist who specialises in historical flute performance. She studied at the Royal Conservatoire in the Hague and graduated with distinction. A performance of a Vivaldi flute concerto at the Palazzo Quirinale in Rome for live broadcast marked the start of her career. Georgia has performed across Europe, Asia, Australia and the USA with a range of leading ensembles including Arcangelo, The English Concert, the Dunedin Consort, ACO and ARCO. She is principal flute with the dynamic French group Ensemble Pygmalion with whom she has made a number of CD and video appearances. Georgia has been on the faculty at several music institutions in the UK and gives masterclasses internationally.



Caitlyn Hulcup 2008. PHOTO ROBERT DUNCAN © WEST AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS LIMITED.

Caitlin Hulcup 1987–1991

Caitlin Hulcup studied the violin at school and at university. She performed as a casual player with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra but also sang with the West Australian Opera Chorus and in its Young Artists Program. Her ability was recognised with the award of two Opera Foundation Scholarships, the Covent Garden National Opera Studio Award and the Vienna State Opera Award.

She completed a Master of Music degree in voice at the Victorian College of the Arts and undertook further voice studies at the National Opera Studio in London. As a mezzo soprano Caitlin has performed at the Royal Opera House, Vienna State Opera, Teatro Real Madrid, and other major opera houses in

Caitlin completed a PhD in vocal performance and has a professorship in the Voice Faculty of Universität der Künste in Berlin. She had previously taught at the Royal Academy of Music in London. As a visiting artist she has also conducted workshops and masterclasses internationally.



Wesley Fuller. PHOTO COURTESY OF WESLEY FULLER.

Wesley Fuller 2003–2007

Wesley's ambition to become a professional musician within the popular genre emerged while he was still at school. He received several music industry awards for his original compositions. Now based in Melbourne, Wesley is an electric guitarist, band leader, and composer. He and his band have released CDs and have undertaken tours to the UK. He has also worked as a DJ in Melbourne. He composes much of his band's material. In a competitive market he has to try a variety of activities. Like many young musicians and composers, Wesley uses on-line marketing sales and promotion to his advantage.



Lisa Harper-Brown. PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA HARPER-BROWN.

Lisa Harper-Brown 1981–1985

Lisa has an honours degree in music from the University of Western Australia. A soprano, in 1992 Lisa won first prize in the vocal section of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's Young Performer Award and in 1993 a Faigen Award, which enabled her to study at the Britten-Pears School in London.

She sang with the West Australian Opera in 1994 and was engaged by Opera Australia in 1997. She has performed lead roles in a diverse range of operas including La Boheme, Tannhäuser, Don Giovanni, Dido and Aeneas, Die Fledermaus, Orpheus in the Underworld, and Die Walküre. Lisa has also appeared with the Hamburg State Opera, Opera New Zealand, Opera Queensland, and the State Opera of South Australia. She has performed in concert with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, and the West Australian Symphony Orchestra. Festival appearances include the Perth International Festival, the Melbourne Ring Festival, and the Adelaide Festival.

Her performance for Opera Australia of Elsa in Lohengrin attracted the following comments from critics. The Telegraph wrote: 'It was a night of superlatives. Lisa Harper-Brown made a heart stopping debut as the tragic Elsa', while the Sydney Morning Herald said, 'The one reason why Lohengrin is a satisfying experience overall, is that it has in the young soprano, Lisa Harper-Brown, a performer who can make us believe in the character of Elsa. Harper-Brown, willowy, eager, and vulnerable might well have posed for a pre-raphaelite portrait of the character'. Opera~Opera wrote, 'Winning hearts was the Elsa of Lisa Harper-Brown, a tall, beautiful, and elegant soprano'.



Laura MacFarlane in 2022.

Laura MacFarlane 1983-1987

Laura is a multi-instrumentalist. After she left school Laura played in a series of indie rock bands. She has performed solo, toured internationally, and recorded. Laura played with The Brautigans, Sea Haggs, Cold Cold Hearts, and Dragster. With Sleater-Kinney she toured in North America.

In 1996 she returned to Melbourne and formed ninetynine and recorded an album upon which she played all of the instruments. She recruited other musicians for ninetynine, recorded eight albums and went on a world tour. To better promote her band Laura established her own record label and a fanzine. Laura became a sound engineer with Radio 3CR and established a music school. Laura is based in Melbourne, teaches, and still performs with ninetynine as well as performing solo.



Victor Sangiorgio rehearsing with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, directed by Vladimir Verbitsky, June 1994. PHOTO GREG BURKE © WEST AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS LIMITED.

Victor Sangiorgio 1972–1975

The talent of classical pianist Victor Sangiorgio was recognised early, for by the age of nineteen he had performed with all the major symphony orchestras in Australia. When part of the Specialist Music Program, Victor also studied with Modernian Stephen Dornan. He studied in Rome, Siena, and North America and relocated to the United Kingdom where he developed his career as soloist, chamber musician, and teacher. His first performance in London was described by *The Times* as 'poetic perfection'.

Victor has toured extensively throughout the world and has broadcast frequently. He has collaborated with many distinguished conductors including André Previn, Claudio Abbado, Carl Davis, and Sir Charles Groves. The orchestras with which he has played include the Melbourne Symphony, the Halle, the London Mozart Players, and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic.

Victor's interest in chamber music has led to collaborations with the Brodsky Quartet and violinists Ruggiero Ricci and Hu Kun, and horn player Eric Ruske. He is a member of the Fiorini Piano Trio. His recordings include Stravinsky's complete solo piano music, the complete keyboard sonatas by Cimarosa, and concerti by Rachmaninoff and Mendelssohn. Victor teaches at the Royal Scottish Conservatoire and the Birmingham Conservatoire.

The Weekend Drama Camp

SALLY FLOYD, DRAMA TEACHER











The opportunity to work with industry-acclaimed theatre practitioners, alongside drama students from other schools, is always exciting and The Weekend Drama Camp held at Point Walter Recreation and Conference Centre is an event to which students (and teachers) eagerly look forward.

The energy and excitement was palpable as the students arrived at the Camp ready for a weekend of drama activities.

The Camp got underway with a special performance by WA Youth Theatre Company's production of Seven Sisters. The production was viewed under the stars in an amphitheatre overlooking the Swan River. It was a magical setting and students were captivated by the culturally diverse stories of young West Australians. The serenity was broken in the last minutes of the performance by an inappropriate timer setting of the sprinkler system!

Master Classes in voice, movement, directing and script interpretation were run by Julia Moody, Tereza Izzard, Thomas Papathanassiou and Adam Mitchell. These workshops support the ATAR course content as students develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of drama skills and processes.

After a day of workshops students were entertained by improvisation legends The Big HOO-HAA! The actors and audience had a fantastic time with laughs aplenty with host comic actor Sam Longley fuelling the energy. After the show an informal Q&A provided the opportunity for students to ask performance industry-based questions as performers shared their industry journey.

Sunday was a day to reflect on the previous day's experiences and consider their applications to their study. The camp finished with an identified syllabus practitioner workshop, Viewpoints, conducted by theatre group The Open Lid Ensemble.

The friendships made and experiences shared on this camp further enable our students to create and consolidate their part in Perth's drama community.

Mrs Pacecca and I were very proud of the way our students participated in the weekend. They fully embraced all opportunities presented, demonstrating the ability to work collaboratively and respectfully whilst being fearless in their performance practise. We are very impressed by our educated risk-takers.



Sophie Harris named 2023 Drama Captain

Congratulations to Sophie Harris in Year 11, who has been named the 2023 Drama Captain. The Drama Captain promotes drama within the school, assists with the various drama productions and takes a lead role in organising House Drama.

Rowing kicks off for 2023





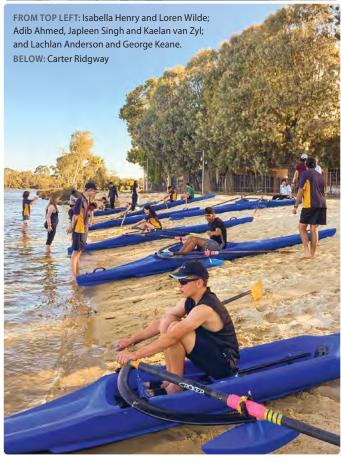


The Perth Modern Rowing Club kicked off the season with a two-week trial period commencing in Week 7, with plenty of new rowers giving it a go and learning the basics in preparation for the season ahead. Led by Head Coach Jack, with the assistance of past rowing captain Jo, the newbies started off by learning the fundamentals of rowing and trying it out on the ergos at the rowing club.

Once they'd learned the basic technique, we went down for two sessions at Trinity College where they learnt how to set up the boats and had a go at single scull rowing out on the Swan River. Everyone had lots of fun out on the water in the afternoon sun and (almost) nobody capsized!

With all the new talent we are incredibly excited for the new season and can't wait to get back on the water and start racing again.

Here at the Perth Modern Rowing Club we are always happy to have new members, with or without experience. We also need more girls to race in the Girls quad division! If you are interested in learning a fun and competitive sport and joining a great community, please contact kate.holland@education.wa.edu.au to ask questions or sign up. It's not too late for 2023!



Students bloom in Future Leaders program

PETER FARR, PERTH MODERNIAN SOCIETY



The Future Leaders Program, presented by BLOOM, aims to develop leadership and entrepreneurship skills in high school students. In 2022, Perth Modern School students aged 15 and 16 years participated in six weeks of interactive workshops and then laid out their own business ideas. This program inspired students to compete in a Youth Innovation Think Tank and several students went on to present fledgling business concepts at the West Tech Youth Entrepreneurship Showcase in December 2022. Due to this success, the program is continuing in 2023. The six-week Future Leaders Program in 2022 was funded by a grant from the Malka Foundation which was made via the Sphinx Scholarship Fund, the philanthropic arm of the Sphinx Foundation Inc. The provision of a special extracurricular opportunity to develop leadership and entrepreneurship skills has enabled some of these bright and creative minds to see how to put their imagination to work in a business context.

The program was presented by dynamic young facilitators from **BLOOM**, associated with St Catherine's College. Twenty-five Perth Modern School students engaged in interactive workshops that included discussion, individual and group challenges, and presentations from speakers with real-life experience. Workshop topics included effective communication, teamwork, design thinking, business ideas and targeting customers. It culminated in a 'Shark Tank' forum where students presented their business ideas to a panel of experts.

The two best ideas—by Jamie Brooker and Chudy Isidienu presented at the West Tech Youth Entrepreneurship Showcase in December 2022. These two students are keen to pursue their two business ideas of 'Rural Minds' (supporting educational aspirations in regional students by creating a speaker list of successful rural university graduates) and marketing 'Baobab' (a study and summarising app), respectively.

Students from this program also participated in the 2022 East Metropolitan Health Service Youth Innovation Think Tank, achieving second place for their proposal for reducing environmental footprint of medication in hospitals. Students overwhelmingly gave positive feedback about being given this opportunity and said that the program helped them develop skills in leadership, confidence in business ideas, and improved their confidence.

Some samples of the affirmative feedback received from students:

'I believe the BLOOM workshops have helped me develop my existing leadership and entrepreneurship skills and evolve new ones as well. I think I've learnt how to come up with and design useful ideas that solve real problems, and hearing from real young people who have started their own businesses made the option of starting one seem a lot more realistic and possible to me. I think I learnt a lot of new tips on how to be a better leader as well, and what values are important to have.

'In my opinion, leadership is a skill that can be applied to every single facet of life . . . After the entrepreneurship modules of the workshop, I can definitely see myself in the future taking active steps to turn some of my ideas into a reality such as my beta app Baobab.' Chudy Isidienu

'This program greatly improved my leadership and entrepreneurial abilities. Before, I wasn't very confident, but now I think I could really lead a team or start a business.'

(Anonymous) student, Perth Modern School



And from BLOOM's Courtney Press, **Schools Coordinator:**

'The generous support provided by the Malka **Foundation** allowed us to run an exciting entrepreneurship and leadership program with the students at Perth Modern School. The program



supported students in developing essential entrepreneurial and innovation skills and linked them with industry mentors. Support for these programs helps to build the next generation of entrepreneurs and contribute to the thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem in WA.'

Laughs aplenty at the Year 9 Improvisation Evening



A gripping improvisation competition took place on the evening of March 29, to end the Year 9 Drama Improvisation unit.

The teams had been preparing for this monumental night for weeks, honing their skills by working with the incredibly experienced improviser, Thomas Papathanassiou. Thomas helped the students practice these games to prepare for the improv night, helping them utilise the five key elements of improvisation to create an interesting and invigorating performance. He also was a key figure in organising and directing the event and contributed to the students' individual growth and accumulation of expertise in improvisation techniques.

During the competition, each scene was scored out of five by each of the three Quest Judges, Principal Mitchell Mackay, Ms Monica Franz and 2023 Drama Captain Sophie Harris in Year 11 who focused on the different elements of the performance, including characterisation, storyline and overall enjoyment.

Students were allocated to arrange costumes to match a decided group theme and rehearsed group introduction. 'All That Jazz', featuring Stella Anthony, Hannah Shaddick, Grace Dowley and Avash Shakya (pictured right), took home the winning title, proving themselves worthy of the Improvisation Cup.

BELOW FROM LEFT: Levi Kitchin in the bio box; staff who came along to enjoy the performances included Mark Temov, Jessica Pacecca and Nicola Reilly; and Judges Monica Franz, Mitchell Mackay and Sophie Harris.

On behalf of the Drama students and teachers, Ms Sally Floyd and Ms Jessica Pacecca, I offer my sincere gratitude to Thomas, as well as the Judges, for being there and helping make this year's Improvisation Evening an event of renowned greatness.





An awesome Year 8 River Cruise

ZOE ZIVKOVIC. YEAR 8



Fun on the Swan: Year 9 River Cruise



Visual creativity enhanced in Term 1



A term of highlights in Art Club

MEISHA RAYNES, ARTS AND TECHNOLOGIES TEACHER

Art teachers were thrilled to share the excitement and joy that our students experienced in the Art Club in Term 1! Under the guidance of Ms Eve and Miss Raynes, students explored various mediums, techniques and styles of art.

One of the highlights was our amazing printing project, where students printed their favourite animals onto watercolour paper. It was delightful to see the creativity and imagination that our students brought to this project. From lions and tigers to pandas and koalas, each artwork was unique and vibrant, showcasing the individuality and talent of our young artists.

The process of printing was not only enjoyable but also educational, as students learned about the printing method, including the use of the Japanese printing baren (a disk-like hand tool with a flat base used in woodblock printmaking).

They also developed their fine motor skills and attention to detail as they carefully worked back into their designs, creating the fine features of their chosen animal.

We are incredibly proud of our students' accomplishments and grateful for the dedication and passion that they have brought to the Art Club. Their enthusiasm has encouraged others around them to express themselves and explore the world of art.

We look forward to another exciting term of creativity and fun in the Art Club, and we invite all students to join us in discovering the joy and beauty in art.









Art Club artworks by (from left) Ella Bellworthy, Yixiang Ye and Zara Hadingham.

Sculpture by the Sea inspires recycled creativity

KATIE CHIN, VISUAL ART TEACHER

The annual Sculpture by the Sea exhibition at scenic **Cottesloe Beach provided many opportunities** for vibrant discussion amongst our Year 9 Visual Arts students regarding possible meanings and interpretations of the varied sculptures on display. Equally as engaging was the wide variety of materials used.

With a semester project focus on artists who use recycled materials to create sculptures, much student commentary highlighted the fragility of our oceans and the impact on our environment of single use plastics.

This excursion informed the Year 9 students recycled sculpture project this term and their recycled shoe sculptures will be on display in the Term 2 Arts and Technology Festival Exhibition.







Master classes with local artist Rachelle Dusting

SARAH EVE, VISUAL ART TEACHER

Local portrait artist Rachelle Dusting visited the school to provide master classes for our Years 10 and 11 ATAR students. Spending time with a practicing full-time artist was a great way to start the creative year.

Year 10 students learned about tone and charcoal techniques in drawing while the Year 11 students were introduced to oil painting skills and techniques of colour mixing and temperature studies. It will be interesting to see how students use this skill in their final artworks in future art projects.









Year 8 Visual Art **Zoo Excursion**

SARAH EVE, VISUAL ART TEACHER

Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! A day at Perth Zoo, with sunshine and exploring all the animal enclosures was a perfect way to practice observational drawing skills.

Our Year 8 Visual Art students visited the newest member of the zoo community, Jelani the male lion, now officially living with the pair of lionesses after introductions were a roaring success. Students were lucky to see him clearly and jot down his best side in their visual diaries, while the two sun bears, Jamran and Bopha, made appearances, seemingly interested in the students' drawings.

Health and Physical Education update



Fierce competition in Interschool Futsal

AARON BELL, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER

Interschool Futsal was in full swing late in Term 1 with our Senior School students battling it out against some very tough soccer specialist schools.

Students enjoyed fierce competition against some of the State's best at the SSWA State Interschool Futsal Tournament held across Years 10, 11 and 12. Six teams competed at the tournament giving it their all, displaying silky skills and some great goals.

Well done to all students pictured for participating and representing the school proudly at such an elite level of competition.















Swimming stars: Tristan Lin, Marc Dickson, Sasha Ginige

Swim Squad maintains A Division in Swimming

An excellent team effort from our swimming squad resulted in Perth Modern maintaining our standing in the A Division SSWA Champion Schools Swimming.

Several individual swimmers were recognised for their achievements including Tristan Lin for Year 9 Boy Champion, Marc Dickson for Year 11 Boy Runner Up, Heidi Gstaettner for Year 10 Girl Runner Up and Sasha Ginige for placing third in the Year 9 Girl Individual Competition.

The efforts of our junior swimmers competing in higher age divisions was very impressive and our Year 12 Swim Captains showed excellent leadership. A big thank you to our Class of 2022 coaches, Stella Morgan and Alana Bannerman, and to our staff coaches, Mr Sonder-Sorensen and yours truly.

Swimming training.



Rottnest Visual Arts Enrichment Camp



Teacher and Student recollections:

The Rottnest Visual Arts Enrichment Camp was an incredible experience that provided students in Years 8 and 9 with opportunities to explore their creativity and learn about Wadjemup's cultural significance and environment, and to make fun memories that will last a lifetime.

From the explorative scavenger hunt and sandcastle competition to the vibrant watercolour paintings and clay quokka-sculpting activity, we were constantly engaged in exciting and enriching activities.

One of the highlights of the camp was our visit to the Basin, where we were treated to breathtaking scenery that inspired us to create beautiful watercolour paintings, emulating the waves and splashes of the ocean. The night-time sculpting activity was also unforgettable, as we had the opportunity to interact with the resident quokkas and create unique sculptures that reflected 'Jerry', our quokka muse.

Collectively, we created a multimedia giant map of the island, which was an excellent way to express our interpretations of the landscape. We also considered sustainability and impacts as we learned about the impact of plastic waste on our environment while making blue bottle sculptures using found plastic rubbish from the beach. The guiz night was a fantastic way to wrap up the camp, as we had lots of fun and prizes to give away.

The Rottnest Visual Arts Camp was an enriching experience that encouraged us to explore our creativity, learn about the island's history and environment, and build lasting memories with our friends and teachers.

MEISHA RAYNES, ARTS AND TECHNOLOGIES TEACHER



On a glorious late March, sun shining and smooth sailing waters, Visual Arts students from Years 8 and 9 headed off with great anticipation to Rottnest/Wadjemup. Our goal was to explore and expand our artistic horizons on the beautiful island. Some of us had never been to the island before, so it was wonderful exploring the town and shops, in particular Subway and Simmos ice-creamery.

Highlights of the three-day camp included painting watercolour landscapes at The Basin, modelling our very own quokka buddies, and creating incredible-looking 'blue bottle' jellyfish out of recycled material.

Each evening we returned to the Kingston Barracks to hang out with our favourite quokka named Jerry and complete our final art activity for the day. On Tuesday afternoon, all feeling weary, and slightly more tanned, we returned to the B Shed, artistically satisfied and ready to head home.

The efforts of the students will be displayed as part of the Arts and Technology Festival

Much appreciation to Ms Eve for organising, as well as Ms Chin, Mr Mort and Ms Raynes for giving up their time to allow the students such an amazing experience.

DANNY EDWARDS, YEAR 9



The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time



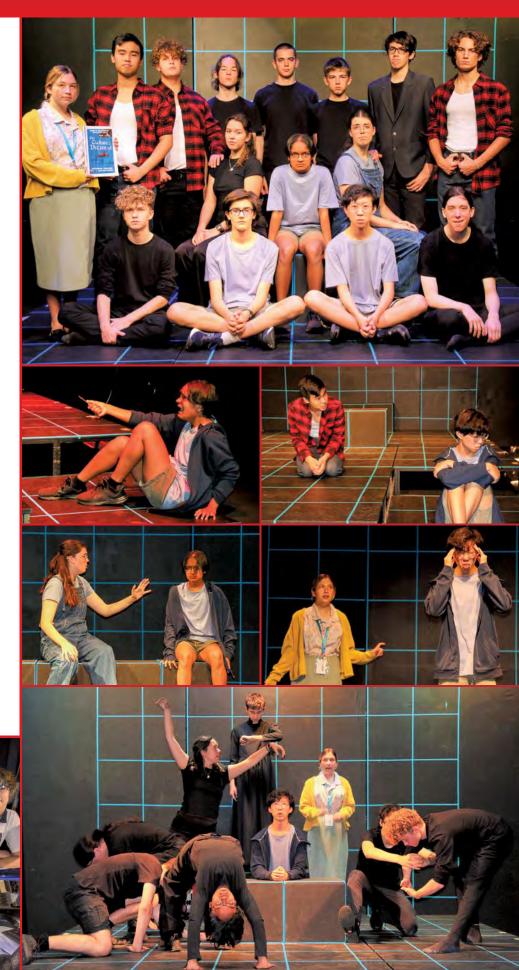
Week 10 saw the culmination of an intensive period of theatre-making, with the Year 12 Drama students presenting key scenes from Simon Stephen's adaptation of Mark Haddon's children's book The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time.

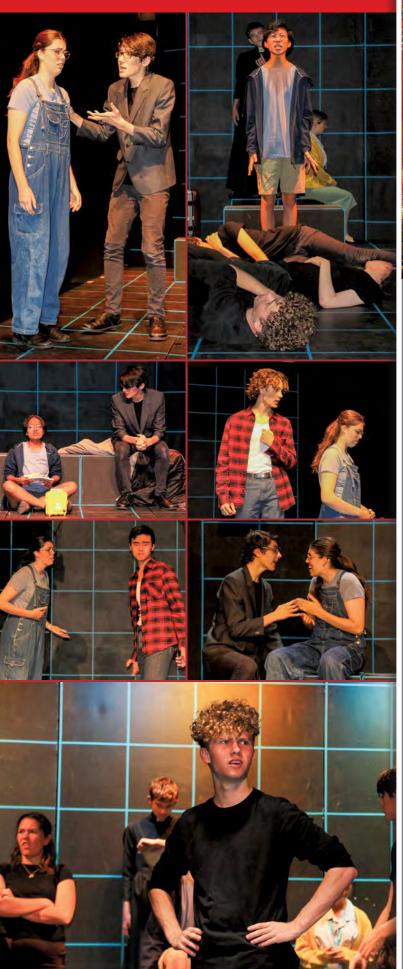
Students selected key scenes that highlight the journey of neurodivergent teenager Christopher Boone as he investigates the murder of his neighbour's dog. This quest takes him into uncharted waters as he explores the subjectivity of truth and whether it is more important to be honest, kind or free.

Frantic Assembly's physical theatre approach informed the performance style with students participating in master classes conducted by Feet First Collective and ex-Perth Modern student Samuel Addison. They also worked with Voice Coach, Julia Moody, to perform with an English accent (Standard Southern British). As well as performing, students organised themselves into design groups and undertook set, costume, lighting and sound roles.

The aesthetic result of their shared vision was visually spectacular. The audience was immersed in Christopher's world: subtle lighting states highlighted the gridded thrust stage, a representation of Christopher's mathematical genius; while a nuanced soundscape communicated his journey and relationship with 'reality'. Symbolic costumes signposted key character qualities as well as communicating changes of performer.

I was immensely proud of the performance and design skills students demonstrated during the production process and look forward to further sharing their talents with the school community when they present their ATAR scripted monologues in Term 3.







Getting Technical: Behind the curtains of Moulin Rouge

MILLIE CULLENDER, YEAR 10 DRAMA STUDENT

The Year 10 Drama students were all invited to an event at the Crown Theatre on March 23. We met the creative and technical teams behind the scenes of the hit musical Moulin Rouge. The excursion started with a 'bang' as the big opening numbers were performed. After the opening numbers, the stage went silent as the Stage Manager appeared and ended the magic.

The extravagant stage disappeared before our eyes as set pieces were flown or trucked off, the orchestra stopped playing and the lights went from show to house. All that was left was a blank stage. We were all briefly transported back to Play School when actor Simon Burke entered stage left, welcomed us, and introduced us to the many people who work behind the scenes of Moulin Rouge. We met the Director, Producer and Stage Manager, as well as the Set, Lighting, Sound and Costume Designers and their teams. We got a real understanding of the variety of career opportunities in theatre and film.

It was wonderful seeing all the different roles and seeing how they work together to create the magic of Moulin Rouge.



Fun in the sun for Aquatic Recreation

LISA TAYLOR, SARAH LIGHTFOOT AND LUCY GUNZBURG, AQUATIC RECREATION TEACHERS



Water has been swum in, sailed on, paddled on, and driven on so far this year in Aquatic Recreation.

Students in Year 9 have enjoyed developing their snorkelling skills in the pool in preparation for their day excursion to Rottnest. They also stand up paddle boarded their way around South Perth, enjoying the sights and a fresh dip if they fell off.

The wind was up for the Year 10 sailors on the Fun cats as they learnt to tack, gybe and sail upwind on the Swan River at speed.

Year 10 students have participated in kayaking at Matilda Bay. Kayaking sessions involve learning strokes, racing one another and performing team-building activities. Lots of smiles and some lifelong skills have been learnt. Students have also completed their Recreational Skipper's Ticket theory during class time.









Recreational Skipper's Ticket (RST)

SARAH LIGHTFOOT, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER

Year 10 Aquatic Recreation students were given the opportunity to complete their Recreational Skipper's Ticket (RST) at the Education Boatshed in East Fremantle over two full days.

The RST is a nationally recognised certificate of competency which demonstrates that the holder has the minimum knowledge and practical skills needed to operate a powerboat safely. It is the minimum qualification needed to operate a powerboat in Western Australia.

Once an individual is 14 years of age, they can obtain an RST and, like a driver's licence, the qualification remains with them for life. The students worked hard throughout the course, and everyone passed!

Another 15 students will complete the RST course in Term 2.



ABOVE: Gaining boat skills to qualify for a Skipper's Ticket.

BELOW FROM LEFT: Lawrence Keenan and Drew Stanborough with their Skipper's Tickets; and Carter Ridgway, David Nguyen, Kate Liu, Scarlett Woodroffe and Celia Orgeas with their Tickets.







Excursion to the aquatic playground of Rottnest Island

At 8.30 am at the B Shed at Fremantle, the Aquatic Recreation classes of Year 9 students left for a day trip at Rottnest Island.

We arrived at the island and began the short hike to the beautiful Basin. The water was glistening blue, and we were all excited to get in and start snorkelling. We learnt about our natural surroundings and the beautiful marine creatures and landscapes we have on Rottnest Island. We put our snorkelling skills to work as we explored the ocean floors, discovering interesting coral, unique fish, and amazing rock configurations.

We then walked to gorgeous Longreach Bay where we chilled and had fun in the sun with our friends, having free time to swim and play. We really enjoyed this time and the chance to explore more of the island.

Finally, we went to Fays Bay where we had the choice to have one final snorkel or just swim with our friends. On the walks, we saw lots of adorable quokkas which was a big highlight.

We then caught the bus back to the settlement, passing by the amazing salt lakes, and then we were able to buy delicious bakery foods and ice-creams and chat with friends before heading back to the ferry for a fun ride back to Perth.

YEAR 9 AQUATIC RECREATION STUDENTS



Sphinx Society Membership



Congratulations to the following students who obtained Sphinx Society membership in Semester 2, 2022.

YEAR 10

Michael Adams
Ariz Ahmed
Daniel Albert
Natalie Aring
Rishika Arora
Nandita Ashok
Sophia Atartis
Henry Bird
Ajay Bisnath
Pranav Borude
Jessica Bruining
Hoang Bui
Wency Wen Xuan Chang
Mace Chettiyadan

Hong Liang Chua
Claire den Hollander
Dinath Dias Abeysinghe
Jiaxuan Du
Vinura Elvadura
Shamary Fernando
Jonathan Foster
Tanay Ghia
Sophie Harris
Verity Hughes
Edward Huynh
Chudy Isidienu
Hannah Jee
Yiqing Ji

Kai Jun Kan
Spandan Kankumbkar
Amani Kariuki
Ayli Khalifeh Soltan
Nibesh Khatri
Angela Lodis
Olivia Ly
Swara Mali
Hector Mangharam
Janaiah Eunice Misamen
Madison Naylor
Minh Nguyen

Sean Norman

Arya Pandey

John Peiris
Madison Pinniger
Shwetha Rajkumar
Bahar Ravanbakhsh
Phoebe Salim
Ann Eunice Sam
Atharva Sathe
Lauren Schneider
Soham Shah
Annabelle Sharma
Venuja Silva
Arthur Teo
Jerry Wang

Esther Paterson

Joshua Whale Ethan Widjaja Jessica Wilson Joshua Woon Gary Wu Yu-Cheng Wu William Xu Ethan Yap Jaun Yum Jerry Zhang Yanyu Zhao

Year 11

Shifan Ahmed
Jack Alexander
Fiona Antony
Mila Arthur
Aanchal Asundi
Dominic Beer
Sonja Braunl
Annika Carleton
Aden Chia
Eamon Cooper
Avicknash Dayanandan
Russell Dufty
Sachi Elliott

Kendrea Fernando Ella Forward Emanuel Foundas Jayden Goh Isabella Henry Raphael Ho Robert Ho Faith Hoe Ethan Irawan Neha Joshi Chern Yue Khor Jennifer Le Minxuan Li Huimin Liu

Anastasiia Maksymova
Matthew Maliszewski
Nirmanee Mallawa Thanthrige
Nayan Mehta
Mitchell Morris
Chelsea Ong
Anakin Lee Oxford
Oliver Porter
Anais Richard
Sophie Royle
Naynika Sanoj
Esther Santoso
Archana Saravanaperumal
Rishita Sarkar

Lillie Sartori
Amos Seethor
Hanlin Shao
Grace Sinclair
Jayden Singh
Rachel Tan
Timothy Tan
Sashank Thapa
Chau Tran
Rudra Trivedi
Isabeau van der Kooy
Bryan Wee
Shehan Weeraratna
Benedict Widjaja

Sithika Wijesiri Jona Wu Max Wu Chloe Xiao Wenqian Xu Aaron Yong Chengyi Zhang Shiyi Zhang Zewen Zhao Alex Zheng

YEAR 12

Sidney Eric

Sebastien Braibant Ethan Chai Kristy Chau Haoqian Cui Keira Cullen Jessica Doan Michael Flint Ella Fung Raghav Ganapathy Amalina Gosper Madhav Gupta Marc Hauck Adam Holton Sophie Hunt Akaash Jarmale Arunkumar Sandalu Kanapeddala Gamage Paramkumar Kanpariya Reuben Kopec Rheannon Lazar Isaac Lee Parth Maheshwari Stella Morgan Thanishka Nanthavarman Muditha Pallewela Kwai Chin Jeans Pang Helena Phillips Morgan Porter Krosby Readhead Shreya Salunkhay Khush Shah Aaditya Shah Michael Shum Sainath Sitparan Sithuli Suraweera Asher Tan Chengchao Tang

Brooke Taylor
Zouruhong Wang
Noah West
Ruixian Wu
Haoqi Ying
Huda Zaidi
Lirong Zhu



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