



PERTH MODERN SCHOOL

Exceptional schooling. Exceptional students.

NEWS
OCT 2025



Wellness Week Wonders: A Celebration of Community and Care

BHUVIKA GARG, YEAR 10

**"Good morning and welcome to Wellness Week!"
With those words, we launched a week filled with fun,
gratitude, and wellbeing at Perth Modern.**

Monday kicked off with our first-ever Henna stall, run by our talented students. The excitement was contagious, and soon a never-ending line formed as everyone eagerly waited for their turn.

Throughout the week, students joined the Wellness Scavenger Hunt, following clues for a chance to win prizes. We also showed appreciation for our amazing cleaning staff by hand-making cards for each member—a small gesture for their big impact. Ongoing activities like the Wellness Bike Challenge kept everyone moving and motivated.

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House Athletics Shield



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performs 'The
Caucasian Chalk Circle'



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Interact Club
making a difference

From the Principal

Term 3 was a vibrant and inspiring chapter in our school year, filled with achievements, growth, and community spirit. I'm pleased to share highlights from the enriching activities featured in this edition of our newsletter. These moments showcase the dynamic life of Perth Modern School and how our students continue to embody our core values of **Courage, Commitment, Collaboration, Compassion, and Curiosity**.

Our students showed strong **Commitment** to community service, as well as **Compassion**, through the Perth Modern Interact Club, with initiatives like Bake A Wish, WRAP with Love, Bloom Leadership, sandwich-making for The Beacon, and fundraising at the Stirling Farmers Market as well as their support of the Ronald McDonald Charity Drive.

Curiosity and global engagement were on display as our Chinese language students visited the Terracotta Warriors, and we hosted Japanese exchange students from Hikone Higashi High School. The Sustainability Club nurtured care and community through the Wellness Garden, a plant stall on Community Day, compost collection, and growing kangaroo paws.

We celebrated **Collaboration** and excellence in the arts and public speaking. Students reached the YohFest Grand Final, and their artworks featured in exhibitions including HyperVision, St George's Cathedral Art, and Young Originals 2025. Our debaters excelled in Mock Trials, WADL, UN Youth Evatt Trophy, and British Parliamentary Debating.

In Mathematics, students demonstrated exceptional problem-solving and reasoning across competitions. Many earned Prize Awards, High Distinctions, and Distinctions in the Australian Mathematics Competition. Our students also performed admirably in the AMOC Senior Contest and placed second in the Numero Secondary Competition grand final.

In Health and Physical Education, students showed **Courage** and **Commitment** through active participation and impressive

achievements. We won the Volleyball WA Open Boys Championship and earned multiple state selections. Across SSWA events, we claimed six titles, with many students volunteering as coaches and referees.

Our Outdoor Education Camp at Camp Waller built resilience and teamwork as students pitched tents, cooked on Trangias, earned first aid certifications, and enjoyed surfing, trivia, and bonding activities.

In squash, our teams excelled at the SSWA Interschool Tournament, with the senior girls placing in the top three. Basketball saw strong performances from our Years 7–9 teams, and we again triumphed in the SSWA Table Tennis Competition.

Athletics brought the school together at the House Carnival—congratulations to Parsons House—and a large student contingent proudly represented us at the Act Belong Commit All Schools State Rowing Championships.

The Year 12 Presentation Ceremony on 21 October at the Perth High Performance Centre was a wonderful celebration of the Class of 2025. The awards list from the event can be found on pages 38–40 of this newsletter.

Thank you to our students, staff, and families for a term filled with purpose, pride, and the spirit of Perth Modern. We look forward to continuing this journey together in Term 4.

Robyn Verboon, Principal

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026 HEAD PREFECTS!

We are proud to announce the appointment of our new Head Prefects, Mary McCusker and Avash Shakya, who have consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership, integrity, and dedication to our school community.



Congratulations also to our new Year 7 Student Councillors who have been voted in by their peers: Minuli Ekanayake, Aarav Garg, Hinata Padilla and Jack Hoang.



Together We Soar: Perth Modern School Presentation Ceremony 2025



With pride, joy, and a sense of shared achievement, the Perth Modern School community gathered at the Perth High Performance Centre on 21 October to honour the remarkable accomplishments of our students at the annual Presentation Ceremony. The theme 'Together We Soar' captured the spirit of the evening—a celebration of courage, collaboration, commitment, curiosity, and compassion.

The ceremony recognised the Class of 2025 for their academic excellence, leadership, service, and contributions to the school community. Year 11 students were also Subject Award winners. Families, staff, and special guests filled the venue with applause and admiration as students were acknowledged for their dedication and growth.

Highlights included inspiring speeches from student leaders and staff, captivating musical performances, and heartfelt moments that reflected the strength and unity of our school culture.

As our Year 12 students prepare for their WACE exams, 'Together We Soar' reminded us that success is not just about individual achievement, but about lifting each other higher as a community.

Congratulations to all award recipients and thank you to everyone who made the evening so memorable.



Running on Spirit: A Carnival of Colour, Competition and Camaraderie



This year's House Athletics Carnival was a vibrant celebration of energy, enthusiasm, and school spirit. From the moment students arrived in their bright house colours—adorned with cardboard signs, zinc-painted faces, and ribbons—the atmosphere was electric.

With strong attendance across all year groups, including the spirited Year 12s marking their final Athletics Carnival in full costume, the day was a true showcase of community and participation. Students threw themselves into the events, whether chasing house points or simply joining in for the joy of it.

The novelty events, including tug of war and Leaderball, added an extra layer of fun and gave everyone a chance to contribute to their house's success in creative ways. The Carnival Results were announced at the House & Wellness Week Assembly in Week 7 (see on right).

INDIVIDUAL YEAR CHAMPIONS

| | | |
|---------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Year 7 | Isabelle Lam | Jing Ming Chong |
| Year 8 | Rachel Zhou | Raff Smith |
| Year 9 | Hannah Nguyen | Jie Wan |
| Year 10 | Chelsea Harris | Tobi Zhou |
| Year 11 | Stephanie White | Rajdeep Notay |
| Year 12 | Jasmine Wu | David Nguyen |

RUNNERS UP

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Year 7 | Lexie Shie | Phong Nguy |
| Year 8 | Mia-Maria Gstaettner | Thisath Ranamuka Kankan |
| Year 9 | Laura Allen | Alexander Woods |
| Year 10 | Laura Ballintijn | Joseph Esler |
| Year 11 | Bethan Lockwood-Jones | Ismaeel Ahmed |
| Year 12 | Alice Tanner | Drew Stanborough |

A huge congratulations to Parsons House for their outstanding performance and sweeping both the Athletics Shield and Novelty Cup! Their participation and team spirit were truly unmatched.

Special thanks go to the PE Department and Maths Department for their behind-the-scenes work and seamless organisation, making the day such a memorable success.

With just one term left in 2025, let's keep the momentum going. Bring the energy, bring the spirit—and let's finish the year strong. Can Parsons take out the House Cup too? Let's find out!

HANNAH CHEN AND DYLAN MACDONALD, PARSONS HOUSE CAPTAINS



| | |
|--------|---------|
| First | Parsons |
| Second | Sampson |
| Third | Downing |
| Fourth | Brown |



| | |
|--------|---------|
| First | Parsons |
| Second | Sampson |
| Third | Brown |
| Fourth | Downing |





Wellness Week Wonders

BHUVIKA GARG, YEAR 10

... continued from page 1

TUESDAY brought creativity to Lower Andrews with our bracelet-making stall, where students crafted meaningful keepsakes with friends.

WEDNESDAY was all about growth—literally! Students enjoyed pot plant making, complete with adorable plants and uplifting quotes, followed by our house assembly.

THURSDAY was the highlight: R U OK? Day! Dressed in yellow, we explored stalls from Red Frogs, Zero2Hero, City of Subiaco, and Headspace. Activities included “drunk vision” goggles and important conversations about mental health. The popular Henna stall returned, and students filled jars with paper stars to show appreciation for teachers. Chalk and talk on the basketball courts added to the vibrant atmosphere.

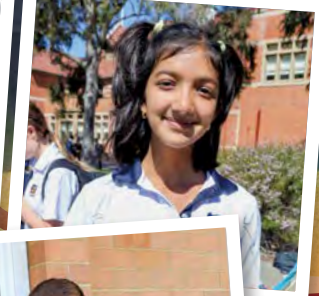
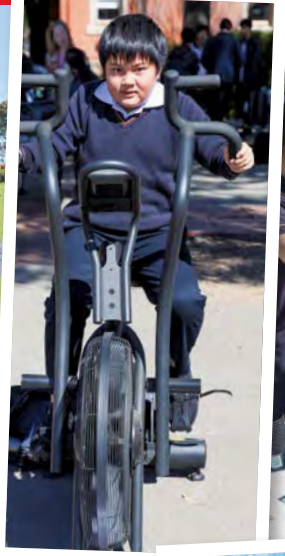
FRIDAY offered a relaxing finish, with more paper star folding and origami—perfect for unwinding with friends.

A massive thank you to our Wellness Committee, Ms Edwards, and everyone who made this week possible. And thank you to every student who participated, checked in on a friend, or simply spread kindness.

REMEMBER: while R U OK? Day is just one day, every day is an opportunity to make a difference. Check in on your friends and family, take care of yourself, and keep spreading gratitude.

Till next year!





Beyond the Classroom: Student Success Stories



Charting success: Nikitha tops WA in Geography

Well done to Nikitha Balram who has achieved First Place in Western Australia for Year 7 in the 2025 Australian Geography Competition.

This prestigious accomplishment highlights Nikitha's exceptional understanding of geographical concepts and her commitment to academic excellence.

As part of her prize, Nikitha received a hard copy of *Earth: The Definitive Visual Guide* by DK—a beautifully curated volume that celebrates the wonders of our planet and serves as a fitting tribute to her curiosity and knowledge.

Nikitha's success reflects her dedication, enthusiasm, and passion for learning.

Nikitha Balram with her prize for topping Year 7 in Western Australia in the 2025 Australian Geography Competition.

Sophie Nham awarded prestigious Tuckwell Scholarship to ANU

We are delighted to announce that Sophie Nham in Year 12 has been awarded the highly esteemed Tuckwell Scholarship to the Australian National University (ANU). This prestigious scholarship recognises outstanding academic achievement, leadership potential, and a commitment to community service.

Sophie's selection for the Tuckwell Scholarship is a testament to her exceptional dedication, intellectual curiosity, and the positive impact she has made both in and beyond the classroom. The scholarship will support her studies at ANU, where she plans to study Law and Criminology.

Congratulations, Sophie, on this remarkable achievement. We wish you every success as you begin this exciting new chapter at ANU.



Australian
National
University



TUCKWELL
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

MOD STEM Stars win State Final in Tournament of Minds

Perth Modern School's "MOD STEM Stars" have triumphed in the State Final of the Tournament of Minds, Senior STEM Division, held on Saturday 20th September.

This outstanding achievement is the result of a remarkable team effort by seven talented Year 9 students: Wei Yu Yan, Alexander Wood, Lewis Chen, Aadi Arora, Krish Chauhan, Freeman Wei and Eason Feng. Their innovative thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills impressed the judges and secured them the top spot in Western Australia.

The Tournament of Minds challenges students to solve complex problems in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, fostering creativity and teamwork under timed conditions.



The MOD STEM Stars demonstrated excellence across all areas, showcasing the strength of STEM education at Perth Modern School.

Congratulations to the team on this well-deserved success.

State Winners Tournament of Minds: Wei Yu Yan, Alexander Wood, Lewis Chen, Aadi Arora, Krish Chauhan, Freeman Wei and Eason Feng.

Grace in verse: Isabella's national poetry honour

We are thrilled to celebrate Isabella Ho from Year 9, who has been named Runner-Up in the prestigious Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards – Junior Secondary category.

Her evocative poem, *The Arrival of the White Swans*, captivated judges with its powerful imagery and emotional depth.

Among thousands of entries from across Australia, Isabella's work stood out for its eloquence and restraint. The judges praised it as "a passionate poem with arresting imagery, which opens with tension and ends with a sharp observation. Its restrained tone adds to the eloquence of the poet's plea."

Isabella's achievement is a testament to her creativity, insight, and dedication to the craft of writing.



ABOVE: Isabella Ho with her award certificate.

RIGHT: Her award-winning poem
The Arrival of the White Swans.



Reverie Trio wins Mixed Ensemble prize at Strike A Chord

Perth Modern School's talented Year 11 ensemble, the Reverie Trio, has been awarded the Mixed Ensemble Prize in the 2025 Strike A Chord music competition, hosted by Musica Viva Australia.

The trio—Shan Mei Wan (Piano), Luvenia Yeo (Violin) and Crystal Lee (Flute)—impressed judges with their musical artistry and ensemble cohesion, standing out among entries from across the country.

Their performance earned them a certificate, a t-shirt, and a group cash prize, recognising their dedication and excellence in chamber music.

The Reverie Trio: Luvenia Yeo, Crystal Lee and Shan Mei Wan.



Jimmy Liang receives AMEB Gold Award

Jimmy Liang in Year 7 has been awarded the nationally recognised AMEB Gold Award. Typically awarded to students aged 14 and above, Jimmy earned this honour at just 12 years and 11 months old—an exceptional milestone in a musical journey that began at age four.

The award reflects Jimmy's dedication across several areas:

- Eight hours 10 minutes of Performing Arts
- Nine hours of Broadening activities
- 15 hours 10 minutes of Leadership
- Violin Comprehensive Grade 8 (A Honours), completed in March.

Jimmy is now preparing for his Violin Certificate of Performance, aiming for mid-2026. He actively contributes to school music programs, learning violin and percussion, performing in Sinfonia, Sinfonia String, and Wind Band 5, and volunteering at concerts.

Beyond music, Jimmy was also recognised in the Australian Mathematics Competition, showcasing his academic strength and versatility.

"I am very proud to have achieved the AMEB Gold Award," Jimmy shared. "I have dreamed of achieving this and have worked towards it for a long time."

Jimmy's achievement is a testament to his discipline and passion, inspiring others to pursue excellence with heart and determination.



Jimmy Liang is congratulated by Principal Mitchell Mackay on achieving his AMEB Gold Award.

Brain Bee team excels with Rhea to represent WA nationally

Perth Modern School's Year 10 Brain Bee team delivered an exceptional performance at Round 2 of the Australian Brain Bee Challenge, held at the University of Western Australia.

Rhea Kewalram was named State Champion and will represent Western Australia at the National Brain Bee Challenge later this year. Chloe Ren placed second, Metta Chia third, and Olivia Yong was recognised as an Outstanding Team Contributor. Their deep neuroscience knowledge and teamwork earned them top honours in a competitive field.

Rhea described the experience as both challenging and inspiring: "I've always been intrigued by neuroscience and saw the Brain Bee as a great opportunity to expand my knowledge," she said. She focused on understanding complex concepts rather than memorisation and found the exploration of neurodegenerative disease treatments particularly fascinating.

"When my name was announced, I felt a mix of satisfaction, joy, and excitement—it was emotional after all the hard work," Rhea shared. She also credited her teammates for their support and collaboration throughout the process.

As part of her prize, Rhea will undertake work experience at the Perron Institute. "This experience has strengthened my passion for understanding the human body, and I can definitely see neuroscience playing a role in my future career," she said.

We wish Rhea every success as she prepares to represent WA at the national level.



FROM TOP: Rhea Kewalram was the WA State winner of the Brain Bee competition; and Metta Chia and Chloe Ren receive their award certificates.



Perth Modern's Winning Table Tennis Team: Nikitha Balram, Kye Ng, Jethro Chen, Luke Zhao and Nicholas Li.



Déjà vu all over again for our Mod Table Tennis Team

**MARK MUIR,
HEAD OF HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Congratulations to our Perth Modern team of Jethro Chen, Luke Zhao, Nikitha Balram, Kye Ng and Nicholas Li who won the WA Interschool Secondary Table Tennis Championship.

This makes consecutive wins for our school teams since the interschool teams was reinstated in 2024. Our team members played at an exceptionally high standard throughout the competition and demonstrated excellent team spirit. An outstanding result made even more notable as two of our best players in Jasmine and Chelsea Wu were unable to play.

Making waves: Isabelle shines at State Swimming Championships

Isabelle Ham in Year 7 has shone at the 2025 Swimming WA Junior Short Course State Championships.

Isabelle delivered a remarkable performance across multiple events, earning an impressive collection of medals:

- Gold in Girls 12 Yrs 50m Butterfly
- Gold in Girls 12 Yrs 100m Butterfly
- Bronze in Girls 12 Yrs 50m Freestyle
- Gold in Girls 11–12 Yrs 4x50m Medley Relay
- Gold in Girls 11–12 Yrs 4x50m Freestyle Relay
- Silver in Mixed 11–13 Yrs 4x50m Freestyle Relay.

In addition to her medal-winning events, Isabelle also placed within the top 8 in the Girls 12 Yrs 50m Backstroke, 100m Freestyle, and 100m Individual Medley—a testament to her versatility and competitive spirit.



Isabelle Ham with her collection of medals.
RIGHT: Isabelle competing representing WA.



Franek honoured with Alistair Stewart Memorial Award

Year 8 student Franciszek (Franek) Cytowski has been recognised for his outstanding contribution to basketball during the 2025 Western Australia Basketball League (WABL) season.

Franek received the prestigious Alistair Stewart Memorial Award from the Perth Redbacks Basketball Club, an honour presented annually to one exceptional player from the Under 14-1 Boys team. He was acknowledged for consistently giving 100% during training, demonstrating excellent sportsmanship, being a supportive team player, and performing at his best on the court throughout the season.

Franek Cytowski was awarded the Alistair Stewart Memorial Trophy.



Raadin Ebadi recognised at Emerge Youth Art Awards

Year 10 student Raadin Ebadi received the Judge's Special Mention at the 2025 Emerge Youth Art Awards for his charcoal-on-paper artwork titled *Distance*. His piece impressed the judging panel with its expressive technique and thoughtful composition.

The Emerge Youth Art Awards celebrate emerging talent across Western Australia, offering young artists a platform to showcase their creativity and gain recognition in the broader arts community.

Raadin's achievement highlights his artistic skill and growing presence in the visual arts scene.



LEFT: Raadin Ebadi receiving his prize for the Judge's Special Mention category.
ABOVE: Raadin's expressive charcoal drawing *Distance*.



Ozi Egesi

← Ozi Egesi spells his way to the national stage

Year 8 student Ozichukwu (Ozi) Egesi has once again proven his spelling prowess, advancing to the national finals of the 2025 Prime Minister's Spelling Bee—his final eligible year in the competition. Representing Western Australia in the Red Level (Years 7–8), Ozi secured his place in the national round with an impressive 29/30 in the State and Territory Finals.

Ozi is no stranger to the spotlight. A former national champion in the Orange Level (Years 5–6), he returned to the Bee this year with determination and experience. Competing against the best young spellers from across the country, Ozi delivered a strong performance in the national final, which took place from 10–11 September.

Although he did not place in the top three nationally, Ozi's achievement in reaching the final round of this prestigious competition is a remarkable accomplishment. Congratulations to Ozi on another outstanding spelling season and for representing Western Australia and Perth Modern School with pride.

Mapping a better future: Students explore restoration in Geography competition

RICK MCMAHON, GEOGRAPHY TEACHER

What happens when young minds tackle global challenges with creativity and purpose? You get a showcase like the 2025 Western Australian Young Geographer of the Year Competition, where students from Years 7–12 explored this year's theme, "Restoring Our Environment," in alignment with the UN's Decade of Ecosystem Restoration.

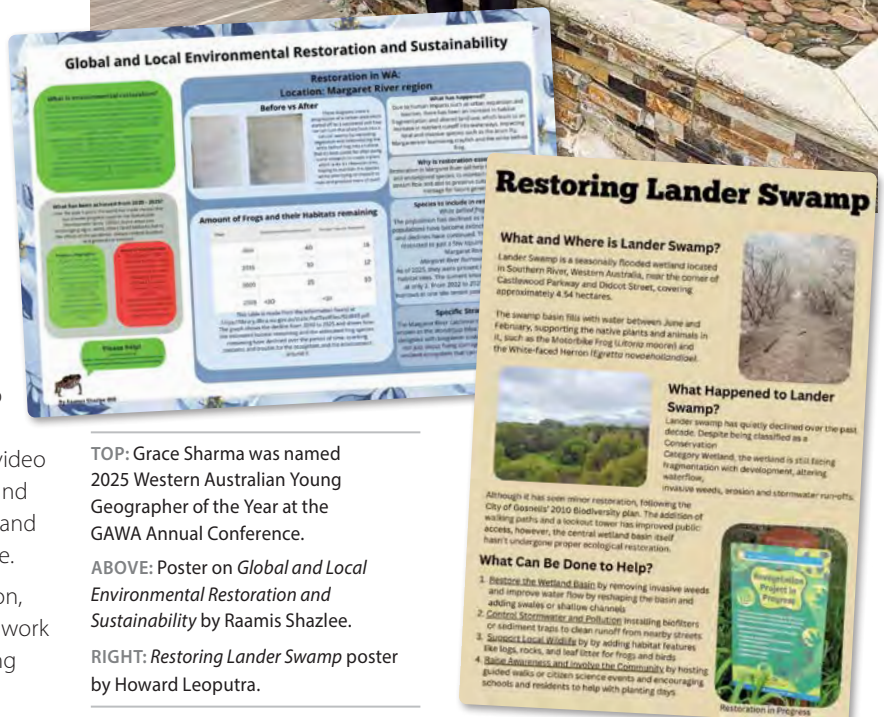
I invited select students to participate in this enriching extra-curricular opportunity, with students examining how environmental restoration can support biodiversity, improve human wellbeing, and advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Each school could submit just one student per year group—and the entries were nothing short of inspiring.

Our representatives included:

- **Year 7: Howard Leoputra**
– Poster: *Restoring Lander Swamp*
- **Year 8: Khadijah Yomi-Adeleke**
– Video: *Scarborough Liveability*
- **Year 9: Raamis Shazlee**
– Poster: *Global and Local Environmental Restoration and Sustainability*
- **Year 10: Grace Sharma**
– Video: *Where the Water Heals*.

A special congratulations goes to Grace Sharma, who was named WA Young Geographer of the Year for Year 10 at the recent GAWA Annual Conference. Her video stood out for its clarity, use of fieldwork techniques, and geographic insight. Grace received a \$250 cash prize and recognition as the top Year 10 geographer in the state.

Well done to all our entrants for their creativity, passion, and commitment to environmental awareness. Their work reminds us that the next generation is already thinking critically about the future—and helping to shape it.



TOP: Grace Sharma was named 2025 Western Australian Young Geographer of the Year at the GAWA Annual Conference.

ABOVE: Poster on *Global and Local Environmental Restoration and Sustainability* by Raamis Shazlee.

RIGHT: *Restoring Lander Swamp* poster by Howard Leoputra.

Baking Up House Spirit: A Sweet Success

EMMA WENG, YEAR 7 DOWNING HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE



This year's House Bake Off was a fantastic opportunity for students across all year levels to showcase their House pride through sweet creations. With an incredible 104 entries, the judges were impressed not only by the delicious treats but also by the overwhelming participation. Thank you to everyone who baked something special.

From giraffe cupcakes to phoenix sculptures and neon-blue cookies, the creativity on display was outstanding. Congratulations to all the winners—your efforts were exceptional.

My partner Rhyse and I had a memorable experience. As first-time bakers, we faced a collapsing cake, a burnt finger, and an egg shortage. After hours of chaos and a surprise discovery of tofu, our tofu-Biscoff bee cupcakes came to life. They were... interesting. Somehow, our prayers worked and we placed third in our category.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed a beautiful entry, and to those who helped organise, judge and run the event behind the scenes. Let's keep the energy and enthusiasm going next year—especially you, Downing.



OVERALL RESULTS

1st: Downing | 2nd: Parsons | 3rd: Sampson | 4th: Brown

SPONGE CAKE

1st: Vanessa Ting (Year 10)
2nd: Angeli Periyannen (Year 9)
3rd: Stephanie Shen (Year 9)

CUPCAKES

1st: Isabella Ho (Year 9) and Liesl Ho (Year 7)
2nd: Saskia Kennea (Year 10)
3rd: Emma Weng (Year 7) and Rhyse Tiong (Year 7)

SCULPTURES

1st: Ryan Hemy (Year 11)
2nd: Netharie Rajapakshe and Sonja Woodland (Year 7)
3rd: Rutvi Khale (Year 11)

BISCUITS

1st: Howard Leputra (Year 7)
2nd: Isobel Teh (Year 9)
3rd: Madison Thiel (Year 9)



Year 11 Drama: *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*

THOMAS PAPATHANASSIOU, DIRECTOR



The Year 11 Drama students recently brought Bertolt Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* to life in a bold and imaginative production that highlighted both their artistic skill and their determination to deliver a truly entertaining experience.

From the very first rehearsal, the students demonstrated remarkable commitment. They embraced the challenges of Brecht's epic theatre style—breaking the fourth wall, shifting between characters, and balancing humour with thought-provoking commentary on justice, power and compassion. Their creativity extended beyond acting, as they contributed to design elements, music, and staging choices that gave the performance a distinctive and contemporary edge.

What stood out most was their dedication to collaboration. Students worked tirelessly after school, refining character work, experimenting with design and ensuring that every moment on stage was engaging for the audience. Their efforts were rewarded with a production that was not only faithful to Brecht's intentions but also fresh, vibrant and thoroughly entertaining.

Audiences left impressed not only by the story, but by the passion and professionalism of the cast and crew—qualities that reflect the depth of talent and commitment within our Drama program.





Global Beats and Local Treats: Languages Week Highlights

ANTONELLA DE GREGORIIS, ITALIAN LANGUAGE TEACHER



In Term 3, we celebrated Languages Week with a vibrant array of activities highlighting the diversity, creativity, and multicultural spirit of our school community. Students and staff from across the college came together to share language, laughter, and culture through food, music, games, and friendly competition.

Highlights included:

Flavours Cookbook

Students submitted family recipes that celebrated the many cultures represented in our school, showcasing the power of food to bring people together.

Karaoke Competition

Students performed songs in Italian, French, Japanese, and Chinese, with energetic participation from both staff and students.

Chopstick Challenge

Teams raced to transfer M&Ms, rice, and other small items between plates using chopsticks—laughter and cheers filled the air!

Kendama Challenge

Students learned to master this traditional Japanese toy, performing tricks and testing their coordination skills.

Photography Competition

Students captured photos around Perth that reflected languages in their environment, accompanied by a short, written explanation.

Noongar Language Challenge

Middle school students had the opportunity to learn words and phrases from the language of the Traditional Custodians of this land, deepening cultural understanding and respect.

Student-Led Lesson

One of our students volunteered to teach staff and peers some German phrases during lunch—Danke schön!

Phrase of the Day

Each day, a new phrase in a different language was announced over the PA system, and students were invited to visit the Languages Office to share it and its English meaning.

Canteen Specials

The canteen joined in the celebration by serving international dishes inspired by the week's languages—a highlight for many hungry students!

Languages Week was a wonderful celebration of connection, curiosity, and community. It reminded us that learning a language is not just about words but about understanding different ways of seeing the world.





Humanities and Social Science – Values in Action

LOUISE SECKER, HEAD OF HASS



Term 3 wrapped up with exciting finals across our major team events, including the Mock Trial Competition, WADL Debating and the UN Youth Evatt Trophy.

A huge congratulations to all students from Years 7–12 who participated in HASS extracurricular activities this year. You've truly embodied our school values:

CURIOSITY: by signing up and exploring new challenges

COMMITMENT: through dedicated preparation and participation

COURAGE: tackling tough topics and impromptu debates

COLLABORATION: working closely with your teams

COMPASSION: supporting peers and showing respect to opponents



We proudly recognise the following finalists:

Mock Trial Finals – Law Society WA

Gabe, Sophie, Ananya, Jin, Aarnav, Dylan, James, Seb, Oliver, Lawrence

WADL Schools Debating Grand Finals

Juniors: Anu, Diya, Maduricaa, Mia, Vidaa

Seniors: Ajit, Avani, Ishaan, Mary

WADL British Parliamentary Semi-Finalists

Cygnets: Daisy, Madison

Swans: Ajit, Ishaan, Mia, Vidaa

Year 7 Grand Finalists

Any, Emily, Liesl, Maria, Olivia

Harish, John, Leroy, Navneet, Tom

UN Youth Evatt Trophy Grand Finalists

Parie, Ananya, Sophie, Ludo, Maya, Finn, Jasmine, Ajit, Ishaan

★ Special congratulations to Parie, Finn and Jasmine who have been invited to represent WA at the National Evatt Trophy Competition in Sydney in December!

Well done to all students for your incredible efforts and for living out our values in action.

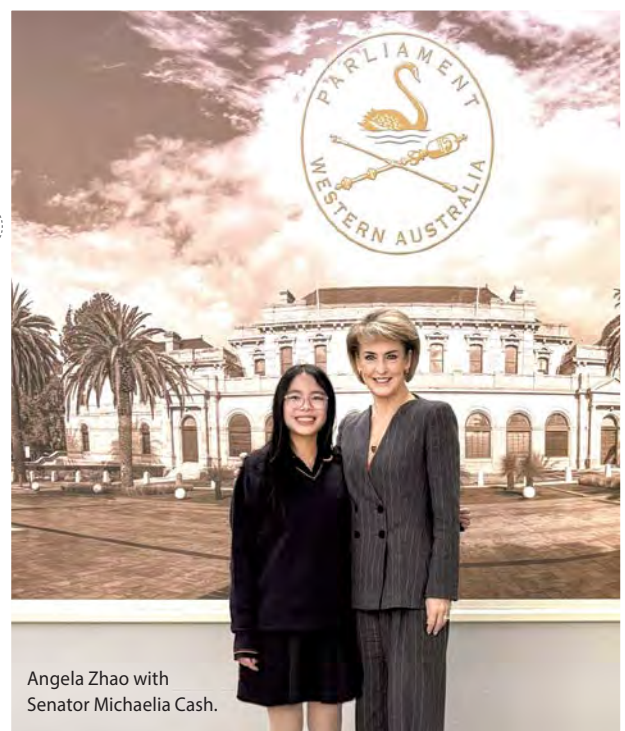
ABOVE LEFT: Junior Champions in the WADL Schools Debating Competition.
LEFT: Grand Finalists in the UN Youth Evatt Trophy.

Angela meets with WA Senator Michaelia Cash

Year 9 student Angela Zhao recently had the incredible opportunity to meet and have lunch with Federal Senator Michaelia Cash at Parliament House.

Angela was deeply honoured by the experience, engaging in thoughtful conversation with Senator Cash, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, on topics ranging from Australian politics to our nation's rich history. She left feeling inspired by the Senator's journey and her unwavering commitment to representing Western Australia in Canberra.

This special meeting also served as a meaningful introduction to Angela's upcoming school trip to Canberra in October—an experience she's now looking forward to with even greater anticipation.



Angela Zhao with Senator Michaelia Cash.

Problem Solved: Celebrating Perth Mod's Top Maths Achievers

Success in the Australian Mathematics Competition

In the first week of August, many of our students participated in the Australian Mathematics Competition, a prestigious event held across all Australian states and internationally. The competition presents highly challenging problems that require advanced abstract reasoning and problem-solving skills.

Perth Modern School students performed exceptionally well, with 28 students receiving a Prize Award—an honour reserved for those who score in the top 0.5% of participants. In addition, our students achieved 133 High Distinctions and 337 Distinctions.

Prize winners (Top 0.5%)

Year 7: Alexander Chung, Danil Kazanov, Boan Li, Jimmy Liang, Declan Lin, Jeremy Wang and Alexander Zhang

Year 8: Hao Cheng Feng, Sally Huang, Reon Jophy, Thomas Kong, Jayden Lee, Samuel Rea, Adam Rust, Zicheng Wang and Grace Zhu.

Year 9: Ashvin Balavignan, Shayan Islam and Terry Li.

Year 10: Angela Huang, Cassie Lee, Mark Lee, Kevin Li, Sam Vallabhaneni, Tiger Varol, Matthew Wang and Bryan Xia.

Year 11: Rayden Oliveiro.

AMOC Senior Contest – Maths Olympiad

The Senior Contest is the most challenging of all Maths Olympiads and is offered by invitation only to students who have demonstrated outstanding performance in other competitions run by the Australian Maths Trust.

Ten Perth Modern students were invited to sit the Senior Contest, with the following results:

Bronze Awards: Rayden Oliveiro, Danil Kazanov and Mark Lee

Honourable Mentions: Bryan Xia and Tiger Varol
Participants: Angela Huang, Cassie Lee, Sushree Mangla, Siddharth Subbaiyan and Jayden Yip.

Congratulations to all our talented mathematicians and thank you to our dedicated mathematics staff for their continued support.



Numero Secondary Competition success

Three teams of Year 7 to 10 students competed in the Central Heats of the Numero Secondary Competition at Mazenod College in Lesmurdie in August. Based on the popular Numero card game, the event promotes speed and accuracy in calculator-free maths.

Teams tackled four challenges: individual and team sections, card gameplay, and the 'scramble', requiring strong maths skills, strategy, and teamwork. Two Perth Mod teams qualified for the grand final at Aquinas College on 13 August, where the Perth Mod Solution Smurfs earned an impressive second place.

Congratulations to all students who represented the school with enthusiasm and skill:

Perth Mod Solution Smurfs: Maduricaa Yohanathan, Josephine Siburian, Tyler Wong and Olivia Coulson.

Perth Mod Mathe-magicians: Chenuthi Bandara, Emma Weng, Lauren Teow and Henry Low.

Perth Mod Pi-thons: Taekyu Lee, Nathan Lu, Hasan Najeeb and Jaden Taylor-Rennie.

Thank you to Ms Diep and Mr Young for their guidance and support through the Numero Club.

MARK WHITE, HEAD OF MATHEMATICS



ABOVE LEFT: The Numero Grand Finalists with Maths teachers Victoria Diep and Phil Young.

ABOVE FROM TOP:

Perth Mod Mathe-magicians Chenuthi Bandara (Year 9), Emma Weng (Year 7), Lauren Teow (Year 7) and Henry Low (Year 7).
Perth Mod Pi-thons Taekyu Lee (Year 8), Nathan Lu (Year 8), Hasan Najeeb (Year 8) and Jaden Taylor-Rennie (Year 7).
Perth Mod Solution Smurfs (2nd place): Olivia Coulson (Year 7), Tyler Wong (Year 8), Josephine Siburian (Year 9) and Maduricaa Yohanathan (Year 10).

Exploring the World Through Geography: A Year 12 Perspective



ABOVE: The Year 12 ATAR Geography class gathered at the peak of Reabold Hill.

And at Bold Park:
Enru Chu and
Sebastian Vera ...

Geography is far more than memorising maps and capitals—it's a dynamic and engaging subject that helps us understand the world and our place within it. This year, the Year 12 ATAR Geography class has discovered just how powerful and relevant geography can be.

Studying geography fosters critical thinking, cultural awareness, and problem-solving skills. It provides a framework for understanding the physical world, diverse cultures, and the complex interactions between humans and their environment. In an increasingly interconnected and globalised society, this understanding is essential for navigating the future.

Geography equips students with the tools to tackle global challenges such as climate change, resource management, and population growth. These are not just academic concepts—they are real-world issues that demand informed, responsible and engaged global citizens.

Beyond the classroom, geography offers practical experiences that bring learning to life. This year, senior students have taken part in extensive fieldwork, including visits to the Western Australian Ecology Centre in Bold Park, Reabold Hill and the Perth CBD. These excursions allowed students to apply ecological sampling techniques, explore biodiversity loss, and investigate land cover change. They also examined strategies for restoration, rehabilitation, and mitigation in managing Bold Park, a Class A reserve overseen by the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority.

One of the highlights was a bushwalk along the Zamia Trail to the peak of Reabold Hill, where students admired sweeping coastal and city views and participated in a nature scavenger hunt. Encounters with native flora and fauna—including Carnaby's black cockatoos and ancient zamia palms—made the experience both educational and memorable.

Geography also develops highly transferable skills such as data analysis, spatial reasoning, and environmental literacy. These skills are valuable across a wide range of careers, including urban and regional planning, environmental management, cartography, and roles in the private sector.

In short, geography is about using real intelligence—observation, analysis, and curiosity—to make sense of the world. It's a subject that prepares students not just for exams, but for life.

RICK MCMAHON, GEOGRAPHY TEACHER



... Carter Ridgway,
Heidi Gstaettner,
Sienna Bowden and
Amber Marsh



... James Lazuardi,
Ben Bauer and
Drew Stanborough



... and Amber Marsh and
Sienna Bowden.



STEM in Motion: From Robots to the Cosmos



Tech in action: Robotics and Computer Science students dive into innovation

From coding robots to exploring cloud infrastructure, students have been busy applying their technical skills in real-world settings.

Recently, six Year 7 teams from the Robotics Club showcased their creativity and problem-solving at the RoboCup Junior WA State Event, held at Edith Cowan University. After strong performances in Saturday's preliminaries, four teams advanced to the finals. Leading the way were the Kungfu Pandas, who earned an impressive 3rd place in the Open Line Rescue category—a testament to their teamwork and dedication.

Meanwhile, senior students in Year 11 and 12 ATAR Computer Science took a deep dive into Australia's digital backbone with a visit to the NEXTDC Tier IV Data Centre in Perth. Guided by industry professionals and accompanied by teachers Mr Hari Chillapa and Mr Jonathan Kocaj, students explored high-performance hardware, cybersecurity systems, and sustainability innovations. The visit sparked meaningful discussions and helped bridge classroom theory with real-world applications.

As Mr Chillapa shared, "It was incredible to see our students connect what they've learned in class with the real-world systems that support everything from cloud computing to enterprise IT."

Special thanks to Mr Chillapa and Mr Kocaj for their ongoing support across both programs, and to NEXTDC for opening their doors to future tech leaders. These experiences continue to inspire students to innovate, collaborate, and push the boundaries of STEM learning.

Science Week explores the code of the cosmos

MARK SIMMS, SCIENCE TEACHER

This year's Science Week theme, 'Decoding the Universe', inspired a range of engaging and imaginative activities across the school. Drawing on the idea that DNA is the code for life—and that nucleotides have even been discovered in meteorites—Dr Bouwer led hands-on lunchtime sessions where students extracted DNA from strawberries and designed their own "aliens" using a modified genetic code.

Students also enjoyed a captivating presentation on radio astronomy by local academic Dr Hayley Bignall, and a lively physics breakfast hosted by Igor Bray, Head of Physics at Curtin University.

Lower school students tested their scientific knowledge in a space-themed escape challenge, solving tricky questions to avoid a fictional spaceship explosion. Meanwhile, Year 7 students joined Stemmania, a comedy science quiz streamed live from Melbourne, adding a fun twist to their learning.

Science Week 2025 was a celebration of curiosity, creativity, and cosmic discovery—bringing science to life in unexpected and exciting ways.



FROM TOP: Computer Science students visiting NEXTDC.

ABOVE AND LEFT: At the RoboCup Junior WA State Event.



Manas Gowda and Dimas Shevawardhana working on a modified DNA code extracted from strawberries to create "alien" DNA.



Hearts in Action: Perth Modern's Interact Club Making a Difference

Bake A Wish: Sweet treats for a cause

MAN YU HOE, YEAR 7

On August 25, Perth Modern held its first ever Bake A Wish fundraiser in support of Make-A-Wish Australia, raising over \$1300 for critically ill children. The event was made possible thanks to the incredible support of Rotary members, Ms Diep, Mrs Reilly and a passionate team of student volunteers.

Students contributed by baking cupcakes, earning community service hours and helping bring the event to life. The turnout was overwhelming—with hundreds of cupcakes sold and students buzzing around the tables. It was a heartwarming success, and we're already looking forward to next year's bake sale!



Wrap with Love: Stitching warmth for those in need

VICTORIA DIEP, INTERACT COORDINATOR

During Terms 2 and 3, Perth Modern's Interact Club ran the Wrap with Love initiative, encouraging students to knit and crochet squares for people in need. These squares are donated to aid agencies, who sew them into blankets and wraps for communities experiencing hardship.

Thanks to generous yarn donations from our school and wider community, students of all skill levels got involved in crafting colourful squares during breaks, after school, and at home. A dedicated team of students also carried out quality checks, securing loose threads and ensuring each square was ready for donation.

This initiative was more than just crafting—it was a powerful act of compassion and teamwork. Students learned patience, precision, and the joy of giving, while contributing to a global cause. We're proud of everyone who participated and grateful to the donors and volunteers who made it possible. Every stitch carried warmth, care and community spirit.

Abby Li and Ekaterina Khakimullina with some of the donated 'Wrap with Love' squares.



Bloom Leadership Program: Growing future leaders

VICTORIA DIEP, INTERACT COORDINATOR

Also in Terms 2 and 3, Interact students participated in the Bloom Leadership Program, led by Michael Hillam and Thomas Lenette. The program focused on developing leadership, public speaking, teamwork, and problem-solving skills.

Through engaging sessions and personal stories from the presenters, students gained valuable insights and tools to strengthen the structure of the Interact Club and prepare for future leadership roles.

Thomas Lenette (Bloom Presenter), Shan-Mei Wan, Abby Li, Ekaterina Khakimullina, Amindi Elvadura, Cormac Best and Nicholas Li.



Sandwich making for The Beacon

DANA ANMAR, YEAR 9

During Term 3, students from all year groups joined sandwich-making sessions every few weeks to prepare meals for the homeless. Organised by Rotary Interact, these sandwiches were delivered to The Beacon, a Salvos homeless shelter in Northbridge.

Even students who couldn't attend contributed by donating supplies. The consistent turnout and enthusiasm showed the strong spirit of service within our school community.



Bacon & Eggs at Stirling Farmers Market

NICOLA REILLY, ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

Every Sunday morning, the Rotary Interact Club runs a Bacon & Eggs breakfast stall at Stirling Farmers Market from 7.00am to 12.00 noon.

Volunteers from Subiaco Rotary, including Nathan and Kevin, have been instrumental in supporting this initiative.

Students not only gain community service hours but also enjoy the satisfaction of giving back—and a delicious breakfast too!



Ronald McDonald House Charity Drive

ISABELLA HO, YEAR 9

The Ronald McDonald House Charity Drive was a huge success, with students donating items across five categories: food, office supplies, art materials, books, and toiletries. Each shoebox-sized donation earned students community service hours.

After sorting and categorising the donations, a small group of students, along with the School Chaplain Shaye Willmans, delivered them to Ronald McDonald House in Nedlands. Despite renovations, the staff gave a warm welcome and a tour of the facilities. It was a meaningful experience for all involved.

This was an amazing success, with so many students getting involved in the community by donating and helping sort through the items. Thank you all so much—I hope we can run it again next year!



Four Way Test Speaking Competition: A Night of Thoughtful Dialogue



Chloe Ren, Diya Sanjay, Mia Saranovic and Anushree Sathe.

On the evening of August 6, the Perth Modern School round of the annual Four Way Test Speaking Competition was held in the Parsons Lecture Theatre, hosted by the Rotary Club of Subiaco. Members of our school's Rotary Interact Club co-hosted the event, contributing to its smooth running and memorable atmosphere.

In the lead-up to the competition, Interact students helped with advertising, graphic design, and event preparation. On the night, they assisted with setup, pack down, and delivered opening speeches.

The competition is aimed at Year 10 students, who present speeches on topics of their choice using the Rotary Four Way Test as a framework:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Four Perth Modern students took to the stage, impressing judges with their thoughtful arguments and confident delivery. Diya Sanjay was awarded first place, with Chloe Ren as runner-up. Congratulations to all participants and organisers for a successful and inspiring evening.

In the Grand Final held in Geraldton, Diya delivered a speech titled 'Care for Dementia Patients' that was a powerful and personal subject that resonated with her audience. The eloquence and confidence in her delivery shone through and Diya was awarded the Grand Final trophy at the end of the evening. Congratulations Diya!

DANA ANMAR, YEAR 9



BELOW FROM LEFT: Trophy winner Diya Sanjay with her mother and Rotary officials; and Diya with Interact Coordinator Victoria Diep and Associate Principal Nicola Reilly.

RIGHT: Chloe Ren (above) and Diya Sanjay giving their speeches.



Faces of the Past: Exploring the Terracotta Army

BETHANY LIN AND XINYU ZHANG, YEAR 11



In Week 8 of Term 3, students from the Year 11 and 12 Chinese Background and Second Language classes had the exciting opportunity to visit the Terracotta Warriors exhibition at the Western Australian Museum. This enriching experience was made possible through the thoughtful planning of our teachers, Ms Li and Ms Huang.

Guided by a knowledgeable and engaging Chinese-speaking docent, we explored the exhibition and delved into the fascinating history of China's First Emperor, Qin Shi Huang. We learned about ancient weaponry, imperial traditions, and the legacy of the emperor's vast mausoleum. The highlight of the visit was seeing the actual Terracotta Warriors brought from China—each statue remarkably unique, with distinct facial features and expressions that seemed to tell their own story.

Following the exhibition, we continued our cultural immersion in Northbridge, where we enjoyed authentic Chinese cuisine and bubble tea—a perfect way to round off the day.

This excursion was both educational and memorable, deepening our appreciation for Chinese history, culture, and heritage. We are grateful for the opportunity and look forward to more experiences that connect us with our roots.



TOP: Jireh Chi and Emily Gan.

ABOVE: Bailey Paton, Arya Ganapathy and Vivienne Lo.

BELOW: Claire Champion, Laura Simmonds Emily Gan, Jireh Chin, Benjamin Becker, Zara Nguyen, Emerson Chiew, Izabel Tolhurst and Ethan Yap.

BELOW LEFT: Emerson Chiew at the exhibition.



Rowing with Heart: PMRC Shines at the All Schools State Championships



LEFT: Aiden Papalia, Dimas Shevawardhana, Kieran Ng, Emilio Matanguihan, Manas Gowda, Miranda Salt, Abigail Robertson, Gabriel Calupig, Minnie Phillis, Bethany Lin, Julian Holland, Amethyst Kong, Mary McCusker and Yasmina Cavosie-Pletsch.



Clear skies, light winds and a very sunny day were a promising sign for what lay ahead. After two weeks of postponement, the Act Belong Commit All Schools State Championships had finally arrived.

For the past four months, the Perth Modern Rowing Club had been training hard, aiming to deliver our best performance yet. With many newcomers from across the senior years, the stage was set for a fantastic day.

The first race was the boys' quad, with Dimas, Johann, Manas and Kieran rowing smoothly down the course, coxed by Victoria. The boys were in sync, gliding with agility and control. They finished with a time of 4:30—a 20-second improvement from their last State Championships.

After a quick picnic break, where everyone contributed something to share, it was time for more events.

Next up were the girls' doubles. Bethany and Minnie rowed in one boat, while Amethyst and Miranda competed in another. Following that were the mixed quads, with Abigail and myself racing in this event for the first time. Once again, the pride of Perth Mod was on full display—both on the water and on the sidelines—with Ms Holland's enthusiastic cheers spurring us on to the finish line.

The highlight of the day was the boys' double. Dimas and Johann powered down the course with ease. Aiden and I were in another boat, but we capsized during warm-up! Still, the relentless and determined spirit of Perth Mod couldn't be dampened—we got back in and gave Dimas and Johann a run for their money.

Amethyst also stepped in as a last-minute substitute for the West Australian Rowing Club girls' quad—and they brought home bronze!

The season wrapped up with a brilliant day on the water. After this experience, I can confidently say that this club is built on camaraderie, passion, and the drive to be your best. If you're thinking about joining PMRC next year, I highly recommend it. You'll meet some of the best coaches, build strong bonds with your teammates, and have a lot of fun along the way.

EMILIO MATANGUIHAN, YEAR 11



LEFT FROM TOP:

Manas Gowda, Dimas Shevawardhana, Kieran Ng, Johann Ngo and Victoria Cai. Minnie Phillis, Abigail Robertson, Manas Gowda and Dimas Shevawardhana. Victoria Cai, Bethany Lin, Miranda Salt, Emilio Matanguihan and Aiden Papalia.



FROM TOP LEFT:

Gabriel Calupig, Miranda Salt, Amethyst Kong, Mary McCusker and Abigail Robertson.

Miranda Salt and Amethyst Kong.

Victoria Cai, Dimas Shevawardhana, Johann Ngo, Manas Gowda and Kieran Ng.

Minnie Phillis and Bethany Lin.

LEFT: Back row—Bethany Lin, Victoria Cai, Minnie Phillis, Johann Ngo, Manas Gowda, Aiden Papalia, Miranda Salt, Abigail Robertson.

Front row—Amethyst Kong, Kieran Ng, Emilio Matanguihan and Dimas Shevawardhana.

A Warm Welcome: 2025 Pin Ceremony Welcomes New Students



FROM LEFT: Principal Robyn Verboon welcomed the new students; Modernian Dean Winarto gave the keynote address; and Mary McCusker was one of the MCs for the Pin Ceremony.

BELOW: School Prefects helped run the event.

On Thursday, 18 September, the Beasley Hall was filled with excitement and pride as Perth Modern School hosted its annual Pin Ceremony for a new cohort of students who will be joining Years 8–11.

In front of their families, each student received a Sphinx Pin from Principal Robyn Verboon, a symbol of their commitment to uphold the school's values of courage, curiosity, compassion, commitment and collaboration.

The ceremony was a celebration of beginnings and leadership, with the newly appointed 2025 Head Prefects, Mary McCusker and Avash Shakya, serving as the Masters of Ceremony. Their confident and welcoming presence set the tone for an inspiring afternoon. Guests were treated to musical performances by Luvenia Yeo and Shan-Mei Wan in Year 11 who performed *Danse Espagnole* by Manuel De Falla and *The Fire Sermon: Molto Allegro* by Einojuhani Rautavaara respectively.

Principal Robyn Verboon addressed the students and families with a heartfelt speech, encouraging the new cohort to embrace the opportunities ahead and contribute meaningfully to the school's legacy. The event also featured a keynote address by Dean Winarto, a Modernian from the Class of 2022, whose speech 'Better Today than Tomorrow' was a reflection on leadership, growth, taking opportunities, making lasting friendships and the enduring significance of the Sphinx Pin.

Afterwards, staff, students and families mingled for a delicious afternoon tea.

The Pin Ceremony is a cherished tradition at Perth Modern School, and this year it served as both a celebration of leadership and a warm welcome to our newest students. Congratulations to all our new Sphinx Pin recipients, we look forward to sharing this journey with you.



Spaces That Speak: Exploring Nature and Design



Growing change: Sustainability Club cultivates community and care

MICHAEL DEAN AND SONJA BOUWER,
SUSTAINABILITY CLUB COORDINATORS

It's been a productive and inspiring year for the Sustainability Club, with students continuing to nurture our wellness garden behind Stokes and expand their knowledge of sustainable practices. From tending to fish and frogs to planting a wide variety of species in both soil beds and aquaponics systems, the garden has become a thriving hub of life and learning.

One of our proudest achievements has been reusing old pavers to create a new garden path—proof that sustainability and creativity go hand in hand. As the weather warms, we're also adapting to seasonal changes in the aquaponics system, monitoring oxygen levels and managing algal growth to keep our fish healthy and happy.

Each week, students collect compostable food waste from the canteen and staff room, transforming it into nutrient-rich compost that feeds our garden beds. It's a simple but powerful way to close the loop and reduce waste on campus.

Our Community Day plant stall was another highlight. Thanks to the hard work of students who grew, potted and sold plants, we raised around 300 community dollars for charity—an incredible effort that reflects the generosity and teamwork of everyone involved.

In the shade house, we've been experimenting with growing kangaroo paws using smoke water, a key ingredient for germination. These native plants will soon find a home in the wellness garden, adding colour and biodiversity to the space. Meanwhile, the once-vacant area behind the Future Learning Centre is now flourishing with beautiful native species, offering a peaceful spot well worth visiting.

The wellness garden is open daily, and we encourage everyone to stop by, explore and even harvest some fresh produce to take home. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just curious, there's always something new to discover.



TOP: Sustainability Club members Elena Harrison, Freeman Wei, William Chung, Dylan Yang, Amethyst Kong, Emily Xia, Leisl Ho and Hinata Padilla.

ABOVE: The garden path made from recycled paving under construction.

RIGHT: Kangaroo paw seedlings grown from seed; and the soil garden vegetables.



Framing the future: Design students capture space and possibility

Our Year 11 ATAR Design students visited George Street to scout an unused warehouse site for their architectural design project. They photographed the area and reflected on its surroundings, considering potential future uses such as a community hub or other mixed-use developments.



Hikone Higashi High School Visit: A Week of Friendship and Cultural Exchange



When the students from Hikone Higashi High School visited, we shared a week full of fun, connection, and unforgettable experiences—both at school and around Perth.

We kicked things off with a lively barbecue where we enjoyed Australian food, sang karaoke, and played basketball. Later, we explored Kings Park on a nature walk, tossed frisbees, played footy, had a picnic, and visited the War Memorial. One of the most memorable outings was our trip to Carousel, where we bought matching socks, grabbed fast food, and went shoe shopping together.

At school, the Hikone Higashi students joined our regular classes and participated in Japanese lessons. They helped Mod students practise speaking, and introduced us to traditional Japanese games, crafts, and cultural insights. During recess and lunch, we played football and basketball together, strengthening our bonds through shared activities. Throughout the week, they explored the campus and got a taste of daily life at Mod.

This visit deepened our understanding of Japanese language and culture, and gave us a chance to reflect on the similarities and differences between our schools. Most importantly, we discovered how easy it is to connect with people from another country through shared interests and a good sense of humour.

The experience was truly enjoyable and left us with lasting memories—and friendships we'll treasure for years to come.

AMAN RAJ, YEAR 10





Mod Shines Bright at YOHFest!

ELLA BELLWORTHY, YEAR 9



YOHFest is WA's vibrant youth arts festival where students bring health themes to life through drama, dance, music, and media arts. On 26 August, our talented Year 9 and 10 dancers took to the stage with their original piece, *Look on the Bright Side*, choreographed for this year's theme, 'Colour My World'.

The dance explored the idea of looking up from our digital devices to appreciate the beauty and people around us—a powerful message in today's tech-driven world. Led by choreographers Sophie, Suvi, Zara, Esme and Tehara, the team delivered a stunning performance that earned three awards on the night: 'Excellence in YOHFest Etiquette', 'Visual Feast' and 'Runner-up Health Award'.

We're thrilled to announce that Perth Modern School was selected to progress to the Grand Final on Friday, 24 October at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre—an incredible achievement!

A heartfelt thank you to the P&C for their generous support in funding the stage set. It truly elevated the performance and helped bring the story to life.

Here's what some of our dancers had to say about the experience:

'It was such an amazing journey to be part of, and watching the growth and connection of team members inspired me so much—reminding me of the reason I started dancing in the first place.'

Esme He

'The memories made in this experience—I don't think I could have gained any other way. The efforts of all the dancers and Mrs Wilcock made the dance so amazing, and the growth and journey everyone went through was incredible!'

Tehara Jayasekera

Congratulations to all involved—you've made Perth Mod proud!



One Night on Cardboard: Students Step into the Reality of Youth Homelessness



On 8 August, seventeen Year 11 students along with Science Teacher Braden Grant and School Chaplain Shaye Willmans joined more than 500 students from across Perth in the annual Anglicare School Sleepout, an event dedicated to raising awareness and funds for youth homelessness.

Throughout the evening, students took part in activities designed to simulate the challenges faced by young people experiencing homelessness. These included navigating complex systems to access food banks, shelters, clothing and identification—often being turned away or caught in bureaucratic red tape. The experience highlighted how homelessness involves far more than just a lack of shelter.

Guest speakers, including Alicia from the Youth Homelessness Advisory Council, shared powerful insights and stories, while representatives from Anglicare's Street Connect services explained the vital work being done to support vulnerable youth.

As night fell, students attempted to sleep outdoors with only cardboard and sleeping bags to shield us from the cold. Despite the discomfort, the evening was filled with connection, reflection, and even a few games like trivia and charades with students from other schools.

The experience left a lasting impact on many participants, offering a deeper understanding of the realities faced by over 28,000 young Australians experiencing homelessness. Thanks to the generosity of the school community, Perth Modern raised an impressive \$2,400 for the cause.

One night without a bed is a small sacrifice—but it served as a powerful reminder of the importance of empathy, action and advocacy.

TARA VULIN, YEAR 11



Visions in Focus: Celebrating Student Creativity

KATIE CHIN AND MEISHA RAYNES, VISUAL ART TEACHERS



Sacred spaces, artistic voices: St George's Cathedral Art

Now in its 22nd year, the St George's Cathedral Art exhibition continues to be a cornerstone of the Western Australian student art calendar. Set within the breathtaking architecture of St George's Cathedral in Perth, this annual event offers a unique gallery experience and a platform for secondary students to present their work in a truly inspiring setting.

This year, Perth Modern School was represented by:

- Year 12: Alice Lin – *Time Flies When You're Having Fun* (Overall Winner)
- Year 11: Seneja Willamune – *Hopeless Romantic*
- Year 10: Arya Sims – *Portrait of Music Teacher Celia Christmass*.

Alice Lin's winning piece was accompanied by a heartfelt artist's statement:

"So many things I want to do, yet simply not enough time. From a young age, my calendar has been packed—piano lessons, ballet rehearsals, swimming, schoolwork. Juggling these commitments made me feel like a circus clown. Yet, I found joy in the chaos, wishing time would pause so I could lose myself in each moment."

Her reflection resonated deeply with viewers and judges alike, capturing the bittersweet beauty of fleeting time.



TOP: Alice Lin with her award-winning artwork.

ABOVE LEFT: Alice Lin receiving her Overall Winner award from the City of Perth Deputy Lord Mayor Bruce Reynolds.

ABOVE LEFT: Visual Art teacher Meisha Raynes with Arya Sims.

LEFT: Seneja Willamune at the exhibition.



Breaking boundaries: HyperVision exhibition highlights emerging talent



FROM LEFT: Shanae Maher with her artwork; the exhibited piece by Genevieve Kelly; and Jin Choi with her award-winning lino print at Hypervision.

The annual HyperVision exhibition is a prestigious showcase for emerging and professional young artists, offering students a chance to publicly display their work and gain recognition for their dedication and talent in the Visual Arts. This year's theme, *Reflect*, inspired a diverse range of interpretations and powerful visual storytelling.

We are proud to announce that the following Perth Modern School students had their artworks accepted into the exhibition:

- Year 12: Jin Choi, Genevieve Kelly and Kat Wilson
- Year 11: Karina Ong, Jireh Chin and Shanae Maher.

A special congratulations to Jin Choi (Year 12), who won both 'Best Traditional Media Artwork' and 'Overall Winner' for her large-scale hand-printed lino print titled *Breaking Point: Please Never Let Me Leave This Place*.

Judges praised the intricate detail and technical mastery of Jin's work, noting the complexity of executing lino printing at such a scale. Her piece stood out for its emotional depth and craftsmanship.



Landscapes of imagination: Year 8 artists explore design principles

In Term 3 our Year 8 Visual Arts students embarked on a creative journey through the elements and principles of art and design, crafting their own imagined landscapes within circular compositions.

Students embraced creative risk-taking and problem-solving, experimenting with:

- warm and cool colour palettes
- complementary and analogous hues
- a variety of shapes and textures
- repetition, rhythm and balance.

The resulting collages are vibrant, imaginative and technically impressive, showcasing not only their growing artistic skills but also their unique perspectives and creativity.

We are incredibly proud of their efforts and the stunning artworks now on display.

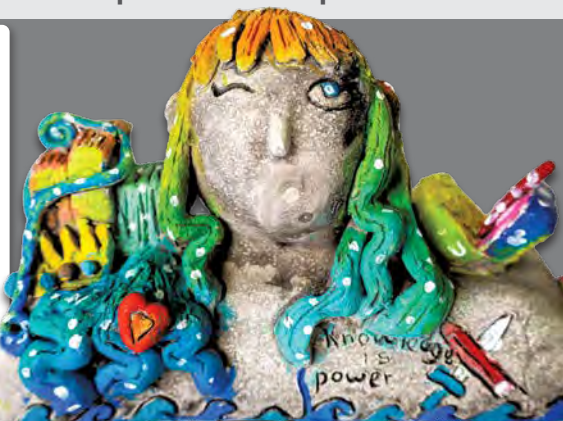
TOP ROW FROM LEFT: Jake Lee and Gurniyayesh Ghuman.

MIDDLE ROW FROM LEFT: Callum Goh and Olivia Wang.

BOTTOM ROW FROM LEFT: Tenika Binu and Sofia Chen.



Originals with impact: Young artists shine at ECU's Spectrum Space



FROM LEFT: Hannah Chen (centre) with her mother and Visual Art teacher Meisha Raynes at the Young Originals; and the exhibited artworks by Alex Lin and Man Yu Hoe.

We are delighted to celebrate the selection of five talented students for the Young Originals 2025 exhibition, held at the Spectrum Project Space at ECU Mt Lawley. This prestigious event highlights creativity and originality in art and design across WA public secondary schools.

Representing Perth Modern School this year were:

- Man Yu Hoe (Year 7)
- Magdalene Tay (Year 9)
- Hannah Chen (Year 10)
- Alex Lin (Year 11)
- Amelie Qiao (Year 12).

Their artworks span a variety of mediums and themes, each reflecting a distinct artistic voice and vision. Being chosen for this exhibition is a remarkable achievement and a testament to their dedication and passion.

We also extend heartfelt thanks to the inspiring teachers who have nurtured and guided these young artists on their creative journeys.

Health and Physical Education Highlights

Perth Modern Volleyball: A year to remember!

JAN SONDER-SORENSEN,
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER

What an incredible year it's been for Perth Modern Volleyball! We saw record-breaking participation in training sessions and fierce competition across both School Sport WA and Volleyball WA events.

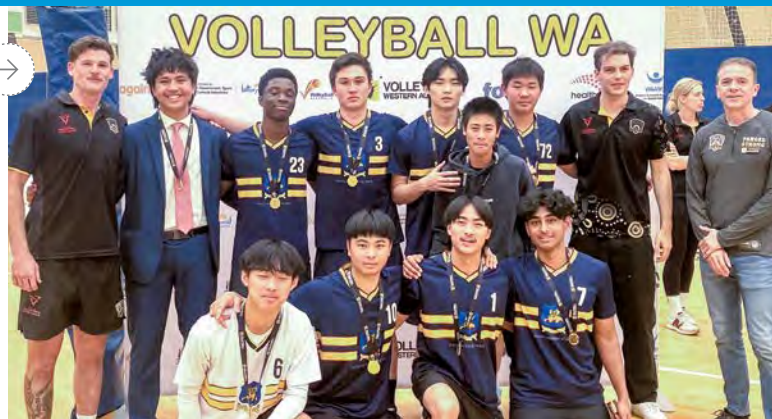
A number of our talented students earned selection for the State team, with Harrison Sartori proudly captaining the Under 19 squad. Adding to the excitement, several of our alumni and coaches celebrated victories in the State League titles.

A historic moment came when our Year 12 team clinched the Volleyball WA Open Boys Championship—an extraordinary achievement, especially considering they've won their division every year, a truly rare accomplishment. Our Year 11 and Year 7 teams also impressed, finishing as runners-up in the honours divisions.

Across SSWA competitions, we secured six titles, a testament to the skill, dedication, and camaraderie of our players. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the students who generously volunteered their time to coach and referee younger teams—your contributions are deeply appreciated and have made a lasting impact.

RIGHT TOP: The Open Boys Grand Final Volleyball winners.

RIGHT: Year 7 Runners-Up—Thanos Limnios, Danil Kazanov, Dimitrios Limnios, Oscar Chiang, Magnus Adams and Cody Tan. Front: Noah Tan and Jack Hoang.



Outdoor Ed Camp at Camp Waller: A memorable adventure

NAOMI CHEUNG AND ADRIEL BEH

Our Outdoor Education Camp at Camp Waller in East Fremantle was an unforgettable experience filled with fun, learning, and connection. One of the highlights was our surfing session—everyone had a blast and picked up a new skill along the way!

Setting up our tents and spending the night with friends was a special part of the camp. We cooked healthy and delicious meals on Trangias and enjoyed self-organised evening games like trivia and charades, which brought lots of laughter and bonding.

On the final day, we completed our first aid course, which we'd been working on throughout Term 3. We're proud to say we've now earned our first aid certifications!

Throughout the term, we've been building up our outdoor skills—learning how to pitch tents, cook on Trangias, and work together as a team. These activities have not only been fun and relaxing but have also helped us grow personally and connect more deeply with nature.

We're grateful for the opportunity to step outside the classroom and into the outdoors—it's been an incredible journey of discovery and friendship.



FROM TOP: Dhanvin Trakroo, Jerome Tan and Bob Han-Busi; Renee Tan and Liliana Baldwin.
LEFT: Bob Han-Busi in action on the court.

SSWA Interschool Squash Tournament

MARK MUIR, HEAD OF HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The SSWA Interschool Squash competition took place in Term 3 at Mirrabooka Squash World, bringing together talented student athletes from across the region for a day of intense rallies, strategic gameplay, and school spirit.

Our school was proudly represented by a dedicated group of players who demonstrated exceptional skill and sportsmanship throughout the tournament. A special congratulations goes to our Senior Girls team, who showcased remarkable teamwork and determination to secure second place overall—a fantastic achievement against strong competition.

Among the stand-out performances was Jerome Tan, who delivered a flawless run, undefeated in every single match. His consistency, focus, and tactical prowess were truly commendable and a highlight of the day.

A heartfelt thank you to Mr Bell, whose unwavering support and guidance throughout the day ensured our teams were well-prepared, motivated, and ready to compete.

Well done to all players who participated—you represented our school with pride and enthusiasm. We look forward to building on this success in future tournaments!

Senior Girls Team: Renee Tan, Liliana Baldwin and Leanne Tan.

Senior Boys Team: Bob Han-Busi, Jerome Tan and Dhanvin Trakroo.

Hoops and highlights: Perth Modern shines at SSWA Junior Basketball

HANNAH NGUYEN, YEAR 9

On August 15, Perth Modern School was proudly represented at the SSWA Junior Basketball Competition by two girls' teams and two boys' teams, comprising talented students from Years 7 to 9. These young athletes competed with determination and spirit against other high schools, showcasing their impressive skills and sportsmanship throughout the day.

Each team delivered strong performances, demonstrating excellent teamwork, resilience, and camaraderie both on and off the court. The players' support for one another was evident and played a key role in their success and enjoyment of the event.

It was a fantastic day of basketball filled with excitement, fun, and school pride. A special thank you goes to our dedicated student coaches: Bethan Lockwood-Jones, Stew Bell, Taksheel Kardi, Jethro Chen, Terrence Goh, and Dylan Karunanayake, whose guidance and enthusiasm were greatly appreciated.

Overall, the competition was a wonderful celebration of Perth Modern's sporting spirit and student talent.



FROM TOP: The Girls Middle Years basketball players; and the Boys Middle Years basketball players.

Congratulations to our Presentation Ceremony Award Winners

A wonderful Presentation Ceremony was held at the
Perth High Performance Centre on Tuesday, 21 October 2025.

The following awards were presented:

DUX OF PERTH MODERN SCHOOL

Aakash Jois

RUNNER-UP DUX OF PERTH MODERN SCHOOL

Ishika Balram

Ethan Kelly

PERTH MODERN SCHOOL AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Ishika Balram

Trung Thanh Bui

Shermaine Chan

Kshithij Chandrashekar

Hannah Chen

Rijuta Das

Anoushka Gupta

Aakash Jois

Ethan Kelly

Ranjeev Ratheesh Nambiar

Evan Tan

Marc Tan

Jasmine Wu

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Mahek Aribenchi

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE AWARD

Sophie Nham

BETTY SAGAR SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Beth Duuring and Monroe Wang

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE LONG TAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP & TEAMWORK AWARD

Ananya Sachidanandan

THE CLARE CASEY SERVICE AWARD

Kshithij Chandrashekar

SUBIACO SERVICE ABOVE SELF AWARD

Abby Li

THE AMPOL BEST ALL ROUNDER AWARD

Benjamin Bauer

STAN PERRON MEDAL

Charlotte Hoy

YEARBOOK AWARD

Amytis Kabir and Madhushree Vijayan



PERTH MODERN SCHOOL AWARDS—HOUSE AWARDS

Gold House Award

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Ruhansi Abeywickrama | Hannah Chen | Qiufei Li |
| Ishika Balram | Rijuta Das | Sophie Nham |
| Gabriel Calupig | Anoushka Gupta | Bailey Paton |
| Shermaine Chan | Aidan Jang | Sophia Sadekova |
| Kshithij Chandrashekar | James Ji | Jasmine Wu |

Platinum House Award

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Ruhansi Abeywickrama | Anoushka Gupta |
| Ishika Balram | Sophie Nham |
| Kshithij Chandrashekar | Jasmine Wu |
| Hannah Chen | |

Diamond House Award

| |
|-------------|
| Hannah Chen |
|-------------|

YOUTH AMBASSADOR AWARDS

For achieving 50+ hours of Community Service

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Teerth Chauhan | Ananya Sachidanandan | Skyla Susanto |
| Suhi Kaur | Samantha See | Audrey Tan |
| Helen McCaul | Chengjun Shen | |

For achieving 100+ hours of Community Service

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Adeoluwa Adebayo | Jasmine Wu | Ishaan Patel |
| Ishika Balram | Anoushka Gupta | Kulanija Premarathna |
| Kshithij Chandrashekar | Sai Akhil Kambala | Aanisha Siddique |
| Beatrice Chong | Abby Li | Miranda Salt |
| Beth Duuring | Sophie Nham | |

SPHINX SOCIETY AWARDS

Six Semesters

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Mahek Aribenchi | Jingnan Jiang | Rhea Sharma |
| Ishika Balram | Aakash Jois | Skyla Susanto |
| Kshithij Chandrashekar | Lodinu Kalugalage | Ava van Dommelen |
| Jaylene Chang | Ruofan Lin | Jasmine Wu |
| Jacky Che | Avishi Prasad | |
| Hannah Chen | Ranjeev Ratheesh Nambiar | |
| Charlotte Hoy | Samantha See | |

LEADERSHIP TO SCHOOL AWARDS

Presented to Head Prefects

Mahek Aribenchi and Thevindu Karunaratne

Presented to School Prefects

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Shermaine Chen | Ethan Kelly |
| Isobel Doe | Qiufei Li |
| Aidan Jang | |

Presented to the House Leaders

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Griffith Carey-Riley | Dylan MacDonald |
| Hannah Chen | Lalkrishna Rajasekharan |
| Charlotte Hoy | Ananya Sachidanandan |
| Gloria Limas | Eric Yun |





SUBJECT AWARDS

Arts and Technologies Awards

| | |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Computer Science | Maya Hubbard |
| Design | Meenakshisundaram Srinivasan |
| Drama | Chloe Christiansen |
| Food Science and Technology (General) | Semindee Kudabalage |
| | Bess McWaters-Smith |
| Materials, Design and Technology (General) | Amber Marsh |
| Visual Art | Ruofan Lin |

English Awards

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| English | Parie Barzanji |
| Literature | Ishika Balram |

Humanities and Social Science Awards

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ancient History | Januthi Pulasinhage (Year 11) |
| Accounting and Finance | Kaylen Koh |
| | Shi Yin Wee |
| Economics | Aakash Jois |
| Geography | Benjamin Bauer |
| | Maya Hubbard |
| | Zoe Selsmark |
| Modern History | Rijuta Das |
| Philosophy and Ethics | Charlotte Hoy |
| Politics and Law | Charlotte Hoy |

Languages Awards

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Chinese Background Language | Jacky Che |
| | Jingnan Jiang |
| Chinese Second Language | Thu Thu Zin |
| French Second Language | Trung Thanh Bui |
| | Rania Phillips (Year 11) |
| Italian Second Language | Ishika Balram |
| Japanese Second Language | Kiefer Yuen (Year 11) |
| | Kevin Xu |

Mathematics Awards

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Mathematics Applications | Vesper Laidlaw |
| Mathematics Methods | Aakash Jois |
| Mathematics Specialist | Ethan Kelly |

Music Awards

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Music | Luvenia Yeo (Year 11) |
| Outstanding Instrumental Music Student | Ethan Kelly |
| | Levi van Bruchem |
| | Levi van Bruchem |
| Dettman Music Scholarship | Max Murray |
| Irene Jolley Memorial Choral Award | Haydn Furness |
| William and Clarice Stabb Music Scholarship | |

Physical Education Awards

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Physical Education Studies | Joshua Saragih |
| Sportsman of the Year | Harrison Sartori |
| Sportswoman of the Year | Fearne Van Beek |
| | Jasmine Wu |
| Sports Citizen of the Year | Drew Stanborough |
| | Fearne Van Beek |

Science Awards

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Biology | Avishi Prasad |
| Chemistry | Aakash Jois |
| Engineering Studies | Oceana Oakley (Year 11) |
| Human Biology | Mahek Aribenchi |
| | Rachel Michael |
| Physics | Ethan Kelly |
| Psychology | Rachel Michael |

'Engineers Australia' Certificate of Excellence for Science and Mathematics 2025

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|-----------------------------|
| Ruhansi Abeywickrama |
| Akinshola Akinyemi |
| Ishika Balram |
| Griffith Carey-Riley |
| Kshithij Chandrashekar |
| Teerth Chauhan |
| Jacky Che |
| Charlie Cui |
| Krish Darji |
| Brendan Goh |
| Anoushka Gupta |
| Shreyas Gupta |
| Arvin Hosseini |
| Shajin Islam |
| Aidan Jang |
| Ran Ji |
| Amytis Kabir |
| Sai Akhil Kambala |
| Dheeraj Chander Karthikeyan |
| Thevindu Karunarathne |
| Rayan Kedar Jape |
| Ethan Kelly |
| Ruoban Liu |
| David Nguyen |
| Ishaan Patel |
| Vihaan Pujara |
| Ranjeev Ratheesh Nambiar |
| Samantha See |
| Aaryan Shah |
| Chengjun Shen |
| Kalabhan Shiyamasuntharan |
| Robert Spicer |
| Evan Tan |
| Fearne Van Beek |
| Ava van Dommelen |
| Shi Yin Wee |
| Liam Welfare |
| Matthew Wong |
| Wember Xu |
| Timothy Zhang |
| Ryan Zhao |
| Thu Thu Zin |



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