



Our Modern Phenomenon

EXTRACTED ARTICLE
BY BETHANY HIATT,
THE WEST AUSTRALIAN



Perth Modern School is WA's top school for 2025, based on the number of ATAR subjects in which Year 12 students excelled. The State's only fully academically selective school regularly tops league tables.

The West Australian has analysed data released by the School Curriculum and Standard's Authority to create a school ranking. Perth Modern was recognised across an incredible 23 courses, ranging from chemistry and geography to psychology and Tamil, the main language spoken in Sri Lanka and southern India.

Perth Modern's proud principal Mitchell Mackay said this was the overall best set of results its students had ever produced, across a range of measures. But at one stage, staff were a little concerned about how the Class of 2025 would fare.

'These were the COVID kids,' he said. 'This was the group that came into Year 7 and had to go home.'

'So we kind of believe that created some really good bonds, forming study groups between them and supporting each other as well. It was kind of 'let's do it together'; rather than be in competition with each other. As a whole cohort, they were incredibly strong.'

Mr Mackay, who took the helm in 2022, said the students were very driven, but the school had a strong focus on supporting them and encouraging their interest outside academics.

'There's no guarantee when they came to us that they're going to achieve those things just because they come with high potential,' he said. It's up to us to provide an environment that's safe and caring, so they come into a classroom feeling they can make mistakes.'



Flying high—
Anoushka Gupta
and Ranjeev
Ratheesh.

PHOTO: JACKSON FLINDELL
THE WEST AUSTRALIAN

'A community where we help each other grow'

BETHANY HIATT, THE WEST AUSTRALIAN

Perth Modern School graduates Anoushka Gupta and Ranjeev Ratheesh have no doubt their school helped them perform at their academic peak.

The two aspiring doctors who both love maths and science were among the high achievers from the Class of 2025 that helped push Perth Modern to be the top WA school based on its performance in ATAR subjects.

'We're surrounded by a lot of like-minded students, so it really fosters a strong sense of community where we each help each other to grow,' Anoushka said. 'That really helped with my studies, because I had all my peers supporting me, which I don't think you get in other schools as much.'

Ranjeev said before he came to 'Mod' he wasn't doing much outside of school. Since he started there, he had become a member of a successful volleyball team and played drums in a band.

'I think all of that has been really helpful... to have all these different connections with friends in your cohort whilst also doing your best to get academic excellence at the same time,' he said.

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From the Principal

A Privilege to Lead in Term 4

Stepping into the role of Principal at Perth Modern School for Term 4 was an honour I embraced with both gratitude and a deep sense of responsibility. While Mitch Mackay focused on his recovery following surgery, I was privileged to support our school community during a term that was both busy and incredibly rewarding.

Leading the school during this period was very much a collective effort. Term 4 highlighted the professionalism, care and commitment that defines our staff and leadership team, whose support ensured continuity and a strong sense of purpose across the school. I greatly enjoyed working alongside such dedicated colleagues, and their encouragement made my time in the role both fulfilling and affirming.

One of the true highlights of the term was the Creative Fusion Festival, a joyful and vibrant celebration that brought together students, staff, families, alumni and members of the wider Perth community. The festival showcased the depth of talent within our Arts, Technologies and Music learning areas through performances, exhibitions and interactive creative experiences across the campus. What stood out most was the spirit of collaboration, students and staff working together across disciplines to create something inclusive, inspiring and memorable. The atmosphere throughout the event reflected the pride, creativity and strong sense of belonging that defines Perth Modern School, and it was heart warming to see our community come together to celebrate the creative passions of our students.

Another very special moment during the term was the Presentation Night and then sharing in the success of the Year 12 Class of 2025 as they received their WACE results. Celebrating the culmination of years of hard work, perseverance and commitment was truly a privilege. Their outstanding achievements reflect not only academic excellence but also resilience and determination, and they are a testament to the strong partnership between students, staff and families.



Beyond the results themselves, what impressed me most was the character of the Class of 2025. Throughout their time at Perth Modern School, they not only demonstrated leadership, integrity and a deep connection to our values, but also built strong, student led relationships that lifted one another up. They empowered each other to lead and succeed, often initiating opportunities where every student's strengths could shine. Most importantly, they balanced ambition with wellbeing, prioritising activities that brought them joy, creating moments of connection, and modelling what it means to pursue excellence while taking care of themselves and each other. Watching them take their next steps with such confidence was enormously rewarding and a powerful reminder of the impact of a supportive and aspirational school culture. In 2026, I have accepted a promotional contract with the Department of Education, an opportunity I am very much enjoying. Perth Modern School remains a place I feel deeply connected to, and my experience leading the school in Term 4 reaffirmed my appreciation for the strength, generosity and excellence of this community. I look forward to staying connected with "Mod" and continuing to celebrate and support its achievements into the future.

Robyn Verboon, Principal

Thank You, Robyn

During Term 4, while I was recovering from heart surgery, it was a great comfort to know that Perth Modern School was in such capable hands. I am deeply grateful to Robyn Verboon for stepping into the role of Principal and leading the school with such commitment, professionalism, and care.

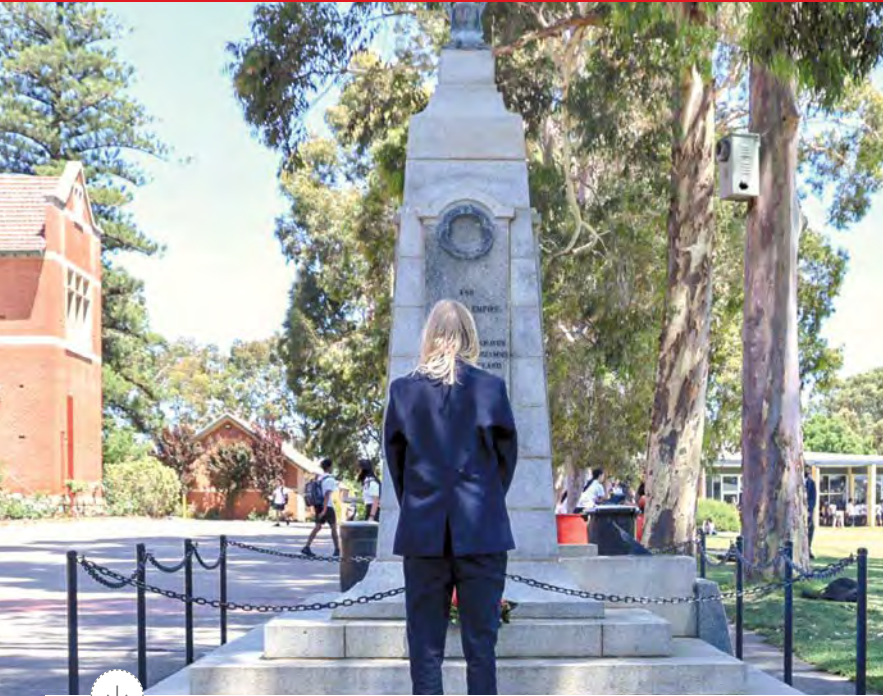
Throughout this period, Robyn worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth operation of the school, remaining across every aspect of school life while providing exceptional support to both staff and students. Her calm and steady leadership was especially valued during the Year 12 WACE examinations, where she was a reassuring presence and a strong advocate for student wellbeing. Robyn's ability to balance high expectations with empathy and clarity fostered an environment of confidence and stability at a critical point in the school year.

I would like to sincerely thank Robyn for her dedication, leadership, and generosity of spirit. Her work during this time exemplified the very best of Perth Modern School's values, and I am enormously appreciative of the care she showed our community while I focused on my recovery.

Mitchell Mackay, Principal



Honouring Service and Sacrifice: Remembrance Day Ceremony



On November 11, our school community gathered at the War Memorial on the top oval to observe Remembrance Day, a solemn occasion to honour Australians who have served in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping missions.

The service began with a moving violin performance of *Waltzing Matilda* by Natasha Foo, setting a reflective tone as students and staff assembled. An Acknowledgement of Country followed, recognising the Whadjuk Noongar people as the Traditional Custodians of the land and paying tribute to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who served despite facing discrimination.

A historical reflection reminded us of Perth Modern's deep connection to Australia's wartime history. From World War I through to peacekeeping missions in recent decades, countless alumni have answered the call to serve. Their names are etched on our memorial plaques and their stories remain part of our school's fabric.

The ceremony included the laying of a wreath, the recitation of the *Ode of Remembrance*, and the playing of *The Last Post* by Imogen Manfield on trumpet, followed by a minute of silence. As flags were raised to the sound of *The Rouse*, the assembly concluded with a message of gratitude and hope: Lest we forget.

This annual service is a poignant reminder of the courage and sacrifice of those who served and an inspiration for us to live with compassion, unity, and peace.

TOP LEFT: The wreath was laid by Jacob Heath.

TOP: Natasha Foo performing *Waltzing Matilda* on the violin.

ABOVE: Historical Reflections by Frank Holdom and Gregorius Widjaja.

RIGHT: Grace Sharma presented the *Ode of Remembrance*.

BELOW LEFT: Imogen Manfield performing *The Last Post* on the trumpet, and Rajdeep Notay delivering the Acknowledgement of Country.



The Class of 2025 makes WA History with Outstanding WACE Results



The Class of 2025 has achieved extraordinary success in the West Australian Certificate of Education (WACE), delivering results that stand as a new benchmark for excellence in Western Australia.

Their achievements reflect not only exceptional academic ability but also the dedication, resilience and sustained effort they have shown throughout their years at Perth Modern School. This outstanding performance is a testament to the collective commitment of students, their teachers and their families. Together, they have produced the strongest set of results ever recorded by a cohort in the state.

99.95

We are incredibly proud to congratulate the ten outstanding students who achieved an exceptional 99.95 ATAR—setting both a school and state record.

Ishika Balram	Aakash Jois
Trung Thanh (Anthony) Bui	Ethan Kelly
Kshithij Chandrashekar	Vihaan Pujara
Hannah Chen	Evan Tan
Anoushka Gupta	Liam Welfare



99.95 ATAR achievers: Kshithij Chandrashekar, Vihaan Pujara, Anoushka Gupta, Trung Thanh (Anthony) Bui, Ishika Balram, Aakash Jois, Evan Tan, Ethan Kelly and Hannah Chen. Absent from photo: Liam Welfare.

99+

In addition to this remarkable milestone, we are also proud to celebrate a new State record: 83 Perth Modern School students achieved an ATAR of 99 and above, the highest number ever recorded by any school in Western Australia.

Congratulations to the students below listed in alphabetical order by surname (not including the students already listed above):

Ruhansi Abeywickrama	Arvin Hosseini	Ishaan Patel	Ava van Dommelen
Adeoluwa Adebayo	Charlotte Hoy	Bailey Paton	Joshua Vong
Akinshola Akinyemi	Shajin Islam	Duyen Phan	Shi Wee
Fedor Alfimov	Aidan Jang	Avishi Prasad	Matthew Wong
Mahek Aribenchi	Ran Ji	That'sari Premarathna	Jasmine Wu
Thomas Ballintijn	Jingnan Jiang	Ranjeev Ratheesh Nambiar	Wember Xu
Svara Bhat	Amytis Kabir	Sophia Sadekova	Olivia Yong
Finn Bradfield	Lodinu Kalugalage	Harrison Sartori	Alex Zhang
Shermaine Chan	Dheeraj Karathikeyan	Samantha See	Timothy Zhang
Jaylene Chang	Thevindu Karunarathne	Soroush Seraj	Ryan Zhao
Teerth Chauhan	Rayan Kedar Jape	Aaryan Shah	Thu Thu Zin
Alexia Chen	Hayden Kelly	Rhea Sharma	
Chloe Christiansen	Kaylen Koh	Chengjun Shen	
Harrison Churchill	Semindee Kudabalage	Kalabhan Shiyamasuntharan	
Alex Crosbie	Alice Lin	Robert Spicer	
Charlie Cui	Ruoban Liu	Skylla Susanto	
Krish Darji	Vivienne Lo	Charisse Tan	
Rijuta Das	Abbey Luu	Marc Tan	
Arya Ganapathy	Kararr Majri		
Brendan Goh	Helen McCaul		
Shreyas Gupta	Claire Nguyen		
Tian He	David Nguyen		



General Exhibitions

This year, 22 of our students achieved a General Exhibition, placing them among the top 52 eligible students in the entire State. This recognition is based on the highest WACE scores, calculated from the average of five scaled marks, including at least two subjects from both the Humanities/Arts list and the Mathematics/Science list.

Congratulations to:

Mahek Aribenchi
Ishika Balram
Trung Thanh Bui
Shermaine Chan
Kshithij Chandrashekar
Alexia Chen
Hannah Chen

Alex Crosbie
Anoushka Gupta
Ran Ji
Aakash Jois
Rayan Kedar Jape
Ethan Kelly
Hayden Kelly
Ruofan Lin

Ranjeev Ratheesh Nambiar
Samantha See
Marc Tan
Evan Tan
Liam Welfare
Jasmine Wu
Thu Thu Zin



Subject Exhibitions

We are also proud to celebrate the success of seven students who achieved a Subject Exhibition, awarded to the top student in the State for each WACE course:

Chloe Christiansen – Drama
Aakash Jois – Economics
Parie Barzanji – English
Benjamin Bauer – Geography
Ishika Balram – Italian: Second Language
Ethan Kelly – Mathematics Specialist
Luvenia Yeo (Year 11) – Music



Some of the Subject Exhibition winners: Ishika Balram, Chloe Christiansen, Parie Barzanji, Ethan Kelly and Aakash Jois.



Subject Certificate of Excellence

A Subject Certificate of Excellence is awarded to an eligible student who is in the top 0.5 per cent of candidates in a WACE subject or the top two candidates (whichever is greater) in a WACE subject.

Biology	Svara Bhat	Japanese: Second Language	Elaine Chan (Year 11)
Chemistry	Shermaine Chan	Literature	Ishika Balram
	Kshithij Chandrashekar		Ran Ji
	Aakash Jois	Mathematics Applications	Sofia Dolfi
	Ethan Kelly	Mathematics Methods	Ruhansi Abeywickrama
	Shi Yin Wee		Akinshola Akinyemi
	Matthew Wong		Krish Darji
Drama	Chloe Christiansen		Anoushka Gupta
Economics	Aakash Jois		Amytis Kabir
	Jasmine Wu		Vihaan Pujara
Engineering Studies	Euan Strachan		Evan Tan
English	Parie Barzanji	Mathematics Specialist	Liam Welfare
	Finn Bradfield		Trung Thanh Bui
	Trung Thanh Bui		Ethan Kelly
	Hannah Chen		Liam Welfare
	Beatrice Chong	Modern History	Sophia Sadekova
	Alex Crosbie	Music	Luvenia Yeo (Year 11)
	Charlotte Hoy	Physics	Shreyas Gupta
	Helen McCaul		Ethan Kelly
	Susan Pius		Vihaan Pujara
	Randeni Pathirannehelage Premarathna		Liam Welfare
	Evan Tan	Politics and Law	Charlotte Hoy
	Marc Tan	Psychology	Jingnan Jiang
Geography	Benjamin Bauer		Ekaterina Khakimullina (Year 11)
Italian: Second Language	Ishika Balram		





Certificate of Distinction

A Certificate of Distinction is awarded to each eligible student who, in their final three years of secondary WACE enrolment, achieve 190–200 points.

Ruhansi Abeywickrama
 Joshua Abrio
 Adeoluwa Adebayo
 Akinshola Akinyemi
 Fedor Alfimov
 Sofea Anistino
 Mahek Aribenchi
 Rosanne Arul Raja
 Thomas Ballintijn
 Ishika Balram
 Leyla Barton
 Jamie Baudinette
 Benjamin Bauer
 Svara Bhat
 Finn Bradfield
 Trung Thanh Bui
 Griffith Carey-Riley
 Yasmina Cavosie-Pletsch
 Shermaine Chan
 Kshithij Chandrashekar
 Jaylene Chang
 Teerth Chauhan
 Jacky Che
 Alexia Chen
 Hannah Chen
 Yixin Chen
 Matthew Choy
 Chloe Christiansen
 Harrison Churchill
 Alex Crosbie
 Charlie Cui
 Rijuta Das

Hasala Dharmakirti
 Isobel Doe
 Sofia Dolfi
 Beth Duuring
 Arya Ganapathy
 Sumedha Ghosh
 Brendan Goh
 Anoushka Gupta
 Shreyas Gupta
 Tian He
 Charlotte Hoy
 Shajin Islam
 Aidan Jang
 Ran Ji
 Jingnan Jiang
 Aakash Jois
 Lodinu Kalugalage
 Saiakhil Kambala
 Dheeraj Chander Karthikeyan
 Loku Yaddehige Karunarathne
 Suhi Kaur
 Rayan Kedar Jape
 Ethan Kelly
 Hayden Kelly
 Kaylen Koh
 Rachel Kolencheri Biju
 Semindee Kudabalage Dona
 Vesper Laidlaw
 Qiufei Li
 Gloria Limas
 Ruofan Lin
 Ruoban Liu

Vivienne Lo
 Enrico Gabriel Lucas
 Abbey Luu
 Dylan MacDonald
 Kararr Majri
 Helen McCaul
 Rachel Michael
 Claire Nguyen
 Sophie Nham
 Ishaan Patel
 Bailey Paton
 Anh-Thu Pham
 Ngoc Nhi Justina Pham
 Ngoc Phan
 Susan Pius
 Avishi Prasad
 Randeni Pathirannehelage Premarathna
 Vihaan Pujara
 Amelie Qiao
 Ranjeev Ratheesh Nambiar
 Samah Reyas
 Ananya Sachidanandan
 Sophia Sadekova
 Joshua Saragih
 Harrison Sartori
 Asha Scaddan
 Hugo Schifferli
 Samantha See
 Zoe Selsmark
 Soroush Seraj
 Aaryan Shah
 Navya Shah

Rhea Sharma
 Kalabhan Shiyamasuntharan
 Robert Spicer
 Euan Strachan
 Skyla Susanto
 Audrey Tan
 Charisse Tan
 Evan Tan
 Marc Tan
 Alysha Trinh
 Fearne Van Beek
 Ava van Dommelen
 Madhushree Vijayan
 Joshua Vong
 Monroe Wang
 Shi Yin Wee
 Liam Welfare
 Naomi Wibowo
 Kathleen Wilson
 Joe Wong
 Matthew Wong
 Jasmine Wu
 Jinzhao Xu
 Wember Xu
 Olivia Yong
 Eric Yun
 Alex Zhang
 Timothy Zhang
 Ryan Zhao
 Thu Thu Zin

Creative Fusion Festival: A Celebration of Collaboration and Creativity



The inaugural Creative Fusion Festival was a joyful and heart-warming celebration that united past and present Modernians, incoming families, and the wider Perth community in a relaxed, engaging, and inviting environment. This vibrant event showcased what can be achieved when passion, teamwork, and creativity come together.

Families wandered between six lively performance stages, inspiring exhibitions, and hands-on creative activities, while enjoying the simple pleasures of home-baked treats and a variety of delicious food trucks. Each visitor created their own artistic adventure, immersing themselves in music, dance, drama, and visual arts.

The festival highlighted the powerful partnership between Arts & Technology and Music, demonstrating how creative disciplines can collaborate to produce something truly extraordinary. Guests explored carefully curated installations, attended captivating performances, and toured classrooms to witness the cutting-edge technology available to our students.





Both staff and students embraced the opportunity with enthusiasm, commitment, and pride. Their combined efforts transformed the event into a true celebration of Perth Modern's creative community.

As Wendy Cara Dugmore, Head of Music, shared:

"I was so proud that our fusion team's hard work and the staff involved were able to produce such a beautiful and uplifting celebration of our Perth Modern Creative students."

Mark Temov, Head of Arts and Technologies, echoed this sentiment:

"Creative Fusion was a wonderful example of what can be achieved when we work collaboratively across learning areas. I couldn't be prouder of the team effort and the creativity on display—it was a true celebration of our Perth Modern creative community."



Students were equally enthusiastic about the experience:

"It was lively and relaxed—such a fun time, I'd love to do it again!"

Sergei Chernyshenko

"I enjoyed performing and running around with my friends—it was just a fun experience."

Francesca Real

"The atmosphere was warm and perfect. If I were to envision a whole school festival, this would be it."

Xin Yan Chan

"I loved performing because I loved sharing my love of music with other people."

Emily Chen

"It was amazing to wander freely, watch performances everywhere, and feel proud to be part of the Perth Mod community."

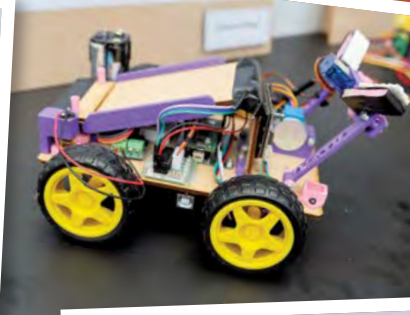
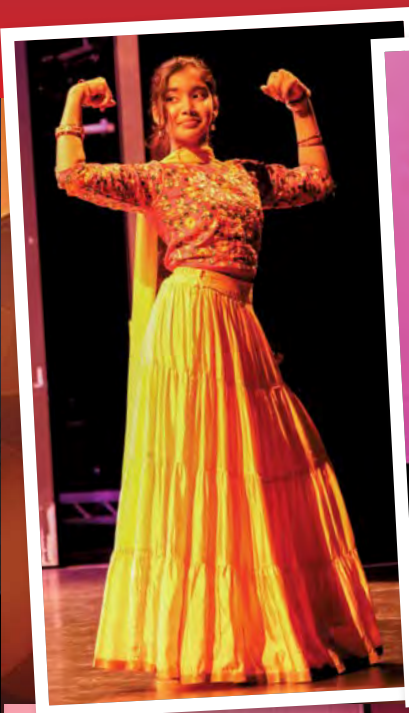
Hasan Najeeb

"The festival vibe was awesome—everyone seemed so happy to be there!"

Lareina Wang

The Creative Fusion Festival was more than an event—it was an inspiring reminder of the magic that happens when creativity and collaboration unite.





Student Accolades



Grace Sharma named Australian Young Historian

Grace Sharma, a Year 10 student, has been awarded the prestigious title of Australian Young Historian at the National History Challenge presentation at Parliament House, Canberra. Grace achieved a remarkable double win, taking out both the Year 10 category and the First Nations History category for her essay on Indigenous Sea rights and the landmark Blue Mud Bay High Court ruling.

Reflecting on the moment, Grace said: "It was surreal. Standing in Parliament House and hearing my name didn't feel real at first. Seeing my family's faces light up made me grin so hard my cheeks hurt. More than anything, I felt proud that a topic centred on Indigenous sovereignty was being recognised nationally."

Her essay explored the significance of Blue Mud Bay, which affirmed Traditional Owners' legal rights over the intertidal zone.

"It showed that Indigenous connection to land and waters is continuous, lawful, and deserving of protection," she explained.

Grace said winning both categories was deeply meaningful: "It feels like validation that these conversations matter and that young people can contribute meaningfully."

Looking ahead, Grace says the experience has strengthened her interest in law, policy, and social justice. Her advice to future entrants: "Choose a topic you're passionate about, dig deeper than the surface, and trust your voice."

Federal Education Minister Jason Clare presents the 2025 National Young Historian Award to Grace Sharma.



Chelsea honoured with Pinnacle Award and Junior Girl Player of the Year

Chelsea Wu in Year 10 has been recognised at the 2025 Table Tennis Western Australia Awards with two prestigious honours.

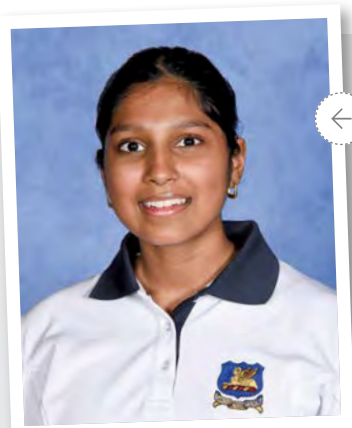
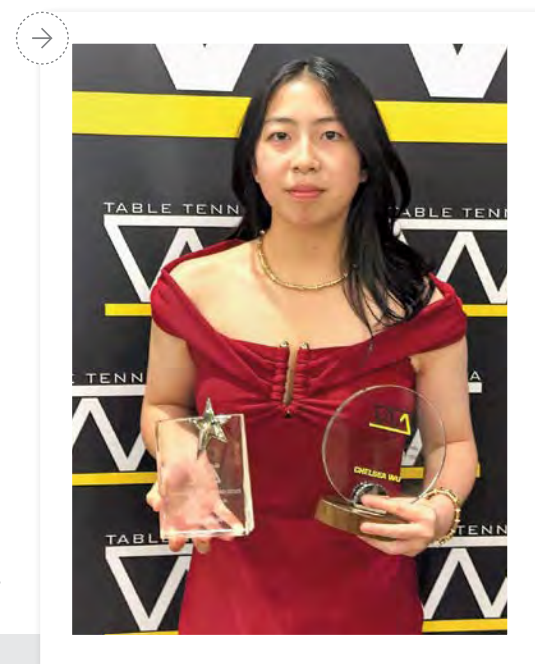
Chelsea received the Pinnacle Award, the highest accolade for a WA athlete who, through national and international success, sets new benchmarks and pushes the boundaries of excellence. This award acknowledges athletes who embody the true spirit of table tennis and inspire the next generation of players.

In addition, Chelsea was named 2025 Junior Girl Player of the Year following an extraordinary season that included six WA Open Championships state titles:

- U15 Girls Singles
- U19 Girls Doubles
- Women's Open Doubles
- U19 Girls Singles
- U19 Mixed Doubles
- Open Teams.

Chelsea also achieved podium finishes in Women's Open Singles and Open Mixed Doubles, further cementing her status as one of WA's most accomplished young athletes.

Chelsea Wu with her trophies at the Table Tennis Western Australia Awards.



Amindi wins Edstart Environment and Social Impact Award

Amindi Elvadura in Year 10 has received the prestigious Edstart Environment and Social Impact Award. This national award recognises students who demonstrate exceptional leadership and innovation in creating positive change for the environment and society.

Amindi's achievement reflects her commitment to sustainability and her passion for making a difference in the community. Through her initiatives, she has shown how young people can lead the way in addressing environmental challenges and promoting social responsibility.

Sean excels in National and State Short Track Speed Skating Championships

Year 7 student Sean Wang has recently experienced great success in short track speed skating competitions.

In October, Sean competed in the Australian Short Track Speed Skating Open, a prestigious international event featuring 131 athletes from six countries. His results were impressive:

- 3rd place in the Junior B Mixed Relay
- 15th place in the Junior D Men's category.

Building on this success, Sean continued his winning streak at the Western Australian State Short Track Speed Skating Championships in November, where he secured first place in the Junior D category.

Sean's commitment, perseverance, and sportsmanship exemplify the values we uphold at Perth Modern. His ability to balance athletic pursuits with academic excellence is commendable.



Lights, Language, Action: Monroe wins National Video Matsuri

Congratulations to Year 12 student Monroe Wang on achieving First Prize in the Senior Secondary Division of the annual Video Matsuri, a national short film contest organised by the Japan Foundation.

Monroe's entry, titled *Daily Life of a Vampire: Photo Day*, was inspired by this year's theme of 鏡 (kagami; mirror). From scriptwriting to voice acting, Monroe single-handedly produced her animated video, showcasing exceptional creativity and advanced Japanese language skills. Her work brilliantly combined her passion for the Arts with her dedication to learning Japanese, resulting in a project that impressed judges and audiences alike.

Celebrating innovation and impact: Ecoframe at the Game Changer Awards

Three of our outstanding Year 7 students—Yojit Dhilipkumar, Chloe Lim, and Emily Truong—proudly represented Perth Modern School at the Game Changer Awards, where they pitched their inspiring project, Ecoframe.

Earlier this year, the trio collaborated to design a solution inspired by the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on how young people can drive meaningful change. Their creativity, teamwork, and professionalism were evident throughout the process, culminating in a confident and compelling pitch at the Awards.

What makes this achievement even more exciting is their vision for the future—the team is already planning to evolve and expand *Ecoframe* in 2026, demonstrating their passion for sustainability and innovative thinking.

Chloe Lim, Emily Truong and Yojit Dhilipkumar presenting at the Game Changer Awards.





Raising her voice: Chloe's speech on Education Equity heard in Parliament

We are proud to celebrate Year 10 student Chloe Ren, whose compelling speech on systemic education inequity was read in the Australian Parliament by Assistant Minister Patrick Gorman as part of the national Raise Our Voice initiative.

Raise Our Voice Australia is a youth-led program that empowers young people to engage in politics and policymaking by amplifying their voices in Parliament. Each year, students submit speeches on issues they care about, and selected speeches are read aloud by Members of Parliament to ensure youth perspectives are heard at the highest level.

Chloe's Speech: Systemic Education Inequity

I'm Chloe, a 15-year-old Perth Modern School student from the Perth electorate, and I'd like to begin with a story. Graduating from a public primary school, it's often the little things that I reflect on. I remember a friend who brought the same Vegemite sandwich for lunch every day. Another couldn't buy new stationery until her mum finished TAFE. Another courageously shared her parent's experience with cancer.

Looking back, I realise how much I overlooked these signs of struggle. The same schooling system that was meant to support my friends never acknowledged the tangible effects of socio-economic barriers. Whether it be nutritionally, academically, or emotionally, my friends were left to navigate in the dark.

Now in high school, I see how these early disadvantages snowball. While I attend a selective school with specialist programs and university pathways, my primary school friends got funneled into under-resourced schools, pushed toward crime and dead ends.

Our education system prides itself on giving every child a "fair go", but what our kids really need is equity. They need you to recognise that some of them need more support to reach the same starting line.

To our representatives in Parliament—children's futures shouldn't depend on their postcodes. Fund schools based on need and ensure every student has access to the same opportunities, regardless of where they live.

Their futures, Australia's future, depends on you.

Walk On accepted into Pulse 2026

Year 12 student Laura Simmonds' animation artwork *Walk On* has been selected for inclusion in The West Australian Pulse 2026 exhibition.

Laura's hand-drawn digital animation represents a courageous creative undertaking. She embraced a steep learning curve, dedicating countless hours to mastering new technical skills while overcoming more than a few digital challenges along the way.

Through meticulous drawing, editing, audio recording, and the integration of real-life photographic scenes, Laura has crafted a moving and insightful narrative. *Walk On* follows a young girl as she navigates the overwhelming sensory environment of her journey home after school, capturing both the intensity and quiet beauty of everyday experience.

We are incredibly proud of Laura and this remarkable achievement.



Laura's reflection:

*All software (OpenToonz, Firealpaca, Audacity) used in the creation of this multimodal artwork are free and open-source by design, and through this artwork, and through taking inspiration from pillars in the modern animation industry, including influences from online artists, renowned groups such as Studio Ghibli and Disney's twelve basic principles of animation, I hope *Walk On* is additionally able to instil an interest in the viewer of the medium, and cement animation's reputation not only as a storytelling device, but also a form of art in its own right.*

Grace shines at Australian Dancesport Championship

Grace Dowley in Year 11 and her dance partner Theo Van der Merwe, a Year 9 student from John Curtin College of the Arts, have successfully competed at the 2025 ADS 79th Australian Dancesport Championship.

Competing in the Under 21 (Youth) C Grade Standard and C Grade New Vogue categories at Centrepiece, Olympic Park in Melbourne, the talented pair were named national finalists, finishing fourth place in both styles.

This is an outstanding accomplishment at such a prestigious national event, and we congratulate Grace and Theo on their dedication, skill, and success. Their achievement reflects countless hours of practice and a passion for excellence in dance.

Theo Van der Merwe and Grace Dowley at the ADS 79th Australian Dancesport Championship.



Sunny awarded Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award

Year 11 student Sunny Kanodia has achieved the prestigious Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award—a remarkable achievement that reflects dedication, leadership, and a commitment to personal growth.

The Gold Award is the highest level of the internationally recognised Duke of Edinburgh program, which challenges young people to develop skills, serve their communities, and embrace adventure. Sunny's accomplishment demonstrates resilience and initiative across all components of the program.

Principal Robyn Verboon attended the official ceremony at Government House, where Sunny was presented with the award by His Excellency the Honourable Christopher Dawson AC APM, Governor of Western Australia.

Sunny Kanodia, the Honourable Christopher Dawson AC APM, Governor of Western Australia, and Principal Robyn Verboon at Government House.

INSET: Sunny Kanodia gives a speech at the Duke of Edinburgh Awards ceremony.



Perth Modern athletes excel at State Championships

Three of our talented students have achieved success in the State Athletics competition.

Matthew McNally in Year 9 won gold medals in the U15 Boys 1500m and 3000m events and has qualified for Australian All Schools Championships in Melbourne and the Australian Athletics Junior Championships in Brisbane.

Hannah Nguyen in Year 9 represented Perth Modern at the SSWA Track and Field Championship, earning the title of Champion Girl for Year 9. This incredible result reflects Hannah's dedication and skill in athletics, and we commend her for this remarkable accomplishment.

Meanwhile, Jing Ming Chong in Year 7 showcased his talent at the WA All Schools Championships 2025, securing a Bronze medal in the U14 Boys Triple Jump. His impressive performance has also qualified him to compete at the National Athletics Championships in Brisbane early next year—a fantastic milestone on the national stage.



Hannah Nguyen (left)
Matthew McNally (top)
and Jing Ming Chong.

Outstanding achievements at WA Track Cycling State Championships

Perth Modern is thrilled to celebrate the incredible success of two of our students, Lachlan Morgon and Tobi Zhou, at the WA Track Cycling State Championships.

Competing together for the first time in the Under 17 Division, both riders delivered exceptional performances. Lachlan impressed as the best-performing first-year U17 rider at the event, while Tobi continued his dominance on the track with multiple state titles and a record-breaking ride.

Lachlan's highlights:

- Personal Best and 2nd place in the Flying 200m Sprint Qualifier
- Bronze in the Scratch Race
- Silver in the Sprint.

Tobi's highlights:

- 1st place in the Flying 200m Sprint Qualifier
- Set a State Record in the 500m Individual Time Trial
- Gold medals in Scratch Race, Kierin, 500m TT, and Sprint
- Silver in the Individual Pursuit.

Lachlan Morgon and Tobi Zhou at the WA Track Cycling State Championships.





Skating to victory: Marcel leads WA to Gold

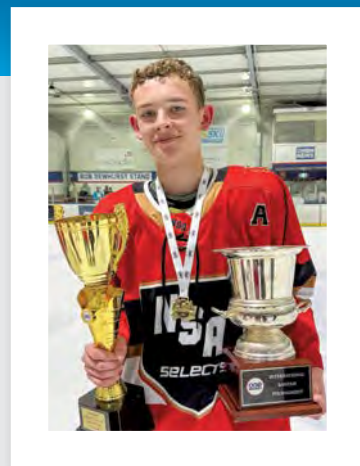
We are proud to celebrate an outstanding sporting achievement by Year 9 student Marcel Williams, who continues to excel on the national ice hockey stage.

Marcel was selected as Alternate Captain for the WA Under 15 Ice Hockey State Team and represented Western Australia at the 2025 U15 Kurt Defris National Ice Hockey Championships.

Demonstrating exceptional leadership, commitment and skill throughout the tournament, Marcel helped guide the team to an impressive gold medal victory.

Adding to this success, Marcel was also selected as Alternate Captain for his team at the OneHockey Tournament, where he competed in the Bantam (U15) division. The team delivered a stellar performance and once again finished as gold medallists.

We congratulate Marcel on his remarkable success and commend him for representing the school and Western Australia with pride.



Perth Modern students compete on the International Stage at Tournament of Minds 2025

Perth Modern School was proudly represented at the 2025 Tournament of Minds (TOM) International Final, held in Sydney from 31 October to 1 November. The prestigious event brought together high-achieving student teams from across Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates, all of whom had advanced through competitive regional and state rounds.

Representing Perth Modern School were Wei Yu Yan, Alexander Wood, Lewis Chen, Aadi Arora, Krish Chauhan, Freeman Wei and Eason Feng. The students demonstrated exceptional collaboration, creativity and critical thinking as they worked through complex, open-ended challenges aligned with this year's theme, "Innovate and Inspire".

The Perth Modern team was accompanied to Sydney by Mr Lachlan Murphy and Mr Philip Young, whose guidance and support throughout the competition were greatly valued. Tournament of Minds challenges students across a range of disciplines, including STEM, The Arts, Social Sciences, and Language and Literature, requiring teams to develop and present innovative solutions under strict conditions and without external assistance.



ABOVE: The Perth Modern School Tournament of Minds team at the airport with teachers Philip Young and Lachlan Murphy.

RIGHT: Sightseeing in Sydney.



A sweet win for Callum

Congratulations to Year 8 student Callum Goh who was awarded the High School Entry Award at the City of Bayswater Community Art Awards and Exhibition.

Callum's winning artwork, *Sweet Tooth*, was created during the July 2025 school holidays and impressed the judges with its creativity, attention to detail and strong execution. The coloured pencil work measures 30cm by 40cm and demonstrates Callum's growing skill and artistic confidence.

This achievement is a wonderful reflection of Callum's dedication to his art and highlights the talent of our students within the wider community. We are proud to see his work recognised at a local level and congratulate him on this well-deserved success.

Callum Goh with Deputy Mayor Ellis Petersen-Pik at the 2025 City of Bayswater Community Art Awards and Exhibition. PHOTO BY LOUISE COGHILL.



Exciting news from Year 10 Drama

Year 10 Drama students Lachlan Belstead, Andrea Boston-MacQuillan, Lucia Everitt, Saskia Kennea, Hong Ng and Qiqi Wang have won the Creative Vision Prize at the 2025 Bell Shakespeare Shorts Festival; a national celebration of student films inspired by Shakespeare, with their film *Romeo and Juliet Act 4 (and 3/4)*.

This is an incredible achievement in the festival's toughest competition to date, with over 54 films submitted from schools across Australia. Each five-minute film was required to: reflect its school or community in a meaningful way; highlight student voice, perspective, and creativity; reimagine Shakespeare, drawing inspiration from his language, characters, or ideas; and capture the essence of Shakespeare's storytelling in a fresh and original way.

In Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Friar John is entrusted with the crucial task of delivering a letter to the banished Romeo Montague. He fails, claiming he was quarantined with a fellow Friar. But what was he really doing? Our students imagined the untold story behind this pivotal moment, blending creativity and humour with Shakespearean themes to craft a bold reinterpretation that captured the judges' attention.



FROM TOP LEFT: Lachlan Belstead, Andrea Boston-MacQuillan, Lucia Everitt, Saskia Kennea, Hong Ng and Qiqi Wang.

Student success in Chinese Writing and Mandarin Speaking

We are proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our students in the CLTAWA State Chinese Writing and Mandarin Speaking Competitions. Their results reflect a high level of commitment, skill and excellence in language learning.

Chinese Writing Competition

- Hannah Nguyen was awarded 1st Prize in Category C (Years 7 and 8).
- Emily Xia achieved 1st Prize in Category E2 (Levels 3–5).
- Jiaqi Liu received 2nd Prize in Category E2 (Levels 3–5).
- Stephanie Shen was awarded 3rd Prize in Category E3 (Levels 6–8).
- Esme He received a Merit Award in Category E3 (Levels 6–8).
- Raymond Wang achieved 3rd Prize in Category E4 (Level 9).



Stephanie Shen, Esme He, Hannah Nguyen, Raymond Wang, Jiaqi Liu and Emily Xia were awardees in the CLTAWA State Chinese Writing Competition.

Mandarin Speaking Competition

- Magdalene Tey was awarded 2nd Prize in Category 5 (Year 9).
- Ava-Mei Fok Lok achieved 5th Prize in Category 5 (Year 9).
- Jayden Ho received 5th Prize in Category 4 (Year 8).

Stella appointed 2026 Drama Captain

We are pleased to announce that Year 12 student Stella Anthony has been selected as the 2026 Drama Captain.

Stella is enthusiastic about stepping into this leadership role and is deeply passionate about drama, with aspirations to pursue it beyond school. She is particularly keen to support younger and emerging drama students and to help uphold and strengthen the long-standing drama tradition at Perth Modern School.

Stella's commitment to the performing arts and her willingness to lead and mentor others make her a well-deserving appointment. We congratulate her on this achievement and look forward to the positive impact she will make.

Stella Anthony, Drama Captain for 2026.



High Ropes and High Spirits: Year 9's Dwellingup Adventure

ELLA BELLWORTHY AND NOELLE ABHILASH, YEAR 9



From 29–31 October, Year 9 students headed to Jarrahdale Dare Adventures Bush Camp in Dwellingup for an unforgettable experience. Surrounded by stunning forest views, we enjoyed a mix of outdoor activities and plenty of photo-worthy moments.

Highlights included kayaking, archery, and even feeding goats but the standout was the Tree Top Adventure. In activity groups, we tackled high ropes, balanced on logs, and zipped through the treetops. Free time was just as fun, with games, basketball, and time to relax. Evenings were split between a cosy movie night featuring *Spiderman* and an adventurous night walk, rotating so everyone got a taste of both.

The food was delicious, and the friendships made everything better. As Aidan said, "Even the long bus rides were fun because of the great people around me." Aisha loved winding down with the movie, while Xavier summed it up perfectly: "The food was good, but the friends made it better."

This camp wasn't just about activities it was about connection, independence, and shared memories. By the time we left Dwellingup, the bus ride home was silent with everyone fast asleep after an amazing few days.



*"The food was good,
but the friends made it better."*
Xavier Su



Mod Mathematicians Make Their Mark



Western Australian Junior Maths Olympiad Victory

MR MARK WHITE, HEAD OF MATHEMATICS

On Saturday, 18 October, at the University of Western Australia, Perth Modern achieved an outstanding triumph by winning the Western Australian Junior Mathematics Olympiad (WAJO) 2025. Not only did our teams secure the overall Olympiad win, but they also collected a remarkable number of individual and team prizes, as well as merit awards.

The WA Junior Maths Olympiad is open to students from Years 7 to 9 across all schools in Western Australia, both government and independent. Each year, around 500 students compete in teams of four, tackling both individual and team sections. Scores from the individual round are combined with the team results to determine the overall winners.

This year, Perth Modern's winning team, recipients of the prestigious Jack Bana Award for Excellence, was composed of four talented Year 7 students: Danil Kazanov, Jeremy Wang, Boan Li and Declan Lin.

Perth Modern entered multiple teams and excelled across nearly every category, with results as follows:

TEAM AWARDS

Most Outstanding Year 8 Team:

Sally Huang, Grace Zhu, Zicheng Wang and Thomas Kong

Team Award for Excellence:

Ashvin Balavignan, Terry Li, Emily Chen and Shayan Islam

Team Awards for Merit:

- **Ozichukwu Egesi, Safwan Malik, Jayden Lee and Samuel Rea**
- **Matthew Lee, Leven Shi, Nelson Yan and Shanjayi Jeyageethan**

INDIVIDUAL PRIZES

Most Outstanding Year 7 Student (Cheryl Praeger Prize):

Danil Kazanov

Most Outstanding Year 8 Student: **Sally Huang**

Most Outstanding Year 9 Student: **Nelson Yan**

Individual Awards for Excellence:

Boan Li, Safwan Malik and Ozichukwu Egesi

Merit Awards:

Jimmy Liang, Hao Cheng Feng, Terry Li, Grace Zhu, Emily Chen, Lucas Xia, Ashvin Balavignan and Shayan Islam

Phill Schultz Prize: **Mark Lee and Rayden Oliveiro**

Special WAMOC Award: **Danil Kazanov**



This incredible success reflects the dedication and talent of our students, as well as the guidance of our teachers. A heartfelt thank you goes to Ms Zhang, Mr Kigodi, Mr Cho and Mrs Barnes for accompanying and supporting the students on the day, and to all our maths teachers for their tireless work in the classroom.

ABOVE LEFT: The winning team at the Western Australian Junior Olympiad: Declan Lin, Danil Kazanov, Boan Li and Jeremy Wang.

LEFT: Recipients of Special Awards at WAJO were Mark Lee, Boan Li, Nelson Yan, Jimmy Liang and Rayden Oliveiro, pictured with Mr Mark White.

BELOW: The Perth Modern School students and staff at WAJO.

Two Maths Medals and many prizes for Perth Modern students

On the evening of 18 November at Curtin University, Perth Modern students shone brightly at the annual awards ceremony for competitions run by the Australian Maths Trust (University of Canberra).

Two of our students received prestigious medals for outstanding performance in the Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC), while more than 30 others were recognised with prizes and awards across a range of national maths and coding competitions. The Australian Maths Trust runs nearly all national mathematics competitions, Olympiads, and coding events, held in over 20 countries across the Asia-Pacific region.

MEDAL WINNERS

- **Grace Zhu (Year 8): Cheryl Praeger Mathematics Medal**
- **Bryan Xia (Year 10): Peter O'Halloran Mathematics Medal**

Both medals are awarded for achieving the top score or a perfect score in the Australian Mathematics Competition. The medals were presented by Mr Micah Sinclair, Tuckwell Scholar at ANU, Maths Olympiad Program Mentor, and member of the Class of 2021. In his keynote speech, Micah reflected on how the culture at Perth Modern fostered his love of mathematics.

SPECIAL AWARDS

- **Tiger Varol (Year 10): WA Prize, Computational and Algorithmic Thinking Competition (CAT)**
- **Danil Kazanov (Year 7): Prize, Australian Intermediate Mathematics Olympiad (AIMO)**
- **Rayden Oliveiro (Year 11) and Tiger Varol (Year 10): Gold Awards, Australian Informatics Olympiad (AIO)**

OTHER AWARDS

Australian Mathematics Competition – Prizes (Top 0.3%)

Alexander Chung (Year 7), Danil Kazanov (Year 7), Boan Li (Year 7), Jimmy Liang (Year 7), Jeremy Wang (Year 7), Sally Huang (Year 8), Reon Jophy (Year 8), Thomas Yuchen Kong (Year 8), Jayden Lee (Year 8), Samuel Rea (Year 8), Adam Rust (Year 8), Zicheng Wang (Year 8), Shayan Islam (Year 9), Terry Li (Year 9), Angela Huang (Year 10), Cassie Lee (Year 10), Mark Lee (Year 10), Tiger Varol (Year 10), Matthew Wang (Year 10) and Rayden Oliveiro (Year 11).

Computational and Algorithmic Thinking Competition – High Distinctions:

Olivia Coulson (Year 7), Grace Zhu (Year 8), Shanjayi Jeyageethan (Year 9), Siddharth Sankara Subbaiyan (Year 10), and Tiger Varol (Year 10).

Australian Informatics Olympiad – Silver:

Zicheng Wang (Year 8), Cormac Best (Year 9), Sean Chan (Year 9), Katrina Robinson (Year 9) and Matthew Wang (Year 10).

Australian Informatics Olympiad – Gold:

Tiger Varol (Year 10) and Rayden Oliveiro (Year 11).

Australian Intermediate Mathematics Olympiad (AIMO):

Sally Huang (Year 8), Nelson Yan (Year 9), Mark Lee (Year 10), Tiger Varol (Year 10) and Bryan Xia (Year 10).

Prize: Danil Kazanov (Year 7).



AMC medal winners: Bryan Xia won the Peter O'Halloran Mathematics Medal and Grace Zhu was the recipient of the Cheryl Praeger Mathematics Medal. They are pictured with alumnus Micah Sinclair.



Australian Mathematics Trust awardees: Jimmy Liang, Jeremy Wang, Danil Kazanov, Alexander Ching and Boan Li.



Rayden Oliveiro and Jayden Yip were winner of the WA Prize in the National Maths and Statistics Research Competition.

WA Prize for National Maths and Statistics Research Competition

This semester, Rayden Oliveiro and Jayden Yip in Year 11 submitted a paper to the National Mathematics and Statistics Research Competition, run by the University of Melbourne, and won the WA Prize.

Rayden shared: "This year, I, along with Jayden Yip, had the pleasure of participating in the University of Melbourne Mathematics and Statistics Research Challenge for another year. We spent numerous months using various modelling tools such as Python, as well as linking these to a deeper mathematical foundation, to analyse and investigate the strategies of two players in a probabilistic game. Through participating in this research challenge, we were able to apply and build our skills learnt in Mathematics and Computer Science by applying them to a theoretical real-world context. It was a deeply enjoyable experience."

Congratulations to all our talented students for their incredible achievements in mathematics and coding this year. You continue to inspire our school community with your dedication, creativity, and excellence.

From Ink to Onigiri: Exploring Japanese Culture



A taste of Japan: Obento and Taiko drums

SALLY HUANG, YEAR 8

It was the end of Period 4 on an excruciatingly scorching day, so when we were told to head to the Agora for a Japanese Taiko incursion, it didn't exactly sound like the most appealing way to finish the afternoon. That mindset lasted for about... thirty seconds.

As soon as we arrived, we lined up for our obento boxes, which had been so thoughtfully organised by our wonderful Japanese teachers. Sitting together in the shade, we enjoyed a delicious variety of festival-style foods, from ごはん to たこやき and そうざい, which definitely helped lift everyone's mood.

Then the wadaiko (わだいこ) drums began. The thunderous beating of the drums cut straight through the Agora, echoing all the way to Andrews and drawing in anyone within earshot. Any lingering fatigue disappeared as the space transformed into something much closer to a Japanese festival than an ordinary lunch break.

The real highlight of the incursion came after the performance, when we were given the chance to try playing the wadaiko ourselves. It looked powerful and effortless when the performers played and slightly less graceful when we did. What seemed simple at first quickly proved otherwise, with plenty of missed beats, lots of laughter, and arms far sorer than expected by the end. Even the teachers had a go, which made the experience even more enjoyable.

This incursion was an unforgettable experience, and we were incredibly lucky to be part of it. It would not have been possible without the generosity and effort of Wee Sensei, Todd Sensei, Matsuo Sensei and the talented performers. Thank you for turning an ordinary afternoon into something we will remember long after the drums stopped.

ありがとうございます！





A brush with Japanese calligraphy

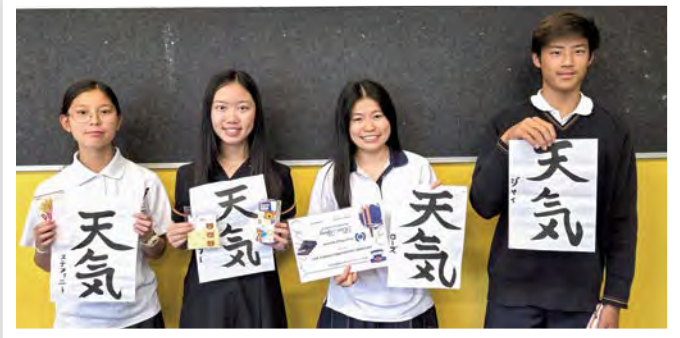
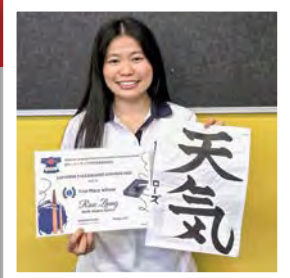
KATE BELISARIO, YEAR 7

The Japanese Calligraphy Competition was a memorable experience for me, and for many others as well. Although I had not done calligraphy before and was unsure about participating at first, I decided to give it a go and I am glad I did.

When Wee Sensei taught us how to hold the brush and demonstrated the different strokes, I felt quite nervous and kept thinking, "Am I even doing this right?" Thankfully, Wee Sensei and the other teachers were very supportive and encouraging, even when I accidentally spilled some ink on my paper.

We were given practice sheets so we could try writing the kanji before attempting it on the final paper, which helped a great deal. Over time, I became more comfortable using the brush, and it seemed like everyone else was gaining confidence as well.

Overall, the calligraphy competition was enjoyable, and it is something I would love to do again.



FROM TOP LEFT: Dhinali Madurapperuma, Meagan Chim and Rithanya Nagaraj; Rose Zhang, the Competition Winner for the Year 10 Category; and Stephanie Lai, Sally Huang, Rose Zhang and Jie Wan.



FROM TOP LEFT: Abby Htoo, Evelyn Kelley and Rachel Lum; Micah Seow, Hunter Miao and Thomas Dong; Pax Ru; Lachlan Morgon and Oscar Woodland; Regina Koh and Lexie Umali; and Ms Wee, Serah Jomon and Leia Alamsyah.

Oshōgatsu: Celebrating Japanese culture and cuisine

LEXIE UMALI AND KAITLIN LAW, YEAR 9

To celebrate the completion of another successful year, the Year 9 Japanese students and their teachers came together for a fun and engaging end-of-year incursion.

In the lessons leading up to this exciting event, we learnt about *Oshōgatsu* (お正月), the Japanese New Year, and how it is traditionally celebrated. One of the customs we explored was *nengajō*, the traditional New Year greeting cards sent to family, friends and loved ones by 1 January. Fittingly, during the incursion we designed and created our own *nengajō*, all themed around the animal of the upcoming Lunar New Year—the horse.

Of course, no celebration would be complete without food, and there was plenty to enjoy. Using the conversational Japanese we had learnt throughout the term, we practised ordering sweets in a shop-style scenario. Thank you to Toddensei for patiently putting up with our notsoperfect Japanese. We also had the chance to make tuna mayo *onigiri* (おにぎり), putting our practical skills to the test. From seasoning the rice to shaping it into the iconic triangle, each step taught us something new. No matter how misshapen they turned out, they were still delicious.

To finish on a high note, we enjoyed our *onigiri* alongside other Japanese dishes such as karaage chicken and vegetable *gyōza* (やさいぎょうざ), rounding out the incursion with a very satisfying lunch.

Overall, the incursion was not only educational and engaging, but also extremely delicious. It was a wonderful way to conclude Year 9 Japanese and build excitement for the year ahead. A big thank you to Matsuosensei, Toddensei, Weesensei and the EAs for their hard work in making this experience possible.

Full Houses for House Drama

ALLIE CHAN AND HARDY HERRMANN, YEAR 10



On December 16, four teams of talented actors from Years 7–10 from the four houses—Brown, Downing, Parsons and Sampson—performed a student-directed play, which was adjudicated by award-winning theatre director Sam Bruce. Each play was led by Years 10 and 11 directors who were given ten weeks to put together a 15-minute performance.

For directors, House Drama involves selecting a play to perform, organising rehearsals during lunchtimes and outside of school hours, and directing and blocking actors in the performance space. They also make decisions about sound and lighting, costuming and set design. The actors work hard to memorise their lines and develop an effective character throughout the term. It is also an opportunity for House Spirit to be fostered through cast members' passions for dramatic performance.

Downing told a thrilling pirate tale about a kidnapped girl who wishes to join a crew, in the comedic play titled *The Three Marauders*. Sampson showcased *The One Act Play Disaster*, an attempt by a company on a low budget to direct a play about an impossible heist. After an entertaining movement exercise by Ms. Pacecca, Brown continued the show with the action-packed *Lupe and the F Train Monster*, where a girl's video game fights spring to life as she rides the subway. Parsons concluded the performance with *Barbie Goes to High School*, featuring the school journey of Barbie, and the romance and trouble that comes with it.

We are thrilled to announce that Parsons, directed by Year 11 students Avash Shakya, Claire Champion and Heath Duggan, won the 2025 House Drama competition! Parsons' insightful performance about Barbie's high school journey was especially enjoyable when Barbie realised the guy she finally wanted to chase was also sought after by the other new student.

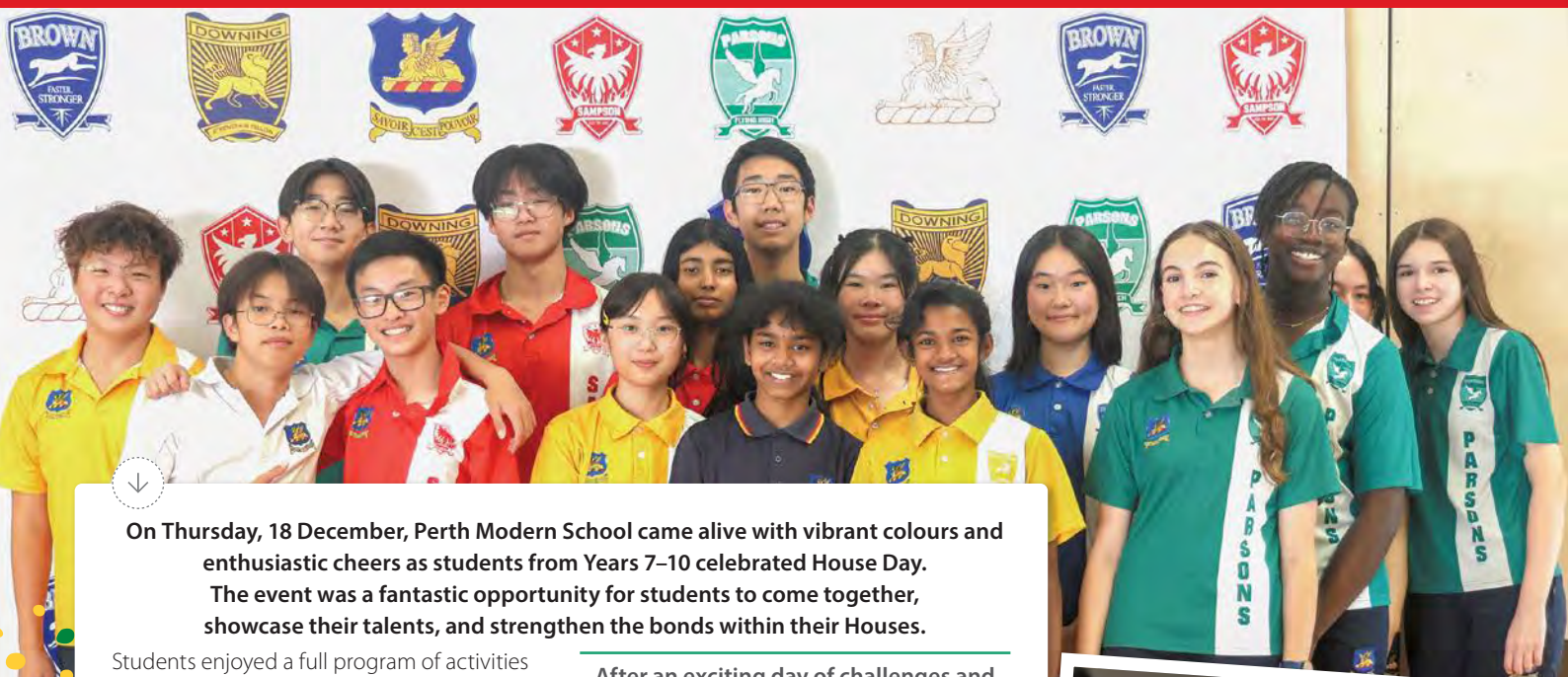
Parsons was closely followed by Downing in second place, directed by Stella Anthony, Dakota Cole, Elissa Murday and Tara Vulin. Brown and Sampson tied for third place, with Brown directed by Allie Chan, Chloe Spear, Arya Sims and Hong Ng, and Sampson directed by Grace Dowley, Rania Phillips, Shan-Mei Wan and Oceana Oakley.

A huge thank you to every drama teacher, student crew member, external tech supporter, director, actor and adjudicator. It was an incredibly valuable learning experience for all students involved, whether it was gaining confidence in performing, learning how to become an effective leader, or developing long-lasting friendships with each cast member. We couldn't be prouder of what has been achieved this year.





House Day brings Energy and Spirit to Perth Modern



On Thursday, 18 December, Perth Modern School came alive with vibrant colours and enthusiastic cheers as students from Years 7–10 celebrated House Day. The event was a fantastic opportunity for students to come together, showcase their talents, and strengthen the bonds within their Houses.

Students enjoyed a full program of activities spanning sport, STEM, arts, and games. Popular sessions included Board Games, Soccer, Paper Planes, Chess, Newspaper Fashion, Film Bites Trivia, Benchball, Bridge Building, Christmas Card Making, Origami, MahJong, Escape Room, Just Dance, Grok Coding, and eSports.

The breadth of offerings meant every student could find an activity to suit their interests—whether competing in sport on the oval, building bridges in Andrews, designing fashion in Stokes, puzzling through chess, or getting creative in the media and music rooms.

From spirited competitions to collaborative activities, the day was filled with laughter, teamwork, and a strong sense of belonging.

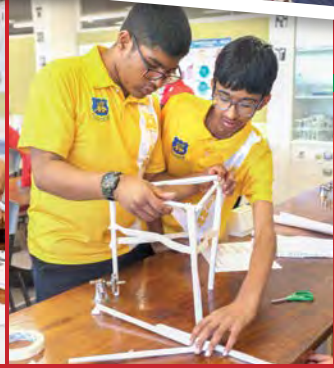
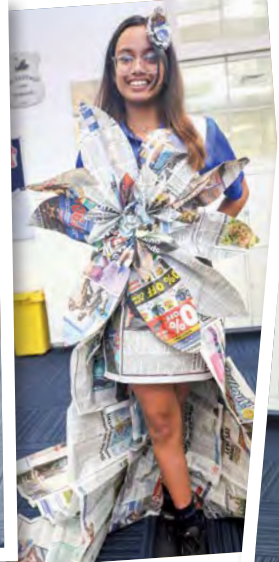
Students demonstrated not only their skills but also the values of curiosity, collaboration and commitment that define our school community.

After an exciting day of challenges and fun, Parsons was announced at the House assembly as the winner of the 2025 House Trophy, followed by Brown in second place, Downing in third, and Sampson in fourth.

Congratulations to all Houses for their incredible effort and enthusiasm—every cheer and every contribution made the day memorable.

House Day is more than a competition; it's a celebration of unity and school pride. The energy and positivity displayed by our students reflect the strength of our community and the importance of working together toward shared goals.





Fun making Tagliatelle alla Bolognese

FRANCESCA ORI, ITALIAN TEACHER



In Term 4, our Year 7 and 8 Italian students rolled up their sleeves and immersed themselves in the art of traditional pasta making! Angelo, our school café manager and proud native of Bologna, guided them through the process of creating authentic egg dough and demonstrated how to transform it into silky tagliatelle using pasta machines.

While waiting for the long strips of dough to dry, creativity took over with students crafting playful pasta sculptures using colours, glue, and playdough. Once the dough was ready, everyone pitched in to roll and cut the strips into perfect tagliatelle.

At lunchtime, the reward was delicious: students enjoyed their handmade pasta served with rich Bolognese or a tasty vegetarian sauce. Along the way, Angelo shared fascinating insights into the differences between regional Italian recipes and sauces.

Traditionally, pasta making was a skill passed down by “nonna,” but today it’s a craft for everyone, though sadly, it’s becoming rare in our fast-paced modern world. This incursion offered students a hands-on experience of an important aspect of Italian culture and identity, blending learning with fun and flavour!



John Shrestha, Tom Light and Danil Kazanov get their hands floury.



ABOVE FROM LEFT: Bella Dai and Aadya Davda; Euan Sell and Ethan Ong; Harnoor Chhabra and Dana Chung; and Joel Gunasekara, Oscar Chiang and Bryan Geo Pratab. LEFT: Max Currie-Gamon.

BELOW FROM LEFT: Ryan Webb; Stella-Maria Suuronen and Carla Smethurst; and Saksham K C, Noah Bridges and Franek Cytowski.



Celebrating Connection and Achievement in the GT Online Community



FROM LEFT: The GT Online graduating class; GT Online Program Coordinator Sarah Mirco with GT Online Teacher Sue Thomson who was retiring; GT Online graduating students in Year 10 received certificates at the ceremony.

GT Online Graduation Presentation Ceremony

The GT Online Graduation Presentation Ceremony was held on Thursday 4 December 2025 in Beasley Hall at Perth Modern School, bringing together students, staff and families to celebrate an important milestone in the program.

The ceremony welcomed Year 7 to 9 students dressed in their GT Online shirts, while Year 10 students attended in smart casual attire. Parents and carers, particularly those based in Perth, were warmly invited to attend and share in the occasion.

Proceedings began with an Acknowledgement of Country, followed by a welcome to special guests including parents, teachers and students. Addresses were delivered by Mrs Mirco and Ms Thomson, highlighting the achievements and growth of students throughout their time in the program.

Pin presentations were held for mid-year intake students and Year 7 students, and Learning Area teachers presented competition awards

and acknowledged student success. The ceremony also recognised Year 7 to 9 students departing the program and included farewells and introductions for staff members.

A special farewell was given to the Year 10 students, with the presentation of graduation certificates, a commemorative gift and booklet. The celebration concluded with a photo slideshow reflecting on the Year 10 journey, student speeches and a farewell performance, as well as a poem dedicated to the graduating class.

The ceremony was a fitting celebration of achievement, community and the strong connections formed through the GT Online program.

Online Learning Camp brings students together

BRETT MOLLOY, GT ONLINE

Last December, students from the GT Online program in Years 7 to 10, from near and far-flung parts of the state, came together for a memorable school camp at the Swan Valley Adventure Centre.

The camp provided a valuable opportunity for students to connect in person, build friendships, and take part in hands-on learning experiences and feel a strong sense of belonging within the Perth Modern School community.

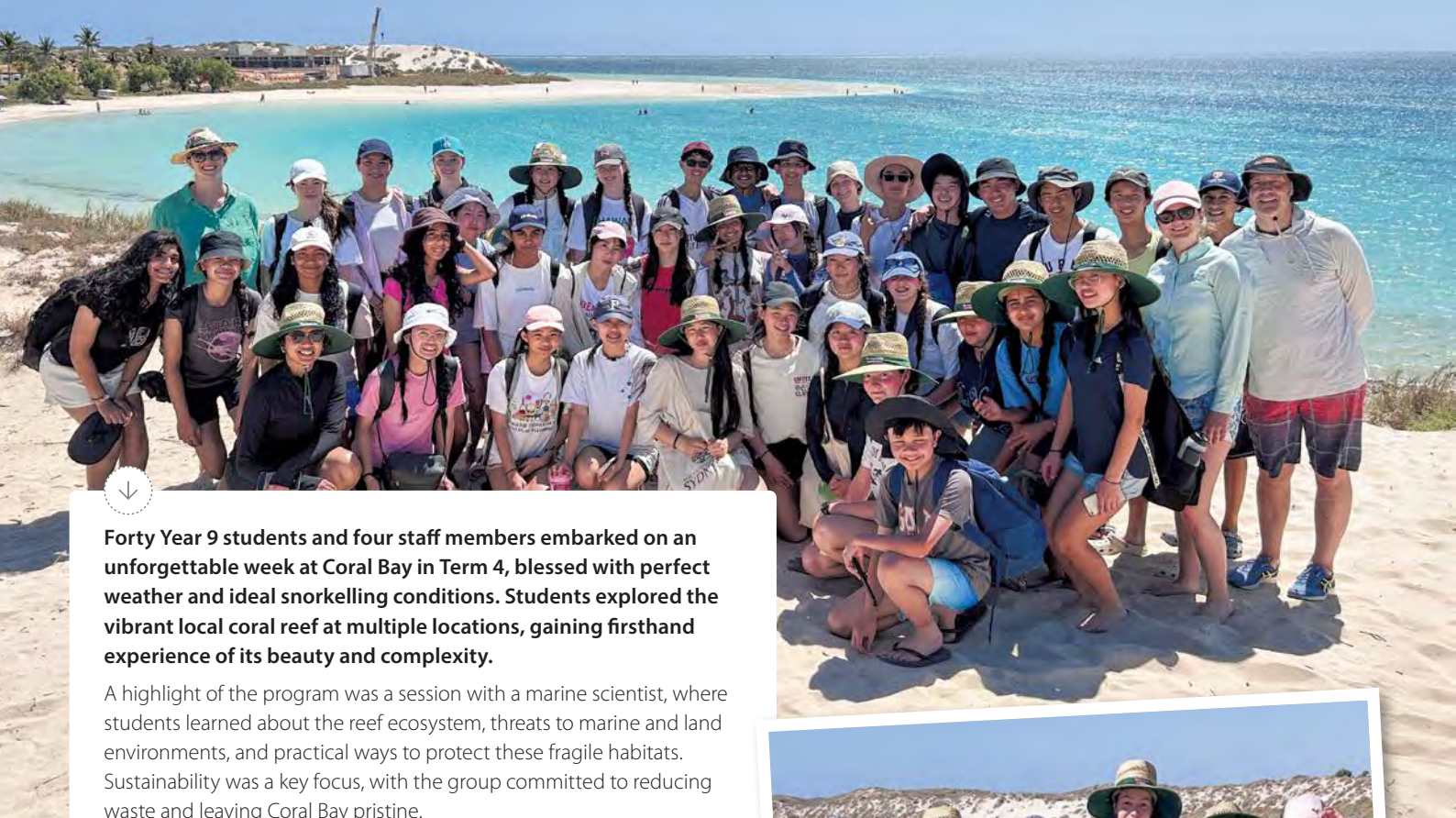
Throughout the week, students enjoyed a wide range of activities, including visits to the zoo, and engaged in 'Writers' workshops in English, HASS extension classes, Science lab experiments as well as a mathematics-based escape room that challenged their problem-solving skills. There was also a silent disco, which quickly became a highlight of the camp. Students attended talks on how to use AI tools to improve their learning, gaining practical skills they can apply in their online and face-to-face studies.



The camp concluded on a special note, with Year 10 students officially graduating from their online courses and preparing to begin their senior education journey. Overall, the camp was a fantastic experience that combined learning, fun, and celebration, and it was a great way to end the school year.

Dive into Discovery: Year 9 Coral Bay Adventure

SARAH RANSOM, TOUR LEADER



Forty Year 9 students and four staff members embarked on an unforgettable week at Coral Bay in Term 4, blessed with perfect weather and ideal snorkelling conditions. Students explored the vibrant local coral reef at multiple locations, gaining firsthand experience of its beauty and complexity.

A highlight of the program was a session with a marine scientist, where students learned about the reef ecosystem, threats to marine and land environments, and practical ways to protect these fragile habitats. Sustainability was a key focus, with the group committed to reducing waste and leaving Coral Bay pristine.

The adventure continued with snorkelling near the outer reef, swimming alongside graceful manta rays, and visiting a reef shark nursery. This year saw an abundance of manta rays, with each group encountering several. One lucky group even swam with a bait ball, witnessing predatory fish in action—a truly rare experience!

Evenings were filled with movies, games, and a lively quiz night, while the sandcastle competition showcased creativity with designs judged on size, decoration, and water features.

A huge thank you to Ms Lal, Ms Holland, and Mr Dean for their energy and dedication in making this camp a success. It was a week of learning, adventure, and memories that will last a lifetime.



2025 HASS Canberra–Sydney Tour

TI CHISHOLM, TOUR LEADER



In Week 3 of Term 4, 40 Year 10 students—accompanied by four dedicated staff—embarked on an unforgettable tour of Canberra and Sydney. The week was filled with hands-on learning, iconic locations, and meaningful experiences that brought their HASS studies to life.

In Canberra, students visited Parliament House, the Australian War Memorial, and the National Museum, gaining a deeper understanding of Australia's history, democracy, and cultural identity. A particularly special moment occurred when the school's local member, Ms Kate Chaney, stopped by during our visit to Parliament to speak with the students. Her insights into public service and leadership added a valuable real-world perspective to the day.

Students also had the opportunity to meet some of our 2023 graduates (Sashank Thapa, En-Mei Miao and Yunfei Dong) currently studying at the Australian National University. These alumni shared their experiences of university life and guided the group on a tour of the ANU campus, inspiring conversations about future pathways and possibilities.

The journey continued in Sydney, where students visited Taronga Zoo and enjoyed its unique blend of wildlife encounters and spectacular harbour views. A visit to the iconic Sydney Opera House gave students the chance to experience one of Australia's most recognisable landmarks up close.

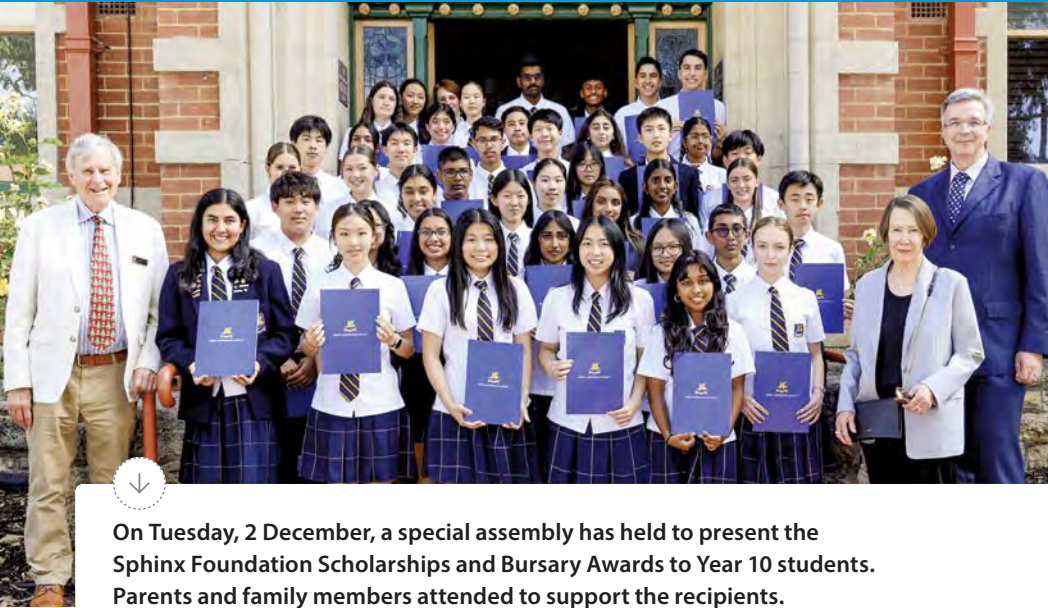
Whether exploring museums, walking university grounds, learning about conservation, or taking in historic national sites, the tour offered a wonderful blend of education, adventure, and connection. Our students represented the school with enthusiasm, respect, and curiosity throughout the trip.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding to our school in the amount of \$510.00 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

We're so proud of our students for their enthusiasm and engagement throughout the tour. Thank you to our families for their support, our fantastic teaching staff who attended, and the incredible admin team who handled lanyards, finances, and all the behind-the-scenes organisation that made this trip possible.



Sphinx Foundation Scholarship Assembly



On Tuesday, 2 December, a special assembly has held to present the Sphinx Foundation Scholarships and Bursary Awards to Year 10 students. Parents and family members attended to support the recipients.

The awards recognise students who have shown strong academic ability across a wide range of subjects, including the arts, technologies, English, science, music, mathematics, innovation, and the humanities. Equity scholarships and bursaries were also awarded to deserving students.

Guests in attendance included:

- Nigel Hunt, Chair of the Sphinx Foundation Inc.
- Peter Farr, Immediate Past President, Perth Modernian Society
- Dr Annette Mercer, Director, Sphinx Foundation
- Deb Beresford, Perth Modernian Society
- Ross Ledger AM, Perth Modernian Society
- Mr John Silbert, Rotary Club of Northbridge.

The assembly was hosted by Head Prefect Mary McCusker and student Avash Shakya, who acted as MCs.

A highlight of the program was a performance by Adele Stegink, the 2023 recipient of the Don Tyler Musical Instrument Scholarship for flute, who played *Madrigal* by Philippe Gaubert.

The event reflected the ongoing commitment of the Sphinx Foundation and its partners to support academic achievement and encourage students to pursue excellence in their studies.

Following the presentation of awards, recipients and guests enjoyed refreshments together.

Congratulations to all scholarship and bursary recipients.

FROM TOP: Mia Saranovic, winner of the Malcolm Evans Debating Scholarship, with Mr John Silbert from the Rotary Club of Northbridge; and Lilijana Jujnovich, winner of the Ross and Fran Ledger Scholarship, with Ross Ledger AM.



Designing a Life with Purpose: 2025 Modernian Oration

PETER FARR, DIRECTOR, SPHINX FOUNDATION INC.



An inspiring address by Sandy Anghie connects architecture, leadership, and legacy

On 11 November, Perth Modern School hosted the fifteenth Modernian Oration, presented by the Perth Modernian Society. The speaker was Ms Sandy Anghie, a distinguished Perth-based architect and civic leader, who delivered an inspiring address on the theme “Designing a Life and Career with Purpose.”

A Speaker of Distinction

Sandy’s career spans law, commerce, architecture, and public service. She holds multiple degrees, including Law, Commerce, Environmental Design, and a Master of Architecture. Her leadership roles have included President of the Australian Institute of Architects (WA Chapter), Deputy Lord Mayor of Perth, and Editor of *The Architect* magazine. She is also widely recognised for initiating the Historic Heart of Perth revitalisation project.

Insights and Inspiration

In her Oration, Sandy shared ten lessons from her professional journey, beginning with “Build a good foundation.” Each principle linked architectural concepts to broader reflections on life and leadership. The session concluded with a lively Q&A led by Sphinx Society Year 10 students, followed by a gift presentation from Head Prefects Mary McCusker and Avash Shakya, and closing remarks by Principal Ms Robyn Verboon.

Connecting Generations

Morning tea in the Sir Paul Hasluck Foyer provided an opportunity for Sandy to engage with students in the Sphinx Society and reconnect with alumni supporters. The day concluded with a moving Remembrance Day Service at the World War I Memorial, honouring those who served.

As Sandy remarked upon leaving: “Thank you all for the opportunity to talk to your students—it was an absolute pleasure and privilege.”



Principal Robyn Verboon with Peter Farr and Sandy Anghie.



Exploring Real-World Science Beyond the Classroom

Year 11 Chemistry students explore aspirin synthesis at UWA

ELAINE CHAN AND SREENIDHI VAIDHYANATHAN, YEAR 11

Year 11 Chemistry students recently had the exciting opportunity to visit the UWA School of Molecular Sciences for a hands-on laboratory experience—synthesising aspirin!

Clad in UWA lab coats, gloves, and safety glasses, students were guided through the process of creating aspirin crystals, motivated by the promise of prizes for the best results. The morning session was filled with activity, from racing to fill ice buckets to carefully heating and cooling crystals to keep them below 80°C.

After an intense start, students enjoyed a well-earned lunch break on campus. Many explored UWA's food outlets, with the kebab shop quickly gaining a reputation for popularity—and long queues! Wandering through the grounds offered a glimpse into university life as a chemistry student.

The afternoon session focused on testing purity levels using Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) and iron experiments, producing colourful results. By the end of the day, students had varying degrees of purity but shared a collective sense of achievement and enthusiasm.

Although the aspirin-like compounds weren't destined for consumption, the experience marked a proud milestone—our students' official transition into Year 12 Chemistry.



Physics Research Experience and Nanoverse Workshops

DR ORMONDE WATERS, SCIENCE TEACHER

Over 80 of our Year 11 Physics students took part in an excellent series of workshops delivered by researchers from Curtin University. The program included four excursions to Curtin University covering quantum collisions, radioastronomy, materials science and electron microscopy, along with two materials science incursions at Perth Modern School.

Highlights included access to supercomputers to process real data, producing a graphical estimate of Hubble's constant from student-manipulated datasets, and visualising emission spectra from a range of light sources to demonstrate electron transitions and black body radiation. Students also explored atomic structures using virtual reality and gained insight into current Curtin research and career pathways in physics.

Our students impressed presenters with their strong knowledge of cosmic background radiation, pulsars and neutron stars, and even contributed an updated coding command during the workshops (thanks to Ava Edwards). These experiences have left students well prepared for the Year 12 Physics syllabus.

Sincere thanks to Professor Igor Bray for making the Curtin Physics Research Experience possible, and to the presenters, including Professor James Miller-Jones, Associate Professor Clancy James, Dr Jacob Martin and Odin Bottrill.



ABOVE: Catherine Yu, Cayden Arquiza-Relenas, Professor James Miller-Jones (talking to Oceana Oakley), Nicholas Leendertse and Matthew Champness.

ABOVE RIGHT: Dr Jacob Martin presenting the Nanoverse Workshop at Perth Modern School.

RIGHT: Emily Bleakley, Ava Edwards and Associate Professor Clancy James.

Volunteer Morning Tea: A Celebration of Community Spirit



On Thursday, 20 November, Perth Modern School hosted its annual Volunteer Morning Tea to recognise and thank the many dedicated individuals who give their time and energy to support our school community.

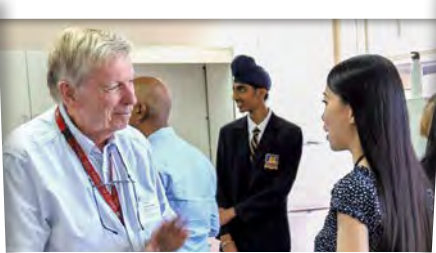
Volunteers from across a wide range of groups attended, including the P&C Association, Perth Modernian Society, Museum Association, Sphinx Foundation, Friends of Music, and those who assist with the Second Hand Uniform Shop or the writing of official school publications, and those who provide curriculum support, assist the Interact Club and help in the library. Their contributions enrich the life of the school and make a lasting difference for our students.

The morning tea was a warm and joyful occasion, with delicious food served by our Student Councillors, who also enjoyed the opportunity to chat with guests and express their gratitude personally.

Principal Robyn Verboon shared her appreciation, noting that the strength of Perth Modern lies not only in its students and staff but also in the generosity of its volunteers. The event was a wonderful reminder of the strong partnerships that underpin our school's success.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers for their commitment and care. Your support helps create the vibrant, supportive environment that makes Perth Modern such a special place to learn and grow.

FROM TOP LEFT: Peter Farr and Student Councillor Coordinator Alison Soraru with the Student Councillors who helped on the day; Principal Robyn Verboon with Dr Robyn White, Chair of the Museum Association, and Peter Farr, Director of the Sphinx Foundation; and Student Councillor Esme He with library volunteer Hui Tan.



ABOVE: Roger Stubbs, author of *Music at Mod*, chats to Executive Assistant Sabrina Lee; and Principal Robyn Verboon shares a laugh with former Perth Modern Principal Dr Robyn White and Associate Principal Grant Staffe.

LEFT FROM TOP: Maths Department staff Isaac Kigodia and Mark White with Greg Gamble; Peter Farr chats with Museum volunteer Gay Albilos and Ruth Barrett; and Year 9 Student Councillors Aadi Arora, Abby Sun and Olivia Lim.



ABOVE: Micah Sinclair and Grace Sinclair converse with Maths Department staff; and Associate Principal Philippa Roy talks with Museum volunteer Bob Johnson.

Donuts, Dance Floors and Delight: Year 10's Big Night Out

KATE BAJROVIC, YEAR 10 COORDINATOR



To wrap up the end of the year, our Year 10 students gathered for an unforgettable evening at the Year 10 Dinner Dance, held at the picturesque East Fremantle Yacht Club. The event marked a special celebration for the cohort, with everyone dressed to impress and ready to enjoy a night of fun and memories.

The night was filled with laughter, dancing, and great company. Friends took turns to capture silly and stylish moments together at the photobooth, and there was plenty of delicious food to enjoy, from a variety of savoury options to a giant tower of donuts that proved to be a sweet favourite.

Overall, the Dinner Dance was a wonderful opportunity for the Year 10 cohort to celebrate their friendships and achievements in 2025 in a relaxed and fun setting. It was truly a night to remember.





Bridging Memories: Year 11 Dinner Dance at Beaumonde

KATIE CHIN, YEAR 11 COORDINATOR



The Year 11 Dinner Dance was held on a balmy summer evening, with the glowing lights of the new Causeway Bridge and the Swan River creating a stunning backdrop for photos. Students arrived looking absolutely spectacular in their outfits, making the most of the beautiful setting at Beaumonde on the Point.

This was their first formal sit-down Dinner Dance, though the sitting didn't last long—once the DJ started spinning their favourite tracks, the dance floor quickly filled with enthusiastic energy and impressive moves. Laughter, music and celebration carried through the night as students enjoyed time with their peers in a joyful, relaxed atmosphere.

Although many wished the evening could have continued just a little longer, there is an undeniable excitement in the air as the cohort moves closer to their final year of schooling. The Dinner Dance was a wonderful way to mark the end of Year 11 and the beginning of their journey as the Class of 2026.





Finding Our Focus: Year 7's Day of Connection

ADIN MORTADZA, YEAR 7 COORDINATOR



On November 5, Year 7 students came together for their first Focus Day, a celebration of community, creativity, and belonging. Designed to help students bond with peers and teachers, the day offered a diverse range of activities inspired by staff passions: card game design with Mr Murphy, marbling art with Miss Raynes, friendship bracelets with Miss Brown, Just Dance with Mrs Wilcock, and even coding a fruit piano with Mr Chillapa.

Students described the day as “wholesome,” “fun and warm,” and “a chance to make new friendships and strengthen old ones.”

From karaoke sessions filled with iconic songs to sharing homemade food, every activity reinforced the theme of belonging. One student reflected: “I liked making food and sharing it with friends—it showed how a simple act can make a difference.”

Starting at Perth Modern is a big transition, and finding friends is key to feeling at home. That’s why events like movie nights, camp, and Focus Day matter as they create spaces for laughter, connection, and growth. These experiences take effort, but the reward is clear: students leave feeling they truly belong at Perth Modern School.



Designing Futures: Creativity and Achievement Beyond the Classroom



ABOVE: Photo by Ainsley D'Souza.
ABOVE RIGHT: Artwork by Jeya Iranya Kumar.
RIGHT: Artwork by Minnie Phillis.
FAR RIGHT: Photo by Hannah Shaddick.



ATAR Design Camp – Southwest Immersion

GUY STIMSON, PHOTOGRAPHY AND DESIGN TEACHER

In Term 4, our Year 11 ATAR Design students travelled to the Southwest for an intensive Design Camp focused on collaboration, creative development, and connection to place.

The camp was deliberately designed as a team-building experience that mirrors the way designers work in the real world—together, across ideas, strengths, and perspectives.

Throughout the camp, students worked closely with one another to develop trust, communication, and shared problem-solving skills. This is a critical foundation as they move toward Year 12, where the ATAR Design practical component demands sustained collaboration, peer feedback, and the ability to refine ideas collectively over time.

Alongside this, students began developing conceptual work directly linked to their upcoming practical projects.

Immersed in the landscape, culture, and atmosphere of the region, they undertook a design task titled 'Portrait of Place'—a personal, interpretive response to the Southwest. Through photography, visual research, and written reflection, students explored how place, memory, and emotion can inform design decisions and visual language.

The outcomes were thoughtful, personal, and deeply grounded in observation. Extracts of this work are shared above, offering a glimpse into the richness of the students' design thinking and the value of learning beyond the classroom.

The camp was a powerful reminder that strong design grows from experience, collaboration, and connection—to each other and to place.



ABOVE: Benedict Widjaja (in burgundy) with his fellow artists.

LEFT: Benedict with his artwork created at Perth Modern that won him the invitation to be part of the TV show.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING COMMISSION



Modernian Benedict Widjaja: From Perth Modern to national TV

At just 18, Benedict Widjaja was selected as an artist on ABC's inaugural season of *Portrait Artist Of The Year*, which aired from 2 November 2025 on ABC TV and can be streamed on ABC iview.

His journey began at Perth Modern School, where he created the self-portrait (featuring himself with his father) that secured his place in the competition. Completed in Visual Art class in 2022 at age 15, it marked the start of his passion for portraiture. For the show, Benedict painted Australian media personality Myf Warhurst.

Reflecting on the experience, Benedict said: "It's been surreal to be part of *Portrait Artist Of The Year*. Meeting incredible artists from across Australia was the highlight—everyone was so supportive and inspiring."

Since graduating in 2023, Benedict has moved to Melbourne to study mathematics while continuing his art. His advice to current students: "Keep learning and engaging with the world—you never know where it might take you!"

A Feast for the Senses: Visual Arts Exhibition 2025

KATIE CHIN AND MEISHA RAYNES, VISUAL ART TEACHERS



The annual Visual Arts Exhibition at the Mills Gallery was nothing short of spectacular—a true celebration of creativity and talent. The gallery walls were adorned with an impressive array of student works, from animation and sculpture to paintings and collages, showcasing the artistic achievements of students from Years 7 to 12. Adding a delightful touch, the Welcome Wall featured vibrant pieces from our incoming Year 6 students.

The evening was elevated by live music from Year 8 saxophonists Zuriel Loh and Nikki Matanguihan, whose solos added a rich auditory layer, transforming the exhibition into a full sensory experience.

Special guest artist Rachele Dusting delivered an inspiring opening address, praising students for their courage and imagination. As judge of the Portrait Prize, she commended the exceptional standard of entries, ultimately awarding Year 11 student Aspen Durbin for a striking circular portrait that combined technical mastery with a clever fish-eye perspective exploring self-scrutiny.

Guest judge Miranda Brown, Manager of Linton & Kay Galleries, lauded the emotional depth and sophistication of senior works, remarking, "This year what stood out for me was seeing these young artists searching for the beauty amongst the chaos."

Events like this not only showcase creativity but also provide invaluable feedback from industry professionals. The exhibition was a vibrant reminder of the importance of fostering artistic expression in education.



FROM LEFT: Aspen Durbin received the Portraiture Award from Rachele Dusting; and Callum Goh received the Globetrotter Award and Netharie Rajapakshe received the Visual Storyteller Award from Principal Robyn Verboon.

Awards

Year 11 Highly Commended: **Renee Zhou**
Outstanding: **Shanae Maher**

Year 12 Highly Commended: **Jin Choi**
Outstanding: **Alice Lin**
Rachele Dusting Portraiture Award:
Aspen Durbin
Art Acquisition Award (\$200): **Alice Lin**

Year 7 Visual Storyteller: **Netharie Rajapakshe**
Visual Poetry: **Leisna Khwairakpam**

Year 8 Music Dynamic: **Clarissa Tan**
Languages Globetrotter: **Callum Goh**

Year 9 Fibonacci: **Caitlin Ding**
Da Vinci Convinci Award: **Jinyu Wang**

Year 10 Nature Be In it: **Misri Umaretiya**
One World: **Lucy Zhou**
Student Services Zest For Life Award:
Zara Hadingham



Zara Hadingham

Perth Modern Students Shine at *FIRST*® LEGO® League Regional Tournaments



Five teams advance to Nationals

Perth Modern students have achieved outstanding success in recent *FIRST*® LEGO® League (FLL) Regional Tournaments, with five teams now qualifying for the National Championship.

At the Aquinas College Regional Tournament in Salter Point, three teams comprising 22 students from Years 7 to 9 represented the school with distinction:

- Team Lebob delivered an exceptional performance across all aspects of the competition and proudly claimed the Regional Championship Trophy.
- Team 404 Bot Not Found impressed the judges with their creativity and secured second place for their Innovation Project.
- Team CTRL+Del demonstrated great skill and teamwork, contributing to Perth Modern's strong presence at the event.

Both Team Lebob and Team 404 Bot Not Found will advance to Nationals.

At the Forrestfield Regional Tournament at Darling Range Sports College, four more Perth Modern teams competed against 31 teams from across the region. Three of our teams qualified for Nationals:

- Team The Peppa Archaeologists – awarded the Rising All-Star Award
- Team Cheez – awarded Best Robot Design
- Team Perth Mod1 – scored an impressive 250 points.

Team Perth Mod2 also showed great teamwork and innovation throughout the event.

With these results, Perth Modern will be represented by five teams at the National Championship at Curtin University, joining together to showcase their creativity, innovation, and collaborative spirit on the national stage.

We congratulate all of our teams for their incredible effort, imagination, and teamwork. Their achievements highlight the strength of STEM education at Perth Modern and the enthusiasm of our students for innovation and discovery.

HARI CHILLAPPA AND JOHNATHAN KOCAJ, DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES TEACHERS



Student Council Leadership Camp

ALISON SORARU, STUDENT COUNCIL COORDINATOR 2025



The Student Voice – Leading with Values and Vision

The recent Student Council Leadership Camp was an inspiring experience, designed to strengthen leadership skills, foster collaboration, and align personal values with the core values of Perth Modern School: Courage, Curiosity, Compassion, Commitment and Collaboration.

A workshop led by Ms Reilly and Ms Roy encouraged students to reflect on both their individual and collective values, exploring how these values influence the way we interact and work with others. The focus was on creating initiatives that align with the school's guiding principles, reflecting integrity, empathy and a shared vision for excellence.

Sessions facilitated by Ms Franz, Ms Verboon and Dr Tan focused on a range of leadership and communication roles. Students engaged in discussions on how to strengthen the communication and leadership structures of the Student Council, with particular attention given to committee structures, internal roles and meeting processes. This included reviewing weekly Monday meetings, Executive responsibilities and Advocacy sessions. During the Student Voice Workshop, students examined the Business Plan Key Focus Areas (KFAs) and worked collaboratively to develop strategic priorities, strengthen connections with other leadership groups, including Advocacy Captains, House Captains and Wellbeing Committees, and promote a unified approach to student leadership. Emphasis was placed on championing initiatives that matter most to the student body.

A highlight of the camp was a Q&A panel featuring Student Council alumni Fatima Merchant, Huda Zaidi and Owen Winarto, who shared their experiences and insights on life beyond Perth Modern School. Their reflections highlighted how the leadership skills developed during their time at school have translated into success across diverse pathways.

Saturday evening offered a welcome break from the formal learning sessions and allowed students to focus on the importance of the connections within the Council. Councillors enjoyed a walk to the beach to watch the sunset, followed by a Warm Fuzzies activity, providing an opportunity to reflect on the positive role models, friendships and sense of belonging within this diverse group.

As always, the Student Council Leadership Camp was more than a leadership retreat—it was a platform for shaping the future, guided by shared values and driven by collaboration. Together, students remain committed to creating a vibrant, inclusive and forward-thinking school community.



Health and Physical Education Update

Fighting fit at AFL 9s

SCOTT MARSHALL, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Year 10 Boys Football team more than held their own at the Metro North AFL 9s competition. Competing against many established football schools, Perth Modern performed strongly to secure an impressive fifth-place finish.

Despite being a multi-sport group with limited formal football experience, the boys rallied together and displayed true Mod spirit throughout the day. They demonstrated excellent teamwork, a strong team culture and great competitiveness, all while enjoying the experience alongside their mates.

Footy is alive and well at Mod!



Year 8 Futsal team competes strongly at State level

AARON BELL, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND FUTSAL COACH

Our Year 8 A Futsal team has enjoyed a highly successful run in School Sport WA competitions in Term 4, demonstrating skill, teamwork and determination at both regional and state level.

The team competed against leading soccer specialist schools from the north metropolitan area in the SSWA Junior State Futsal Competition. After a series of impressive performances, the boys progressed to the grand final, narrowly finishing runners-up to Lake Joondalup Baptist College. This outstanding result secured their qualification for the School Sport WA State Futsal Championships.

The State Championships were held at Cockburn ARC and featured the top teams from both the North and South Metropolitan regions. The team once again performed strongly, advancing through the pool stages to reach the quarterfinals. Their campaign concluded with a closely contested 7-3 loss to Safety Bay Senior High School. Goal scorers in the quarterfinal match were Ethan Tran, Yousif Al-Rawi and Noah Bridges.

A special congratulations goes to Franek Cytowski, who was awarded the Golden Glove Award at the Junior State Competition for being the most outstanding goalkeeper of the tournament.

Thank you to Milos Golub in Year 10, whose guidance and leadership played a key role in the team's success.

The boys played with great energy and commitment throughout the tournament and should be very proud of their efforts.



State Championships team:
BACK ROW FROM LEFT: Milos Golub (Year 10 Coach), Vikash Vimalan, Ethan Tran, Aidan Sullivan and Noah Bridges.

FRONT ROW: Barbod Mirzadeh Hosseini, Reon Jophy, Franek Cytowski and Yousif Al-Rawi.

LEFT: Milos Golub in Year 10 gives the team a pep talk during the finals.

Strong performance at SSWA State Junior Girls Futsal Tournament

AARON BELL, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER AND FUTSAL COACH

Our Year 7 and 8 girls competed in the SSWA State Junior Girls Futsal Tournament, where they delivered an impressive performance against a field that included several soccer specialist schools.

Across the tournament, the team remained undefeated in four matches, recording two wins and two draws, with their only loss coming against the eventual group stage winners, Lake Joondalup Baptist College. The girls demonstrated resilience, skill and composure throughout the competition, particularly notable given it was their first time playing together as a team and that some opposing teams included Year 9 players.

Several standout performances highlighted the tournament: Leanna Leung was nominated Most Valuable Player Goalkeeper in four of the team's five matches, reflecting her consistency and confidence in goal; and Tarinee Vimalan also made a strong impact, scoring a hat-trick in the final match of the tournament.

Their performance was a fantastic example of commitment, collaboration and competitive spirit, and we look forward to seeing their continued development in futsal.



BACK ROW FROM LEFT: Srinithi Pradeep, Mia-Maria Gstaettner, Leanna Leung, Amy Waite and Dhiksha Karthikeyan. FRONT ROW: Isabelle Ham, Zuriel Loh, Stella-Maria Suuronen and Tarinee Vimalan.

Year 9 Outdoor Education Camp: Cooking, camping and creating memories

CAITLIN DING AND HANNAH NGUYEN, YEAR 9

Usually, people recount their journeys by starting with what happens at the campsite. However, for us, the real adventure began back at school, with our Tetris-like packing and the sight of our cheerful daisy-decorated train setting off for the day.

After a scenic 20-minute bus ride, accompanied by One Direction playing in the background, we arrived at Pelican Point buzzing with excitement about what lay ahead—late-night chats, laughter and the promise of meals worthy of a Michelin star.

Once our tents were pitched, we were quickly introduced to Pelican Point's infamous blowie population. With Pete's guidance, we bravely made our way through an entire packet of frozen prawns. Soon after, everyone found a spot to set up their Trangias and dilly bags, and before long the campsite was filled with delicious smells and an inviting atmosphere. The evening was rounded out with games of spotlight and sardines in the dark, alongside plenty of laughter and good company.

The following day, we had another opportunity to cook breakfast and lunch on our Trangias before packing up and heading to Kings Park for an outdoor education program. There, we learnt valuable survival skills, including shelter building and how to use flint and steel. Memorable moments from the day included our shelter-building attempts, the snake that "hypothetically" bit Shri Sai, our surprisingly successful Milo coconut balls, and discovering just how resourceful we could be.

Overall, the outdoor education camp was a wonderful and truly unforgettable experience, filled with learning, teamwork and shared memories that we will not soon forget.



Year 10 Outdoor Education: Skills for the wild and beyond

NICHOLAS LI, BRYAN XIA AND KEVIN LI, YEAR 10

Year 10 Outdoor Education provided a dynamic blend of practical skill development, environmental awareness and exhilarating adventure, shifting learning beyond the classroom and into natural environments.

Throughout the course, students learnt how to use a Trangia safely and effectively, developing essential skills in safety, resource management and teamwork while planning and preparing their own meals. This hands-on experience was complemented by a strong focus on sustainability, as students explored and applied the principles of 'Leave No Trace', learning how to reduce waste and minimise their environmental impact.

The adventure component of the program included a range of water-based activities, with students learning the fundamentals of sailing and kayaking. These skills were further developed during the Outdoor Education camp, which also included surfing, bushwalking, jetty jumping and the completion of a First Aid certificate.

Ultimately, Year 10 Outdoor Education built far more than just outdoor skills. Students developed confidence, resilience, planning and teamwork, while gaining valuable experiences that extended well beyond the classroom.



Multiskilling at the SSWA Track and Field Championships

MARK MUIR, HEAD OF HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Our athletics squad delivered an outstanding performance at the School Sport WA Division 2 Track and Field Championships, successfully maintaining our division standing following promotion in 2024.

A special mention goes to our Year 12 athletes, who balanced final preparations for the Presentation Ceremony being held that night alongside competing in their events. Their commitment and leadership added significant depth and strength to the squad and were greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to Hannah Nguyen, who was crowned Year 9 Champion, and to Matthew McNally who achieved equal Runner-Up Year 9 Champion. Several other students also recorded excellent individual results, finishing third in their respective year groups: Chelsea Harris, Drew Stanborough, Fearnie Van Beek and Phong Nguy Ke. Skye McCaffrey placed fourth in her year group, while Thisath Ranamuka finished fifth. Mia-Maria Gstaettner and Ozichukwu Egessi both achieved sixth place finishes in their year groups.

These results reflect the depth, versatility and commitment of our athletics program, and we congratulate all students involved for representing the school with pride and determination.



Boys make a splash at inaugural Inter-School Water Polo Carnival

KELLIE MORGAN, HEAD OF HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Our Year 10 boys' water polo team made school history by competing in the Inter-School Water Polo Carnival at HPC Stadium, marking the first time the school has entered a team in the competition.

The team delivered a strong and spirited performance, winning four of their six matches and finishing an impressive fifth out of 18 teams. Their results reflected not only their skill in the pool, but also their teamwork, sportsmanship and determination throughout the day.

Special thanks go to Stew Bell, a talented state-level water polo player, whose enthusiasm and leadership played a key role in initiating the team's nomination and supporting the group as they prepared for the carnival.

Badminton update

JAN SONDER-SORENSEN, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Competition for the 16 spots in the Junior State Championship was as fierce as ever this year. More than 80 students took part in trials held over several weeks, all vying for a place on the team. With over 30 schools represented and many of the state's top athletes in attendance, the championship continues to be one of the most competitive events on the calendar.

Despite strong performances across the board, only Ray Shen in Year 8 and Pitha Chepchareonrat in Year 7 progressed to the quarterfinals. Many of our remaining teams finished second in their pools, narrowly missing out on advancing.

All students who participated were treated to an impressive showcase of high-level badminton as elite players battled it out in the finals.



Sphinx Society Membership

SEMESTER 2, 2025

Congratulations to the following students who obtained Sphinx Society membership in Semester 2, 2025.

YEAR 10

Jinli (Tung Tung) Aird	Andy Huynh	Zachary Ng	Maira Singh	Matthew Wang
Ashwath (Ash) Arunkumar	Susavi Jayawardena	Om Patel	Alayna Sirapurna	Jocelyn Wong
Dharani (Lehansa) Attapaththu Arachchige	Olivia Jiang	Kang Wei Pean	Chloe Spear	Chelsea Wu
Jovianne Bong	Aidan Kai Heng (Aidan) Kan	Amilia Presley	Jayani Talukdar	Yan Xie
Allie Chan	Mudith Kariyawasam	Prajwal Raj	Jerome Tan	Olivia Ye
Hannah Chen	Lishaanth Karthikeyan	Sara Rajwani	Leanne Tan	Maduricaa Yohanathan
Yifei (Jennifer) Chen	Jacinta Kearney	Shamaita Ray	Rafael Tan	Charlie Yooh
Lik Sing (Adam) Chung	Saskia Kennea	Chloe Ren	Prince Teo	Tracey Zhang
Raadin Ebadi	Rhea Kewalram	Gagan Gupta Rohit	Vanessa Ting	Kylie Zhang
Pippi Fang	Sofia (Mina) Kim	Supreet Sandhu	Tanatswa Tityiwe	Yaming (Mingming) Zheng
Natasha Foo	Isaac Lee	Mia Saranovic	Celeste Toh	Jiashi (Jasmine) Zhou
Leon Gonzalez	Yongxin (Cassie) Lee	Grace Sharma	Misri Umaretiya	Lucy Zhou
Zara Hadingham	Sophie Litic	Yongle (Tim) Shi	Vrinda Varma	
Alysha Han	Maxine Mah	Riya Shrestha	Danica Vo	
Bob Han-Busi	Sushree Mangla	Arya Sims	Jhouella Vo	
Angela Huang	Akshayan Mukunthan	Sasha Singam	Maya Vu	

YEAR 11

Aditya Antony	Pei En Gan	Zachary Lam	Arun Rajayogan	Kevin Xu
Apoorav Aren	Jacob Heath	Kevin Le	Aditi Rajput	Xiaohan Yang
Cayden Arquiza-Relenas	Kieran Ho	Andy Lok	Millie Riadi	Kevin Yang
Lucas Atkinson	Raymond Hopkins	Kavinima Mallawa Thanthrige	Prashanth Sailendranath	Ethan Yap
Lily Bousfield	Zixuan Hu	Saiish Manjire	Adele Stegink	Luvenia Yeo
Matthew Champness	Siheng Huang	Homayon Mirjalili	Yiliu Tang	Caiyan Yu
Elaine Chan	Christina Jerry	Adarsh Natarajan	Aaron Thow	Joey Yuan
Zavie Cheng	Ishaan Kanodia	Johann Ngo	Dharmik Thummala	Kiefer Yuen
Brendan Daniel	Mevindu Karunaratne	Martin Nguyen	Izabel Tolhurst	Zihan Zhang
Parmis Delavarpour	Ekaterina Khakimullina	Rayden Oliveiro	Ky-An Tran	Yuening Zhou
Rajbir Doomra	Rutvi Khale	Ajit Penikalapati	Ethan Trinh	
Grace Dowley	Amethyst Kong	Rania Phillips	Sreenidhi Vaidhyanathan	
Devan Finn	Muhammad Kusumo	Luna Prinza	Seneja Willamune	

YEAR 12

Mahek Aribenchi	Alex Crosbie	Lodinu Kalugalage	Avishi Prasad	Marc Tan
Ishika Balram	Rijuta Das	Hayden Kelly	Vihaan Pujara	Fearne Van Beek
Benjamin Bauer	Isobel Doe	Kaylen Koh	Ranjeev Ratheesh Nambiar	Ava van Dommelen
Kshithij Chandrashekar	Shreyas Gupta	Semindee Kudabalage Dona	Harrison Sartori	Shi Yin Wee
Jaylene Chang	Charlotte Hoy	Gloria Limas	Samantha See	Liam Welfare
Jacky Che	Aidan Jang	Ruofan Lin	Rhea Sharma	Matthew Wong
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