



Harmony Week: Celebrating Culture, Connection and Community at Perth Mod

Harmony Week at Perth Modern School was a vibrant celebration of diversity, inclusion and belonging, bringing students together to recognise and appreciate the many cultures that make up our school community. Throughout the week, students engaged in a range of lunchtime cultural activities, creating opportunities to share traditions, learn from one another and foster meaningful connections.

The week's celebrations culminated on Friday, 20 March with the annual Multicultural Concert, a joyful showcase of student talent that reflected the richness of cultures represented at Perth Mod. The concert was skilfully hosted by Student Councillor Sam V, whose warm and engaging MC role guided the audience through the performances and highlighted the spirit of multiculturalism at the heart of the event.

The program opened with a high-energy K-Pop dance performance, instantly drawing the audience in with its precision and enthusiasm. From there, the concert moved through a variety of cultural expressions, including a moving traditional Chinese vocal performance and an impressive Chinese diabolo act, showcasing both artistic heritage and technical skill.

European culture was celebrated through music as the Year 10 Italian class performed a well-known Italian song, demonstrating the connection between language learning and cultural appreciation. The concert concluded with a vibrant Indian fusion dance, blending traditional and contemporary styles and providing a joyful finale that brought the entire audience together.

The Multicultural Concert served as a powerful reflection of Harmony Week's message, that while we come from many backgrounds, our shared experiences unite us as a school community. Sincere thanks go to all performers and helpers, Ms Roy for her leadership and dedication, and the Student Councillors who worked behind the scenes to bring both Harmony Week activities and the concert to life.

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From the Principal

Term 1 has been a busy and productive period at Perth Modern, with a great deal happening across the school both in and beyond the classroom. It has been particularly pleasing to see the way students have settled into the year with purpose, demonstrating both enthusiasm for learning and a strong sense of connection to the broader life of the school.

One of the highlights of the term has been Harmony Week. Walking around the school at lunchtime and then standing among the crowd at the Multicultural Concert, you could really feel the pride students have in their cultures and in one another. The performances ranged from K-Pop to traditional Chinese music through to an Italian class item and an Indian fusion dance, and what stood out was not just the quality, but the willingness of students to step forward and share something of who they are. It was also evident in the way the audience responded, with genuine respect and encouragement across all performances. It was a reminder that our diversity is one of our great strengths as a school community and something we continue to value and nurture.

We followed this with a number of whole-school events that brought students together in different ways. The House Swimming Carnival was one of those days where you see the full spectrum of school life on display. Some students are chasing championship points, others are stepping well outside their comfort zone just to have a go, and many are there supporting, cheering and encouraging their peers. That sense of collective spirit matters just as much as the results, and congratulations to Sampson for taking out the overall win in such a competitive field. Events like this play an important role in building connection across year groups and reinforcing a shared sense of belonging.

Across the term, there have been countless examples of students pursuing their interests with real purpose. Our China Tour group experienced language learning in a way that simply cannot be recreated in a classroom, navigating markets, engaging with local communities and building confidence along the way. Opportunities like this help students develop independence and a deeper understanding of the world beyond school. Our Year 11 Biology students working in Bold Park were able to connect their studies to real environmental work, collecting seeds and seeing firsthand how restoration programs operate. These are the sorts of experiences that give depth to learning and stay with students well beyond their school years.

We have also seen outstanding achievement across a wide range of areas. Jaanhvi I.'s selection in the All-Australian Under 15 cricket team was a fantastic recognition of sustained effort, while Senudi D. achieved an exceptional result at the 2026 Oceania Youth Chess Championship, finishing as the Oceania Under 16 Girls Champion. In Mathematics, our teams performed strongly in the *Have Sum Fun* competition, including a perfect score in the senior division, which speaks to both talent and teamwork under pressure. These accomplishments reflect not only individual ability, but also the strong culture of commitment and perseverance that underpins success.

What has impressed me just as much as these achievements is the way many of our students are choosing to use their time to support others. Paul H.'s commitment to mentoring robotics students at another school is a significant contribution, and the recognition of Diya S. and Sara R. in Parliament for their work supporting migrant students highlights the impact young people can have when they see a need and act on it. These examples of service reflect the character of our students and the values we seek to promote across the school.

There have also been moments across the term that show a different side of student growth. Events like the Year 9 Improvisation Night challenge students to perform without preparation, relying on confidence, quick thinking and support from their peers. It is often in these situations, outside of structured classroom settings, where students develop resilience and a willingness to take risks.

Our Arts programs continue to provide these opportunities. The Year 12 production of *Ruby Moon* demanded a high level of commitment from students across performance, design and production, and the final result reflected many months of sustained effort. At the same time, the success of our Visual Arts students at the Lester Youth Art Awards highlights the depth of creativity across the school and the willingness of students to engage deeply with their work and express complex ideas.

None of this happens without the work of our staff. This term we have welcomed a number of new colleagues who have already made a strong contribution. The collaborative artwork created during our School Development Day was a simple but meaningful reflection of how staff work together here, sharing ideas and supporting one another. It is this collective professionalism and commitment that supports the opportunities available to students.

As I reflect on the term, what stands out is the consistency of effort across the school. Whether in the classroom, in performances, in competitions or in service to others, students are engaging fully and making the most of the opportunities in front of them. Just as importantly, they are supporting one another along the way, contributing to a positive and inclusive school environment.

Thank you to our students, staff and families for contributing to such a positive start to the year. I look forward to seeing this momentum continue as we move into Term 2.

Mitchell Mackay, Principal

Talk of the Town: Modern Students Debate Their Way to Nationals



Two Perth Modern School students, Mia S. in Year 11 and Avani R. in Year 12, have been chosen for the four-person 2026 Western Australian Debating Team, which will compete at the National Schools' Debating Championship in Brisbane next May. They join Applecross Senior High School student Ethan T. as public-school representatives.

For Avani, now in her third year with the State squad, the selection email brought "ecstatic" joy. "It is quite an honour... I feel privileged to be part of the team, even with the immense pressure," she said.

Mia described the opportunity as exciting: "To represent the state in something I enjoy and am good at, and to be part of a team with talented and motivated people."

Mia began debating in Year 7 and realised she wanted to pursue it seriously after her team's first win, and their first loss. Facing the same opponents two years later in a grand final, her team won, and she earned her first best speaker award, "a really meaningful full-circle moment."

Selection for the State team involves a full day of trials, multiple impromptu debates, and several months of Sunday training before the final team was announced.

Avani said standing out in the squad was challenging: "Everyone is extremely capable... I chose to learn from everyone else, which helped me a lot."

Both students emphasised preparation and broad knowledge. Mia said debates begin with individual and group brainstorming before building a case together. "Just consuming the news and having a wide scope of knowledge helps the most." Avani agreed, saying that keeping up with politics and world events "makes difficult topics feel more grounded."

Among the more unusual topics Avani has debated was a World Scholar's Cup motion allowing immigration of extraterrestrials which she said she was "a ridiculous topic that sparked deep thinking about the limits of immigration."

Mia said debating has made her more articulate and better at communicating complex ideas, while Avani credits it with sharpening her analytical and listening skills.

On why debating matters, Mia said it builds open-mindedness: "You develop an understanding of other viewpoints." Avani added that in a world reliant on AI, debating encourages young people "to critically think and step out the 'why' in arguments."

Asked which public figure they would most like to debate, Mia chose economic philosophers such as Karl Marx or Adam

Smith, while Avani selected Donald Trump, saying she would like to understand his thinking and "hopefully convince him on other things too!"

Perth Modern's debating program, coordinated by Head of Humanities and Social Science Louise Secker, continues to grow. In 2026, the school will field 32 teams across Years 8–12, with around 40% of students participating at some point.

Principal Mitchell Mackay congratulated Mia and Avani on their achievement.

"This is a wonderful and well-deserved accomplishment, and I am sure they will represent WA with distinction and flair," Mr Mackay said.

Sampson Swimming Success

MARK MUIR, HEAD OF HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Our Annual House Swimming Carnival was a tremendous success. Students, teachers and parents came together for a day celebrating our school community and showcasing teamwork, House spirit and excitement.

After an intense contest, Sampson claimed victory with 2297 points, followed by Downing with 2049, Brown 1949 and Parsons 1904. The Novelty Cup was a close contest all day with Downing coming out on top, followed by Parsons, Brown and Sampson.

Beyond the competition, the event fostered a sense of unity as students and teachers cheered, volunteered to help, supported and encouraged their peers and enjoyed the shared school experience. Thank you to all the school community for making the event a great success.

Congratulations to our Year Champions and Runners-Up:

	GIRLS	BOYS
Year 7 Runner-Up	Sarah S. (Downing)	None
Year 7 Champion	Isabella H. (Sampson)	Andrew L. (Browning) Edmund L. (Sampson)
Year 8 Runner-Up	Stella-Maria S. (Parsons)	Aaron Z. (Downing)
Year 8 Champion	Isabelle H. (Brown)	Gabriel T. (Brown)
Year 9 Runner-Up	Mahua M. (Sampson)	Sergei C. (Brown) Aidan S. (Sampson)
Year 9 Champion	Mia-Maria G. (Sampson)	Nathan L. (Sampson)
Year 10 Runner-Up	Ella W. (Downing)	Leven S. (Brown)
Year 10 Champion	Hannah N. (Parsons)	Olaf J. (Brown)
Year 11 Runner-Up	Metta C. (Parsons)	Philip H. (Brown)
Year 11 Champion	Aliyah G. (Sampson)	Sam V. (Sampson)
Year 12 Runner-Up	Stephanie W. (Downing)	Heath D. (Parsons)
Year 12 Champion	Sasha G. (Sampson)	Harley D. (Parsons)

2026 Records

Year 7 Boys Freestyle Relay
Brown

Year 12 Boys Freestyle Relay
Sampson

Year 7 Girls 50m Breaststroke
Isabella H.

Year 12 Boys 50m Butterfly
Tristan L.

Year 11 Girls 50m Breaststroke
Aliyah G.





Harmony Week



Lion Dance Brings Lunar New Year Spirit to Perth Modern



Perth Modern School came alive on the second day of the Lunar New Year as a vibrant Lion Dancing troupe took over the school grounds for a special lunchtime performance. The event drew a large and enthusiastic crowd, with students gathering well before the first drumbeat sounded.

The performance featured two brightly coloured lions weaving through the courtyard, accompanied by the unmistakable thunder of drums, cymbals and gongs. The rhythmic drumming echoed across the campus, creating an atmosphere that was both festive and electric. Students eagerly lined up to “feed” the lions—offering red packets and leafy greens, a traditional gesture symbolising good fortune, prosperity and the warding off of bad luck.

The lions responded with playful movements, cheeky gestures and bursts of energy that delighted the audience. Many students who had never seen a lion dance up close were captivated by the athleticism and coordination of the performers.

This lively celebration was organised by Mei Li, Head of Languages, as part of the school’s ongoing commitment to cultural learning and community engagement. By bringing the lion dancers to campus, Ms Li aimed to give students a meaningful and immersive experience of Lunar New Year traditions.

The event added a burst of colour, sound and excitement to the school day, leaving students buzzing long after the final drumbeat faded. It was a memorable celebration that highlighted the richness of cultural traditions and the joy of welcoming a new year together.



Student Achievements Beyond the Classroom



Jaanhvi selected for All-Australian U15 cricket team

Representing Western Australia, Jaanhvi I. in Year 10 delivered a fantastic tournament performance at the SSWA Under 15 Cricket competition and was recognised as the Most Valuable Player for WA, a testament to her talent, consistency, and competitive skill.

Her exceptional efforts did not stop there. Jaanhvi's performance also earned her selection in the prestigious All-Australian Team for the tournament, an incredible national honour and a significant milestone in her cricket journey.



Perth Modern School is extremely proud of Jaanhvi's achievements and looks forward to seeing her continue to excel at the highest levels of the sport. Well done, Jaanhvi!

Jaanhvi I. was named Most Valuable player for WA in the SSWA Under 15 Cricket competition; and Jaanhvi with her fellow All-Australian Team members.

Checkmate success: Senudi's remarkable chess journey

Perth Modern School is incredibly proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of Senudi D. in Year 7, whose talent, dedication, and love of chess have led to exceptional success at both national and international levels.

Earlier this year, Senudi represented Australia as the official Under 12 Girls player at the 2026 Oceania Youth Chess Championship in Christchurch, New Zealand. Competing in a highly competitive combined girls' event spanning Under 8 to Under 20, and featuring several titled players, Senudi delivered an extraordinary performance. At just 12 years of age, she achieved an outstanding result, claiming the title of 2026 Oceania Youth Under 16 Girls Champion and finishing first overall for Australia.

Reflecting on the experience, Senudi described representing Australia as "really special." Having previously competed at two international events, she said this tournament carried added motivation. "I really wanted to win a medal for Australia. That motivated me to try my best in every game." When she realised she had won the Under 16 title, Senudi said she felt "really proud and happy," noting that being one of only three Australian girls to win first place across all age groups made the achievement even more meaningful.

Senudi's success continued closer to home at the Australian Junior Chess Championship 2026 in Canberra, where she was crowned Australian Under 12 Girls Champion in Chess Problem Solving and finished runner-up in Lightning (Blitz) Chess, highlighting her versatility across different formats of the game.

Having started chess at just four years old after watching her father and brother play, Senudi credits both her home environment and her commitment to practice for her growth. She prepares carefully for tournaments, focusing on concentration, physical wellbeing, and game analysis, and enjoys the challenge chess provides.



Senudi D. competed as Australia's official Under 12 Girls player at the 2026 Oceania Youth Chess Championship in Christchurch, New Zealand, and ended up as the 2026 Oceania Youth Under 16 Girls Champion and finishing first overall for Australia.

"I like thinking deeply and solving problems," she shared, adding that chess has also taught her how to handle both winning and losing.

Senudi's advice to younger students is simple and inspiring: never give up. "In my first tournament, I lost all my games—but I kept learning and improving."

Chloe selected for National Future Female Leaders Program

Chloe R. in Year 11 has been selected as one of just 20 students nationwide for the highly competitive 2026 Future Female Leaders Program, chosen from almost 300 applicants.

Chloe has already demonstrated strong leadership qualities, including being recognised with a local Lions Club youth award. Her selection reflects her commitment to positive social change, particularly through Level Ground, a social impact initiative she co-founded to address education equity across Western Australia.

At 16, Chloe described her reaction as both exciting and meaningful.

“Excited, grateful, and determined,” she said. “The Future Female Leaders team believed in my vision for Level Ground before I had the chance to fully prove it, so I’m taking that trust seriously.”

Balancing the application alongside academic study, tutoring, volunteering, and extracurricular commitments was challenging, but Chloe embraced it as a growth opportunity. “The moments that stretch you are the ones that are most valuable and force you to grow the most,” she reflected.

Chloe applied with a clear plan to expand Level Ground, co-founded with Jessica J., a Kimberley-based student and 2025 Future Female Leaders participant.

“I applied because I had a dream and a plan to make it happen,” Chloe explained. “I knew that impact does not come from passion alone. It requires networks, strategy, and mentorship, all of which the program offers.”

Through the six-month program, Chloe is looking forward to developing practical leadership skills beyond the classroom, and she credits Perth



Chloe R.

Modern School for encouraging bold thinking. “Perth Mod gave me the environment to start asking bigger questions,” she said.

Chloe hopes her journey inspires other young women to take initiative. “Real leadership comes from initiative and action, not waiting for permission. You do not need a title to begin.”

Perth Modern School congratulates Chloe on this outstanding achievement and looks forward to seeing her leadership continue to grow.

Celebrating service and leadership: Paul recognised for outstanding robotics mentorship

We are proud to celebrate Year 12 student Paul H. who has recently received a heartfelt letter of appreciation from Lesmurdie Senior High School in recognition of his exceptional contribution to their robotics programs throughout 2025, with his support continuing into 2026.

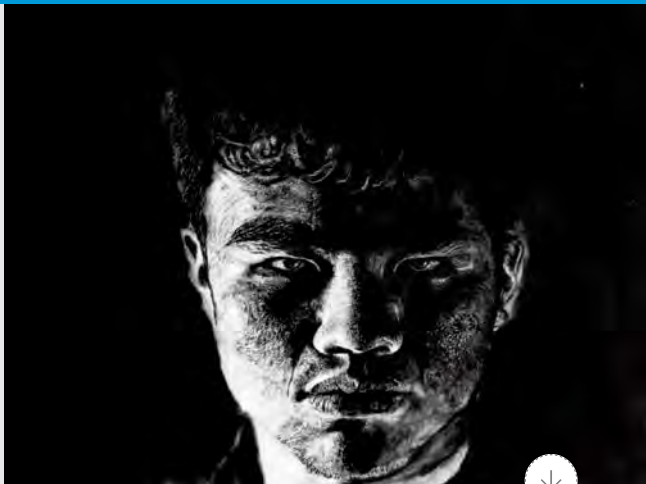
Paul generously volunteered over 100 hours mentoring students involved in WARP, RoboCup, and the *FIRST*® LEGO® League, sharing his expertise, time, and enthusiasm with a school that is still building its presence in these competitions. In his letter, Deputy Principal Callum Millard acknowledged Paul’s “depth of experience, knowledge, and encouragement,” noting the significant and positive impact his guidance had on student learning and confidence.

Balancing a full ATAR program alongside such a substantial mentoring commitment is no small feat. Lesmurdie SHS highlighted how Paul’s passion for robotics and his example as a young mentor inspired their students, stating that his commitment “not only supported their technical growth but also fostered a sense of possibility and enthusiasm for their future pathways.”

The letter concluded by recognising that Paul’s efforts had made a “meaningful and lasting impression” on their school community. This acknowledgment reflects Paul’s dedication, leadership, and generosity of spirit, and exemplifies the values we strive to nurture in our students.



Paul H. being congratulated by Principal Mitchell Mackay.



Talent on show: Emerging artists make their mark at the Lester Youth Art Portraiture Awards

Perth Modern School is proud to celebrate the outstanding success of our Visual Arts students at the 2026 Lester Youth Art Awards, one of Australia's most prestigious art competitions for young people.

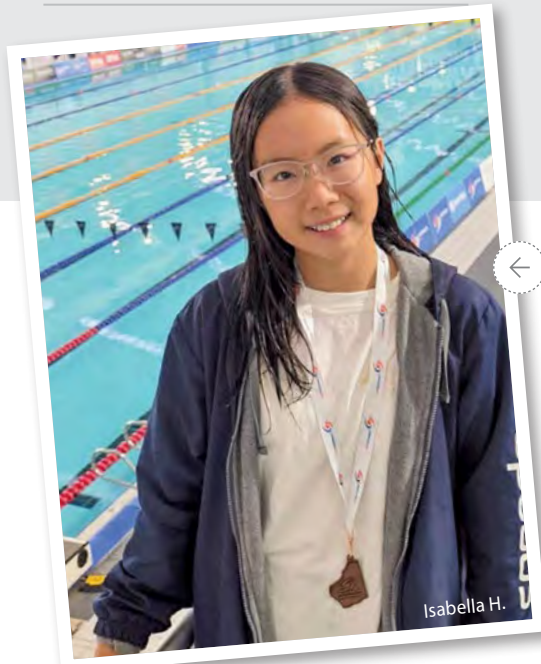
Selected from hundreds of entries nationwide, only 30 artworks were chosen by the pre-selection panel. Remarkably, four of these finalists are Perth Modern students, highlighting the exceptional depth of artistic talent within our school. Congratulations to Callum G. in Year 9, Jinyu W. in Year 10, Raadin E. in Year 11 and Seneja W. in Year 12 on being named finalists in this highly competitive national exhibition.

A special congratulations goes to Raadin who was named Joint High School Prize Winner in the Youth Awards for his powerful charcoal portrait *Determination*, created while he was in Year 10. The work depicts Raadin's friend and classmate Diobett B., capturing a moment of intense focus and inner strength inspired by Diobett's dedication as a martial artist.

Raadin explained that he chose to portray his subject in a moment of preparation before a fight, describing "a steadfast expression containing an unwavering drive to win." He noted that this state represents where Diobett feels most stable and authentically himself. Through careful observation and expressive mark-making, the portrait conveys both physical strength and emotional resilience, demonstrating exceptional technical skill and artistic maturity.

The Lester Prize for Portraiture is one of Australia's most respected portrait awards, and the Youth Awards exhibition is currently on display until Sunday, 19 July in the Old Gaol building at WA Museum Boola Bardip. Visitors can view Raadin's awarded work alongside other outstanding student portraits from across the state.

TOP FROM LEFT: Artworks by Raadin E., Callum G. and Jinyu W.
ABOVE: Artwork by Seneja W.



Celebrating swimming success: Isabella shines at State Championships

Isabella H. in Year 7 delivered an outstanding performance at the 2026 Aqua Technics Western Australian Junior Swimming Championships.

Isabella delivered an impressive series of swims across the championships, bringing home a bronze medal in the 100m breaststroke and qualifying as an individual competitor in a wide range of events. These included the 50m freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, and butterfly, as well as the 100m freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, and the 200m breaststroke.

Competing at this level across so many disciplines is a remarkable achievement and reflects Isabella's versatility as a swimmer.

Piano excellence: Grace earns prestigious performance diplomas

Grace Z. in Year 9 has achieved an outstanding musical milestone. At the end of last year, Grace successfully passed two highly prestigious piano performance diplomas, the LTCL (Licentiate of Trinity College London) and the AMEB LMusA (Licentiate in Music, Australia).

These advanced qualifications represent a significant achievement and reflect Grace's exceptional technical skill, musical maturity, and dedication to sustained practice. Grace also recently attended the AMEB Diploma Award Ceremony, formally marking this impressive accomplishment.

Her success highlights a high level of commitment and excellence in piano performance, and we look forward to following her continued journey in music.

Grace Z. at LMusA award ceremony holding one of her diplomas for piano performance.

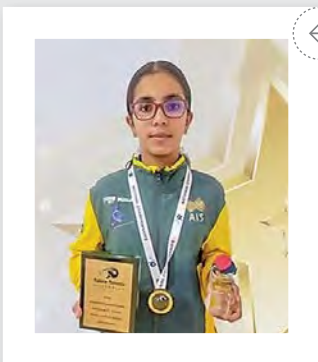


Table tennis success: Nikitha shines at State Championships

Nikitha B. in Year 8 achieved excellent results at the TTA Tour WA National Level Championships held in January, showcasing her skill and determination in a highly competitive field.

Nikitha secured a gold medal in the Under 13 division and followed this with a strong performance to claim the bronze medal in the Under 15 division. Competing across age groups at this level highlights her versatility and growing strength as a table tennis player.

Nikitha's achievements reflect her commitment to training and competitive excellence, and we look forward to seeing her continued success in the sport.



Nikitha B.

Matthew's triple medal success at State Championships

Matthew M. in Year 9 delivered an incredible performance at the State Athletics Championships.

He was awarded Gold for 3000m U16 Boys, Gold for 1500m U16 Boys, and Silver for 800m U16 Boys.

His outstanding results earned him qualification for both the Australian Athletics Championships in April and the International Athletics Competition in Malaysia in July.

Matthew M. (right) at the State Athletics Championships with his little brother.



Welcome to our New Staff



We are delighted to welcome the following staff to Perth Modern School in 2026. Whether joining us in teaching or administration, and whether on a temporary or permanent basis, each brings enthusiasm, expertise, and a strong commitment to making a positive impact and becoming valued members of our school community.

Madeline Sinagra – Associate Principal

One of my favourite jobs I've ever worked was as a swimming teacher while I was at uni. After finishing a Bachelor of Science, the excitement from teaching swimming led to a Graduate Diploma of Secondary Education and then teaching Mathematics. I moved into school leadership early in my career and have worked as a teacher and school leader across a range of metropolitan schools in WA. Work in these settings has included leading curriculum development, whole school pedagogy, assessment policy and practice, school operations, timetabling, Human Resources, and leadership development. I am excited to join a new and unique context like Perth Modern School.

In 2024, I finished an MBA at UWA specialising in Leadership. I am passionate about how strong culture and good leadership create an environment where staff are supported and students can thrive to achieve the best personal and academic outcomes possible.

Outside of work, I used to spend my time building and running small businesses. Having recently sold my last remaining business, I now enjoy spending more time with my friends and family—especially over a coffee or good food! Other spare moments are spent doing laps at the pool or reading a book. I'm currently on maternity leave until Semester Two and loving this time with my baby boy. I am staying connected with staff behind the scenes and I'm looking forward to meeting students and families in Semester 2.



Rebecca de Haan – Head of Music

I am an experienced music educator, pianist, and accompanist with extensive classroom experience from Kindergarten to Year 12, along with a long-standing background in piano teaching. I've taught in both Western Australia and interstate, which has given me a broad perspective on working with students. I previously taught at Penrhos College and have also worked sessionally at Edith Cowan University, supporting the development of emerging musicians. I hold a Bachelor of Music from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts.

I am an active leader in the music education community, currently serving as President of Kodály Western Australia, Vice President of Kodály Australia, and Secretary of the Australian Society for Music Education (WA). Through these roles, I advocate for high quality, sequential music education.

I am passionate about helping students build confidence, creativity, and a lifelong love of music.



Karen Choi – Mathematics

Originally from Malaysia, I completed my Bachelor of Science (Mathematics) with Honours at the University of Warwick in the UK, where my volunteer work first sparked my love for teaching. That experience led me to Australia, where I completed a Master of Teaching (Secondary) at UWA. I'm excited to be teaching Mathematics at Perth Modern and feel very fortunate to be part of such a vibrant learning community.

My passion as a Mathematics teacher lies in helping students build confidence, independence, and an appreciation for mathematical thinking. I enjoy creating learning experiences that encourage exploration and help students make meaningful connections between ideas.

Outside of school, I enjoy a range of activities—from travelling to different countries where I often find myself hiking and trying new foods, to quieter moments spent crocheting at home. I also enjoy learning Japanese and singing in a choir.



Ibrahim Farooq – Mathematics

I am excited to be joining the Maths department at Perth Modern School this year. I arrived in Perth from the UK at the start of the year, after working in a Grammar school there for four years. I have a Master's in Mathematics from Kings College London, and after doing a PGCE right after went into teaching. I'm passionate about developing students' abilities to adapt and solve mathematical problems in creative ways.

Outside of teaching, my hobbies include cooking, reading, weightlifting and gaming. I also enjoy taking long walks and trying new dishes from around the world.



Anuki Jagodage – English

I am excited to be joining the English team at Perth Modern this year, returning to the familiar environment and faces of my former high school. Prior to this role, I've worked across a variety of school contexts, though predominantly at Harrisdale Senior High School over the last four years. I hold a Bachelor of Arts in English and Cultural Studies from the University of Western Australia, followed by a Master of Teaching (Secondary) from the University of Notre Dame.

In the short time I have been at Perth Modern, I have enjoyed working with the supportive and welcoming team of teachers in the English Department, and, most of all, have loved seeing the enthusiasm and enjoyment for learning in my students here.

Outside of teaching, I enjoy hiking, visual arts, reading, cooking and spending time with my wonderful German Shepherd. I look forward to contributing to the ongoing success of the school and sharing my passion for literature with the students here.



Dr Glenn Pulella – Mathematics and Science

I am very excited and feel privileged to join the Perth Modern Mathematics and Science teams. I moved to teaching from an academic career path, which I started at UWA by studying Engineering, before going on to complete a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Chemistry. I stayed at UWA and earned a doctorate in Chemical Synthesis (making molecules!), and I have worked as a researcher at the University of Adelaide and, most recently, back at UWA.

In these roles, I was able to do some teaching and discovered that was the part of the job I found most fulfilling, so I earned a Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Mathematics and Science). I hope to pass on and cultivate a love of learning amongst all my students, and in the short time I've been at Perth Modern School I've really enjoyed teaching the curious and motivated students here.



Rachel Kennedy – English and GT Online

I'm originally from Ireland and qualified at UWA, still one of my favourite places. Last year I completed a post-graduate qualification in Mental Health and Wellbeing in Education, which gave me the chance to revisit that lovely campus. I began my teaching career in Bunbury and was thrilled to move into an all-Senior School environment at Manea College, where I taught five ATAR classes in one year, including four English ATAR and a Modern History ATAR class. I then spent most of the last decade at Churchlands SHS. Setting and achieving yearly goals, whether becoming a Senior Teacher or marking WACE English exams, is important to me. I particularly enjoy essay writing, memoirs and documentaries.

On a personal note, one of the things I love most about teaching is the conversations I get to have with students, both online and in person, plus the occasional lame joke. I'm absolutely thrilled to be at Perth Modern and have already met so many wonderful and supportive colleagues. Outside of school, I'm a huge book, film and TV buff, especially anything tied to History. I enjoy the driving range, tennis, playing with my cavoodle Joey (the next one will be Chandler), and escaping to Rottneest whenever I'm lucky enough to get accommodation.



Matthew Shells – Languages

I am very pleased to be working in the Languages team at the school this year. I bring over 15 years of teaching experience across both public and independent schools in Western Australia. Prior to this, I spent six years living and working in Japan at primary and junior high schools, where I developed my Japanese language skills and a genuine appreciation for the culture. This experience continues to shape my teaching today.

I enjoy helping students build confidence in their communication skills and encouraging an interest in the wider world, and I particularly enjoy seeing students develop their ability to express their own ideas in the Japanese language over the years they study. In my free time, you will find me around Perth taking photos of the beautiful landscapes and scenery. One of my favourite spots to relax and reflect while taking photos of the sunset is Lions Lookout. I am currently thinking about my next international destination to explore through photography.





Dr Jeannette Weeda – English

Having been in various teaching, literacy enrichment and management roles both in Perth schools and overseas in London, I am enjoying my experience of being in the English Department at Perth Modern.

I have taught at high school and tertiary level and have also had the opportunity to work for the Government both in Perth and in The Netherlands. Despite enjoying these jobs, I am always drawn back to the classroom where important learning and growing occurs.

My background spans high school and tertiary teaching, with a focus on Literature and English, complemented by experience in teaching Drama and History. I hold postgraduate qualifications in Literature and have a strong interest in languages, including teaching English as a second language. Beyond school, I'm an enthusiastic reader and occasional writer and I enjoy and value a busy family life.

Thank you to the English Department and the school for a warm welcome to Perth Modern.



Edmund Xu – Health and Physical Education

Having spent several years coaching badminton across school programs, WA junior state teams and national-level athletes, I've developed a deep appreciation for what sport can offer young people beyond just physical fitness. My background in Sport Science, Exercise and Health alongside my Diploma of Education underpins how I approach teaching, and I have a broad interest in sport generally and enjoy picking up new ones wherever possible.

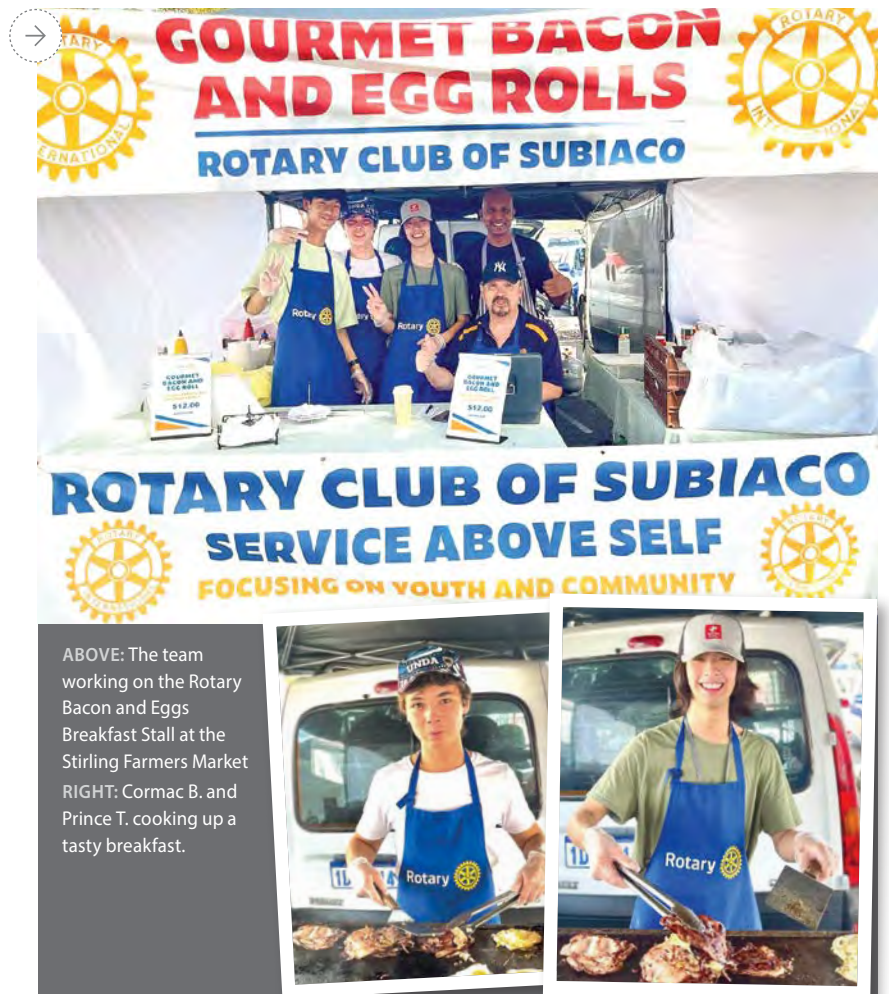
After completing my first term at Perth Modern, I've really enjoyed working with the students and being part of such a supportive Health and Physical Education department. I look forward to getting to know the wider school community as the year progresses.

Bacon, eggs and community spirit at Perth Modern School

The Perth Modern School Rotary Interact Club continues to demonstrate strong values of service, leadership and community engagement through a range of meaningful initiatives. Throughout the year, students have supported both school-based and external causes, including Knit a Square, the Ronald McDonald House Collection Drive, sandwich-making programs, and fundraising for internal student scholarships.

One of the club's most popular initiatives is the Rotary Bacon and Eggs Breakfast Stall at the Stirling Farmers Market, operating most Sunday mornings from 7.00 am to 12.00 pm. The stall raises valuable funds for community causes while also giving students hands-on experience in teamwork and service leadership. The Interact Club sincerely thanks Subiaco Rotary volunteers Nathan and Kevin for their ongoing support and mentorship.

For student volunteers, the experience offers more than a great breakfast. It provides practical service hours, leadership development and a meaningful connection to the local community. Market visitors are encouraged to stop by, enjoy a delicious meal and support this impressive student-led initiative.



ABOVE: The team working on the Rotary Bacon and Eggs Breakfast Stall at the Stirling Farmers Market
RIGHT: Cormac B. and Prince T. cooking up a tasty breakfast.

A Canvas of Connection: Staff Collaboration Through Art



Staff came together on a recent School Development Day to take part in a large collaborative canvas artwork that celebrated creativity, connection, and community.

Led by alumni from the Follow the Dream program, including Tina Deegan and Tahlia-Rae Willcocks, the artwork invited staff to contribute personal symbols, colours, and stories that reflected their families, experiences, and identities. Participants were encouraged to draw on their own artistic abilities, choose their own colour palettes, and work collaboratively on a shared piece that grew richer with every contribution.

The project, organised by Associate Principal Philippa Roy, was grounded in our school values of Collaboration, Curiosity, Courage, Compassion, and Commitment, with the process itself reflecting these principles. Staff worked side by side, sharing ideas, asking questions, taking creative risks, and supporting one another as the canvas evolved.

The artwork now stands as a powerful visual representation of our staff community and the relationships that underpin our school culture. Importantly, this is only the beginning. Students will be invited to contribute to the piece during NAIDOC Week, extending the spirit of inclusion and shared storytelling across our whole school community. The artwork, once complete, will be framed and take pride of place within the school.

This evolving artwork is a meaningful reminder that when we create together, we strengthen our connections and honour the diverse stories that make our community unique.



A Night in an Enchanted Garden: Year 12 Ball 2026

KATIE CHIN, YEAR 12 COORDINATOR



On a balmy Friday evening, the Class of 2026 gathered at the elegant ballroom of the Ritz-Carlton at Elizabeth Quay for the much-anticipated Perth Modern School Year 12 Ball. This year's theme, *Enchanted Garden*, transformed the venue into a magical setting, filled with soft lighting, greenery and a sense of celebration.

Students arrived dressed to impress, and the ballroom was soon filled with laughter, music and the excitement of a truly memorable evening. From the moment they entered, it was clear how much care and effort had gone into preparing for the night, every student looked spectacular.

The evening provided a wonderful opportunity for students to celebrate their final year together, strengthening friendships and creating lasting memories before the busy months ahead. It was a joy to see the Year 12 cohort enjoying each other's company, dancing the night away, and embracing the spirit of the occasion.

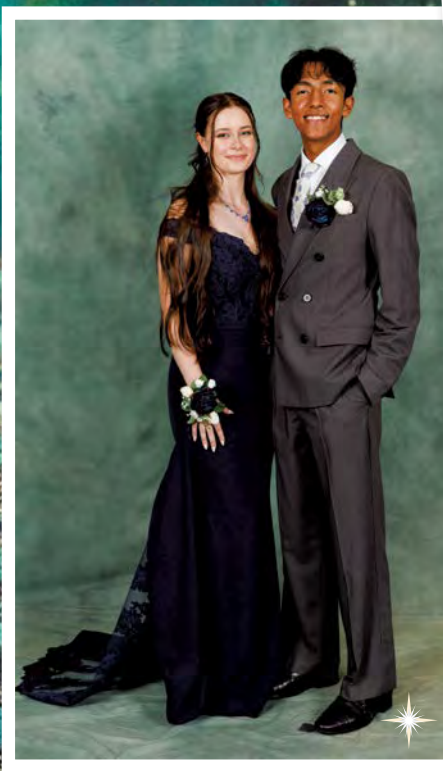
A sincere thank you to the staff who generously gave their time to attend and help ensure the evening ran so smoothly. The 2026 Year 12 Ball was a magical night that will be fondly remembered by all who attended.

PHOTOS COURTESY BLISS PHOTOGRAPHY.









Mod Students Multiply Their Success!

MARK WHITE, HEAD OF MATHEMATICS



Years 11 and 12 winning Have Sum Fun Team: Rohan J., Adarsh N., Pushp G., Mark L., Angela H. and Sam V.



Mathematics Teacher Isaac Kigodi with the Years 9 and 10 First Place winning team: Matthew L., Victor C., Zicheng W., Ozichukwu E., Jayden L. and Leven S.

Have Sum Fun Years 7 and 8 Second Place went to Sharonnoy H., Jasper Z., Keane W., Mason W., Alexander C. and Jimmy L.

Have Sum Fun Years 7 and 8 Third Place: Wendi N., Dhruv S., Boan L., Raphael S., Jeremy W. and Danil K.



MAWA 'Have Sum Fun' Competition

Perth Modern School enjoyed outstanding success in the MAWA 'Have Sum Fun' competition held over two Friday evenings in March.

The event involves four rounds of challenging mathematical problems solved collaboratively in teams of six, with more than 30 schools from Anglican, Catholic, Government and Independent sectors taking part.

Our students performed exceptionally well across all divisions:

Years 11–12 Division

First Place – Perfect Score: Angela H., Mark L., Sam V., Adarsh N., Pushp G. and Rohan J.

Second Place: Rayden O., Catherine Y., Jayden Y., Cassie L., Tiger V. and Bryan X.

Years 9–10 Division

First Place: Ozichukwu E., Jayden L., Zicheng W., Victor C., Matthew L. and Leven S.

Years 7–8 Division

Second Place: Jimmy L., Alexander C., Sharonnoy H., Mason W., Keane W. and Jasper Z.

Third Place: Danil K., Boan L., Jeremy W., Wendi N., Raphael S. and Dhruv S.

These results reflect the dedication, teamwork and problem-solving skills of our students, and we congratulate all teams on their achievements.

Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge

Perth Modern also participated in the international Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge, which involves over 2.9 million students from 60 countries.

The challenge, named after the Lithuanian word for beaver, celebrates collaboration, persistence and logical thinking.

Our students achieved excellent results:

Distinction

Joshua C. (Year 9), Sally H. (Year 10) and Aarav P. (Year 8)

High Distinction

Isobel T. (Year 10), Wei Yu Y. (Year 10), Grace Z. (Year 9) and Tiger V. (Year 11)

Acknowledgements

Congratulations to all students who took part in these competitions. Thank you to Mr Dean, Mr Kigodi, Ms Zhang and Ms Diep for their support, to Rayden O. in Year 12 for assisting with the 'Have Sum Fun' teams, and to all Mathematics staff for their ongoing encouragement of our students.

Parliamentary Recognition for Diya and Sara



Two of our outstanding Year 11 students, Diya S. and Sara R., received a remarkable honour when they were formally recognised in the WA Parliament through a Parliamentary Member Statement delivered by Hon. Ayor Makur Chuot.

The statement highlighted the students' inspiring social impact initiative, Elevare Education, a program offering academic mentoring, mindset coaching, and transition support for migrant students. Their work is helping young people bridge both academic and emotional gaps as they adjust to new learning environments.

As part of the recognition, Diya and Sara were invited to a parliamentary dinner, where they met several distinguished leaders, including Hon. Tony Buti, Hon. Pierre Yang, and Hon. Jessica Stojkowski, who personally congratulated them on their growing contribution to the community.

Their upcoming project, Career IRL, was also acknowledged in Parliament. This career-focused podcast features interviews with professionals working in niche and unconventional industries. With its first episode launching in late April, the podcast is already being described as a valuable new resource for high school students exploring future pathways.

Following their recent achievement as WA Innovator of the Year finalists (2025), this parliamentary recognition marks another significant milestone in Diya and Sara's journey of leadership, service, and innovation.



TOP: Sara R. and Diya S. with Hon. Ayor Makur Chuot MLC at Parliament House, Perth.

Right: Diya and Sara with WA Premier the Hon. Roger Cook MLA; and Sara and Diya are going places with their innovation start-ups Elevare Education and Career IRL.

Beyond the Classroom: Students Explore China on 2026 Cultural Tour



Perth Modern's Chinese language students have returned from an unforgettable 2026 China Tour, where their classroom learning came alive through real-world experiences, cultural immersion and hands-on adventures.

Over the school holidays, students travelled across several major cities, practising their language skills while navigating markets, ordering meals, and engaging with local communities. They also visited iconic landmarks they had previously only studied in textbooks.

Trip Highlights

- Exploring Beijing, including the Simatai Great Wall, Gubei Water Town, Forbidden City, North Luogu Alley, and Universal Studios.
- Wearing Hanfu traditional clothing while wandering the vibrant Great Tang Cultural Precinct and visiting the Terracotta Warriors.
- Learning to cook Sichuan cuisine at the Sichuan Museum, observing pandas up close, and visiting the Leshan Giant Buddha and Sanxingdui Museum.
- Immersing themselves in Chinese language through museums, tours and local interactions.
- Enjoying classic dishes such as Peking duck, Sichuan specialities, and a traditional dumpling banquet.
- Creating lasting memories—singing a friendship song at Luhe High School, cycling atop an ancient city wall, climbing the Great Wall, and volunteering to prepare food for pandas.

Experiences like this build confidence, independence and global awareness, giving students a deeper appreciation of Chinese culture and language.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to the dedicated Perth Modern staff who organised and supervised the tour, and congratulations to our students for their outstanding conduct and enthusiasm while representing the school overseas.

MEI LI, HEAD OF LANGUAGES





Ruby Moon: A Journey into Grief, Fear and Suburban Fairytale



***Ruby Moon* by Matt Cameron begins like a fairytale—but it quickly reveals itself as something far darker. Inspired by real missing-child cases across Australia, the play explores the devastating impact of loss, not only on families, but on entire communities. When we set out to bring *Ruby Moon* to the stage with our Year 12 Drama students, our aim was to create a production that confronted unresolved grief, paranoia and fear through fragmented psychological states and unsettling imagery.**

At the heart of the play are Ray and Sylvie Moon, parents haunted by the disappearance of their young daughter. As they journey through a fractured suburban world, they encounter a series of strange and disturbing characters that blur the boundaries between reality, memory and imagination. This ordinary suburban setting becomes increasingly sinister, revealing a nightmare hidden beneath the surface of normality. If the production were a single image, it would be a family portrait with the child ripped out—hanging on the walls of a decaying suburban home.

This production represents the culmination of almost two years of rigorous senior Drama study. Our students worked not only as performers, but as a complete theatre company. From shaping the directorial vision to designing and realising set, lighting, costume and sound, every element of *Ruby Moon* was conceived, developed and executed by the students themselves. Their commitment to the creative process, willingness to take risks and capacity for deep collaboration were evident at every stage.

Throughout rehearsals, students engaged thoughtfully with the challenging themes of the play, learning how theatre can be used to explore difficult emotions and social issues. They demonstrated resilience, maturity and artistic courage as they navigated complex characters and an unsettling narrative, supporting one another as a cohesive ensemble.

I am immensely proud of what this cohort has achieved. *Ruby Moon* was not simply a performance, but a testament to the creativity, discipline and empathy of these young artists as they reached the final milestone of their Drama journey at Perth Modern School. Their work left a powerful impression on audiences, and the experience will undoubtedly shape their creative paths beyond the classroom.

My sincere thanks go to the students for their dedication and professionalism, to the staff who supported the production, and to our audiences for engaging so thoughtfully with this challenging and moving work.

THOMAS PAPATHANASSIOU, DIRECTOR



WAAPA homecoming New York-based theatre musician and Modernian Carmel Dean



PHOTOS: IAIN GILLESPIE, THE WEST AUSTRALIAN



ABOVE: WAAPA graduate Carmel Dean at the piano at the school's new city campus with students Tabi Kerlin, Harry Ortuso, and Hamish Stewart.

LEFT: Carmel Dean

Being raised by arts-loving parents ensured music would always play a central role in Carmel Dean's life. Growing up in Bateman during the 1980s and 1990s, she was taken to WA Symphony Orchestra concerts and WA Ballet performances, alongside piano lessons that began when she was just three years old.

Dean attended Perth Modern School for the first three years of her secondary education, where her musical foundations continued to develop, even if her future path was not yet clear. In Year 12, she discovered the collaborative energy of musical theatre, a revelation that would ultimately take her halfway around the world.

"I'd always loved music," Dean says. "But suddenly I realised there was this whole other world of collaboration, performing and storytelling through theatre. I was completely sold."

That discovery led her to WA Academy of Performing Arts, where she studied piano performance, graduating in 1999. Alongside her classical degree, Dean was also granted permission by then head of music theatre Denis Follington to sit in on music theatre classes—an opportunity she credits with changing the course of her life.

"By Denis saying yes and wanting to help me out, it gave me an education I wouldn't have had anywhere else in Australia," she says. "WAAPA really is a breeding ground for exceptional talent and community."

In 2001, Dean moved to New York to study in New York University's graduate musical theatre writing program, launching a career that has seen her become musical director on Broadway productions including *If/Then* and *American Idiot*. Today, she continues to work in music supervision while increasingly focusing on her own compositions as a composer, lyricist, arranger and educator.

Now 47, Dean regularly returns to Perth to visit family, but her most recent homecoming has been particularly meaningful. WAAPA's third-year music theatre students are rehearsing the

Australian premiere of *Renascence*, a musical for which Dean wrote the music and which first premiered off-Broadway in 2018.

Set to be staged at the State Theatre Centre's Studio Underground, the production coincides with Dean's return to WAAPA's new ECU City Campus—where she has been working closely with students as her work comes to life once again.

Renascence tells the story of Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Edna St Vincent Millay, weaving the poet's words directly into the musical's score.

"It's a very non-traditional project," Dean explains. "I didn't set out to write a show. I started by setting one of her poems to music for my NYU application, and over the years I kept coming back to her work."

Over more than a decade, Dean amassed a collection of songs built around Millay's poetry. Collaborator Dick Scanlan later helped shape them into a narrative, centring on Millay's creation of her epic poem *Renascence* at just 19.

"For much of the story she's about the same age as these students," Dean says. "It's about a young person coming into their own, believing in their voice, even in the face of setbacks."

Although Dean will return to New York before opening night, spending time in the WAAPA rehearsal room has been deeply emotional.

"On the first day I was so teary," she says. "Coming back to the place where I was trained, watching this new generation of Australian theatre makers — it feels incredibly full-circle."

"My final year at WAAPA was when I first dreamed of New York. To come back now, with my family able to see the work I've made, is one of the absolute highs of my career."

TANYA MACNAUGHTON, THE WEST AUSTRALIAN

Learning, Leadership and Opportunity



Learning the ropes: Our Learn-to-Row experience

LAURA B., YEAR 11

Over the course of two weeks, five students from Years 10 to 12 participated in a four-session Learn-to-Row course during Weeks 6 and 7 of Term 1. This program, organised by the Perth Modern Rowing Club and held at Trinity College, was an incredible experience that introduced us to the art of rowing.

We began our journey by mastering the fundamentals on indoor rowing machines at the West Australian Rowing Club. Our amazing instructors, Chelsea and Xavier, made this a really enjoyable experience. We then progressed to launching and docking the boats, gaining practical skills in boat handling and navigating the water with confidence. The three on-water sessions were a great way to get used to the boats, with some fun races included as well. A definite highlight of the course was seeing dolphins swimming so close by!

Despite the challenges, we made significant progress with our rowing skills. Overall, learning a new sport while having fun with our friends is what really made these sessions so memorable.

Learn-to-Row students trying out their skills on the Swan River; walking on the beach with a view of the stadium; and Ella B. and Laura B.

Year 9 Update: A strong start to the year

JACQUI CARTER, YEAR 9 COORDINATOR

Our Year 9 students have made an excellent start to the year, settling confidently into the expectations of secondary schooling and continuing to thrive both academically and socially. It has been pleasing to see students grow in independence while maintaining a positive attitude towards learning and community involvement.

A strong sense of engagement is evident within the year group and beyond. Many students are working effectively in leadership and service roles, including as Student Councillors, Advocacy Representatives and House Captains, where they are demonstrating responsibility, initiative and teamwork. These roles are helping students build connections, find their voice and contribute meaningfully to school life.

Year 9 students have also been actively involved in a range of activities and projects within and beyond the classroom. Participation in Mathematics competitions and other enrichment opportunities has showcased their willingness to challenge themselves and apply their learning in new contexts.



Year 9 students Shayan D., Noah B., Reon J., Arnav V. and Barbod M. enjoying the House Swimming Carnival.

Advocacy this term has focused strongly on building connections and supporting student wellbeing. As part of this, students participated in a valuable Cyber Safety presentation, reinforcing responsible online behaviour. We also welcomed guest presenters who spoke with students about artificial intelligence and effective study strategies, providing insights that will support their learning now and into the future.

We look forward to seeing our Year 9 students continue to grow and engage throughout the year.

Inspiring Perspectives: From Global Leadership to Local Conservation



The International Women's Day Q&A with Julie Bishop was hosted by Year 12 students Stella A. and Mary M.

International Women's Day at Perth Modern School

Perth Modern School was honoured to welcome The Hon Julie Bishop as our special guest for this year's International Women's Day celebrations. Her visit offered our community an inspiring opportunity to hear firsthand from one of Australia's most accomplished and respected leaders.

Ms Bishop shared captivating insights from her extraordinary career, from her tenure as Australia's Foreign Minister and Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party, to her achievements as a leading commercial lawyer and her current role as Chancellor of the Australian National University. Her reflections on leadership, resilience and global engagement resonated strongly with students, staff and parents alike.

A highlight of the event was the thoughtful Q&A session led by our Year 12 students Stella A. and Mary M. With confidence and curiosity, they guided a rich discussion that showcased the depth of student interest in global affairs, public service and women's leadership.



We extend our sincere thanks to Julie Bishop for generously sharing her time, experience and wisdom with our school community. Her visit was a powerful reminder of the achievements and contributions of women in Australia and around the world.



Hands-on conservation: Year 11 Biology in the field

The Year 11 Biology students visited Bold Park to learn about the value of biodiversity in urban environments and how it is being protected. They conducted surveys across different areas of the park to measure the success of weed-removal and restoration programs.

Students also collected seeds to contribute to the Kings Park Seed Bank. This hands-on experience allowed them to connect ecological theory with real-world conservation practices.

TOP RIGHT: The Year 11 Biology group visiting Bold Park.

RIGHT (PICTURED FROM LEFT): Sophie L., Ms Sarah Ransom, Yeseul K., Eric Z., Liam F., Jude J., Bob H. and Laura B.



Year 10 Outdoor Education Camp: A Journey from Coastline to Cave



Our camp began with a surfing session at Trigg Beach, where most of us spent the first half wiping out before finally managing to catch a few waves. Afterward, we took the hour-long drive to Guilderton. One group paddled Moore River while the rest set up camp, and once everyone was on the water, we made our way upriver to the sand dunes for kayak water polo before cruising back with the wind behind us and playing more games at the sandbar.

Back at camp, we cooked dinner on the Trangia, relaxed, and later took part in a student-run night activity full of team challenges. Exhaustion hit quickly, and we fell asleep almost instantly. The next morning, a few of us woke early for a sunrise walk while others slept in. Once everyone was up, we cooked breakfast and lunch on the Trangia and packed up for the day ahead.

Our final stop was Yanchep National Park, where we toured Crystal Cave and learned about its history and the threats it faces. With some spare time, we played cricket on the grass before heading home. The bus ride back was almost silent, with nearly everyone asleep—proof that one night wasn't enough to recover from everything we squeezed into the trip.

SHRI SAI H.

"Join Sondo for the early morning sunrise hike, it is worth it!"

Andrew L.

"Surfing was definitely the highlight of the camp, as it was a very exciting experience. I also just enjoyed spending time with my peers."

Krish C.

"Let's take a picture by the beach, it's golden hour..."

Aadityapal A.

"My favourite parts of camp were helping Leven when he capsized and going up to the lookout."

Owen P.



Spontaneity on stage: A night of Year 9 Improv

SURI L. AND OLIVIA L., YEAR 9



The Year 9 Improvisation Night was an exciting and high-energy event that showcased students' creativity, confidence and teamwork. Throughout the evening, groups performed a range of spontaneous scenes based on prompts they had never seen before, resulting in many unexpected and hilarious moments. The audience played a key role by suggesting ideas, making each performance unique and engaging.

Teams took part in games including *Authors*, *Slideshows* and *Countdown*. Even when mistakes occurred, performers stayed in character and seamlessly turned them into part of the scene, adding to the entertainment. Overall, the night was a great success, highlighting not only the students' talent but also the courage required to perform without preparation in front of a live audience.

Congratulations to the winning group Who Broke the 4th Wall: Meryem O., Jianing G., Nikki M. and Trithany D. A big thank you to our MC, Wyatt N., and to our fantastic drama teachers, Mr Papathanassiou and Mrs Pacecca.



Drama students experience contemporary theatre at Perth Festival

LUCIA E., YEAR 11 DRAMA STUDENT

Senior Drama students attended a memorable performance at the Heath Ledger Theatre as part of the Perth Festival. Students watched *Le Nor (The Rain)*, a remarkable contemporary production that blends live theatre with cinematic techniques and is performed entirely in a fictional Nordic-inspired language.

The performance unfolded like a film created live on stage, offering students a fascinating insight into both performance and filmmaking. This immersive experience provided our Year 11 and 12 students with the opportunity to explore innovative theatrical storytelling and production methods.

The combination of acting, design and live cinematography made this a standout experience, and students were inspired by the creativity and technical mastery on display.



From Faces to the Sea: Visual Arts Students Bring Ideas to Life

KATIE CHIN AND MEISHA RAYNES, VISUAL ART TEACHERS



Painting portraits with purpose: A day in oils

Our Year 10 and 11 Visual Arts students recently enjoyed an inspiring full-day oil painting workshop led by renowned realist portrait artist Rachelle Dusting.

Throughout the day, students explored the foundations of oil painting, beginning with tonal studies and colour-temperature exercises before putting their learning into practice by creating a complete portrait in oils.

Along the way, they developed hands-on skills in layering, blending, and using intentional brushwork to achieve realistic effects.

A major focus of the workshop was learning how to capture the complexity of human skin tones. Students experimented with subtle shifts in colour, tone, and temperature to build depth, realism, and emotional expression in their portraits.

The workshop provided valuable insight into professional art techniques and artistic processes, leaving students motivated and well prepared to apply their new skills to this term's portrait painting project.

A huge thank you to Rachelle Dusting for sharing her expertise and making the day such a rich and memorable learning experience.



From reef to relief: Year 9 students sculpt the sea

Our Year 9 Sculpture students have been diving deep into creativity as they explore the ocean and our complex relationship with marine life.

The unit began with an inspiring visit to the Aquarium of Western Australia, where students observed and sketched a wide range of marine creatures up close. This firsthand experience helped students develop a deeper appreciation for the beauty, diversity, and fragility of the underwater world.

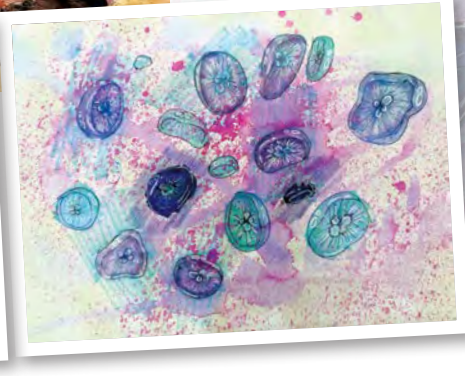
Back in the classroom, the creativity is now flowing. Students are transforming their observations into large-scale pastel artworks and suspended sculptures made from recycled materials, thoughtfully exploring the delicate balance between human impact and marine ecosystems.

These emerging works promise to be both powerful and thought-provoking. We cannot wait to see the finished pieces come to life and share the incredible outcomes of this unit. Stay tuned for some amazing student work.



LEFT: Student working and exploring at AQWA.

BELOW FROM LEFT: Artworks by Zuriel L., Lucia N. and Kavya M.



Swan River Soirée: Year 10 Cruise Highlights

MEL WILCOCK, YEAR 10 COORDINATOR



Towards the end of Term 1, the Year 10 cohort embarked on their annual Swan River cruise, enjoying a night filled with music, laughter and unforgettable memories.

The evening began at Barrack Street Jetty, where students boarded the boat and set off for an exciting night on the water.

The dance floor was busy all night, with students singing along to popular hits from artists including Justin Bieber and Coldplay. The much-loved photobooth also made a return from the Year 8 river cruise and quickly became one of the highlights of the evening, as friends squeezed in together to capture plenty of fun memories.

Out on the back deck, students took in the sparkling city lights, enjoyed the cool breeze off the river, played card games and even recreated the famous "I'm flying!" scene from Titanic. The views of the Perth skyline reflected across the Swan River made the experience feel even more special.

The food certainly did not disappoint. There was an endless supply of Crust Pizza with a variety of toppings, along with plenty of soft drinks to keep everyone refreshed throughout the night. To finish, dessert featured box after box of Krispy Kreme cinnamon doughnuts, which disappeared very quickly.

Overall, the Year 10 River Cruise was an incredible experience and a wonderful opportunity to spend time with friends, dance the night away and create memories that will last long after the boat returned to shore.



Student reflections:

"Never play Golden at the river cruise again." – Myles

"One word. Fein." – Amaya and Tehara

"Got litty on the dance floor." – Angeli

"It's really good looking back at the crazy photobooth photos with my friends." – Ella





Virtual Reality aids Health Education

LISA TAYLOR, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Year 10 students enjoyed a different style of education with a set of VR goggles from the Department of Education. The lessons included the impact of caffeine and other substances on the brain and involved the use of the game controllers. It was an engaging and impactful experience for all.



Perth Modern shines at SSWA Interschool Futsal Carnival

AARON BELL,
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

What an incredible performance from our Perth Modern Futsal team at the SSWA Interschool Futsal Carnival!

Competing against some of the strongest school teams across Western Australia, our players showcased outstanding skill, teamwork, and determination throughout the tournament. From the very first match, the team played with confidence and composure, moving the ball quickly, creating scoring opportunities, and working tirelessly in defence.

Their hard work paid off as they progressed through the group stages and into the knockout rounds, securing a well-deserved spot in the semi-finals.



The Senior SSWA Futsal semi-finalists.

The semi-final was a thrilling contest, with our players giving everything until the final whistle. While we narrowly missed a place in the final, the team's effort, sportsmanship, and resilience were truly commendable.

Reaching the semi-finals is a fantastic achievement and a testament to the dedication and hard work of our players, particularly during a demanding period of senior school academics.

Congratulations to the team on an outstanding campaign!



Driving home the message: Year 10 students attend RAC bstreetsmart

SARAH LIGHTFOOT, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All Year 10 students are participating in the Keys4Life driver education program this year. As part of the program, students attended the RAC bstreetsmart event at RAC Arena, which focused on raising awareness of road safety and responsible driving.

The event highlighted the serious consequences of distracted driving, speeding, and drink driving, while equipping students with strategies to reduce risk-taking behaviours on the road. Major contributors to the event included the RAC, Western Australia Police Force, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, St John Ambulance, and Royal Perth Hospital.

A key feature of the day was a realistic crash scene re-enactment, attended by emergency services personnel exactly as it would occur at a real crash site. Students also listened to powerful firsthand accounts from speakers directly affected by road trauma and had the opportunity to engage with emergency services staff about their experiences.

The learning outcomes of the RAC bstreetsmart program align strongly with the Western Australian Curriculum, particularly the *Personal, Social and Community Health* strand of the Health and Physical Education learning area for Year 10 students.



Balloons, laughter and teamwork: Morning Keepie Uppie fun

Before the first bell, the school oval came alive as a group of students gathered for a game of Keepie Uppie, inspired by the popular *Blue* challenge.

With a balloon in the air and plenty of laughter, the students worked together to keep it from touching the ground, hoping to break the Keepie Uppie world record before class. Cheers rang out with every save, and teamwork was on full display as everyone jumped in to help.

Although we did not break the world record, it was still a great way to start the morning, filling the concourse with laughter, energy, and a strong sense of teamwork before heading off to class.





Mod Interschool swimmers make a splash

Perth Modern School delivered a strong and spirited performance at the 2026 School Sport WA Division 1 Swimming Carnival, finishing 5th overall with 504 points in an exceptionally competitive field. Our swimmers showed determination, teamwork and resilience throughout the day, proudly representing the school against some of the state's largest and most established sporting programs.

Two of our students achieved outstanding success, earning Individual Champion titles in their year groups. Lily S. in Year 11 impressed with consistent, high-quality swims, while Isabella H. in Year 7 made a remarkable debut, demonstrating talent and composure well beyond her years. Their achievements highlight the depth of emerging and established talent within our squad.

Beyond the results, the carnival showcased the best of Mod spirit, students cheering each other on, celebrating personal bests, and approaching every race with commitment and positivity. With strong junior swimmers coming through and experienced seniors leading the way, the future of Perth Modern swimming looks bright as we build toward the 2027 season.

ABOVE FROM LEFT: Year 12 Captains and champions at the Interschool Swimming Carnival; Isabella H. was Year 7 Girls Champion at the Interschool Swimming Carnival; and Lily S. was the Year 11 Girls Champion.



Serving up success at the Slazenger Cup

KELLIE MORGAN, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

It was a huge week of tennis for Perth Modern School students, with our teams competing proudly in the Slazenger Cup across multiple venues.

Perth Mod 1 (Girls) delivered an outstanding campaign, showing determination, skill, and excellent sportsmanship throughout the tournament. Their hard work paid off as they progressed all the way to the finals, finishing as runners-up to Bob Hawke College—an impressive achievement and a credit to the entire team.

Our Middle Years Boys team (Years 7–9) also took to the courts, competing at Alexander Park Tennis Club and Mt Lawley Tennis Club. Across a full day of matches, the boys represented Perth Mod with energy, teamwork, and resilience, demonstrating their commitment and passion for the sport.

Congratulations to all students who participated in the Slazenger Cup. Your dedication, effort, and positive spirit were evident on and off the court, and you should be very proud of your performances. Well done!

Chorale Students Inspired by Nordic Voices



Our Chorale students were treated to a truly special experience, taking part in an exclusive singing workshop led by two outstanding artists from the Perth Festival.

The visiting performers were part of the Sanctum Series – Åkervinda: Nordic Voices, with the performance taking place on Thursday 26 February at 7.30pm at St Mary's Cathedral. Award-winning Swedish vocal quartet Åkervinda is renowned for its luminous harmonies and daring improvisation, weaving voices together like the Northern Lights to create music that feels both contemporary and timeless. During the workshop, students gained valuable insight into professional vocal techniques and ensemble singing, while being inspired by the artistry and musical depth of these exceptional performers.

The school was incredibly grateful for this enriching opportunity and thank you to Ms Christmass for organising such a memorable and inspiring experience for our Chorale students.



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