PERTH MODERN SCHOOL
Exceptional schooling. Exceptional students.

NEWS
OCT 2026



Rebellion Against Conformity: We Will Rock You

Jessica Pacecca and Thomas Papathanassiou, Directors

There is a reason *We Will Rock You* has become a modern cult classic.

Ben Elton took the thunderous legacy of Queen, a band that rewrote the rules of music, performance and identity, and built a story that celebrates individuality, creativity and self-expression. More than two decades after its West End debut, the show continues to inspire audiences to challenge convention and find their own voice.

One of the highlights of our journey was welcoming Ben Elton into our rehearsal room. Hearing him speak about transforming Queen's catalogue into a stage musical and sharing stories from its creation reminded us that every production begins with people brave enough to imagine something different. His generosity and insight encouraged us to create something uniquely our own and leave a lasting mark on the Perth Modern School musical archives.

At its heart, *We Will Rock You* is a rebellion against conformity, and that message resonated strongly with our cast, crew and musicians. Throughout the year, students embraced the production with enthusiasm and commitment, tackling demanding choreography, intricate harmonies and memorable characters with determination and passion.

The success of the show was built on an extraordinary sense of community. From the initial intensive camp to the final performances, students supported and challenged one another in an energetic, collaborative and creative environment. Performers, musicians, technical crew and staff united in a shared commitment to creating something special.

Our student band led by Sally Banyard also deserves special recognition. After mastering Queen's iconic catalogue, they delivered performances that captured the power, energy and theatricality that have made the music beloved across generations.



Most importantly, this production would not have been possible without the unwavering support of families and friends. Their encouragement, patience and belief gave students the confidence to take creative risks and shine on stage.

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Term 3 Reflections

Term 3 has been another exceptional term at Perth Modern School, filled with achievement, creativity and countless opportunities for students.

As I reflect on the ten weeks, I am reminded of the extraordinary depth of talent within our school and the enthusiasm with which our students embrace every opportunity that comes their way.

One of the defining highlights of the term was our whole-school production, *We Will Rock You*. Bringing together students from across year groups was a remarkable celebration of collaboration, creativity and commitment. The energy and talent displayed on stage were matched by the dedication of the many students working behind the scenes. The production was made even more memorable by a visit from writer Ben Elton, who met with students and staff during rehearsals and provided valuable insights and encouragement. It was a wonderful example of what can be achieved when students are challenged to work together towards a common goal.

Academic excellence has continued to be a hallmark of student achievement throughout the term. Our students have excelled in a wide range of competitions and pursuits, achieving impressive results in mathematics, geography, debating, chess, languages and the sciences. Many students represented Perth Modern School at state and national events, demonstrating not only outstanding ability but also the resilience and discipline that underpin success. These achievements reflect both the dedication of our students, and the expertise and support provided by our staff.

The arts have continued to flourish across the school. Students have distinguished themselves through music performances, visual arts exhibitions and creative pursuits that showcase the breadth of talent within our community. It is particularly pleasing to see students pursuing excellence across such a diverse range of interests and passions, enriching the life of the school in the process.

Student wellbeing and connection also remained an important focus throughout the term. Wellness Week provided students with opportunities to strengthen relationships, engage in healthy activities and reflect on strategies that support positive mental health and wellbeing. Our inaugural Book Week was another great success, with students enthusiastically participating in reading initiatives, competitions and fundraising activities. The week highlighted the important role that literature plays in fostering empathy and nurturing a lifelong love of learning.

Beyond the classroom, students actively engaged in leadership, service and community initiatives. Whether attending conferences, representing Australia overseas, participating in fundraising activities or contributing to school events, our students consistently demonstrated a strong sense of citizenship. These experiences help develop the confidence and character that will serve them well beyond their years at school.

This term also marked the retirement of Head of Health and Physical Education, Mr Mark Muir, and the Head of Mathematics, Mr Mark White, whose contributions to Perth Modern School has been profound. Both educators leave a significant legacy of service, leadership and dedication to students. We thank both of them for their many years of commitment to education and wish them every happiness in retirement.

I would like to thank our students, staff, parents and wider community for their continued support and partnership throughout another busy and rewarding term. Together, we continue to build a school culture where students are encouraged to strive for excellence, pursue their interests and make meaningful contributions to the world around them.

Mitchell Mackay



The cast and crew of *We Will Rock You* were thrilled to welcome writer Ben Elton, who shared insights and inspiration from the show's creation.

2026 Modernian Oration with Edith Cowan Chancellor Gaye McMath

Since 2011, the Perth Modernian Society has hosted an annual oration at Perth Modern School, featuring a distinguished Australian speaker.

The event has become a highlight of the school calendar, with senior students particularly valuing the opportunity to hear first-hand insights, experiences, and advice from accomplished leaders and professionals.

The 2026 orator was Professor Gaye McMath, Chancellor of Edith Cowan University. In her inspiring address, 'Life is Short', Professor McMath reflected on her professional journey, from her early career through to her leadership role in higher education. She spoke candidly about the importance of balancing career aspirations with personal wellbeing, family commitments, and the relationships that matter most.

The audience included Year 10 students and members of the Sphinx Society from Years 10-12. Students described the presentation as thought-provoking and valuable, particularly in helping them consider their future priorities and what constitutes a successful and fulfilling life. Following the oration, members of the Sphinx Society joined Modernians for a special afternoon tea, providing an opportunity to connect with alumni and continue conversations sparked by the presentation.





The MCs for the Oration were Head Prefects Mary McCusker and Avash Shakya.





Associate Principal Madeline Sinagra, Principal Mitchell Mackay, Gaye McMath and Peter Farr from the Sphinx Foundation.











House Athletics Carnival

COSTUMES, COMPETITION AND LASTING MEMORIES

Year 12 House Leaders: Cayden Arquiza-Relenas, Aleena Binu Nair, Ella Blythman-Kirk, Connor McFerran, Zain Ozair, Aaron Thow, Tara Vulin and Shan-Mei Wan

As Year 12 students entered the hectic final stretch of the school year, it was the perfect time to take a break and enjoy a day of friendship, friendly competition and fun. Despite the rain, this year's House Athletics Carnival was a shining success, overflowing with house spirit and enthusiasm.

One of the highlights of the day was the incredible effort students put into their costumes. From multiple Spider-Men, Cleopatra, Minions, Care Bears and Trolls, to not one but two separate Alice in Wonderland groups, creativity was on full display. There were bananas, Adventure Time characters, M&Ms, traffic controllers, eshays, homeless wizards and even the House Captains dressed as pirates.

The carnival was a reminder that it is often the most ridiculous and unexpected moments that stay with us. Whether it was rolling down the hill, being interviewed about a costume, or attempting the discus with friends despite having no chance of qualifying, the day created memories that will last long after the results are forgotten.

Hopefully, the enthusiasm and school spirit shown by the Year 12 cohort will inspire younger students to get involved in future years. When we look back on the carnival, we won't just remember who won. We'll remember the friends we stood alongside and the memories we made together.

A special congratulations to Jing Ming Chong (Year 8), who set a new school record in the Boys Triple Jump with an outstanding leap of 12.40 metres.

	Champions		**Runners-Up**	
Year 7	Elizabeth Ham (B)	Lachlan Zheng (B)	Isabella Hu (S)	James Lee-Williamson (P)
Year 8	Isabelle Ham (B)	Phong Nguy (D)	Kate Belisario (P)	Jimmy Liang (B)
Year 9	Rachel Zhou (P)	Nam Nguy (D)	Elena Harrison (D)	Steven Nguyen (B)
Year 10	Hannah Nguyen (P)	Kiran Finn (S)	Caitlin Ding (D)	Jie Wan (S)
Year 11	Metta Chua (P)	Tobi Zhou (B)	Laura Ballintijn (P)	Joseph Esler (S)
YEAR 12	Bethan Lockwood-Jones (S)	Rajdeep Notay (P)	Stephanie White (D)	Nicholas Leendertse (D)

ATHLETICS

1st: Brown 4,562 points

2nd: Downing 4,298 points

3rd: Parsons 4051 points

4th: Sampson 3734 points

NOVELTY CUP

1st: Parsons 387 points

2nd: Downing 378 points

3rd: Brown 287 points

4th: Sampson 247 points




















STOP





Girls Chess Team - Tanvi Mara, Paula Gruber Loo, Senudi De Vas and Anya Aryaputri-Edi.

Checkmate! Perth Modern's Chess Teams Claim Podium Finishes

Glenn Pullella, Chess Coordinator

Strategic thinking, teamwork and cool heads under pressure were on full display as Perth Modern School's chess teams delivered outstanding performances at the 2026 WA School Chess League Finals.

Held at Murdoch University's Boola Katitjin building on 13 September, the finals brought together the state's strongest school chess teams. Following excellent results throughout the year, Perth Modern qualified for both the Open Finals and Girls Finals, with both teams finishing on the podium.

Captained by Ashvin Balavignan, the Open Team of Anthony Nguyen, Angus Chen, Wei Yu Yan and Albert Chen secured an impressive third-place finish. The team performed strongly throughout the competition and was unfortunate to narrowly miss the runner-up position after several closely contested matches.

The Girls Team, captained by Senudi De Vas and comprising Paula Gruber Loo, Tanvi Mara and Anya Aryaputri-Edi, achieved an outstanding second-place finish. Their success was further highlighted by individual honours, with Paula Gruber Loo finishing second overall and Senudi De Vas placing third overall, both earning individual trophies for their exceptional performances.

These fantastic results reflect the dedication, skill and perseverance of Perth Modern's chess players. Congratulations to all students involved on an outstanding year in the WA School Chess League and for representing the school with distinction.

Music Talent Strikes a Chord

Two Perth Modern School students have achieved outstanding success in recent music competitions, showcasing their talent, dedication and passion for performance.

Audrey Ding in Year 7 was awarded First Place in the Under 16 Recital Piano section at the 2026 North of Perth Music Festival. As a result of her exceptional performance, Audrey has also been invited to perform at the festival's prestigious Winners Concert, an honour reserved for the competition's highest-achieving musicians.

Imogen Manfield in Year 10 also achieved outstanding success at the Fremantle Eisteddfod, winning First Place in the Brass Grade 7 division. Performing Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor on trumpet, Imogen impressed adjudicators with her stylistic interpretation and clarity of articulation, earning special commendation for her performance.



Audrey Ding (right)



Imogen Manfield



Jasper Maher with his award-winning artwork.

JOURNEY TO SUCCESS AT HYPER ART EXHIBITION

Katie Chin, Visual Arts Teacher

Year 12 student Jasper Maher has been recognised for his outstanding artistic talent at this year's Hyper Art Exhibition, earning the Traditional Media Award and having two artworks selected for display.

The annual exhibition, presented by the City of Swan, invited young artists to respond to the theme "Journey" through a wide range of creative mediums, including painting, photography, sculpture, fashion, jewellery, film and experimental media.

Jasper's work stood out among entries from across the state, with two pieces selected for exhibition at the Midland Junction Arts Centre. He was also awarded the Traditional Media Award for his painting, Fear Not Your Name, Perseus, For One Day the World Shall Fear You.



WADL Novice Champions - Olivia Trinh, Josephine Tan, Anya Huang, Liesl Ho, Emily Truong and Emily Xia.



WADL Senior Division Runners-Up - Anu Sathe, Mia Saranovic and Vidaa Sandeep and Diya Sanjay.

Debating in 3 Acts and an Epilogue

Louise Secker, Debating Coordinator

ACT 1: The WADL Schools Debating Competition saw 11 teams progress into the final rounds (three Novice, five Junior and three Senior teams) held over 5 weeks of elimination debates. All debates were impromptu, with teams given 1 hour, with no devices, to prepare an unseen topic. At the Grand Final Perth Mod had two teams, representing the school and public education. Congratulations to Perth Mod 5 – Emily Truong, Olivia Trinh, Liesl Ho, Josephine Tan, Anya Hoang and Emily Xia – who were awarded Novice Champions, and Perth Mod 2 – Anu Sathe, Mia Saranovic, Diya Sanjay, Vidaa Sandeep – who were named Senior Runner-up Champions.

ACT 2: No sooner had the SDC rounds finished, the WADL British Parliamentary style Competition began. This competition required four teams to debate a motion with 30 minutes preparation of an impromptu topic. Perth Mod once again represented public schools in the Grand Final with Meryem Oshiro and Lana Choy awarded Cygnet Runner-up Champions and Mia Saranovic and Vidaa Sandeep awarded Swans Runner-up Champions.

ACT 3: Meanwhile, more than 50 Year 7 students participated in an internal competition held across three Sunday mornings. Day 1 provided an intro to debating and prep time with coaches for the first debate. Day 2 and 3 required the students to complete one prepared and one impromptu debate on each day. Well done to all the students, everyone demonstrated significant improvement over the 4 debates.

The epilogue to the debating season was the UNYouth Evatt Trophy Competition, with pairs of students representing a country within the United Nations Security Council, debating resolutions such as cyber security, military action, control of global waterways. Congratulations to Rafael Tan and Eva Xu who participated in the Grand Final at Parliament House.



Jaden Taylor-Rennie with City of South Perth Mayor Greg Milner at the award ceremony.

JADEN TAYLOR-RENNIE RECOGNISED IN PHILLIP PENDAL YOUNG HERITAGE AWARD

By looking to the past, one Perth Modern student has earned recognition for his outstanding research, curiosity and understanding of how communities can preserve their heritage while planning for the future.

Congratulations to Year 8 student Jaden Taylor-Rennie, whose project, Civic Heart Precinct Heritage and Development, was recognised in the Phillip Pendal Young Heritage Award 2026, presented by the City of South Perth Historical Society.

Jaden's project explored how South Perth's Civic Heart Precinct successfully balances modern development with the preservation of significant heritage buildings. Through detailed research, he examined the precinct's transformation over more than a century and highlighted the important role heritage landmarks continue to play in shaping the community's identity.

His work demonstrated impressive critical thinking, research skills and an appreciation for the value of local history, while considering the challenges and opportunities of future development.


Elisha Van Wyk receiving his prize and certificate from Mr McMahon.

Geography Students Map a Path to Success

Rick McMahon, Lead Geography Specialist Teacher

Outstanding results in a national competition have highlighted the talent and dedication of Perth Modern School's young geographers, with several students achieving top one per cent rankings across Australia.

Last term, our Year 8 and Year 9 Geography students put their geographical knowledge and skills to the test in the Australian Geography Competition, competing against students from schools across the nation. The competition challenges students to think critically about the world around them and develop an understanding of space, place and scale in an increasingly interconnected world.

Geography plays an important role in helping students understand global issues, environmental sustainability and the ways people interact with their surroundings. At Perth Modern School, students are encouraged to develop curiosity about the world and consider how they can contribute positively to addressing future challenges. The school also has a strong tradition of success in Senior Geography, with many students pursuing further study and careers in geography-related fields.

This year's competition produced exceptional results, with eight Perth Modern students placing in the Top 1% nationally for their year level.

Year 8 - Top One Per Cent
Giorgio Hidajat, Jimmy Liang, Aiden Yu

Year 9 - Top One Per Cent
Justin Shi, Elisha Van Wyk, Isaac Hoo, Safwan Malik, Samuel Rea

A special congratulations goes to Elisha Van Wyk in Year 9, who achieved the highest score in Western Australia for his year level. This remarkable achievement reflects his dedication, passion and excellence in Geography.

Congratulations to all students who participated in the competition. Their outstanding results demonstrate not only academic excellence but also the curiosity, commitment and global awareness that are hallmarks of a Perth Modern School education. Their achievements show how Geography empowers young people to better understand the world and develop the knowledge needed to help shape its future.

Young Geographer of the Year Honours for Grace

A passion for understanding and improving the world around us has earned Year 11 student Grace Sharma statewide recognition, with her selection as the 2026 Western Australian Young Geographer of the Year (Year 11).

Presented by the Geographical Association of Western Australia (GAWA), the prestigious award recognises exceptional geographical inquiry and academic excellence. Grace received the honour for her investigation, Growing a Cooler Future, which examined how urban growth and land-use change are contributing to urban heat in Perth's northern suburbs.

Through fieldwork, spatial analysis and critical evaluation, Grace explored the effectiveness of the City of Wanneroo's Urban Forest Strategy in creating cooler, more sustainable and liveable communities. Judges praised the originality and quality of her work, along with her thoughtful consideration of environmental, social and economic sustainability.

This outstanding achievement reflects Grace's curiosity, dedication and analytical thinking, while also highlighting the strength of Geography education at Perth Modern School. Congratulations to Grace on this well-deserved recognition, and to Mr Rick McMahon for his guidance and mentorship throughout the project.


Grace Sharma is WA Young Geographer of the Year.



Sara at the National Youth Parliament with the Governor-General of Australia, Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC.

Sara Represents Moore at National Youth Parliament

Year 11 student Sara Rajwani recently had the opportunity to represent the federal electorate of Moore at Australia's inaugural National Youth Parliament, held in Canberra from 16–20 August.

Sara was one of 150 secondary students selected from across Australia to take part in the five-day residential program, with each federal electorate represented by one young person.

The program provided students with a unique opportunity to experience the workings of Australia's parliamentary system.

Sara participated in mock parliamentary debates and legislative activities, met with parliamentarians and parliamentary officials, and attended Question Time at Parliament House.

Beyond the parliamentary experience, the program brought together young people from across the country with a shared interest in leadership, advocacy and civic participation. For Sara, it was an invaluable opportunity to broaden her understanding of Australian democracy, develop her confidence and connect with like-minded students from around the nation.



ISABELLE MAKING A SPLASH ON THE NATIONAL AND STATE STAGE

Year 9 student Isabelle Ham has enjoyed an outstanding year in the pool, achieving success at both national and state levels and showcasing the dedication, talent and determination that define elite young athletes.

In July, Isabelle was selected to represent Western Australia as a member of the School Sport WA Interstate Swimming Team at the 2026 School Sport Australia Aquatic Games in Melbourne. Competing against some of Australia's best young swimmers, she took part in the 50m Freestyle, 50m Butterfly, 50m and 100m Backstroke, as well as freestyle and medley relay events. Her strong performances included 11th place in the 50m Butterfly, 12th in the 50m Freestyle and 14th in the 100m Backstroke.

Adding to her impressive achievements, Isabelle also excelled at the 2026 Hancock Prospecting Short Course Age and Open State Championships while representing UWA-West Coast Swimming Club. She claimed two State Championship titles, winning gold in the Girls 13 Years 50m Butterfly and 100m Butterfly events, as well as a bronze medal in the Girls 13 Years 50m Freestyle. She also recorded several other top performances across the championships.


Quinn Lommers in action.

Quinn Excels in National Orienteering Competition

Year 8 student Quinn Lommers has achieved outstanding results on the national stage, representing Western Australia at the 2026 Australian Schools Orienteering Championships in Canberra.

Held alongside the Oceania Orienteering Championships, the event brought together around 240 students from Australia, New Zealand and New Caledonia. Quinn was a member of the WA Schools Team that secured a bronze medal in the Junior Boys division, a fantastic achievement in a highly competitive field.

Individually, Quinn performed strongly, finishing in the top third of competitors in the sprint event and the top half in the long-distance race among more than 90 boys. He also excelled in the Oceania competitions, placing 9th in the M14 Sprint (6th Australian) and helping his WA team achieve 4th place in the M14 Relay.



Creative Brilliance at the Youth on Health Festival Grand Final

Melanie Wilcock, Dance Coordinator

Congratulations to our talented Year 10 Dance students who performed at the Youth on Health Festival (YOH Fest) Grand Final at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre on Friday 30 October.

Their contemporary dance piece, From Beneath the Books, explored their interpretation of this year's theme, "Health is Wealth", highlighting the importance of prioritising our health and wellbeing and reminding us that true success begins with caring for ourselves.

The students delivered an outstanding performance, achieving an impressive 4th place and receiving a Certificate of Merit in recognition of their masterful and powerful performance.

We are incredibly proud of their dedication, creativity and teamwork throughout this journey. Congratulations to all involved on this wonderful achievement!



Stella-Maria Suuronen won two silver medals at the Hancock Prospecting Short Course Age and Open State Championships.

Double Success for Stella-Maria

Year 8 student Stella-Maria Suuronen has enjoyed an outstanding year in both football and swimming, achieving success at state level across two sports.

As a member of the Fremantle City FC JDL1 team, Stella-Maria helped her side secure an impressive double, being crowned both the 2026 Soccer State Cup Champions and Youth Club Championship (YCC) Champions. The achievement reflects the team's skill, dedication and strong teamwork throughout the season.

Adding to her sporting success, Stella-Maria delivered an excellent performance at the 2026 Hancock Short Course Age and Open Swimming Championships. Competing in the 1500m Freestyle, 800m Freestyle, 400m Freestyle and 400m Individual Medley, she finished in the top five in all four events and earned two silver medals.

These remarkable achievements across two demanding sports are a testament to Stella-Maria's talent, commitment and determination. Congratulations on an exceptional year of sporting success. We look forward to celebrating her future achievements both on the field and in the pool.

MARCEL SCORES IN NATIONAL ICE HOCKEY

Year 10 student Marcel Williams has enjoyed an exceptional year on the ice, earning national recognition for both his skill and leadership in ice hockey.

Competing against some of Australia's top young players, Marcel helped his Under 17 team secure a silver medal at the Next Gen Ice Hockey Tournament. His outstanding performances throughout the competition also earned him selection as one of the tournament's Most Valuable Players (MVPs) in the Under 17 All Stars Team.

Marcel's success continued at the OneHockey Tournament, where he was appointed Alternate Captain of his team. Demonstrating strong leadership and determination, he helped guide his side to gold medal success in the Bantam (Under 15) Division.

These achievements, along with invitations to elite development opportunities, highlight Marcel's dedication, talent and commitment to his sport. He continues to represent both ice hockey and Perth Modern School with distinction.



Marcel Williams was selected for the Ice Hockey Under 17 All Stars Team.



Chloe Lim, Yojit Dhilipkumar and Emily Truong.

Bhuvika Garg

PERTH MODERN STUDENTS NAMED WA YOUNG INNOVATORS AWARD FINALISTS

Perth Modern School is proud to celebrate an extraordinary achievement, with two of the four finalists in the 2026 WA Young Innovators Award coming from our school.

Year 11 student Bhuvika Garg, founder of Byouk, and the Year 8 team behind Project Ecoframe - Yojit Dhilipkumar, Emily Truong and Chloe Lim - have been recognised among Western Australia's most innovative young minds for projects that combine creativity, technology and social impact.

Bhuvika's project, Byouk, is a free publishing platform designed to amplify diverse voices and support young writers from around the world. Since its launch, the platform has attracted submissions from more than ten countries, providing aspiring authors with opportunities to share their stories and see their work published.

Meanwhile, Project Ecoframe addresses global sustainability challenges through an AI-powered vertical farming system. The project uses robotics to monitor crops, automate irrigation and harvesting, and improve resource efficiency, with the aim of making food production more sustainable, accessible and environmentally responsible.

Being selected as finalists in such a prestigious award is a remarkable accomplishment and reflects the ingenuity, initiative and entrepreneurial spirit of these students. Their projects demonstrate how young people can use innovation to create meaningful solutions and make a positive impact on communities both locally and globally.



Elizabeth Ham, Isabelle Ham and Minuli Ekanayake with the trophies achieved at the Tournament of Champions.

Writing Their Way to the World Stage

Three Perth Modern School students have achieved outstanding success at the 2026 World Scholar's Cup Global Round in Da Nang, Vietnam, earning international recognition and securing a place at the prestigious Tournament of Champions at Yale University.

Team 704, comprising Isabelle Ham and Minuli Ekanayake (Year 8) and Elizabeth Ham (Year 7), qualified for the Global Round after an exceptional performance at the Perth Regional Round, where they claimed first place in Team Debating and Team Writing. Minuli also placed first in Individual Writing.

Competing against some of the world's highest-performing students in Da Nang, the team continued to excel, being crowned Global Round Team Writing Champions and claiming 1st Place Overall in Team Writing. Minuli was named Individual Writing Champion (1st Overall), while Isabelle achieved 9th Place Overall in Individual Writing.

All three students also earned medals across multiple competition categories, highlighting their academic excellence, critical thinking and communication skills.

Following this success, Team 704 has qualified for the World Scholar's Cup Tournament of Champions at Yale University in November.

Olivia Helps Hawks Claim State Championship

Year 8 student Olivia Coulson has achieved an outstanding milestone in basketball, helping the Perry Lakes Hawks secure the Western Australian Basketball League Under 14 Championship.

Olivia and her teammates capped off an impressive season with a championship-winning performance at Bendat Basketball Stadium, earning the title of State Champions and securing qualification for the Under 14 National Club Championships.

The Perry Lakes Hawks will now represent Western Australia against the nation's top teams, providing an exciting opportunity to test themselves on the national stage.

We congratulate Olivia on this fantastic success and wish her and her teammates every success as they compete at the national championships.



Olivia Coulson is a basketball champion.

WE WILL ROCK YOU









LIGHTNING CAST

Galileo Figaro
Zach Murray

Scaramouche
Arya Sims

Buddy
Diobett Bangayan

Khashoggi
Avash Shakya

Killer Queen
Crystal Lee

Brit
Saksham K C

Oz
Ellissa Murday






















WE WILL ROCK YOU







THUNDERBOLT CAST

Galileo Figaro
Grace Dowley

Scaramouche
Stella Anthony

Buddy
Ben Suckling

Khashoggi
Lucia Everitt

Killer Queen
Sophie Litic

Brit
Tenney Yu

Oz
Maya Vu

























Book Week Debuts at Perth Modern School



Perth Modern School celebrated its first-ever Book Week this year, with a range of activities designed to promote reading, creativity and community involvement.

Proposed and led by the Student Council, the week featured a Reading Olympiad, where students completed reading challenges over four weeks to earn House points. Students also took part in a Design a Book Cover Competition in collaboration with House Leaders and a second-hand book sale.



The English Department coordinated Write a Book in a Day, giving students the opportunity to develop their storytelling skills, while Associate Principal Monica Franz and Student Councillors Dana Anmar and Olivia Lim helped raise the profile of the event through a live interview on ABC Radio.



The celebrations concluded with a colourful Book Week Dress-Up Day, where students and staff came dressed as their favourite literary characters. A lunchtime parade showcased the costumes, with House points awarded to the best-dressed participants.





Students also contributed through gold coin donations, with all funds raised throughout the week supporting the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. The success of this inaugural Book Week highlighted Perth Modern's strong culture of student leadership and its commitment to fostering a love of reading and literacy within the school community.




Music Teacher John Christ
1978
Permanent Register












SKATE PUP
SNOOPY

Wellness Week
Bringing Our Community Together

Olivia Lim, Year 10

"Good morning, Perth Modern, and welcome to Wellness Week!" In Week 7 of Term 3, the Wellbeing Committee brought a week of fun, connection and wellbeing activities to our school.

Across the week, students could get creative at our Henna Stall, where talented students showcased their skills and gave everyone the chance to enjoy some unique designs. The stall proved to be a great way for students to express themselves and connect with others.

For those looking for a little friendly competition, our Handball Competition gave students the chance to put their skills to the test. Alongside this, students could take part in a range of relaxing and creative activities, including Friendship Bracelet Making, Succulent Potting and Board Games.

We also had Stress Ball Making, allowing students to create their own tools for managing everyday stress. Students could get hands-on and take away something to help them relax. As the week continued, students also enjoyed outdoor activities, including Volleyball, a chance to get active, have fun and connect with others outside the classroom.

Thursday marked R U OK? Day, an important reminder to check in with people around us and look after our mental wellbeing. Students had the opportunity to engage with external organisations, including Zero2Hero and the City of Subiaco, who promoted wellbeing and awareness through interactive activities, such as goggles that mimicked drunk vision. Headspace resources were also made available, providing further information and support.

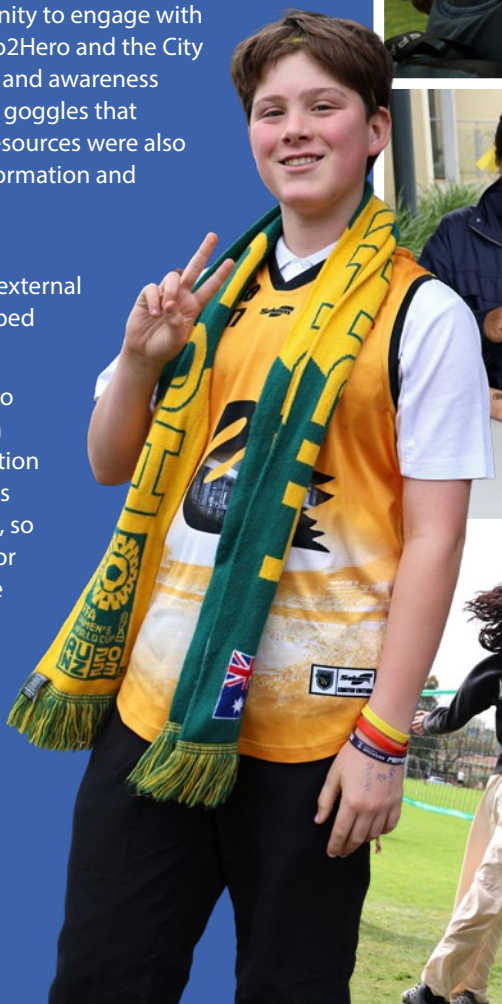
A huge thank you to our Wellbeing Committee, the staff, volunteers and external organisations who tremendously helped bring this week together.

And finally thank you to everyone who participated, Wellness Week saw such great engagement this year! Every action made the week a success. Wellbeing is something we can work on every day, so check in on your friends, make time for yourself and never underestimate the difference a small act of kindness can make.

Until next year,
Perth Modern!











House Bake Off – A Recipe for Success!

Jan Sonder-Sorensen, House Coordinator

The competition was a sweet relief from tests and assignments as students swapped textbooks for mixing bowls and put their culinary creativity to the test in the annual House Bake Off.

Students showcased their baking talents with an impressive collection of cakes, biscuits and cupcakes. From beautifully decorated masterpieces to imaginative flavour combinations, the standard of entries demonstrated plenty of skill, creativity and a healthy measure of House spirit.

Congratulations to everyone who participated and helped make the event such a sweet success. Whether you took home the points or simply enjoyed the experience, there was plenty to celebrate.









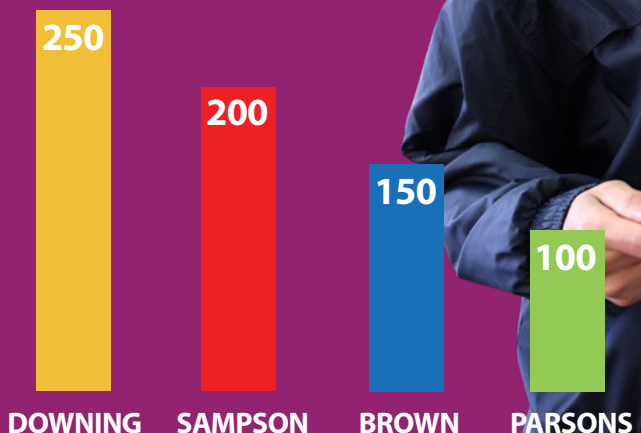
INDIVIDUAL WINNERS

Biscuits
Jianing Gong

Cup Cakes
Irene Rodriguez Servais

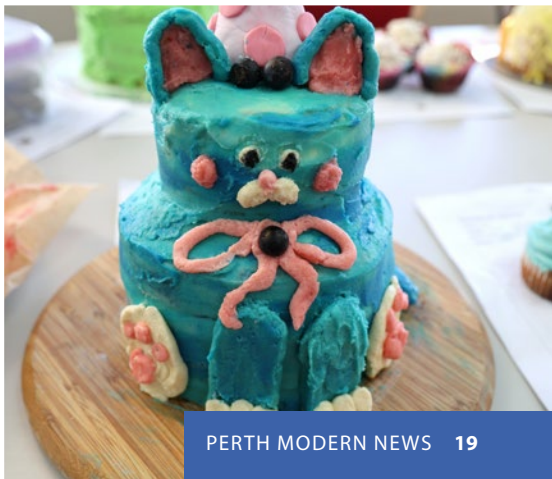
Cakes
Caitlin Ding
Shanata Cheong

House Bake Off Results











Alumnus Fatima Merchant has been awarded a Rhodes Scholarship for 2027.

Rhodes Scholar Honours Former Head Girl

Former Perth Modern School Head Girl Fatima Merchant (Class of 2021) has been named the Western Australian Rhodes Scholar for 2027, one of the most prestigious academic awards available to Australian students.

Fatima, who is currently completing Honours in Political Science and International Relations at The University of Western Australia, was named WA's Rhodes Scholar at a ceremony at Government House. The scholarship will see her travel to the University of Oxford in 2027 to undertake postgraduate studies.

A passionate advocate for public policy and community engagement, Fatima has built an impressive record of leadership and service. During her time at Perth Modern School, she was actively involved in volunteering and leadership opportunities, a commitment she has continued through her work with organisations including the WA Debating League and United Nations Youth Western Australia.

A Winthrop Scholar at UWA, Fatima has also gained valuable experience working as a policy officer for the Western Australian Government. She hopes to use her studies at Oxford to further develop the skills and knowledge needed to contribute to innovative public policy solutions, particularly in response to the challenges and opportunities presented by Australia's ageing population.

In addition to her academic achievements, Fatima is also an accomplished martial arts competitor, exemplifying the well-rounded excellence for which Rhodes Scholars are renowned.

The Rhodes Scholarship is one of the world's most prestigious international scholarship programs, recognising exceptional young leaders who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement, leadership, character and commitment to service.

We congratulate Fatima on this remarkable achievement and wish her every success as she begins the next chapter of her academic and professional journey at Oxford University.



Alex Turley and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Photo © Craig Abercrombie

Alumni

Achievement: Alex Turley Recognised at National Arts Awards

Perth Modern School proudly congratulates alumnus Alex Turley (Class of 2012) on his recent success at the 2026 Art Music Awards, where he received the prestigious Work of the Year: Large Ensemble award for his composition *the ocean's dream of itself*.

Inspired by the words of Western Australian poets, the work was written for mezzo-soprano and orchestra and premiered at Wyoming's Grand Teton Music Festival in 2025. The acclaimed composition has continued to gain recognition and is scheduled to receive its Australian premiere with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in 2027.

Alex's achievement is a testament to his creativity, dedication and outstanding contribution to contemporary music. His success on the national and international stage reflects the talent and passion of Perth Modern School alumni pursuing careers in the arts.

We congratulate Alex on this remarkable honour and look forward to following the next chapter of his musical journey.



Mark Muir with Principal Mitchell Mackay.

Farewell to Mark Muir: A Remarkable Career in Public Education

The Health and Physical Education Department

After a distinguished career dedicated to public education, Perth Modern School farewells Mark Muir as he embarks on a well-earned retirement. Mark leaves behind an extraordinary legacy of compassion, wisdom, leadership and genuine care for the countless students and colleagues whose lives he has enriched.

Throughout his time at Perth Modern School, Mark has been far more than an educator and leader. He has been a mentor, a trusted colleague, a father figure to younger staff navigating the joys and challenges of growing families, and a valued friend to many. His calm demeanour, thoughtful advice and genuine interest in the lives of others have created a lasting impact on our school community.

There are many things we will miss: the unmistakable sound of his whistle, his rich, radio-worthy voice, his carefully curated playlists, his distinctive personal style and, above all, his unwavering kindness and support for those around him. His ability to remain composed in almost any situation has been legendary.

While we celebrate Mark beginning an exciting new chapter, we also acknowledge the significant contribution Mark has made to the culture and character of Perth Modern School. His leadership has been defined not simply by what he has achieved, but by the way he has made people feel — valued, supported, respected and inspired.

Mark, thank you for your years of dedicated service, your friendship, your wisdom and the genuine humanity you have brought to our school. Your influence will continue to be felt long after your final whistle has sounded.

We wish you every happiness in retirement, with plenty of time for good music, great conversations and new adventures.

Serving Up

Success at the VWA Schools Cup

Jan Sonder-Sorensen, Head of Health and Physical Education

Perth Modern School was strongly represented at the 2026 Volleyball WA Schools Cup, with teams competing impressively across a range of divisions.

The standout performances came from our Open Honours Boys and Year 7 Girls teams, both of whom finished as runners-up in their respective divisions after outstanding campaigns.

Throughout the competition, our students demonstrated exceptional teamwork, determination and sportsmanship, representing Perth Modern School with pride both on and off the court. Their commitment and resilience were evident in every match, reflecting the strength of the school's volleyball program.

Congratulations to all players and coaches on another successful Schools Cup campaign and for their contribution to the continued growth and success of volleyball at Modern.



Open Honours Boys Volleyball team.
















RODD & GUNN

Celebrating 30 Years of the Gifted and Talented Online Program

Sarah Mirco, GT Online Coordinator

The 30th Anniversary of the Gifted and Talented Online Program was celebrated at Perth Modern School on Friday, 4 September in the Cyril Tyler Auditorium.

For three decades, technological innovation has enabled gifted students across Western Australia, regardless of their postcode or how remotely they live, to access high-quality educational programs that support them to learn, lead and contribute to a bright future.

The selective program provides an engaging learning environment for identified gifted students, offering opportunities to collaborate with like-minded peers and learn from specialist teachers. Delivered in partnership with regional schools, the program helps students thrive academically while remaining connected to their local communities.

The benefits extend well beyond individual students. By allowing talented young people to remain in their regional communities while accessing specialised educational opportunities, the program supports local schools, families and communities across Western Australia. Regional communities remain vibrant, and gifted learners are challenged and supported to achieve their full potential.

The anniversary celebration was attended by Department of Education Director General Jay Peckitt, Ms Sook Yee Lai MLA, Member for Bibra Lake, representing the Minister for Education, along with former students, parents, teachers and representatives from regional schools. The event was also livestreamed to more than 50 members of the Gifted and Talented Online community across the state.















YEAR 11 DRAMA STUDENTS SHINE IN POWERFUL PRODUCTION OF *HOODS*

Perth Modern School's Year 11 Drama students recently delivered a moving and memorable production of *Hoods*, a contemporary Australian play exploring the realities of homelessness and insecure housing faced by many children and young people. Drawing on themes that remain increasingly relevant in today's society, the production challenged audiences to consider the experiences of those living without stable housing, while highlighting resilience, hope and human connection.

At the heart of the story were Jessie and Kyle, two children attempting to navigate circumstances beyond their control while caring for their baby brother. Through a combination of humour, imagination and powerful storytelling, the production revealed both the challenges they faced and the strength they found in one another.

What made this production particularly special was the extraordinary contribution of the students themselves. Under the direction of Sam Bruce, the cast and creative team played a significant role in shaping the performance, with their ideas and input influencing every scene. Their thoughtful approach ensured the complex subject matter was treated with empathy and authenticity, while also embracing the play's playfulness and theatricality.

The production showcased the talents of students across all aspects of theatre-making, including acting, sound, lighting, costume, set design, stage management and marketing. The professionalism, creativity and commitment demonstrated throughout the rehearsal and performance process resulted in an engaging and impactful theatrical experience.

Hoods was a powerful reminder of theatre's ability to foster understanding and spark important conversations. Congratulations to all students involved, whose dedication and collaboration brought this challenging and thought-provoking work to life so successfully.







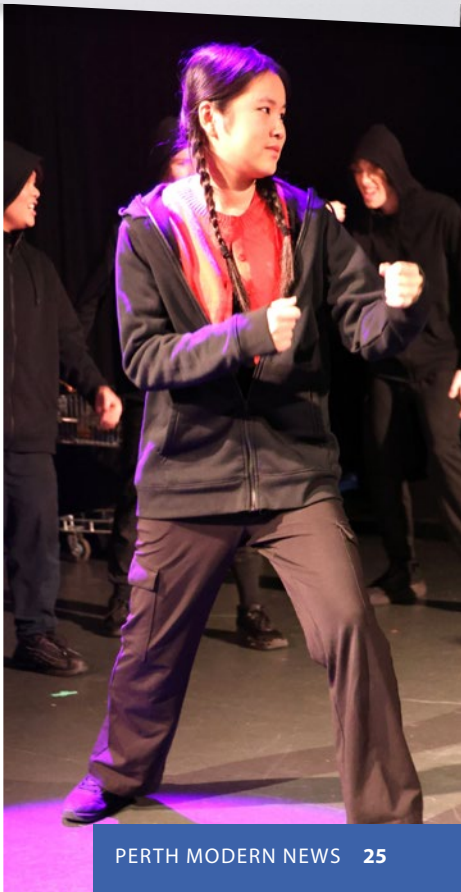














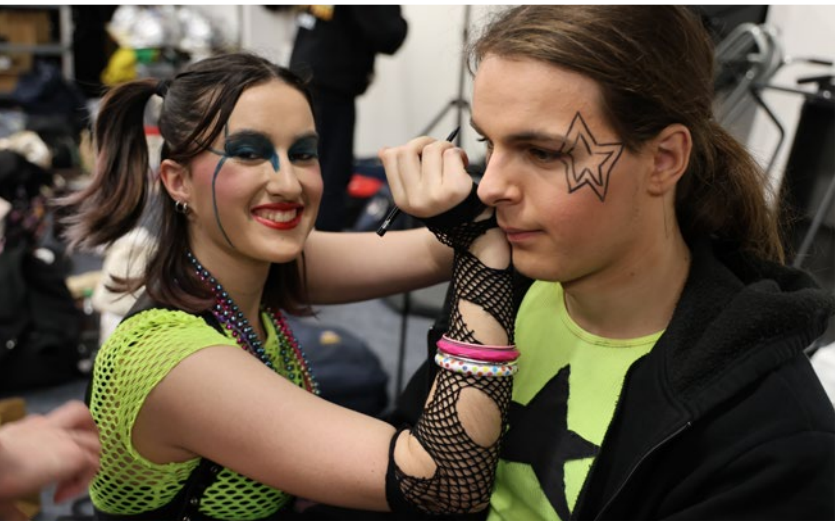
We Will Rock You: Backstage Pass



Ever wondered what happens behind the scenes of a whole-school production?

Take a look at these exclusive photos captured during the pre-production phase of *We Will Rock You*. From rehearsals and costume preparations to set construction and technical run-throughs, many students and staff worked tirelessly behind the scenes to bring this spectacular show to life.

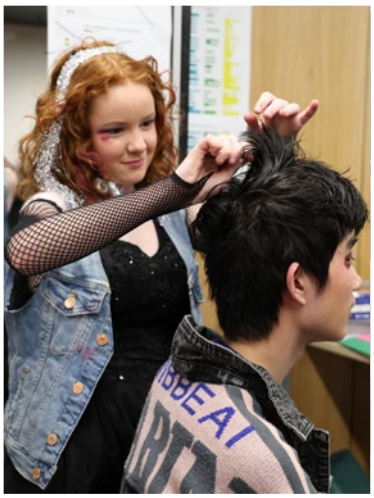
These images offer a glimpse into the dedication, creativity and teamwork that transformed an ambitious vision into an unforgettable production.



















Chinese Bridge: Language Excellence Opens Global Doors for Hannah and Ava-Mei

Year 10 students Hannah Nguyen and Ava-Mei Fok Lok have achieved outstanding success at the 19th International Chinese Bridge Language Competition, held in Beijing and Tianjin, China.

Selected as two of only three Australian delegates, Hannah and Ava-Mei represented Australia and Oceania in one of the world's most prestigious Chinese language competitions. Their selection alone was a remarkable achievement and reflected their exceptional commitment to language learning.

The intensive two-week program brought together 120 contestants from across the globe. Participants undertook a range of cultural activities and masterclasses, while also competing in rigorous written examinations, speeches and debates designed to test both Chinese language proficiency and cultural knowledge.

Hannah and Ava-Mei excelled throughout the competition, progressing through multiple elimination rounds to secure places among the Top 30 contestants worldwide, before advancing even further to finish in the Top 15.

Their final results were exceptional:

- Hannah placed 7th in the world and was awarded 1st place in the Oceania division.
- Ava-Mei placed 14th in the world and was awarded 2nd place in the Oceania division.

In recognition of their achievements, both students have been awarded scholarships to study at universities in China following graduation, including opportunities at the prestigious Peking University.

These outstanding results are a testament to Hannah and Ava-Mei's dedication, perseverance and passion for Chinese language and culture. Perth Modern School is incredibly proud of the way they have represented both the school and Australia on the international stage, demonstrating academic excellence, cultural understanding and global citizenship.

Congratulations to Hannah and Ava-Mei on this extraordinary achievement.





Ava-Mei Fok Lok







Hannah Nguyen





Year 9 students display their World War II summary timelines, highlighting one of the vibrant and engaging ways students are bringing history to life.

Year 9 HASS: Bringing History to Life

Rick McMahon, HASS Teacher

Year 9 Humanities and Social Sciences students have been exploring World War II and its lasting impact, from the formation of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to Indigenous Civil Rights movements in Australia.

As part of their learning, each class collaborated to create a World War II summary timeline, combining historical knowledge with creativity and teamwork. Through the project, students demonstrated courage, curiosity, commitment and collaboration as they researched key events and contributed to a shared class display.

The resulting timelines were both informative and imaginative, showcasing students' historical understanding, creativity and ability to work together. The photos feature two outstanding examples created by Mr McMahon's classes.



Hanna Burgmans, Leen Ibrahim, Sophie Litic, Emmy Wei, Yolanda Wang, Eva Xu, Raphael Toh and Caleb Chen.



Hanna Burgmans

Young Voices Explore Constitutional Change

Sarah Wordsworth, HASS Teacher

Eight Year 11 Politics and Law students recently represented Perth Modern School at the WA State Schools Constitutional Convention, held at the Constitutional Centre of WA and Parliament House.

Hanna Burgmans, Caleb Chen, Leen Ibrahim, Sophie Litic, Raphael Toh, Yolanda Wang, Emmy Wei and Eva Xu joined delegates from schools across Western Australia to explore this year's theme, "Mechanisms for Change". Throughout the day, students heard from constitutional experts about the barriers to constitutional reform in Australia and gained valuable insights into the nation's political and legal systems.

Students also debated the merits of Australia's current constitutional arrangements with their peers and examined contemporary issues affecting young Western Australians. The convention provided an excellent opportunity to deepen their understanding of democracy in action while developing their critical thinking, communication and debating skills.

The experience was both engaging and thought-provoking, encouraging students to consider how constitutional and political change can shape Australia's future.

OUTSTANDING INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT FOR TEAM LEBOB

Congratulations to Team Lebob, who represented Australia at the FIRST® LEGO® League International Korea Open Invitational from 3–5 July, achieving an outstanding third place in the Innovation Project Award.

The team comprised Year 10 students Kingsley Wong, Sean Chan, Andrew Nijman, Subesh Sukumaran, Oliver Liu, Aaron Zhang and Leven Shi, alongside Year 8 student Chris Wang.

Competing as an independently formed and self-directed team, the students spent months preparing for the event. Working after school and on weekends, they designed, built and programmed their robots, developed their innovation project, refined their presentations and secured sponsorship to support their international journey.

As part of their project, the team consulted with industry experts to deepen their understanding of the problem, test their ideas and strengthen their proposed solution. Their dedication and initiative enabled them to compete alongside 43 exceptional teams from around the world, showcasing impressive technical expertise, creativity, teamwork and resilience.

Beyond the competition, the students embraced opportunities for cultural exchange, forming new friendships, sharing ideas and gaining a deeper appreciation of Korean culture.

The team extends its thanks to their supportive parents, Mr Walter Wilson, the school's Robotics Club teachers and the generous sponsors who made the experience possible: WARES, Fugro, Pulse Technology Hub, Effee Robotics, CP Maritime and TMT Solves.











ROBOCUP SUCCESS LEADS TO STATE FINALS

Forty-five Perth Modern School students recently showcased their innovation, teamwork and problem-solving skills at the RoboCup Junior Competition, held on 22 and 23 August. Representing the school across 11 teams, students competed in the Soccer, Rescue Line and Rescue Maze categories.

The competition produced outstanding results, with six teams qualifying for the State Finals. Two teams achieved the highest honour in their divisions, taking out both the Open Rescue Maze Championship and the Secondary Rescue Maze Championship.

RoboCup Junior challenges students to design, build and program autonomous robots capable of completing complex tasks, requiring a combination of technical expertise, creativity and collaboration.

We wish our State Finalists every success as they prepare for the next stage of competition.



WA Junior Maths Olympiad winning team: Boan Li, Danil Kazanov, Jimmy Liang and Jeremy Wang.

Perth Modern Mathematicians Triumph at WA Junior Maths Olympiad

Perth Modern School students achieved outstanding success at the WA Junior Maths Olympiad, held at The University of Western Australia on 19 September, with one team claiming the overall championship and recording the highest team score in the competition's history.

Open to Years 7 to 9 students from all school sectors, the Olympiad includes an individual examination and a team problem-solving challenge.

Our winning team of Year 8 students Danil Kazanov, Boan Li, Jeremy Wang and Jimmy Liang achieved the highest score ever recorded, securing the overall title through exceptional mathematical skill and teamwork.

Perth Modern also claimed the Best Individual Award, with Jimmy Liang achieving a perfect score. Across all year levels, Perth Modern teams delivered exceptional results.

Excellent Team Awards

- Team 1: Wendi Niu, Daniel Wang, Raphael Salman, Mason Wang
- Team 2: Keane Wei, Jasper Zhu, Dhruv Sanjay, Jayden Heo
- Team 3: Jerry Feng, Lucas Xia, Daryl Kuh, Sairam Rajeshkumar
- Team 4: Safwan Malik, Jayden Lee, Zicheng Wang, Thomas Kong
- Team 5: David Taylor, Shayan Dash, Jacob Chan, Joshua Chong

Outstanding Individual Awards

- Mason Wang
- Keane Wei
- Sally Huang

Congratulations to all students who represented Perth Modern so successfully. Thank you to Ms Zhang and Mr Kigodi for supporting the program, and to Mrs Patrice Yang for capturing photographs of the day.



FAREWELL TO OUR HEAD OF MATHEMATICS, MARK WHITE

The Mathematics Department

After 37 remarkable years in education, we bid a heartfelt farewell to our legendary Head of Mathematics, Mr Mark White, an educator whose impact on our community is simply immeasurable.

For nearly four decades, Mr White has been much more than a master of mathematics. He possessed the rare gift of turning abstract numbers into vibrant, accessible concepts, transforming what many students feared into a passion they cherished. Generations of students have walked through his classroom doors, leaving not only with a deeper understanding of calculus and algebra, but also with lifelong lessons in patience, logical thinking, and problem-solving.

Since his arrival at Perth Modern School in 2018, Mr White has left an extraordinary legacy, including (but not limited to):

- The number of Year 12 Specialist Mathematics students increased from 65 in 2018 to an average of 150 each year over the past five years.
- Three consecutive years of ATAR Specialist Exhibitions from 2018 to 2025.
- Three of the eight ATAR Methods Exhibitions awarded between 2018 and 2025.
- Seven of the nine MAWA "Jack Bana" Awards awarded between 2018 and 2026.

Beyond his dedication to students, Mr White's legacy as a leader lies in the profound impact he has had on his department. As Head of Mathematics, he served as a steady compass and generous mentor to generations of younger teachers, sharing decades of wisdom and creating a supportive environment in which they felt empowered to innovate and grow.

We wish Mr White endless joy, good health, and happiness in the next chapter of his life.

First and Second at the Numero Secondary Competition Grand Final

Mrs Diep and Ms Choi, Numero Club Coordinators

Perth Modern School students achieved outstanding success in the Frank Drysdale Numero Secondary Competition, claiming both first and second place at the Grand Final.

Following strong performances at the Northern Heats at Swan Valley Anglican Community School, both Perth Modern teams qualified for the Grand Final at Lesmurdie Senior High School. The competition challenges students in calculator-free mathematics through individual and team events, strategic gameplay and the fast-paced Scramble round.

The success continued at the Grand Final, where Perth Modern again secured first and second place. The Perth Mod Speedcubers were crowned overall champions and won the Champion School Trophy, while the Perth Mod Numerators finished runners-up.

Congratulations to the students who represented the school:

Perth Mod Speedcubers (1st Place)

- Chenuthi Bandara, Year 10
- Josephine Siburian, Year 10
- Olivia Coulson, Year 8
- Irene Park, Year 7

Perth Mod Numerators (2nd Place)

- Jake Lee, Year 9
- Tyler Wong, Year 9
- Nathan Lu, Year 9
- Emerson Ng, Year 9



Josephine Siburian, Chenuthi Bandara, Irene Park, Olivia Coulson (Speedcubers)



Tyler Wong, Jake Lee, Nathan Lu, Emerson Ng (Numerators)



Blake Keown, Jasper Zhu and Grace Zhu were among the high achievers in the CAT competition.

Celebrating Excellence in Computational and Algorithmic Thinking (CAT)

The Computational and Algorithmic Thinking (CAT) competition develops students' problem-solving skills through logical and algorithmic thinking.

Year 9 students Grace Zhu and Adam Rust achieved Prize awards, placing them among the nation's top performers.

High Distinction awards were awarded to Blake Keown, Wendi Niu and Jasper Zhu (Year 7); Boan Li and Danil Kazanov (Year 8); and Nelson Yan (Year 10). A further 25 students received Distinctions, highlighting the strength of computational thinking across the school.

CAT is an important part of our Mathematics curriculum, encouraging creative and analytical problem-solving. Congratulations to all participants and their Mathematics teachers for these excellent results.

Welcoming New Students at the 2026 Years 9-11 Pin Ceremony

Perth Modern School recently welcomed the newest members of its community at the Pin Ceremony Years 8-11, celebrating students who have accepted offers to join Years 9, 10 and 11 in 2027.

Held in Beasley Hall, the ceremony brought together students, families and staff to mark the beginning of an exciting new chapter. The afternoon featured musical performances by Year 11 student Tenney Yu, who performed works by Rachmaninov and Liszt.

Student Councillors Metta Chua and Isabelle Lim served as Masters of Ceremonies, while Madeline Sinagra, Associate Principal, congratulated students on their achievement and encouraged them to embrace the many opportunities available at Perth Modern School.

A highlight of the event was a special address by alumnus Kele Readhead (Class of 2024), who shared his experiences since graduating and encouraged students to make the most of their time at the school.

Students joining Years 9, 10 and 11 in 2027 were individually presented with their Sphinx Pin by Madeline Sinagra, assisted by School Pin by Sam Vallabhaneni. The pin symbolises membership of the Perth Modern School community and its proud tradition of academic excellence.

The ceremony concluded with a warm welcome to all new students and their families before guests gathered for refreshments. As each student received their Sphinx Pin, they joined a long line of Perth Modern School students connected by a shared commitment to learning, achievement and opportunity.



New students with their Sphinx Pins



The Pin Ceremony was run by Year 11 Prefects Metta Chua, Sam Vallabheneni and Isabelle Lim



Kele Readhead from the Class of 2024 addressed the audience.



Students receive their Sphinx Pins at the 2026 Upper Years Pin Ceremony.



Parents and caregivers were proudly in attendance at the ceremony.







Baking Wishes, One Cupcake at a Time

Man Yu Hoe, Year 8

The smell of freshly baked cupcakes filled the air on 24 August as Perth Modern's annual Bake A Wish fundraiser returned, bringing the school community together for a meaningful cause. Thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of many student bakers, the event was quickly organised, promoted and brought to life.

The turnout was fantastic, with hundreds of cupcakes baked and sold throughout the day. Students eagerly volunteered their time to run the stalls, helping to create a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere for everyone involved.

Through the hard work of our talented bakers, dedicated volunteers and the many students and staff who purchased cupcakes, we raised almost $700 for this important cause. Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped make the event such a success. I am already looking forward to bringing Bake A Wish back next year and raising even more for a worthwhile cause.



Students participating in the Microgreens activity.



Science Week Seed Bomb activity.

SCIENCE WEEK: PLANTING SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE

From seed bombs to physics myths, Science Week inspired students to explore how today's ideas can shape tomorrow's world.

Science Week was celebrated with a range of activities inspired by this year's theme, "Seeds for the Future." Students were encouraged to explore science through creativity, hands-on activities and opportunities to consider how scientific ideas can shape our future.

Throughout the week, students participated in seed bomb making and microgreens activities, learning about plant growth, sustainability and the importance of biodiversity. The Seeds for the Future Creative Competition also challenged students to interpret the theme through science, art and innovation, with entries ranging from posters and creative works to investigations and solutions to future challenges.

A highlight of the week was the Physics Breakfast, where Dr Jacob Martin from Curtin University delivered his engaging presentation, Busting Physics Myths.

Science Week provided a fun and engaging celebration of curiosity, creativity and innovation, encouraging students to think about the role science can play in shaping the future.

Year 7: Building Connections on Focus Day

Raphael Salman and Anya Aryaputri-Edi, Year 7

The Year 7 Focus Day was a fantastic experience, providing plenty of opportunities to connect with peers and participate in a wide range of activities. There was something for everyone, from karaoke and cooking to team sports and quieter activities such as origami.

Some of our favourite moments were the board games and cooking sessions. Playing board games gave us a chance to spend time with friends and foster a strong sense of belonging. The cooking activity was especially enjoyable because we were able to prepare, cook and eat our own food, which gave us a sense of independence and achievement.

The Owlchemy activity was another highlight. It encouraged us to get to know one another better and learn new things about people we may not have known well. We also participated in activities such as answering questions from a beach ball we caught and stepping into a circle when we agreed with a prompt given by the instructors.

Overall, Focus Day was a wonderful opportunity to relax, strengthen friendships and build connections with others while having fun.















Wellbeing in Action: Year 10 Thrive Students Inspire Year 7s

Lisa Taylor, Health and Physical Education

During Wellness Week, our Year 10 Thrive students brought energy, enthusiasm and creativity to the Thrive Expo for Year 7 students.

Drawing on data from the school's annual Mi7 wellbeing survey, students identified key areas of need within the Perth Modern School community and designed a range of engaging, interactive stalls to promote positive wellbeing practices.

Through fun and meaningful activities, they shared simple yet powerful messages about the importance of looking after your wellbeing, building resilience, maintaining healthy eating habits and prioritising good sleep.

The Expo provided a fantastic opportunity for our Year 10 students to develop their leadership skills while making a positive impact on younger students. Their collaborative approach, initiative and commitment helped create an engaging and memorable experience for all involved.

Congratulations to our Year 10 Thrive students on their outstanding efforts and for leading the way in promoting wellbeing across our school community.







MODERNIAN HONOURED WITH WACA STATUE

Perth Modern School alumna Zoë Goss has been recognised with one of Western Australian cricket's highest honours, with a bronze statue unveiled at the redeveloped WACA Ground precinct celebrating her remarkable contribution to the sport.

A pioneering figure in women's cricket, Zoë enjoyed an outstanding career spanning almost two decades. Representing both Western Australia and Australia, she played 65 One Day Internationals and 12 Test matches, inspiring countless young athletes to pursue their sporting ambitions. Many cricket fans will also remember her famous dismissal of international cricket legend Brian Lara during a World XI match in 1994, a moment that secured her place in Australian sporting history.

The statue recognises not only Zoë's exceptional achievements on the field but also the significant role women have played in shaping and advancing the game of cricket. Speaking at the unveiling, Zoë expressed her hope that the tribute would inspire future generations to discover and enjoy the sport.

Perth Modern School is proud to celebrate Zoë's achievements and this well-deserved recognition. Her legacy of excellence, perseverance and leadership continues to inspire young people both on and off the sporting field.

Photo credit: Andrew Ritchie / The West Australian





Painting Perspectives: A Visit from Peter Ryan

Meisha Reynes, Visual Art Teacher

Bright colours, bold ideas and artistic inspiration filled the classroom as Year 9 Visual Arts students welcomed acclaimed artist Peter Ryan for a hands-on incursion. Students viewed his colourful artworks, asked questions and received individual feedback on their skateboard designs.

The visit supported their Urban Duality project, which explores contrasting ideas such as city and nature, or chaos and calm. Peter's advice encouraged students to consider how colour, composition and symbolism could strengthen their paintings. Thank you to Peter for sharing his time and expertise with our young artists!

Art Beneath the Spires of St Georges Cathedral

Katie Chin and Meisha Raynes, Visual Art Teachers

We are delighted to have three Perth Modern School students represented in this year's St George's Art Exhibition: Zoe Thane in Year 10, Lucy Zhou in Year 11 and Emma Zhang in Year 12.

Set within the beautiful surrounds of St George's Cathedral in the heart of Perth, the St George's Cathedral Art Exhibition returned for its 23rd year. The exhibition has become a significant event in the West Australian student art calendar, providing secondary students with the unique opportunity to showcase their work within the inspiring setting of the Cathedral.

Each year, selected artworks are recognised by a prestigious judging panel, with prizes generously provided by private donors. Participating in the exhibition gives young artists valuable experience presenting their work in a public exhibition and provides an excellent addition to their developing portfolios.



St George's Exhibition - Emma Zhang

OUTSIDE THE FRAME ART AWARDS

Katie Chin and Meisha Raynes, Visual Art Teachers

The City of Armadale's Outside the Frame Art Awards, now in its 26th year, showcases outstanding contemporary artwork by senior secondary students from across Perth. Professionally curated and judged, the exhibition provides young artists with the opportunity to exhibit their work in a public gallery setting.

We were delighted to have six Perth Modern School Visual Arts students selected for this year's exhibition, with two students receiving Excellence Awards for their outstanding artworks:

Year 11 Danica Vo – Digital artwork

Year 12 Jireh Chin – Self-portrait drawing

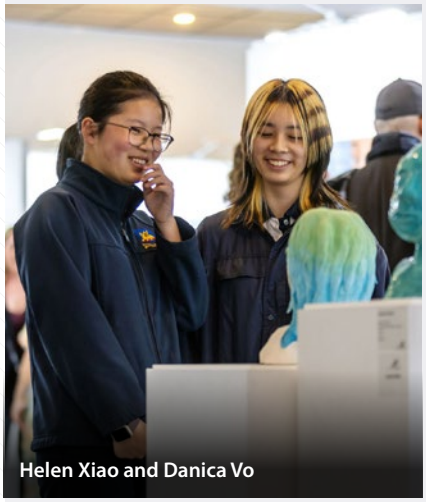
Year 11 Helen Xiao – Mixed media, Look Up!

Year 12 Rutvi Khale – Textile artwork, Beauty is in the Eye of the Beholder

Year 12 Renee Zhou – Temptation — Painting Excellence Award and People's Choice Award

Year 11 Zoe Edwards – Last Breath — Sculpture Excellence Award

Congratulations to all six students on this achievement, and special congratulations to Renee Zhou and Zoe Edwards for their award-winning work. Their success is a wonderful recognition of their talent, creativity and dedication to the visual arts.



Helen Xiao and Danica Vo



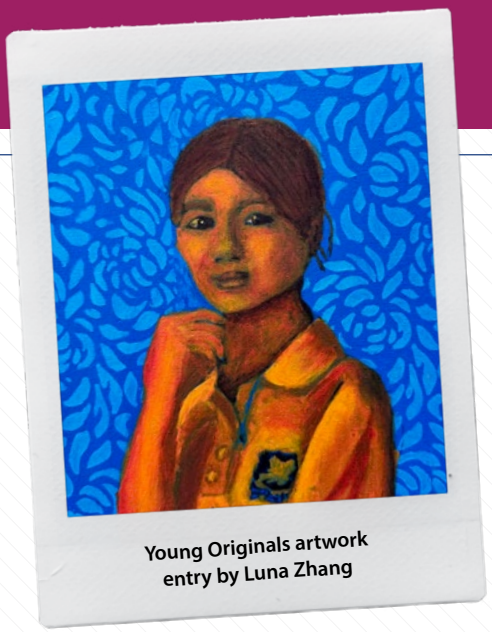
Renee Zhou with the Mayor of Armadale, Ruth Butterfield



Zoe Edwards and Ruth Butterfield



Rutvi Khale



Young Originals artwork entry by Luna Zhang

YOUNG ORIGINALS FINALISTS SHOWCASE THEIR ARTISTIC TALENT

Katie Chin and Meisha Raynes, Visual Art Teachers

Congratulations to five talented students who have been selected for the 2026 Young Originals Exhibition, a prestigious annual showcase of outstanding art and design from WA public secondary schools.

This year, Perth Modern School is proudly represented by:

Year 7 – Luna Zhang
Year 9 – Winnie Chen and Clarissa Tejaya
Year 10 – Abby Sun
Year 12 – Karina Ong

Selected from a highly competitive field, these students have demonstrated exceptional creativity, skill and originality across a range of artistic mediums. Having their work exhibited is a significant achievement and recognition of their dedication to the visual arts.



Winnie Chen

RISING ABOVE THE RAIN: PMRC TAKES ON THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Aiden Papalia, Captain of PMRC 2027 and Hanna Burgmans, Vice-Captain 2027

Dark skies and intermittent rain created challenging conditions for the 2026 All Schools Rowing State Championships, but the weather was no match for the determination and enthusiasm of the Perth Modern Rowing Club (PMRC). On 8 August, the team returned to Champion Lakes Regatta Centre ready to put months of training, commitment and perseverance to the test.

Despite the wet conditions, spirits remained high throughout the day. Between races, rowers sought shelter from the rain, taking the opportunity to relax, socialise and support one another before heading back onto the water.

A standout performance came from Johann Ngo in the Year 12 Singles event. After dedicating significant time and effort to improving his sculling, Johann's hard work paid off with an impressive third-place finish. In a tightly contested race, his podium result was a well-deserved reward and a testament to the progress he had made throughout the season.

There was plenty happening off the water as well. Crews gathered in the regatta centre between events, cheered on teammates from the shoreline and enjoyed a visit to the ever-popular sausage sizzle. The Rowing WA merchandise stall also attracted plenty of attention, with students browsing the range and collecting a free sticker before returning to the excitement of competition.

With a smaller squad this year, it was particularly rewarding to see the growth and development of every member of the club. Whether striving to improve technique, achieve faster erg times or push further in training and competition, each rower set personal goals and worked hard to achieve them. The State Championships provided a fitting showcase of the dedication and commitment displayed throughout the season.

Perhaps the highlight of all, however, came after the racing had finished. The end-of-season celebration brought the team together for pizza, chocolate, rocky road and a memorable ride on the ferris wheel, providing the perfect opportunity to reflect on a fantastic season.

Overall, the 2026 State Championships was a rewarding and memorable conclusion to the rowing season. Despite the challenging conditions, PMRC achieved strong results, demonstrated significant improvement and, most importantly, strengthened the friendships and team spirit that define the club. It was a fitting celebration of a season marked by hard work, resilience and community.











Critters, Campfires and Cupcakes at Pelican Point

Harnoor Chhabra and Noah Bridges, Year 9

Who knew one night away from home could involve cooking disasters, snakes, scorpions, birthday cupcakes and plenty of laughs? In Week 10, we headed to Pelican Point for a one-night Year 9 Outdoor Education camp, and it was an experience to remember.

We pitched our own tents and cooked our own meals on Trangia camp stoves. While some meals were definitely more successful than others, everyone managed to survive! One of the highlights was the Critters Up Close wildlife incursion, where we came face-to-face with some of WA's smaller creatures, including snakes, lizards and scorpions. A few of us were nervous at first, but it was fascinating to see these animals up close and learn more about them.

Day two also happened to be Noah B's birthday, so we celebrated with cupcakes and a round of Happy Birthday, which was a pretty great way to spend a 15th birthday. By the end of camp, we had gained some valuable outdoor skills, made plenty of memories and developed a new appreciation for our own beds and hot showers. We're already looking forward to the next adventure.

"The Critters Up Close was such a fascinating experience and all the creatures were so interesting to see and learn about in their own way." – Jake Lee

"Even if the tent was squishy, I think the camp was truly unforgettable because of the friends we made and the things we learnt." – Sarah Saad











Perth Modern Competes in Perth Glory Secondary Schools Cup

PERTH MODERN SCHOOL STUDENTS RECENTLY TOOK TO THE FIELD FOR THE PERTH GLORY SECONDARY SCHOOLS CUP, A STATEWIDE 9-A-SIDE FOOTBALL COMPETITION FEATURING SCHOOLS FROM ACROSS WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The Junior Girls Team (Years 7-9), coached by Mr Scott Marshall, delivered an outstanding performance, progressing to the semi-finals and finishing an impressive third overall. The Junior Boys Team (Years 7 and 8) also competed strongly, finishing third in a competitive pool and narrowly missing a place in the semi-finals.

Congratulations to all students who represented Perth Modern School with skill, determination and excellent sportsmanship. Their teamwork and commitment throughout the competition were a credit to both themselves and the school.

Year 10 Urban Art Excursion and Stormie Mills

Katie Chin and Meisha Raynes, Visual Art Teachers

Year 10 Visual Arts students recently enjoyed an inspiring excursion into the Perth CBD and Northbridge, exploring the vibrant street art and murals of Wolf Lane and the areas surrounding the North Metropolitan TAFE campus.

Students observed and responded to a diverse range of urban artworks, considering how artists use scale, colour, symbolism, location and visual language to communicate ideas about identity, community, culture and contemporary life. The excursion provided an opportunity for students to experience artworks within their urban environment and consider how public art can transform spaces, provoke thought and create a strong sense of place.

The day continued with a guided tour of Stormie Mills' installation at the Art Gallery of Western Australia. Students explored the recurring themes within Mills' work, including loneliness, vulnerability, belonging, hope and the human condition. His distinctive monochromatic figures encouraged students to consider how seemingly simple imagery can communicate complex emotions and personal narratives.

The excursion provided valuable inspiration for the students' own Urban Art studies and upcoming Art as Activism printmaking project and encouraged them to think more deeply about the role of art within public spaces and contemporary society.







BRUSHSTROKES OF SUCCESS: THE LESTER PRIZE PORTRAIT WORKSHOP

Our Visual Arts students recently participated in a portrait painting workshop, awarded to the school as part of Year 11 student Raadin Ebadi's success as a joint winner of The Lester Prize Youth Awards for Portraiture's High School Prize.

We were fortunate to welcome artist Jessica Logan, who shared her artistic processes and guided students through creating their own expressive portraits. Students explored colour, brushwork and layering, while experimenting with new techniques and developing their individual painting styles.

Congratulations again to Raadin on this outstanding achievement and thank you to Jessica and The Lester Prize for providing such a valuable opportunity for our young artists.