



GERALDTON
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

TERM 3, 2025





FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A Term of activities to celebrate...

As we wrap up another vibrant and engaging term, I am pleased to share some highlights and achievements from Term 3. This term has been filled with meaningful events and celebrations that have brought our school community together and showcased the talents and spirit of our students.

Family and Community Engagement

Founders Day Celebrations

Our Founders Day celebration was a heartfelt tribute to the vision and dedication of those who established our school, and it provided us with the chance to recognise our 86 years of school history. It was a day of reflection, gratitude, and connection as we commemorated our history and the values that continue to guide us. The Founders Games were a highlight seeing the return for a day of such activities as rounders, bucketball, battendi, buroinjini, cups, handball, and tug-of-war, plus many more. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to honour our past and look forward to the future with renewed enthusiasm and commitment.

Thank you to our very own HASS Teacher, Ms Courtney Evans for sharing her long-standing family connection to our school with her Uncle being the Foundation Principal in 1939.

NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC Week was a time of celebration and learning as we acknowledged and celebrated the history, culture, and achievements of First Nations Peoples. Our students engaged in a range of activities, including sand art, dance performances, and cultural experiences that provided deeper insights into First Nations traditions and stories.

It was a meaningful experience that fostered greater understanding and respect within our school community. I am proud of the enthusiasm and participation of our students and staff in these important activities.

Thank you to our guest speakers Miss Kyiesha Ronan a former student who shared her personal story and Ms Marion Baumgarten who shared her wisdom, experience and cultural knowledge to open our NAIDOC Week.

Athletics Carnival

The Term 3 Athletics Carnival was a tremendous success and a testament to the hard work and determination of our students. The event was filled with exciting competitions, exceptional sportsmanship, and school spirit. Congratulations to all our athletes who participated and gave their best on the day.

Special thanks to our dedicated staff and families who made the day possible. It was a fantastic demonstration of teamwork and school pride. I am still in awe at the speed of students in our run events and the heights students reached in high jump.

We have recently formed a Committee chaired by Deputy Principal, Mr Brett Teakle who will lead a process to improve our whole school community events such as those discussed above with the goal of increasing student attendance on these days and the engagement of our families and community. We welcome suggestions from the community, and these can be emailed through to geraldton.shs@education.wa.edu.au

Cultural Responsiveness

This year I have been accepted into the Department of Education's Culturally Responsive Leadership Program. This is a 12-month program involving seven days of learning in Perth, a week on-country experience at Nowanup and a Project. The Project will be lead and progressed together with the Aboriginal Education Team and the Cultural Reference Group.

So far, the Program has involved me as a Leader reflecting on "Who I am?", "What it means to be racist?" and early ideas on an Action Learning Project.



This year we have commenced the following initiatives to improve our Cultural Responsiveness:

- Indigenous Arts Cultural Program
- Maajayimanha Indigenous Student Leadership Mob
- Two-Way Science

I will prioritise my learning so that I am able to contribute to these initiatives or further initiatives as identified together with our First Nations community.

2026-2030 Business Plan

We will be launching our NEW 5-year Business Plan on Monday 13 October. We have students, family and community representatives participating in the launch to all staff. The same week we will be sharing to all families and the wider community the Future Story Video and our 2026-2030 Business Plan.

I have appreciated the time and commitment of our student leaders, staff and family and community representatives throughout this eighteen-month process of development. It is rewarding to see the ideas created without barriers or parameters from the Crazy 8s Activity by staff, student leaders and the School Board transform into a plan for our school's future.

Teaching and Learning

Instructional coaching of teachers is continued to be prioritised at our school where teachers are coached by their peers to receive feedback and improve their teaching. This Term we have been focussing on

receive feedback and improve their teaching. This Term we have been focussing on different levels of questioning to check for student understanding throughout lessons and to challenge student thinking. Through teachers improving the questions they ask we will see the improvement in student engagement and learning.

Congratulations to our students who have represented us well in the community through the Randolph Stow Young Writers Awards and at the Genesis Art Exhibition. More information regarding our students' exhibitions are further into our newsletter.

As we approach the end of Term 3, I want to extend my gratitude to everyone who has contributed to making this term so memorable. Your support and engagement play a crucial role in enriching our school environment and creating a positive and inclusive community.

I wish our Year 12 students who are preparing for examinations, finishing of school work requirements and/or preparing themselves for further study or employment all the best. I look forward to the Year 12 Assembly and Year 12 Valedictory early in Term 4.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back for Term 4 with continued energy and excitement.

Karena Shearing
Principal





ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

Review of Student Behaviour Plan

Our school Student Behaviour Plan aligns with the Department of Education's Student Behaviour in Public Schools policy, procedures and requirements, which became effective in July 2023. As part of our regular school review, we consider current practices, what's working well for student behaviour in our school and identify how we strengthen practices.

The purpose of our school plan is to support an orderly, inclusive, supportive and culturally responsive environment that enables students to fulfil their learning potential. This a responsibility shared by all members of the Geraldton Senior High School (GSHS) community. Positive student behaviour is essential to promote engagement in learning and to maximise the impact of classroom teaching. We strive to build a culture of positive behaviour that values students' strengths, abilities and diversity.

Consultation with our school community is an important part of our review process. Staff contribution has been provided through Learning areas consultation and review via the Positive Behaviour Support (PBS), Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and Work Health & Safety (WHS) committees. Student voice will be provided by the Student Leadership Group and Maajajimahna Mob and parent and community voice provided by the Cultural Reference Group and School Board.

Once the review is completed, the revised Student Behaviour Plan will be available via the school website, or on request from the school reception.

Community Partnerships

We have gratitude for our community partnerships and the opportunities they provide to our students and staff. Examples of our current partnerships which positively impact outcomes for students include:

City of Greater Geraldton and Westcycle – eRideables workshop to build understanding of legislation and provide practical experience using eRideables.

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation and Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation– providing a voice of the youth to support the Yamatji on Country meeting achieve its vision of enabling a platform where community can come together to voice concerns, identify common goals, and propose solutions that are rooted in Country, Culture, and Community.

Headspace Consortium – working with agencies to identify strategies which support young people accessing resources which enable positive health and wellbeing.

Our Midwest and Headspace presence at the school *Wear It Purple Day* celebration to support and empower LGBTQIA+ youth by creating safe, supportive, and inclusive environments.

If your agency has an opportunity which will enhance learning outcomes for students, please contact the school.

Rhonda Kennedy
Associate Principal





DEPUTY PRINCIPAL YEAR 7 AND 8

Term 3 has been jam-packed with lots to celebrate for our Year 7 and 8 Team. We started the Term with our Founders Day Assembly and Founders Day games. A great opportunity to reflect on the journey of Geraldton Senior High School and hear the stories of former students.

At the start of the Term, NAPLAN results were published and sent to families. Please enjoy reading the excellent writing, *Stone Cupboard*, completed by Year 7 student, Roland as part of his NAPLAN test. (Article located on Page 49)

It was great to see our students being recognised for their writing in the annual Randolph Stow Young Writers Award. Congratulations to all the award winners. Well done to Emily M who was awarded 3rd place in the Lower Secondary Poetry Category with her poem, *My First Year*. Emily read her poem to the audience at the awards evening.

*Highschool's very different to what I know,
I can see the differences crystal clear.
Primary school seems so long ago,
This is my first year.*

*The teachers here seem decent,
Some are bad, some are good.
We have some disagreements,
I feel so misunderstood.*

*I've made a lot of new friends,
I still miss my old ones though.
Some friendships never end,
Others I need to just let go.*

*I was scared I must admit,
But all my fear did disappear.
Now I know that I can make it,
This is my first year!*

Congratulations to Millie-Ann, Year 7 who won first place in the Lower Secondary Prose category for her narrative, *The Window*.

The following Year 7 and 8 students were Highly Commended for their writing: D'arcy, Lacey and Ethan.

This Term, we welcomed Year 6 students from our local intake area Primary Schools to get a taste of high school. During their visit the students enjoyed making muffins, crafting a pencil holder, Science experiments and had fun with some interactive physical education games.



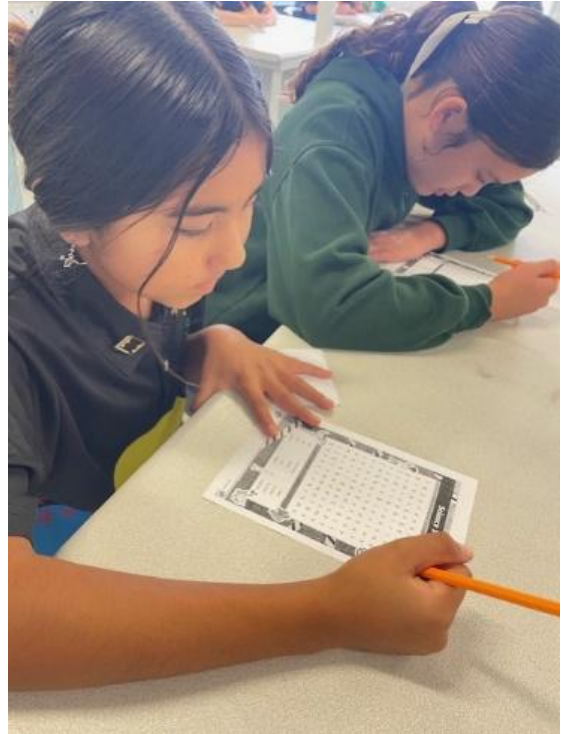
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL YEAR 7 AND 8

All the Year 6 students enjoyed their morning, particularly their visit to the Seeker Shop! We are looking forward to welcoming them back in Term 4 for their Transition Day. If you have a child who will be attending Geraldton SHS in 2026, please make sure you have completed an enrolment pack. Our friendly staff can support you with your application. Our Reception is open from 8am – 4pm Monday to Friday.

It has been great to see the success achieved by students in Year 7 and 8 as they develop confidence in their learning. All students can achieve great outcomes when they take risks with their learning and demonstrate courage to push themselves out of their comfort zones. Keep encouraging your children to have a go, no matter what so that they develop resilience and achieve success. We are learning now for the future.

Spring has arrived and provides us all with the opportunity to celebrate change and growth. I have enjoyed celebrating all that has been achieved this Term and look forward to more celebrations in Term 4.

Claire Croucher
Deputy Principal Year 7 and 8





DEPUTY PRINCIPAL YEAR 9 AND 10

A Term of Endurance and Opportunity

As Term 3 draws to a close, it's worth acknowledging the resilience shown by both staff and students. We have no public holidays or professional development days to punctuate the Term, we have navigated a solid stretch of 49 school days. This Term has been marked by an impressive array of activities and excursions, with hardly a day passing without an opportunity designed to enrich our students' educational experience. From Career Tasters and Pathways 2 Employment to Outdoor Pursuits and the diverse programs offered by the Clontarf and STARs academies, our students have embraced every opportunity to grow, learn, and shine. This once again on display at our recent Athletics Carnival, where students proudly demonstrated the PBS value of Doing Our Best. It was a day filled with energy, sportsmanship, and school spirit. A heartfelt congratulations to Miss Sellers and all staff involved in organising such a successful and memorable event. With this intensity, Term 3 plays a pivotal role in preparing students for the final leg of the academic year. For our Year 9 and 10 cohorts, it has been especially significant as they begin to shape their educational journey to suit their individual goals and interests.

Subject Selections – Planning for the Future

Earlier this Term, our Year 10 students completed their subject selections for Year 11, and more recently, our Year 9 students have begun choosing their electives for Year 10 in 2026. This process is not only about career pathways but also about exploring areas of personal interest and growth. If you have any questions regarding subject selections—whether for Year 10's entering Senior School or Year 9's preparing for next year—please don't hesitate to contact the school and ask to speak with Mr Teakle

Attendance – A Key to Success

I am pleased to share that our Year 9 cohort has achieved the highest attendance rate for their year level in the past 4 years — a fantastic effort that deserves recognition. Unfortunately, our Year 10 attendance figures have not reflected the same upward trend. Research consistently shows that regular school attendance is one of the most significant contributors to student success. As students transition into Senior School,

establishing strong attendance habits is essential. If you are facing challenges with your child's attendance, our Student Services team is available to support you with practical strategies and guidance.

Responsibility – A Core Value in Action

At Geraldton SHS, "Showing Responsibility" is one of our core PBS values, and it's a theme I regularly discuss with our Year 9 and 10 students during our fortnightly mini assemblies. Responsibility includes supporting younger students, contributing positively to school events like Founders Day and the Athletics Carnival, and setting a strong example for others. There is room for improvement in how our students approach uniform standards and the use of personal electronic devices. Please continue to encourage your child to wear their uniform with pride and to keep devices, including earphones, off and away during school hours to support a focused learning environment.

Connecting Through Community and History

One of the things I value most about Geraldton SHS is its rich history and deep connection to the local community. Just outside my office, a staircase wall proudly displays the names of past School Captains, Duxes, and Principals dating back to 1939. This legacy reminds us of the school's enduring role in Geraldton's story. However, recent events such as Founders Day and Parent-Teacher Evening have seen a decline in community engagement. We are committed to strengthening these connections, and we invite you to help us by completing the survey link below or through the QR Code. Your feedback will guide us in creating more meaningful opportunities to engage with our school community.

Brett Teakle
Deputy Principal Year 9 and 10



<https://forms.office.com/r/uWpxWFmbcZ>





DEPUTY PRINCIPAL YEAR 11 AND 12

Strengthening Learning Opportunities for Year 11 and 12 Students in 2026

At Geraldton SHS, our priority is ensuring every student has the best chance of success in their senior years. From 2026, changes to the Year 11 and 12 timetable will strengthen academic achievement, provide targeted support, and prepare students for future pathways.

Year 11

From 2026, all Year 11 students will have a full timetable and will no longer finish early on Thursdays. Their Thursday Block 3 (Block 25) session will be structured according to individual needs, such as:

- **ATAR Preparation** – exam practice and course support
- **OLNA Support** – Reading, Writing, Numeracy assistance
- **Follow the Dream** – academic support for Aboriginal students
- **Homeroom** – mentoring, study organisation, and goal setting

Students attending TAFE on Thursdays will continue as normal. This ensures every Year 11 has structured support to succeed in their courses and build strong foundations for Year 12.

Year 12

Year 12 students will also continue with Block 25, timetabled Thursdays at Block 5. Options will include:

- ATAR preparation
- OLNA support
- Follow the Dream
- Homeroom for study support and mentoring

Students who are on track for WACE may be eligible for early dismissal at lunch. TAFE attendance will remain unaffected.

Why These Changes?

These adjustments reflect our commitment to ensuring senior students:

- Receive tailored support to succeed in ATAR pathways
- Meet OLNA standards and WACE graduation requirements
- Benefit from additional guidance, mentoring, and cultural support
- Have structured time dedicated to academic growth and personal development

We are confident these changes will help every student achieve their best and graduate with strong skills and pathways for future study, training, or work.



Celebrating Achievement at GSHS

Geraldton SHS is building a culture of academic excellence by recognising and inspiring student achievement. One new initiative is the **High Achievers Lunch**, introduced this term to celebrate students who demonstrated:

- Six or more A or B grades
- No failing grades
- For Year 11 and 12, recent academic awards or an ATAR score of 80+

This event was an opportunity to acknowledge dedication and hard work while reinforcing that achievement is valued at Geraldton SHS. The High Achievers Lunch will now take place each semester to ensure recognition is consistent and meaningful.

Alongside this, students are supported through a range of academic and wellbeing programs designed to encourage progress and success. By celebrating achievement, we aim to motivate all students to strive for their personal best – not only for recognition, but for the lifelong opportunities that come with success.

Together, we are building a school culture where achievement is celebrated, effort is rewarded, and excellence is within every student's reach.

As we move forward with these initiatives, the support of staff, families, and the wider school community is vital. Together, we can provide the encouragement, consistency, and high expectations our students need to achieve their very best.

Kartini Signa
Deputy Principal Year 11 and 12



STUDENT SERVICES

Year 7 and 8

Year 6 Taster Visits

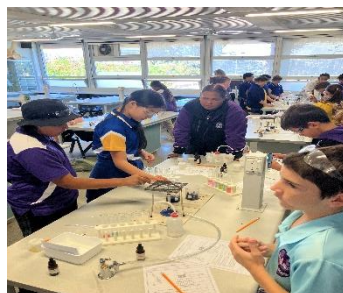
This Term, Geraldton SHS warmly welcomed Year 6 students from Geraldton, Allendale, Bluff Point, Beachlands, and Waggrakine Primary Schools for an exciting glimpse into High School life.

Students dived into hands-on activities across a variety of Learning Areas. In the Food Technology room, they whipped up delicious “muffins in a mug.” Our Science labs buzzed with curiosity as they explored pH levels, acids, and alkalis. On the basketball courts, friendly competition brought out their sporty side. From crafting pencil holders in Woodwork to experimenting in Science and shooting hoops, these young learners truly experienced the vibrant Geraldton SHS spirit!

During their visit, students also explored our Seeker Shop, redeeming Seeker Points earned by embodying our core values: Respect, Responsibility, and Doing Our Best. It was a joy to watch them embrace these values with enthusiasm and pride.

We loved having you here and are excited to see all the amazing things you will accomplish in the years ahead!

For more information about Year 6 enrolments, please contact the Front Office at Geraldton SHS.



Book Week 2025

This year's Book Week theme, “**Book an Adventure**,” celebrated 80 years of Book Week in Australia with a fantastic array of activities for staff and students. Highlights included our whole-school dress-up day and creative craft sessions, such as crocheting your own bookmark.

The excitement continued with a lively Form Quiz on Tuesday morning, where congratulations go to Mr. Elliot's Year 8 Sirius 1 class for winning a well-deserved pizza lunch!

The creativity on display in costumes was outstanding. Our Best Dressed winners were:

- **Bella** (Year 9)
- **Nicholas** (Year 12)
- **Geraldeen** (Year 12)

And the Best Dressed Staff Member was proudly awarded to **Ms Rachel Mckay**.





Form Games Return!

This Term, Form Games made a triumphant return for Years 7 and 8, bringing fun and fitness to the start of the school day.

Students competed in Volleyball, Multisport, a free-throw basketball competition, and half-court shooting challenges. Forms Mimosa, Vega, Sirius, and Atlas, along with CLONTARF and STARS Forms, went head-to-head in friendly, energetic competition.

Beginning the mornings with exercise and teamwork helps prepare students to face the day's learning challenges with focus and enthusiasm. A special thank you to our House Captains, Mysha and Lucy, for their ongoing support and Leadership in making Form Games such a success!



STUDENT SERVICES

Year 9 and 10

Year 9 TAFE Career Tasters

This Term the Year 9's have continued to engage with Geraldton TAFE's fabulous Career Tasters program. Students have sampled a wide range of courses, from hair dressing and beauty therapy to carpentry and metal fabrication.

Students were praised by the TAFE staff for their outstanding behaviour and positive attitude towards the experience. Thank you to Mr Booth and Ms Snell for their efforts on this project.



Wear It Purple Day at GSHS 🌈💜

On Friday, Geraldton SHS came alive in purple to celebrate Wear It Purple Day which is all about celebrating and supporting young LGBTQIA+ people, and challenging societal attitudes to help shape a better world for us all to live in.

The day featured a range of activities that brought students together:

Music, biscuit making, a Headspace stall - offering resources and support for wellbeing, fairy bread station and a creativity corner — where students expressed themselves through art and design.



Year 11 and 12

Attendance Rewards Term 2

Recently we have held our Term 2 Attendance Rewards. Every student with 90% or greater attendance, as well as students who improved their Term 1 attendance, automatically went into the draw to win a \$50 gift card of their choice. There were 4 prizes per year group – 24 in total. Our amazing winners were very happy to receive their prize!

We continue again in Term 3 and any student can win! To enter, all you need to do is attend school and we will take care of the rest. Did you know that missing just one day per week equals 8 weeks of learning over the year! We understand sometimes things happen, please contact the school if your child is away from school or planning on being away from school. Every Day Matters!

Finally, a big shout out to the Geraldton SHS P&C who have partly funded this initiative. We thank you for your support.

A DAY HERE OR THERE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE MUCH, BUT...

When your child misses just...	That equals...	Which is...	And therefore, from Kindy to Year 12, that is....	That means the best they can achieve is...
1 day per fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 11
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Nearly 2.5 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 10
2 days per week	60 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 7
3 days per week	80 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 4



STUDENT SERVICES

2026 Leavers Jackets Have Arrived

Our 2026 Leavers Jackets arrived for our Year 11 students and don't they look great! Students waited patiently for their arrival and have appreciated them as winter just does not seem to want to end this year!

This is the first year we are rolling out Leavers Jackets for our Year 11 students who will graduate in 2026, giving them two winters worth of wear. A big thank you to our Year 11 student models who were happy to pose for a photo to show off their new jackets!



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

By Kim Ryder – Aboriginal Education Support Coordinator

Earlier this Term, in the lead-up to NAIDOC, Geraldton SHS welcomed Mr Sean Choolburra, who performed his *Live and Deadly Show* for our Year 11 and 12 students. Sean is a proud First Nations comedian, dancer, storyteller, and cultural ambassador, he is recognised as one of Australia's most prominent Indigenous entertainers. His performances weave together traditional Aboriginal culture with contemporary comedy and storytelling, creating an experience that is both educational and entertaining. Many students were excited to also learn that Sean is the voice of Maynard in the much-loved cartoon *Bluey*. As a gesture of appreciation, Sean was presented with a unique artwork, personally created by students in the Warlugurra Walgamanyulu program, carrying special local significance.



The **Aboriginal Education Team** proudly hosted their **NAIDOC Week Celebrations** this term. Guided by this year's theme, *"The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy"*, the team organised a variety of events throughout the week, ensuring all students and staff were included in the celebrations.

To open the week of NAIDOC celebrations, a whole-school assembly was held at Geraldton SHS. The presenters led with pride and confidence as they welcomed invited guests, staff, and students. The assembly was hosted by Year 12 School Captains, Zade and Charlize. The Acknowledgement of Country was delivered by Malcolm, followed by Honey, who shared a moving poem that reflected this year's NAIDOC theme. This year, we were fortunate to welcome two remarkable guest speakers who generously shared yarns about their life journeys, and the pride and importance of their culture and identity. Former student and proud descendant of the Amangu, Nhanagardi and Wajarri Peoples, Miss Kyiesha Ronan, and Ms Marion Baumgarten, a proud Yamatji Nyarlu with ancestral connections to the Ngoonooru Wadjari, Badimia and Tjupan Peoples, spoke with great wisdom and heart. We are sincerely thankful to both influential women for their time and the wonderful stories they shared with us. Their yarns were deeply appreciated and warmly received by both staff and students. To close the assembly, the newly named **Wirri Bundara Dance Group** took to the stage, performing a modernised routine infused with traditional movements to Normey Jay's song *"Stolen Generation."* The group, made up of proud First Nations boys and girls, captivated the audience with their performance, blending smooth contemporary beats from the east coast artist with the powerful sounds of traditional instruments. Following the assembly, guests were invited to share in a morning tea, providing a wonderful opportunity to yarn with the presenters, performers, and staff.



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

The Aboriginal Education Team provided a traditional lunch to share with invited guests, staff and students for the annual NAIDOC cook up on Wednesday. The menu featured a variety of exquisite dishes made with kangaroo meat, including curries, stews, mince, kebabs, sausages, and a sweet and sour dish, all served alongside damper and steamed rice. This certainly was a hit with most students allowing their palates to enjoy a cultural experience. It was wonderful to see students and staff enjoying the meal together, embracing the true spirit and meaning of NAIDOC.



The following day, Thursday, the Stars Foundation mentors hosted an engaging expo on the oval, with a variety of stalls offering exciting prizes, fun activities, and helpful advice for students throughout recess and lunch. The strong sense of community was evident, with organisations such as GRAMS, Bunnings, Real Futures Parent Pathways, Geraldton Universities Centre, Geraldton Police, Meedac, PCYC and the Geraldton Museum generously giving their time to be part of Geraldton SHS's week of celebration.



To wrap up the week of celebrations, a friendly football match was held at lunchtime on Thursday, hosted by the Clontarf Academy staff. From the first whistle, the game was fast-paced and entertaining, with students eager to showcase their deadly football skills and staff just as keen to reveal some hidden talents of their own. The highlight of the match was the **Player of the Match Award**, featuring a one-of-a-kind football specially designed by artist Mr Arthur Garlett. This year, the honour went to Year 12 student Malcolm, whose outstanding skills and energy lit up the game.



Another highlight of the week was the **Sand Art Project**, where students worked alongside talented Noongar/Yamatji artist Mr Arthur Garlett to create a stunning masterpiece using locally donated sand. Together, they brought to life a powerful sand art masterpiece. Arthur's artwork tells the story of how everyone and everything is connected in Aboriginal culture — the land, sea, sky, and animals. The piece also symbolises Aboriginal people coming together as one to celebrate **50 Years of NAIDOC**.



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

Adding to the celebrations, the Aboriginal Education Team provided daily activities for students, including face painting, sharing NAIDOC themed cake, iced biscuits, colouring in, beading, earring designing, and braiding, ensuring everyone had the chance to be part of the week. It was a truly memorable week of pride, culture, and connection at GSHS. We look forward with excitement and curiosity to see what next year's NAIDOC Week will bring.



This year, our dance group has been given a Wajarri name by the language teacher, Mr Grant Dodd, at Geraldton SHS. We are proud to share that our official name is *Wirri Bundara Dance Group*, which means "*Blackfulla Stars*". This name reflects our pride in culture, connection to Country, and the strength and brilliance of our students as they share their stories through dance. All First Nations students at Geraldton SHS are encouraged to take part in the dance group, providing a proud and inclusive space for students to celebrate culture and showcase their talents. The dance group is choreographed by Aboriginal Education Support Coordinator, Miss Kim Ryder.



This Term, four students attended the Yamatji On Country Youth Workshop with YMAC staff, held at the Geraldton University Centre. This year's workshop focused on one of the key youth priorities: Reconnection to Culture. Students learned about the importance of reconnecting to their culture, and how this connection strengthens their sense of identity, their bond with ancestors, and their relationship with Country. They were also fortunate to hear from inspiring guest speakers who reminded everyone just how powerful and important culture is.



The Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy **By Miss Kim Ryder**

Let us, as a nation, commemorate 50 years of NAIDOC Week... a time of reflection, recognition, and celebration. We honour the strength, vision, and legacy of our First Nations people...a true testament to the resilience that paves the way for the Next Generation.

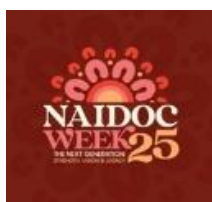
Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples continue to grow courageous and influential by showing enduring strength. Guided by the Elders and ancestors, their resilience has carried them across many generations and tremendous lengths.

Always walking in two worlds, all the while keeping their lore and culture strong, they embody a prevailing vision. By reviving and continuing to use their languages and sacred traditions with purpose, pride, and precision.

The perseverance of their ancestors paved the way for the continued growth of their tenacious legacy. By using their voices to shape the future, while always honouring the past with respect, pride, and immeasurable empathy.

To the next generation of Indigenous people use your voices, honour your legacy, continue to show strength and vision and may you continue to rise.

Keep your language and culture alive, remember your Dreaming, and pass on your creation stories for you belong to the land, yet you'll return to the skies.



LEARNING AREAS

ENGLISH

This is always an important Term as we eagerly wait for letters of invitation to attend the **Randolph Stow Young Writer's Award Night** to celebrate our talented Midwest writers. Held at the Queens Park Theatre in August, we celebrated the success of Year 7 APEX students Millie-Ann, Emily, Lacey and Ethan: D'arcy (Year 8), Evie and Wynand (Year 10). In the Lower Secondary, Millie -Ann won 1st Place with her prose titled 'The Window', and Emily placed 3rd in Lower Secondary Poetry. 1st Place Middle Secondary Poetry was won by Wynand with his poem 'When Crows Take Flight'. His poem was read to the audience and was a fabulous piece of writing. We appreciate the effort and enthusiasm of all students that entered their writing.



Excerpts from 'The Window'.

The layout of the window is a natural tower of rocks forming an odd, shaped window that had been deemed 'Nature's Window' found in Kalbarri National Park.

Once you see through the window, your fate cannot be changed. But what happens if you see...nothing? Nothing at all, just a white void. What does that mean?

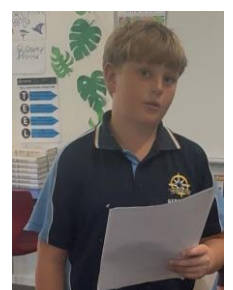
...

A warm Monday night, sneaking into the park. River dark and deep as anything, further than you could think, it looks like a puddle, it doesn't move, just sits there. You would fall straight into the abyss if you stepped into it. The ground, cold, no shoes. The sharp rocks jam into my feet as I walk.

'It's there, the window!'

What have all Year 7 students been up to this Term?

Reading the novel, **Runt** by Mr Craig Silvey, has been the stimulus for student engagement, with a focus on narrative conventions, characterisation and themes. Assessment tasks provided students with the opportunity to work collaboratively, think critically, demonstrate speaking skills, adapt texts for specific purposes and apply their knowledge of multi-modal texts.



Year 8

Exploring the stories of refugees has been the focus this term. Reading personal stories of their struggles, persecution and displacement, our students have demonstrated 'Empathy Growth.' Empathy means students can imagine the perspectives and experiences of others as if they were their own. Empathy involves imagining what it might be like to 'walk in another's shoes' and identifying with others' feelings, situations and motivations.



Ms Greenwood has established a strong rapport with the Year 8 APEX English students who were eager to acknowledge her special birthday in September. As an International Recruit, choosing to teach at Geraldton Senior High School means Ms Greenwood is a long way from home, family and friends. We are so grateful to have her in our English team.

Year 9

Students have been exploring how and why texts are adapted for changing contexts. Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew* is compared to the teen film, *Ten Things I Hate About You*.

Year 11 General

Critical thinking was essential this Term as students worked through the *Elementary* unit. We explored the justice system using real-life criminal narratives. Students were then challenged to research a 'True Crime' and present the who, what, when, where, how, and why of the crime, whilst also being critical of the evidence and process. It was a rewarding experience discussing different interpretations and opinions of the criminal process and mysteries that it entails.

Year 12 ATAR

To teach this group of young adults has been a privilege. They have demonstrated growth in their ability to engage with complex and controversial ideas; craft thought provoking texts and critically appraise a wide range of literary and multi-modal texts. We know they leave with skills to think critically, communicate effectively and engage thoughtfully with the world around them.



LEARNING AREAS

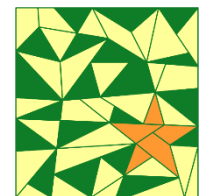
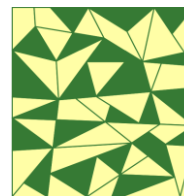
MATHS

The year is drawing to a close for our Year 12 students. The General Mathematics courses will complete course classes at the end of the term. However, they still have the opportunity to hand in unsubmitted work if they are falling short of a passing grade so long as they submit by the end of Week 1 in Term 4.

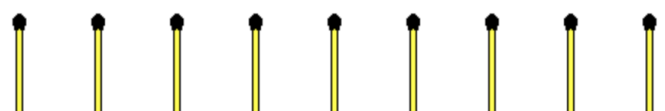
ATAR Mathematics courses will finish their classes and sit their exams during the holidays. They then will sit their external WACE exams in Term 4. We wish them the best for their exam preparation, and remind all ATAR Mathematics students that they can still access their maths teachers prior to their WACE exams if they need additional help with their preparation. All ATAR Mathematics students will receive past WACE papers to assist them prepare.

On another note, GSHS students participated in the Australian Mathematics Competition organised by the Australian Maths Trust and delivered onsite to 30 Lower School students. Congratulations to the 70 students who participated. Their commitment and willingness to take on the challenge was noted and was most commendable. Eight students were recognised with a Credit for their performance and 26 with a Proficiency. A great effort.

Remember last term's puzzle? Locate the five pointed star in the left diagram. The solution is below.



This term's puzzle: Make ten from nine matchsticks without breaking any of them:



SCIENCE

Year 8 Digestion

Year 8 students enjoyed learning about digestion in their Science lessons in Term 3. As part of their work on body systems they explored both physical and chemical digestion that takes place in the human body. This was brought to life when they took part in a practical experiment that saw them explore the different stages of digestion from the mouth, down the oesophagus (a funnel and tube) to the stomach (a plastic bag) and onto the small and large intestines (a pair of tights). Lastly, their food was excreted from the rectum through the anus into the waiting 'toilet bowl'. The students added the required stomach acid and various enzymes along the way to speed up the process just as it would inside our bodies. Good fun was had by all and hopefully they will never forget the process of digestion!

New APEX Science Room

The Science APEX classes are thrilled to officially move into the recently refurbished rooms, part of the \$1.5 million STEM build funded by the State Government. These modern learning spaces are designed to inspire curiosity and innovation, providing students with cutting-edge facilities to support their studies. The Year 8 APEX class was fortunate to enjoy a tantalising first glimpse, making the most of the new whiteboard tables for interactive learning and creative problem-solving. Excitement is building as all APEX students prepare to take full advantage of these state-of-the-art classrooms.



Year 9 CoRE Science Camp

The Year 9 CoRE APEX Science class enjoyed their first overnight field trip, filled with hands-on learning and unforgettable experiences. The day began at Cape Burney, where students explored sediment deposition and were fortunate to meet field scientists studying microplastics, who generously shared their research processes. From there, the group travelled to Point Leander to examine the fossilised remains of a tropical coral reef before heading to Mingenew where we set up camp, debriefing the day's discoveries, and braving a chilly evening of stargazing.

Although heavy rains in recent weeks closed access to Coal Seam Conservation Park, the students adapted to the modified plans and completed their studies at Mingenew Hill and Depot Hill Reserve. Here, they investigated ecosystems, observed wildflowers in bloom, explored symbiotic relationships, and traced an extraordinary 20-million-year slice of Earth's history through exposed geology. The trip not only brought science to life but also inspired excitement to start their Project Based Learning, *A Journey Through Time*.



LEARNING AREAS

Year 8 CoRE Field Trip

On Wednesday, 29 August our Year 8 APEX class had the privilege of joining CoRE project leader and Geologist, Ms Suzy Urbaniac on a journey to discover the riches of Western Australia's sand. Students were given an informative talk from Suzy at Back Beach where the formation of the dunes and effect of wave action were explained. The students were shown the hidden minerals in the sand and the next part of the journey began.

Their second stop of the day was at the ILUKA Resources sand refinery site in Narngulu. After a comprehensive health and safety briefing students enjoyed a sausage sizzle in the complex garden. With full stomachs they boarded the bus for a tour of the sand refinery followed by the chance to take a look in the science labs at the site. The technicians explained the analysis they conduct on each batch of sand to ascertain its mineral complex. A fabulous day had by all to kick start their projects.



Geraldton SHS Year 8 & 9 APEX students visited the Australian Defence Satellite Communications Station

Our Year 8 and 9 APEX students were thrilled to tour the ADSCS in Kojarena, as part of the Department of Defence's Science Outreach program in the lead up to National Science Week, with the 2025 theme *"Decoding the Universe – Exploring the unknown with nature's hidden language"*—a perfect match for this experience.

Highlights of the visit included:

- Walking inside a pressurised RADOME housing a 26 metre satellite antenna
- Discovering how the Yamatji people once communicated via an indigenous communication stone on site
- Exploring back-up emergency power generators and high-voltage switch rooms
- Seeing the data storage centre and learning about fibre-optic data transmission—complete with a fun computer server reassembly challenge

We hope this inspired our students to one day lead the next generation of Western Australian scientists and innovators.

Note: While we'd love to share more about our visit, certain details remain classified.



Quantum Dark Matter Road Trip

Geraldton SHS was thrilled to host the National Quantum & Dark Matter Road Trip in the lead up to National Science Week 2025.

Geraldton SHS students dove into the mysteries of dark matter and explored quantum technology through hands-on activities and engaging science talks led by a team of passionate scientists from the National Quantum & Dark Matter Road Trip team.

This event was part of a nation-wide science tour, brought to regional schools as part of National Science Week, supported by ARC Centres of Excellence for Engineered Quantum Systems (EQUS) and Dark Matter Particle Physics (CDM) and a few lucky Year 11 and 12 students got to have an interview on GWN7 News.



LEARNING AREAS

HASS

Term 3 has been a busy and exciting one in HASS!

We said 'Bon Voyage' to Mrs Claire Annison as she went on Long Service Leave for this Semester and welcomed Mr Kevin Burt, who has joined us all the way from London. Mr Burt and his family are enjoying the Geraldton lifestyle, and he has quickly made a great impression. His lessons have been full of colour and creativity—he even used Skittles to explain the American economy of the 1920s. This hands-on activity helped students understand complex concepts, such as the Stock Market and "borrowing on the margins."

Our students have also been achieving wonderful things. Jessica (Year 9 APEX) wrote an outstanding essay on the Australian economy during World War I. Her work impressed Ms Courtney Evans and Mr Jesse Steele, who both thought a senior student could have written it! Jessica decided to enter her essay into the National History Challenge. She worked hard to learn how to reference like an academic and submitted her final piece just in time for the midnight deadline. We are very proud to share that Jessica achieved a Bronze Certificate, and we look forward to hearing more about her success in the competition.

In Year 10, Ms Kristie Murphy has taken a creative and yummy approach by getting her students into the kitchen! They cooked golden syrup dumplings using a recipe from the 1940s—an engaging way to connect with their studies of Australia between 1919 and 1945.

Our senior students have also been working diligently. The Year 11 Modern History ATAR class has been exploring Germany and the rise of the Nazi Party, while the Year 12's have been studying the Struggle for Peace in the Middle East. A highlight was Mr Steele's visit to the Year 12's, where he shared stories from his travels through the West Bank and Israel. With exams just around the corner, we wish all our senior students the very best as they prepare to showcase their learning.



Meanwhile, Year 8 students have been learning about the economy with Mr Trevor Meaker and Ms Adriana Hayward. Money, business, and spending are always topics that grab attention! To make it even more engaging, clips from *Monsters Inc.* were used to demonstrate how supply (scream energy) and demand (fuel for the city) work together. Mr Meaker was also seen out on Geraldton beaches with the Year 8 APEX students, where they practised the skill of geographical sketches. The APEX project-based learning links directly to their Geography unit on landforms and landscapes which they will start soon

It has been a term full of creativity, achievement, and real-world learning in HASS, and we are very proud of our students' efforts.



THE ARTS

Drama Visit to the Queens Park Theatre

Year 9 Drama students visited the Queens Park Theatre, where they went on a tour of the technical areas guided by the technical crew at the theatre, and saw all the behind-the-scenes areas, to support their studies. The group were then treated to a private show, highlighting the abilities of the sound and lighting design team at the theatre, inspiring our students to consider arts careers and theatre work.



Year 8 and above Drama students were then invited to watch **21 Hearts**, a play exploring themes of war, conflict, friendship and gender equality. There were a few emotional tears, but the show was enjoyed by all; a touching and powerful piece of theatre that we had the pleasure of sharing with our aspiring actors at Geraldton SHS.

Contemporary Music Festival

In Week 6, Students in our school rock band and guitar ensemble participated in the WA Public Schools Contemporary Music Festival and attended a concert at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. The students gave a fantastic performance and thoroughly enjoyed the camp experience.

Notable comments from judges included “a strong set”, “excellent pop-punk energy”, and “a cohesive sense of energy and drive across the ensemble”, with both groups receiving distinctions in all performances, well done to our contemporary musicians.



Matilda the Musical Jr

Our Performing Arts students are continuing their preparations for our end of year school musical Matilda the Musical Jr. In Week 8, cast members took part in a series of workshops led by the show directors Mrs Swift and Mrs Gilmore, to refine their skills in singing, dance and acting ahead of show week. They finished the day by completing their first full run through start to finish. The set is being built, the costumes are being carefully sewn by Mrs Grey and her costume design club, and we are very excited to see culmination of all their hard work in Term4.

Instrumental Music Primary School's Tour

Music students from Years 7-12 visited local Geraldton primary schools as part of their three-day tour to promote our Instrumental Music Programme. On Monday and Tuesday, our combined concert band visited Wandina, Geraldton, Beachlands, Allendale, Bluff Point, and Rangeway Primary Schools. On Wednesday, our rock band, guitar ensemble and vocal ensemble visited Walkaway, Waggrakine and Mt Tarcoola Primary Schools. The students performed as part of their ensembles, and spoke to audiences to demonstrate their instruments, and inspire younger students to enrol in music.



LEARNING AREAS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Athletics Carnival – 22nd August

Despite a gloomy forecast, the bad weather cleared just in time for a fantastic Athletics Carnival on 22 August. Under clear skies, students gave their all in a day of tight competition, enthusiastic cheering, and great sportsmanship. The energy was high, the races close, and the spirit of the day truly unforgettable. Well done to all our record breakers, individual award winners, and our overall House Shield winners, Mimosa Marlu!

2025 Athletics Carnival

New Records

Event	Year/Group	New Record Holder	New Record	Previous Record Holder	Previous Record
Discus	Yr. 9 Boys	Quayden	28.4	Nathaniel	26.74
	Yr. 9 Girls	Bianca	19.35	Halo	17.36
	Yr. 10 Boys	Nathaniel	29.15	Kobi	28.7
	Yr. 11 Boys	Noah	24.1	Blayke	19.65
Shot Put	Yr. 7 Girls	Loma	6.7	Jeziel	6.6
	Yr. 10 Boys	Bodhi	11.33	Noah	10.45
	Yr. 11 Girls	Shathea	8.32	Choe	7.7
High Jump	Yr. 7 Boys	Darnell	1.59	Shaun	1.35
	Yr. 8 Boys	Shaun	1.50	Trey	1.40
	Yr. 10 Boys	Bodhi	1.72	Noah	1.65
	Yr. 11 Girls	Shathea	1.37	Chloe	1.25
	Yr. 12 Boys	Peter	1.76	William	1.60
	Yr. 12 Boys	Peter	1.76	William	1.60
Long Jump	Yr. 7 Boys	Imran	5.24	Dennis	4.75
	Yr. 7 Girls	Charlotte	3.95	Jaymee	3.82
	Yr. 10 Boys	Keegan	5.78	Baidon & Noah	5.50
	Yr. 10 Girls	Grace	4.37	Rashiel	4.19
	Yr. 11 Girls	Rashiel	4.45	Erin	3.97
	Yr. 12 Boys	Peter	6.07	William	5.58
Triple Jump	Yr. 7 Boys	Imran	9.38	Dennis	9.20
	Yr. 10 Girls	Melanie	9.35	Fatimah	8.79
	Yr. 11 Girls	Rashiel	8.74	Hayley	8.15
	Yr. 12 Boys	Peter	11.25	William	11.00



Champions and Runner Ups

Year		Runner up	H	PTS	Champion	H	PTS
7	Girls	Kaedyynn	M	42	Rihanna	M	44
7	Boys	Imran	V	58	Darnell	S	72
8	Girls	Anisa Jorja	M	28	Shyleigh	M	76
8	Boys	Campbell	M	37	Shaun	V	75
9	Girls	Bianca	A	41	Shannon	V	44
9	Boys	Emmanuel	M	39	Zach Lucas	S V	47
10	Girls	Chloe	S	38	Grace	S	56
10	Boys	Nathaniel	M	62	Bodhi	M	80
11	Girls	Shathea	M	64	Rashiel	V	70
11	Boys	Mitchell	V	55	Noah	M	70
12	Girls	Hayley	S	60	Zoe	A	64
12	Boys	Caven	V	49	Peter	M	73

House Shield

	House	Points
4th	Atlas	715
3rd	Sirius	909
2nd	Vega	967
1st	Mimosa	1397

House Spirit Awards

Atlas	Mimosa	Sirius	Vega
Aamin	JJ	Lacey	Halo
Te Ahi Kaa	Raf	Riley	Shaydn



LEARNING AREAS





LEARNING AREAS

Country Week

Country Week in Perth once again proved to be an unforgettable experience for Geraldton SHS, showcasing a week filled with teamwork, sportsmanship, and positive representation from all students involved. Often described as the best week of the school calendar, this year's event was no exception, with our teams competing fiercely, supporting one another, and upholding the values of our school with pride. Our students delivered exceptional performances across all sports, with some incredible results:

Netball – E Division Champions
Boys Volleyball – E Division Champions
Basketball – E Division Runners-Up – narrowly missing the top spot by just 2 points
Girls Volleyball – C Division – fought hard in a competitive division, finishing a commendable 8th place.

The week wasn't just about competition, it was also about bonding, exploring, and creating lifelong memories. Students enjoyed dinner and exploring Fremantle, a movie night featuring *Lilo & Stitch*, driving range practice at the Wembley Golf Course, and late-night shopping at Karrinyup Shopping Centre.

A huge thank you goes to our dedicated coaches Miss Boni, Mr Robinson, Mr Parsons, and Mr Hadley-Rudolph for their guidance and encouragement throughout the week. Special appreciation is extended to Miss Sellers for her outstanding work in coordinating the entire event and ensuring the week ran smoothly.

We also recognise the commitment shown by our students in the lead-up to the competition, with their dedication to training, meeting deadlines, and fulfilling payment commitments. The unwavering support of families was instrumental in making the week a success.

With these fantastic results, we look forward to seeing our teams move up in their respective divisions and continuing the legacy of success at Geraldton SHS. Country Week 2025 has set the bar high, and we can't wait to see what next year brings.



Founders Day 2025: A Celebration of Spirit and Unity

Geraldton SHS recently came together to celebrate Founders Day 2025 with a fun-filled program of games and activities. The event brought students from all year levels together, creating an atmosphere of energy, teamwork, and house pride.

Students showcased their skills in a range of competitions, including volleyball, battendi, bucketball, and handball. Each event was a chance for students to demonstrate not only their abilities but also their collaboration, determination, and school spirit. Throughout the day, students displayed outstanding enthusiasm and sportsmanship, ensuring the celebration was both enjoyable and memorable. Founders Day 2025 was a true reflection of unity, pride, and the vibrant community at Geraldton SHS.

The highlight of the day was the spirited competition between the school's houses. After a series of close contests, Vega Bungarra emerged victorious, claiming the Founders Day title for the second year in a row. Their win was met with loud cheers and a wave of excitement, highlighting the strong house spirit that makes the event so special. Congratulations to all students for their efforts, and a special well done to Vega Bungarra on their back-to-back win!



LEARNING AREAS

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGIES

Fashion and Textiles

Our Year 10 Fashion & Textiles students recently had the exciting opportunity to visit the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery to experience *Stitched and Bound*, a touring exhibition presented by the West Australian Quilters Association (WAQA). This contemporary showcase celebrates the bold and imaginative work of Western Australian artists who are redefining the boundaries of quilt-making as an art form.

Students were captivated by the diverse techniques on display—many of which mirrored what they've been exploring in class. From traditional stitching to experimental use of unconventional materials, the exhibition offered a rich tapestry of inspiration for our current upcycling project. Thought-provoking conversations emerged as we delved into the stories and symbolism woven into each piece.

A huge commendation to our students for their impeccable manners, curiosity, and enthusiasm throughout the visit. You represented our school with pride and passion.



Creativity in the Textiles Room

Conrad (Year 10)
excellent jellyfish
fabric paint design

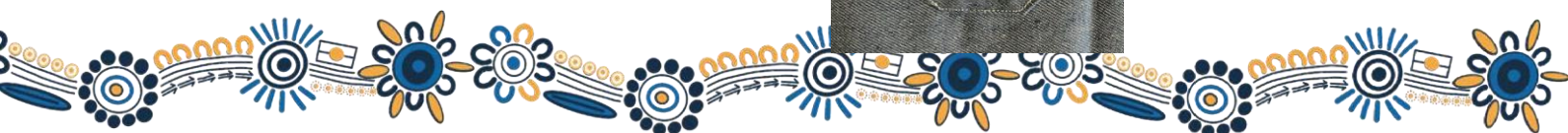


Year 10
childcare
students
made some
adorable baby
rattles to start
the term off.

Georgina's
beautifully blended
rose stencil print
(Year 9)



Chloe's accurately
stitched patch pocket
(Year 10)



Jewellery

The Year 9's and 10's have been making bracelets and bangles in their introduction to Jewellery. The students are using copper, brass and nickel silver metals in wire and sheet form. They have been using various jewellers pliers to bend wire into figure 8's and jump rings to make the bracelets. To make the bangles they have been using strips of copper, brass or silver sheet metal cut to the length of their wrist size. They have been applying a hammered texture to the metal (planishing), annealing (softening) their work with the jewellers torch, and then forming on the bangle mandrels. They are then learning to silver solder the join, and then file, sand and polish the bangle. The results so far have been very good with a high degree of success.

The Year 11's and 12's have been very busy producing their projects for the Young Jewellers Awards (YJA) sponsored by Latitude Jewellers in Marine Terrace. The Gallery, owned by Ms Pia Boschetti, gives each student an Abrolhos pearl to display on their own personally designed piece of jewellery. The theme this year is "Welcome to the Circus", and it has been wonderful to see an array of ideas from the students. The students have been using their previous knowledge to cast semi-precious metals (copper, brass, nickel silver) and precious metals (sterling silver) into cuttlefish at around 1000 degrees celsius, setting CZ stones into chenier tube or flush setting onto castings, setting pearls onto post and cup or bezel settings, and devising ways of connecting the jewellery to the wearer by ways of loops and bales. The student work will be displayed at Latitude Gallery in late November, and awards given to outstanding work.



LEARNING AREAS

Home Economics

We have had a great start to Semester 2 in Home Economics with a new group of Year 7 students coming through for their first time learning Home Economics. As well as a new group of Year 9 students coming through for the Budding Chefs 2 Course. Our senior school classes run year long and sadly, our wonderful Year 12's will be leaving us at the end of this term. But not to worry, they will be moving onto bigger and better things, and you never know... we may have a future Master Chef in our midst.

Year 7 Intro to Foods

Our Year 7 Intro to Food students have been learning about safety in the kitchen, basic cutting and other food preparation techniques like peeling, grating, dicing and kneading. The students have been using The Australian Guide to Healthy Eating to guide them in making healthy, well-balanced meals and snacks that nourish their growing bodies. Our first cook was a veggie stick creation with French Onion Dip. This was a fun little activity where students got to practice their basic cutting skills while creating something fun out of the veggies. Last week we cooked delicious Choc Chip Cookies and next week students will be making their own healthy snack that they designed themselves. The Year 7 students love being in the kitchen and we love seeing them grow and develop their skills.



Year 9 Budding Chefs

This Semester in Year 9, we are running the Budding Chefs 2 program which is quite different from the Budding Chefs program run in Semester 1. This program has four main topics that students learn about then cook dishes based around what they have learnt. The four topics are:

- The Meat Industry & Production
- Vegetables & Plant Based Proteins
- Grains, Seeds and Pulses
- Festive Foods

All four topics have a strong focus on sustainability and allow students to see where the food we eat comes from, how it is produced and what impacts the production of these foods has on the environment and the economy. Each topic gives students an opportunity to expand their knowledge about food safety, preparation, availability of produce as well as the physical and sensory properties of different foods. An example of this is when students were learning about plant-based meats and how minced meat is easier to replicate than whole cuts of meat because of the texture and structure of the muscle fibres. The Year 9's have thoroughly enjoyed the meat topic, however, are not as enthusiastic about the vegetables. I would love to see our budding chefs students practicing getting creative with vegetables and cooking some delicious vegetable dishes at home. Veggies are great!!!



Year 12 Food Science

What an amazing group of Year 12 students we have had this year. It has been a privilege to teach these students valuable life skills that they will take with them when they leave school as young adults. This year the students have studied the functional properties of food where they have learnt about things like crystallisation in foods, leavening, caramelisation, emulsification and gelatinisation. During this process we made some yummy dishes to represent this including caramelised onions for steak sandwiches, our own garlic aioli, fettucine carbonara, butter chicken and cinnamon scrolls. Our Year 12's also learnt the art of preserving foods and got to make some delicious preserves that got sent home in a gift basket. These included lemon cordial, pickled beetroot, pickled red onions, strawberry jam and lemon butter. The students did very well with this task and their sterilisation of the jars was brilliant. Everyone's produce survived and tasted delicious.

It will be sad to see our Year 12's go, but they have worked so hard and have learnt so much. Best of luck in all your endeavours Year 12's. Keep on cooking!



Bon Voyage



LEARNING AREAS

Metalwork

Year 10 Metalwork

The Year 10 Metalwork students have been busy manufacturing folding shovels and junior hacksaws. Throughout the project, they have developed their welding skills using oxy-acetylene and have also used lathes to manufacture custom nuts and bolts. In addition, they have learned how to accurately shape metal using a Magna Bend and gained experience in marking out materials precisely with a range of metalworking tools.

Year 11 Metalwork

The Year 11 Metalwork students have been fabricating adjustable stools and occasional tables using various types of mild steel. Their projects have involved machining precise components on the lathe, shaping metal with the aid of heat and jigs, and joining parts using MIG welding techniques. Students have also created their own unique designs in AutoCAD and personalised their finished pieces using the CNC laser cutter.



Year 12 Students Get Hands-On with Go-Kart Mechanics

This Term, Year 12 students at Geraldton SHS have been exploring the fundamentals of vehicle systems—through the exciting and hands-on world of go-kart mechanics.

As part of their automotive studies, students are gaining practical experience by working on go-karts. This small-scale approach allows them to strip down engines, service key components, and adjust brakes and suspension systems until everything runs smoothly. It's a dynamic way to understand how vehicle systems function in real-world settings.

In our dedicated workshop space, students carefully service go-kart engines using professional tools and techniques. With parts laid out across the bench and wrenches in hand, they're learning to troubleshoot, repair, and rebuild—skills that are not only essential in the automotive industry but also foster critical thinking and problem-solving.

This hands-on learning brings classroom theory to life and gives students a deeper appreciation of mechanical systems. It's a great example of how applied learning can spark curiosity, build confidence, and prepare students for future pathways.

We're proud of the enthusiasm and focus our students bring to this project and look forward to seeing their skills continue to grow.



ACADEMIC PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE (APEX)

Year 9 Mingenew Camp

Our Year 9 APEX students will head out on an overnight camp to Mingenew. The two-day trip provides an exciting opportunity for hands-on fieldwork, stargazing, and exploration of geological formations and wildflower displays. The camp directly supports students' CoRE project work, linking classroom learning with real-world investigations.

Year 8 APEX Field Trip

Year 8 students will take part in a local field trip exploring Back Beach, where they will conduct field sketches, collect environmental data, and study erosion. They will also tour the Narngulu Iluka Mineral Separation Plant to learn about mineral sands, industry processes, and the economic impact on our region. This experience forms the foundation of a fourteen-week investigation into mineral sands, culminating in student-led presentations.

APEX Spy Base Excursion

As part of Science Week, both Year 8 and 9 APEX students visited the Australian Defence Satellite Communications Station. Students took part in an outreach program delivered by Defence staff, enjoyed a sausage sizzle lunch, and explored the cutting-edge science behind Australia's satellite communications.

Celebrating Our Mathletes!

A huge **congratulations** to our 70 amazing APEX students who recently took part in the Australian Mathematics Competition! Your hard work, problem-solving skills, and persistence were truly inspiring.

We're so proud of the effort you all put in and can't wait to see your results when they arrive. No matter the outcome, participating in this challenge is an achievement in itself — well done, team!

APEX Students Shine in Tournament of Minds

5 teams of enthusiastic Year 8 and 9 APEX students proudly represented our school in this year's Tournament of Minds (TOM), hosted here at Geraldton SHS. A huge well done to all teams — *The Boys, The Easily Distracted, The Indi's Band, The Quiet Girls and The Quirky Girls* — for their hard work, enthusiasm and innovative thinking.

Tournament of Minds is a highly regarded problem-solving competition that challenges students to demonstrate creativity, teamwork, and critical thinking. Working in self-formed teams, our students volunteered to take part and dedicated their own time after school and during breaks to prepare for the event.

Each team worked collaboratively on long-term challenges across disciplines such as STEM, The Arts, Social Sciences, and Language Literature. They developed innovative solutions, practised presentations, and supported one another through the process. On competition day, they not only presented their prepared solutions to a panel of judges but also tackled the spontaneous challenge—requiring them to think on their feet and work together under pressure.

We are incredibly proud of these students for their initiative, perseverance, and commitment to learning beyond the classroom. They showcased the APEX spirit of curiosity, resilience, and collaboration throughout the competition.



LEARNING AREAS

Across the board, judges praised our students for their teamwork, problem-solving and creativity. They particularly highlighted how well our students rose to the occasion in the Spontaneous Challenges, where they had just five minutes to solve a surprise problem — and did so brilliantly! A huge **congratulations** to *The Indi's Band* for achieving a Merit Award for their efforts.

Exciting STEM Room Refurbishments Near Completion!

Our newly refurbished STEM rooms are almost ready, and the transformation is truly inspiring! We've been busy adding vibrant posters, organizing equipment, and preparing to move in. A few lucky classes have already started using the space, and the feedback has been fantastic. The rooms now feature modern desks, ample storage solutions, and a clean, fresh look that fosters creativity and collaboration. We can't wait for all our students to experience these dynamic learning environments!

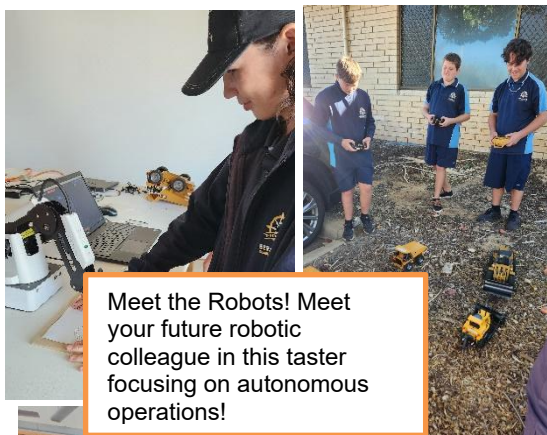


CAREER TASTER PROGRAM

Year 9 The Career Taster Program (CTP) is a fantastic initiative in Western Australia designed to help Year 9 students explore career options through hands-on experiences and industry-led activities. Geraldton SHS has participated in a wide range of tasters from carpentry, engineering, health and beauty and science with more to come later in the year. Students have found these activities fun and inspirational to become 'career curious'. Special thanks to Mr James Booth for coordinating the program in 2025.



DNA Detectives!
Make copies of small DNA samples for identification using PCR and see the results through electrophoresis!



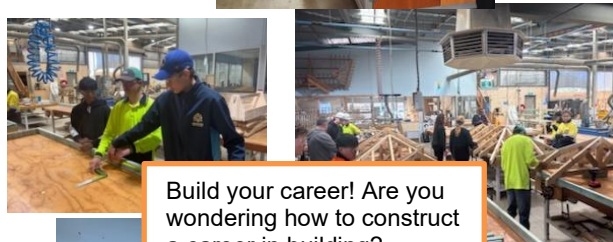
Meet the Robots! Meet your future robotic colleague in this taster focusing on autonomous operations!



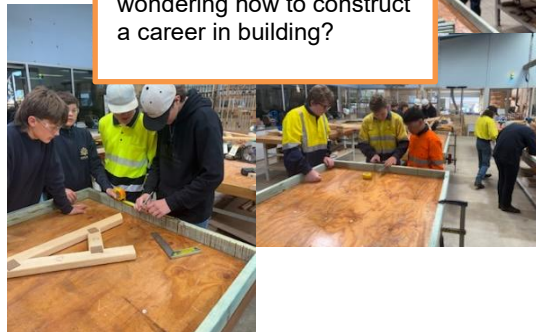
Bright Spark - Lets get hands on experience to find out more about electrical trades



Jump the Bandwagon – students jammed away with award nominated musician Brenton Meynell.



Build your career! Are you wondering how to construct a career in building?



PROGRAMS AND VET

YEAR 10 TRY A TRADE

The Construction Training Fund enable students to participate in a fully funded hands on Try-A-Trade program. The course was hosted by Central Regional TAFE and enabled Year 10 students to look at the building trades before their subject selection for Year 11. Our students got to participate in the program that ran for 3 days. Each day consisted of a different trade – carpentry, electrical and plumbing. This allowed students to get a taste of different careers in the building industry and learn what to expect in various trades.



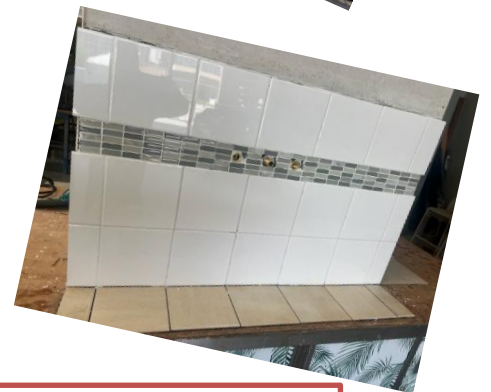
SKILLING THROUGH ENTERPRISE PROGRAM (STEP)

The STEP Program allows Year 11 students to explore future career pathways in their work placement each Wednesday as well as gaining vocational skills in a VET Certificate. Two certificates are offered through the program – Certificate II in Construction Pathways delivered by Construction-On-Site at the TRADE Training Centre and Certificate II in Rural Operations at Central Regional TAFE. STEP is a valuable stepping stone to full time employment including apprenticeships or to look at further study at TAFE. Those that continue schooling into Year 12 often apply to the pre-apprenticeship programs.

In this article we feature the Certificate II Construction Pathways. This has given students entry level construction skills including:

- Measurements and calculations
- Workplace Health and Safety (WHS)
- Reading plans and specifications
- Effective communication on-site

The certificate has given them exposure to trades like: carpentry, bricklaying, joinery and general construction.



A major project over the last 2 years has been the renovation of the D&T 'shed', last year the students worked on the structural timbers and this year they have learnt to gyprock the room.



PROGRAMS AND VET

FOLLOW THE DREAM

Term 3 has been a busy term for Follow the Dream (FTD) students with Year 10, 11 and 12 students attending the Culture, Careers, and Leadership Camp in Perth. Students also participated in an incursion with Australian Defence Force (ADF) and were extremely privileged to be part of the audience as they were hosted by the very talented and entertaining Mr Sean Choolburra. But the incursions didn't stop there, former Fremantle Dockers legend, Mr Roger Hayden also came to our school to run a Leadership Coaching session with our senior students.

In addition to incursions and camps, FTD before and after school tutoring sessions have improved dramatically with the increase in student engagement and participation in the program.

At the beginning of Term 3, FTD started morning and afternoon tutoring sessions in the Clontarf Academy, in addition to the tutoring sessions already taking place in the Language and Cultural Centre. Students now have the privilege of accessing tutoring from multiple classrooms in the school, with dedicated tutors delivering tutoring across all learning areas.

Culture, Careers, Leadership Camp

Upon arrival in Perth, students were welcomed to Noongar Country by Mr Jonathon Garlett, where they participated in a traditional smoking ceremony, and didgeridoo performance.

Designed to motivate students to aspire with a clear purpose in an environment that fosters a sense of belonging, students also participated in the Polly Farmer Foundation Careers Expo and the Kedala Djinanginy Curtin Day to discover career, education, and training prospects.

But the highlight of the tour was the participation in the Mission to Mars at the Western Australian Space Science Education Centre (WASSEC). The mission required students to work in teams to use their problem-solving skills to successfully complete a geological survey of the Mars surface! Students played the role of an astronaut and entered the Mars surface to execute their research assignments. Then as mission controllers, students guided the astronauts to effectively execute their research assignments.

Students also got multiple opportunities to have fun! They went Ten-Pin Bowling, Laser Tag, Movies, and some even had a go at Karaoke.



Australian Defence Force

Bonnie and Josh, from the Royal Australian Navy, Specialist Indigenous Recruitment Team, spoke to Follow the Dream students about different opportunities available for those interested in joining the Navy, Army or Air Force.

They went on to explain the Navy Indigenous Development Program, as well as the Army Indigenous Development Program, and what choices, benefits and entitlements are available, should students consider a career in the Australian Defence Force.



Sean Choolburra

A highly renowned, pioneering Indigenous comedian, dancer, storyteller, and cultural ambassador, Mr Sean Choolburra is one of Australia's most prominent Indigenous entertainers. Upon his visit to our school, he seamlessly blended traditional Aboriginal culture with contemporary comedy and performance, whilst practicing the cultural traditions of his elders. Our students were in awe of his performance, and happily joined in with the singing, performing and entertaining.



Roger Hayden



After a career spanning more than 120 games with the Fremantle Dockers, Mr Roger Hayden now plays a vital role in developing the stars of the future. As the Next Generation Coach, and the Indigenous and Multicultural Liaison Officer at the club, Roger visited Geraldton SHS to inspire students to be the best they can be through educational pathways on offer to them. Roger spoke about the importance of attending school, completing studies and accessing the support services around them. He then spoke about his post-AFL journey, and the importance of being aspirational and having a back-up plan in place should your journey or path change.



PROGRAMS AND VET

PATHWAY TO EMPLOYMENT (P2E) 2025

This Term, a select group of Lighthouse students embarked on a 9-week *Pathway to Employment* (P2E) program, proudly run by the City of Greater Geraldton. Now in its 5th year, this highly successful initiative continues to provide invaluable opportunities for students with special needs. The program is designed not only to showcase the many services and industries available across Geraldton but also to give students real-world, hands-on experience in these settings.

Throughout the course of the program, students participate in visits to local facilities including the Geraldton Library, Art Gallery, TAFE campus, Tech Park, Queens Park Theatre, Aquarena, and even take part in bike-riding workshops. These excursions are complemented by presentations from a wide range of professionals representing both public and private sectors, offering students a deeper understanding of potential career pathways and the skills required to pursue them.

The program culminates in Week 9 with a resume-writing workshop and a graduation ceremony to celebrate the students' achievements and growth. It is a truly inclusive initiative that helps students build confidence, strengthen social and communication skills, and prepare meaningfully for future employment opportunities.

A special thanks to the P2E coordinator, Yenni and our amazing support staff, Mrs Chris May and Miss Shaylee Tomlinson, participants leave the program better equipped for life beyond school, with practical skills, renewed confidence, and a genuine excitement for the future.



STARS SHINING BRIGHT

A Term Full of Growth, Culture and Community

Term 3 has been a busy and rewarding time for Stars staff and students. The energy across the program has been nothing short of inspiring, with a strong sense of positivity and community driving everything we've achieved. From exciting career events to cultural celebrations and health initiatives, this term has truly been a hive of positive vibes.

Futures Forum: Empowering Pathways

One of the major highlights this Term was Geraldton's inaugural Futures Forum, which was a resounding success. The event brought together sixteen diverse vendors, offering students the chance to engage directly with potential employers and education providers.

Throughout the day, students made the most of the opportunity—some even applied for jobs on the spot, while others shared their details for future employment prospects. The feedback from both students and vendors was overwhelmingly positive, praising the event's smooth organisation and its role in helping students explore real-world career and education pathways.

NAIDOC Week: Culture, Community and Celebration

NAIDOC Week was a special and meaningful time for the whole school, beginning with a vibrant whole-school assembly. Stars students collaborated with Clontarf students to present a powerful contemporary dance performance that set the tone for the week's celebrations.

Stars and Clontarf also hosted a well-attended morning tea, where Elders and community members were warmly welcomed and honoured.

Throughout the week, students immersed themselves in a wide range of cultural activities such as earring making, boomerang designing, face painting, beading, and a delicious traditional kangaroo cook-up. The week wrapped up with a Mini Expo hosted by Stars, where vendors engaged meaningfully with the wider school community. It was a beautiful conclusion to a week filled with pride, culture, and connection.

Team Time: Health, Fitness and Education

During our scheduled Team Time sessions, all year groups participated in a specially designed program in partnership with our local Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS). With support from the Tackling Indigenous Smoking and Youth Support teams, students attended boxing-style fitness classes at Point Blank Fitness.

The girls brought energy and enthusiasm to each session, learning not only fitness techniques but also valuable lessons on making healthy lifestyle choices, staying active, and building a strong, positive mindset.

Looking Ahead

As we wrap up Term 3, we reflect with pride on the achievements and growth of our Stars students. With strong community partnerships, a focus on cultural identity, and a commitment to student wellbeing, we're excited to carry this momentum into the next term and continue supporting our students to shine bright.



PROGRAMS AND VET

CLONTARF

Clontarf had a busy Term 3 with plenty of events and camps to develop the boys and keep them engaged in school.

Byron Pickett visit

Mr Byron Pickett visited the Academy in Week 1. He spoke with the boys about his experiences playing professional football for Port Adelaide and North Melbourne and the hard work and sacrifices he had to make to achieve at the highest level. The boys listened carefully and asked plenty of engaging questions. The visit was inspirational for boys looking to develop their football.

Employment Forum

Our Year 11 and 12 boys attended the Clontarf Employment Forum at Spalding Park Golf Course. This event provided the opportunity to meet with our local partners, build a network and explore local job opportunities. Clontarf Alumni shared their stories of their transition from school to the workforce and encouraged the boys to persist and use the opportunities provided by Clontarf. The day finished with a lunch and a long drive competition on the golf simulator.

Deadly Attendees Camp

Our Year 7 and 8 boys attended the Deadly Attendees Camp to Perth on 13 August. Boys were required to achieve 80% attendance to attend the camp to compete in an indoor football carnival. The boys represented the Academy well and showed great spirit on the court. After the carnival they attended dinner at Cicerellos followed by a visit to Timezone.

Senior Basketball Camp

Our Year 10-12 boys travelled to Perth to compete in the Clontarf Basketball Carnival on 4 September. The boys played well in A and B division but were both eliminated in the first final. The team also enjoyed dinner at 7th Avenue in Midland and two games of laser tag.

Binjareb Wirrin Carnival

In Week 9 our Year 7-9 students competed in the Binjareb Wirrin Football Carnival in Mandurah. The competition included 15 teams from Academies across the South West of WA.



NAPLAN WRITING EXEMPLAR – YEAR 7 EXCELLENCE

STONE CUPBOARD by Roland H

The light was back again. How I hated that light. It gave me hope. Dreams. Something to look forward to. And then I'd realise how I would never, ever reach that light. That made me feel worse than ever. I had been squashed in between the roof and floor of the cavern for three days. I was getting some food from my backpack and some water from the roof of the cave. Not that it mattered. I couldn't move, and when I could, it hurt like hell. I was only meters from an opening in the cave, where there were lush greenery and an exit. Every morning the light would shine down on me, reminding me of the hell I had put myself in. I thought the journey would be fun. The guide said so, too.

About halfway through the journey through the cave it began to fill with water. Strong, rushing water. I was pulled from the group and wedged just near an exit. Yesterday I saw the group of people I started with leave through the exit. I tried to yell out to them and to tell them that I was alive and just needed rescuing, but my mouth had been burned by the water and all that came out was a groan. Mum was right. I should've never gone so deep. I shouldn't have started in the first place. I used to simply climb through wide caves but the second I decide to try doing an actually hard cave, I get stuck. Left to rot.

I rummaged through my backpack and found half a protein bar. My last bit of food. I ate it. I also found something else, though. Something I didn't remember bringing. A phone. I pulled it out, assuming it to be long broken from water damage. But it wasn't. It didn't have any water, any sand, not even a slight scratch. So I turned it on and went straight to contacts to try and call the police...but there was no contacts. There was only one app. The gallery. I opened the gallery and looked at the photos and videos that were placed on this phone. I wish I just let myself die.

The first photo was a photo of a man in a fancy suit watching a football game in a mansion. Wasn't too bizzare, must've just been a rich mans phone. I swiped to the next. It was that same man (or at least I presume, they wore the same suit and had the same hair but I never saw his face in this photo) standing over a pile of papers. Graphs, essays, all sorts of different types of articles except I noticed something strange. At the top of all the papers was a logo. KYLES CAVING AUTHORITY.

I began to stress. I swiped through photos and photos of this man working on KYLES CAVING AUTHORITY. I saw a badge in one of them and realised he was the founder of the company. Most photos contained him working on data and papers but eventually I found one that made my skin crawl. A photo of security cameras. In the cave I was currently stuck in. What made me began to panic was the security camera that showed me. Me, stuck in a cave. It seemed to be placed...

...right in front of me. I looked up from the phone and directly in front of me. No security camera. So how can they see me? And why aren't they doing anything about the fact I'm stuck in a cave? Then I looked at the date on the photo. Three weeks ago. I wasn't here three weeks ago. I was at home, eating mums lasagna. Not here. I began to push my way out of the cave in pure panic. Agonising pain throughout my whole body. The light grew larger and the pain grew, too. *I have to make it out, I just have to!* I thought, pulling myself closer and closer to the light. *When I get out, I'll find out what's going on here and investigate this phone...*

Suddenly, something slipped from my hands. The phone. The phone fell down the cave and into the water at the bottom. As it splashed into the ocean, my legs broke free from the cave with one, loud CRACK! *Oh, god. Legs don't usually make a cracking sound.* I looked down at my legs, now in the large, lush opening. But I didn't see any legs. Not attached to me, at least. My legs were still in the small, cavern. I. Didn't. Have. Legs. I screamed for help, only to be met with another groan and the searing of my throat.



I heard footsteps and looked to see a man in a suit. He just stood there as I groaned in pain. I never saw his face because it seemed as soon as he had arrived, he was gone. What was happening? Was I going mad? I crawled backwards and fell into a puddle of water. But this puddle of water wasn't acting like a puddle of water. It was deep. The puddle was deep. But a moment ago I swore it was a puddle. It was, it really was a puddle. Now it's one deep, deep pool of water I'm gradually sinking in. It's as if the puddle changed in front of my eyes. As I sunk into the pool, it changed again.

This time the walls were moving. Up and down. Up and down. Up and down. They were *breathing*. The walls...the walls were breathing! This isn't a cave! This is a thing! A monster that breathes and changes as you move. That phone wasn't there by coincidence. The cave gave it to me. The cave wanted this to happen. As my vision slowly blurred into darkness, I heard a crackle from seemingly some sort of radio-like machine.

"CRSHK! Yeah, I think *it* got to him. Yeah, I know, I'm angry too! I think he figured it out anyway, so it's not the worst thing in the world, right? We usually feed the people who know to *it*, so it doesn't matter. Bring in the next crew, let's start again."

THE END



Term 4 - 2025 Dates to Remember

*All dates are subject to change without notice - please review updates regularly

• 13 Oct	Staff Development Day	• 07-12 Nov	Clontarf State of Origin Football Carnival Melbourne
• 14 Oct	Students return	• 12 Nov	Clontarf Awards Night
• 14-17 Oct	Clontarf Marandoo Mine Camp Year 12	• 13 Nov	Lighthouse Transition Day
• 15 Oct	Indigenous Youth Leadership on Country	• 14 Nov	Last Day Year 11 Students
• 16-17 Oct	Outdoor Education - Overnight Camp Year 11	• 14 Nov	SIDE Exams Year 11 Students
• 22 Oct	School Tour at 3:30pm	• 17-21 Nov	Exams Year 11 Students
• 23-24 Oct	Outdoor Education Camp Year 11	• 19-21 Nov	Clontarf Rottneest Camp Year 11
• 23 Oct	Badminton Tournament Year 7-10	• 25 Nov	Transition Day Year 7
• 23 Oct	Transition Day Year 6	• 25-29 Nov	UWA ASPIRE Camp
• 23 Oct	Valedictory Ceremony	• 26 Nov	Stars Award Night
• 24 Oct	Graduation Assembly	• 26-27 Nov	Matilda the Musical Jr. Art Show
• 25-26 Oct	Band Spectacular	• 28 Nov	Genesis Opening
• 27-28 Oct	OLNA Year 10 Writing	• 02 Dec	Transition Day Year 6 include Clontarf & Stars
• 28 Oct	Clontarf Wadjemup Cup Camp Year 8-9	• 04 Dec	Clontarf Camp Year 7
• 29-31 Oct	OLNA Year 10 Reading & Numeracy	• 07-13 Dec	Clontarf Interstate Camp Year 12
• 29 Oct-20 Nov	WACE Examinations Commence	• 10-11 Dec	APEX Museum Exhibition
• 30 Oct	Lighthouse Transition Day	• 15 Dec	Whole School Assembly
• 03-07 Nov	Stars Interstate Camp Year 12	• 16 Dec	Rewards Day
• 06 Nov	Lighthouse Transition Day	• 18 Dec	Students Last Day
• 07 Nov	Band Spectacular	• 19 Dec	Staff Development Day

Updated 26/09/2025

Forward Planning: 2026
Monday 02 February - Term 1 commences for students

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SOCIAL MEDIA

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TERM 4

Wednesday 22 October @ 3:30pm
Wednesday 19 November @ 3:30pm
Wednesday 3 December @ 3:30pm

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IS YOUR CHILD CURRENTLY IN YEAR 6?

Enrolment packs have been delivered to public Primary Schools within our Local Intake Area.

Enrolments Packs can also be collected from the school office or online. For more information please call 9965 8400.



2026 YEAR 7 ENROLMENTS ARE NOW OPEN



**PRINCIPAL'S
SCHOOL TOUR DATES**

22 October @ 3:30pm
19 November @ 3:30pm
3 December @ 3:30pm

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