



WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL

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winmalee-h.schools.nsw.gov.au f Winmalee High School - Official

Term 4 Week 9 Communication – Thursday 12 December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Warami.

Here we are at the last newsletter of the year, as Week 10 is a short week. We had a well attended RoSE breakfast yesterday morning for Year 8 and 10, and Year 7 and 9 follows next week. I'm looking forward to CAPA showcase tomorrow night and I have pruned my principal's address down to 50 minutes for Presentation Night next Tuesday!



Year 8 RoSE Breakfast attendees



Year 10 RoSE Breakfast attendees

Vicki Benn who retired a couple of years ago and taught English is now a published author, certainly keeping busy in retirement. We have several retirements this year, Raelene Clifford from Music, Julie Vassallo from the Library and Greg Dutton from PE. Their contributions to the school will be missed and we wish them well in retirement. Hopefully they might come back to help out here and there.

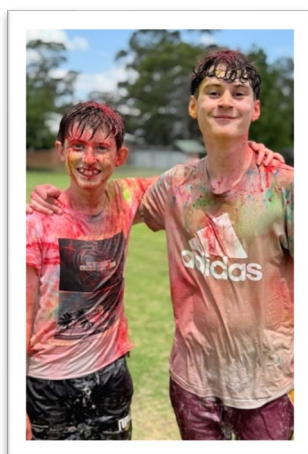
A reminder that **ALL STUDENTS** return on **Thursday 6 February 2025**.

This is a great link for term and holiday dates: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/calendars/2025>

Thanks for your support this year, it takes the support of parents, staff and students to make a good school. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to our school community.

Spirit Week..... Yesterday was Spirit Day with the finale being the colour run. This week we have had Characters, Colours and Jerseys with everyone involved.





For more photos, please visit our [Facebook page](#).

Year 10 Leadership Camp

Year 9 parents were emailed a permission and information note at the end of last week for their child to attend the Year 10 Leadership Camp in Term 3 of 2025.

This camp gives Year 10 students the opportunity to develop leadership skills whilst engaging in snow sports activities. All parents are encouraged to discuss this opportunity with their children.

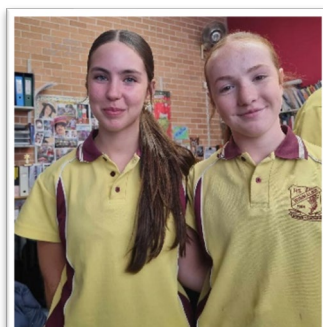
Swimming Carnival 2025

The first of the school carnivals for 2025 will be held on **Tuesday 11th February**.

The Swimming Carnival will be held at Glenbrook Aquatic Centre and all parents have been emailed a permission note through SchoolBytes. Please discuss this with your child and complete the online form.

Sydney West Volleyball

Addison Down and Tom Grodzicki (Year 11) have been selected in the Sydney West Volleyball teams for the CHS championships in Week 5 of Term 1. These students were standout players at the trials held last week and deserved their selections in the Sydney West Volleyball teams. Congratulations to Addison and Tom!



Eva Melville and Abby Croucher

Congratulations to a group of junior students who spent the weekend at the **AASCF Dance/Cheer Nationals competition on the Gold Coast**. **Lacey Wahl, Ashleigh Osmetti, Eva Melville, Aryelle Thompson, Isla Van Hooft, Elodie Shaw, Natalya Schuback, Sienna Tunaley and Abby Croucher** represented a range of studios and achieved some great results including:

Abby: 2nd in Junior Lyrical Duo, 2nd in senior lyrical, 5th in Junior Pom, 4th in Senior Hip Hop, 4th in cheer and competed in five other dances!

Eva- 1st in Junior Lyrical (2), 2nd in Junior Hip Hop, 4th in Junior Pom (2) and 4th in Junior Jazz.

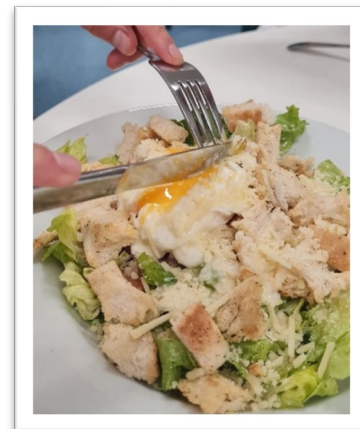
Special mention to Miss Eliza Howlett (maths) who competed as well

A great performance and all represent our dance program back at school exceptionally.

The **Pathways to Success Program** is an initiative designed by our Principal Mr Pendergast and Deputy Principals Mr Booth and Mr Dutton . The program is aligned in accordance with the department of Education Care continuum rollout. It complements a wholistic school system, that places a positive, prevention-focused approach at its core to meet the needs of all our students.



As the program concludes at the end of term , we would like to congratulate the Year 8 students who have participated. Please enjoy the success of the students who engaged weekly, in structured physical exercise and



cognitive reflection group discussions. The healthy eating and cooking lessons proved to be most popular.

Special thanks to Ms Brown and Ms O'Rourke from Food Tech for their support.

As the school year enters the final stretch, a small group of Winmalee High students is focused on increasing holiday cheer in the local community. The group of Year 7 students and their roll call teacher Mr. Joseph have been writing Christmas cards to the residents of Buckland Retirement Village. The initiative is a part of a broader leadership project spearheaded by **Addison Down (Year 11) and Macauley Down (Year 10)**. Addison and Macauley are working with other students to develop initiatives that show appreciation for seniors and help increase the connection that residents at local nursing homes feel.



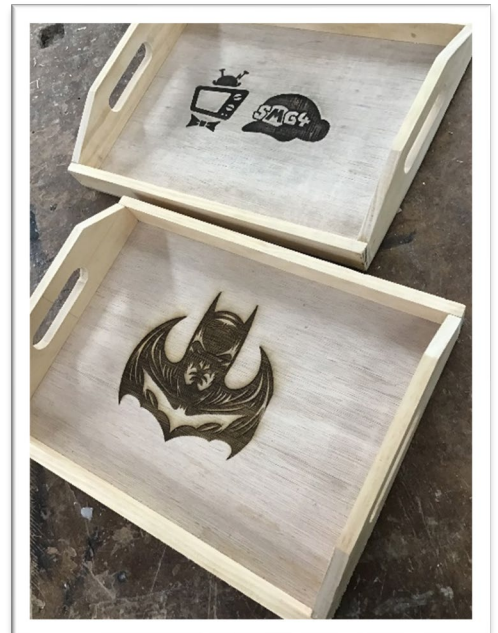


quicksmart

Over the course of the year 15 students have participated in the QuickSmart program to improve their numeracy skills. This week the students have successfully graduated from the program with Zach and Koby Morgan reaching the highest level of difficulty. The students all received graduate certificates and a sweet present for their hard work. Merry Christmas from the QuickSmart team.

Students: **Zach Morgan, Koby Morgan, Ashleigh Osmetti, Lacey Wahl, Josie Lynch, Eydie Peake, Taz Perceval, Ashton Danks, Eli Johnson, Oscar Odell, Leighton Stevens, Asher Kaminski, Lucas Driver, Jesse Moore, Brayden Stuart**

Mrs Chapman's 8TEC7 class were in the workshop this Term with a focus on Timber. They engaged in the project and demonstrated a variety of skills while they used a range of equipment to construct a carry tray.





Mrs Chapman's Year 7 interest groups happily engaged in an activity where they had to create a puzzle piece about themselves, and they are all proudly on display around the Year 7 notice board for the whole school to see. I am hoping they will last until the students leave in Year 12. Any student who did not have an opportunity to complete one and would like to they are welcome to come and see me.

Winmalee Wombats

This week, our Wombats under-16 boys basketball team played a friendly at Penrith Selective High School. The exciting game concluded with a victory for our Winmalee Wombats.

"This friendly provided a fantastic chance to witness the progress these young men have made over the past year," said Mr. Joseph. "Their dedication to training an hour before school with Mr. Bradshaw has greatly enhanced their skills, game understanding, and overall growth mindset."

Thank you to Penrith Selective High School for the invitation, and for an atmosphere that celebrated the game of basketball.



8SU – potting the plants into their designer pots

Students painted their pots in weeks 2, 3 & 4.

They have potted them up just in time for Christmas, although some students were quite attached to their artwork and may hang onto them as a gift to self.



Winmalee High Crochet Club Collaboration with Winmalee Public School



On Thursday, 5th December, the Winmalee High Crochet Club had the pleasure of visiting Winmalee Public School for a festive crochet Christmas craft event. The collaboration was a wonderful success, with Winmalee High students helping the younger WPS students to create their very own crochet Christmas tree. The enthusiasm and creativity on display were truly inspiring. The six WHS students who volunteered their time did the school proud.

Year 7: Michael Broadhead, Ameilia Byrnes, Makayla Donovan

Year 9: Lauren Barrand, Jayden (Briar-Rose) Wade, Billy (Sophie) Parker



Bodhi Carlson Year 7 is currently in Fiji playing for the Wanderers Australia U13's AFL team against the Fiji Talent Squad.



We Will Rock You Auditions



We Will Rock You auditions will run tomorrow, Friday 13th December.

All students auditioning are required Period 1 in the Hall.

Lead roles will be auditioned throughout Periods 2 and 3 in the music rooms. Call back auditions will be during Period 4.

Please see the notice board in Music for more information or look at the Musical Google Classroom.

A reminder to parents of Year 11 2025 students

The Textbook list for Year 11 2025 courses has been uploaded to the Portal and is available on the [school website](#). If a course is not listed on the sheet, no textbooks are required as other resources will be used.

Please order through The Turning Page Bookshop in Springwood. **Orders must be placed by Monday, 20 January 2025 to ensure textbooks are available for the start of Term 1.** Please note that late order fees will apply after this date.

If students are purchasing second hand texts, they are reminded to check it is the correct edition.

Attached to this Communication are the December/January holiday trading hours for the **Uniform Shop** as well as **'Diary Dates' for 2025.**



In the news: Vicki Benn, ex-English Teacher WHS, *Blue Mountains Gazette* Wednesday 4 December



As a former high school English teacher, **Vicki Benn** helped countless students discover the joy of novels. Now the Wentworth Falls resident is sharing her own novel with the world.

Billed as "the story of a modern Australian family on the brink of revelations that will test the bonds that tie them", *The Dinner Party* has struck a chord with readers since it was released in 2024.

Drawing praise for its relatable setting and characters, Ms Benn said she always hoped readers would identify with her fictional creations.

"None of the characters or situations are directly based on real people or situations, although I think every writer would say they draw from their own

experience. It's inevitable," she said.

"I did want to make the characters and their relationships recognisable. The book is a family drama, and I hope people will see some resonances with their own families, good and bad."

Ms Benn said her decades as a high school teacher inevitably influenced her decision to embark on the novel - and the final work.

"I worked at Winmalee High School for about 20 years, and I'm sure that experience helped in terms of being able to analyse writing and structure," she said.

"Many of my fabulous students were an inspiration in their enthusiasm and willingness to try things in their own writing."

Reaction to the novel has been positive with many readers commenting on its relatability.

"It has been humbling to have so much positive feedback for the book, and it's very exciting seeing it on shelves," said Ms Benn.

"People have commented that the characters are convincing and enjoyable to read, so that's reassuring. It feels like the start of the book's journey. You just never know where it will all take you."

CAREERS NEWS

Blue Mountains City Council Apprenticeships & traineeships

Blue Mountains City Council will be advertising apprenticeships & traineeships positions under their 2025 CATs (Cadets, Apprentices & Trainees) Program in local papers next week. These positions will commence February / March 2025. Positions available include: Apprentice Mechanic; Apprentice Civil Construction; Apprentice Carpenter; Apprentice Sign Writer; Trainee Business Administration (ATSI identified); Trainee Business Administration; Trainee Environment (Natural Area Operations); Trainee Horticulture.

Application forms available on our whole school google classroom

Closing date for all positions is Sunday, 12 January 2025.

For further details, please visit www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/trainees, or contact **Louise Daley** | Recruitment Coordinator | t 0457 100 584 | e ldaley@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Western Sydney University The College - How to Apply

Choose your path. Decide which College program is right for you. We have included these options below, so you can base your decision on the criteria needed to apply for our programs.

<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/future/study/application-pathways/the-college/how-to-apply>

UNSW Bridging Courses

Bridging courses offer you the opportunity to revise or strengthen your knowledge of HSC Physics, Chemistry or Mathematics so you can successfully manage your studies in year one of university. Your lecturer or tutor will reasonably expect this assumed knowledge at the beginning of your studies. Undertaking the bridging course will ensure you're not at a disadvantage if you do not have a strong background or any prior knowledge in one or more of these HSC subjects and intend on studying a degree that assumes knowledge of these subjects.

<https://www.unsw.edu.au/science/study-with-us/undergraduate/bridging-courses>

Tertiary Preparation Certificate (TPC)

The Certificate IV in Tertiary Preparation, otherwise known as the Tertiary Preparation Certificate (TPC), is a qualification equivalent to Year 12. It is an excellent alternative if you missed out on the HSC or you want to do the HSC again to achieve a higher score for entrance into university.

TPC graduates gain an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) equivalent called a Tertiary Entrance Score and can use this to apply for entry to universities across Australia.

<https://www.tafensw.edu.au/course-areas/study-and-career-pathways/courses/certificate-iv-in-tertiary-preparation--11225NAT-01>

Best wishes,

Winmalee High School



HO HO HO!



DIARY DATES

* Dates correct at time of printing *

20 25

Term 1

Staff Development Day	Wk1	Friday, 31/01/25
Staff Development Days	Wk2	Mon 3, Tues 4 & Wed 05/02/25
Students Return Term 1 - ALL Years	Wk2	Thursday, 06/02/25
School Swimming Carnival	Wk3	Tuesday, 11/02/25
Expo Day for Year 7 2026	Wk5	Monday, 24/02/25
Family Information Evening for Year 7 2026	Wk5	Wednesday, 26/02/25
School Photo Day	Wk6	Friday, 07/03/25
School Photo Day 2 (Siblings/Catch-up)	Wk7	Monday, 10/03/25
Meet the Teacher Evening - Year 7	Wk7	Tuesday, 11/03/25
School Cross Country Carnival	Wk11	Wednesday, 09/04/25
Last Day Term 1	Wk11	Friday, 11/04/25

Term 2

Staff Development Days	Wk1	Mon 28 & Tues 29/04/25
Students Return Term 2	Wk1	Wednesday, 30/04/25
School Athletics Carnival	Wk3	Thursday, 15/05/25
Public Holiday - King's Birthday	Wk7	Monday, 09/06/25
Parent Teacher Evening - Years 10, 11, 12	Wk8	Tuesday, 17/06/25
Subject Selection Evening - Years 8, 10	Wk10	Tuesday, 01/07/25
Last Day Term 2	Wk10	Friday, 04/07/25

Term 3

Staff Development Day	Wk1	Monday, 21/07/25
Students Return Term 3	Wk1	Tuesday, 22/07/25
Parent Teacher Evening - Years 7, 8, 9	Wk2	Tuesday, 29/07/25
HSC Trial Exams Commence	Wk3	Thursday, 07/08/25
HSC Trial Exams Conclude	Wk5	Wednesday, 20/08/25
Winmalee HS Open Night	Wk8	Thursday, 11/09/25
Graduation Ceremony - Year 12	Wk10	Tuesday, 23/09/25
Last Day Term 3	Wk10	Friday, 26/09/25

Term 4

Staff Development Day	Wk1	Monday, 13/10/25
Students Return Term 4	Wk1	Tuesday, 14/10/25
HSC Written Exams Commence	Wk1	Thursday, 16/10/25
HSC Written Exams Conclude	Wk5	Monday, 10/11/25
Last Day Term 4	Wk10	Friday, 19/12/25

DECEMBER 2024 TRADING HOURS

OPEN HOURS FOR THE UNIFORM SHOP IN DECEMBER 2024

LAST TRADING DAY MONDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 CLOSED	2 NORMAL TRADING HOURS 8AM - 11AM	ORIENTATION DAY 3 EXTENDED HOURS 8AM - 12PM	4 CLOSED	5 NORMAL TRADING HOURS 8AM - 11AM	6 CLOSED	7 CLOSED
8 CLOSED	9 NORMAL TRADING HOURS 8AM - 11AM	10 CLOSED	11 CLOSED	12 NORMAL TRADING HOURS 8AM - 11AM	13 CLOSED	14 CLOSED
15 CLOSED	16 NORMAL TRADING HOURS 8AM - 11AM LAST TRADING DAY	17 CLOSED	18 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL	19 CLOSED	20 CLOSED	21 CLOSED

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

ONLINE ORDERING AVAILABLE

<https://daylightschoolwear.au/winmalee/>

Online ordering available through the below link.

<https://daylightschoolwear.au/winmalee/>

You will be notified by the Uniform Shop when your order is ready for collection.

Return to Normal Trading Hours from Thursday 6th February 2025


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CLOSED	8AM - 11AM	CLOSED	CLOSED	8AM - 11AM	CLOSED	CLOSED

JANUARY 2025 SCHOOL HOLIDAY TRADING HOURS

Open hours for the Uniform Shop in January 2025.

ONLINE ORDERING AVAILABLE VIA THE BELOW LINK

<https://daylightschoolwear.au/winmalee/>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE ONLINE – PRIORITY SERVICE WALK INS WELCOME ALSO https://daylightschoolwear.au/winmalee/booking</p>						
<p>26 </p>	<p>27 CLOSED</p>	<p>28 SCHOOL HOLIDAY TRADING HOURS 8AM - 1PM</p>	<p>29 SCHOOL HOLIDAY TRADING HOURS 8AM - 1PM</p>	<p>30 SCHOOL HOLIDAY TRADING HOURS 8AM - 1PM</p>	<p>31 SCHOOL HOLIDAY TRADING HOURS 8AM - 1PM</p>	<p>FEB 1 CLOSED</p>
<p>2 CLOSED</p>	<p>3 SCHOOL HOLIDAY TRADING HOURS 8AM - 1PM</p>	<p>4 SCHOOL HOLIDAY TRADING HOURS 8AM - 1PM</p>	<p>5 SCHOOL HOLIDAY TRADING HOURS 8AM - 1PM</p>	<p>6 NORMAL TRADING HOURS 8AM - 11AM</p>	<p>7 CLOSED</p>	<p>8 CLOSED</p>

Online ordering available through the below link.

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You will be notified by the Uniform Shop when your order is ready for collection.

Return to Normal Trading Hours from Thursday 6th February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CLOSED	8AM - 11AM	CLOSED	CLOSED	8AM - 11AM	CLOSED	CLOSED

NORTH SYDNEY GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL ON TOUR



FREE CONCERT

**SAT 14 DECEMBER
2PM**

**SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND
WIND ORCHESTRA**

80 PLAYERS

Program includes:

Gershwin Porgy and Bess Medley,

Brahms Hungarian Dance No. 5

Disney Medley, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame



Springwood Uniting Church
4 Lewin Street
Springwood NSW 2777