



WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL

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

Term 2 Week 6 Communication – Thursday 5 June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

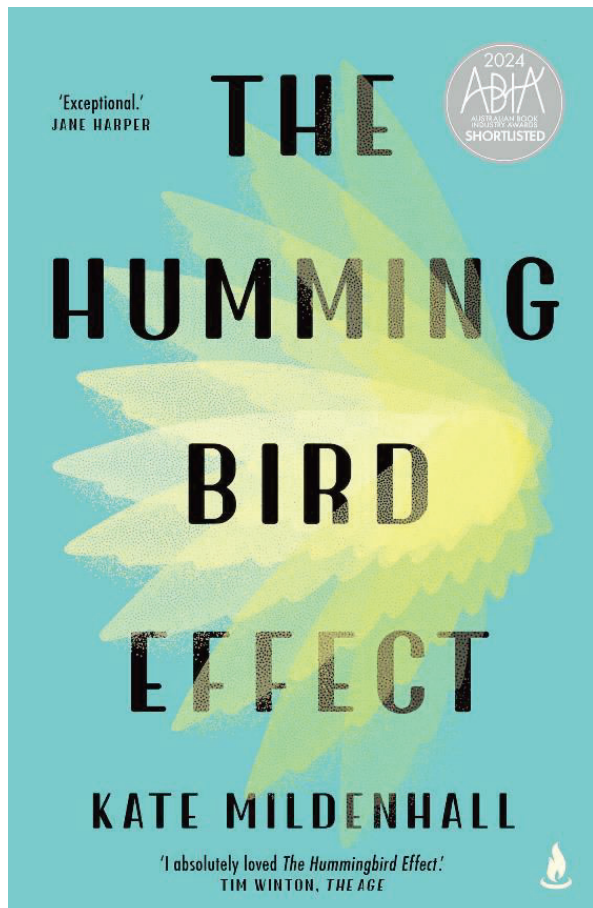
Warami.

Ms Facas is in the house. If you are on our socials you will know the entire school gathered in the hall on Monday morning to welcome Ms Facas back by singing the Welcome Back Kotter theme. You can Google it if you're not old enough to remember it, sadly I am. Ms Facas is very happy to be back and will be working three days a week for the remainder of the term. I will continue to fill in for the other days. Mr McGown will continue as Deputy Principal for Term 2.

There are a number of important events coming up in the last month of term. The musical, Subject Selection night for Year 8 and 10 and Parent Teacher interviews for Year 10, 11, 12. Details for all of these events are included in this Newsletter.

Handball has had a big resurgence in the school and the phone ban has definitely contributed to this. For someone like me who started teaching long before mobile phones, it is a joy to see the battle for the Ace square as you walk past. On assembly this week I invited students to join the library book purchasing committee. If you are a regular reader you will know I have been advocating for more reading and less screens. This committee will advise staff on the types of books they read and want to see in the library. I would like to support book worms and encourage less enthusiastic readers to pick up a book.

What are you reading?



Dr Burns is reading - 'The Hummingbird Effect' by Kate Mildenhall

The 'hummingbird effect' refers to the idea that innovation in one area can trigger unpredictable and unexpected advancements in other seemingly unrelated realms. The novel takes this idea to explore the effects of an advancement that starts in 1933. The novel moves through various Australian narratives, spanning to 2181, exploring the future of humanity, zeroing in on capitalism, AI and violence. At the heart of each of the narratives, though, is the devastation that comes with the outsourcing of care – and 'care' takes a variety of forms - from the care within families and communities to the care required by those working in an abattoir, and even to the care needed for the planet to survive the climate crisis. I couldn't put this book down, it was fantastic - showcasing once again the incredible writing talent Australia has!

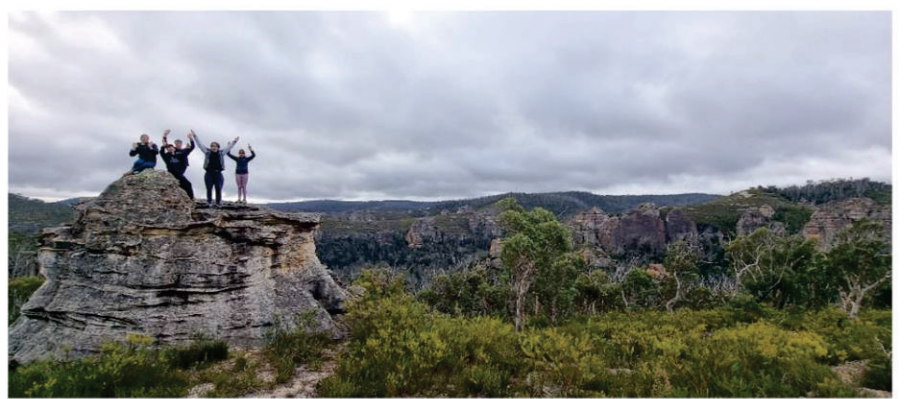
Year 12 Earth and Environmental Science Fieldwork Trip



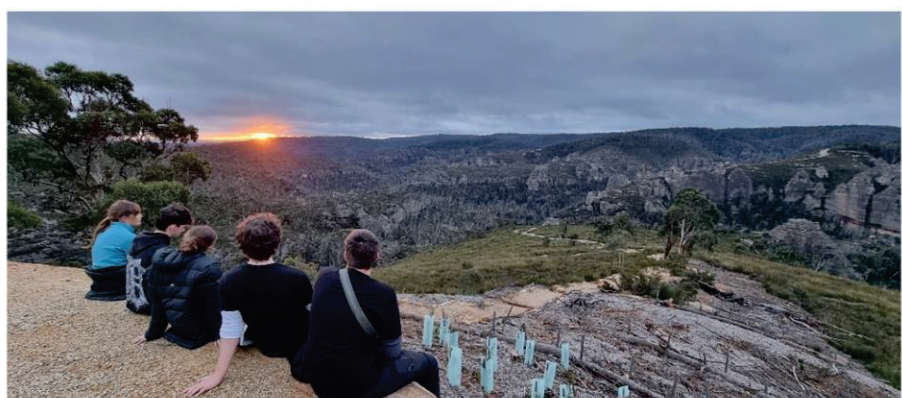
Last week, The Year 12 EES class, along with Mr Verstegen, completed a round trip of the Blue Mountains, investigating the geological processes that formed various parts of the mountains.

The class visited:

- The Lapstone Monocline fault line at the Yarramundi bends.
- The end of the Grose River at Yarramundi, where it meets the Nepean and Hawkesbury Rivers.
- The Walls Walk overlooking the Grose Valley via Bells Line of Road.
- Mount Wilson Rainforest Walk and Waterfall over basalt lava flows.
- De Fours Rocks Lookout at Mount Wilson.
- The Lost City in the Gardens of Stone National Park, out from Lithgow.



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





NSW Public Schools Surveys
A voice for students, parents and teachers

In Term 2, we are offering our students the opportunity to participate in the **NSW Public Schools Student Survey**. The survey gives students the chance to share their thoughts and feelings about life at school, including questions about their engagement, learning experiences and wellbeing at school.

Hearing directly from our students will help us understand what's working well and where improvements can be made to our school. The survey is confidential, takes around 10 to 15 minutes to complete, and will be conducted online during school hours.

Participation is voluntary. If you prefer your child not to participate, please complete the opt-out consent form, which will be available on parent portal and return it to the school. Further information about the survey is available at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/npss>

Open Girls Soccer Knockout Semi Final

The Open Girls Soccer team fought tooth and nail in a tight tussle against Castle Hill High School on Thursday. WHS played their best game to date, falling just short, 1-0 in the end. Next year looks very bright for this team.

Well done to **Lainey Beames, Lacey Bowman, Anna Stretton, Seda Amputch, Amelia Peake, Pippi De Haan, Charlie Buchanan-Judd, Annabella Sciberras, Zoe Mein, Lyla Douglas, Iris Hirst, Daniella Stanley, Indianna-Rose Batchelor, Eliza Brown, Eydie Peake, and Elke Okladnikov.**





WHS Uniform Requirements

As we are in the cooler months, some students are not wearing the correct school uniform.

Under the Education Act 1990 and the Department of Education and Training requirements, each school community sets its own school discipline code. At Winmalee High School, part of the school discipline code requires all students to wear school uniform, which the School's P&C also supports.

Not only do uniforms promote equality and a sense of belonging, but they also promote school spirit and make it easier to identify students and outsiders on school grounds.

We seek your support in encouraging your child to wear full school daily.

If there are items you may need or require assistance with, don't hesitate to contact one of the Deputy Principals. We are more than happy to support families on a case-by-case basis.

Uniform items can be ordered online through the [Uniform Shop](#).

Uniforms can also be purchased in person at the school uniform shop, which is open Mondays and Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

The school also has good quality donated second uniform items available at the front office. Please visit the office for assistance.

WHS Uniform

Yes	No
Juniors 7-10 Yellow WHS polo or blouse Black jumper – plain or WHS Black puffer – plain or WHS Dark grey/charcoal trousers or tracksuit pants Pleated maroon skirt Plain maroon shorts – girls Plain grey shorts – boys Junior sports uniform: School sports shirt Black or maroon shorts 9-12 Maroon shorts 7-8	Juniors 7-10 Light grey tracksuit pants Leggings or tights Coloured jumpers Logos on jumpers or track pants
Seniors 11-12 White school polo or blouse Black jumper – plain or WHS Black puffer – plain or WHS Senior WHS jersey Grey pleated skirt Plain black tracksuit pants or black jeans	Seniors 11-12 Light grey tracksuit pants Leggings or tights Coloured jumpers Logos on jumpers or track pants Jeans with holes, tears, stonewash, etc
School Representative Jumpers such as Ski Racing, Dance, Combined High Schools (CHS), Sydney West, Pulse, etc. may be worn on a FRIDAY only. <i>Uniforms from any other sporting team/organisation are not acceptable.</i>	

Our [school website](#) provides more information, including photographic examples of our uniform and answers to frequently asked questions.

We appreciate your continued support in ensuring all students uphold the school's standards and proudly represent our community.

Congratulations to **Amalia Tredoux (Year 9)**, **Aliera Tredoux (Year 7)** and **Lucinda Barclay (Year 7)** who recently competed in the **Women's Artistic Gymnastics Level 4 NSWCHS Championships**. The girls achieved both impressive individual and team results.

Amalia placed 2nd on Vault

Lucinda placed 3rd on Beam

The Sydney West Team placed 3rd overall for their combined results.

Overall for the four apparatus (Bars, Beam, Vault and Floor) - Aliera placed 20th, Amalia placed 7th, and Lucinda placed 5th.



Last Thursday the **Open Boys Volleyball Team** played against Rooty Hill High School in the regional knockout competition semi-final and unfortunately lost. This is the furthest the team has ever made it. These Year 12 boys have consistently demonstrated pure talent, respect, and sportsmanship throughout each game over the last couple of years. Congratulations to **Frano Hirst, Zackary Fitzgerald, Felix Mann, Will Taylor, Tom Grodzicki, Cooper Terry, and Jack Reynolds**.

Open Boys Knockout Soccer




Congratulations to the Open Boys Soccer team for finishing 3rd in Sydney West. A huge thanks to Mr Borg for guiding the boys through the season.

Well done to **Frano Hirst, William Weir, Max Campaner, Jeremy Taylor, James Croucher, Harrison Stevens, Tom Grodzicki, Hamish Weir, Felix Mann, Ben Dawson, Angus Weir, Julian Munro, Luka Wheeler, Fletcher Bryant, Aadyn Hoare, Will Ford – GK, Koby Morgan – GK.**

**YEAR 10, 11 & 12
PARENT-TEACHER
INTERVIEWS**

Book via the
Sentral Parent Portal



**TUESDAY
10
JUNE**

3.30pm - 7.30pm
in the school hall

To Year 10, 11 and 12 Parents and Carers:

Our **Senior Parent-Teacher Interviews** are scheduled for **next Tuesday, 10 June 2025** from **3.30pm - 7.30pm** in the school hall.

As previously mentioned, the **online booking system** is through the **Sentral Parent Portal**.

Please contact the school via phone or email if you require an activation key for the portal: 02 4754 2822 or winmalee-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au.

Interview bookings are now open and will remain open until 4.00pm next Monday, 9 June 2025.

Parents of Year 10, 11 and 12 students are encouraged to check your emails for the “important information regarding Year 10/11/12 interviews” that was emailed prior to bookings opening. Documents are also available on the Sentral Parent Portal and [school website](#).



Rugby League Gala Day

Congratulations to U15 boys Rugby League team on their heart and spirit throughout the Panthers Region Rugby League Gala Day on Tuesday. Whilst they didn't get the results they wanted, and paid the price for errors, they continued to take on some high quality opposition in Erskine Park, Kingswood and Chifley Mt Druitt.



Well done to **Harry Hodges, Luke Chapman, Bodhi Carlson, Taro Pickham, Logan Jackson, Cully Summers (c/c), Lucas Paton (c/c), Josh Archibald, Ashton Danks, Tyson Gilchrist, Shaun Maher, Shayden Hooshmand, Callum MacDonald, Aaron Gilchrist, Liam O'Neill, Jeremy Hewitt, and Taym Dumiaty.**

Injured Trainers: **Ollie Stevens, Graysen Watts**



United Nations Youth Ambassador for Australia Visit

Last Wednesday 29 May Winmalee High School had the privilege of hosting the United Nations Youth Ambassador for Australia. Students from the SRC and the Model UN met with Satara Uthayakumaran, to discuss key issues involving young people today, this includes cost of living, climate change, mental health, social media and political advertising directed to young people. Students were asked questions related to these topics and their stances of these important issues, where discussions took place.

As young people we often feel unheard in the world of politics, and we are somewhat perceived to have little opinion on social, economic and political issues that surround our day to day lives. The U.N. Youth



Ambassador makes young people heard, by taking topics and issues that we think are highly important and present these topics and issues to the United Nations General Assembly. The latest Federal Election saw a shift from typical political advertising to a more modern and younger person targeted one. However, the advertising from both sides of politics didn't reflect or explain policy, instead tried to keep up with cringy Tik Tok trends. This ultimately leads to our perception that political parties either don't care or don't understand the issues young people are facing.

Written by Oscar Stone (Year 12)



Subject Selection Evening

Subject Selection information sessions for current **Year 8 and Year 10 students** will be held on **Tuesday, 1 July 2025** in the school hall. **They will be held on the same evening, with different start and finish times.**

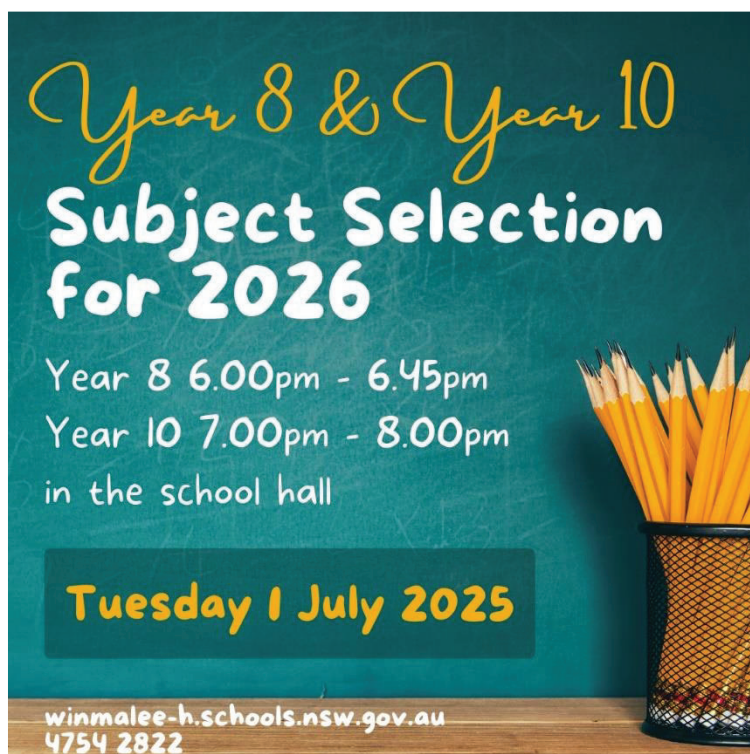
Year 8 - Subject Selection Information Evening for Year 8 into Year 9, 2026
6:00pm – 6:45pm

Year 10 - Subject Selection Information Evening for Year 10 into Year 11, 2026
HSC Preliminary Course (Year 11 RoSA)
7:00pm – 8:00pm

Subject selection booklets which include detailed information about the subjects being offered for study in 2026 are available on the Parent Portal. This will allow students and their families to view the subjects and discuss suitable choices. Some paper copies of the booklet will be available on the evening, but as it is a one-use document, we will not be issuing printed copies for all students. Please download a copy of the booklet to your device so you can refer to it on the night.

On the evening, information will be provided about the curriculum pattern for 2026 and the process of selecting subjects. Staff from each faculty will be available to answer questions about the courses being offered.

Subject Selection forms **will be provided on the evening** and must be returned by Term 3, Week 1 - **Friday, 25 July 2025.**



Our **Year 7-9 Parent-Teacher Interviews** are scheduled for **Tuesday, 29 July 2025 from 3:30pm-7:30pm** in the school hall. Please save the date in your calendars.

This year, the **online booking system** will again be through the **Sentral Parent Portal**. If you haven't yet registered for access to the portal, we encourage you to register and activate your account prior to interview bookings opening.

Please contact the school via phone or email if you require an activation key for the portal: 02 4754 2822 or winmalee-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au.

Interview bookings will be open from 4:00pm on Thursday, 3 July until 4:00pm on Monday, 28 July 2025.

We will release more detailed information about booking Year 7-9 Parent-Teacher Interviews prior to bookings opening.

**We Will Rock You –
TICKETS NOW ON SALE!**

A fist-pumping, foot-stomping anthem to individuality!

We Will Rock You is a high-energy rock musical set in a future where music is banned, and conformity rules. But a group of rebels, the Bohemians, refuse to be silenced. With the help of two young outsiders, Galileo and Scaramouche, they rise up against the ruthless Killer Queen and her empire, fighting to bring back real rock 'n' roll. Packed with electrifying performances and Queen's greatest hits, this show is an epic battle for freedom, individuality, and the power of music to change the world!

Performances dates:

- ★ Friday 20 June 7.00pm
- ★ Saturday 21 June 1.30pm & 7.00pm
- ★ Friday 27 June 7.00pm
- ★ Saturday 28 June 7.00pm

Click on the below link to purchase tickets or scan the QR code on the poster!

<https://www.trybooking.com/DAMMR>

Poster designed by **Lexie Firth (Year 10)**.



🎓 WHS Alumni Spotlight: Sam Bird (Class of 2008)

We're thrilled to share the stories of our former students with the school and wider community, highlighting their experiences at WHS and the diverse journeys they've taken since graduating.

This week **Sam Bird** shares her reflections on her time at Winmalee High and where life has taken her since.

Check out Sam's Q&A at the end of the Newsletter and stay tuned as we continue celebrating the amazing paths our alumni are forging!

We would love to hear from as many former students as possible across a wide range of years and pathways for our Alumni Spotlight feature. Former students can go to [WHS Alumni Q & A](#) to fill out the form and share their experiences with us.

Best wishes,

Winmalee High School

WHS ALUMNI Q&A

Sam Bird

class of
08

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE GRADUATING FROM WHS?

Makeup artist still living in the area.
Mum to 2 kids💖

DO YOU HAVE A BUSINESS INSTAGRAM OR WEBSITE THAT YOU WOULD BE HAPPY FOR US TO SHARE?

@sambirdmakeup

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE MEMORIES FROM YOUR TIME AT WHS?

Ski trips and overseas exchange trips to
NZ/Japan and Egypt.

HOW DID YOUR TIME AT WHS INFLUENCE OR HELP YOU DISCOVER YOUR PASSIONS AND INTERESTS?

Absolutely helped to find the direction I wanted
to go once I left school. Being involved in the
backstage team for drama productions and
musicals helped me discover my love for makeup
and was the beginning of my 15 year makeup
artist career.

WHAT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WERE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCHOOL?

Musical backstage crew, basketball team,
student exchange trips.

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES OUR SCHOOL SPECIAL?

So many opportunities to be involved in that helped me find what I
loved and thrived in those settings. As well as a lot of support from
the teachers to help guide you along the way.

