



WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL

High School Drive Winmalee NSW 2777

T 02 4754 2822 E winmalee-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

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

Term 3 Week 1 Communication – Thursday 24 July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Warami. Welcome to Term 3. We've hit the ground running, with many events happening in and out of school. Our **2026 School Captain Interview panel** met yesterday, with student interviews scheduled for tomorrow. We wish all candidates the best and want to congratulate all students who have applied on the quality of their applications. We look forward to hearing students deliver their speeches at our next whole school assembly.

Western Sydney University Micro-credential in Aviation

In partnership with Western Sydney International Airport (WSI) and Bradfield Authority Development (BDA)



Yesterday we had guests speak at assembly about a pilot **Aviation Micro-credential which is being offered exclusively at Winmalee High**. Mr Pendergast has been working closely with staff from Western Sydney International Airport and Western Sydney University to coordinate this exciting opportunity. Our guests, Eva Atkins and Vimal Parashar shared information about the micro-credential and educational pathways possible within aviation following the completion of the course.

This is an excellent opportunity for our students. The cost of the course will be partially subsidised by the airport, the university and the school, making the cost

\$120 for students. The course is open to students in Years 9-12. Students can express interest by seeing Mr Pendergast. Currently there is a limit of 20 students, but we may be able to negotiate two courses to run if there is a lot of interest.

Education Pathways - The micro-credential provides the foundational knowledge and serves as a stepping stone to advanced programs, including:

Certificate I in Aviation (with RPL for the three units completed in micro-credential)

Certificate III or IV in Aviation (Ground Operations and Services)

Certificate IV in Transport & Logistics

Diploma of Aviation Management

Certificate IV in Leadership and Management (for supervisory pathways)



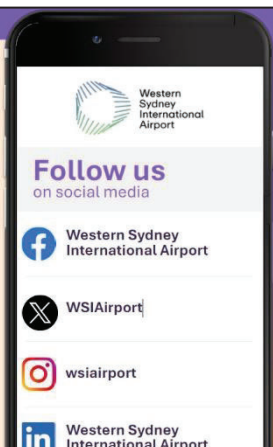
How you can stay updated

Check out our website for more Careers info!



Visit the **Experience Centre**
Mon-Wed, Sat-Sun: 10am-4pm

Visit the website
wsiairport.com.au



There are many opportunities for employment, including traineeships and apprenticeships in a broad range of areas. We encourage students to have a look at the available information online.

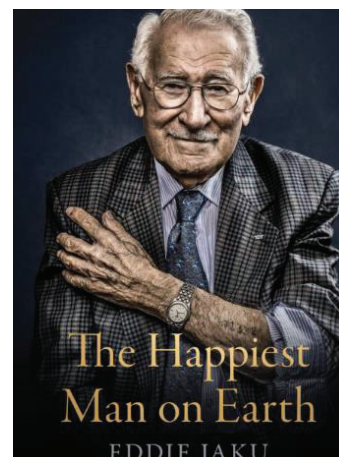
What are you reading? Mr McGown is reading.....

***The Happiest Man on Earth* - Eddie Jaku**

Eddie Jaku's *The Happiest Man on Earth* is one of the most powerful and moving books I've read. As a survivor of Auschwitz, Eddie endured unimaginable horror, yet he emerged with a message of hope, kindness, and gratitude. His story reminds us that even in the darkest times, we have the power to choose how we respond. What struck me most was his belief that happiness is not something we find, but something we choose to create, by being kind, helping others, and living with purpose. For students, this book is a profound reminder that resilience, empathy and perspective are some of the most important qualities we can develop. Eddie's

life is proof that strength isn't always loud, sometimes it's found in forgiveness, friendship, and refusing to let hate win.

If you haven't already, a trip to the Jewish Museum in Darlinghurst is a must. There is a great interactive experience where you can speak with Eddie via AI technology. Visitors to the museum can ask Mr Jaku a question and receive an answer in real time as though he was in conversation with them. A truly amazing experience.



Bush Cooking in the Support Class



Over the past two years, our support class has embraced the great outdoors through regular activities that promote wellbeing, outdoor education, and connection with nature. Making the most of the beautiful bushland surrounding our school, the class recently ventured to a scenic spot onsite to cook a traditional damper over an open fire.

Students prepared the damper before heading out and used a portable firepit to create a safe, controlled bed of coals. Along the way, they learned valuable lessons in fire safety, selecting suitable wood, and how to build and manage a fire for cooking purposes, promoting skills that encompass independence, responsibility, and teamwork.



Once cooked (and slightly charred), the damper was dusted off and served with butter and golden syrup, affectionately known as "Cocky's Joy." It was so popular that the damper disappeared before a decent photo could be snapped, which is surely a sign of success!

These moments offer far more than just a fun day out; they build confidence, resilience, and practical skills that stay with students long after the fire has gone out.





Addison Down (Year 12) was selected to represent the NSW U/21 team to play in the 2025 Australian Junior Volleyball Championships, which were held in Adelaide during the July school holidays.

NSW were very competitive, finishing 4th. Addison played in every game and won Player of the Match honours in their game against Western Australia.



NSW All Schools Cross Country Championships

On Tuesday, we were well represented in the NSW All Schools Cross Country Champions with six athletes, with all students running hard and competing well. Congratulations to Year 7 students **Kinley Goodman, Braxton Radzki, Ellyse Walker**, Year 10 students **Zoe Mein** and **Annabella Sciberras** (4th in U16 NSWCHS), and **Jeremy Taylor (Year 12)** for their impressive efforts.



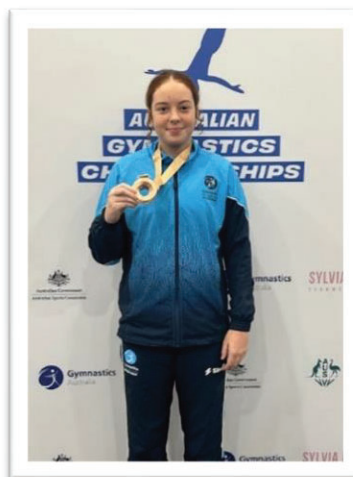
Elyse Walker (Year 7) is pictured at the championships, finishing 15th out of 105 overall participants. She also made 3rd Place out of 85 at the NSW CHS. Congratulations, Elyse!

Grade Sport

Congratulations to **Iris Hirst, Year 9 (Girls Soccer)** and **Lucas Chapman, Year 10 (Boys Basketball)** who were awarded Best and Fairest from the Term 2 Grade Sport Competition. Both students received a \$10 canteen voucher for their skill and sportsmanship. Whilst our Grade Finals Day was washed out, we congratulate the Girls Soccer (1st), Boys Soccer (1st), Girls Netball (1st), Boys Basketball (3rd) and Mixed OzTag (3rd) teams for their efforts in Term 2.

Tumbling/Gymnastics

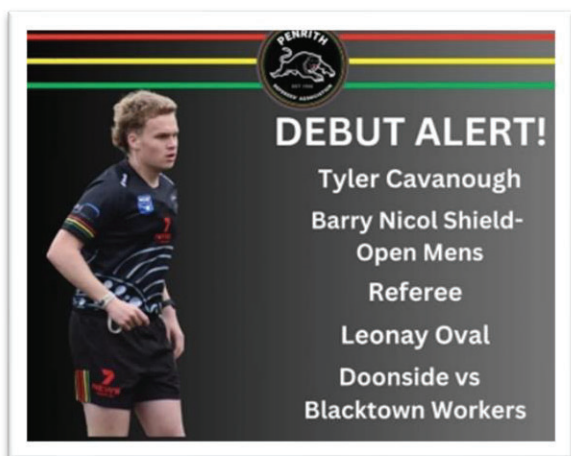
Over the holidays, **Lucy (Year 9) and Ruby (Year 8) Gleeson Frater** competed at the Australian Gymnastics Championships. The girls are extremely humble but achieved some outstanding results- including Ruby, aged 13 (silver in the U15 International Tumbling) and Lucy, aged 14 (gold in the Level 6 Double Mini Trampoline and bronze in the U17 International Tumbling). Additionally, both girls are rep basketball players.



Lucy Gleeson Frater



Ruby Gleeson Frater



Refereeing

Congratulations to **Tyler Cavanough (Year 12)** for making his debut as the main referee in an Open Men's Penrith District Rugby League game. One of the youngest referees to achieve this level in a decade, we are proud of Tyler's achievements and his support of the school's sporting program as both player and referee.

Crochet Club Labubu Treasure Hunt – Mission Complete!

The hunt is over, and we're thrilled to announce that six lucky treasure hunters are now the proud owners of their very own original crochet Labubu! 🌟💎 Congratulations to our winners— Jasper, Hugo, Cordelia, Lacyn, Ryan and the biggest kid of them all - Ms Douglas.

NOTE: Crochet Club has changed their meeting day to Tuesday Lunchtime for term 3. Everyone is welcome to join from beginners to advanced.





Year 10 Vaccinations Week 6

 **Year 10 Vaccination Clinic:** Friday, 29th August 2025

 **Vaccines:** Meningococcal ACWY

Parents and guardians, please ensure you provide consent online before the clinic date. **See the attached flyer with a QR code to complete consent.**

For more information, visit <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/school-vaccination-parents.aspx>.



This semester there is continued focus on the importance of school attendance. Our program **Attendance Matters** will continue for all students and is aligned to our whole school Wellbeing Program.

We are proud to share that we have reached our attendance rate target, set within our School Excellence Plan, and want to congratulate the effort students have made to attend school regularly.

Staff will be emphasising the strong links between attendance, academic success and student connectedness to learning in all subject areas. Students will be rewarded for ongoing success with certificates and an attendance BBQ at the end of the semester.

There will be increased monitoring of areas we wish to strengthen including lateness to school and whole day absences. The school is working closely with the Home School Liaison Officer to identify students causing concern and to work closely with parents and carers to support and engage the student with the school community.

The school utilises an **SMS text notification system** daily to notify parents of student absences and provides follow up emails as a reminder each week when there is no response to text messages. A text message will be sent for student absences each day. It is imperative that **ALL** absences are explained by **replying directly to each individual text via SMS** or either by providing a note or calling the school directly. If your phone number does change, please inform the school to ensure you are receiving attendance information for your child.

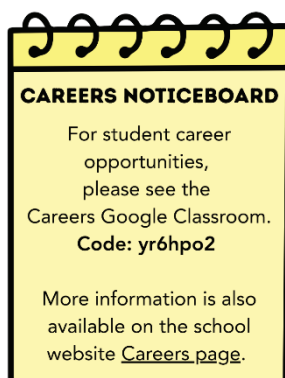
Parents can contact Mr Galbraith, Head Teacher Administration for any further information.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)

Every year, all schools in Australia participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). The NCCD process requires schools to identify information already available in the school about supports provided to students with disability. These relate to legislative requirements under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the Disability Standards for Education 2005, in line with the *NCCD guidelines* (2019).

The NCCD will have no direct impact on your child and your child will not be involved in any testing process.

Please refer to the document at the end of the Newsletter for more information.



Please note that the **Uniform Shop** opening hours for weeks 1 and 2 of Term 3 are **Fridays only** from 8.00am to 11.00am. Please check the [school website](#) for up to date information about opening hours, and [online ordering information](#).

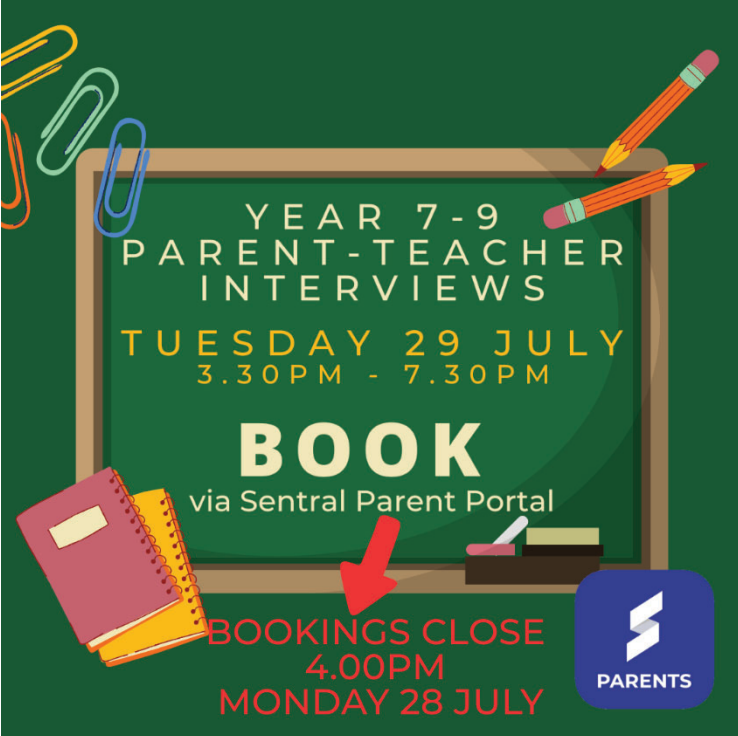


**WINMALEE
HIGH SCHOOL
UNIFORM SHOP**
**TERM 3, WEEK 1 & WEEK 2
TRADING HOURS**

The Uniform Shop will be ONLY be open the following days during Week 1 and Week 2 of Term 3.

FRIDAY 25TH JULY 2025 – 8AM – 11AM
FRIDAY 1ST AUGUST 2025 – 8AM – 11AM

See below link for ONLINE ordering
<https://www.daylightschoolwear.au/winmalee>



**YEAR 7-9
PARENT-TEACHER
INTERVIEWS**
TUESDAY 29 JULY
3.30PM - 7.30PM

BOOK
via Sentral Parent Portal

**BOOKINGS CLOSE
4.00PM
MONDAY 28 JULY**

PARENTS

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

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 close next Monday 28 July at 4:00pm.

WHS Alumni Spotlight: Jackson Fitzgerald (Class of 2023)

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 Jackson Fitzgerald shares his reflections on his time at Winmalee High and where life has taken him since.

Check out Jackson'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



WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE GRADUATING FROM WHS?

It hasn't been too long since we were marching the halls of Winmalee High. Though since we wrapped up our six years of schooling. You may have seen that I was lucky enough to perform at the Opera House for ENCORE last year with a number of the Winmalee High CAPA Team, as well as OnSTAGE alongside other '23 Winmalee alumni Reggie, Ryan & Max. Professionally I'm lucky enough to be pursuing one of my passions in photography and video media being Head of Digital Content with Athletics New South Wales. This has now also given me the chance to open my own video and media business to help other businesses/sports teams/groups in the local area. On top of being able to pursue my creativity for work I've also been able to stay local and be a part of a few Blue Mountains Musical Society productions including Catch Me If You Can last year playing agent Branton and soon to be a part of their production of Sweet Charity in July.

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

It would be sacrilegious of me to not say the 3 school musicals I got to be a part of! particularly my first production (Little Shop of Horrors 2019) and my final production (Matilda 2023) but shoutout to Wizard of Oz! Both for completely opposite reasons. Little Shop was overall such a great chance at dipping my foot into the pond that would eventually become such a massive part of my life. And my final production, Matilda not only gave me the opportunity to perform at ENCORE in 2024 but had such a close team that by the end of production became a family! It was also a privilege to watch, and mentor the incredible younger talent that we had and still have at the school and hopefully have made an impact into who they are as performers.

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

Being a part of the community and having the incredible teachers from music to drama to art even doing the seemingly bare minimum in business (Sorry Ms Redfern) and being given the opportunities that when we had, has influenced just about everything that I've been able to discover and explore within my creativity and my overall passion for life.

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

If you have any potential businesses or events you need some video/photo content or want to follow along my media adventures feel free to follow me @jfitzmedia on Insta or just my personal page on Facebook.

WHAT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WERE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCHOOL?

Shockily my extracurriculars were mostly being a part of the school's vocal group and vocal ensembles as well as in the early days the junior drama ensemble and more than likely any other extra things that involved a stage or a screen. Also sneakily was a part of the debating team in years seven and eight.

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES OUR SCHOOL SPECIAL?

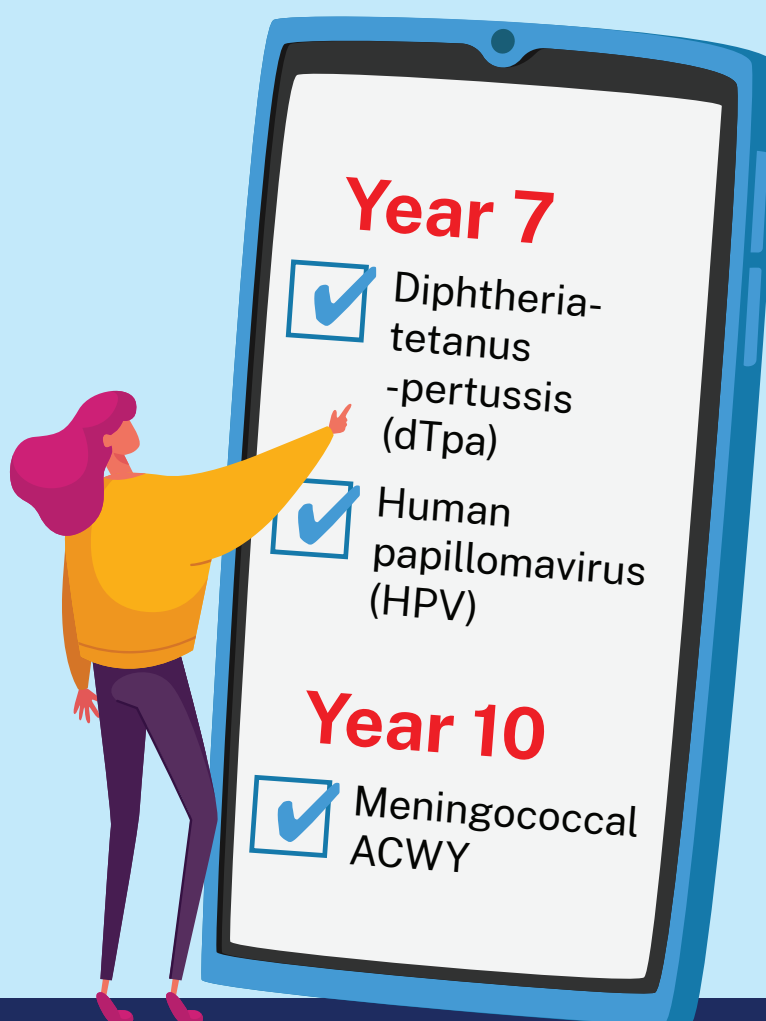
In my time at WHS I was lucky enough to be a part of many different events but beyond all the lights and more monumental moments Winmalee High is a place that whilst not perfect because no place is, is an environment where passions are nurtured and you can feel the genuine care and natural zest for life around every corner.



Is your child in year 7 or year 10?



**Provide your consent for routine
school vaccinations online**



**Scan the QR code to
give your consent now**



To provide online consent visit:
<https://engage.health.nsw.gov.au/engage>

For more information visit:
health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination

Re: Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)

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Information provided about students to the Australian Government for the NCCD includes:

- year of schooling
- category of disability: physical, cognitive, sensory or social/emotional
- level of adjustment provided: support provided within quality differentiated teaching practice, supplementary, substantial or extensive.

This information assists schools to:

- formally recognise the supports and adjustments provided to students with disability in schools
- consider how they can strengthen the support of students with disability in schools
- develop shared practices so that they can review their learning programs in order to improve educational outcomes for students with disability.

The NCCD provides state and federal governments with the information they need to plan more broadly for the support of students with disability.

The NCCD will have no direct impact on your child and your child will not be involved in any testing process. The school will provide data to the Australian Government in such a way that no individual student will be able to be identified – the privacy and confidentiality of all students is ensured. All information is protected by privacy laws that regulate the collection, storage and disclosure of personal information. To find out more about these matters, please refer to the [Australian Government's Privacy Policy](https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy) (<https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy>).

Further information about the NCCD can be found on the [NCCD Portal](https://www.nccd.edu.au) (<https://www.nccd.edu.au>).

If you have any questions about the NCCD, please contact the school.