



WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL

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Term 3 Week 3 Communication – Thursday 7 August 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Warami. Firstly, we wanted to say thank you for the fantastic attendance and engagement at the Junior Parent Teacher meetings last week.

Today, our **HSC Trial Examinations** commenced, and Year 12 sat their first English paper. We wish all students the best over the next two weeks. Students will only need to attend for their scheduled examinations. Wednesday 20 August is the final day of exams.

On Monday, we had two students perform at Sydney Town Hall for an event run by the Minister and Secretary of Education to celebrate public school excellence. Congratulations to **Joshua Chapman** (Year 10) who performed as part of the NSW Public Schools Boys State Ensemble; and **Kieran O'Brien** (Year 7) who performed as part of the NSW Public Schools Millennium Marching Band.

Incoming School Captains and School Prefects – Congratulations to our new leadership team! We have an exemplary team who will represent our school with energy and pride. We are pleased to announce:

School Captains - **Seda Amputch, Harry Summers, Rose Lau, Macauley Down.**

School Prefects: **Amelia Peake, Ruby Melville, Ava Seymour, and Charlotte Napper.**

Winmalee High School 2026 Leadership Team



Seda Amputch



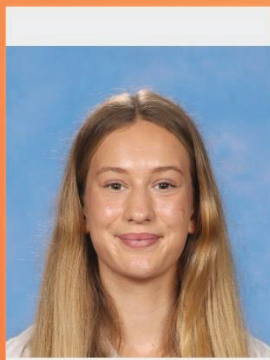
Harry Summers



Rose Lau



Macauley Down



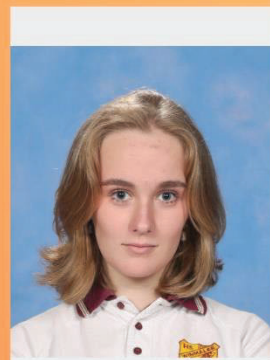
Amelia Peake



Ruby Melville



Ava Seymour



Charlotte Napper



Mentorship at Winmalee High inspires a lifelong connection to the community – in case you missed it, [here is a link](#) to the recent article featured in the Gazette. We are always proud to publicly share the success of our students and school. It is a celebration of Public Education, and what we achieve together as a school community.

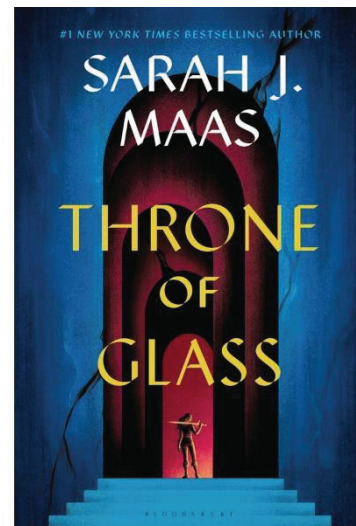
What are you reading?

Mrs Bailey in The Hub is reading.....

As an avid reader, I love picking up books to share through the local street libraries around Winmalee. While fantasy isn't usually my go-to genre, I kept seeing author Sarah J. Maas pop up on my social media feeds, often described as a must-read for fans of young adult fiction like *The Hunger Games*. Curiosity got the better of me — and so began my unexpected addiction.

Throne of Glass is the first instalment in a gripping seven-book series. It introduces us to Celaena Sardothien, a fiercely skilled assassin who, orphaned at a young age, was raised and trained in the deadly arts. At just eighteen, she is offered a chance at freedom by competing to become the King's personal assassin. As the story unfolds, readers are drawn into a world of political intrigue, mysterious rulers, and ancient secrets. At the heart of it all is Celaena's internal struggle — with her past, her identity, and her longing for something more than survival.

This book hooked me enough to continue with the series, and I now understand the hype. Whether you're a fantasy fan or just dipping your toe into the genre, *Throne of Glass* is a compelling and action-packed read worth exploring.



Oliver Cusack (Year 10) was invited to be part of the orchestra which recorded a new orchestral version of the national anthem to be played in all public schools. The orchestra was made up of students and teachers of public schools.

Ms Smith was leading the orchestra and tutoring the string section.

They went to Trackdown Studios in the Entertainment Quarter in Moore Park on Saturday morning to do the recording.



During their first practical lesson in the new Year 7 Mandatory Technology class, **Max K** and Ms Van Den Brink worked together to make a tasty smoothie.



Japanese visitors - Shutoken



On Monday and Tuesday, we hosted a Japanese tour group at school. Students **Ethan Fracaro, Rhys Hale, Callum Gibbons, Michael Broadhead (Year 8), Yuuka Hofmann, Eydie Peake, Lincoln McGown, Alannah Collins, Jack Sherriff (Year 9), Max Buchanan (Year 10) and Millie Lackey (Year 11)** did an amazing job as buddies for our guests.



Students participated in English lessons, sporting activities, quintessential Australian party games, they made ANZAC biscuits, patted snakes, and they even got to sit in a fire truck and have a go at the hose. Our guests had a brilliant time and they were wowed by our hospitality.

A special thank you must go to staff member, Yvette Davis, for her work in coordinating activities, hand making gifts and being our in-house photographer.





WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP

TERM 3 CHANGE TO TRADING HOURS

Week commencing Monday 4th August 2025
through to Friday 12th September 2025, the
uniform shop will **ONLY** be open the following
days each week

TUESDAY 8:00AM – 11:00AM

NORMAL TRADING hours will resume week
commencing Monday 15th September 2025

See below link for ONLINE ordering

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

Please note that the Uniform Shop
opening hours from this week are
Tuesdays only from 8.00am to 11.00am.
Please check the [school website](#) for up
to date information about opening
hours, and [online ordering information](#).

WHS Alumni Spotlight: Janne Birkner (Class of 2010)

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

Check out Janne'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

class of
10
Janne Birkner

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE GRADUATING FROM WHS?

After graduating at WHS I studied fine art at the National Art School then continued my artistic practice after graduating there. This lead me to following a career in mural painting and fine art making. I have now been professionally making art for nearly a decade and my time since WHS has been filled with a lot of travel and exploring the world as well as making art for exhibitions and painting murals in scattered places across Australia and the world.

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

Art class for me became my biggest interest and from here I came to feel a real sense of belonging within art making. My art teachers at the time were exceptionally helpful and gave me guidance to follow my passion and explore it further.

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

The best memories of all were being with friends everyday. I feel like I took this for granted and now looking back it was such a beautiful time being together and having good and bad days surrounded by your mates.

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

@krimsone

WHAT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WERE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCHOOL?

I was really into skateboarding at the time and anything out doors. But painting and drawing was something that took up most my time.

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES OUR SCHOOL SPECIAL?

The ability and opportunity to be myself during art class is what made WHS special for me and that came down to being accepted and supported by my teachers at the time. I really did appreciate that connection I made and i think it has a huge role in making your time special at school. The relationships you make with friends and teachers are exceptionally important but I also believe that your own mindset is what will make the experience special and going through school trying to make the most out of what you can makes it worthwhile.

