



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 4 Communication – Thursday 14 August 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Warami. HSC Trial Examinations are in full swing, and we would like to congratulate Year 12 on their effort so far. It is not an easy task to complete a 3-hour written exam, and we are proud of their work so far.

Primary School Carnival Helpers – Congratulations to the Year 9 students who attended the four local Primary School Carnivals, and the Winmalee Cup as volunteer student helpers. Their conduct and leadership were exemplary. Eva, Marley and Iris have written a wonderful summary, which is included in the following pages.

Year 10 Leadership Week - We welcomed back Year 10 students to school this week after a successful leadership week. Some students completed work experience, others participated in the school-based program, whilst the majority of the year group went to the Ski Camp. The feedback from all supervising staff was that



wherever our students were, they were brilliant. Our Year 10 students have demonstrated strong leadership, and they continue to go from strength to strength. They have been an absolute pleasure.

A thank you to all staff who led the different programs for Year 10, with a special shout out to Mr Meyers for his organisation of the ski camp.



Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Service - On Sunday, School Captains Oscar Stone and Harrison Stevens attended the Springwood Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Service with Ms Facas. We appreciated Oscar and Harrison's presence, particularly as they are amid their Trial HSC Exams. It was a wonderful service well attended by the community, and we were grateful to be a part of it.

Kansai Japanese Study Tour – Today we hosted another group of Japanese students. Our student buddies once again showed great leadership and hospitality to our special guests. It has been a terrific opportunity, and we look forward to hosting more study tours in the future. The feedback from visiting staff was that Winmalee is amazing!

Thank you to our student buddies, **Ethan Fracaro, Rhys Hale, Callum Gibbons, Michael Broadhead, Esme Brennan (Year 8), Yuuka Hofmann, Eydie Peake, Lincoln McGown, Alannah Collins, Jack Sherriff (Year 9), Max Buchanan, Luke Minard, Oliver Musgrave (Year 10) and Millie Lackey (Year 11).**

What are you reading?

Ms Facas is reading.....

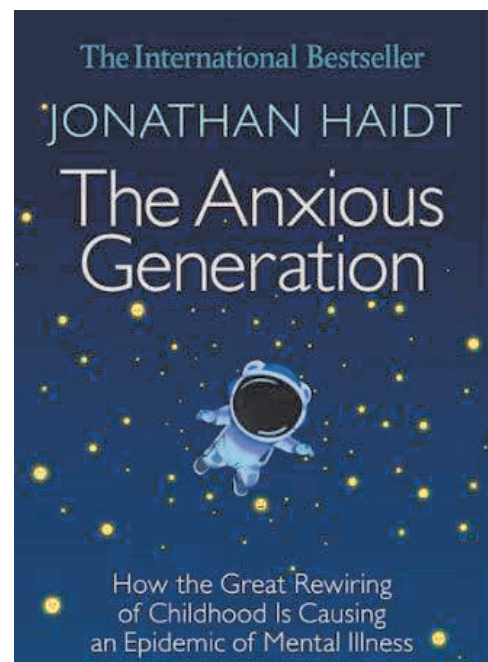
This is a well-structured, engaging read that uses data to make the connection between the rise in the use of smart phones and the decline in adolescent mental health.

I really appreciated the exploration of the different impacts that mobile phones and social media have on males and females as they are developing.

Haidt makes some compelling arguments, and he shares current research to show the fundamental ways in which a phone-based childhood can impact sleep, relationships and cause focus and addiction issues. This read made me really value the mobile phone ban even more. He also shares solutions to promote independence and responsibility in the real world.

At the time of the book's release, I also listened to an interview with the author on Radio National's [Conversations](#). It was around the time that the State Government had announced the ban of social media for young people under the age of 16. Haidt highly praised our government's bold move on this.

If you don't get the opportunity to read the book but you are interested in this topic, the [interview](#) is a great introduction.



Year 10 and Year 7 Catch Up Vaccinations Week 6

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

 **Vaccines:** Meningococcal ACWY

Year 7 students who were away during their vaccination clinic in Term 2 will also receive their catch-up vaccinations on the 29th August 2025.

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> or contact the school.



PRIMARY SCHOOL CARNIVAL HELPERS

Winmalee High is grateful for the outstanding behaviour of our Year 9 students who, independently (no WHS teacher monitoring their behaviour), assisted at the Winmalee Cup and Winmalee Public, Ellison Public and Springwood Public School Athletics Carnivals. Some students visited their former primary schools, some volunteered at new ones and multiple students attended multiple days.

Student Report written by Eva Melville, Marley Chevor and Iris Hirst

Students in Yr 9 had the opportunity to attend the 4 local primary school carnivals. Springwood, Ellison, Winmalee, and Winmalee Cup. At the three athletics carnivals, we helped set up and pack up equipment for events at the start and end of the day, and helped aid teachers in running all events with age groups from 6-12. At Springwood Marley helped Mr Thompson in discus, measuring the throws and retrieving the discuses. At Ellison, she and Iris timed races and helped hand out placement cards with Mrs Tailford. Eva spent the day at Springwood with Mr Cross, recording the length of shotput throws, and spent the day at Winmalee timing races with Mr Cook. At Winmalee Cup, Eva spent the day reffing Newcombe ball, and Iris reffed soccer. There were also WHS who students assisted at Netball. This was a great experience for us to see old friends and teachers from primary school, as well as being great experience for the coaching assessment we do in Yr 10 next year. This was a super fun experience, a day out in the sun with friends and helping teachers.



SPS Carnival Organiser/Teacher, Mr Toohey:

"The Year 9 students were amazing!!! Can't speak highly enough. Thanks so much!"

EPS Carnival Organiser/Teacher, Mrs Tailford:

"Just wanted to thank you once again for providing such fantastic helpers for our recent Ellison School Athletics Carnival. They were polite, helpful and very responsible- representing their school so well."

WPS Teacher, Mrs Holdsworth:

"on behalf of Fiona Peters... So far the year 9 students have been fabulous in helping set up. There are 3 extra to the list, for which we are grateful."



Wanderers Cup Success

On Wednesday 13th August, Winmalee High School entered both a Year 9/10 Boys and a Year 9/10 Girls team in the Western Sydney Wanderers 5-a-Side Schools Cup competition. The teams travelled to Wanderers Park to compete against a range of schools from Sydney's west.

It took both teams a couple of games to adjust to the fast-paced five-a-side format, but once they found their rhythm, structure, and strategy, they secured some great wins in the round games. The Girls team excelled, finishing in the top two of their pool and earning a spot in the grand final.

Facing a team they had lost to earlier in the day, the girls showed determination and teamwork, fighting hard to claim a 3-2 victory in a thrilling grand final. This outstanding effort means they now progress to the next round of the competition.

Congratulations to all players on a fantastic day of football, and a special thank you to our Year 11 students, **Will Ford** and **Zach Siddiqi** for their training and coaching of the Boys team throughout the event.





WHS Alumni Spotlight: Clancy Henderson (Class of 2012)

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 **Clancy Henderson** shares his reflections on his time at Winmalee High and where life has taken him since.

Check out Clancy'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



walk + sip

Free Hot Drink + Hour Walk

**Weekly from Monday 28 July,
meet at 5 pm in Springwood**

adults up to 25

 **headspace** 

Register for meet point

P 1800 478 626 • Jo 0432 833 348
headspacekatoomba@uniting.org

Reuben @ MYST - 0435 898 569
reuben.elstub@myst.com.au

WHS ALUMNI Q&A



**Clancy
Henderson**

class of
'12

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE GRADUATING FROM WHS?

I've worked with Thales Australia at Lithgow Small Arms as a Test and Evaluation Engineer, with NSW Rural Fire Service as a Fire Behaviour Analyst, Engineer and Manager, and with National Parks as a Field Officer and Project officer, focussing on fire and emergency. I'm still playing rugby at BMRU and living at Valley Heights with my wife Georgia (also Alumni) and our brand new daughter Adelaide.

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

Ski Trip, Water Polo, trips to Fiji. WHS offered so much more than any other high school at the time. I can't pinpoint exact memories, but I can say my whole time, but especially as a senior at WHS is the time I look back on most fondly as a teenager.

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

WHS allowed me to develop academically, but also challenge to build non-school skills. Getting to play Rugby and Water Polo and be part of Duke of Ed definitely developed my interest in land management and small team management.

WHAT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WERE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCHOOL?

Rugby, Water Polo, Duke of Ed.

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES OUR SCHOOL SPECIAL?

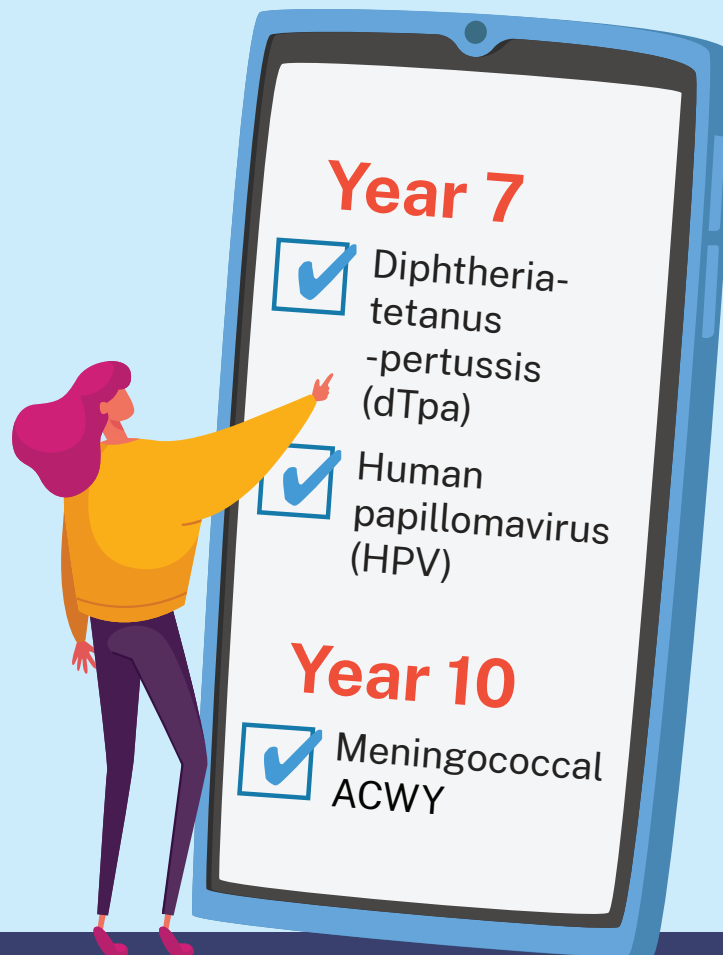
It's a massive community with dedicated teachers who want to see a difference in their students and the broader community.



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

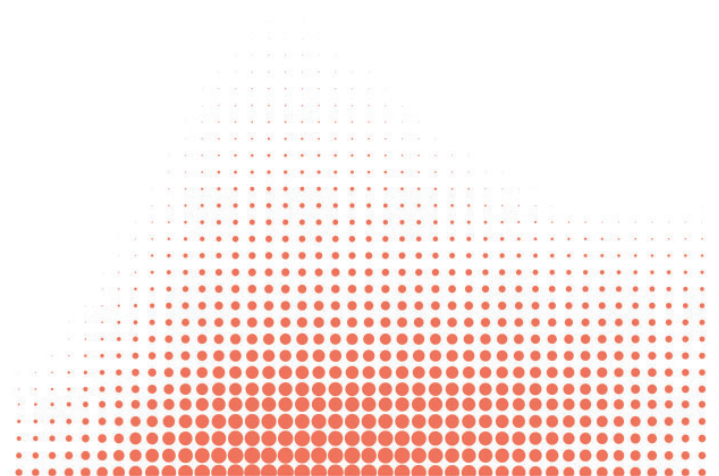


Free webinars for Parents & Carers

What is the Teen Mental Health Matters Webinar about?

Parents and carers play a pivotal role in recognising the wellbeing of their teen, yet many struggle to understand how they can support their young person with their mental health.

Co-designed with parents and co-delivered by a clinical psychologist facilitator and youth lived experience advisor, our parent presentation is an opportunity for high-school parents and carers to learn more about adolescent mental health and how to best support and connect with their young person during tough times.



Who is this for?

Parents, Carers, and Guardians of teen-aged youth.

What will parents learn?

- Understanding mental health in adolescence, including insights from the Future Proofing Study
- What is mental health and when to be concerned
- Key strategies to support adolescents
- Having the conversation – what to say and how to create a supportive environment
- Getting help – health professionals, online and digital support for parents and adolescents
- Promoting healthy habits – including building connections, sleep, and screen use



How long is the webinar?

90 minutes, including Q&A.

Available dates

Wednesday 27th August @ 7PM (AEST)

[Register here](#)

Thursday 11th September @ 7PM (AEST)

[Register here](#)

Thursday 9th October @ 7PM (AEDT)

[Register here](#)

Monday 20th October @ 7PM (AEDT)

[Register here](#)

Thursday 30th October @ 7PM (AEDT)

[Register here](#)

Wednesday 12th November @ 7PM (AEDT)

[Register here](#)

Thursday 27th November @ 7PM (AEDT)

[Register here](#)

Wednesday 10th December @ 7PM (AEDT)

[Register here](#)



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK AT MYST?

Term 3

Week 4

Walk and Sip - Monday 11th August-
5pm-6pm 18-25 yr olds
Meet at Springwood Youth Centre

Come along and enjoy a warm drink and easy walk whilst connecting with other young people...flyer attached.

Paint and Bopa Drop-In (18-24 yrs old) Springwood
Youth Centre, Friday 8th August, 3pm-6pm
Come along and have some fun
Gear up for Wear It Purple Day paint flags and sip tea

Mentoring

This week will provide mentoring across the following local schools:

Winmalee High, Springwood High, Blaxland High
Katoomba High & Korowal.

Rage, Monday 11th August
Springwood High School

Outdoor Explore

Tues 12th & Thurs 14th August, Springwood High

This week Outdoor Explore will be jumping ship to canoeing! Canoeing provides participants opportunities to learn new skills, such as conflict resolution when boat keeps doing circles. The test will be to keep calm, co-ordinate, communicate effectively to paddle straight!

Drop-In - Springwood

Thurs 14th August, 3.00 - 6.00pm

This week join us for stir fried noodles and construction of an achievements wall

Hope to see you there!

Teen Mental Health First Aid

Tuesday 11th August
Wed 12th August
Katoomba High School -

Drop-In - Katoomba

Fri 15th Aug 3.00pm- 6.00pm

This week join us for stir fried noodles and construction of an achievements wall

Look forward to seeing you all there.

Upcoming Events

ROCKtober - Save the date
Sat 11th October
6pm-9pm
Tibbi Whalan Hall - 81-83 Katoomba Street, KATOOMBA

Free fun music event for over 18-24 yr olds featuring local young rock bands
More information to come

Wellbeing Expo
Blaxland High School
Thursday 11th September
9.20am - 1.20pm

The MYST Youth Work Team will be attending and have an information stand

Queer and Trans Youth Drop-In (12-17yrs old)
Tuesday 19th August, 3pm-6pm
Katoomba Youth Centre
(fortnightly)

JOIN NOW



Australian
Air League

NSW Group

NSW GROUP IS NOW ENROLLING



Since 1934 the Australian Air League has been teaching young boys and girls nationwide all about aviation, while helping them develop important life skills like leadership, discipline, self confidence and teamwork. When you join the league you will make new friends and take part in fun and exciting activities, on the ground and in the air.

Each week you will attend your local squadron where you will learn valuable skills and take part in fun and interesting activities and classes. Some of our classes include Meteorology, Navigation, Photography and Community Service. Squadrons also attend training camps, sport and recreational days, flying experiences and ceremonial drill.

We welcome boys and girls from the age of 8 years old from all different cultures and backgrounds. Parents and families are welcome to support or even join their local squadron as a volunteer. All adult members and volunteers are Working with Children Checked.

The Australian Air League is running both a fun and educational programme that is making fine citizens out of our young Australians.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE AUSTRALIAN AIR
LEAGUE AND YOUR CLOSEST SQUADRON
PLEASE CONTACT**

Email: development.nsw@airleague.com.au

www.airleague.com.au

