



## WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL

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[winmalee-h.schools.nsw.gov.au](http://winmalee-h.schools.nsw.gov.au) f Winmalee High School - Official

### Term 4 Week 7 Communication – Thursday 27 November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Warami.

Welcome to the latest weekly communication from Winmalee High School. We proudly celebrate the remarkable achievements of our students, from Hannah Gianatti's national cycling award and our talented musicians performing at Schools Spectacular, to students representing Australia at the Deaflympics and outstanding artistic accomplishments with ARTEXPRESS and regional exhibitions.

Our SRC students and school community have also demonstrated inspiring leadership and generosity through fundraising and charitable initiatives like Project Elf. Plus, congratulations to our sporting teams for their impressive victories. Dive in to explore these stories and more, including important information for Year 10 families and an illuminating alumni spotlight.

From 10 December 2025, age-restricted social media platforms will have to take reasonable steps to prevent Australians under the age of 16 from creating or keeping an account.

Here is a good source of factual information about the changes- <https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/industry-regulation/social-media-age-restrictions-hub> . From an educator's apolitical perspective these changes will be unsettling for many young people.

When the school phone ban was implemented, we observed many students were lost in the playground without their phone. Handball made a resurgence as student adjusted, and the ban has been a great benefit for focus in class and social interaction in the playground. Initially these changes will be difficult for children who have had access to social media.

The benefits will not be immediate but like the school phone ban should have benefits longer term. Good luck as a parent navigating this change.



The success of the Class of 2025 continues to roll through, as we congratulate **Hannah Gianatti** on being awarded AusCycling's Junior Road Female Athlete of the year.

A well-deserved achievement that follows her 19th and 26th at the UCI Worlds.

We are very proud of the success of Year 12, showcasing the strength of a comprehensive public school.



## Positive Behaviour for Learning – Finishing the Year Strong

This week, students handed in an impressive **215 Goldies**, demonstrating their commitment to finishing the year strong! Goldies are awarded by staff to students who consistently demonstrate our school's PBL values of **Respect, Responsibility, and Resilience**. Throughout the term, we have continued to recognise students who are always compliant, contribute positively to the school environment, and show a strong commitment to learning - especially as we head toward the end of the year.

Students submit their Goldies each week to go into a draw for a **canteen voucher**, and all Goldies are also tallied for end-of-term prizes. Students who accumulate the highest totals will receive special rewards for their ongoing positive behaviour. Congratulations to **Tessa Allen-Schaaf (Year 11)** and **Elle Lyons (Year 8)** for winning the Goldie Draw this week. The Fit Check uniform award went to **Nicholas Koulouris (Year 9)**.

Well done to all students on an excellent week—let's continue to finish the year strong!



### Attention parents and carers of current Year 10 students:

The textbook list for Year 11 2026 courses has been uploaded to the Sentral Parent Portal and [school website](#). If a course does not appear on the list, no textbooks are required as alternative resources will be provided.

Orders should be placed through The Turning Page Bookshop in Springwood. Full payment is required at the time of ordering.

To ensure textbooks are available for the start of Term 1 2026, **please submit your orders by 11 January 2026**. Please note that orders placed after this date will incur a late fee.

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



## Bake Sale success!

Congratulations to our Year 7 and 8 SRC members who ran a successful bake sale last week, raising funds for our Christmas charity, DV West. It was wonderful to see such impressive teamwork from our young leaders, who took responsibility for planning, preparing, and running the event themselves. Thank you to everyone who supported their efforts!



**Kieran O'Brien Year 7** performed a piece "Runaway Baby" on sousaphone at assembly this week supported by other Winmalee HS musicians.

He will be performing at Schools Spectacular this weekend as part of the Millennium Marching Band. We wish all our performers, musicians and dancers at Schools Spectacular this weekend the best of luck.







Congratulations to **Hamish (Year 11) and Angus (Year 9) Weir** who are representing Australia in soccer at the Deaflympics in Japan!

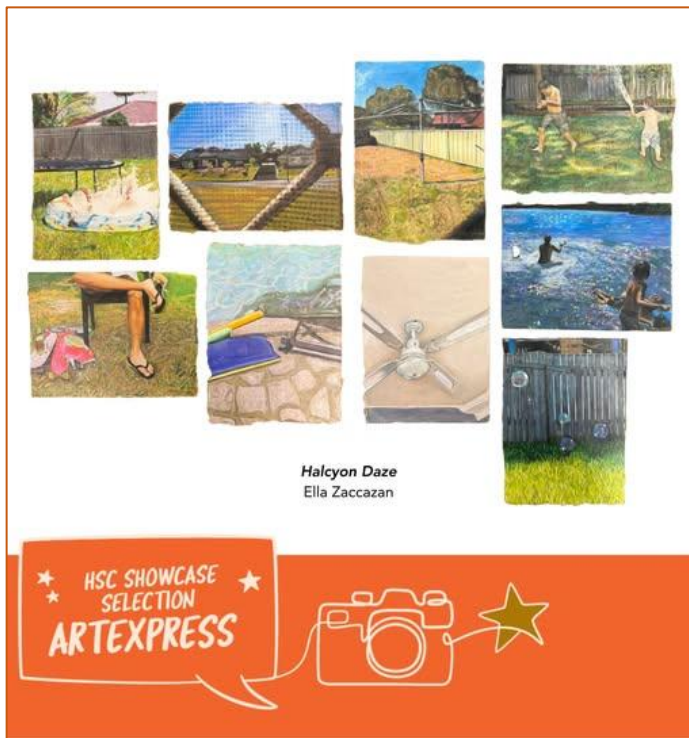


Congratulations to **Aurora Edwards of Year 10**, who was presented with the Zonta Club of the Blue Mountains "Vision of the Future" Award.

Aurora is an outstanding student and an active member of both the Student Representative Committee and the Blue Mountains Youth Council.

Thank you to the Zonta Club of the Blue Mountains for recognising her achievements and for your continued support of young women and their education in our community.





We are thrilled to share that **Ella Zaccazan's** drawings 'Halcyon Daze' have been selected for ARTEXPRESS 2026 - the prestigious showcase of outstanding HSC Visual Arts works.

Ella's work will be exhibited at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in early 2026, before moving to the Hawkesbury Regional Art Gallery later in the year.

Congratulations, Ella, on this incredible achievement!

### Storm Safety at Winmalee High



On Wednesday, just as lunchtime began, a fast-moving storm swept through the area, bringing intense lightning and the threat of hail. In response, staff promptly directed all students off the playground and indoors to ensure their safety. As always, Winmalee High students showed excellent cooperation, quickly and calmly following instructions without any fuss.

### Congratulations to Trinity Bunter

This week at assembly, we proudly recognised **Trinity Bunter (Year 7)** for her courageous actions in a real-life emergency. Trinity was awarded by the NSW Ambulance Service for her quick thinking and bravery in administering CPR to a family member in need, with guidance from the Triple Zero (000) emergency call service.

Following the presentation, NSW Ambulance representatives stayed on campus to provide basic CPR training to interested students, encouraging our community to be prepared to save lives.

They also introduced the GoodSAM app, a lifesaving tool that alerts CPR-trained individuals nearby to emergencies involving cardiac arrest. If you have CPR training, you can [register with NSW ambulance](#) and be ready to help while ambulance services are en route.





The staff and students of Winmalee High School have come together once again to give generously this Christmas through our new initiative, **Project Elf**. Led by our Year 9 SRC representatives, our school community has been busy preparing boxes and bags of gifts to donate to **DV West**.

DV West provides supported crisis accommodation, transitional housing, and outreach services for women and children across the Nepean, Blue Mountains, and Blacktown/Hills districts.

Gifts are arriving daily, and our Christmas collection is growing beautifully.

Thank you to our SRC and the entire Winmalee High community for your generosity—we can't wait to hand these gifts over to DV West and help brighten someone's Christmas.



Congratulations to the U14 Boys Rugby League who defeated Springwood 36-6 last Thursday.

The boys put together a classy and composed against a vocal Springwood home crowd.

Talent, humility and maturity was shown across the park, showcasing positive signs for the future as this group sticks together.

Thank you to Tristan and Lochie for being trainers and Beau Jackson for refereeing again.



## Year 7 Rock and Water Program

In the past week, our Year 7 students participated in the **Rock and Water** program. This program is part of **Positive Education at Winmalee High School**, which focuses on supporting the emotional wellbeing of students and strengthening their ability to function well both at school and in life more broadly.

Rock and Water empowers students by teaching practical strategies to regulate emotions, communicate effectively, and respond confidently to challenges. It helps students build **self-confidence, self-control, and assertiveness**. Based on ancient martial arts philosophy, the program teaches students to recognise and maintain strong personal boundaries with respect (*Rock*), while also understanding when it is beneficial to be more flexible and adaptive to their environment (*Water*). Through a series of physical activities, reflections, and teamwork, students develop valuable skills that support resilience and positive relationships.

Year 7 engaged enthusiastically, and we look forward to seeing them apply these skills in their daily school life.



## Library News

With the busy assessment period now behind our junior students, many have been enjoying the chance to relax with new games and books in the Library during break times.

It has been wonderful to see students engaging positively, connecting with friends, and exploring new interests. We are also excited to announce that next week we will be hosting our **inaugural Winmalee High School Chess Competition**. Students are already signing up, and we look forward to a fun and friendly event that encourages strategic thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork.

Stay tuned for updates and results in the coming weeks!





Nepean Creative & Performing Arts High School extended an invitation to our students to submit artworks for consideration in this year's **Festival of Arts and Design**. Traditionally, the exhibition has showcased work from students, educators, and artists within the Penrith LGA; however, this year the opportunity was broadened to include the Blue Mountains and surrounding regions.

We warmly welcomed this chance for our students to share their creativity beyond the school community. Providing young artists with a platform to express their ideas, talents, and perspectives allows them to experience the power of having their work seen and valued by a wider audience. It also encourages them to recognise the significance of creativity in shaping community culture. It reinforces an important life lesson, one that transcends classroom learning and helps shape them as thoughtful, creative contributors to their community.

13 students from Years 10 and 11 had their artworks selected for exhibition alongside peers from other schools and professional artists. A highlight of the event was watching parents admire their young person's work on display and share in the celebration of their success. It was a real bonus that Gemma Yarwood's hyper-real pencil drawing of a fuggler, titled *Wide Eyed Weirdo*, was selected for the Sharz Art Design Scholarship Award, an incredible achievement and a proud moment for our school.

We are truly grateful for the hard work and coordination of Prudence Rowston and her team, whose dedication makes opportunities like this possible for our young artists. We hope this marks the beginning of a long-standing partnership with Nepean CAPA's Festival of Arts and Design, as we remain committed to celebrating and supporting young artists within our local region.

Candice Roots







Here are some comments from some of the students who participated:

**Rose Lau (Year 11):** *"Being selected for an art exhibition was exciting as even though the art I create is either a task or influenced by another artist's style. It's exciting to know that there is a possibility that my art could be taken further in the future, even considered a career. I guess the exhibition is just an eye opener to the idea my art is worth being acknowledged and looked at by the world".*

**Caitlin McHardy (Year 10):** *"My work, "Colourful Chaos", was featured in the 2025 Nepean Festival of Arts and Design. I was encouraged to enter my original artwork in the festival, which was held at Nepean CAPA, surrounded by other high-quality works. During the opening night, I looked around the hall, which was filled with artworks created by all different ages; all were very inspiring works. I loved seeing my work hung with works of vastly different mediums, and yet they all stood out and told their own stories in different ways. The feeling of walking into a display of artworks, knowing yours is included, is unmatched, a feeling that cannot be described. I met Susan Templeman (our local MP and Special Envoy for the Arts), where she took a look at my artwork (and a selfie), as we discussed the amazing artworks surrounding us. Overall, I feel very grateful that my artwork was selected for display at the festival, and I'm excited to see where this inspiration takes my art."*

**Gemma Yarwood (Year 11):** *"Being selected and receiving an award was such an amazing opportunity that gave me the chance to express my art in a broader environment. I am incredibly grateful for the scholarship and look forward to further artmaking in the future".*



#### **WHS Alumni Spotlight: Adam Barrington (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.

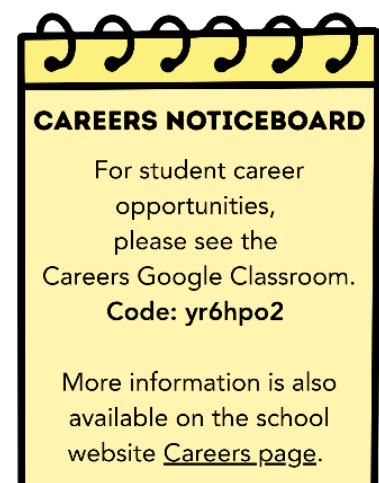
This week **Adam Barrington** shares his reflections on his time at Winmalee High and where life has taken him since.

Check out Adam'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  
**Adam Barrington 10**

## WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE GRADUATING FROM WHS?

Living in the UK and USA. I am now working as a TAS Head Teacher at Pendle Hill High School.

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

I don't, but attached is a photo of me with my son with me in my classroom during school holidays when students come in to work on their HSC major works.

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

It was Mr Honeysett who said to me in Year 10 that becoming an Industrial Arts teacher was a great career path, he wasn't wrong. Special mention to Mr Anslow, Smith and Mendham, without them I wouldn't have ever played Rugby Union.

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

I miss ski racing and dedicated teachers, but I miss school rugby the most, I have never since got more enjoyment playing sport than playing with my mates for the Winmalee Wolves.

## WHAT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WERE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCHOOL?

School Rugby, Water Polo, Ski Racing, Futsal, and helping out with Artfest, to name a few.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES OUR SCHOOL SPECIAL?

Dedicated staff and a huge variety of extracurriculars without detracting from academic excellence. I know, as a teacher, how lucky I was to attend Winmalee.





# DECEMBER 2025 TRADING HOURS

**OPEN HOURS FOR THE UNIFORM SHOP IN DECEMBER 2025**

**LAST TRADING DAY TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>NOV 30</b> CLOSED	<b>1</b> CLOSED	<b>2</b> YEAR 7 ORIENTATION DAY EXTENDED TRADING HOURS 8:00AM - 12:00PM	<b>3</b> CLOSED	<b>4</b> CLOSED	<b>5</b> NORMAL TRADING HOURS 8:00AM - 11:00AM	<b>6</b> CLOSED
<b>7</b> CLOSED	<b>8</b> CLOSED	<b>9</b> NORMAL TRADING HOURS 8:00AM - 11:00AM	<b>10</b> CLOSED	<b>11</b> CLOSED	<b>12</b> NORMAL TRADING HOURS 8:00AM - 11:00AM	<b>13</b> CLOSED
<b>14</b> CLOSED	<b>15</b> CLOSED	<b>16</b> NORMAL TRADING HOURS 8:00AM - 11:00AM LAST TRADING DAY	<b>17</b> CLOSED	<b>18</b> CLOSED	<b>19</b> CLOSED LAST DAY OF SCHOOL	<b>20</b> 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 Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026.

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



# JANUARY 2026 SCHOOL HOLIDAY TRADING HOURS

Open hours for the Uniform Shop in January 2026.

**ONLINE ORDERING AVAILABLE VIA THE BELOW LINK**

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS</b>  <b>APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE ONLINE – PRIORITY SERVICE</b>  <b>WALK INS WELCOME ALSO</b>  <a href="https://daylightschoolwear.au/winmalee/booking">https://daylightschoolwear.au/winmalee/booking</a></p>						
<p><b>25</b> CLOSED</p>	<p><b>26</b> HAPPY Australia DAY</p>	<p><b>27</b> SCHOOL HOLIDAY TRADING HOURS 8:00AM - 1:00PM</p>	<p><b>28</b> SCHOOL HOLIDAY TRADING HOURS 8:00AM - 1:00PM</p>	<p><b>29</b> SCHOOL HOLIDAY TRADING HOURS 8:00AM - 1:00PM</p>	<p><b>30</b> SCHOOL HOLIDAY TRADING HOURS 8:00AM - 1:00PM</p>	<p><b>31</b> CLOSED</p>
<p><b>FEB 1</b> CLOSED</p>	<p><b>2</b> EXTENDED TRADING HOURS 8:00AM - 1:00PM SCHOOL RETURNS</p>	<p><b>3</b> NORMAL TRADING HOURS 8:00AM - 11:00AM</p>	<p><b>4</b> CLOSED</p>	<p><b>5</b> CLOSED</p>	<p><b>6</b> NORMAL TRADING HOURS 8:00AM - 11:00AM</p>	<p><b>7</b> CLOSED</p>

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