



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 1 Week 5 Communication – Thursday 26 February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Warami. Thank you to our families that attended Year 6 Information Evening last night. It was a terrific turnout and our students as always, did a stellar job leading the event. Thank you to our guest speakers, Captains, Seda Amputch and Macauley Down and junior students, Mae Ballard, Clea Ballard, Georgia Walker, Zoe Jobson, Elata Silverstone-Clear and Lincoln McGown for their speeches and sharing their experiences of high school.

This week I had the pleasure of attending the **Art Express** excursion with Mrs Douglas and Year 11 and 12 students. It was exciting to see 2025 graduate, Ella Zaccazan's work on display at the Art Gallery of NSW! There was plenty of inspiration for students, particularly Year 12, as they are commencing their HSC Body of Works. Our students were an absolute pleasure to spend the day with.



On assembly, our Zone Swimming representatives were celebrated, and they received awards as age champions. Well done to all students. And a correction to a surname from last week's communication – Roxy Edwards was our 13 years age champion. Well done, Roxy!



Youth Parliament - Congratulations to Year 12 student, **Zoe Harris** for being offered a position in **The Y NSW Youth Parliament Program for 2026**. As our Blue Mountains Representative, Zoe will have the opportunity to present at NSW Parliament after attending a couple of preparation camps, one in Yarramundi for 2 nights, and another in Sydney for 5 nights. Alongside other students selected for this program, Zoe will be drafting a Bill to present. This is a wonderful opportunity, and an honour to be selected!

The Y NSW Youth Parliament is a transformative leadership and advocacy program that empowers young people to speak up, shape ideas, and influence solutions on issues that matter to them. Through immersive learning, debates, and collaborative decision-making, participants build confidence, strengthen their civic knowledge, and connect with like-minded young leaders from across the state. We can't wait to hear directly from Zoe about her experience in this program.

It is always appreciated when we hear positive feedback from the broader community about our students. I would like to acknowledge our **Boys' Grade Touch Football Team** for their outstanding leadership and strong sportsmanship. This team played recently against another school, and the coach said they were impressed by our boys in the team. They specifically mentioned how impressive our young men were on and off the field, treating others with respect. We are very proud!



The Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 **Semester 1 Assessment Calendars** have been uploaded to the Sentral Parent Portal and [school website](#).



It has been a busy month for **Elyse Walker (Year 8)** in terms of racing. Elyse raced in her first overseas event while in the Philippines and was the female 🏆 winner on the 5km at Juan Blue Run.

Earlier this month she raced for three days at Little Athletics NSW Regionals held at Blacktown International Sports Park and was happy to win all her events (800m, 1500m and 3000m). She is off to State Little Athletics NSW in March.

Last weekend, Elyse raced at Trail Run Australia, Lake Crackenback and was the overall winner on the 5km event. She also did a lot of volunteering work on other days at this event. She is very grateful for all the opportunities given to her.



The **PULSE Alive** dance team had a rehearsal last Thursday in preparation for their performances next term. We are excited to bring a large Year 7 cohort with us for the first time.

Parents and carers of our current Year 7 students are invited to a **Meet the Teacher evening on Tuesday 10 March from 5.30pm - 6.30pm.**

A complimentary sausage sizzle will be available from 5.00pm.



Winmalee High School

Meet the Teacher Evening for Year 7 Parents & Carers

★ We look forward to welcoming our Year 7 parents & carers to our 'Meet the Teacher' evening. Take the opportunity to put a 'face to a name', meet the Year 7 Adviser and chat with teachers about how your child is settling into high school.

TUESDAY, 10 MARCH 2026
5:30pm - 6:30pm

About this event:

- This event will take place in the Central Quad - located behind the school canteen.
- A copy of your child's timetable will be provided showing their subjects and teachers' names.
- A complimentary sausage sizzle will be provided from 5:00pm in the canteen area.
- Coffee/tea will also be available.

We look forward to seeing you on the night!
Please note: This is not a Parent/Teacher interview event.





Congratulations to our **Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball** and **Girls Touch** teams for Knockout Round 1 wins! Thanks to Mr Richmond, Mrs Dutton, Mr Joseph and SSO Rob Bradshaw for their work with these teams as they prepare for Round 2.



Boys Basketball, 60-17 vs Cambridge Park HS



Girls Basketball, 45-24 vs Jamison HS



Girls Touch, 16-1 vs Springwood HS

Winmalee High

Careers Bulletin



For the latest student career opportunities please check out our [Careers page](#) and read the latest Careers Bulletin.



SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

NEXT WEEK!

DAY OF PHOTOGRAPHY

FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2026

1. Place your order online before the day of photography - go to www.advancedlife.com.au.
2. The school code is available through the parent portal.
3. Payment can be made using *VISA, Mastercard or Paypal.*
4. Students are required to wear their full summer school uniform on the day.
5. If you are unable to order online, please complete an order envelope and hand it directly to photographers on the day of photography.

*If you have any queries concerning ordering, please contact **advancedlife** directly - www.advancedlife.com.au/contact*

advancedlife
school photography & print specialists

🎓 WHS Alumni Spotlight: Monica Van de Luecht (Class of 2015)

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 **Monica Van de Luecht** shares her reflections on her time at Winmalee High and where life has taken her since.

Check out Monica'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.



New Voices, New Futures

*Celebrating International Women's Day
with early-career research and
young women beginning their science journeys.*

**Rewilding the Microbiome:
A New Approach to Seahorse Conservation**
Mia Leach, USYD

**From Student to Stony Desert:
First Lessons in Kowari Conservation**
Nina J. Manning, ANU



8 MARCH @ 2:00 PM
Springwood Sports Club (Bowlo)
www.scienceatthelocal.org

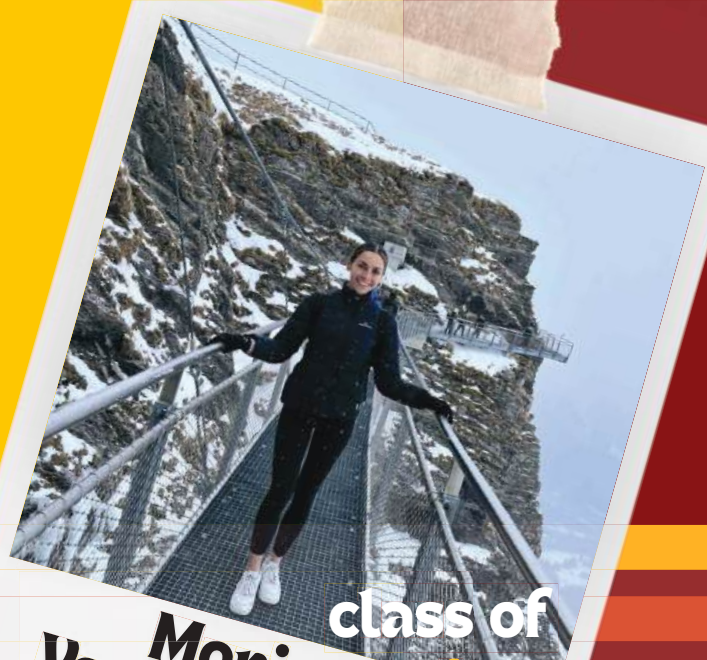


The next *Science at the Local* on **8 March** features **WHS Alumni!!**

Best wishes,

Winmalee High School

WHS ALUMNI Q&A



class of
**Monica
Van de Luecht** '15

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE GRADUATING FROM WHS?

Upon graduation I began my undergraduate studies in Diagnostic Radiography. It captured my interests in science and healthcare and I was really enjoying it, however halfway through I realised I wanted to know how to treat the diseases I imaged and so I applied to medicine. I finished my degree in radiography and went onto to study medicine. I graduated from medicine in 2023 and have been working in southeastern Sydney in a major tertiary and trauma centre for the last two years. I have also managed to squeeze in some international travelling and additional extracurricular activities including long distance swimming and competing in hybrid fitness races. Next year I will make the move to Melbourne to start my specialty training in diagnostic and interventional radiology!

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

Being a part of the WHS community made me feel so supported and believed in. If it wasn't for my teachers who encouraged me and helped me realise my potential I don't think I would have been brave enough to dream these dreams let alone attempt to achieve them!

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

Looking back my favourite memories involve my closest friends who have become like family to me and I have been lucky to witness their lives unfold and I couldn't be prouder of their achievements. I also thoroughly enjoyed the school musicals and athletic carnivals and the ski trips!

WHAT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WERE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCHOOL?

Debating, dance and school musicals.

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES OUR SCHOOL SPECIAL?

I think the community and the care and attention received by students by their teachers and administration staff.





Winmalee High School

Meet the Teacher Evening for Year 7 Parents & Carers

We look forward to welcoming our Year 7 parents & carers to our 'Meet the Teacher' evening.

Take the opportunity to put a 'face to a name', meet the Year 7 Adviser and chat with teachers about how your child is settling into high school.

TUESDAY, 10 MARCH 2026
5:30pm - 6:30pm

About this event:

- This event will take place in the Central Quad - located behind the school canteen.
- A copy of your child's timetable will be provided showing their subjects and teachers' names.
- A complimentary sausage sizzle will be provided from 5:00pm in the canteen area.
- Coffee/tea will also be available.



We look forward to seeing you on the night!
Please note: This is not a Parent/Teacher interview event.