



WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL

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Term 1 Week 9 Communication – Thursday 26 March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Warami. This week, students in **Year 7 and 11** received their **Interim Reports**, sharing information about how students have settled into their first term of high school, or senior school. If any students were absent, the reports can be collected from their Year Adviser and are also available on the Sentral Parent Portal.

NAPLAN tests have been finalised for Year 7 and 9, as well as Year 10 HSC Minimum Standards for Reading and Numeracy. Well done to all students, as we understand that these tests have been followed by other subject assessments in class. I would also like to acknowledge those students who completed multiple tests in a short period to catch up after being away on other school business, including Pulse Alive. Our students who are involved in high potential, gifted activities across many areas have shown impressive dedication to balancing assessments and their commitments beyond the classroom. Thank you to our families for all you do to support this.



Last Wednesday, School Leaders, **Rose Lau and Aya Seymour** attended the **NSW Parliament Secondary Leaders Program**. This program is a joint NSW Parliament and Government House civics and citizenship program for NSW Secondary school leaders. Rose and Ava had the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of our system of government, parliamentary proceedings and the role of members of parliament and the Governor of NSW. They were able to spend quality time with Blue Mountains MP, Trish Doyle and other students in our area.

Thank you to Rose and Ava for representing Winmalee High School.

At assembly this week, students were reminded about the use of **mobile phones at school** and the fact that we are operating under a NSW Government Mobile Phone Ban. There has been some student complacency around the use of mobile phones. Students at times have been using their phones where it is difficult to actively supervise. Students were reminded of the consequences. There have also been some instances of students bringing Nintendo Switches and the like to school. These devices should not be at school.

The **social media ban** for under 16s has been in place for a while now. We wanted to share a summary of data which is from the ySafe organisation, who have presented to our students in the past. Attached is an infographic outlining some data on what students have shared so far this year. Interestingly, 2 in 5 students said they *'are asking for stronger supervision and clearer boundaries from parents around being online. They want support that feels informed, not controlling'*. Growing up online can be complex and challenging, and young people continue to need guidance around navigating this. Please take the time to look at the ySafe data.

Next week, our final week of Term 1, we have a few events happening, including a **mufti day on Tuesday** and our **school Cross Country on Wednesday**. All students are encouraged to get involved and show school spirit. [A reminder for students to bring cash to purchase treats from the Year 10 Commerce stalls after they have completed the Cross Country.](#)



Endometriosis awareness Mufti Day

Next Tuesday 31 March, the SRC will be leading a whole school mufti day to raise awareness about endometriosis. Funds raised through a gold coin donation from students wearing mufti will go to Endometriosis Australia.



Endometriosis Australia advocates for people affected by endometriosis, a chronic condition impacting millions worldwide. They provide patient education, research funding, policy advocacy and support services.

Students are encouraged to wear some yellow as part of their mufti day outfit on the day.



Congratulations to **Yvette Davis – SLSO**, recipient of the Executive Director's Excellence Award for her work with Crochet Club, charity work, school photography and videography, communication with the *Blue Mountains Gazette* and the community, and for her work with the trips to Japan.

Yvette received the award at a special ceremony yesterday. We appreciate all of the extra work Yvette takes on above and beyond her role.



This week, **Shaun Maher (Year 10)** and **Sophie Parker (Year 11)** were selected to attend the *Metro Minds: Future of Transport Information Session*, run by Sydney Metro at the Bradfield project in Western Sydney.



This billion dollar development—set to become Australia's first new city in over a century—sits alongside the new Western Sydney International Airport and will deliver thousands of jobs and homes. During the session, students heard from industry professionals about the wide range of careers within the construction sector, before being given a rare behind-the-scenes tour of the Bradfield Metro Station currently under construction. This was a truly unique opportunity to step onto a major construction site and witness firsthand the early stages of a transformative project that will shape the future of our city.

Sydney West Swimming Championships

Last week we had six students attend the Sydney West Swimming Carnival. All swimmers had some great performances and we have a number of these students advancing to the Combined High School carnival early next term.

Darcy Teather (Year 7) and **Leo Zeballos (Year 9)** attended and swam well in their events.

Well done to our 14 boys relay team, **Henry Templeman (Year 9), Jonte Fairbairn, Christian Tailford, and Max Knight (Year 8)**, pictured below, who have advanced to the CHS carnival.

Henry Templeman has also made it through as an individual swimmer in the 200m freestyle.

We wish these students luck in their next carnival.



L to R Henry Templeman Year 9, Jonte Fairbairn, Christian Tailford, & Max Knight, Year 8

Congratulations to one of our star soccer players, **Annabella Sciberras (Year 11)**. Annabella represented the Open Girls Nepean Zone team - being awarded captaincy - at the Sydney West Gala Day on Tuesday. The team performed very well, finishing 3rd, and only losing to eventual champions Hills 1-0. Annabella has been selected in the combined Sydney West team at State in Term 2.

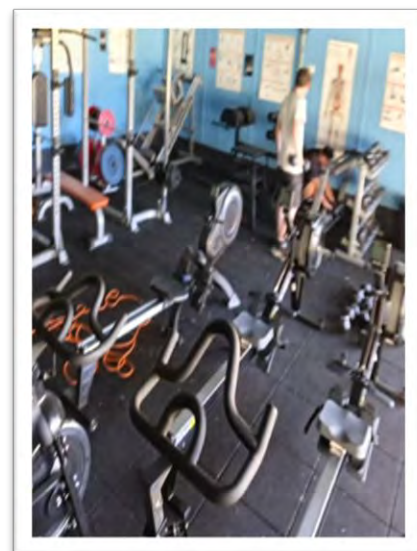




Congratulations to all Year 9 and Year 10 students on a strong Term 1 of **Wednesday Sport**. As per compulsory Department of Education regulations, schools must provide adequate hours of organised sport/physical activity for ALL students in Year 9 and Year 10, and Winmalee offers this with a large variety of choices for Grade Sport and Recreational Sport. Congratulations to Boys Touch (1st), Girls Touch (1st), Boys Volleyball (2nd), Girls Basketball (2nd) and Boys Basketball (3rd) teams who chose to select the Grade Sport Quad series against Penrith, Springwood and Nepean High. Pictured here are our Girls and Boys Touch teams.



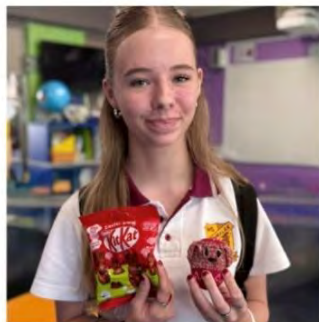
All Year 9 and Year 10 students who don't select a Grade Sport choose from Recreational Physical Activity/Sports at school, in the Winmalee community or at venues in Penrith. Behaviour and participation were good in Term 1. Pictured here are the WHS Gym and the Penrith Drummond Golf Simulator groups.



'Noodle' Easter Egg Hunt!

The Crochet Club made eight 'Noodle' Easter Eggs that were hidden around the school on Wednesday. All eight were found and the lucky winners also received chocolate easter eggs to take with them as well as the crocheted egg.

Congratulations to **Sophie K, Archie F, Hugo W, Aidan D, Georgia W, Lily F, Milla M and Brayden N.**



World's Greatest Shave – 30 April

Winmalee High School is once again taking part in the World's Greatest Shave – please support this worthy cause by donating! <https://www.worldsgreatestshave.com/fundraisers/WinmaleeHigh2026>



The graphic features the Leukaemia Foundation logo at the top left. The main text 'World's Greatest Shave' is written in large, bold, blue letters on a light green background. To the right, the words 'PLEASE DONATE!' are written in large, bold, yellow and green letters. Below the main text, the date '30 APRIL' is written in large, bold, red letters. A large QR code is positioned on the right side of the graphic.



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

🎓 WHS Alumni Spotlight: Alison McLaren (Class of 1998)

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 **Alison McLaren** shares her reflections on her time at Winmalee High and where life has taken her since.

Check out Alison'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

WE ASKED. THEY TOLD US.



In term 1 of 2026, almost 500 students shared what it's really like to grow up online today. Here's what we learned...



This is where young people live, learn, and connect.

Despite restrictions and bans, students are still deeply engaged online—across apps, games, and AI tools.

What they ❤️ about being online.

For most students, being online isn't about school—it's about connection, fun, and belonging.

56%

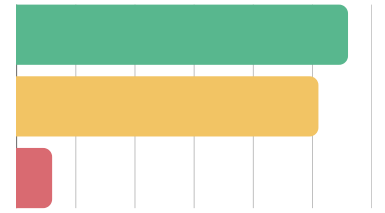
mention fun, entertainment, or gaming

51%

mention connecting with friends

6%

mention using the internet for learning



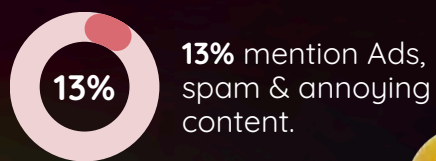
What they HATE about being online.

The same spaces they love... are also where they experience harm.

(~1 in 10) Strangers, scams & safety concerns

(~1 in 10) - Screen time & lack of control

(~1 in 13) - Inappropriate or unsafe content



Where they spend their time

Even in a restricted environment, students are still highly active across games, video platforms, and AI tools.

Platform	Primary	High School
Roblox	33.6%	3.8%
AI	22.3%	42.5%
TikTok	7.4%	26.3%
Snapchat	5.4%	20%
Instagram	2.4%	18.8%

What students WANT from adults

Students are not rejecting adults—they want better support.

2 in 5 students...

...are asking for stronger supervision and clearer boundaries from parents.

Support that feels informed, not controlling



If you'd like to bring a ySafe expert into your school to have these conversations, get in touch.

ysafe.com/contact



WHS ALUMNI Q&A



class of
Alison McLaren '98

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE GRADUATING FROM WHS?

I have now spent more than 20 years as a public servant in both the NSW and Australian Governments. I have been privileged to work across a diverse range of portfolios including Planning, Aboriginal Affairs, Housing, Women and Domestic Violence and currently I work in Veterans' Affairs. I also served 8.5 years as a Blue Mountains City Councillor from 2004-12.

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

I developed my love of English and History at WHS which led me to study Communications and International Relations at university.

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

I loved English with Mr Aldwinckle and Maths with Mr Hamilton.

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

www.dva.gov.au

WHAT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WERE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCHOOL?

I was part of the school debating team and I represented WHS at the Model United Nations Assembly.

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES OUR SCHOOL SPECIAL?

WHS supported students to pursue their passions whether creative, academic or sporting. The school supported students to be good, well rounded citizens.



Careers Bulletin

Term 1, Week 9, 23 March 2026

Opportunities:

Open Academy's Rising Stars at the Con

The Rising Stars Performance Platform is a unique opportunity for school aged students to showcase their musical prowess and practice their performance technique. These one-hour public concerts are presented weekly by the students during the semester and are held at 11am, 2pm, and 3pm in the auditoriums of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music each week. The concerts are open to the public and are free to attend.

More info [HERE](#).

Upcoming Dates:

- 21, 28 Mar
- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 May
- 13, 20 Jun

Your Rights at Work: Young Workers and Students

Starting work can be an exciting time. While every workplace is different, there are rights and responsibilities that apply to all employees. Follow the tips below to help prepare for a new job. Find out more [HERE](#).



Cyber Spotlight

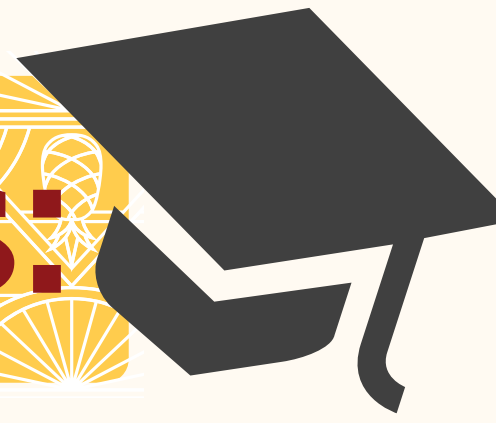
13 Jobs you didn't know existed!

Looking for something a little different when thinking about future careers? This article from Study Work Grow explores a range of unusual and lesser-known jobs that students might not have considered before. From niche roles to emerging industries, it's a great way to spark curiosity and expand students' thinking about the many pathways available beyond traditional careers. Find out more info [HERE](#).

UNSW Engineering Work Experience Programs

If you're in Year 10 and passionate about engineering, UNSW's hands-on work experience programs offer a unique opportunity to experience university life, connect with industry professionals, and explore where a future in engineering could take you.. Application for Chemical and Solar Engineering open 1 April. Find out more [HERE](#).

For Seniors:



Pathways to Become a Translator

Find out about the prerequisites of becoming a certified translator. These may help guide your university course selection. All professional NAATI credentials require you to complete formal training in translation or interpreting before applying to NAATI. There are different training requirements depending on the type of credential, from a diploma up to specialised master's degrees. You can read more about the requirements on each credential's webpage. Find out more [HERE](#)

Start a Career in Community Work

Build a career that facilitates the social inclusion, economic participation and the well-being of individuals, families, groups or communities. Community work is a profession that empowers and supports clients to achieve their goals. They work with people to get the services and support they need; whether it is housing, financial, mental health, disability, multicultural or family support services. This is where you begin your journey to find a job that aligns with your passion. Find out more [HERE](#)

Five Essential Steps Before You Apply for an Accountancy Job

Before you put finger to keyboard to fill in a job application for a grad position at an accountancy firm, it's an excellent idea to go through the following five steps. Preparation will make all the difference once you get to the starting line for your accounting graduate job search. Find out more [HERE](#)

International College of Management (ICMS) Early Entry

Do you want to secure a place at ICMS to study a bachelor's degree before you even sit your final High School Certificate (HSC) exams? If you answered yes, then Early Entry is for you! Find out more info about the degree and early entry process [HERE](#)

Sydney Design School Open Day

28 March

Step inside our world of design and get to know us. Explore our studios, check out amazing student work, meet the inspiring team, get creative making a mood board. Register below, we'd love to meet you. Find out more and register [HERE](#)

Aspire Institute: AI Group Apprentice and Trainee Centre

The Aspire Institute also currently offers Diploma programs which offers successful students a pathway to a bachelor degree at UTS, Macquarie, Western Sydney, UOW or ICMS. Aspire offers higher education undergraduate and postgraduate courses as stand-alone qualifications or, should you wish to further your studies, you could choose to use your qualification as a pathway into a bachelor or other program at the International College of Management, Sydney (ICMS) , or one of the distinguished Australian universities and colleges that Aspire has partnerships with. Find out more [HERE](#)

OUTDOOR EXPLORE

FREE

WHAT'S ON THIS SCHOOL HOLIDAYS?

9th April: **CAMPFIRE SKILLS**: 10am to 4pm

10th April: ***ROCKCLIMBING**: 10am to 4pm

New to Outdoor Explore? we encourage coming to Campfire skills first.



Register
now



<https://programs.myst.com.au/register/>

Ages
13 to 17

*activity will be changed if wet weather
Activities leave from Katoomba. Can't get there?
Contact us for transport from Springwood



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