



WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL

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winmalee-h.schools.nsw.gov.au  Winmalee High School - Official

Term 2 Week 4 Communication – Thursday 14 May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Warami. There has been a lot happening, with students thriving in the classroom and beyond. We have lots to share this week. Last night at the P&C meeting, we discussed the weekly newsletter and whether we should continue to deliver these updates to you weekly or move to fortnightly. It was agreed that with all that happens, it would become a large document if we held off and only communicated fortnightly. So, we will keep doing what we are doing! If you have any feedback to share about our weekly communication or if you know of something great happening that we can share, please get in touch.

Congratulations to our Duke of Edinburgh team on their successful first expedition for the year. Read on to hear more about the Bronze Practice hike.

You may have seen a recent Facebook post which acknowledged seven Winmalee High students for helping an elderly woman who fell and injured herself in the Coles carpark. If you know the person who shared this, please thank them. Also, if you know which students were involved, we would love to thank them personally – so let us know if you have any information. We are proud of the many ways in which hundreds of our students represent us positively in the community each day.

We would like to acknowledge the following Year 10 students who were randomly selected to sit the **National Assessment Program for Science Literacy**. The school appreciates their efforts and acknowledges the extra pressure added during an already busy time at school. The NAP Science Literacy assessment is an online assessment that gives schools, education ministers and the community information on Year 6 and Year 10 students' science literacy understanding to improve teaching and learning. Thank you to students: **Maggie Becker, Lachlan Boyd, Erin Debono, Sam Drysdale, Mia Gollan, Finton Hazell, Yuuka Hofmann, John Lau, Eimear MacCormac, Aila Milligan, Sophie Pearson, Malachi Smith, Ruby Solomon, Cullen Summers and Lacey Wahl.**



Tomorrow our school will be acknowledging is [Do it For Dolly](#) Day. On behalf of the SRC, Ruby Melville and Ethan Hutchinson spoke at assembly yesterday to let students know about the day and to encourage everyone to wear blue accessories to school on Friday. Students can [Go Blue to End Bullying](#) and support the day.

Parents and Carers of Year 10, 11 & 12 students:

Our Senior Parent-Teacher Interview evening is scheduled for **Tuesday, 2 June 2026 from 3:30pm – 7:30pm** in the school hall. **Please save the date in your calendars.**

This year, bookings will again be made online via **the Sentral Parent Portal**. If you have not yet registered for access to the portal, we encourage you to do so and activate your account prior to interview bookings opening.

Please contact the school via phone or email if you require an activation key for the portal: 02 4754 2822 or winmalee-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au.

Interview bookings will open at 4.00pm next Monday, 18 May 2026 and close at 4.00pm on Monday, 1 June 2026.

Booking information has been emailed to parents and is also available on the Sentral Parent Portal.





Round One of our debating and public speaking competitions took place in Week 3, with our Winmalee debating team travelling to St Columba's' Catholic College for the first round of the Blue Mountains Debating Competition. Our teams achieved an impressive three wins from five debates. A special commendation should go to our Year 7 and 8 team, many of whom were participating in their first debate. All students represented the school with respect and professionalism, and we are looking forward to the next round of competition held at St Columba's' College later this term.

Our senior public speakers travelled to Cambridge Park High School to compete in the first round of the Plain English Speaking Competition.

Elouise Tailford and Aurora Edwards (Year 11) both delivered sophisticated and engaging speeches, and we are thrilled to congratulate Elouise on progressing to the next round. Well done, Elouise! And well done to all students who have proudly represented the school in these competitions. Yesterday, we were fortunate to hear Aurora's speech on assembly. Thank you, Aurora for reading this to our school.



Arima High Visit

On Tuesday our host students received the name and details of their buddy from Arima High School in Japan. We are incredibly grateful to the 12 wonderful host families who have opened their homes and hearts to welcome a student from our sister school. This exciting cultural exchange gives our students the opportunity to showcase the Winmalee way of life, build lifelong friendships, and next year. Arima High will be visiting us at the end of July for a week.

Pictured below are some of our host students. - **Monique L (Y8), Alexi L (Y10), Yuuka Hofman (Y10), Indianna H (Y8), Eydie P (Y10), Oliver M (Y11), and John L (Y10).**





Duke of Ed – Bronze Practice Hike – Kedumba Valley



Out on Kedumba Valley Road, the sky was blue, a light breeze was blowing, and the temperature sat at a crisp 10 degrees. Twenty-nine Year 9 and 10 Bronze Duke of Ed students were eager to start their first hike, accompanied by four senior mentors and three staff members.

After radio checks and a mandatory group photo, they set off at 8:30 am and rapidly descended through Kedumba Pass into the valley below. By the time they reached the Kedumba River, the group had dropped from 800 m to 140 m above sea level. Opting for a shortcut along the river, they made numerous crossings in search of good walking.

Arriving at the campsite in the early afternoon, students set up tents, collected firewood, pulled out the Frisbee, and explored their home for the night. The casuarinas sang softly in the light breeze as the temperature dropped and the last of the sunlight illuminated the sandstone cliffs before slipping below the horizon. Despite the excitement of the day, lights were out by 9:30 pm.

At 6:30 the next morning, students were welcomed by Mrs Bailey's cheery "wake up" call and a brisk 3 degrees. Fires were started, breakfast was prepared, and hot chocolates were warming hands as sunlight crept slowly into the valley. The group missed its 8:00 am departure by a comfortable margin, finally heading back up the 650 m climb by 9:00 am.





The ascent was steady and steep, with regular stops for drinks and snacks. Some members needed a hand along the way and were assisted by Alex, Tom, Gordon, Amelia, and Pippa, who generously came back down the track to carry packs and walk the hill a second time. A special mention goes to Mrs Bailey, who carried two packs for a stretch — an absolute champion.

Well done to everyone involved. We look forward to our second hike in the near future.

Special thanks to our supervising staff, Verity Bailey and Laurie Brady, and to our senior mentors, Tom Ward, Amelia Peake, Gordon Hewitt, and Pippa Mein.

Mr MacCormick

Vaccinations

On Tuesday our Year 7 students showed great courage and maturity as they completed their school vaccinations. Students received the HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccine, which helps protect against a range of cancers and genital warts, as well as the dTpa booster vaccine, which protects against diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough.

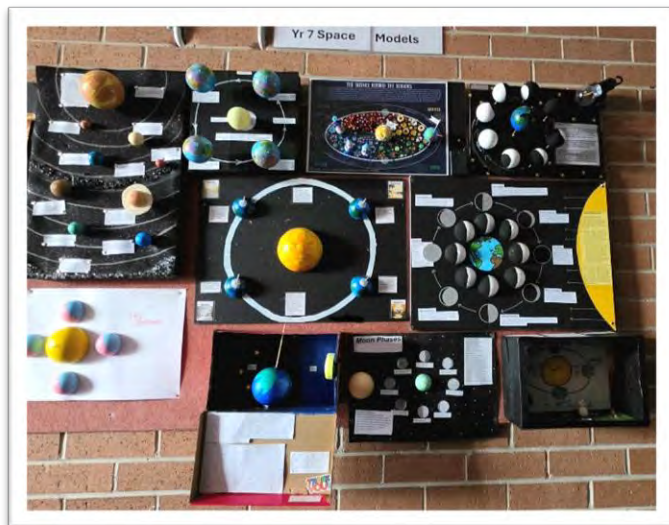
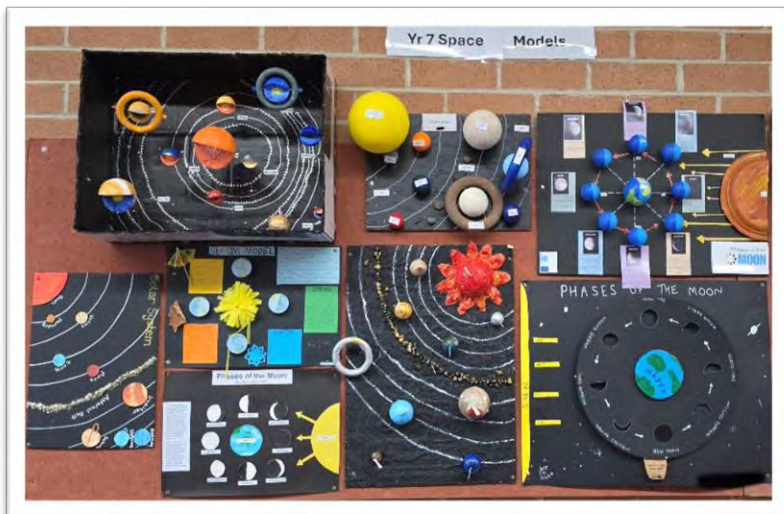
We are incredibly proud of how brave and respectful our Year 7 students were throughout the day and would like to thank the wonderful NSW Health nursing team for their care and support. Noodle was on hand for anyone who was feeling a bit unsure and a Freddo Frog at the end of it certainly helped to keep up the enthusiasm.

If you forgot to register your child for the vaccinations, you can still complete the consent process online. Students who missed out this week will have another opportunity later in the year when the nurses return for the Year 10 vaccinations.

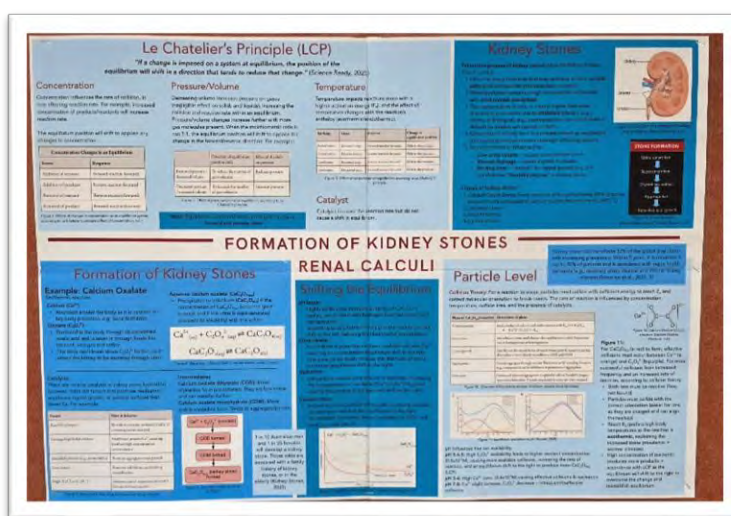




Our **Year 7** students have been exploring space science through the creation of detailed 3D models. A selection of these projects is currently showcased in the Science corridor, highlighting students' understanding of concepts such as the solar system, planetary motion and the phases of the Moon. The models demonstrate the enthusiasm and originality students have brought to their learning this term.



Year 12 Chemistry students created detailed posters exploring equilibrium systems and their real-world applications. The projects demonstrate students' ability to apply complex chemical concepts to authentic contexts, while also showcasing creativity, research and scientific communication skills.



Year 12 Biology students created detailed models to investigate the processes involved in gene expression and protein synthesis. These projects illustrate concepts such as transcription, mRNA processing and translation, while reflecting students' depth of knowledge, engagement and attention to detail in their study of molecular biology.





Morgan, Jaz and Sione sampling their Chicken Korma Curry in a Hurry that they had prepared.



The Student Representative Council are partnering with the Springwood Neighbourhood Centre Co-operative to lead a **Winter Food Drive**.

During the month of June, SRC will be inviting our school community to pitch in and donate cans of food and other non-perishable items which will be used to create hampers for families and people in need.

So, when you are doing your next shop and there is a suitable item on special, consider grabbing an extra item to contribute to a hamper. Donations can be dropped off at the school office during the month of June. See the image at right for more information and ideas about suitable items.

Once again, our SRC are leaders in their community, thinking of others and influencing the world around them.

COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE

Donate non-perishable food items to support individuals and families in need. Every contribution makes a difference.



LEND A HAND WITH A CAN.



- Canned vegetables
- Pasta, rice and soup



Bring your donations to your roll call teacher by the end of May



Springwood Neighbourhood Centre Co-operative Ltd



We would like to acknowledge the kindness and generosity of **Bunnings Springwood** for their donation of gardening resources for our school. The students in Inclusive Education are always looking at opportunities to give back to the community and this term; with the support of these resources, they are focussing on maintaining the school gardens. The students are able to volunteer to plant new plants, water new and existing plants and ensure current garden areas are well maintained. The students are learning valuable skills about gardening, teamwork and volunteering.

Thank you to Bunnings Springwood and Mrs Oldfield for their support with this project.



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

WHS Alumni Spotlight: Samuel McGrath (Class of 2021)

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

Check out Samuel'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



WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE GRADUATING FROM WHS?

I've built my career in real estate with Chapman Real Estate in the Blue Mountains. I specialise in helping local homeowners navigate the selling process, from initial appraisals through to successful sales. It's been especially rewarding to have already helped a number of former classmates and even teachers with their property journeys, which has made the work feel very full circle.

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

WHS offered so much that helped me grow my people skills. Since being elected into the school leadership program, the events and public speaking grew my confidence in communication.

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

Although I do not use this much in my career choice, I absolutely miss being in my STEM and engineering classes. Anytime we were given an assignment to shoot bottle rockets or build and race wire cars we knew we were in for a fantastic time!

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

sammcgrath_realestate - instagram and
<https://www.chapmanrealestate.com.au/team/676823>
- website

WHAT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WERE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCHOOL?

I was very excited to be a part of the school leadership team. Going to events to represent our school, leading our SRC teams and running our final Year 12 farewell are fantastic memories.

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES OUR SCHOOL SPECIAL?

The staff, real people who genuinely care. The wide range of programs for all interests which I do not think we appreciated fully, we had dedicated sports teams, a hospitality grade kitchen, an insane art department and fully equipped woodworking and engineering rooms. Absolutely unbeatable.



Careers Bulletin

Term 2, Week 4, 11 May 2026

Opportunities:

2026 Biotech Futures Challenge

BIOTech Futures is looking for bright high school students with fresh ideas from around the globe. If you have an idea that solves a problem, we want to hear about it. BIOTech Futures is an innovation and mentorship program that aims to empower the brightest young minds. Our initiative connects high school students in urban, regional and remote areas with world-class academics to think creatively about scientific inspired solutions to challenges in the fields ranging from medicine and health to sustainable environment, emerging technologies, regulations and ethics. Find out more and Enter [HERE](#)

Master Builders Pre-Apprenticeship Program - Register for 2027

Want to be a carpenter? This is your best first step. Master Builders will help prepare you to become the best 1st-year carpentry apprentice. This 3-week entry level training program provides an introduction into both the industry and a carpentry trade prior to commencing an apprenticeship. Find out more [HERE](#)



Cyber Spotlight

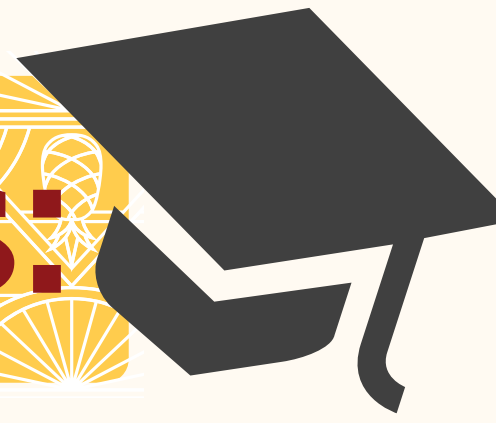
Community Fire Units

A Community Fire Unit (CFU) is a team of local residents living in urban areas close to bushland who are supported by Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) to enhance their safety and resilience to bushfires. As a volunteer CFU member you will learn how to prepare yourself, your family and your home ahead of the bushfire season. You will learn how to make informed decisions about whether to leave early or stay and defend your property when bushfires threaten. Find out more [HERE](#)

Discover your pathway to Physiotherapy

Physiotherapists play an important role in keeping people moving, whether it be for maximum performance in athletes and people with chronic health conditions. They also have an impact on patients who require rehabilitation after events such as surgery or a catastrophic accident. It can be rewarding to see patients reach their goals. Find out more [HERE](#)

For Seniors:



Music Theatre Audition Workshop at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music

13 June

Are you planning to audition for the Music Theatre degree at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music? Take this tertiary audition workshop to understand the requirements and polish your presentation skills to give you an edge in a highly competitive field.

This 2.5 hour workshop includes information on the degree course program, tips on how to present your audition videos, and to watch some students present a mock 'live' audition, critiqued by members of the Music Theatre staff in front of your peers (performing a mock audition is optional). Check out more [HERE](#)

Sydney Conservatorium of Music Portfolio Information Evening

29 May - Make your application stand out and receive tailored advice from our academic staff and gain valuable insights to elevate your portfolio, which is a crucial element of your application to study a Bachelor of Music (Composition), Bachelor of Music Composition for Creative Industries Program, Bachelor of Music Digital Music Composition Program, and Bachelor of Music Contemporary Music Practice Program at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Find out more [HERE](#)

University of Sydney - Women in Engineering Information Night 2026

3 June

Are you in Year 11 or 12 and thinking about studying Engineering, Computer Science or Project Management? Have you ever wondered what it's like to study engineering at the University of Sydney?

We're committed to supporting women-identifying students to thrive across all areas of engineering, computer science and project management - and that's why we're investing in that future with \$2 million of scholarships for 2027 specifically for women. We believe the future of engineering is more diverse, more inclusive, and led by the next generation of bold thinkers. Find out more [HERE](#)

UTS Women in Engineering, IT and Construction

If you identify as a female and have applied for select engineering, information technology or construction project management courses, you will automatically receive 10 adjustments for both UAC and Early Entry Program applications. Find out the eligibility requirements, how to apply and what courses are included [HERE](#)

Sydney Trains 2027 Apprenticeship Expression of Interest

Closes 30th June

Whether you're a school leaver, re-entering the workforce, or looking for a change, our Sydney Trains apprenticeship programs help you build a solid foundation for your future. You'll combine hands-on, paid work with structured training and work towards a nationally recognised qualification in your chosen trade. Find out more

[HERE](#)

SPRINGWOOD LIGHTS UP YOUTH MUSIC EVENT

CALL OUT FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS AGED
BETWEEN 15-25 TO PERFORM AT
SPRINGWOOD LIGHTS UP ON JULY 4TH.
THE EVENT RUNS FROM 5-8PM AND WILL
BE DRUG AND ALCOHOL-FREE.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SOLO PERFORMERS,
DUOS AND BANDS OF UP TO 5 MEMBERS TO
PLAY A 20-30 MINUTE SET AS PART OF
SPRINGWOOD LIGHTS UP.

THIS IS A PAID OPPORTUNITY.

SCAN QR CODE BELOW TO REGISTER YOUR
INTEREST.



SATURDAY 4 JULY 2026



FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT
SPRINGWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD
CENTRE AT
RECEPTION@SNCC.ORG.AU