

# Parent Update

Term 1/Week 7  
17th March 2023



**APPLECROSS**  
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOL

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## IMPORTANT DATES

### 4th April

- Parent-Teacher Interviews - Webex

### 6th April

- Last day of term

### 26th April

- Term 2 commences for students

### 1st - 3rd May

- Year 10 OLNA Round 1

### 2nd May

- Year 10 Parent Course Information Evening

### 5th May

- Senior School Monologue Night

### 8th -19th May

- Year 12 ESTs

### 9th May

- Year 10 VET Connect Information Evening

### 9th-11th May

- Year 7 Immunisation 1st Round

### 10th May

- VET Connect Program Applications Open

### 11th May

- Year 8 Lightning Carnival

### 15th May

- P & C Meeting

### 18th May

- School Board Meeting



### School Activities and Student Achievement

Keep up with all the exciting activities and student achievements that occur in the school by regularly checking our webpage, Facebook, Instagram or YouTube pages.

Website <https://applecross.wa.edu.au/>  
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ApplecrossSeniorHighSchool/>  
Instagram [https://www.instagram.com/applecross\\_shs/](https://www.instagram.com/applecross_shs/)  
YouTube [@applecrossshs5058](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqj8k5058)  
School Calendar <https://applecross.wa.edu.au/parents/calendar/>  
Parent Update <https://applecross.wa.edu.au/parents/parent-update-newsletter/>

## Update from the Principal

Dear Parents / Guardians

Term 1 has been a very busy, productive start to 2023. There have been some wonderful highlights including some of the best Year 12 student academic results in the state (refer to Annual Report for details); and a wide range of successful student events and activities. We also received some excellent feedback in our recent independent school review (see article below). However, we have also had a couple of student bereavements this term which has been especially sad and difficult for the staff who taught these students and their peer group. We have offered condolences to the families and they have expressed their gratitude for the kindness and support of the school community during their time of grief.

Best wishes to everyone for an enjoyable Easter and school holiday period.

### Term 2

Term 2 commences on **Wednesday, 26th April** for students, with Monday, 24th April being a School Development Day and Tuesday, 25th April, ANZAC Day (public holidays).

### Parent Teacher Meetings

It was wonderful to catch up with many parents during our first round of Parent Teacher Meetings on Thursday. The vast majority thought that the move to the C Block was good, even though spreading out the interviews increased the distance and travel time. A full [survey](#) of parents is being conducted, and the meeting format will be adjusted for 2024 as a result.

You will be aware that the second round of meetings will be conducted remotely (Webex) for parents with a phone call as the fall-back strategy. If parents have been unable to make a booking with a teacher, you can email them to either request information or to make an appointment on an alternative day.

### Students will be dismissed at 12.15 pm on Tuesday 4th, April.

The following link contains some useful tips for parents to get the most out of the meetings [Tips for Parents](#).

Instructions for parents on how to use the Webex Video Conferencing tool: [Webex Instructions](#).

### School Review

Thank you to a large number of staff, students, parents and community members (around 70 in total) who contributed to the 12 separate meetings comprising the School Review Validation Visit on Tuesday, 21st March. In the couple of meetings that I attended, I was incredibly proud to hear from staff, students, and parents about all the positive things we do as a school and the ultimate impact this has on our students. The reviewers were very complimentary of the great school processes that have contributed to the quality of the school culture and the excellent student outcomes we achieve.

The school review was a reminder that while schools, by nature, are always going to be focussed on continuous improvement, we also need to recognise that at Applecross SHS, we do most things pretty well and compare very favourably with most schools in our system.

It is anticipated that we will receive our School Review report early in Term 2, which will be shared with our school community via the Parent Update and the school webpage.

### Annual Report

The School Board recently endorsed the [2022 Annual Report](#), which is now available on the school's web page. The report outlines and analyses the school's performance in relation to our priorities and targets (recently completed Business Plan 2018-22). It contains information on student performance, including a comparative performance with similar schools (both academic and non-academic). I recommend that all parents look at the report to better understand the school's relative strengths and challenges. I'm happy to answer any questions or provide additional information upon request.

### Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs)

The school has received additional RAT supplies and is available for all members of the school community via Reception (off Links Rd).

Regards  
Paul Leech - Principal

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## Financial Matters

by Finance Department

Thank you to all parents and caregivers that have paid the School Fees for 2023. If you have not made a payment, your prompt attention is requested in finalising your account for 2023. Please contact the Finance Department at your earliest convenience if you wish to discuss payment of your children's school fees or to negotiate a payment plan.

Please be reminded that applications for financial assistance via the Secondary Assistance Scheme close strictly on 6 April 2023. If you hold a current concession card (Health Care, Pension or DVA), you may be eligible to claim up to \$350 toward your school fees. Please complete the claim form and present it to the Finance Office along with your concession card. Information and claim forms can be found on our [School website](#).

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## Where can I access information on my child's academic progress?

by Paul Currie - Associate Principal Years 7-9

Teachers have always kept up-to-date information on students' progress. Historically, marks were handwritten into a paper-based records book. This information was then transferred onto a report card at the end of each semester.

The vast majority of schools now use information management systems that are computer-based. These systems contain teaching programs, assessment outlines, marks, and pastoral care information, which can be accessed by staff, students and parents alike.

At Applecross, we are currently rolling out our implementation of the SEQTA management program.

Parents can access all lower school programs and marks via SEQTA Engage (the parent Portal). Instructions on how to use this app have been emailed to you, there will also be an information session on this at the next parent evening, and instructions can be found on our website.

SEQTA does not currently have the capacity to track student progress towards WACE (Graduation), so currently, all of our year 11 and 12 marks can be found on CONNECT. This can be accessed via a downloadable app for your phone or via our school website.

As we continue to roll out all of the SEQTA modules some senior school teachers are trialling using Marksbook in SEQTA as well as CONNECT to store their marks, so you may have seen some marks in this area. However, it is not a one-stop shop. Our recommendations to you are as follows



### Access lower school marks via SEQTA



### Access senior school marks via CONNECT



Please note that we intend to place all end-of-semester reports into SEQTA, where you can access them.

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## PRIME Hydration Drinks

by Ebony Morrison - Program Coordinator Year 7-8

The increasing popularity of Prime Hydration drinks within the school grounds has come to our attention. Two famous YouTubers have marketed these drinks - Logan Paul & KSI. In the last week, Woolworths have started to sell these drinks, making them more accessible to our school population. These drinks are marketed as sports drinks that should be consumed pre/post workouts. In line with the Department of Education policy these drinks are not to be consumed on school grounds. It clearly states on the label that it is NOT SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE.

Thank you for your support on this matter.



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## Thank you from the Year 12s!

by Lenni Cornejo - Year 12 Coordinator

The Year 12 World's Greatest Shave participants would like to thank our Applecross SHS community for their support and donations for this year's event. They raised a staggering \$24,090.20, a new record for the school! We are so proud of our charitable young adults, many of whom have waited since Year 7 to participate in this event. We can't wait to see what future year groups can achieve!



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## March 2023 Board Meeting Update

by Geoff Cooper, Parent Representative

The March Board meeting discussed our school's future planning for growth and several other recent events.

Future planning for growth is a high priority of the Board and school administration. Given that enrolments are up 50% in 7 years, we face the pressures of upward limits on our school's facilities, including classrooms, green space, parking and other resources. That's why our Board Chair has formed a working group to consider in more detail forecast student number projections and the required investment to facilitate growth.

No doubt, the remarkable success of our school in the 2022 ATAR results – where 60% of our students were in the top 10% in WA - will attract even more enrolment interest from prospective students next year.

You might not be aware that on 21st March, the school underwent an independently run school review assessment – a process that generally occurs every three years. The day went smoothly, and the preliminary feedback received was very positive. Reviewers met with students, staff, parents and community representatives. Notably, the reviewers acknowledged the strong sense of community at our school. We await a written report that will be reviewed in detail at our next Board meeting.

We also had a positive report from our student representatives on the Board, school captains Theo Scagliotta and Sienna Pettman. They reported that the World's Greatest Shave fundraiser exceeded expectations, and last year's revenues, to secure \$23,000 for charity. Well done to our students and teachers. Harmony Day took place on Tuesday, 21st March, and included a popular photo booth, PA announcements, music, and a chalk walk. International Women's Day was also well received with a moving and encouraging presentation from female community leaders, supported by Programmed and the Fremantle Dockers. A selected group of student leaders also visited Parliament House, kindly hosted by Kim Giddens, where the tour was informative and worthwhile.

The finances, as always, were considered by the Board. Parent collections are slightly down on last year - perhaps no surprise with rising interest rates. So thank you to those parents who have been able to contribute already, as the collections remain an important contributor to school resourcing.

The Board also approved a proposal from the P&C for an additional long pant uniform featuring Applecross branding that is lightweight and more suitable for summer. Students will now be consulted on their preferred long pant options.

At future meetings, the Board will discuss our work with our neighbouring shopping centre Westfield Booragoon, the extensive processes in place to enhance student well-being and our behaviour management policies to ensure a safe and productive learning environment at the school.

Feel free to provide feedback to me ([gcooper@iinet.net.au](mailto:gcooper@iinet.net.au)) or other [board members](#).

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## SchoolTV - Digital Reputation

by SchoolTV

Social media has become such an integral part of a teenager's life that it can cause anxiety and lower self-esteem. Modern teens are learning to do most of their communication whilst looking at a screen instead of another person. They are missing out on very critical social skills.

And dependant on what they are communicating online can affect their digital reputation. Friendships, relationships and even future job prospects are all at risk. As a parent, It is very important that you are aware of what picture they are painting of themselves online.

Once information makes its way online, it can be difficult to remove. Images and words can be misinterpreted and altered as they are easily and quickly shared around. Privacy settings on social media sites need to be managed to protect your child's digital reputation.

### Digital Footprint

The internet remembers more about you than you might expect. It leaves a trail of data known as your digital footprint. Use this site to discover how to check your or your child's digital footprint, and whether it matches up with the image of yourself, you'd like to present to the world.

To find out more about Digital Footprint, visit [Digital footprint | eSafety Commissioner](#).

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# EYES on VET

by Melinda Kennington - VET Manager

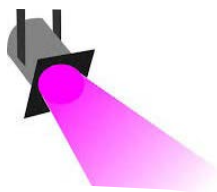
**Welcome to my last edition of Eyes on VET for the term.**

It is hard to believe how quickly this term has flown by and how tired we all seem to be. Well done to all VET Connect and P2C students on a very productive term. I'd like to especially acknowledge the Hospitality students, trainers and Home Economic assistants for all the additional catering services they have provided over the term, including VET Cluster meetings and morning tea at our recent School Review. Guests were so impressed at each and every event and are looking forward to coming back!

Our new café is fabulous, and the naming process is taking place. There is a naming committee made up of students, teachers and the P & C working together to follow procedures in naming Government buildings... watch this space.. Just a reminder that Friday, 7 April is Good Friday, which means that students will not be attending their workplace or external course.

Next term is an exciting one, where Year 10 students will be selecting their pathways for Senior School. I look forward to meeting many of the Year 10s and Parents/Guardians to discuss VET pathway options. If you are interested in finding out more about the VET Connect Program, please save the date to attend the VET Connect Information Evening which will be held on Tuesday, 9 May, at 5:30pm. More information will follow early next term.

Stay safe and I wish you all the best for a Happy Easter.



## **Spotlight on the Study Work Grow Membership for Students and Parents**

Our school has subscribed to one of Australia's top careers news and information services, and it's easy for you to sign up for free membership as part of our school subscription. You can access career building tools, discover scholarships, find work experience opportunities and more. It's safe, easy, and completely FREE for you to subscribe to this resource.

To create your membership:

Step 1 - Go to <https://studyworkgrow.com.au/school/applecross-senior-high-school/>

Step 2 - When asked, enter your school code - ASHS2019 (yes...the year in the code is correct!)



# eyes on VET

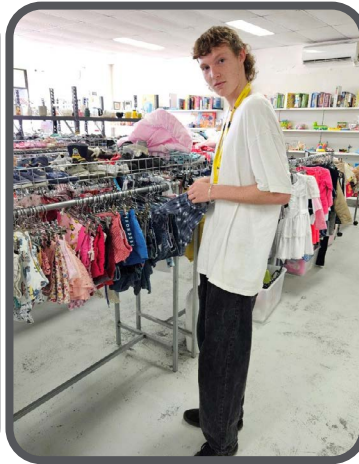
by Melinda Kennington - VET Manager



## Snapshots around the workplace....



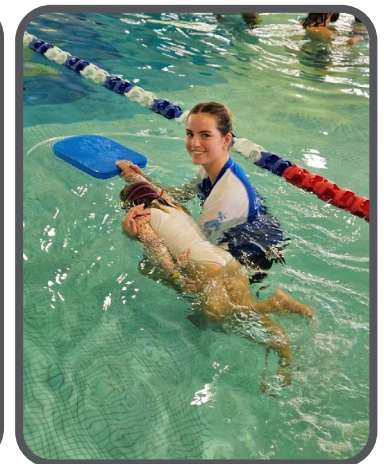
Ebony McGuigan at Jamaica Blue



Jack Fairclough at Good Sammy



Keira Williams at Barking Butler



Summer Greenway at Belmont Oasis



...to **Joseph Bodger (Year 10)**, on gaining a School Based Traineeship with McDonald's, where he will complete a Certificate II in Retail Services

...to **Lacey Pascoe (Year 10)** on gaining work experience one day per week at a law firm

...to **Wesley Sweetman, Ebhan Ward, Brady McCorry (Year 10)** on being successful applicants for the Certificate II in Electronics at SM TAFE, starting in Term 2

...to **Adam Elliman and Liam McGuigan (Year 10)** on being successful applicants for the Certificate II in Rail Infrastructure at NM TAFE, starting in Term 2

... to **Joshua Hiles (Year 11), Chai Limn Ng, Chrystalbelle Neo and Ovita Wibowo (Year 10)** on gaining a place in 'Chef for A Day' at Stanley College

...to **Hospitality students** running the Red Apple Training Café on Monday through to Thursday, as well as the new Café in the North block

Please keep your **eyes on VET** in the next Parent Update.

Best wishes  
Melinda Kennington - VET Manager 😊

## P&C Secretary Needed

The AXSHS P&C Assoc Inc is seeking a Secretary to join the new, dynamic Executive Team for 2023. This would suit an organised person who is keen to support the P&C and the wider school community.

A thorough handover will be provided.

Our current Secretary is unable to continue beyond the next meeting so we need someone who can support the P&C with the following:

- work alongside the President, Kerri Gur, to prepare the agendas
- attend one P&C meeting per month - take the minutes and circulate them
- attend Executive Committee meetings when required – take the minutes and circulate them
- be a bank co-signatory on the P&C bank accounts
- circulate (via email) relevant information to the P&C Members

The current Secretary has already:

- set up templates for agendas and meeting minutes
- set up the filing system for the keeping of minutes of meetings

To put forward an Expression of Interest or gain additional information, please contact the P&C President, Kerri Gur, or the Secretary, Narelle Pearce, at [axshspc@gmail.com](mailto:axshspc@gmail.com).

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## P&C Treasurer Needed

The AXSHS P&C Assoc Inc is seeking a suitably qualified Treasurer to join the new, dynamic Executive Team for 2023. Ideally, it would be a Chartered Accountant or CPA who can volunteer a couple of hours each month.

A thorough handover will be provided.

Our current Treasurer is unable to continue beyond the next meeting so we need someone who can support the P&C with the following:

- payment of fortnightly wages for Canteen Staff
- payment of EOM supplier payments (monthly)
- meet with the Canteen Manager when required
- review monthly P&L provided by the Bookkeeper
- attend one general P&C meeting per term and provide an update on the P&C finances (Bookkeeper generates the required reports)
- attend Executive Committee meetings when required
- work with the paid Bookkeeper to ensure all payments are made and to ensure compliance for employment of staff
- provide information/access to MYOB for the Auditor at the completion of 2023

The current Treasurer has already:

- set up the 2023 Budget
- completed ACNC and AssociationsOnline compliance for 2023
- appointed the Auditor for 2023

To put forward an Expression of Interest or gain additional information, please contact the P&C President, Kerri Gur, or the Secretary, Narelle Pearce, at [axshspc@gmail.com](mailto:axshspc@gmail.com).

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## Secondhand Uniform Shop

The P&C has had to make the decision to close the Secondhand Uniform Shop because the person running it could not continue, and the website could no longer be used. While all the donated uniforms are currently being stored at the school, the way this will work in the future is uncertain – further discussions are required.

If anyone is interested in running the Secondhand Uniform Shop on behalf of the P&C, please get in touch with Kerri Gur, President, at [axshspc@gmail.com](mailto:axshspc@gmail.com). The P&C believes this service is essential and is keen for it to continue. If nobody volunteers to run it, the P&C will look at alternative options, which will be communicated to Parents and the school community via the Parent Update.

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## Canteen Volunteers Required

We hope you have had a great first term! We are so thankful for all of the help we have received from our parents, grandparents, staff, and even our Principal, Paul Leech. He has gone above and beyond to help us during times when we needed it most.

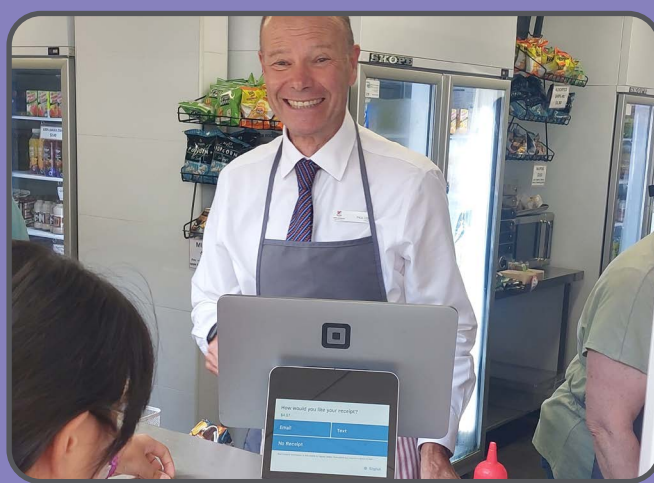
We are looking forward to the start of Term 2 and invite you to join us in the canteen. We have lots of room for everyone, and we will be introducing a new Winter Menu.

We wish you all a safe and happy holiday season. Thank you,

Thank you, Cre and The Canteen Team.

Contact Cre for more information at [cremillar@gmail.com](mailto:cremillar@gmail.com) or complete the [Canteen Support form](#) and forward it to Cre or contact her on 0449 808 008.

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## Naming of the New Cafe

We are calling on all parents and carers to help us name our new cafe in N Block.

Completed for the start of the 2023 school year, this new cafe is in need of a creative name! We already have a cafe in the Admin Block called the Red Apple Cafe, so please avoid choosing this name.

Paul Currie is chairperson of the nomenclature committee, which is made up of four senior students, two Home Economics staff, the VET Coordinator and a P&C representative to help collate all suggestions. The committee will be surveying their respective groups and then feed back to the main group.

As the P&C representative, we are seeking your input in coming up with potential names for the cafe. The final choice will rest with the nomenclature committee. We would greatly appreciate your help in naming our new cafe and look forward to receiving your suggestions.

Click on the link to [submit your suggestion/s](#).

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## ...from the Languages Department!

Kaya!

Welcome to our first ever edition of *Hello from the Languages Department!*

At the end of each term, the Languages team will share a brief snapshot of all the exciting events that have taken place over the term, as well as any upcoming opportunities.

This year we have a new Language Assistant for both French and Japanese, supported by the Department of Education. Ms Coline Marion (AKA Coco) is an authentic French lady from the south, near Toulouse (pronounced 'to loose'), and she has the loveliest southern accent. Coline has worked as a language assistant in Thailand, a holiday camp supervisor/animator for eight years, and she has even worked as a Nanny in New Zealand from 2019 to 2022. Her love for working with children has brought her to us! Coline will work across all years and with students of all abilities. She will do one-on-one work, small group work, team teaching and the delivery of part of a lesson, especially lessons that provide deeper cultural understanding or are related to youth culture. Her energetic nature has revived the 'French Club'.

Mr Yu Sato is studying English at Kobe City University of Foreign Studies in Hyogo, Japan. Yu will be at Applecross SHS every even week and will interact with all Year 7 to 12 Japanese classes. Yu has already made many positive connections with students by playing soccer and volleyball together during recess and lunch times. Yu is enjoying working with students who attend the Japan Club.

We warmly welcome both Coline and Yu and hope they have a wonderful experience working at our school.



This year, all students from Years 9 to 12 have the opportunity to host our 2023 French Visitors who are coming to Perth from Lycée Sainte-Famille in Amiens, France. Our French visitors will be coming in October for about 14 days.

Hosting a French student can be such a wonderful and beneficial experience for your child and family. The school will be looking for friendly and enthusiastic Applecross SHS students who are keen to show a French visitor around their school and their city, and who show a genuine interest in the French culture. If you are interested in taking part in this rewarding experience, please pick up the application form from the Languages office, complete it and return it to Mme Valérie no later than **Monday, 3 April**.

Congratulations to all the language teachers and students on a very productive term. Best wishes for a well-deserved break.

Mrs Melinda Kennington  
HoLA Languages



## ...from the Languages Department! (continued)



### Kon'nichiwa!

Year 7 to 12 students of Japanese enjoyed a variety of activities in Japanese classes this term.

- Year 7 students learnt basic greetings and how to introduce themselves in Japanese. They enjoyed performing roleplays where they could practice their new language skills.
- In March, Year 11 Japanese students had a virtual interaction with students from Nagao Senior High School, Japan. Students talked about an array of topics, including Australian food, culture, and tourist spots. We will continue giving our students the opportunities to interact with students on the other side of the world again later this year.

At the end of last year, the Year 7 Japanese students participated in our annual Pokemon Design Competition. After learning about animals, body parts and colours in Japanese, students showed all their creative fusions of different creatures to create the best Pokemon design. Students voted, and the winners were selected in the categories below. Congratulations to all our winners...

- Best Pokemon: Harmony Fung
- Creative Name: Sophia Yu
- Artistic Design: Kai Barlow
- Detailed Explanation: Lailah Beck
- Japan Club runs every Wednesday at lunch time. Japanese assistant, Mr Yu Sato, organised activities such as Treasure Hunt and Japanese-Wisper for students to enjoy
- Year 12 students had an excursion to Fremantle. Students visited historical sites and popular tourist attractions in order to make a promotional video of Fremantle.



**Ms Sumika Nishikawa**  
Teacher in Charge - Japanese

### Bonjour!

French Language students have been having a lot of fun both in and outside of their classes in Term 1.



- Year 7 students enjoyed learning about the St Valentine's traditions and making La Saint Valentin cards.
- The Year 11 and 12 students of French went on an excursion to the French Film Festival 2023 organised by the Alliance Française de Perth. Students developed an insight into the cultures and lifestyles of the French-speaking communities through the movie 'À la belle étoile' (Sugar & Stars).
- French Club is back!!! Oui oui! The French Club is back and runs every second Thursday after school for Year 7 students.
  - At the first session, about sixty Year 7 students of French attended the French Club to learn how to make crêpe batter and cook it on a traditional crêpière. The students listened to Coline Marion, our lovely French Language Assistant, who guided them through the recipe by doing a demonstration of how to prepare the batter. Mme Valerie and Mr Coret helped the students to cook their own crepe and they enjoyed their French food with the must-have Nutella!
  - The Year 7 students also learned how to play pétanques and enjoyed some French nibbles while learning how to play it. They had lots of fun



**Ms Charisma Valerie**  
Teacher in Charge - French

## Social Media Highlights



Year 9 Physical Recreation



World's Greatest Shave



Parliament House Excursion

Harmony Day



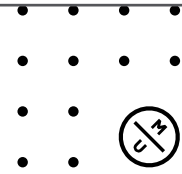
Year 7 Tech Free Days

Visit our social media sites or the school website pages to read about the achievements and events/activities held over the last couple of weeks.



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# Community Notices



## After School Program in Mathematics and Physical Sciences

### Study Skills Primer for School Students

For students age 10 and up

 **Fridays 4:30 - 6:30pm**

 **\$199 per student per term**

Students attend sessions on Fridays beginning in the second week of school term. Through analysing written material and writing reports and essays students develop scientific comprehension and critical thinking skills for present and future studies.

Email [AfterSchoolProgram@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:AfterSchoolProgram@murdoch.edu.au) for information.

**Must enrol by April 6th for Term 2.**

Course will only run if sufficient students enrol.

Building 450, Floor 3 (one floor up from entry), Room 001,  
Parking is available in Car Park 4.

All classes are at Murdoch University, South Street campus. Classes are tailored to each individual student and students may begin at any time. Refunds will only be given if course is postponed or cancelled.

Students will require an exercise book, pen, pencil and eraser and may bring a healthy snack. Only bottled water is permitted in the classroom.

To obtain enrolment forms provide the  
age of the student and email:

[AfterSchoolProgram@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:AfterSchoolProgram@murdoch.edu.au)  
or phone 0427 864 740 (afternoons and evenings).

Payment may be made online:  
[payments.murdoch.edu.au/PrepCourses](https://payments.murdoch.edu.au/PrepCourses)



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