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Principal's Message

A warm welcome to the new school year, especially to those parents and family members new to the Applecross Senior High School community. We have commenced the new school year with around 1940 students, over 400 of whom joined us for the first time. Despite the very hot weather this week, the year has begun very smoothly with a great deal of positive energy and enthusiasm.

The Parent Update is distributed fortnightly (or more frequently if required) and provides a source of important information and reminders (and reduces the need for additional communications). Previous copies of the publication are available on the school [webpage](#) for your reference.

I am confident that 2024 will be a very positive and successful year for our students, and I look forward to working with parents and carers as partners in their learning.

Congratulations, 2023 Year 12 Students

A big congratulations to our 2023 Year 12 students, their teachers and parents on the outstanding results achieved in all four pathways (Vocational Education and Training (VET), General, ATAR and UniReady). Ms Jones (Associate Principal Years 11 - 12) has provided an overview of the Year 12 data, and more information will also be provided in our Annual Report, which will be published towards the end of Term 1.

The West Australian published a Top Schools ranking (12th January 2024) based on the percentage of ATAR students with scores in the top 15 per cent of all students studying that course. Based on this measure, Applecross was ranked 9th out of all WA secondary schools with 13 courses in which our students excelled. A range of measures can be used to assess the relative performance of students in different pathways, and our assessment indicates that students in all pathways performed extremely well in 2023. The most important aspect of the Year 12 results is that the vast majority of students achieved their personal goals for post-school study and/or employment.

Congratulations, 2023 Year 7 and 9 Students

Director General (Lisa Rodgers) stated, "In determining schools that have performed particularly well in 2023, consideration was given to the school's absolute performance, including mean scores and the percentage of students achieving in the Exceeding or Strong proficiency levels, and relative achievement taking into account the school's ICSEA (socio-educational advantage measure)". [Lisa Rodgers' letter and Certificate of Commendation.](#)

In addition, the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has listed the best-performing schools throughout Australia, taking into account socio-educational advantage, to give a more accurate picture of student performance. ACARA creates the list by looking at which schools have continually

achieved high NAPLAN results (Years 3, 5, 7 and 9) from 2021 to 2023, compared to others of similar backgrounds, excluding selective schools. It was wonderful to see that [Applecross SHS was listed as the second best-performing school](#) in WA based on the 'value added' measure, and I congratulate all 2023 Year 7 and 9 students for these excellent results.

Mobile Phone Policy

You will be aware that the State Government has banned the use of student mobile phones (and other electronic mobile devices) in Public Schools since the beginning of 2020. The [policy](#) requires all public schools to implement a ban on the use of mobile phones for all students from the time they arrive at school to the end of the school day. This extends to smartwatches that need to be in Aeroplane (or school) mode and AirPods/earphones. The [policy](#) aims to reduce distractions in class and improve student engagement.

Contributions and Charges

I appreciate that the beginning of the new school year is an expensive time for parents, especially if you have more than one child attending secondary school. We have done everything possible to review our contributions and charges and minimise charges for 2024. I do know, however, that the cost of many textbooks has increased. Unfortunately, this is something that the school has no control over. Please ensure that contributions and charges are paid as soon as possible, or contact is made with the school Finance Office to discuss and organise a suitable payment plan. Your contribution assists us in providing valuable resources and programs to assist your child's education, and we ensure the funds are expended on the students in the current year.

Road Safety

The beginning of the new school year is always particularly busy and dangerous on surrounding roads as a higher than usual number of parents drive students to and from school. I urge all parents to use extreme care and patience and try to avoid the most congested areas where possible. In previous years, there were concerns about the behaviour of motorists on Ardessie Street. Please ensure that you do not park in the 'drive through' as this holds up other parents and contributes to the congestion and frustration of other motorists. Unfortunately, there have been no Traffic Wardens available for the Children's Crossing on Riseley Street (near Glencoe Road) this week. Students have been requested to still use the Children's Crossing and to be vigilant whilst crossing without a warden present. The City of Melville and WA Police will be monitoring and patrolling the area around the school over the next few weeks.

Paul Leech, Principal

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Achievements

Congratulations, Class of 2023

The class of 2022 set an incredible benchmark across their Year group in all courses. Many people in our school community believed it would not be surpassed. However, through the collective efforts of incredibly driven, motivated and determined groups of Year 12s, the class of 2023 did surpass the previous years' results and have now set a new benchmark that hopefully provides all students with the confidence that regardless of course studied, Applecross SHS will provide you with the platform for success.

As a collective, our results improved across all measures. The infographic below will provide you with a visual representation of these achievements. However, please note the specific improvements in the following areas:

Key Areas of Improvement from 2022-2023

2022	Number	2023	Number
General Exhibitions	0	General Exhibitions	1
Subject Exhibitions	1	Subject Exhibitions	1
Special Subject Exhibition	1	Special Subject Exhibition	1
Subject Certificates of Excellence	4	Subject Certificates of Excellence	11
VET Certificates of Excellence	4	VET Certificates of Excellence	3
SCSA Certificates of Distinction	23	SCSA Certificates of Distinction	24
SCSA Certificates of Merit	36	SCSA Certificates of Merit	44
Students above 99 ATAR	3	Students above 99 ATAR	8
Top Performing Courses	12	Top Performing Courses	13
VET Certificates Achieved	136	VET Certificates Achieved	157
Students completing UniReady	38	Students completing UniReady	47
Median ATAR	91.2	Median ATAR	91.85

The results achieved by all Year 12 students across all courses and pathways will be celebrated by our school community. Our VET achievements once again placed us as the equal top school in WA alongside one other Public School. These results demonstrate the validity of these courses and how important it is to provide opportunities for all students to achieve their personal goals as well as their level of personal success.

Our results directly reflect all students choosing and moving into the most appropriate pathway to assist them in achieving their desired goals beyond secondary school. The collective effort of all teaching, non-teaching and support staff to ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed is to be commended.

We hope that the Class of 2024 use this template of success as their roadmap as they navigate their way through their final year of secondary schooling.

On Monday, 5 February, we welcome back our 2023 high achievers to recognise them for their outstanding achievement at the Awards Assembly for our 2024 Year 12 students.

Toni Jones, Associate Principal Years 10-12

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2024 Access Changes for Child's Education and Results

Starting in 2024, the Department of Education will introduce Kaartdijin, a new student management system that will replace the current school system, SEQTA. These changes will impact how you access your child's educational program and academic results.

Over the next few years, Applecross SHS will phase out all SEQTA modules and transition to Kaartdijin and its partner, Compass. The first module we will stop using this year is the Marks Book.

Marks, results and assessment outlines will now be found in CONNECT

From this year onwards, you won't be able to access your child's results in SEQTA; these will now be found in CONNECT. Many of you will already be familiar with this portal.

To assist you in this, we will do the following two things:

- Your CONNECT login details will shortly be sent to you via email
- The instructions on how to access CONNECT can be found on our school website
 - [Parent instructions](#)
 - [Student instructions](#)



The assessment outlines for each course will also be located in CONNECT

Course overviews

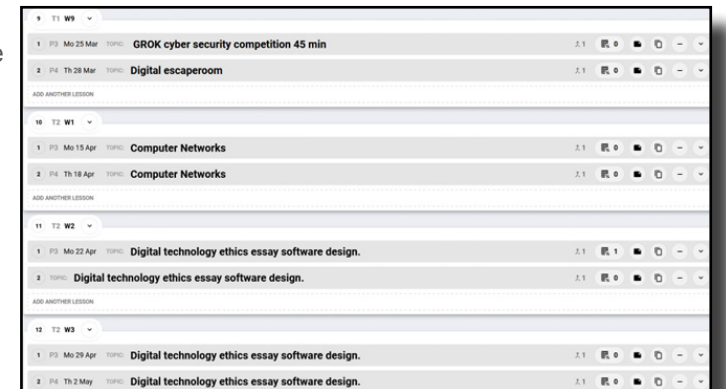
All overviews of lower school courses can still be found in SEQTA.

Course content

This may vary slightly from one Learning Area to another as we reduce our reliance on SEQTA.

Regardless, the access point or gateway for you to access curriculum content will still be SEQTA; however, in some instances, you may then be redirected to other platforms such as:

- CONNECT
- OneNote
- OneDrive



How to access SEQTA

To learn how to access SEQTA watch our YouTube video on [SEQTA Guide for Parents/Guardians](#).

Paul Currie, Associate Principal Years 7-9

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P&C Treasurer Needed for 2024

The Applecross Senior High School P&C is seeking a Treasurer to join a dynamic team to help support both the P&C in their efforts to make our school even better for the students. There are no fundraising events (no cake stalls or raffle tickets) but you will work with our paid Bookkeeper to ensure the financial/staff aspects of the Canteen are managed and our charity requirements are met. Having a CPA/Chartered Accounting background is desirable but not essential. We are keen to welcome a "new face" into the team so that great projects can continue to be funded through the P&C.

If you would like further information or are keen to put your hand up for the role, please get in touch with the P&C Executive Team at axshspc@gmail.com.

Kerri Gur, P & C President

NAPLAN 2024 Years 7 and 9 students

The National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing period will take place in **Term 1**, and fall between **Wednesday, 13th of March (Week 7) – Monday, 25th March (Week 9) 2024**.

In preparation for the official testing period, **NAPLAN Online Practice Tests will take place in Week 5, Monday, 26th February**. All Year 7 and 9 students will formally complete one practice test, the Omnibus (Reading, Conventions of Language and Numeracy), in the same fashion as the official NAPLAN testing period.

It is important that your child attends school and participates in these assessments. Although NAPLAN is not directly linked to school reports, it provides a valuable 'snapshot' of academic performance and development. Meeting the minimum benchmarks in literacy and numeracy is also a prerequisite for secondary school graduation, TAFE admission and university entrance.

Students will not be permitted to complete NAPLAN Online on a Chromebook or tablet device. Additionally, Android devices are not supported by NAPLAN Online. Students are also required to bring in their plug-in headphones for both the NAPLAN Practice Tests and the official testing period. Please note that Bluetooth headphones are not permitted as they can cause connectivity issues. All Year 9 students should remove the previous NAP Locked Down Browsers from their devices and install the 2024 Locked Down Browser (accessible on the SEQTA homepage) prior to Week 3.

Parents will receive further updates regarding NAPLAN within Term 1. Please feel free to email me if you have any queries or concerns at donna.levar-uppill@education.wa.edu.au.

Donna Levar-Uppill, NAPLAN Coordinator



Physical Education Lessons

As the warm weather settles in, a quick reminder for the wellbeing of our students. While Year 7 and 8 students are required to wear a hat during all Physical Education lessons, we kindly recommend that students from all other year groups also bring a hat to shield themselves from the sun. Moreover, it's essential for all students, across all grades, to stay hydrated, so we strongly advise bringing a water bottle to each Physical Education lesson.

Thank you for your attention to these important details, ensuring a safe and enjoyable learning experience for all.

Jadon Gielingh, HoLA Health and Physical Education



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School Entry Procedures During School Hours

We want to inform you that for security reasons, all gates on campus are locked during school hours, except for the front gate situated on Links Road at the front of the school. This measure is in place to ensure the safety of all students and staff.

If your child falls ill during the school day or if you need to collect them for an appointment, we kindly ask that you use the front gate for entry and exit. Your cooperation in adhering to this protocol is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in keeping our school community safe.



Say Cheese! School Photos Coming Up!

It's that time of the year again! School photos are quickly approaching for our students. Please mark your calendars for **Thursday, March 7th, and Friday, March 8th**, as photographers will be on-site, with catch-up sessions scheduled for **Monday, March 11th**.

School Photo Day



From the Canteen

Welcome back, everyone!

The Applecross Senior High School Canteen is off to an amazing start this year, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to our loyal customers and warm welcome to the new faces! With the scorching weather upon us, our service has become an essential oasis for many students and staff. It's delightful to witness the popularity of our refreshing icy watermelon and grape cups, along with our delectable 'parfaits' and cool juice sticks!



While we continue to offer all your hot favourites, including fresh baguettes and a variety of recess options, there's one thing we're in need of – more volunteers! If you can spare even a couple of hours, we would greatly appreciate your support. Feel free to reach out by calling 9314 9373, texting 0449 808 008, emailing cremillar@gmail.com, or simply dropping by anytime between 8 AM and 3 PM each day to add your name to our roster.

Let's make our school canteen thrive together!

Cre Millar, Canteen Manager

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Welcome from the Community Health Nurses

Greetings and welcome to 2024! We are Belinda and Amelia, your Community Health Nurses employed by the Health Department. Our primary objective is to contribute to ensuring your child has a healthy and joyous high school experience.

Here's how we aim to support your child's well-being:

- **Health and Wellbeing Presentations:** We offer informative sessions on health and wellbeing.
- **Point of Contact:** We serve as a reliable point of contact for young individuals to discuss emotional, psychosocial, and ongoing physical health concerns.
- **Brief Interventions and Referrals:** We can provide brief interventions, assist in referrals to other services, and ensure follow-up care.

Your child can either drop in to see us or schedule appointments through Student Services to address any health and wellbeing matters. While the school generally manages most health needs, we are here to assist in emergencies and provide support for families and the school in health care planning for children with complex health conditions such as anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes, and epilepsy.

Feel free to reach out, and let's work together to ensure a healthy and thriving high school journey for your child.

Belinda Laing-Hughes and Amelia Hardwick, Community Health Nurses

Second Hand Uniform Shop

Our second-hand uniform shop, conveniently located next to the canteen, will be open this coming Tuesday, February 13th, from 8am to 9am.

For Term 1, the shop will be open at this time every week on Tuesdays. However, please stay tuned for any updates in the latest Parent Update.

We have a great selection of sizes in most items! Shirts, shorts, and skirts are priced at \$10 each, while long pants, jumpers, and jackets are available for \$20.

If you have any uniforms to donate to the P&C, please drop them off at Student Services. Remember, this is a volunteer-run service, so 100% of the sales directly support the P&C.

P & C Committee



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Introducing our new staff members

Please follow the [link](#) to get to know our newest staff members.



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Important Dates

Term Dates 2024

	STUDENTS	TEACHERS
Term 1	Wednesday 31 January - Thursday 28 March	Monday 29 January - Thursday 28 March
Break	Friday 29 March - Sunday 14 April	Friday 29 March - Sunday 14 April
Term 2	Monday 15 April - Friday 28 June	Monday 15 April - Friday 28 June
Break	Saturday 29 June - Sunday 14 July	Saturday 29 June - Sunday 14 July
Term 3	Tuesday 16 July - Friday 20 September	Monday 15 July - Friday 20 September
Break	Saturday 21 September - Sunday 6 October	Saturday 21 September - Sunday 6 October
Term 4	Tuesday 8 October - Thursday 12 December	Monday 7 October - Friday 13 December

School Development Days 2024

Term 2	Friday	31 May
Term 3	Monday	15 July
Term 4	Monday	7 October
Term 4	Friday	13 December

Upcoming Parent Events

19 February	Monday	School Tour
22 February	Thursday	School Board Meeting
6 March	Wednesday	Music Support Group AGM (PAC @ 7:30pm - 8:00pm)
7 March	Thursday	P & C AGM/Sundowner 6pm
18 March	Monday	P & C General Meeting 6pm
19 March	Tuesday	School Tour
21 March	Thursday	School Board Meeting
21 March	Thursday	Year 10 Parent Pathway Information Night

Upcoming Student Events

5 February	Monday	Year 12 Awards Assembly
9 February	Friday	Year 12 Ball
21 February	Wednesday	Year 11 River Cruise
27 February	Tuesday	House Swimming Carnival
29 February	Thursday	Year 9 and 10 Social
7 March	Thursday	School Photos
7 March	Thursday	Herbert Edwards Cup (Boys 7-9)
8 March	Friday	School Photos
8 March	Thursday	Herbert Edwards Cup (Girls 7-9)
8-10 March	F-Sun	Year 12 Drama Camp
11 March	Monday	School Photos - Catchup
13 March	Wednesday	Year 8 River Cruise

Visit the school [website](#) for other upcoming events

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Community Notices

Homestay Families Required

March 20-28

Be a part of this amazing cultural experience at Applecross Senior High School

- Provide Aussie meals
- No need to speak Japanese
- Volunteer families receive \$50 per night
- Separate room not required
- No airport runs

For more info call
Linda 0433 544 328
lindaa@aiiu.com.au

Rotary rotary youth exchange

INTERESTED IN AN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE NEXT YEAR?

If you will be aged between 15 – 18 in January 2025 you could be eligible to spend 2025 in another country.

To find out more, you're invited to our

Information Day

Sunday 11 February 2024

Zoom session 10.30am -12noon
for regional and remote students who cannot attend in person
email: ryechaird9423@gmail.com for zoom link

In person session: 1.30pm – 3pm
John McGrath Pavilion
97 Hensman Street, South Perth
Register: ryechaird9423@gmail.com

A Rotary Youth Exchange allows you to:

- Travel, live & study overseas for a year
- Learn another language
- Develop a network of friends from around the world
- Experience a new culture

www.exchangestudentwa.org.au

Rotary rotary youth exchange

SCHOLARSHIP

Rotary Youth Exchange is offering a full scholarship for a WA secondary student who would like to spend a year living and going to school overseas in 2025, but whose family is not financially able to fund it.

Students need to be:

- outgoing, interested in other cultures and adventurous
- aged at least 15 (and finished at least year 10) and no older than 18.5 by January 2025 when the exchange would begin
- In good health, achieving to the best of their ability in school and demonstrating care for other.

WHAT'S PROVIDED

- the exchange fee (\$9,000) (covers airfares, visas, insurance, uniform, training etc)
- \$1,000 to help with clothing etc
- Full board with host families , school expenses (fees, uniforms etc) and a small monthly allowance

For further information and an application form, please contact
Jill Hanna
Chair
Rotary Youth Exchange WA
ryechaird9423@gmail.com
M: 0417 982 315

Rotary rotary youth exchange

INTERESTED IN AN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE?

Applications open in January and close 31 March 2024 for exchanges starting January 2025

Rotary rotary youth exchange

A Rotary Youth Exchange allows you to:

- Travel, live & study overseas for a year
- Learn another language
- Develop a network of friends from around the world
- Experience a new culture

To find out more:
www.exchangestudentwa.org.au
For further information & an application form please email
ryechaird9423@gmail.com

Open to all WA students who will be between 15 – 18 in January 2025

ACADEMIS
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ADMISSION OPEN FOR 2024

Tutoring Services
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- Tailored to Your Needs
- Getting you the Grades you Want
- Premium Quality Tutoring, for a Low Cost
- Specialised to your schools curriculum
- 99+ ATAR Tutors

Contact Us
0425 894 868
www.academis.com.au

Under the guidance of Academis, I achieved a 99.80 ATAR and my journey through year 11 and 12 became much easier

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