

Applecross Senior High School

# Prospectus

2026



**APPLECROSS**  
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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# Acknowledgement of Country

Ngalak kaadatj koora-koora  
Whadjuk moort nidja  
Boodja-k nalak kaadajinu

We acknowledge the traditional Whadjuk Noongar people of this land on which we learn.  
We acknowledge and respect First Nations people's knowledge of this land that they share with us.

# Principal's Welcome

At Applecross Senior High School, we believe every student can thrive when they feel inspired, supported and connected to their learning. Our goal is to nurture a love of learning, encourage curiosity and help every student reach their full potential. We are proud to offer a diverse, contemporary, and engaging curriculum that prepares students for success in a rapidly changing world. Through rich learning experiences, students are encouraged to think creatively, act responsibly and develop the confidence and flexibility needed for the future.

Students benefit from a broad range of pathways tailored to their strengths, interests and ambitions, including academic and intervention support programs, specialist Visual Arts and Tennis programs, and comprehensive senior secondary course and pathway options. At the heart of our school is a strong sense of community. We value the partnerships we build with families and work together to ensure every student feels supported, challenged, and empowered to succeed.

Student wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do. We are proud of our strong culture of pastoral care, where every student is known, supported, and encouraged to achieve their personal best. Our school values of Personal Best and Mutual Respect are embedded across all aspects of school life and guide the way we learn, work, and connect as a community. We foster positive relationships between students, staff and families, built on trust, respect, and shared responsibility.

By creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment, we empower students to feel confident, connected, and ready to succeed both academically and personally.

**Karena Shearing**  
Principal



# Our Priorities 2026-2028

Applecross Senior High School supports students to achieve – now and into the future. The school’s motto, “Achieve”, is supported by our core values of Personal Best and Mutual Respect. Success for students means that they achieve their personal best in a climate of mutual respect and consideration for others.

Our students and teachers value strong, positive interpersonal relationships founded on trust, respect and shared responsibility. We firmly believe that the best learning occurs when teachers, students and parents are in partnership, have common goals and are mutually respectful.

Under the banner of “Applecross Senior High School Chooses Respect”, our core values are Mutual Respect and Personal Best. It is expected that each individual will take responsibility and make a positive contribution to the school community.



## Staff

- Know students (how they learn)
- Know content (how to teach it)
- Plan

## Students

- Prepare students to be lifelong learners
- Opportunities to grow

## Teaching and Learning

- Learn
- Practice
- Apply
- Staff know what works, reflective



# Why Applecross Senior High School

## Our Vision

Applecross Senior High School is committed to excellence and optimum development for all students. Our graduates are well-adjusted, creative and resilient, with sufficient self-esteem to contribute meaningfully to society.

To achieve our vision we aim to:

1. Ensure the complete wellbeing of each student.
2. Consistently improve the academic outcomes and achievements of our students.
3. Provide opportunities and encouragement for all students to engage in a wide range of co-curricular sporting and creative activities.

The school’s core values of Mutual Respect and Personal Best were developed through workshops with parents, students and staff members.

It is expected that all students will take personal responsibility and make positive contributions to the school community.

## Our Beliefs

At Applecross Senior High School we believe every child has the right to a high quality school education.

Accordingly we are committed to:

- Teachers enriching the classroom learning of our students.
- Providing students with the skills, understandings and values to reach their academic potential.
- Meeting the needs, aspirations and interests of all students.

## Our Values

Applecross Senior High School has a strong tradition of positive interpersonal relationships founded on trust, respect and shared responsibility.

# Year 12 Results

Applecross Senior High School's Year 12 cohort of 2025 achieved outstanding results across a broad range of academic, vocational and university pathway programs, reflecting the school's commitment to excellence, high expectations and personalised student support.

Students demonstrated strong achievement across Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR), General, Vocational Education and Training (VET), and university enabling pathways, with results recognised by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA).

### Highlights of the 2025 Year 12 Results

- 1 SCSA General Exhibition
- 3 SCSA Subject Exhibition Awards
- 9 SCSA Subject Certificates of Excellence
- 2 VET SCSA Course Certificates of Excellence
- 14 SCSA Certificates of Distinction
- 35 SCSA Certificates of Merit
- 100% of students achieved the Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA) requirement
- 6 ATAR courses recognised among the highest-performing courses statewide, based on the proportion of students achieving results in the top 15% of Western Australia

### Pathways and Post-School Success

Applecross Senior High School places significant emphasis on supporting students to identify and pursue pathways aligned to their strengths, interests and aspirations.











In 2025:

- 149 students participated in VET programs
- 47 students successfully completed the Curtin UniReady university enabling program
- VET students progressed to the interview stage for the prestigious Beazley Medal for VET
- 50% of ATAR students achieved an ATAR of 90 or above
- 18 students secured apprenticeships during or immediately following Year 12

Targeted academic monitoring, mentoring and pathway counselling are embedded across Years 10–12 to support informed decision-making and maximise student achievement. These structures are complemented by strong partnerships with universities, training providers and industry, ensuring students are supported toward diverse and successful post-school destinations.



## 2025 Result Highlights

	All Year 12 students achieved WACE (100%)		90.75 School Median ATAR
	117 students completed in 4 or more ATAR courses		53 School Curriculum and Standards (SCSA) awards
	133 students completed a VET Certificate II or higher		31 students with an ATAR above 95
	7 students achieved an ATAR of 99 or over		14 students received a Certificate of Distinction
	50% of students achieved an ATAR of 90 or more		35 students received a Certificate of Merit



## Our Programs

### Gifted and Talented Visual Arts

The Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Visual Arts Program was established in our school in 1968 and graduates from this program are highly regarded by tertiary institutions and industry members due to our school's excellent tradition and reputation for success.

Students are selected to attend Applecross Senior High School following state-wide testing in Visual Art. The GATE Visual Art program provides an exciting environment for budding artists to develop artistic abilities. Students learn through a mix of visual enquiry, studio work, exhibition, and critical reflection. Gallery visits, sketching tours, art camps and studio classes are all part of the curriculum designed to help students achieve their potential.

A highlight of the program is the contact with successful artists and craftspeople who inspire and mentor our students in tutorials and Saturday studio classes. Our students also benefit from exhibiting their work and being involved in community art programs.

### Specialist Tennis

The Specialist Tennis Program is available to talented students from across Western Australia in Years 7 to 12, with entry based on successful completion of competitive selection trials. The program is designed to support dedicated tournament players in developing their skills and performance.

Students benefit from a comprehensive program that includes tournament participation, representation at school and club levels, and opportunities to compete in interstate events. Coaching is supported by experienced professionals, including former touring players, and students can also gain accreditation in areas such as coaching, umpiring, and sports medicine.

Our school has an impressive history of success at state, national and international championships.

### Academic Extension

Our Academic Extension (AE) Program provides a dynamic and challenging learning environment for academically able students in Years 7-10. Entry into the program is based on demonstrated academic achievement, with students learning alongside like-minded peers in specialised classes.

The AE Program emphasises depth, challenge, and intellectual curiosity. Students experience a diverse range of teaching approaches and engaging learning opportunities that extend beyond the standard curriculum. Through deeper inquiry and higher-level thinking, they develop independence, resilience, and the skills required to thrive as confident, capable learners.

## Opportunities to Achieve

### Extensive Co-Curricular Programs

#### Music Program

The Music program involves more than 200 students, with the majority receiving instruction through Instrumental Music School Services (IMSS). A wide range of instruments is offered, reflecting those available within the WA public school system, and students who receive private tuition are also welcomed into the program.

High-quality music-making across a diverse range of styles is a priority. The school has nine performing ensembles, including junior, intermediate and senior Concert Bands, two Classical Guitar Ensembles, two String Orchestras, as well as a Choir and Jazz Band.

These ensembles provide a variety of performance opportunities throughout the year, enabling students to showcase their skills to family and the wider community in a professional setting. Performances include Music Department concerts and participation in state-wide festivals.

#### Whole School Production

Students are provided with rich opportunities to explore Dance and Drama through both curriculum experiences and high-quality public performances, including productions and concerts.

#### Debating

Students can choose to engage in debating, public speaking, and creative writing, developing essential skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, and articulate expression. These experiences nurture confidence and creativity, while also providing opportunities to participate in competitions and achieve recognition.

#### Competitions and Field Trips

Students can take part in Mathematics and Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) competitions, where they consistently achieve excellent results.

The Science learning area offers a variety of stimulating experiences, including excursions, field trips, competitions, and participation in Science forums, fostering curiosity and deeper understanding.

A range of camps and excursions are offered across different learning areas throughout the year, providing students with enriching opportunities to extend their learning beyond the classroom.

#### Languages Program

Languages at Applecross Senior High School provide students with the opportunity to learn French and Japanese within a vibrant and successful program. Students can extend their learning through participation in prestigious external examinations and cultural events, including the Australian Language Certificate, Alliance Française exams, the Japanese Language Speech Festival, and the French Forum.

Co-curricular activities, such as French and Japanese clubs, enhance language learning, while international exchange programs and tours offer authentic cultural immersion. Students may host visiting students or travel to France or Japan, experiencing homestays, attending local schools, and engaging in rich cultural activities.



## Lower School Subject Offerings

In Years 7 and 8, students undertake a broad and balanced program of courses drawn from all eight learning areas, including English, Mathematics, Science, HASS, the Arts, Languages, Health and Physical Education, and Technologies. This comprehensive approach builds strong foundations in knowledge, skills, and understanding, while allowing students to explore a wide range of subjects and discover their individual interests and strengths.

As students move into Years 9 and 10, they are increasingly able to personalise their learning through a broader range of pathways and subject choices. Teachers work closely with students to provide guidance and recommend appropriate courses for the following year. These recommendations are shared with families, who are encouraged to discuss options with teachers and Heads of Learning Areas to make informed decisions.

Across all year levels, programs are designed to provide both breadth and depth of learning. AE classes offer additional challenge for high-achieving students, ensuring all learners are supported to achieve their personal best.



## Senior School Subject Offerings

Applecross Senior High School offers a diverse and comprehensive senior secondary curriculum designed to support students across a broad range of interests, aspirations and post-school pathways.

The Years 11 and 12 curriculum is structured to provide students with opportunities to pursue academic excellence, vocational learning, university preparation and industry-based training within a supportive and high-performing learning environment. Courses are aligned with the requirements of the WACE and support pathways to university, further training, apprenticeships and employment.

Students are able to select from a wide breadth of ATAR, General and VET programs, enabling personalised pathway planning and flexibility in senior secondary study.

The school also offers a range of pathway programs, including Curtin UniReady and VET Connect, supporting students to access university enabling courses, workplace learning opportunities, school-based traineeships and nationally recognised qualifications while completing secondary school.

### Areas of Study

Applecross Senior High School offers courses and programs across the following learning areas:

#### English and Languages

- English
- Literature
- English as an Additional Language or Dialect
- French
- Japanese

#### Mathematics

- Mathematics Essentials
- Mathematics Applications
- Mathematics Methods
- Mathematics Specialist

#### Science

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Human Biology

- Physics
- Psychology

#### Humanities and Social Sciences

- Accounting and Finance
- Ancient History
- Business Management and Enterprise
- Economics
- Modern History
- Politics and Law

#### Technologies

- Applied Information Technology
- Design
- Engineering Studies
- Engineering Studies – Mechanical

- Food Science and Technology
- Materials Design and Technology – Wood

#### The Arts

- Drama
- Media Production and Analysis
- Music
- Visual Arts

#### Health and Physical Education

- Health Studies
- Physical Education Studies

#### Careers and Vocational Pathways

- Career and Employability

- Certificate II in Sport and Recreation
- Certificate II in Construction Pathways
- Certificate II in Hospitality
- Certificate III in Business
- Certificate III in Engineering Studies
- Certificate III in Allied Health

#### Tertiary Preparation Program

- Curtin UniReady

Applecross Senior High School values the importance of informed pathway planning and provides extensive academic counselling, mentoring and subject selection support to ensure students are equipped to make confident and purposeful decisions about their future.



## Pastoral Care

Positive relationships with students are developed by our experienced staffs' stability and long term commitment to the school. Clearly articulated expectations for behaviour result in a calm and respectful tone and students who are engaged in their learning.

We have an experienced Student Services team who support and work in partnership with parents. The team consists of three Heads of School, two Chaplains, Community Nurse, three School Psychologists, and six Heads of Year. They provide students with academic support and monitoring, counselling, health and wellbeing advice, and mentoring.

The Heads of Year have specific responsibility for developing within their students a strong sense of belonging, self worth, civic responsibility, cooperation, justice and community. They know what is going on in their students' school life on a daily basis. The Head of Year is often the first point of contact when a parent wishes to communicate with the school.

### Core Pastoral Care Program

The Core Pastoral Care Program, launched in 2025, aims to foster meaningful relationships, develop career pathways, and improve student wellbeing. Each day, students participate in a 'Core lesson' involving Positive Education programs, house activities, year assemblies, career development and more to build a sense of community.

Positive Education applies the science of wellbeing and positive psychology to help students and staff become their best selves. The Applecross SHS Core program focuses on character strengths and psychological wellbeing, following Martin Seligman's PERMAH principles.



### The House System

The House System at Applecross Senior High School is an important part of pastoral care for all students. It provides students with a sense of belonging, comradery and identity during their time at Applecross. The House System offers each student a wonderful opportunity to get to know and make new friends.

When a student enrolls at Applecross Senior High School they are allocated to one of the four Houses. They remain in that House while they are studying at Applecross. Students and staff are equally divided into the four Houses.

Students are offered a variety of cooperative and competitive cultural and sporting activities to help them learn new skills and build confidence. House points are awarded through SEQTA for achievements in academics, attendance, activities, and citizenship. Points can also be earned through Year Group House Competitions, national and state-level competition awards, as well as Athletics and Swimming Carnivals.



# Our History

Established in 1958, Applecross High School caters for students south of the Swan River, and to relieve the pressure on Kent Street High School and John Curtin High School.

In 1962 Applecross became a Senior High School with Leaving Certificate classes. Almost immediately the School's reputation for academic achievement was foreshadowed: in 1963, the second only Year 12 class scored 113 successful passes with 32 Commonwealth Scholarships. Furthermore, Applecross Senior High School could now compete on equal terms with other Senior High Schools and began its long and creditable record of Inter-High School competition.

Having started with 600 students and 24 staff members, Applecross has thrived over the years and currently caters for over 2,000 students in Years 7 to 12, and employs 230 staff.



# School Infrastructure

Applecross Senior High School is set to benefit from a significant investment following the Cook Labor Government's commitment of \$7.9 million towards major upgrades. This substantial refurbishment will include the development of a modern, eight-classroom learning hub, designed to enhance teaching and learning opportunities for students. Scheduled for delivery in the 2027 school year, the new facilities will support contemporary educational practices and help meet the growing needs of our school community, ensuring students have access to high-quality, future-focused learning environments.

Our facilities include a purpose-built Art block with exhibition space; a new Science wing, Library, and Technology building; a Performing Arts Centre with retractable seating; a university-style auditorium; a new gymnasium and fitness centre, and tournament standard tennis courts. The school is set in beautifully landscaped grounds, shaped by mature trees, creating a pleasant, relaxed environment that is conducive to learning and a young adult ethos.



