



MC Link - Term 4, Week 10

11 December 2024



Principal's Address

Welcome to our final MC Link for 2024.

Where has the year gone? It's hard to believe I've just experienced the final year celebrations, MerryDin and Highest Achievers assembly. It's has been a time to appreciate the incredible effort our young people have put into their learning, their curiosity, and their personal development.

For me, this year has been a whirlwind, filled with valuable lessons and memorable moments. I've been so immersed in learning from every interaction with our students, staff, and parents that it feels as though time has flown by in the blink of an eye.

Throughout the year, I've discovered how the past has shaped the traditions and practices of Merredin College. I've come to understand what our students need today to help them flourish, and I've heard the hopes and dreams for the future of our school.

Although this year has helped me set a clear direction for our school moving forward, my learning journey is far from over. Reflecting on the past twelve months, I feel immense pride

in our achievements, the challenges we've faced and overcome, and the collective determination I witness every day to keep improving.

I wish all our students and families a wonderful holiday break and I look forward to coming together for the 2025 school year. I am excited about what the new year will bring.

Kylie Cattaway

Principal

General Information

FAREWELLS

We wish the very best to our departing staff.

- Deirdre Patterson (Primary)
- Justin Roberts (Secondary)
- Cilla Wild (School Nurse)
- Natalie Warnock (Secondary)

We have two late vacancies we are seeking to fill - Secondary English/HASS teacher and Primary teacher. We are currently advertising for these positions.

Our new staff will be announced in the new year.

ATTENDANCE As the year draws to a close, we are seeking to update our unexplained absences. It is a Department of Education requirement that all student absences are recorded with a reason.

Unexplained absence letters have been emailed, and we ask that families please respond with reason/s for your child/ren's absences as soon as possible.

Please contact administration (phone or email) if you require a Compass Login.

NEW START TIME 2025!!! Our school day will change slightly from the beginning of the 2025 school year. The start time will change from 8:50am to 8:45am. The end of the school day remains unchanged, 3pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and 2:30pm on Wednesday.

2025 CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES

2025 Contributions and Charges have been mailed out to families last week, including Additional Cost Items, student booklists and other important information for next year listed below:

- **Student Update Form** - Please ensure that you check these thoroughly, amend any changes to your contact information and return to administration.
- **Bring your own device (BYOD)** - Permission for students to bring their own device (BYOD) is required at the beginning of each year. Please ensure that this form is returned with the correct device number before the start of next year so they are able to access the internet.
- **Third Party Apps Consent** - please complete online using the QR Code on the Flyer for each child before the beginning of 2025.

Please contact administration if you have any queries regarding the above or you did not receive your child's package. This information can also be found on the school [Website](#).

STUDENT REPORTS All student reports have now all been sent. If you have not yet received your child's report, please check your junk mail otherwise please contact administration and we will resend. It is likely that attendance data may be incorrect on your child's school report due to the recent upgrade to the Compass-Kaartdijin Solution. Please be assured that our records remain accurate. The error is being investigated by the Department of Education.



THIRD PARTY APPS CONSENT

Parent consent is required for your child to access online third-party services to support their learning in the classroom. Schools use online third-party services to assist with:

- school or student management
- staff and class administration
- student learning content or activities
- communication tools.

Online third-party services may require: students or teachers to create separate student accounts; students to participate in online activities or upload content; and/or students or teachers to provide personal student or parent information.

The Department of Education conducts a risk assessment and approves the use of each online third-party service in WA public schools. The risk assessment may require that parents are notified of the third-party service being used in the school or require parent consent for their child to engage with the service.

When providing consent, it is important that you are aware of what type of information we will be providing, how it will be used, and where it will be stored. If you do not provide consent, your child will not have access to the third-party online services.

The online services provide our students with significant education benefits. The school will contact you to discuss your reasons should you not consent or fail to provide a response. If you do not consent, your child may receive an alternative education program that does not make use of these services.

It is important that this is completed by the beginning of the 2025 school year.

Please provide consent via the Third Party Online Services Consent Form QR Code:



What's in the Compass parent portal?

Your child's profile

- View attendance and behaviour/wellbeing records
- Email your child's teachers
- Submit absent or late notes

Important reminders

- For attendance notes
- Consent for excursions

Latest school news

- Receive news updates relevant to you such as newsletters or details of upcoming events

Calendar

- View your child's upcoming excursions and school events

Compass is our online school management system, to manage student attendance and wellbeing and communicate important school information. Compass for parents/guardians allows schools to invite parents/guardians to connect with them online through their Compass parent portal. If you still require a login to access Compass please email your request to: Merredin.College@education.wa.edu.au

DOWNLOAD THE APP
Compass School Manager

GET IT ON Google Play | Download on the App Store

MERREDIN COLLEGE BOARD

We are seeking parent representatives to fill vacant positions on our school board. The board engages the school community to achieve the best outcomes for students. Having quality members is a critical part of the process. Members play an important role in contributing to good school governance so that school resources are used efficiently, and community expectations and the school's priorities reflect the needs of our students.

In 2025 the board will be reviewing the student uniform and senior secondary offerings. If you are keen to be involved in these discussions, as a member, please email principal.merredin.col@education.wa.edu.au.

The board currently meets at 5pm on Tuesdays once or twice per term, although meeting times are negotiated with the members.

For families that live out of town or have child caring responsibilities, video conferencing options can be made available.

Contributing to the school board is a great way to keep connected with your child's school.

Primary News

CLASS PARTIES

All class parties in primary will be held on Wednesday (tomorrow). Please check with your students about the arrangements or check Seesaw for advice.

YEAR 6 STAIRCASE CEREMONY

We will be holding our annual Stair Ceremony to celebrate the growth of our Year 6's and their movement from primary to the high school on Thursday, 12 December. The ceremony will commence at 2.50pm from the base of the stairs between primary and secondary and Year 6 parents are welcome to attend.

CLASS ALLOCATIONS 2025

Letters will be sent home on Wednesday in Week 10 with class allocations for 2025. Class lists will be posted on classroom doors on the first day back next year.

Secondary News

2025 CAMPION/CALCULATOR ORDERS - ATAR STUDENTS Order forms for these items have gone out to parents with the Contributions & Charges. Please note that orders for Upper School books from Campion must be completed by **Friday, 13 December 2024** and Abacus calculators by **Thursday, 19 January 2024** to ensure your child receives them before commencing next year. **YEAR 11 2024 HIGHEST ACHIEVERS ASSEMBLY** Year 11 Highest Achiever Awards will be presented at a special assembly on the first day back in 2025. This will be held on Wednesday, 5 February at 9.30am in the gym.

Reduce your school fees in 2025!!

If you hold one of these concession cards



Apply Now!

To receive your allowance in 2025
\$235 towards fee and \$300 for uniforms
(per child)

HOW TO APPLY?

- Download the form from the school website (hard copies are available at the front office)
 - Email the form and a copy of your concession card to Merredin.College@education.wa.edu.au
- Or
- Bring the form and concession card to the front office

NOTE: Applications must be submitted by the end of Term 1
(Friday, 11 April 2025)

Concession Cards must be valid for at least 4 weeks
and not expired at the time of applying.

SECONDARY ASSISTANCE SCHEME

***SCHOOL GROUNDS** Please note that the school grounds are off limits to the public throughout the holidays. To reduce damage to buildings and the grounds there are surveillance cameras in place and police patrols are regular. If you see any people using the school grounds as a thoroughfare or for any other purposes please report to the local police.*

Calendar Dates

2024-TERM 4

Wednesday, 11 December: Year 7-10 Highest Achievers Assembly 12.30pm Thursday, 12 December: Last day of Term 4

2025-TERM 1

Wednesday, 29 January: Administration Opens Monday, 3 February & Tuesday, 4 February: Staff Development Days Wednesday, 5 February: School Commences for students (Wednesday) Year 11 Highest Achievers Assembly 9.30am



2025 - IMPORTANT DATES Administration opens for 2025 on Wednesday 29 January from 8am-4pm. Please note office hours for Monday, 3 February are between 8am-12noon and Tuesday, 4 February are from 12noon-4pm as admin staff will also be attending School Development Days. **SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS**

We have selected our School Development Days for the 2025 school year. Students will start on Wednesday, 5 February 2025 with our school development days (student free days) as shown below.

- Friday, 30 May 2025 (Mid Term 2 creating a 4 day long weekend for students)

- Monday, 21 July 2025 (First day of Term 3)
- Monday, 13 October 2025 (First day of Term 4)

TERM DATES

- Term 1: Wednesday, 5 February - Friday, 11 April
- Term 2: Monday, 28 April - Friday, 4 July
- Term 3: Monday, 21 July - Friday, 26 Sept
- Term 4: Monday, 13 October - Thursday, 18 December

Stay up to date with upcoming events using the Compass App online calendar.



P&C Uniform Shop

UNIFORM SHOP EXTENDED HOURS 2025

Monday, 3 February 2-3pm

Tuesday, 4 February 1-3pm

Wednesday, 5 February 8.30-10am

Thursday, 6 February 8.30 -9.15am

Friday, 7 February 8.30-9.15am

Monday 10 February 8.30-9.30am

Tuesday 11 February 8.30 -9.15am

Wednesday 12 February 1.30-2.45pm

Thursday 13 February 8.30-9.15am

Friday 14 February 8.30-9.15am

A reminder that if families donate their pre-loved uniforms (in good condition) to the uniform shop that a 10% discount will be given on new purchases.

Community



This week our Year 1 students visited Beringa Lodge to deliver some wonderful Christmas cards they have been working on.





Latest News and Events

On Tuesday evening our Primary students presented an end of year concert to our school community and today we had the Year 7-10 Highest Achievers Assembly. This was an opportunity to acknowledge the students who achieved excellence and displayed our school values in 2024. Congratulations to the students who received awards.

MerryDin











Year 7-10 Highest Achievers Assembly





[Link: Merredin College Latest News and Events](#)

Contact Information

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Website: merredincollege.wa.edu.au

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