



## MC Link - Term 4, Week 6

15 November 2024

### Principal's Address



During the busy season for our farming families, every hand is essential to tackle the intense workload. Just as everyone comes together in the fields - each person taking on their role to ensure the crops are harvested - schools, too, rely on a united effort. Students, teachers, and staff all pitch in to meet goals, support one another, and complete learning tasks. Just like a farm during harvest, a school is a community where teamwork, dedication, and shared effort make all the difference.

In our previous newsletter, I encouraged parents to provide feedback through a series of six mini surveys sent via SMS. So far, we've received responses from just under 50 parents on the first two surveys, but we would love to gather a broader perspective from our entire community. Your input is essential in helping us grow as a school. I encourage all parents to complete these surveys to help us gather valuable insights.

We will use this data to develop a responsive operational plan across key areas: Leadership, Relationships and Partnerships, Teaching Quality, Use of Resources, Learning Environment, and Student Achievement and Progress. If you would prefer to share your feedback in person, please make an appointment through the school administration. I welcome all feedback—both positive and constructive—as we work together to enhance our school.

### Strategic Plan 2025-2029

<b>MOTTO</b> • Advance Together		<b>TAGLINE</b> • GROW – Advance – Achieve	
<b>VISION</b> • In collaboration with our community, we empower young people to be critical thinkers and innovative leaders, dedicated to achievement and creating a better future for all.			
<b>OUR ASPIRATIONS</b> • Students achieve their potential demonstrating year on year progress throughout their learning journey. • Students are well prepared to step into an aspirational pathway of further education, training, or work. • Students are successful and connected members of the school and community.			
<b>KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b> <b>Student Achievement and Progress</b> • The Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) achievement rates will equal or exceed WA public schools. • In NAPLAN, the progress of the stable student cohort will equal or exceed WA public schools. • Improvement in student wellbeing positively impacts students' readiness to learn. <b>IMPROVEMENT DRIVERS</b> – Using data, we make evidence-based decisions to strengthen student wellbeing, engagement, and learning with multi-tiered systems of support.			
<b>Learning Environment</b> • Alongside WA Positive Behaviour Support (WAPBS) processes, we embrace our GROW values, practices and behaviours to support a positive school culture. • Social and emotional knowledge and skills are explicitly taught to improve relationships and promote positive wellbeing. • Student outcomes are enhanced through embracing inclusivity and cultural diversity. • Students at risk of not achieving their potential are identified and provided with appropriate support to address their needs.		<b>Teaching Quality</b> • The learner dispositions: resourceful, engaged, ambitious, and persistent (REAP) are explicitly taught to enhance and deepen learning experiences. • Consistent pedagogical approaches are implemented through our whole school instructional framework. • Through collaboration, staff collectively deliver teaching practices that are effective in our school context. • Students at risk of not achieving their potential are identified, supported, and monitored for improvement.	
<b>SUPPORT STRUCTURES</b> – Our school systems, partnerships, and resources, efficiently and effectively, support teaching and learning.			
<b>Relationships and Partnerships</b> • Staff, students, and parents inform school decision-making. • Strong relationships are supported by clear and effective communication strategies. • Partnerships enhance learning programs and expand opportunities.	<b>Leadership</b> • Leadership capabilities and aspirant opportunities are grown and developed. • Clear leadership responsibilities and systems of support enrich the conditions for teaching and learning. • We collectively lead a culture of high expectations and integrity.	<b>Use of Resources</b> • Resource management aligns with school planning. • Resource allocations enhance educational equity and excellence. • Workforce planning and management promotes the growth and development of staff to meet students' needs.	

Over the past six months, our staff have been reflecting on the school's achievements, the previous review report, and our future aspirations to develop our strategic directions. The strategic plan outlines the broad goals we aim to accomplish over the next five years. While the attached document contains the core details, we look forward to presenting it in a more visually engaging format in the weeks to come. We are also developing the operational plans that will support this vision, ensuring that 2025 is guided by clear objectives.

The strategic plan, endorsed by the school board on 4 November, focuses on two key improvement drivers: Learning Environment and Quality Teaching. By limiting our priorities, we can dive deeply into the work needed to make a lasting impact in these areas. To support these goals, we have also created structured leadership opportunities for our staff.

In crafting the strategic plan, we also revisited and refined our school vision to align with our commitment to growth and improvement.

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Revised vision: In collaboration with our community, we empower young people to be critical thinkers and innovative leaders, dedicated to achievement and creating a better future for all.

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The vision reflects the strong partnership with our community, the learning traits our students require for life-long learning, and the contributions our students will make well beyond their school years.

This year the school board has reviewed the Year 11-12 Assessment Policy, K-12 Good Standing policy and the K-12 Student Engagement Policy (inclusive of the School Behaviour Policy). The school board provides advice to the school, contributes to policy reviews and development, and reviews student achievement data to plan for improvement.

The school board is seeking additional parent members. I encourage you to join our friendly group that meets on Monday at 5:00pm, Week 5 and Week 9 of each term, for approximately 1-1.5 hours.

The next board meeting is Monday 2nd December 2024 at 5:00pm in the secondary administration boardroom. We hope to see you there!

Mrs Kylie Cattaway

Principal

## General Information

### **ATTENDANCE MATTERS!!!**

It is important that students attend school each and every day. If your child is unwell enter an attendance note in Compass or phone the school. We encourage attendance up to the last day for Term 4, Thursday, 12 December.

**COMPASS LOGINS** Our school uses Compass, an online school management system, to manage student attendance and wellbeing, and communicate school information across K-12. Compass enables; parents to notify the school of absences, access attendance history, view student timetables, view the school's calendar and notices, email your child's teachers and the opportunity to book meetings when Parent Teacher Evenings/afternoons occur throughout the year.

Compass can be viewed using an internet browser or the app. If you do not have a login, please contact the school on 90417520 or email merredin.college@education.wa.edu.au.

**2025 STUDENT ADDITIONAL COST ITEMS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES** Additional cost items such as student booklists, Campion Book and Calculator order forms are now available on the school [website](#). 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. Individual 2025 contributions and charges will be emailed to parents before the end of the school year. Payments received for student contributions enhance our student resources for improved learning. **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.

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***WHOLE SCHOOL END OF YEAR CELEBRATION Colour Run - Wednesday, 11 December @ 2:00pm. Kindy to Year 10*** We are celebrating a year of hard work on Wednesday, 11 December. The College will be having a colour run after lunch on the oval. For students travelling by bus please ensure that you pack a change of clothes and a towel to sit on in the bus please.

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## Important Dates

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2025

*The 2025 school year commences on Wednesday, 5 February 2025, for students. We will begin the day with a secondary assembly, at 9:00am, where we will present the 2024 Year 11 Highest Achievers Awards 2024.*

*Administration will be open from Monday, 3 February, 8:00am.*

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#### 2024-TERM 4

15 November	Last day of school for Year 11 students St Mary's Year 6-7 Transition Morning Kindy Orientation - Session 2
18-19 November	Follow the Dream Year 9
20 November	Shooting Stars Awards Night
22 November	St Mary's Year 6-7 Transition Morning
25 November	P&C Meeting 3.15pm
26 November	Year 9 Careers Day
27-29 November	Year 11 Transition Days Year 9 DHS Try-A-Trade
28-29 November	Year 6-7 Transition Days
29 November	Kindy Orientation - Session 3 Triple P - The Power of Positive Parenting 9.15am
2 December	School Board Meeting 5pm
3 December	Triple P - Raising Confident Competent Children 9am
2-6 December	Year 9 Camp Albany
5 December	CoRE Showcase 6pm
6 December	Primary Rewards Day
9 December	Primary Glass of Class Luncheon
10 December	MerryDin Concert 6pm Triple P - Raising Resilient Children 9am
11 December	Year 7-10 Highest Achievers Assembly 12.10pm
12 December	Whole School Colour Run Last day of Term 4

#### 2025-TERM 1

3 February	Administration Office opens for 2025
3-4 February	Staff Development Days
5 February	School Commences for students (Wednesday) Year 11 Highest Achievers Assembly 9.30am

## Primary News

**KINDY ORIENTATION** Our final orientation session for Kindergarten students joining us in 2025 will be held on Friday, 29 November. The session will be held in the kindy room in Block 1 and start at 9:00am. We look forward to seeing all our new little people again. This session will run alongside our Triple P parenting program and will end with an information session and information bag. the session will finish at 11.20am. **TRIPLE P POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM**

The Triple P – Positive Parenting Program is one of the most effective evidence-based parenting programs in the world, backed up by more than 35 years of ongoing research. Triple P gives parents simple and practical strategies to help build strong, healthy relationships, confidently manage their children's behaviour and prevent problems from developing.

A Triple P program will run at the school over three 90-minute sessions this term. Parents can attend a single session or all three. All parents with children aged 2-8 years are encouraged to attend.

- Friday, 29 November - 9.15am: The Power of Positive Parenting
- Tuesday, 3 December - 9am: Raising Confident Competent Children

- Tuesday, 10 December - 9am: Raising Resilient Children

Please RSVP to [Merredin.College@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Merredin.College@education.wa.edu.au), phone 90417520 or at the primary administration by Thursday, 24 November. Limited creche facilities are available; therefore, bookings for this service are essential. **MERRY-DIN - SAVE THE DATE!**

MerryDin will be held on Tuesday, 10 December and commence at 6.30 pm this year. Like last year, we will have one concert for K-6, which will be picnic-style on our grass quad opposite the covered assembly area. Parents are encouraged to bring a picnic blanket and enjoy the show and award presentations. Some seating will be available on the paved area surrounding the quad and the stage. The senior playground will be off limits during the MerryDin to reduce distractions to our performers; however, the Nature Play Area will be available for younger supervised siblings. We expect the concert to end just after 8pm. Students will need to be at school by 6pm to prepare for their performances. Students will be expected to sit with their class throughout the concert.

#### **WATER BOTTLES**

Reminder - As the weather is warming, all students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school daily. Hydration is essential as it heats up, particularly when students are participating in sport.



## Secondary News

**2024 YEAR 11/12 COURSE CHARGES** Statements for overdue Contributions & Charges have been recently distributed to families. Upper school course charges are **COMPULSORY** payments. Estimated course costs are listed in the Upper School Curriculum Handbook so that parents understand the financial commitment for each course. Charges still outstanding for 2024 will roll over to next year charges.

Contributions can be paid directly to the school. The school office can accept cash, cheques, EFTPOS or direct deposit. If you require assistance or advice on these charges please contact Janelle Lane, Manager Corporate Services.

*Direct Deposit to: Merredin College BSB: 066-040 A/c: 1990 3610*

## SECONDARY HOMEROOMS

Secondary homerooms will be reduced from 4 groups per house to 3 groups per house from 2025. This will release staff to coordinate house meetings, plan activities, strengthen school spirit, and promote healthy competition between the houses. Whilst we are reducing the number of homegroups the number of students in each group will remain low with approximately 23 students in each.

### 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](mailto: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



## Latest News and Events



1 - Pallet Projects students completed a Giant Jenga Set for the Year 7 Quad



2 - Primary Grow Award Winners - Week 4



3 - Year 9 Students helping out at the Merredin Seniors Luncheon



4 - Year 10.2 Health Expo

## Community

### 2024 AWARDS SPONSORSHIP

At the conclusion of each school year Merredin College celebrates the success and achievements of our Kindergarten to Year 11 students at various presentation events. These events are our opportunity to recognise and reward academic achievement, student endeavour, and citizenship.

As these events draw near, we are requesting donations from members of the Merredin community, towards the purchase of vouchers, book prizes and trophies to the value of \$50.

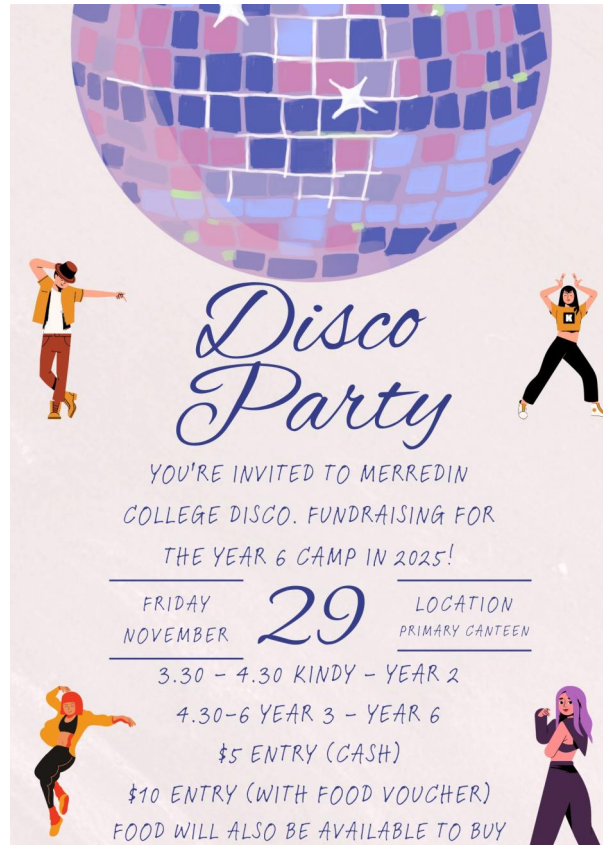
We host three ceremonies at Merredin College:

- MerryDin Concert (Kindy - Year 6) - Tuesday, 10 December 2024, 6:30-8:00pm
- Year 7-10 Highest Achievers Assembly - Wednesday, 11 December 2024, 1:00pm
- Year 11 Highest Achievers Assembly - Wednesday, 5 February 2025, 9:00am

We would appreciate any new donations towards the awards. All sponsors are invited to attend as special guests and will be publicly recognised at these events. Tax Invoices can be generated upon request.

Thank you in advance for your contributions to making these events special for our students and providing support for your local school.

If you are interested in kindly donating, please express your interest via email, [Merredin.College@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Merredin.College@education.wa.edu.au), or phone, 90417520. We would love to hear from you before Friday 22 November 2024.



## Contact Information

Phone: (08) 9041 7520

Website: [merredincollege.wa.edu.au](http://merredincollege.wa.edu.au)

Email: [Merredin.College@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Merredin.College@education.wa.edu.au)

Compass: [merredincollege-wa.compass.education](http://merredincollege-wa.compass.education)