



MC Link - Term 2, Week 1

2 May 2025

Principal's Address

Welcome back to Term 2!

We hope all our students and families enjoyed a restful and meaningful holiday break.

Over the holidays, many in our community took time to reflect on Easter, a time of renewal and hope, as well as ANZAC Day, when we pause to honour the courage and sacrifice of those who have served our country. These moments of reflection remind us of the values of resilience, gratitude, and values we carry with us into the term ahead.

Term 2 is shaping up to be a busy and exciting time, filled with rich learning experiences, events, and opportunities for our students. Most importantly for our senior students the School Ball 'Out of this World', will be held at Cummin Theatre this Saturday evening. We look forward to the wider community welcoming our young adults as they proceed along the red carpet.

ANZAC assembly

We held our ANZAC Assembly on Wednesday, and it was a beautiful and meaningful service, warmly supported by parents and members of the wider community. Once again, our students were outstanding in their conduct, showing the respect and attentiveness that such an important occasion deserves. It was special to hear from a representative group of Year 9 and Year 10 students who eloquently read personally prepared passages sharing the reflection and learning they had conducted in class.

Staying Healthy This Winter

As we move into the colder months, Terms 2 and 3 often see a rise in seasonal illnesses such as colds and flus. This year, we're already noticing an early impact on both students and staff.

We kindly remind families that keeping children home when they are unwell is vital. It helps to:

- Prevent the spread of illness,
- Support your child's rest and recovery, and
- protects our staff to promote consistency in our teaching and learning programs.

Free Vaccination Opportunities

The WA Department of Health is offering:

- Free COVID-19 vaccinations, and
- Free influenza vaccines throughout May and June.

I encourage families to take this opportunity to consider vaccinations for all family members to help keep our school community safe as we move into the cooler months of the year.

Staff Update

We welcome

- Kylie Bryant, primary HPE teacher, back from long service leave.
- Jodi Spittal, secondary HASS teacher, was expected to start this term although has experienced extreme home sickness and has subsequently returned to Scotland.
- Two new Education Assistants, Tracey Weiss and Bianca Hancock.
- Marie Morrell, secondary teacher, who is assisting to backfill staff whilst on leave or supporting in other positions.

On leave

- Jeno Hayden is accessing long service leave for the month of May.

We farewelled Mark McClellan, secondary Design and Technologies teacher, at the end of Term 1 to take up a position with much less travel. We thank Mark for the large number of kilometres he travelled to service our school for 7 years.

We also wish the following staff the very best in their recent retirement and thank them for their service to our school and the Department of Education WA.

- Kay Irvin, Education Assistant
- Caryn Adamson, primary Music teacher
- Lee Willcocks, Education Assistant

We have two vacant teaching positions: secondary Design and Technologies and secondary HASS. Both positions are known across the state to be difficult to fill although we are actively and creatively working to fill these positions. To assist in the delivery of Woodwork, staff from the School of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE) will be visiting our school in the next few weeks. They will be supporting the continuity of our woodwork program, especially for Year 11/12 students, through an online delivery method that has proven outcomes in other locations.



Mrs Kylie Cattaway

Principal

ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE







Upcoming Events



Our school Calendar is accessible through the Compass App/Browser

MERREDIN COLLEGE SCHOOL BALL



Out of this World

Year 10-12

Saturday, 3 May 2025

Cummins Theatre

6-11pm

Arrivals from 6pm

Year 12 entrance 6.30pm

Parents of Year 12's are invited into venue from 6.30-6.40pm

Students must be collected by a
parent/guardian promptly at 11pm.



This is a Student Council fundraising event



BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)

Merredin College is a BYOD school - don't forget to register student devices by completing an [Acceptable Usage Agreement](#). For further information please contact administration.

Primary News

YES HAT!! YES PLAY!!

Merredin College has a STRICT no hat – no play policy. All children need a hat to participate in play at breaks and physical education programs. Hats are available from the Uniform Shop and the primary office for \$12.

PRIMARY ASSEMBLY

Save the date: Our next primary assembly will be held on Thursday 22nd May at 9:00am in the covered assembly area and will be run by Mrs Cornish's Year 3 Class. We look forward to seeing our families there.

Secondary News

OLNA ASSESSMENTS - YEAR 10-12

OLNA assessments for Year 10-12 students will commence next week.

- Monday 5 May - Writing

- Tuesday 6 May - Reading
- Wednesday 7 May - Numeracy

Students are required to pass the Writing, Reading and Numeracy assessments to meet the OLNA standard, a requirement for achievement of WACE (Western Australian Certificate of Education).


Absent students will have an opportunity to 'catch up' on incomplete assessment(s) during 12th-14th May.

2025 MSP School Photos

School photographs can be ordered through the Compass App/Browser. Parents who do not have a login for Compass can receive one by contacting the school administration.


- **Expiry date for online ordering family photo's is midnight before the first photo day - Sunday, 4 May.**
- **Expiry date for online ordering individual photos is Tuesday, 13 May.**

Envelopes for cash payments and Student Shoot Key Numbers are available from administration offices. These must be handed direct to the photographers on photo days.




2025 School Photos Schedule

<p>Monday, 5 May</p> <p>Family Photos A-M: 8.20-8.45am</p> <p>Class Photos: Kindy 1 and Years 7-12</p> <p>Group Photos: Year 12 Student Councillors Year 7-11 Student Councillors Year 7-11 House Captains</p>	<p>Tuesday, 6 May</p> <p>Family Photos N-Z: 8.20-8.45am</p> <p>Class Photos: Kindy 2 - Year 6</p> <p>Group Photos: Year K-6 Student Leaders Year K-6 House Captains</p>
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Compass
Individual Student and Family Photos can be ordered through Compass. Alternatively, you can collect Individual Shoot Key numbers and Family Photo forms from administration.

- Please ensure your child/ren are in correct school uniform on photo days.
- Students in group photos will be advised of uniform required to bring on their photo day.





MSP Photography WA
089240 8000
admin.perth@msp.com.au
PO Box 2188 Warwick, WA 6024
www.msp.com.au

COMPASS ORDERING SYSTEM

We recommend you add this to your Newsletter before photo day, to advise Parents /Guardians of ordering procedures

Merredin College

School Photos will be taken on:
Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th of May 2025

0 Class Photos/Portraits:

- ✦ Every Student will have their photo taken, whether they are purchasing photos or not.
- ✦ Online orders for Individual photos and Class group photos can only be placed via the Compass Portal.
- ✦ The expirydate for online ordering is **Tuesday 13th of May 2025**
- ✦ Any orders received after this date will incur an archive fee of \$30.
- ✦ Spare envelopes (green) will be available at the school reception should you wish to pay via cash.

0 Specialty Group Photos:

- ✦ After photo day, a link will be sent to the School for distribution to parents whose child/children is/are in the specialty group photos.

0 Family Photos:

- ✦ Family photos are taken each morning before school.
- ✦ Family orders can be placed online via the Compass Portal or by collecting a family (orange) envelope from School Reception.
- ✦ **Online orders for Family photos are cut off at midnight the day prior to the first photo day.**
- ✦ If you are using a family envelope with payment enclosed, please ensure this is handed to the photographers at the time of the photo.
- ✦ Once the photos are delivered the family photos will remain at reception for parents to collect.

0 How to Place your order:



Ordering through the Compass portal:

1. Click the MSP Photography link in the Compass App
2. Select 'Order 2025 Photographs'
3. Choose your pack then place your order

0Compass



Ordering with Cash payment:

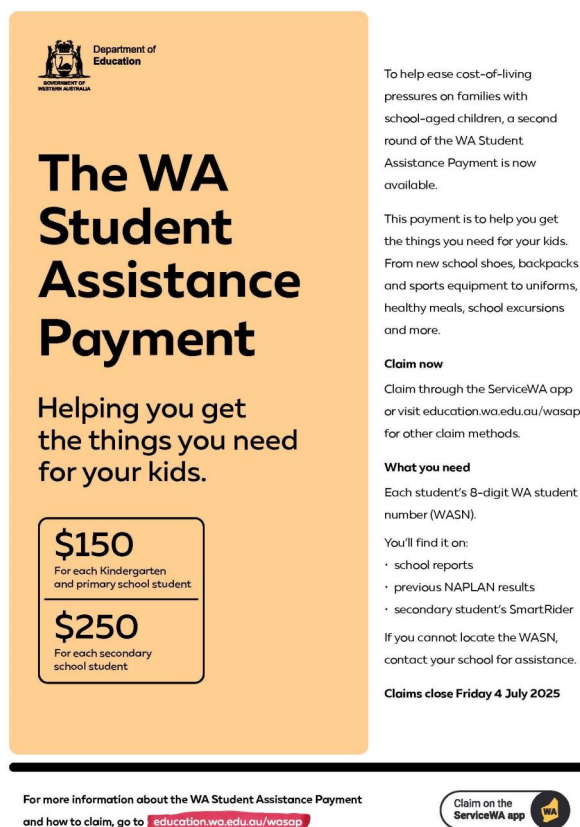
1. Obtain envelope from school Administration
2. Fill in the front of the envelope with your child's details and shootkey
3. Place cash in the envelope and seal
4. Hand envelope with payment enclosed to the Photographer on photo day

Please Note:Our photographers are unable to supply you with change on the day_

Please Note:

Individuals and Family Photos are not available to view online for Students' Security.

Community



The poster is for the WA Student Assistance Payment (WASAP). It features the Department of Education logo at the top left. The main title is 'The WA Student Assistance Payment' in large, bold, black text. Below the title, it says 'Helping you get the things you need for your kids.' There is a box containing two payment amounts: '\$150 For each Kindergarten and primary school student' and '\$250 For each secondary school student'. To the right of the box, there is text explaining the purpose of the payment: 'To help ease cost-of-living pressures on families with school-aged children, a second round of the WA Student Assistance Payment is now available.' It also lists what the payment can be used for: 'This payment is to help you get the things you need for your kids. From new school shoes, backpacks and sports equipment to uniforms, healthy meals, school excursions and more.' There are sections for 'Claim now' (via ServiceWA app or website) and 'What you need' (8-digit WASN, school reports, NAPLAN results, SmartRider). It also mentions that if the WASN cannot be located, the school should be contacted. The claims close on Friday 4 July 2025. At the bottom, there is a footer with more information and a link to the website, and a button to claim on the ServiceWA app.

Department of Education
GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The WA Student Assistance Payment

Helping you get the things you need for your kids.

\$150
For each Kindergarten and primary school student

\$250
For each secondary school student

To help ease cost-of-living pressures on families with school-aged children, a second round of the WA Student Assistance Payment is now available.

This payment is to help you get the things you need for your kids. From new school shoes, backpacks and sports equipment to uniforms, healthy meals, school excursions and more.

Claim now
Claim through the ServiceWA app or visit education.wa.edu.au/wasap for other claim methods.

What you need
Each student's 8-digit WA student number (WASN).
You'll find it on:
• school reports
• previous NAPLAN results
• secondary student's SmartRider
If you cannot locate the WASN, contact your school for assistance.

Claims close Friday 4 July 2025

For more information about the WA Student Assistance Payment and how to claim, go to education.wa.edu.au/wasap

Claim on the ServiceWA app

WA Student Assistance payment (WASAP)

As announced by the Premier and Minister for Education, the second round of the WASAP is now available for every eligible student in Western Australia to provide cost-of-living relief for families to help with the cost of children's schooling.

All enrolled WA school students are eligible for the payment of **\$250 for each secondary student** and **\$150 for primary and kindergarten students**.

Families will be able to claim using the information from the 2024 initiative.

Please visit [WA Student Assistance Payment](https://education.wa.edu.au/wasap) for more information.

Contact Information

Phone: (08) 9041 7520

Website: merredincollege.wa.edu.au

Email: Merredin.College@education.wa.edu.au

Compass: merredincollege-wa.compass.education