



MC Link - Term 3, Week 10

26 September 2025

Principal's Address

CANTEEN PURCHASES

We have noticed groups of students purchasing food for each other at the canteen. While this may seem like a kind gesture between friends, it creates a number of issues, including:

- **Equity and fairness:** Not all students can afford to do this, which can place pressure on others.
- **Peer pressure:** It can encourage students to ask for food or drinks, adding further pressure.
- **Use of parents' money:** In most cases, students are spending their parents' money rather than their own, and this money is not always being used in the way it was intended.

To avoid these concerns, we encourage families to use the **online ordering system through Compass** wherever possible. This ensures that payments are made directly, and money does not need to be brought to school.

We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a fair and positive canteen experience for all students.

PROTECT IN PLACE PROCEDURE

On Friday, 19 September, our school enacted a protect-in-place (lockdown) procedure as a preventative measure to maintain the safety of all students and staff. This remained in place for approximately two hours while WA Police managed a situation in the community.

The incident arose from a conflict between two students. While there were threats made involving a weapon, a weapon was not used.

We were very grateful that during this time we received a phone call from only one parent. This allowed us to remain fully focused on the safety and wellbeing of everyone on site. Thank you for your understanding, cooperation, and continued support.

NAIDOC WEEK

This week we celebrate NAIDOC Week. The 2025 theme, “The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy,” invites us to reflect on the important role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in carrying culture, knowledge, and traditions into the future. There is no greater way to know Australia than through the eyes of Aboriginal peoples. Their culture brings the beauty of our country to life and is what visitors from all over the world come here to experience.

Throughout the week, students engaged in games, art, cooking, stories and dance to deepen their understanding of Aboriginal culture. We concluded our celebrations with the much-loved **NAIDOC Footy Match**. Congratulations to **Waarlitj** on their victory this year!

YEAR 12

We have now arrived at the business end of Year 12. Our ATAR students have completed their Semester 2 examinations and are busily preparing for the upcoming SCSA exams next term. At the same time, our General and VET students are working hard to finalise their remaining tasks, securing those important results towards achieving the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE). It is an intense but exciting time, and we are proud of the focus and determination our Year 12s are showing as they approach the finish line of their school journey.

TERM 3 - IT'S A WRAP

It has been a busy term, with staff and students managing illness alongside a full calendar of sporting events and excursions. Despite these demands, our school community has pulled together with resilience, care, and good humour. The way everyone has supported one another has made it a term to be proud of, reminding us of the strength and warmth we share as a community.

Mrs Kylie Cattaway

Principal

General Information

2025 COMBINED HARVEST YEARBOOK

If you wish to order a 2025 Yearbook, payment will need to be finalised by Friday, 17 October 2025.

ACADEMIC SELECTIVE ENTRANCE TESTING

The Academic Selective Entrance Testing (ASET) is for children in Years 6, 8, 9 and 10 in 2026. It will allow students entry into Gifted and Talented programs in selective public high schools in 2027, if selected.

The ASET testing is scheduled to be held on 9-10 March, 2026 (in various test centres in the Wheatbelt).

If you have a child in the above years who may wish to sit for this test, the following information is relevant for you:

1. You may **register your interest** so that you receive all the relevant information about the application and programs. This is not an application to sit the test. <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/lodge-an-online-application>
2. Applications for the 2027 intake will open on **Tuesday, 14 October 2025 and close 6pm Friday, 6 February 2026. Late applications will not be considered.**
3. Bookings are now also open for the **Gifted and Talented Parent Information Evenings and the Regional Online Parent Information Session**. The online session is scheduled to take place 4:30 pm on Wednesday 26 November 2025. It can be found on the GT website, <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/gifted-and-talented/parent-information-evenings>, (under Parent Information Evenings) or for a direct link:

WATER BOTTLES AND HATS

As the hot weather is upon us we encourage all students to bring a drink bottle to school to stay hydrated and prevent disruptions to learning.

Australia has a very high incidence of melanomas, so please encourage your child to wear a hat during breaks and in Physical Education classes.

Calendar



Our school Calendar is accessible through the [Compass App](#)

Term 4 Dates

- Monday, 13 October: School Development Day (students are not required to attend on this day)
- Tuesday, 14 October: Term 4 Commences for students
- Thursday, 18 December: Last day of Term 4

End of Year Awards Ceremonies



Year 12 Awards Presentation Evening

- Wednesday, 22 October - 6.45pm

MerryDin K-6 Concert and Presentation Evening

- Tuesday, 16 December - 6-7.30pm

Year 7-10 Highest Achievers Assembly

- Tuesday, 16 December - 9am

Year 11 Highest Achievers Assembly

- Monday, 2 February 2026 (first day of Term 1 next year)

Secondary News

LES LAST SCHOLARSHIP Merredin College offers the Les Last Scholarship to support an exceptional student from its previous Year 12 cohort who is pursuing their first year of tertiary education. This scholarship provides valuable financial assistance to help them succeed in their tertiary studies. The goal of the scholarship is to assist the recipient with costs associated with study in one of the following disciplines: Agriculture, Architecture, Medicine, Science, Commerce or Engineering.

The application form is on our website for your child who might now currently be enrolled in their first year of University.

[APPLICATION FORM](#)

YEAR 11, 2026 COURSE SELECTIONS

Last week we held an information session for Year 10 students entering Year 11 in 2026.

Year 11, 2026 Course Selection Forms are due to Administration. If students or parents would like to discuss the options for Year 11 please contact the school to book an appointment with Mr O'Neill or Mrs Sutherland.

END OF YEAR ARRANGEMENTS FOR YEAR 12'S

Wednesday, 22 October

- 9am: Farewell Assembly.
- 10.00am: Awards Night Rehearsal of proceedings.
- 10.50am: Year 12's are invited to share Morning Tea in the staffroom. Students present fun awards to teachers.

- 7-9.30pm: Awards Ceremony (6.45pm arrival)

Further dates for ATAR Students:

Monday, 13 October-Friday, 17 October

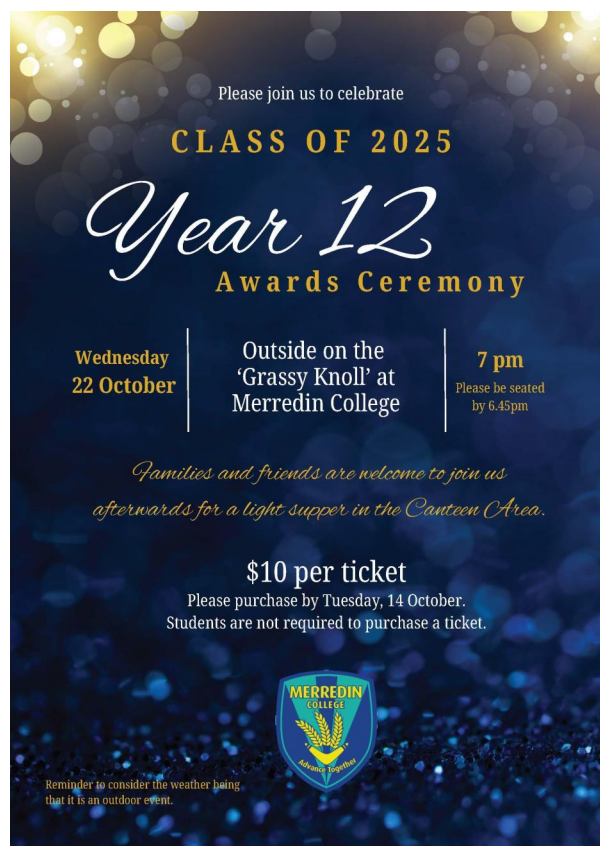
- All Year 12 ATAR students return for normal classes.

Monday, 23 October-Friday, 27 October

- Revision Seminars will be offered to ATAR students, timetable to be advised.

Wednesday, 29 October-Friday, 14 November

- **WACE Written Examinations commence (ATAR)**



Latest News & Events

[NAIDOC Week](#)



[Year 6 Camp](#)



[Primary Interschool Athletics Carnival](#)



Secondary Assembly



Community

2025 HIGHEST ACHIEVER AWARDS SPONSORSHIP AND DONATIONS

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 various members of the Merredin community. These donations are used to purchase vouchers, book prizes and trophies for students receiving individual recognition.

We have four ceremonies scheduled at Merredin College and would appreciate it if you would consider donating towards some of these awards. A donation of \$50 per award is requested for MerryDin Concert (K-6) and the Year 7-11 Highest Achievers Awards. A donation of \$80 per award is requested for the Year 12 Graduation and Awards Ceremony.

We would appreciate it if you would like to support these events by donating an award if you could please express your interest by contacting the front office on Merredin.College@education.wa.edu.au or call 9041 7520. A Tax Invoice will be provided for your records if you wish to donate.

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

Contact Information

Phone: (08) 9041 7520

Website: merredincollege.wa.edu.au

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

Compass: merredincollege-wa.compass.education