



# MC Link - Term 1, Week 4

Friday, 27 February 2026

## Principal's Address

Dear families,

We have had a fantastic start to the school year. Our students have returned ready for learning, having grown so much over the holidays, not only physically, but also in their independence and maturity.

Thank you to our families for ensuring students were so well prepared for the beginning of the school year during what is always a busy time following Christmas. The standard of uniform has been outstanding. Our students look amazing and are working positively with staff to uphold our shared expectations.

I have been super impressed with how our Year 7 students have settled into high school. Whilst we understand that the transition period expands much more than a few weeks, in these early weeks they have shown how resourceful they can be by accessing supports and asking so many questions. They have been learning new tools to use with their BYO device, and it is pleasing to see them keep track of their GROW points using Compass.

Our Year 3–6 swimming lessons were scheduled early this year. Thank you to families for ensuring students were organised and prepared each day. I would also like to acknowledge the staff involved in coordinating this event. Significant preparation and out-of-hours work is required to meet duty of care and Department of Education policy requirements for off-site activities, particularly those involving water. We appreciate their commitment to ensuring our students are safe while accessing valuable learning experiences.

This nine-week term is full of carnivals and events. We have swimming carnivals and interschool events along with a tennis competition and hockey clinic throughout the term. Please keep an eye on communication via MC Link, our Facebook page and email to stay informed.

I encourage all parents to access Compass, where you will find our online calendar and key school documentation. Through Compass, parents can also book parent-teacher conferences (when open), submit attendance notes and communicate directly with teachers. MSP Photography will be on site early in Term 2, with ordering also available through Compass.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or our staff if you have questions, feedback or suggestions. We are on a continuous improvement journey, working in partnership with our parents, students and wider community to provide the very best for our children.

Warmest regards,

Kylie Cattaway

Principal









Students have entered into 2026 with great enthusiasm for learning. What a fantastic start to the year!

## General Information

### NAPLAN Testing

NAPLAN Testing will take place from Wednesday 11 March to Monday 16 March. We kindly ask that all students arrive at school on time during the NAPLAN testing period.

Students are required to meet at the library 10 minutes prior to their scheduled start time.

Catch-up sessions will be arranged for any student who misses a testing session during the NAPLAN period. Students who miss a session will be required to complete the tests in the scheduled order for that week: Writing, Reading, Language Conventions, and Numeracy.

Timetable provided.

Day	Wednesday 11 March 2026	Thursday 12 March 2026	Friday 13 March 2026	Monday 16 March 2026
Test (duration)	Writing (42 minutes)	Reading (65 minutes)	Language Conventions (45 minutes)	Numeracy (65 minutes)
Cohort	Year 3			
Period/Time	10:00am-11:00am	09:30am-10:45am	09:30am-10:30am	11:30am-12:45pm
Cohort	Year 5			
Period/Time	09:30am-10:30am	10:00am-11:05am	10:00am-11:00am	09:30am-10:45am
Cohort	Year 7			
Period/Time	Period 2 09:45am-10:45am	HR/Period 2 09:55am-11:05am	Period 2 10:05am-11:05am	HR/Period 2 09:45am-11:05am
Classes	71ENG/72ENG	7HR 71ENG/72ENG	71SCI/72HASS	7HR 7PHYSREC/7DAN
Cohort	Year 9			
Period/Time	Period 4 12:05pm-01:05pm	Period 1/HR 8:45am-09:50am	Period 1 08:45am-09:45am	Period 3/Period 4 12:10pm-01:30pm
Classes	91HASS/92ENG	91PED/92HEA HR	91SCI/92SCI/9CoRE	9CRIM/9ADV/9DAN 91MAT/92MAT
Cohort	Year 7 and 9 Catchup Sessions			
Day	Tuesday 17 March 2026		Thursday 19 March 2026	
Period/Time	HR/Period 2 09:45am-10:05am		Period 1/HR 08:45am-10:45am	

## **Year 3-12 Interhouse Swimming Carnival**

### **Merredin District Olympic Swimming Pool - Tuesday 10 March 2026**

The carnival is a 'participant only' event with those that have nominated to swim in events attending the carnival.

Parent/Community volunteers are needed for ribbon presenting, starter, time keeping and photography. Please contact the Office or email [Kylie.Bryant@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Kylie.Bryant@education.wa.edu.au) if you are able to help.

More information will go out via Consent2Go closer to the event.

### **Students Signing Out**

If you are planning to sign your child out during the school day, we recommend that you make these arrangements with your child prior to the start of the school day. Please also notify the school at the beginning of the day and provide details of the departure.

#### ***Primary Procedure***

To sign your child in or out of school please attend the Primary Office and provide a reason for your child's absence and expected return time (if applicable).

Office staff will check your child's schedule and if your child is not in their classroom (ie: Science, Sport, Art or Library), office staff will collect your child and return them to the Primary Office ready for their appointment/departure.

#### ***Secondary Procedure***

It is preferred that arrangements for student collection are made with your child prior to the commencement of the school day. Parents can enter an attendance note in Compass and students can collect a pass from Student Services at the beginning of the day to release them from class at the required time.

Students **will not be called over the PA system**, as this interrupts the learning of others. Where prior arrangements have not been made, there may be a short wait time as office staff may not be immediately available to collect your child from class.



## Student Information



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*Individual Student Update forms were distributed with fees and charges at the end of 2025. We ask that families contact Administration to update student contact and medical details if needed. Keeping this information current helps us provide the best possible care for your child.*

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## Primary

**Teddy Bear Hospital (PP-Year 1)**

Medical students from Notre Dame will be visiting the school on the **Tuesday 10 March** for our annual Teddy Bears Hospital. Students are encouraged to bring a teddy Bear to school on the day to take part in this community program. The program aims to provide children with positive health care experiences, ease fears or anxiety associated with doctor or hospital visits, promote health and wellbeing, and increase health awareness.

The process behind the Teddy Bear Hospital is that children bring a teddy or soft toy to a pretend hospital and act as the parents of the teddy with a problem. Children will be actively engaged in the check-up as they explain what is wrong with their teddy. This provides the opportunity for medical students to practice their paediatric communication skills, using child-friendly language to communicate with the child, form and explain a treatment plan to help improve teddy's health and wellbeing. Each child works through a scenario with their teddy, facilitating discussions on important aspects of health, including diet, physical activity and sun protection.

### **Oxford Handwriting Books**

All students in PP-Year 6 need the Oxford Handwriting Book as outlined on the 2026 Student Personal Items List. Books are available for purchase from the main administration office for \$20. Books can also be purchased via direct deposit to the Merredin College account, with the book being delivered directly to your child in class.

Please add the student's name followed by OHWB to the description.

*Merredin College, BSB:066-040, Account: 19903610*

### **Primary Uniforms**

We are desperately seeking second hand uniforms for our emergency spares cupboard, particularly polo shirts. Uniforms can be donated at the Primary Administration.

## **Secondary**

### **Year 7-12 Parent-Teacher Conferences**

We invite you to attend our first Parent Teacher Conferences of the year to discuss your child's Progress Report (which will be emailed early Week 6). For our new students, this is a chance for parents to meet their child's teachers and is a great opportunity to discuss ways to further support your child, at school and/or at home.

Staff are available on **Wednesday 18 March 2026 from 2:45-5:45pm** in the Wahlsten Library. To see as many parents/caregivers as we can, meetings will be 5 minutes in length. If there is

a need to continue the conversation our teachers will organise another meeting, either on the night, if available or in the week following the conferences.

Parents/Carers are to make their bookings using Compass. If using the Compass app: Select “more” (bottom right of mobile screen), then select “Conferences” to make your bookings. If using Compass through a browser follow the How-To guide (link below). This guide will also help parents using the Compass app.

Conferences will be made available to parents/carers on Compass on **Wednesday 11 March 2026 at 6pm**.

If unable to meet with a teacher on this evening due to the teacher already being fully booked or you are unable to attend, please call the school on 9041 7520 for assistance.

[How to make a Conference Booking](#)

### **2026 Year 10-12 School Ball**

Students wishing to bring an external partner must submit an application form to Student Services by **Friday 6 March 2026**.

The outcome of external partner applications will be advised to students by **Friday 13 March 2026**.

Tickets will be available to purchase from Student Services between **9-27 March**.

Tickets will only be issued once:

- Payment has been made
- Parent permission has been completed via Consent2Go
- External partner application (if applicable) has been approved

## **Contributions and Charges**

Statements for 2026 Student Contributions and Charges have been mailed home this week.

Payment is due by the end of Term 1. If you would like to arrange a payment plan, please contact the Front Office.

Please note that charges for Year 11 and Year 12 students are compulsory.

**Bank transfers can be made to:**

**Merredin College**

**BSB: 066-040**

A/C: 1990 3610

A yellow poster for the Secondary Assistance Scheme. At the top left is the Department of Education logo for the Government of Western Australia. At the top right is the slogan 'Shaping the future'. The main title 'Secondary Assistance Scheme' is in large pink letters. Below it, it says 'Years 7 to 12 you may be eligible for up to: \$350 towards school expenses'. A list of eligible concession cards is provided: Centrelink Health Care Card, Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card, and Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card. The application deadline is 'Applications close 2 April 2026'. At the bottom, it says 'Ask School Reception for more information.' The bottom half of the poster features a colorful abstract graphic with yellow, purple, pink, and orange shapes.

Department of Education  
GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Shaping the future

## Secondary Assistance Scheme

Years 7 to 12 you may be eligible for up to:

# \$350

towards school expenses

If you hold a:

- Centrelink Health Care Card
- Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card
- Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card.

**Applications close 2 April 2026**

**Ask School Reception for more information.**

The Secondary Assistance Scheme is available to secondary students whose parents hold a concession card. The scheme includes the Clothing Allowance (\$115 paid to school or parent) and Educational Program Allowance (\$235 paid directly to the school).

If you think you are eligible for the Secondary Assistance Scheme, you are able to apply through the school at the beginning of next year.

The Secondary Assistance Scheme is available to students up to and including the year in which they turn 18, and only if they have a parent who is a holder of one of the prescribed cards listed below:

- Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card; or
- Centrelink Health Care Card (Family card only – not for a specific child for medical purposes, viz: “CDA” type [Child Disability Allowance]); or
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card.
- Cards that are not eligible are TPI and Gold Cards.

Students in receipt of ABSTUDY are eligible for the Secondary Assistance Scheme.

[APPLICATION FORM](#)



For more information-  
 Phone: 9041 7520  
 Email: [clare.smith2@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:clare.smith2@education.wa.edu.au)



"Kindilink staff are friendly and easy to approach, the kids love having activities to do and music time is their favourite".  
 -2025 KindiLink Family

**WHO:** Children aged 0-4 and their families

**WHEN:** Tuesdays and Fridays 9-12

**WHERE:** Merredin College 0-4 room

**WHAT:** Please bring a piece of fruit to share for morning tea.







## 2026 School Calendar

Our live school calendar is accessible through Compass. There has been strong interest from our parent community for a 'term at a glance' view. Whilst a term view is accessible, when accessing Compass using an internet browser, a brief term-by-term calendar has been uploaded to our [school website](#) for the community's convenience. Please note that the website version will only be accurate at the time of upload and will share selected key events therefore please continue to use the live Compass calendar for confirmation of events.



## Latest News

### [2025 Year 11 Highest Achievers Assembly](#)



### [Year 7 Big Day Out](#)



### [Primary Assembly - Term 1, Week 4](#)



## 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](https://merredincollege-wa.compass.education)

## Compass



Compass is our primary information management system. The parent portal provides access to your child's profile, news feed, online school calendar, attendance and much more.

Parents of new students will receive an invitation to access Compass next week. Parents of current students who have not yet logged in, please contact administration.