



MC Link - Term 1, Week 7

Friday, 20 March 2026

Principal's Address

Dear families,

The positive start to our school year has continued, with our students collectively earning 10,000 GROW points, securing a whole-school free dress day on Wednesday, 4 March 2026.

Students also had the opportunity to spend their points by purchasing cups of colour to 'colour bomb' their favourite staff member last Thursday. There was something wonderfully unexpected about a student approaching a staff member with a smile ... followed by a burst of colour! The joy was contagious, with many students heading back to purchase refills.

Next week, the house who was first to reach 6000 points, Growden, will be enjoying a 'Hot Chips' reward. I am sure the smell of 'hot chips' will inspire the competitive spirit in Kelly, Mitchell and Law to ensure that Growden does not end up on top next time.

Staff Changes

Emma Carson (secondary English) has made the difficult decision to leave Australia and return to the UK. Emma has been a valued member of our school community and will certainly be missed.

We are pleased to share that we have appointed a permanent secondary English teacher, Thomas Misenti, who will commence in Term 3, 2026. Thomas brings nearly 20 years of classroom experience and will be joining us from England with his wife and young son. We look forward to welcoming him to our school community.

In the interim, Marian Haselton will step into the English role for Term 2. Marian is a qualified English teacher with 11 years of experience across WA and Victoria and has already met with Sarah Postans, Head of Curriculum, to prepare for the term ahead.

Early next term, Caitlin Hogan (secondary HASS) will begin her maternity leave. Caitlin is a valued member of our staff and we look forward to welcoming her back to Merredin College when the time is right.

We are pleased to have appointed Neil Urquhart as a permanent HASS teacher to take over Caitlin's classes from the beginning of Term 2. Neil has already commenced at the school and is working closely with Caitlin to ensure a smooth transition. We are delighted he has chosen Merredin College to further his career and he is already proving to be a great asset to our secondary English and HASS team.

School Board

I am proud to introduce the current Merredin College School Board.

- Marie Bartlett - Parent of Y7 and Y9 students
- Estelle Madaffari - Parent of Y7 student
- Brandon Smith - Parent of Y6, Y8 and Y10 students
- Robert French - Community member
- Lynne Herbert - Deputy Principal
- Kylie Cattaway - Principal

I extend my thanks to outgoing board members, Glen Reithmuller, Jessica Rode and Emma Carson, for their fantastic service on the board. Your time and contributions have been greatly appreciated.

The school board meets twice per term, Monday, 5:00pm-6:30pm and is welcoming new members. If you are interested in joining the school board, please contact the school on 90417520 or email: principal.merredin.col@education.wa.edu.au.

The school board will be holding a **public open meeting on Monday, 18 May 2026, 5:00pm**, held at the school administration on Woolgar Avenue. This meeting is open to the public and will include a tour of recently upgraded facilities, including:

- Primary and secondary STEM areas
- Library furniture
- Wellbeing foyer

We hope to see you there!

Secondary Parent-Teacher Conferences

We held our largest-ever secondary parent–teacher conferences this week, with bookings growing from 238 in 2024 to 345 this year.

Thank you for your strong support and for taking the time to partner with our teachers in your child’s learning journey. When we work together, there is no limit to what our students can achieve.

Kylie Cattaway

Principal





Year 1-12 House Spirit End of Term Activity

Fresh off that back of a highly competitive House Challenge and PBS 'colour bomb a teacher' event comes the Term 1 House Spirit End of Term activity.

On the last day of Term 1 during P5, the whole school will come together in their houses to compete in a tunnel ball competition. For the first time in a long time, primary and secondary students will compete together and support each other to win the event. With the House points so close, which House will come out on top?



Secondary Assistance Scheme

A vertical poster with a yellow background. At the top left is the Government of Western Australia logo and the text 'Department of Education'. At the top right is the slogan 'Shaping the future'. The main title 'Secondary Assistance Scheme' is in large, bold, pink letters. Below it, in black text, is 'Years 7 to 12 you may be eligible for up to:'. The amount '\$350' is written in large, bold, pink letters. Below that, in black text, is 'towards school expenses'. A list of eligible concession cards follows: 'If you hold a:' followed by three bullet points: 'Centrelink Health Care Card', 'Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card', and 'Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card'. Below the list, in black text, is 'Applications close 2 April 2026'. At the bottom, in pink text, is 'Ask School Reception for more information.' The bottom of the poster features a colorful abstract graphic with yellow, purple, pink, and orange shapes.

Department of Education
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.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY 2 APRIL 2026!!

Please contact the school administration if you require assistance or have questions.

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

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 also eligible for the Secondary Assistance Scheme.

[APPLICATION FORM](#)

Primary

Primary Assembly

Our next primary assembly will be hosted by the Year 2/3 Classroom. It will commence at 9am on Thursday 26 March in the covered assembly area. We look forward to seeing our families there.

Second-hand Uniforms

We are desperately seeking 2nd hand school uniforms, in particular school polo shirts. If your children have outgrown shirts and you are happy to donate them, we would greatly appreciate them as we are starting to run quite low in primary admin.

Handwriting Workbook

Student booklists for 2026 included a student workbook for Handwriting, 'Oxford Handwriting for New South Wales (Third Edition)'. This book is an integral part of all student's learning program in Pre-primary to Year 6 and an absolute necessity. These books are available from the main administration. Please contact Lynne or Meredith in primary admin if you are having difficulty with the purchase of the book so we can make arrangements or payment plans.



Secondary

Assembly

The secondary GROW Assembly will be held this Wednesday 1 April at 9am in the gymnasium. Families are welcome to attend!

Year 7 and Year 10 Immunisations

Facilitated by WA Health, the school-based Immunisation Program provides free routine and recommended vaccines to WA high school students. Students are eligible to receive the following vaccines:

- Friday, 1 May: Year 7: Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (dTpa) and human papillomavirus (HPV)
- Friday, 8 May: Year 10: Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY).
- Friday 15 May will be a catch-up day for Year 7 and 10 students absent on the scheduled date.

Families must provide permission to WA Health for their children to receive the immunisation. To provide complete the consent form online or by completing a hardcopy form and returning to the school.

[Online form: School-based Immunisation Program 2026](#)

[Hard copy form: School-based Immunisation Program 2026](#)

Year 10-12 'Euro Summer' School Ball

School ball tickets are now on sale for all Yr 10, 11 & 12 students. These can be purchased from student services for \$80.

Ticket sales close Friday 27 March!



2026 School Calendar

ANZAC Commemoration Service - Wednesday 22 April, 9am.

This is a whole school event, parents and friends are welcome to attend.

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.



Compass Wallet



Compass Pay/Wallet

As you may be aware, the Canteen are no longer taking orders through Compass. You may have pre-loaded money onto your child's wallet in preparation for the new school year, or have funds left over from last year.

To request the money to be refunded back into your account, please contact Compass Support.

Details and more information can be accessed here: [Compass Support](#)



Prefer to chat on the phone?

Speak to a support team member by using these numbers.

AU: (+61) 03 9005 5217

IE: (+353) 01 699 4305

UK: (+44) 114 697 7000



Email us

Write to us and we'll get back to you ASAP.

AU: support@compass.education

IE: iesupport@compass.education

UK: help@compass.education

Latest News

Congratulations to all the students who represented our school at the EASA Interschool Swimming Carnival in Wyalkatchem today on winning the Perpetual Shield—an outstanding achievement!

A special mention to Andrew W for taking out the Year 7/8 Boys Championship title, and to Ruby S for her fantastic effort in finishing as the Year 7/8 Girls Runner-up Champion.

Well done to everyone involved!





1 - [Year 3-12 Interhouse Swimming Carnival](#)



2 - [Pre-primary Classroom Update](#)

Contact Information

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Compass: merredincollege-wa.compass.education