

ESPERANCE RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE

TERM 2 NEWSLETTER 2025

Important Dates for Term 3 2025

21st July	College opens 3pm for Term 3
22nd July	First day of school Term 3
15th Aug	Family and Carers Dinner and Games Night at ERC
16th Aug	School Production night
8th - 9th Sep	OLNA (writing) at ESHS Yrs 10, 11 & 12
15th Sep	OLNA (numeracy and writing) at ESHS Yrs 10, 11 & 12
18th Sep	Yr 12 Dinner
19th Sep	ERC Awards Night and Yr 12 Farewell
26th Sep	Last day for Term 3. College closes at 5pm

Dear Parents, carers and staff,

It's been an awesome term. We achieved so much and this sets a great platform for the rest of 2025 and beyond.

The College filming was completed and a huge thanks to staff and students. It's very professional and showcases what we do at the college everyday. If you use the links below, you can see the whole videos. There will also be a social media push over term 3, with shorter video clips. New promotional materials will include new handbooks, posters and banners.

Student video https://youtu.be/5B-_PC7jLSw?si=X3GcuOSWpZuKnz2r
Staff videos - <https://youtu.be/cZSXNHu913I?si=6DjJICSaLZvLvBLc>

Other achievements include our Strategic Planning day (full wrap up in the newsletter), completion of student recreational areas (T-sections) and of course the addition of our chicken coup (Healthways funding of \$5,000).

Please note that we have changed our Grandparents dinner to a Family and carers night on Friday 15th August. We're encouraging grandparents, uncles, aunties, family friends etc. to join us for an evening meal and games. Another great event is our College Award and Year 12 Farewell on September 19th. We would love to see you all there. Also it is a big welcome to newly appointed Esperance High School Principal Janet Silburn-Baker. Janet has previously been a boarder at the College (farmed in Munglinup), taught at Esperance and recently been in a leadership role at Rossmoyne High school. What a great asset to ESHS.

Kind regards
Peter Jarzabek

Ethan (Kalgoorlie) and PJ (Hopetoun)
proudly promoting the College.



Bus Transport

The residential college provides a courtesy bus service for our boarders, connecting them to opportunities in Esperance, such as sporting and work commitments. To ensure we are as efficient as possible, we ask that our students write their bus runs in our bus book by 1.30pm (Lunch 2) on the day they require transport, at the very latest. If students write in bus runs at the last minute, we cannot guarantee that transport can be provided and students who have been pre-prepared will be prioritised.

Healthways Grant

This term we received a grant from Healthways, to fund projects with the aim of promoting mental wellbeing. The first project to be completed was our new fire pit and yarning circle. The second project has recently been completed, thanks to the tireless work of Brian and Wes we now have a very nice chook pen. 7 chooks were sourced from Hopetoun and have made themselves at home. It won't be too long and we'll have some nice fresh eggs from them. The students enjoy sitting with them and just enjoying their company, and also relish in the responsibility of letting them out in the mornings, feeding them the kitchen scraps and then securing them away in their nice, warm shed once the sun has gone down. They will be well looked after during the holiday break and there may even be a few new faces among them when the students return for Term 3.



College Tutors

Our intrepid College tutors have been making waves locally and have found themselves on the front page of the local paper recently.

They are a very well-rounded group with a lot of innate knowledge which they are happy to pass on to our students during study time. With the looming exams coming up for the year 12s at the end of Term 3, OLNA and other important academic milestones in the near future, they are a valuable asset for the students to access next term.

They are available Monday to Thursday nights, in the College boardroom from 7.30pm until 9pm.

With the wealth of knowledge they have between them, we are extremely lucky to have this resource at our fingertips.



Strategic Planning Day

The College recently hosted our Strategic Planning Day for 2025.

We had attendees from all areas of the education Department - Dale Watkins the Coordinator of Regional Operations, Amanda Morton Regional Services Support Coordinator; Janet Silburn-Barker ESHS Principal, Sam Miller Student Services ESHS and Luke Brown College Psychologist. Kris Starceвич also joined us from Goldfields/Esperance Development Commission as well as our full team of supervisory staff, ancillary staff, administration staff as well as representatives of the student body, Kasey Gordon (Head Girl 2025) and Madison Kalalo.

Planning for the future of the College included the topics of College Presentation, College/School Partnership, Parent Involvement, Student Development and Education and ended with Staffing.

After compiling feedback from everyone on what, in their opinions, were College success stories, we brainstormed together for a further couple of hours, trying to think of ways we could improve the already high standards we have here at the College. In groups consisting of people from different areas within the College and the wider community, we put together suggestions and then had an informal 'vote' on each one, with the most popular listed below:

College Presentation

- A Relaxation Garden for the students to enjoy. The students can contribute to it, which will enhance their sense of belonging and emotional connection to the College. We look to include things like a water feature/wishing well, an "emotion" tree that they can talk to or stick notes to or even decorate a section of the fence with friendship locks or bracelets.
- Giving students more responsibility for presentation of the College.
- A dedicated art room for the students.

College/School Partnership

- More communication from the school in regards to camps and excursions and more options on how to track where students are at academically.
- Open days at ERC that encompass tours of ESHS.

Parent Involvement

- Encourage parent responsibility and involvement with more frequent contact from College staff in regards to how their student is travelling and any extra assistance they may require.
- Produce a "Day in the life of a student" blog/vlog to showcase how the College runs day-to-day for the students.

Student Development and Education

- Teaching basic life skills - organisation skills, hygiene, simple cooking.
- More complex life skills workshops - tax file number applications, financial planning and advice, how to fill job applications.

Staffing

- Consistency between staff members — fair behaviour expectations, reward structures etc.
- Showing more appreciation for the everyday things that all of the staff do behind the scenes.

As you can see, a wide range of topics were discussed and decided upon. At the end of the process, we have a clear view of what is needed/desired at the College and a detailed approach on how we can achieve it.

The workshop was a successful venture in bringing together all of the interested parties to the College and clarifying the decisions and changes we need to put in place moving forward to keep the College at the peak of its ability to provide an excellent residential facility for students from all walks of life.



Term 2 Activities

With the colder weather upon us, the staff at the College have been finding weather-appropriate activities to engage the students. Pool runs and basketball games are the norm, but there are also those die-hard students who throw caution to the wind (literally) and like to go fishing or even surfing if there's a slight hint of blue sky.

We have been testing the waters (figuratively) with pottery classes and the classic Kahoot or Jackbox games on Saturday nights which have all been well received. Sundays are dedicated to DnD with Luke; and Bec and Lisa are also giving the kitchen a workout with small cooking/baking activities over the weekend.

