

ESPERANCE RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE

TERM 4 NEWSLETTER 2025

Important dates for Term 1 2026

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| Sun 1st Feb | College opens for Term 1 at 12.00pm |
| Mon 2nd Feb | First day of Term 1 at ESHS |
| Sat 7th & Sun 8th Feb | Orientation Weekend at ERC |
| Sat 28th Feb - 2nd Mar | Long Weekend Labour Day (No School Monday) |
| Thurs 5th Mar | Protective Behaviour Workshop |
| Sun 8th Mar | Hopetoun Hiking Excursion |
| Thurs 2nd Apr | College Closes at 5:00pm |



Dear parents, carers, staff and students

As the year draws to a close I would like to thank parents, students and staff for another excellent year at Esperance Residential College and best wishes for the coming festive season and holidays.

We look forward to seeing students back again next year on **Sunday 1 February after 12.00pm**. The College will provide lunch that day to both students and parents. If you are an AIC (Assistance with Isolated Children) recipient, can you please bring in your AIC statement from Centrelink to Tracey. This is important as Tracey can then provide an update to your boarding costs for 2026 based on these statements.

One of the biggest challenges facing our students in 2026 is the social media ban for under 16s. Please see attached flyer with more information. On top of these new rules, students from year 7 to year 10 will need to hand in their phones overnight. This is the same guideline for all Residential Colleges in the State Government system. This is important as students can use this time for suitable rest from electronic devices. That is going to be difficult for some students who may rely on music to get to sleep or for morning alarms but we are really looking for students to turn off from their devices and enjoy a restful sleep, rather than being woken by texts etc. It's the old adage of "short term pain for long term gain".

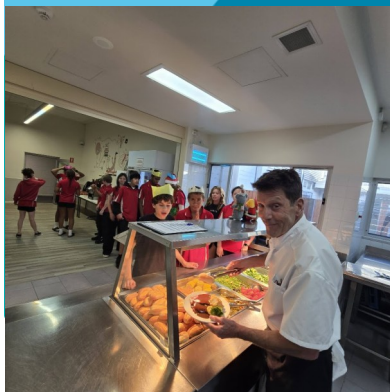
Another change across the system is the need for students who have others in their bedrooms (maximum of four to a room at any time) and to keep their doors wide open. All this information has recently been updated to our 2026 College handbook, which should be uploaded in the New Year onto our College website.

For a number of staff throughout 2026, the challenge is the management of a high number who have achieved long service leave. Other than scheduling their leave, there are very few staff changes for next year, other than Quinn Letch relocating back home to Geraldton and welcoming Simon McLernon back after working at another Residential facility.

Once again thank you for your support throughout the year and have a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.

Kind Regards,
Peter Jarzabek, College Manager

Our New Chef Christoff



Our new Chef Christoff has delighted the students with his fresh new face and menu. He has been cooking for 51 years all over the world, spending his apprenticeship years in France and Switzerland and he has then worked all over from England to Germany to Bangkok and Singapore before returning to Australia. Christoff has brought a new spin to the kitchen and his happy face has definitely brought more happiness to the kids eating habits. With many lining up for his delicious food, his deserts are world class and everyone scoffs their dinner to make sure they can get a second helping of whatever sweet treat is on for the night.



Christmas Night

We had a very Merry Christmas here at the Residential College filled with good food and laughter all around, the students played games, won prizes, popped bon-bons and told bad jokes. With a full Christmas spread the food was a big hit on our Christmas Dinner with many going back for seconds. We did a classic pass the parcel, a ginger bread face twist and our personal favourite - transferring cotton balls from one bowl to another using only a spoon in their mouths, its definitely not easy but is always a laugh to see.



Ablutions Upgrades

After the initial progress was stalled after finding the aging plumbing infrastructure was in desperate need of an upgrade too, work resumed at the beginning of Term 3. When venturing down into the dorms, it is quite obvious that the ablutions upgrades have begun again. Thankfully the students were able to use the indoor corridors throughout the cold and wet winter, but with the weather on the up the students are now able to traverse the outside egress without too much of an issue.

Looking through the windows in the corridors, as well as outside the servery area, it is clear that a mass of groundwork has been done. With the pavers pulled up and cleared away, the old plumbing has been removed and new piping installed. The work will now focus on replacing the interior plumbing, the outside groundwork is being completed and returned to it's former condition and then the fiddly, interior beautification can begin.

With 6 showers and toilet stalls in each area, as well as a whole new bathtub nook, the students will have a brand new area to use. The central sink islands have been done away with, and new bench/clothes hanging area is being designed for student use to keep their personal belongings off the floor while using the facilities.

The works are scheduled to (hopefully) be completed in time for the beginning of Term 1 2026, but we will keep everyone updated on the progress.

College Activities



Lucky Bay/Cape Le Grand Day Hike

As the weather has been heating up and the sun has been coming out, it has given us more of a chance to explore our amazing home here in Esperance. From Whistling Rock, which reverberates the waves to create an audible marvel, to the Aboriginal Caves that used to host Elders from Norseman who would travel here and plant trees native to Norseman and rest and share stories in the caves. The area is very beautiful and hosts all types of flora and fauna with a wonderful overlook of Woody Island. The kids had a barbeque on the beach, snorkelled the day away and enjoyed the sunshine.



Wharton Beach Day Trip — 7,000 Year Old Forest



Our students had an opportunity this term to venture to see a 7,000 year old forest that had been uncovered after winter storms washed the rising sands over Wharton Beach. We spent the day exploring, swimming, fishing and playing beach games around this amazing spectacle. Only a short drive away from Esperance this is a regular destination for the students here at the residential college but is always exciting to see the changes that mother nature gives us.



Lower School Awards

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| Certificates of Merit - Year 10 — Physical Education | Brock D. |
| Certificates of Merit - Year 7 — Humanities and Social Sciences | Madeline R. |
| Certificates of Merit - Year 7 — Aboriginal Culture and Language | Madeline R. |
| Certificates of Merit - Year 7 — Mathematics | Chilee M. |
| Certificates of Merit - Year 7 — Science | Chilee M., Maddeline R. |
| Certificates of Merit - Year 7 — Design Technologies Certificates | Chilee M. |
| of Merit - Year 7 — Home Economics | Chilee M. |
| Certificates of Merit - Year 7 — Music Taster | Scarlett W. |
| Certificates of Merit - Year 7 — Performing Arts | Scarlett W. |
| Certificates of Merit - Year 7 — Visual Art | Scarlett W., Chilee M. |
| Prize Year 7 – Music Specialist | Madeline R. |
| Year 7 Certificates of Distinction | Madeline R. |

Congratulations to all students who have won awards

REACH Boarding App

As we finish 2025 and start into 2026 we are encouraging all parents to download and log into the REACH Boarding app and familiarise yourselves with the processes and benefits to having the leave portal at your fingertips.

REACH is our main tool for identifying where students are at any given time, processing leave requests from parents and sharing information about the students between staff. All students and parents have their own profile on REACH and parents have control over who they will allow to sign their student(s) out, when they can go out and how long they can stay out for. It also gives you a quick glimpse of where your student is when they log into the app.

Below are the QR codes that will bring parents to their preferred app store — Android or Apple.

Emails will be sent to parents with their log-in information, and staff will be happy to help with any enquiries you may have when we return for 2026.



Scan with your phone camera to download the REACH Boarding App from the Play Store for Android phones.

Scan with your phone camera to download the REACH Boarding App from the App Store for Apple phones.



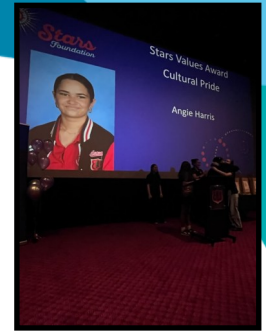
Reach

Year 12 Graduation and Awards Night

Saying good bye to our Year 12s is never easy but always exciting to see what these young adults will achieve after school and who they will become as they venture out into the wide world. We hope that you have enjoyed your time here with us as we have enjoyed having you here at Esperance Residential College.



Stars Awards Night



We are very impressed with our STARS Girls. These wonderful young women outshone themselves this year with incredible leadership qualities, here at the college and also in the community. Being incredible role models for their peers they have shown tremendous growth while they have been living here at the college.

Senior Rising Star Award — Shaadaih C. M.

Junior Academic Award — Chilee M.

Senior High Attender — Ella B.

Stars Value Award - Cultural Pride — Angie H.

Senior Star of the Year — Laura O'D.



Kepa Kurl Surf program

Kepa Kurl Surf Program – Term 4 Opportunity

This term, students had the exciting opportunity to participate in the **Kepa Kurl Surf Program**, led by Aboriginal Boarding Supervisors **Ken** and **Jacinta**, in partnership with **Surfing Western Australia**.

Mr Dann, a qualified Surf Instructor who represented Australia on the International Professional Surfing circuit at a young age, launched the program to inspire the next generation of surfers and create another step in the Indigenous surfing pathway.

The program offers a safe and engaging environment where students can:

- Learn and develop surfing skills
- Improve ocean safety awareness
- Gain basic CPR training
- Reconnect with Country and culture

The program ran over **five sessions across five weeks**, from **1 November 2025**.

