



ESPERANCE RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE

TERM 1 NEWSLETTER 2025

Important Dates for Term 2 2025

28 April	College re-opens for Term 2 at 3.00pm
29 April	School starts
16 - 18 May	Photo-shoot for college marketing
17 May	School Ball
2 June	Western Australia Public Holiday. College remains open
19 June	Strategic Planning Day – All Welcome – Starts 9.30am
20 June	LINC meeting at 1:30pm
29 - 30 June	Country Week
4 July	Last day of Term 2, College closes at 5.00pm

Dear Parents , Carers and Staff,

It has been a busy, yet happy term as students settle into routines and build relationships with other students and staff.

The highlight of the term has been the students' input into making their social areas more inviting. Staff worked with the students, with a fairly generous budget and created inviting spaces that students have great pride in. Check out the photos further into the newsletter.

Unfortunately our ablution upgrades have stalled, while the architects and plumbers investigate the best way forward. It was always envisioned that there might be hurdles when dealing with a 60 year old building and we hope once this essential infrastructure (pipe work to the septics) is replaced, work will recommence on the substantial upgrade to facilities. As the saying goes “do it once, do it right”.

In terms of staffing there are a few changes for Term 2. Ms Andrea Hearn returns after a term managing Albany Residential College, and a huge thanks to Ms Carla Hawley who filled in from Wongutha College as the Senior Supervisor. Also, Mrs Tracey Bishop has had the last few weeks off on Long Service leave and Mrs Robin Davis has been a very capable replacement. In fact, we have at least five staff due for a well earned Long Service break in 2025. This is good as it shows that we have a very stable staff group. We also welcome onboard our new College Cook, Ms Lara Timms. Lara has been cooking at a childcare facility and has a genuine love for cooking. Please be patient as Lara understands the needs of our students.

Also joining our team as the College based psychologist is Luke Brown. Luke has vast experience in regional Western Australia, attends our weekly staff meetings and is available to support staff, parents and of course students.

Finally a big thanks to Ms Jenny O'Neill who has been the Chairperson on the Local Input Networking and Communications (LINC) Committee for the last 6 years and recently resigned. Jenny joined the LINC as a parent from Salmon Gums and remained as a community member. Jenny has always been available to discuss College business and had student and staff best interest at the forefront of any planning and decision-making. If you feel you can make a contribution to the College or know anyone that we can network with, please contact the College Manager for more information.

Have a safe Easter break.
Peter Jarzabek

Join our LINC Committee!

Our Local Input Networking and Communications Committee is looking for new members!

We are open to anyone who has an interest in supporting the College. We have meetings here at the College, once a Term, to discuss happenings at the College, local programs that would benefit the students and the staff and any upcoming major changes or building upgrades.

Our current committee consists of some ex-parents, local community members, College staff members and local Education Department members. It would be wonderful to have engagement from current parents so that they can have extra input into their child's care. If distance is an issue for attending meetings we are able to set up Teams meetings online or phone-in meetings whichever suits most. Meetings are held once a term, normally on a Friday starting at 1.30pm.

The link for the application form is <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/dl/ok9e282p>. It can also be found on our website, on the "[About Us](#)" information page. Please feel free to call the College if you need any more information about it.

Room Inspections

To avoid an influx of vermin and bugs over the winter months, the staff will be implementing "Strict Room Inspections" once a week for the students.

Staff will help the students look through their cupboards and drawers for any food, rubbish or crockery/utensils that may have been forgotten during a busy time and help them keep their rooms clean and healthy to hopefully avoid the worst of the winter bugs that inevitably make their way through the College.

We appreciate any assistance from parents to help their student get the best experience from the College.

Student Representatives Council

Our Council of Student Representatives has started the year off well.

After nominations were put forward, staff made the tough decision on who would best represent the students in each year/dorm group. Congratulations to our student representatives – Scarlett Wilson, Hailey Ware, Janiesha Ball, Ciara Koushappis, Lateefa Wilson, Ella Magagnotti, Harry Bingham, Kieran Morecombe, Bon Scerri and Kade Formica.

The first meeting was mostly for the students to have a 'meet and greet' and familiarise themselves with the expectations and perks that come with being a representative. The snacks provided were a HUGE hit!

They got down to the nitty-gritty and put forward some brilliant ideas for different activities they would like to participate in, as well as giving valuable feedback on the changes made so far in the dorms and in the kitchen - food is always a hotly contested topic in the meetings.

The decision has been made to have 2 meetings a term, with proper minutes and agendas which will then be shared with the rest of the staff group at their own meetings. They have been consulted with on the new branding for Residential Colleges and their input was shared with the LINC Committee.

We are looking forward to many positive initiatives being implemented by this council and we will be using them as an example of what we would like to see moving forward in the future.



TERM 1 ACTIVITIES

This Term we have had an innumerable amount of activities.

We started off strong with orientation weekend the second weekend of term and had all sorts of fun things on offer – karaoke on Friday night, all the blow up toys and Sumo Suits on Saturday after lunch, Sunday morning was surfing school with Mr Dann and then in the afternoon it was off to the movies with Miss Carla!

There have been changes in the dorms themselves with the “beautifying” of the common areas. New furniture, new lights, new pictures and colourful beanbags have all made an appearance in the dorms and have been well received by the students.

Dungeons and Dragons campaigns have started with an intrepid band of adventurers, led by Mr Rance as the excellent Dungeon Master and Mrs Barnes as his helper and an extra adventurer. The rewards cabinet was — very briefly — stocked with dice sets and dice towers which were hot items to be redeemed for tokens. The story will continue next term and there will be some new items for the students to work towards in the cabinet.

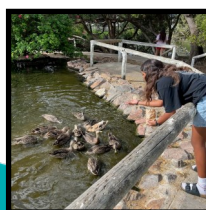
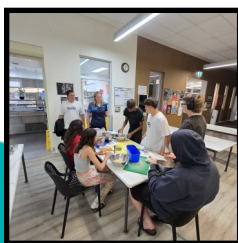
Every evening, after dinner we have a whole list of activities available for the students to participate in — fishing, basketball at the school and pool runs. Each activity has it's die-hard fans and it's always fun to see the students so engaged in activities that they don't want to come back to the College (10 more minutes miss! PLEASE!!!)

There is the chance for students to access the TNT gym each week with the support of Escare, and we have a few takers each session. Miss Lisa is the driving force behind it and sets an AWESOME example for our students and staff alike!

We have our brilliant tutors available 4 nights a week, and they have a steady list of customers each night. They really enjoy interacting with all of the different students who come to see them and have a wealth of information and knowledge they are willing to share.

Annie Dabb from Darbungool has been really happy to reach out to our students and give them a bit of local bush tucker knowledge. She took a group of staff and students around Dempster Head and showed them all of the different types of edible plants that can be found around Esperance. She shared stories of her own experiences of local tucker and was really happy to have youngsters to share her stories with

Finally there have been an impressive amount of little crafty activities run each weekend. From beading, to postcards, to baking to tie-dyeing and everything in between. Staff have been engaging the students in-house each weekend with different art ideas. They have been a huge hit, especially with the younger students and have kept them smiling and engaged for hours at a time.



T-Section Renovations

This term we have been renovating all the T-Sections.

Students have been involved in planning and designing a space that they can truly call their own. New furniture, wall murals, ambient lighting and use of plants and soft furnishings are just the beginning!

Taking ownership and pride in their space has increased the use of these shared areas.



Reminder to parents

Please remember that our fire detection system is very sensitive and can be set off accidentally by aerosols and oil diffusers.

Please ensure that your children don't bring anything like that back to the College with them next term. There are alternatives for deodorant and room deodorisers which don't have aerosols in them. These are the best options to avoid any late-night evacuations.



Swap aerosols for stick/roll-on deodorant



Swap ultrasonic for reed oil diffusers

