

ESPERANCE RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE

TERM 1 NEWSLETTER 2026

Important dates for Term 2 2026

Monday 20 April	College opens for Term 2 at 3.00pm
Tuesday 21 April	First day of Term 2 at ESHS
Monday 27 April	Long Weekend ANZAC No School
Sunday 10 May	Mother's Day
Saturday 16 May	ESHS School Ball
Monday 1 June	Western Australia Day No School
Friday 19 June	NAIDOC Youth Ball
Friday 3 July	College closes for Term 2 at 5.00pm
Monday 20 July	College reopens for Term 3 at 3.00pm
Tuesday 21 July	School starts for Term 3.



Have a great Easter break

Dear parents, carers, staff and students

It has been a busy yet happy term as students settle into routines and build relationships with other students and staff. A huge thanks to staff who often go above and beyond in supporting teenagers. Special mention though to Leia who took on the cleaning role on her own while Gabby has been supporting sick family and JJ for all the work with Abstudy travel. Term one was a shorter at nine weeks, and Term 2 will be longer at eleven weeks. The College remains open on the two public holidays, but I would really encourage parents to visit their child or organise for them to travel home. They do need to touch base with home and family to help them get through an arduous 3 months.

One of the biggest challenges this year has been the changes to mobile phone use, with year 7 to year 10 students locking away phones after 8pm weeknights and after 10pm on weekends. This corresponded with the new national social media guidelines for under 16's. To be honest, for some of our students this has been difficult and exposed their absolute reliance on mobile phones. However, we have ridden that wave of emotion, and feedback from staff has been that the students seem to be getting better sleep and prepare better for school. Thankyou to parents for your support on this issue.

The College is also seeking support from parents in regards to coming on board as a parent representative on our local input network and communications (LINC) committee. The LINC meets on a Friday at 1.30pm once a term and has representatives from the parent group, school and local community and provides valuable support for our College community. Big thankyou to Dale Watkins, who is the Coordinator Regional Operations for the Esperance region has just taken on the Chairperson role as well.

If you feel you would like to become involved please contact the College Manager or complete the Expression of Interest (EOI) form which is attached to the email. Please pass the EOI to any other people you feel the College could benefit from with their experience and willingness to support regional students.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable holiday. Check our term planner for what will be another busy program of fun and learning opportunities.

Kind Regards,
Peter Jarzabek, College Manager

REACH Boarding App Tips

As our primary mode of accounting for students, maintaining and recording students' wellbeing, organising and recording leave for students and communication of information and pastoral notes for students, the REACH Boarding App has become an integral part of our day-to-day running of the College.

All parents have access to the program, whether on home computers or on personal devices such as tablets or more commonly smart phones.

We are encouraging all parents and guardians to make use of the app, so that you can inform the College of any appointments you make for your student/s and you can organise their leave for day, weekend or end of term sign-outs.

The app is very user-friendly and if you are unsure how to manage it, all of our staff are well versed in how to set up leave and add sign-outs for the students. Please don't hesitate to speak to a staff member if you are having trouble with it.

We are aiming to have all of our parents and guardians using the app to set up leave for the students, to replace the old system of the students requiring parents to call in and inform a staff member of their plans for the weekend. All parents have a unique sign-in and have access to their students' profile where they can add or remove people from the signout list as needed. They can also schedule doctors/dentists appointments through the app, which will then be reflected on the big sign-out screens in the common areas of the College.

If you have not already, please use the below QR codes to download REACH onto your device or go to <https://erc.reachboarding.com.au> on your PC to access the webpage. If you need your personal sign-in, please see a staff member or email the College and we will send you your log-in details.



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**



New Ablution Blocks

The upgrades to the new ablution blocks have finally been completed!

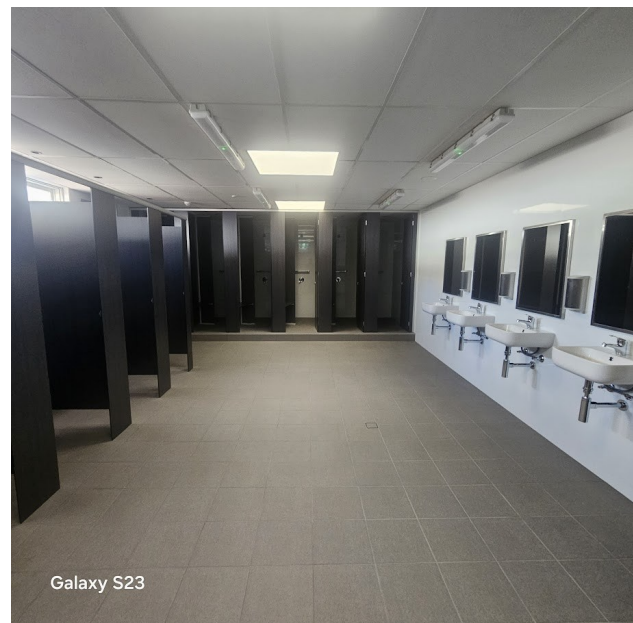
The new design creates a more open space in the centre of the room with the removal of the central island of sinks, and the new tiles are non-slip, no matter how soapy or wet they get.

The students are ecstatic with the opening of the new, private bath area, with a full sized tub and fast-running hot water.

The replacement of the 50 year old infrastructure means there is little to no chance of anything failing in the future, and the blocks will be ready to use for years to come.

The floor-to-ceiling partitions give more privacy when showering, and the dark colours are good for preventing scale build-up that light colours can hide.

Overall the build was long overdue but well worth the wait!



College Talent Night

Towards the end of term, staff at the College decided to try something a little different and offered to showcase the many different talents of the College community.

With the wide variety of students we have here, from all walks of life, we were able to display all sorts of hidden talents of the students and surprisingly the staff too.

Miss Hearn and Mr Rance were our MCs for the night and explained how it would all be run, with Miss Hearn dressed as a 'gangster' and Mr Rance in an inflatable chicken suit.

The night started with a piano rendition from Imogen H., which was well received. Lisa G. was next, accompanied by Miss Catherine (also in a chicken suit) and she sang Rhiannon's song 'Umbrella' very well. She finished to great applause which was a great segue to introduce our next talented student Jezaniah N. who promised to answer any (yes any!) question he was asked. Jez was very enlightening with his witty and (mostly) perfectly reasonable answers.

The reason for the chickens became obvious when Chilee M. and Mrs Barnes brought out drums, kazoos and rubber chickens. They entertained with a percussion version of the 'Chicken Dance' on the snare drums accompanied by the rubber chickens and kazoos and frenetic interpretive dance from our inflatable chicken members. The last act was a class act from Lily-Ann D., Miss Lisa and Miss Hearn who composed, rapped and danced to their own ERC Rap, highlighting life at the College and student quirks and oddities.

Overall the entertainment was well received and everyone enjoyed themselves immensely. The big winner of the night was Imogen who took home 2 Dome vouchers to use whenever she wants, and the rest of the ensemble who went away with a sense of achievement and camaraderie.

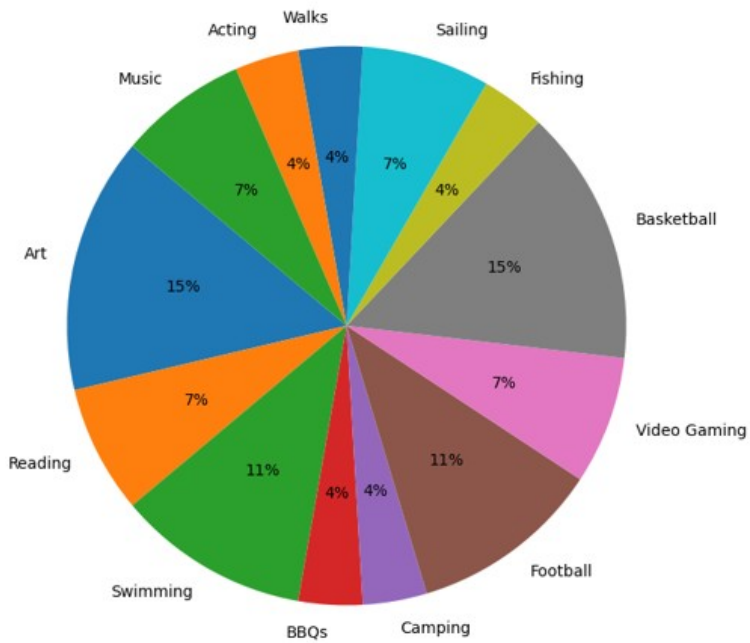
A big thank you to all of the participants who put themselves out there, out of their comfort zone, and uplifted the audience with their talents and humour. A special thanks to Mrs Barnes for supplying the chicken outfits and encouraging others to be a little silly for the sake of the night.



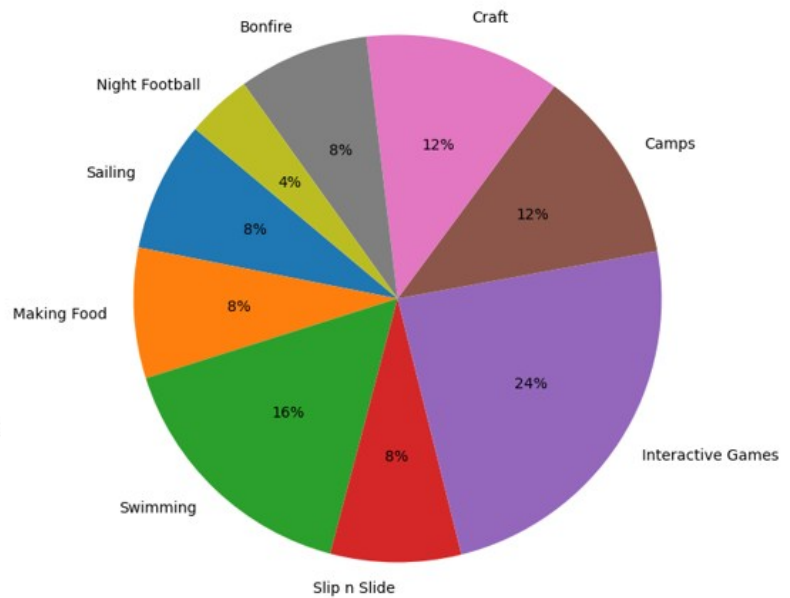
2026 Student Questionnaire

Each year in Term 1 our students complete a questionnaire to give staff further understanding of who they are as individuals and what we can do here at the college to best meet their needs. We ask questions about student goals, future aspirations and interests and take on any additional feedback. Below are some snippets of some of the data we collected from the questionnaire.

Q3: What are your interests and hobbies?



Q4: What activities would you like to see at the college?



Q7: What would you like to see in the reward cabinet?

