



**ST. ANDREW'S
GRAMMAR**

Striving for Excellence

2 Hellenic Drive
Dianella WA 6059
Subscribe: <https://standrewsgs.schoolzineplus.com/subscribe>

Email: reception@sag.wa.edu.au
Phone: 08 9303 3840



2025 SCHOOL NEWSLETTER: TERM 4 VOLUME 2

Message from our Principal

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As the year 2025 draws to a close, it is my pleasure to present to you the final newsletter of the year.

Celebrating Student Successes in 2025

The final few weeks marks a celebration of the remarkable achievements of our wonderful school and our exceptional students. Our students consistently illustrate personal excellence in all that they do and nothing illustrates this better than these awards.

Having attended the Kindergarten Nativity Assembly, the Pre-Primary Graduation, the Year 7-11 Presentation Evening, and the Year 6 Graduation Assembly in recent weeks, it is evident that our school and our teachers nurture excellence in all its facets.

Our students have excelled in myriad ways, as reflected in the diversity and calibre of the awards they have received. Our teachers should take immense pride in these achievements, and their contributions to each student's journey are truly invaluable. These have been wonderful events and were thoroughly enjoyed by all those whom attended.



2026 United Cup

On Friday, 5th December, St. Andrew's Grammar had the distinct honour of hosting the inaugural Western Australian showcase of the United Cup trophy, signifying the official four-week countdown to this prestigious tennis event. We were thrilled to welcome the United Cup trophy and this was a significant moment for our students especially given our strong cultural ties and the pride many of our families feel for Team Greece.

The United Cup, a pioneering mixed-team tournament featuring some of the sport's elite players, is set to return this January. Among the distinguished competitors is Team Greece, led by celebrated tennis stars Stefanos Tsitsipas and Maria Sakkari. Their involvement has ignited enthusiasm nationwide and within our vibrant Hellenic community.

As a special opportunity for our community we have a special offer of 30% for the Greek games. For this, please click on the link for these discounted tickets. Let us all get behind Greece.

Click [here](#) to get your discounted (30% Off!) tickets for the United Cup. Go Greece!



2025 Yearbook

The 2025 Yearbook, which encapsulates an outstanding year, has been finalised. Unfortunately, owing to some

production challenges, the Yearbook will be available for collection at the reception from 18th to 24th December. Please note that the eldest child in each family is entitled to a copy. I know our community will enjoy reading its contents, and we have worked hard to ensure that every student is shown and/or mentioned in the 2025 edition.

Christmas office closure and final message to our students for 2026

The school reception will be closed on the 24th December (final day) and reopens on the 5th January 2026. Our staff and I extend our best wishes for a wonderful break.

My final message is to our students: This year has been exceptional, and we all acknowledge the tremendous effort you have invested. Now is the time to enjoy a well-deserved rest, so you return to school rejuvenated and prepared for an exciting 2026.

Wishing you and your family a delightful Christmas break. We all look forward to welcoming our community back for what is shaping up to be an exciting 2026.



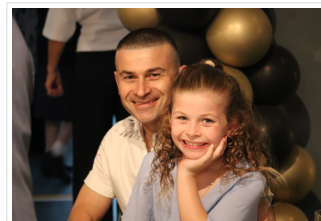
Craig Monaghan
Principal

"We are proud of how far the school has come and remain committed to building an exceptional future for our students," he added.

School Principal Craig Monaghan added that the momentum across our school community is unmistakable.

"Events like this remind us of what St. Andrew's Grammar represent - unity, tradition and Hellenic heritage. We've come a long way and have now become a school of choice for prospective students and parents, a testament to our shared vision for continued excellence."

Thank you to all who joined us in honouring this important occasion in the life of our school and our school volunteers who helped make the night run so smoothly. We look forward to our next event in 2026 – stay tuned!



SAG Celebrates World Kindness Day!

On Wednesday, 19th November, our wonderful Kindness Ambassadors hosted a very successful World Kindness Day celebration!

To begin the morning, our ambassadors decorated the Kiss & Drop area with colourful chalk messages, filled with positive affirmations and uplifting drawings for families to enjoy as they arrived. They also thoughtfully handed out positivity notes to every child coming through. It was such a beautiful way to start the day!

Students came dressed in blue or gold to help raise funds for Type 1 Diabetes research. During recess, our Primary Kindness Ambassadors ran a cupcake decorating station in the small undercover area, where students created their own delicious masterpieces. With toppings like M&Ms, Skittles, Oreos, sprinkles, lolly snakes and more, we saw some very impressive (and very sweet!) creations.

We are thrilled to share that our hand-sewn heart squishy fidgets sold out within the first 10 minutes! Each one

St. Andrew's Name Day Greek Dinner Dance

Our school marked its annual St. Andrew's Name Day Greek Dinner Dance celebration on Saturday, 29th November.

The event, held in the school gymnasium, brought together members of the Hellenic Community of Western Australia Board including President Paul Afkos OAM, families and guests of the wider community for a dignified celebration of Hellenic heritage. We were also joined by Mr Basil Zempilas, WA Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the WA Liberal Party who greeted our community members and guests alike.

Mr Afkos reflected on the school's ongoing growth, noting that St. Andrew's Grammar "continues to move forward with strength and purpose".

was lovingly stitched by a Kindness Ambassador and was quickly snapped up. All cupcakes were also completely sold out by the end of recess!

Thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of our school community, we were able to raise \$1723 for Type 1 Diabetes research.

Thank you so much for your continued support and for helping make World Kindness Day such a meaningful and memorable event!



World Diabetes Day

On Wednesday 19th November our school celebrated World Diabetes Day! Students and staff came dressed in blue to raise money to find a cure for Type 1 Diabetes through Breakthrough T1D. Breakthrough T1D supports research to cure, treat and prevent T1D. They're working hard to find a cure, while also finding ways to improve the lives of people with T1D. People living with type 1 diabetes have an autoimmune disease that means they cannot produce their own insulin. St. Andrew's currently has three students diagnosed with T1D. As a school we raised an amazing \$1723 for Breakthrough T1D which is an incredible achievement!

Many thanks to the Bellantoni family (Jacqueline, Lui and Christian) for organising this special day and to our school community for supporting T1D. We can't thank you enough!



Reflections from the Head of Primary

A Year of Growth, Achievement and Community: Reflections from the Head of Primary

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we draw this remarkable school year to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we have shared. It has been a genuine privilege to witness your children thrive, learn and fully embrace the wealth of opportunities presented this year.

My enduring mission as Head of Primary is to inspire excellence through innovative programs that challenge and engage our entire community — students and staff alike. Simultaneously, we remain steadfast in our commitment to our cherished Hellenic values and nurturing the unique sense of community that defines St. Andrew's Grammar. This year has truly been a testament to what we can accomplish when we work together.

Celebrating a Remarkable Year

The past year has been a journey filled with growth and resilience. From the energy of the first day of Term One to the accomplishments of today, our students have continually impressed us with their curiosity, creativity and unwavering commitment to learning. Whether they were tackling academic challenges, excelling in sporting competitions, performing in artistic showcases, or simply demonstrating acts of kindness, they have truly embodied the core values of our school.

This year has been punctuated by unforgettable highlights: Discovery Day, class assemblies, our spectacular *Aladdin* production, vibrant carnivals, IPSHA events, enriching excursions, and a fabulous Band Show. Each of these moments reflects the dedication and hard work of our students, the tireless efforts of our staff and the essential support of you, our families.

As we celebrate these shared successes, I am reminded of the sentiment that, **"Alone we are smart, but together we are brilliant."** These collaborative experiences are a testament to the power of our community, making this a truly memorable year.

A Heartfelt Expression of Gratitude

As we close out this incredible year, I want to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who played a part in making it such a success. Your invaluable contributions — whether volunteering your time, reading with students, organising events, or donating resource — have profoundly enriched our students' experiences.

To our wonderful parents and guardians, thank you for consistently going above and beyond. I extend my personal thanks for your ongoing support and for the collaborative spirit that makes our school community such a special place to learn and grow.

I also feel incredibly fortunate to work alongside a passionate, professional and tireless staff. Their dedication to embracing change, staying current with educational trends, and implementing engaging programs makes learning exciting and meaningful every single day. Their commitment inspires excellence across all areas of school life, helping us create a strong, supportive environment where every child can flourish.

Looking Ahead

As we bid farewell to our wonderful Year 6 students, we celebrate the end of their primary journey and the exciting start of new adventures. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and the confident leaders they have become. To our younger students, we eagerly look forward to welcoming you back next year, ready for another chapter of discovery and success.

Wishing you all a safe, restful and blessed holiday season.

Warm regards,

Mrs Julie Wall
Head of Primary
St. Andrew's Grammar



Year 6 Dinner Dance - Glitz & Glam Movie Gala

What an unforgettable night we had on Friday, 28th November at our Year 6 Dinner Dance! Our students arrived in style and truly embraced the *Glitz & Glam* of our Movie Gala theme. From the stunning outfits to the big smiles and dazzling dance moves, it was wonderful to see our graduating class celebrating together in such a special way. ?

A *huge* thank you to our incredible parent community for your tireless work in planning, organising, and setting up the venue. The attention to detail and the magical atmosphere you created made the evening feel like a true red-carpet event. We are so grateful for the time, effort,

and love you poured into making this night unforgettable for our students. ?

Congratulations to our Year 6s on a fantastic evening of celebration — the countdown to Graduation is officially on! ??

Year 6 Teachers



Kindy Corner

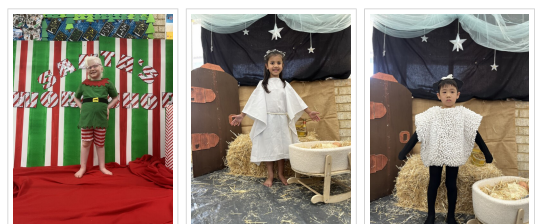
As we reach this magical time of year, our Kindy classroom has been filled with excitement, giggles, and the sweet sound of Christmas songs. Over the past two terms, the children have been busy preparing for our Christmas play. An experience that has been as heartwarming as it has been joyful.

Throughout Term 3 and Term 4, the children have learned **11 songs**, along with movements, actions, and their very own lines. They've practiced how to hold and pass microphones, where to stand on stage, and how to follow musical and visual cues. It has been such a delight to watch their confidence grow as they work together to bring the story to life.

Even in their playtime, we often hear them spontaneously singing the songs, acting out scenes, and helping each other remember the story. These little moments—shared smiles, teamwork, and creativity are what make this journey so special.

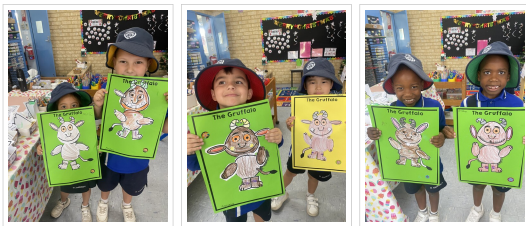
All their hard work is leading up to our **big performance on the 3rd of December**. The children are incredibly proud of what they've created, and we are equally proud of them. They can't wait to step onto the stage and shine in front of the whole school, and of course, their friends and families.

Thank you for your ongoing support, enthusiasm, and encouragement throughout this creative journey. We know their performance will be a beautiful celebration of the joy, wonder, and togetherness that this season brings.



Pre-Primary: The Gruffalo

In Pre-Primary, students have been exploring *The Gruffalo* through Talk for Writing. They began by retelling the story orally, using actions to help them remember key events and build confidence in sequencing the plot. As their familiarity with the story grew, they started innovating the text; changing characters, settings, and events to create their own imaginative versions. Students also learned about the features of a Gruffalo and enjoyed making creative Gruffalo-themed crafts to deepen their understanding and bring the character to life.



Year 1.2 Assmebly

Year 1.2 thoroughly enjoyed performing their assembly about materials and chemical change! The students were full of enthusiasm as they took on the role of material detectives, investigating a mysterious material mystery. They also loved showing off their dance moves and singing along to the catchy material song. The class worked incredibly hard in the lead-up to the big day, practising with dedication and excitement. Their confident performance truly reflected their efforts, and they did a fantastic job showcasing everything they've been learning in Science. Well done, Year 1.2!



Science and Literacy in Year One - The Most Magnificent Thing

This term, Year One students, along with Mrs Kassinas and Miss Balino, integrated science and literacy by using *The Most Magnificent Thing* as inspiration for a STEM investigation utilising recycled materials.

After reading the story, the students analysed the character's process of trial and error to understand how scientists and engineers refine their ideas. The students explored different materials using vocabulary from our lessons. They then conducted simple tests to determine which material was best suited for their design. Using their observations they planned and designed their own "magnificent thing", just like the character in the book. During construction they collaborated, problem-solved and revised their designs based on what they learned from our Chemical Sciences unit.

This unit not only strengthened their literacy skills but also deepened their understanding of scientific inquiry and engineering design. Look at their proud faces to see how much they enjoyed displaying their most magnificent thing!

Year 2

This term, our Year Two students have been learning about the past and how life has changed over time. They explored family histories, discussed how families can look different, and compared objects from the past with those we use today.

Students enjoyed investigating old photographs, noticing differences in clothing, homes and daily life. They also examined toys from the past, discovering how materials, designs and play experiences have changed across generations.

Through hands-on activities and class discussions, students developed a deeper understanding of their own history and the stories that connect us to the people who came before us.

I hope you take this weekend to rest, enjoy a walk along the coast and spend time with your family! See you on Monday.



Year 3 Science – Chemical Changes and Recycling Fun!

This term in Year 3 Science, students have been busy exploring *Chemical Sciences*, with a focus on how adding or removing heat can change different materials.

We investigated how heat plays an important role in everyday processes, especially in recycling materials like glass, aluminium and plastics.

Students were fascinated to learn how these items can be melted down or reshaped to create something new.

To put our learning into action, we carried out our own classroom recycling project! Students collected wastepaper and used a simple process to break it down and form fresh sheets of handmade paper.

There was plenty of splashing, stirring, pressing and excitement as the recycled paper began to take shape.

We're now proudly using our very own recycled paper to create Christmas cards, giving students a meaningful hands-on experience of sustainability in action.

It's been a wonderful way to finish the year—full of curiosity, creativity and a strong sense of environmental responsibility!



A Mechanical Christmas!

Our Year 5 students have been busy diving into the wonderful world of Christmas automata and their creations are well underway!

Over the past few weeks, they have explored how mechanical toys work by researching well-known automata artists and studying how movement can be created through cams, levers and simple mechanisms. Students have also designed their own festive automata through detailed sketches, planning out how each part will move. They are now in the making stage. In our classes you'll find lots of measuring, building, decorating and bringing their imaginative designs to life. We can't wait to see their finished Christmas automata proudly on display!



Earthquake-proof Spaghetti Structures

As part of our Year 6 Science and Technology unit on Natural Disasters, students took on an exciting challenge — to design and build earthquake-proof structures using only spaghetti and marshmallows!

After learning how engineers design buildings to withstand earthquakes, students worked in teams to plan and build their own stable, earthquake-proof structure that needed to be at least 3 storeys high and 30cm tall. The activity encouraged problem-solving, collaboration and plenty of resilience as towers wobbled, fell and were rebuilt stronger each time.

Through hands-on experimentation, students discovered how science, creativity and teamwork come together to solve real-world problems — and had lots of fun along the way!



Message from our Head of Secondary

Celebrate together!

It is with some disbelief that I am writing one of my final newsletters for the year. It has been a year of change and refinement, and certainly a very successful one. Looking back over the year I honestly could not list all the amazing events and achievements that have taken place. In saying this, one that does stand out in the recent production, Aladdin. This production certainly showcased the talents of our students, both on the stage and behind the scenes. Personally, I would like to say thank you to the backstage crew, that work tirelessly to ensure our amazing performers delivered a theatrical performance to dazzle the audience. Their dedication and willingness to adapt where needed was a true display of what St Andrew's students strive to be.

The performers, well they were simply outstanding! Their preparation and attention to detail was unscaled. As each show ended, I was left speechless (yes, something hard to imagine) at just how well they did. This was certainly reciprocated by the audience who gave standing ovations at every show. The feedback from parents, staff and the wider community was nothing but praise and admiration.

A massive thank you to the staff that assisted, much in their own time to ensure the production was a success. My heartfelt thanks to Ms Shana O'Shea, Mrs Marina Powell, Ms Taylah Stewart and Miss Lauren Giannakis, for their tireless work in ensuring Aladdin will be forever remembered as a theatrical success and lays the foundation for our future productions.

As we enter the final few weeks, we will begin putting the final pieces to another important event on the calendar together, Presentation Night. This night is important on several fronts, not just for those attending to receive a prize or award, but of those attending to provide support and encouragement to their peers and fellow students. I encourage all students to attend the night and ensure we finish the year and make it a night of celebrating the success of the school and all we have achieved individually and as a collective cohort.

This night is important as it allows us as a school to celebrate the achievement of those students receiving a prize or awards, acknowledge their differing strengths and bring the school community together. For those not receiving an award or prize, you may not realise this, your attendance is important. You have all contributed to the fabric of the school and though not being formal recognised, are influential to the students that will appear on the stage be it through your friendship and in some cases, your friendly competition that has driven these students to succeed.

It is also a great way to say our final farewell to our Year 12 students as they attend their last official ceremony at the school and celebrate their achievements.

The Details:

Date: Thursday 4th December 2025

Location: The George and Despina Berbatis Gymnasium

Arrive: 4.30pm

Start: 5.00pm – 7.00pm

Dress: Formal Winter – Blazers expected

Here are six reasons why we should all make the effort to attend the Presentation Night:

1. **It shows respect for your school and classmates.**

Presentation night isn't just about individual awards—it's a celebration of everyone's hard work throughout the year. By showing up, you're supporting your friends and classmates who are receiving prizes.

2. **You're part of the school community.**

Being there helps create a positive atmosphere. A full audience makes the event feel special and meaningful for everyone.

3. **You might be surprised—it's inspiring.**

Seeing what others have achieved can motivate you to set goals for next year. It's a chance to learn what's possible and maybe discover opportunities you didn't know about.

4. **Your presence matters to Heads of Houses and the wider school community.**

Heads of houses and mentors appreciate when students turn up and represent their house, a family within a community. It shows responsibility, maturity, and gratitude for the year you've had, even if you're not being recognised this time. This is especially true for our Year 10 and Year 11 students. You are now the leaders of the school.

5. **You never know—your achievements might be recognised in other ways.**

Sometimes schools announce unexpected awards, certificates, or acknowledgements on the day. At Presentation Night, a summary of the year is often given, and it is possible you may be mentioned. It is also the night where we recognise the Champion House and each one of you have contributed to this trophy for their house.

And most importantly -

6. **It's part of finishing the year well.**

Presentation night is one of the final moments of the school year. Being there helps you end the year on a positive, respectful note. **We started the year as one, we end as one!**

Mrs Siza Macdonald

Head of Secondary

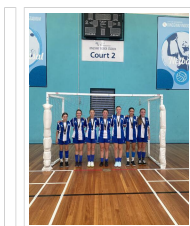


School Sport WA Junior Futsal Competition

Our Junior Boys (Y7-8) and Junior Girls (Y7-9) teams both recently competed in the School Sport WA State Futsal Competition.

The group stage at Kingsway Indoor Stadium saw boys have a great day, making it through to the Semi Final where they met Lake Joondalup Baptist. In a very tight Match, they unfortunately lost in the last few minutes. They needed to make the Final to progress to the State Championship round, so fell just short.

The Girls dominated the majority of the Group Stage at Kingsway until they faced Lake Joondalup in the Final. Leading 2-1 at half time they then went on to lose 4-2, however they still qualified for the State Round at Cockburn ARC. The State Championship Quarter Final against Lynwood Senior College was extremely tight and went to the 5th penalty. Zya Ollandezos made the save in goal, then took the next shot and scored! The Girls unfortunately then lost the Semi Final against eventual winners Joseph Banks. This result saw them finish in the Top 4 of the State Championship.



learning how to talk about their family and what they like doing together. They will finish the term by writing and presenting “My Ideal Day” in Greek using full sentences and fun visuals.

In Year 8, we’ve been exploring the theme “What we love and who we love,” with a focus on hobbies and animals. Students are learning how to describe their favourite pastimes and daily activities, as well as how to make simple plans with friends. We’ve also started talking about pets and wild animals—where they live, what they eat, and what they look like. The term will end with students creating a mini-book or short presentation in Greek about their favourite animal

Our Year 9 students are focusing on describing themselves, their school subjects and weekly routines, while expressing opinions and preferences. They have explored both Greek and Australian school life, practiced speaking, writing, and presenting full timetables, and described afternoon and after-school activities using complex sentences and sequence words. Throughout the term, interactive activities such as pair interviews, posters, debates, and oral presentations helped students build confidence and fluency.

Our Year 10 students are focusing on family and friends, developing their ability to describe relationships, appearance, personality, daily activities, and social interactions. They explored cultural comparisons between Greek and Australian families, discussed feelings and opinions about relationships, and learned to talk about traditions, celebrations, and generational connections. Students practiced speaking, reading, and writing through interactive tasks and digital writing activities.



Greek Corner

This term in Year 7 Greek, we’ve been learning how to talk about our daily routines and favourite hobbies. Students started by revising how to introduce themselves, and now they can describe what they do in the morning, afternoon, and evening, as well as the activities they enjoy in their free time. They are also

Music Corner

The last few weeks of term four have been outstanding with the staging of our Aladdin Junior Musical at the Subiaco Arts Centre. This whole-school production included students from Years 5-11 and is the culmination of many months of diligent practice, hard work and

preparation. Our students performed well above expectation both on and off the stage. Heartfelt thanks to our incredible students, their parents, and our amazing production team.

Another highlight for term four was the contemporary bands concert featuring both our Primary and Secondary Bands. The growth in these students' musicianship this year has been astonishing, and we could not be prouder of them. A note of special thanks to our Primary Band parents who get their children to school for an early rehearsal every Friday morning. And to all our parents, your efforts in supporting your child's musical journey are greatly appreciated.

We eagerly await seeing our Bouzouki Ensemble perform at the Greek Dinner Dance as well as a highlight performance of voice, bouzouki, guitar, and dance at the opening of our new STEM building later in the term. The Christmas Carols concert at the end of term four is always a highlight and we look forward to seeing our primary students sparkle and shine.

Blessings for the holiday season,

Mrs. Marina Powell

Director of Performing Arts



in teams, students researched contemporary topics such as lowering the voting age, whether Australia should become a republic, and other current issues shaping public debate. They analysed examples of effective public speaking, evaluated arguments, and developed their own balanced and well-reasoned positions. With rehearsals now underway, students are eagerly preparing to present their debates at the end of Week 6. The enthusiasm and teamwork displayed by all Year 7 students has been outstanding—well done to everyone involved!

In Year 9 HASS, students have been investigating globalisation through a focused research task on the global supply chain. Each student selected a product—ranging from everyday staples like tea and coffee to highly complex items such as smartphones—and explored how international production networks influence costs, availability, efficiency and consumer demand. Students also examined the challenges posed by globalisation, including environmental pressures, ethical concerns and the vulnerabilities of long-distance supply systems. Their research has strengthened their understanding of how interconnected our world has become and encouraged thoughtful reflection on both the opportunities and drawbacks of global trade.

Meanwhile, in Year 11 Modern History, students have been delving into one of the most significant periods of the twentieth century: Nazi Germany. Through source analysis, class discussion, and critical reflection, students have examined how totalitarian governments can shape society and restrict individual freedoms. They explored the consequences of racial ideology, the dangers of unchecked state power, and the profound human cost of war and persecution. These lessons have prompted meaningful conversations about empathy, justice, and the importance of safeguarding human rights in the modern world. Students have approached this challenging topic with maturity, insight, and strong critical-thinking skills.

Across all year levels, our students continue to demonstrate curiosity, growth, and a commitment to high-quality learning. We are proud of their efforts and look forward to the achievements still to come as the term progresses.

Year 7-11 HAAS

This term has been an exciting and productive one across the HASS learning area, with students from Years 7, 9 and 11 demonstrating growing confidence, maturity, and curiosity as they explored major ideas in Civics, Economics and Modern History.

In Year 7 HASS, students have shown impressive collaboration and communication—two of St Andrew's Grammar's key learning assets—as they prepared for their class debates. Over the past few weeks, students have built a strong foundation in Australian Government and Law, learning how our political system works and how citizens can contribute to democratic life. Working

Year 9 STEM

The Year 9 STEM students have spent several weeks designing and building a solar oven. Last week, they had the chance to test it out as we experienced some good sunlight!

They enjoyed some delicious s'mores melted in their own ovens.



Year 10 OED Camp

The Semester Two Year 10 Outdoor Education elective students recently completed a challenging and rewarding 3-day, 2-night expedition through the Dwellingup State Forest, covering an impressive 24 kilometres of hiking. The group trekked through magnificent stretches of jarrah and marri forest, with many students remarking on the towering, centuries-old trees and vibrant wildflowers that flourish during Kambarang season.

A key highlight of the expedition was the Tree Top Adventure high-ropes course at Nanga Mill. As students ascended into the canopy of the jarrah forest, they demonstrated courage and resilience, embracing the program's "challenge by choice" philosophy while supporting and encouraging one another.

Across the three days, students appreciated the chance to disconnect from technology and enjoy meaningful time with their peers. Immersed in nature, they strengthened connections, built confidence, and developed valuable outdoor skills—making the Dwellingup expedition a memorable and enriching experience for all involved.

