



Congratulations to students on their success at the South Perth Young Writers Awards.
Jessica R Yr 8 – Highly Commended - Lower Secondary
Qian-Qian W Yr 11 – Winner - Upper Secondary and the Christobel Mattingley Bronze Medallion

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Leslie Carruthers

Digby Mercer will be leaving the us next term when he gracefully retires from a long career in Education. He commenced at Como SC in Term 4 2008, so it is fitting that his last day will be in Term 4 2024. Digby leaves behind many achievements that have assisted our students and community. The Intensive Learning Team and the intervention program this team delivers, the learnings that were provided as being part of the Fogarty Evdance program and his role in where we are with the Project Development Plan are due to his vision and commitment to making sure all students progress and have access to appropriate facilities.

I will continue as the acting Principal for Term 4 with Shanahan Mooney, Sam Laycock and Chris Geagea remaining in their roles until the end of the school year. The process for appointing a new Principal has already commenced. The current school board chair will be part of the recruitment process.

To Year 12 Students

Congratulations to our Year 12 students for the kind-hearted and courteous manner in which they left the school. At the final assembly it was lovely to hear the students acknowledge their teachers and remind the rest of the school the impact that good choices have on your life.

As we say goodbye to our student leaders, we celebrate their guidance of the Student Council, their representation of the school at official events, and their role in bridging communication between students and staff. Our Year 12 student councillors have truly embodied the school's values, acting as friends and

role models. Their dedication to learning has opened up enriching opportunities and led to excellence both at school and in the community. I also want to highlight our school captains, Ruby and Blake, who have represented our school community at many functions during the year.

Reporting to Parents – reports

The Department of Education has provided clarification of the requirements for end-of-semester reports. Reports are to evaluate student learning, skill acquisition, and academic achievement at the conclusion of an instructional period. In contrast providing ongoing feedback during a teaching period tells students (and parents) where they are going, how they are going, and what they need to do to improve. In light of this information, we have reviewed our school's assessment and reporting plan.

The review has commenced with consultation with staff and discussions with the School Board and P&C. In response the following changes to our practices are scheduled to commence for Semester 2 2024:

- to provide a grade for each course students are enrolled in.
- to provide an overall comment at the end of the report.
- from 2025 onwards provide parents with ongoing feedback of their child's achievement relative to the performance of their peer group via an emailed task report for assessment tasks for all courses a student is studying.

For 2025, provide two parent/teacher meetings, one scheduled in Term 1 and a second in Term 2.

Kaartdijin

Program Kaartdijin will replace the school's current data base, which is reaching the end of its useful life. Rather than develop a new system the Education Department awarded contracts to Compass Education Pty Ltd (Compass) and TechnologyOne Limited (TechnologyOne).

Compass is the equivalent of SEQTA so unfortunately for us, we have no option but to transition from SEQTA to Compass. The predicted timeline for this shift is mid next year as Como SC participates in phase one of the program. Phase one consists of the attendance, behaviour and wellbeing and curriculum modules.

The school will be migrating to Compass for the commencement of Term 1 2025 so that we only have to complete 1 onboarding process for parents, moving portal access from SEQTA to Compass.

While several Compass modules will be fully funded by the Department of Education after the initial 12-month contract, additional modules are at the school's expense, as is any ongoing contract maintenance. One of the modules the school and the P&C is investigating is the Canteen module. This module allows students, staff and parents to place Canteen orders or make purchases (eg. food, uniform, fundraisers) online via their Compass portal and in the Mobile App.

Student Uniforms

The new look school polo shirt is ready for our students to wear in 2025. After a period of review, consultation, planning and preparation the current white shirt will be replaced with a Como blue shirt. To reduce costs for families the new polo shirts will be consistent in design with only the collars for Years 7-10 and Years 11- 12 being different.

The uniform will be phased in over the next two years. There is no requirement for current students to transition to the new uniform before January 2027. The Second-hand uniform shop operated by the P&C will continue to sell the current uniform to students.

However, should existing students wish to wear the new uniform before this date, it will be available for purchase from November in readiness for Term 1, 2025. Our uniform supplier is Uniform Concepts located at 30 Kembla Way Willetton.



Dark blue polo shirt with white trim – lower school



Dark blue polo shirt with blue trim – upper school



Maali Café

The naming of the school canteen was celebrated at a whole school assembly. Using the Noongar word for swan the Maali Café provides students a place to eat, drink and meet their friends. The signage for Maali Café was unveiled by Mr Geoff Baker and Mr George Hayden.



Kyal! (hello)



I'm Tash Collard, and I'm currently the Aboriginal Islander Education Officer (AIEO) at Como Secondary College (CSC).

Being a mum, grandmother, a community leader and a long-time resident in the City of South Perth area, I've seen our community grow in so many positive ways, and I'm dedicated to making it even better. I am passionate about increasing cultural awareness, promoting understanding, and building strong relationships within the community to give better support to our First Nations People and the broader community.

I am looking forward to being a great mentor and working alongside our students, staff and families to improve positive outcomes within our school as well as our community.

When I was a student at Como Senior High School (what the school was known as back then), there was not an AIEO, so we relied mostly on student services, chaplaincy, the school nurse, or staff for support. It's amazing to see how much progress the school has made in providing comprehensive assistance to students from diverse backgrounds.

"It takes a village to raise a child," is a principle I embrace. I believe that when a student has the guidance and support of multiple individuals, they have the potential to accomplish their goals and pursue any path they desire!

My office is located near the Hub, feel free to come by for a yarn and cuppa as my door is always open.



Como Secondary College with the support of the P&C provide SchoolTV which offers a wide range of resources to assist with the challenges faced by students and families today. It can be easily accessed via our [website](#) homepage using the blue TV icon on the right, alternatively click on the links below.

All SchoolTV topics are divided into series. Take the time to explore each series and topic and make sure you visit the resources section. Here you will find useful fact sheets, apps, books, websites and other additional videos - all on one single topic.

[Cyber Safety Series](#)

[Mental Health Series](#)

[School Survival Series](#)

[Healthy Body Series](#)

[Positive Parent Series](#)

[Diversity and Inclusion Series](#)

[Special Reports](#)



SPECIAL REPORT: Eating Anxiety

The complexity of eating anxiety stems from a combination of social, psychological, and environmental factors. Young people may develop this anxiety due to social pressures related to eating in front of others, fears about body image, or due to more ingrained issues such as eating disorders. Additionally, cultural norms or dietary restrictions can also play significant roles, as can direct experiences like bullying or teasing related to food choices or eating habits.

Whilst not a formally recognised condition, eating anxiety is a genuine and often overwhelming experience that can significantly hinder a young person's ability to participate in everyday activities comfortably. This condition can lead to serious nutritional deficiencies and social withdrawal, impacting overall health and academic performance.

Recognising and addressing eating anxiety is crucial for parents, carer, and educators. Through education, policy changes, and community support, we can help young people manage their anxieties and improve their relationship with food, thereby enhancing their overall well-being and social interactions.

This Special Report will help you understand how best to support a child experiencing anxiety around eating.

Here is the link to your Special Report

https://como.wa.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-eating-anxiety-au

Here is the link to your Special Report

https://como.wa.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-healthy-study-habits-au

[Surviving Year 12](#)

[Exam Jitters](#)

[Study habits](#)



SPECIAL REPORT: Healthy Study Habits

In today's world, where distractions are abundant and the pressure to excel is high, guiding children to develop healthy study habits is more important than ever. As students aspire to achieve academic success, the cornerstone of that achievement lies not just in their intelligence or drive, but in the study habits they cultivate.

It's essential for students to recognise that good study habits aren't merely about spending extra hours hitting the

books. It's more about quality over quantity and having a more balanced approach. Emphasising the value of a routine is

essential. Consistent study times establish a sense of structure and discipline, turning studying into a natural part of their daily routine rather than a burdensome task.

Additionally, how students approach their study sessions is equally important. Taking regular breaks is a crucial part of this process in maintaining focus and preventing burnout.

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle that includes sufficient sleep, a balanced diet, and consistent physical activity are indispensable elements that will significantly impact your child's ability to study effectively. Fostering these healthy

habits is one of the most valuable gifts we can offer children, paving the way for a lifetime of learning and achievement.

This Special Report will help you support your young person as they embark on studying for exams.

Here is the link to your Special Report

https://como.wa.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-healthy-study-habits-au

Congratulations

Winners of the Science Week
Photography Competition are

Sophie Hadian - First Place

Oscar Banyard - Second Place

Josie Smith - Third Place



Oscar Banyard



Sophie Hadian



Josie Smith



TECHNOLOGIES

Kirsten Romany - HoLA

Year 12 Pop Up Restaurant

On Thursday 5th of September, the Year 12 Food Science and Technology students rounded out their final year with a pop-up restaurant, where they each served a guest of their choice a two course meal. Our Year 12s have spent the past month trialling dishes, sending invites, collecting dietary information, creating menus, place cards and peer evaluations and planning their plating, decorations and guest greetings.

25 lucky Year 12s, 1 Year 11 and 1 very lucky teacher were invited as their guests. Our chefs were timed in their delivery of each dish and were marked on both service and production.

Miss Romany, Ms Lee and Annmarie Daly are proud to share some images of their event.



HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Brad Francis - HoLA

Over the course of the year Como Secondary College students have had the opportunity to compete in a range of sporting events.

1. Term 1 – Swimming Carnival
2. Term 2 – Year 8 Interschool Carnival, School Sport WA Interschool Volleyball Carnivals – Junior and Senior
3. Term 3 – College Cross Country, Year 10 Interschool Carnival and College House Carnival

Since my arrival as the new Head of Health and Physical Education in May, it has been awesome to see the broad range of sporting talent our Como students have and giving them opportunities to compete in a variety of sporting contexts has given me the enthusiasm to push for more competitions in a wider range of sports in the future.

Below are the results of our recent Swimming, Cross Country and House Athletics Carnival. Congratulations to all our winners and runner's up.

Our next big event is the Interschool Athletics 'C' carnival on Monday 14th October at the State Athletics Centre in Floreat.

CHAMPION HOUSE

3rd – Flame 1850pts
2nd – Jacaranda 1860pts
1st – Pine 2085pts

HOUSE SPIRIT SHIELD

3rd – Jacaranda 448pts
2nd – Flame 508pts
1st – Pine 528pts

COLLEGE HOUSE CARNIVAL – 27TH AUGUST 2024

YEAR 7

Runner Up BOY Edwardo P
Champion BOY Eamon S
Runner Up GIRL Paris
Champion GIRL Athieng J

YEAR 8

Runner Up BOY William T
Champion BOY Lincoln L
Runner Up GIRL Nikita S
Champion GIRL Chanel M

YEAR 9

Runner Up BOY Kai R
Champion BOY Steele M

YEAR 9

Runner Up GIRL Jasmine D
Champion GIRL Eva Q

YEAR 10

Runner Up BOY Alvaro R
Champion BOY John M
Runner Up GIRL Mia C
Champion GIRL Peyton R

YEAR 11/12

Runner Up BOY Mazen S
Champion BOY James S
Runner Up GIRL Shane' B
Champion GIRL Halle H & Maddison H





College Swimming Carnival 22nd February 2024

YEAR 7

Runner Up BOY	Jack L
Champion BOY	Eamon S
Runner Up GIRL	Paris H
Champion GIRL	Lily S

YEAR 8

Runner Up BOY	Evan S
Champion BOY	William T
Runner Up GIRL	Aleezah N
Champion GIRL	Evita O

YEAR 9

Runner Up BOY	Lachlan M
Champion BOY	Connor P
Runner Up GIRL	Holly B
Champion GIRL	Elvie H

YEAR 10

Runner Up BOY	Kyle L
Champion BOY	Mitchell M
Runner Up GIRL	Mia C
Champion GIRL	Kara V

YEAR 11

Runner Up BOY	Pak S
Champion BOY	George T
Runner Up GIRL	Kate M
Champion GIRL	Jessica L

YEAR 12

Runner Up BOY	Flynn T
Champion BOY	Matthew L
Runner Up GIRL	Andrea P
Champion GIRL	Ruby W

Cross Country 27th June 2024

YEAR 7

BOY	Edwardo P	8.36	2km
GIRL	Paris H	9.33	2km

YEAR 8

BOY	Eugene N	8.38	2km
GIRL	Nikita S	9.01	2km

YEAR 9

BOY	Kai R	7.33	2km
GIRL	Jasmine D	9.02	2km

Year 10

BOY	David	11.43	3km
GIRL	Mia C	8.23	2km

YEAR 11

BOY	Daniel H	13.01	3km
GIRL	Kate M	14.00	3km

YEAR 12

BOY	Blake D	11.04	3km
GIRL	Lucy T	16.00	3km





Congratulations to our winners and all those students who took part. These whole school activities promote a sense of community within our school.



OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Bruce Emslie

Outdoor Education Adventure: Canoeing, Mountain Biking, and More!

This term, our Year 12 Outdoor Education classes embarked on an unforgettable adventure at Dwellingup. With activities ranging from canoeing to mountain biking, building campfires, setting up tents and even learning to cook on Trangias, students had the opportunity to embrace the outdoors and develop valuable skills.

Paddling the Murray River: Building Teamwork

The Murray River (Nanga to Dwaarlindjirraap) provided the perfect backdrop for students to hone their paddling skills as they canoed down rapids and the serene waterways. After their initial capsizing drills where the waters were a little chilly, the students demonstrated excellent kayaking skills and also strengthened their teamwork as they navigated together through the water.

Mountain Biking: Adventure on Two Wheels

For those seeking a thrilling challenge, mountain biking through the rugged trails of Dwellingup (Marrinup and Turner Hill Mountain Bike Trails) was a highlight. Navigating the twists, turns, and slopes of the forest terrain, students experienced the rush of riding through nature while developing balance, stamina, and problem-solving skills.

Cooking with Trangias: Independence and Creativity

A unique aspect of the camp was the opportunity for students to prepare their own meals using Trangias (portable camping stoves). With a focus on self-sufficiency, students planned their menus, cooked, and learned the essentials of outdoor food preparation. This not only fostered independence but also allowed them to get creative with their ingredients and flavors.

Navigating the Outdoors

Another key part of the experience was learning navigation skills. Students were taught how to read maps, use compasses, and find their way through unfamiliar terrain. This essential life skill instilled confidence and taught them how to stay safe while exploring the great outdoors.

The trip to Lane Poole Reserve was a great success, with students returning home full of stories, newfound confidence, and a deep appreciation for nature. Through these experiences, they learned the value of perseverance, teamwork, and self-reliance – lessons that will last a lifetime.

A big thankyou to Mr Price, Miss King & Mr Passmore for their unwavering enthusiasm and assistance.



COMO GOLF ACADEMY

Jamie Warman - Specialist Golf Program TIC

Term 3 has seen our Golf Academy students participate in several events, including the School Sport WA Secondary Schools Championship at Lakelands Country Club, where we placed second behind Kingsway Christian College courtesy of Josiah E and Bailey P's counting scores.

The Como Shield followed shortly after, where our students compete in evenly mixed teams for 36-holes of Best Ball and Ambrose. Ten hours of golf wasn't enough to separate our winning teams, Snowballin' and Not Appropriate, who in turn, had to share first place honours.

Our students will now be turning their attention to the flagship event of the year, the Academy Championships on September 18 – 19.



CREATE@COMO

Monique Laves- Create TIC

Bell Shakespeare STUDENT WORKSHOP

The Create@Como Year 9 and 10 students enjoyed an active learning workshop combining Literacy and Drama with Bell Shakespeare.

The immersive experience guided students through a practical blend of English and Drama as they explored Shakespeare's play Macbeth.

Bell Shakespeare activated language analysis, themes, key discussion points, scene work and character analysis, with the whole class on their feet. A playful and powerful approach to the play, ensured deep learning and real engagement with the text of Macbeth.

Create@Como were engrossed workshop making Shakespeare come alive again for 2024. Even Mr Avery and Miss Horn even participated.



Gavin Aung Than Graphic Novel Workshop

Author visits can really enhance literacy skills, improve the reading culture in the school community, and promoting creativity in students. It is also a great way to connect authors with readers, and students with real-world writing careers.

Gavin Aung Than is a New York Times bestselling cartoonist and creator of Zen Pencils, a cartoon blog which adapts inspirational quotes into comic stories, and the graphic novel series Super Sidekicks, with more on the way!

Gavin inspired the Create@Como group discussing his own schooling and how much he would have loved a program like Create when he was at school. After working in the corporate graphic design industry for 8 years he quit his unfulfilling job and sold his house to follow his true passion, Graphic Novels.

He shared with us his techniques, breaking into simple steps how to create a character. Graphic novels often feature diverse characters and stories that reflect various cultures and experiences. We worked on the 'Hero', 'Villian' and 'sidekick'. This representation can be empowering for readers who see themselves reflected in the stories they read. The combination of expressive artwork and dialogue can convey emotions in a powerful way that resonates with readers. This can lead to a more immersive reading experience, where readers feel more connected to the narrative and its characters.

Gavin shared his graphic novel Creature Clinic, about a hospital for mythical creatures, due out in 2025, inspiring our Create@Como students to invent their own characters to be developed into a [page for a possible future novel](#).



CALL OUT FOR CREATIVE Year 7's

Strong in English with a passion for the ARTS?

If this sounds like you see Ms Laves in the Art Department. The Create@Como program has a few places available in 2025.

ENRICHED MATHS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE

Chris Geagea - Specialist EMITS Program TIC

It has been a substantial term for the Enriched Mathematics, Information Technology, and Science (EMITS) program at Como Secondary College. Below are just some of the events covered this term.

Our Year 10 students, Noah, Andre, Abraham, Erik, and Raunak, showcased their 'Worm World App' at the Just Start IT Final Gala Event in front of hundreds of spectators. The students delivered an outstanding presentation, demonstrating their technical skills and innovative thinking. Their app, designed to educate users about the importance of worms in the ecosystem and how to create a worm farm, received much praise from the audience and judges alike. The students' ability to articulate their ideas clearly and confidently was commendable.



Como Secondary College EMITS Code Club has been a great success thus far. Our students have been enthusiastically learning about Python and Scratch, developing essential digital skills that will serve them well in our technology-driven world.

All EMITS students participated in the Australian Mathematics



Competition. The Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC) is an annual event that challenges students from Year 3 to Year 12 across Australia and internationally. It is one of the largest and most prestigious mathematics competitions, designed to test students' problem-solving skills through unique and challenging questions. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and dedication during the competition and look forward to their results in Term 4.

The EMITS assembly was held where the Distinction and High Distinction winners from the Computational and Algorithmic competition and the Big Science Competition were awarded their certificates. Mr Geagea also provided a summary of the excellent work being done in EMITS classes. His talk covered the Year 10 Just Start IT program and the 'Worm World' app, the Year 9 history of the Atomic Model where Marcus and Isabel had prepared a presentation on their ideas on the model from Dalton to Bohr and beyond. Additionally, Mr Geagea mentioned that the Year 8 boys, Ritwik, Winston, Temuulen, and Tyler, had prepared a presentation on the Paper Plane task from mathematics. This presentation explained the lift and drag forces on a plane when in flight. The students had presented their ideas in their respective EMITS classes.

The 'Women in STEM Morning Tea' event provided a unique opportunity for students to gain insights into the world of Science,



Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) from a woman's perspective and was a resounding success. The students enjoyed sandwiches, cake, orange juice, and milk, and expressed their satisfaction with the event. Our esteemed guest speaker for the event was Ms Aleesha Davis, the Science Outreach Coordinator from Curtin University. Ms Davis has an extensive background in biomedical and virology science and has made significant contributions to her field, particularly in understanding gut pathogens. She shared her journey, academic pursuits, research undertakings, and experiences as a woman in STEM. Ms Davis also highlighted the pioneering women in STEM who have paved the way for future generations. She noted that societal norms often design standard products for men and emphasised the need for women and people from diverse backgrounds to enter STEM fields to ensure representation for all groups.

The Year 10 EMITS class recently experienced an engaging incursion from Murdoch University, where Forensic Science presenters introduced a fictional crime for the students to solve. Utilizing their STEM knowledge and skills, the students meticulously analysed the evidence presented. They applied principles of biology to examine DNA samples, chemistry to identify substances found at the crime scene, and physics to understand the trajectory of objects involved. Through collaborative problem-solving and critical thinking, the students pieced together the clues, ultimately solving the crime with precision and scientific rigour. This hands-on experience not only reinforced their theoretical learning but also highlighted the practical applications of STEM in real-world scenarios.

We look forward to another exciting term ahead for our EMITS students.





Contributions and Charges

It is government policy that parents should contribute towards the cost of educating their children. Given that all students benefit from the pool of collected fees, it is fair to expect that all parents should pay the balance of contributions and charges.

Contributions and charges form a large part of the school's income for learning and teaching programs in the school and supports the school in its focus to provide a quality education for all. The College is currently accepting payments for the 2024 and 2025 school year.

Turn one big payment into easy instalments, you may like to consider starting a payment plan now to assist with completing all payments.

Payments are accepted by cheque, cash, Visa, Mastercard, direct deposit and Qkr:

BSB: 066 102 | A/C: 00903523
Ref: student name

Attendance

· Contact the Hub's 24 hour Attendance Hotline **9365 2011** or email Como.SC.HUB@education.wa.edu.au to advise the reason for student absence before 9.00am

· For early departure provide student with a written note to request permission to leave class

· Write an explanation for absence and send it via your child as soon as they return to the College

· Respond promptly to SMS and Absentee Letters

Contact Details

Please advise changes via Consent2Go, email to Como.SC.AdminSupport@education.wa.edu.au or Change of Details Form available at Administration.

Communications are usually sent via email; please ensure we have your correct address

The onboarding process of students onto SEQTA Learn and parents onto SEQTA Engage is proving positive on many fronts.

If you are experiencing any problems or have not received a parent login please contact the college on 9365 2000.

Please remember to check the Parent Portal on SEQTA to keep up to date

PARENTS & CITIZENS

Meeting

The P&C meet once a month during term time on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7.30pm at the College in the Elicos Room. Attendance at these meetings is a great way to find out more about what is happening in the College, its future plans and how these will affect your child and your family. It is also a venue for parents to voice concerns, raise issues and discuss ideas both with the Principal and with other parents.

Second-Hand Uniform Shop

The second-hand uniform shop is run by the P&C with all funds raised going towards projects to benefit all students. The shop is run on donations only.

It is located in B Block and open during term each Friday, 8.30-9.15am. Non-students need to sign in at the front office where staff will assist to locate the shop.

No longer required, preloved uniform items in good condition can be dropped at reception 8am-4 pm Mon-Fri.

GETTING HELP DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Although school holidays are a nice break for staff and students; these times can be stressful for many families. If you require help during this period, the following information may be of assistance.

Emergency Services and helplines. Call 000 in an emergency if you feel

someone is at risk of harm OR for mental health emergency assessment, support and referral contact:

- CAMHS Crisis Connect supports children and young people under 18 years (family who have concerns can call 24 hrs/7 days a week incl. public holidays for a tele-mental health assessment or advice) call 1800 048 636
- Mental Health Emergency Response Line (MHERL) is 24/7 for adults – 1300 555 788 (metro). Peel callers – 1800 676 822 (free)
- RuralLink for Rural and remote areas from 4:30 pm to 8:30 am (Mon to Fri) and 24 hrs (Sat, Sun and public holidays) - 1800 552 002
- Find your GP after-hours clinic
- Call after hours GP Helpline on 1800 022 222

NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO

Women's Domestic Violence Helpline 1800 007 339

Violence Helpline

Beyond Blue 1300 22 4636

Crisis Care Helpline 9223 1111 Or

Country Toll Free 1800 199 008

Headspace 1800 650 890

Kids Helpline 1800 551 800

Lifeline 13 11 14

Men's Line Australia 1300 789 978

Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467

The Samaritans Crisis Line 135 247

(7 am to 7 pm)