

Important dates:

Monday 01 June
WA Day Public Holiday

Friday 03 July
Last Day Term 2



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Digby Mercer

Students and staff alike have been pleased to get back to school after what was a monotonous and isolating experience for some. Both students and parents have expressed delight in the suffering finally coming to an end. I would like to thank the many parents who have provided positive feedback to us and who have been very patient during these testing and changeable times.

The attendance rates for the first two days of this term has been good at 75% and 76% respectively. We are expecting more students to return as the term goes on. It was pleasing to see the good attendance from Year 11 and 12 students.

The high attendance means that we will not have to combine classes so students will be receiving their normal scheduled lessons from their regular subject teacher. The high attendance also means that we will be able to move into meaningful assessment for all year groups more quickly than expected.



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In regards to students in Year 12, the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) have advised that the syllabus has to be delivered, i.e. the entire breadth of course content must be covered. To assist schools and teachers to deliver the entire syllabus, given the disruption that has occurred, SCSA has suggested that schools reduce the number of assessments, including the Semester 1 exams.

The school has decided that in order to provide learning to the necessary depth, we will not have Semester 1 exams for Year 11 and 12 students. This will provide seven extra instruction days for Year 12 students and six extra days for Year 11 students. The trade-off is between giving students practise with a three hour exam or covering the content. However, most learning areas have already purchased test papers for the Year 12 Semester 1 exams. In order to expose students to exam level questions the exams will be broken into a series of formative assessments over a number of weeks. Feedback may not be immediately available on these tests because each exam has a moratorium on when the solutions can be provided.

We are still awaiting advice from SCSA in relation to externally Set Tasks (EST), the Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA), Vocational Education and Training (VET), Endorsed Programs and the ATAR course examinations.

As with all other Government schools the Semester 1 reports for students in Years 7, 8 and will consist of a written comment only. We are currently exploring the feasibility of awarding a grade for Year 10 students to assist in course selection.

Semester 2 course content for Year 11 and 12 students will commence 08 June. Whilst course changes for Year 10 students will remain open until 26 June.

For those students learning from home, distance education packages and resources will be provided. Prior to the holidays staff were developing packages for two weeks of distance education. These packages should now be on Connect or Stile in the case of Science.

Parents of students learning at home should be aware that the "Term 2, 2020 Operating Guidelines for Western Australian Public Schools" states that "Teachers will teach a face-to-face program and timetable for students at school. These teachers will not be required to teach the online and distance education component." As all teachers are now teaching a full load to reasonably full classes they will not have a lot of time to devote to students at home. As an interim measure, we will be hiring relief teachers and increasing the work fraction of some part-time teachers to assist students learning at home. However, the focus of most teachers will necessarily be on those students at school.

The canteen and second-hand uniform shop will be operating as usual from tomorrow.

Parents who are dropping off or picking up students should not come into the school except if they have an appointment or need to pay fees etc.

Hand sanitiser and tissues are available in every room and we have more supplies on order. The most important preventative behaviour that students should undertake is frequent hand washing, as detailed in the letter from the Chief Medical Officer posted on Connect. I would also recommend that students download the Covid tracking application, especially those students travelling on public transport.

Finally, this has been a stressful time for our students and their families. If you or your child needs additional support, then please contact our Student Services team, who are ready to help.

If you have any concerns, then please telephone the school on 9365 2000 or send an email to como.sc.adminsupport@education.wa.edu.au.

ADMIN / FINANCE NEWS

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 2020 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.

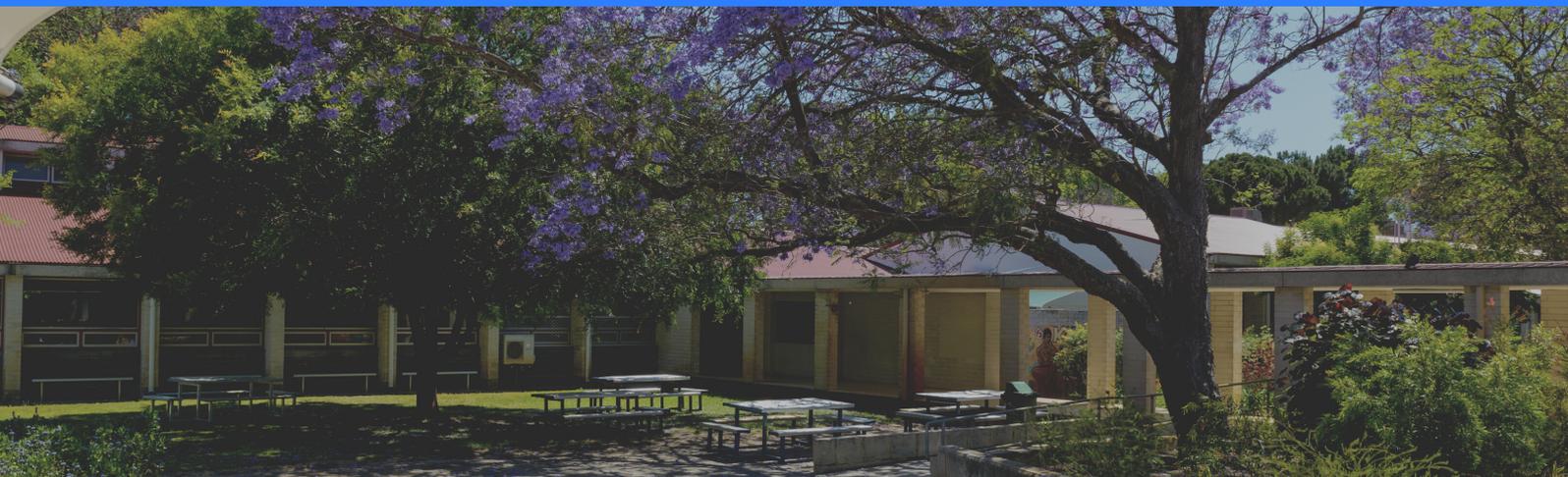
Payments are accepted by cheque, cash, Visa, Mastercard, direct deposit and
Okr:BSB: 066 102 | A/C: 00903523 | Ref: student name

Attendance

- contact the Hub's 24 hour Attendance Hotline 9365 2011 or go to the Connect homepage to advise 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.
- please respond promptly to Absentee Letters

Contact Details

Please advise changes via email to como.sc.admin@education.wa.edu.au, or Change of Details form available at Administration. Many future communications may be sent by email - please ensure the College has your current email address.



MONITORING YOUR CHILD'S ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Grace Bradley - Deputy Principal

Notwithstanding the extraordinary circumstances we find ourselves in, teachers constantly monitor progress, in academic and in social and emotional development. You can also monitor academic progress. All parents have access to assessment data on Connect. When teachers are finalising grades and writing report comments, we turn this access off to allow them to get on with this time-consuming job.

Formal assessments in class will look a little different this year, under the direction of the Schools' Curriculum and Standards Authority. Our goal is to do our best by our students in our teaching and in enabling students to demonstrate their skills and knowledge. Marks may not appear as regularly on Connect as we adjust to the situation. If you have concerns about your child's progress, your first contact should be with the class teacher.

Senior School students have a Progress Planner, which you have all seen and discussed with your child. Students are asked to keep records of their marks, to set and monitor goals and to make adjustments as a result of this reflection. They should regularly communicate with their teachers to help them make improvements.

Teachers will also periodically send home Task Reports. This is particularly so for Years 10, 11 and 12 students. Year 10 students are working towards the Courses they want to study in Senior School. Years 11 and 12 students are working towards their final school results. Your child will be able to explain the 'box and whisker' diagram and there are notations on the report that help.



As always, if you have any concerns about your child's progress in a subject, the first person to contact is the class teacher. Phone or email to make an appointment and bring your child along to participate in the discussion about school work. We are currently working on the best way to prepare our Year 10 students for Senior School course selections later this year. You will hear more soon.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST

Roy Dobson - Year 12 Coordinator

Last term, Bellana Bachi and Alessandra Pizzirani represented Como Secondary College at the the UN Women IWD Breakfast. Como was among eight other local schools invited to attend. It was a great morning with a great theme - [#EachforEqual](#) - a call to action to join forces across generations to create a world where every girl and woman has an equal opportunity to fulfil their full potential.

Many thanks to Ms. Nicole Richardson for organising the girls participation.



RESEARCH TO CLASSROOM PROJECT

Jessica Colleu Terradas

Last term, nine teachers volunteered to experiment with different teaching methods through the Research To Classroom project, a Schools Plus Commonwealth Bank-funded initiative. The RTC project aims to implement and embed effective learning review practices into every lesson to maximise students' retention, recall and integration of information – in other words to make sure they learn as much as possible, and retain that knowledge for as long as possible.

Lydia Richardson, Michael Foster, Kate Reid, Renae Grljusich and Annie Demosthenous continued the journey they began last year, while Christine Emerson, Abdi Hussein, John McKnight and Nicole Richardson joined the project in February.

On March 4th, we had the privilege of Associate Professor Lorraine Hammond from Edith Cowan University delivering an on-site Professional Learning session entitled "How Explicit Instruction reduces Cognitive Load".

The most important takeaway was that *'teachers can't make informed decisions about effective teaching approaches or tools to use if they don't first understand how students learn. To understand how our students learn we must understand how their brains take in, process and retrieve information as well as the numerous factors that affect these processes.'*

This semester, participants split into teams of three (triads) to carry out instructional rounds, based on the research of Jim Knight. Teachers took turns to observe each other delivering a lesson in which they were trialling a new evidence-based teaching practice. Observers then provided feedback in a supportive environment, enabling teachers to reflect on the benefits of these new practices and their applicability to particular lessons.

This experience has developed trust between colleagues, allowing us to investigate connections between observation data, changes in teaching practice and professional renewal, always focusing on the core purpose of teaching: student learning.

The teaching triad process revealed how incredibly difficult it is to change our practice as teachers and learn new skills, reminding us what it feels like to be a student. Modifying practice requires making a deliberate decision to make a change and then to persist with it until our default mode and habits shift. Each member has shown a great commitment to trial and improve their teaching practices over the term.

Due to the unprecedented transformation of teaching in response to the Coronavirus crisis, the RTC project has been put on hold. We will resume when there is clarity about how we will carry out the remote delivery of education, and continue to trial research-based teaching methods online.

I wish you all safety and health. See you online.

RESEARCH TO CLASSROOM PROJECT

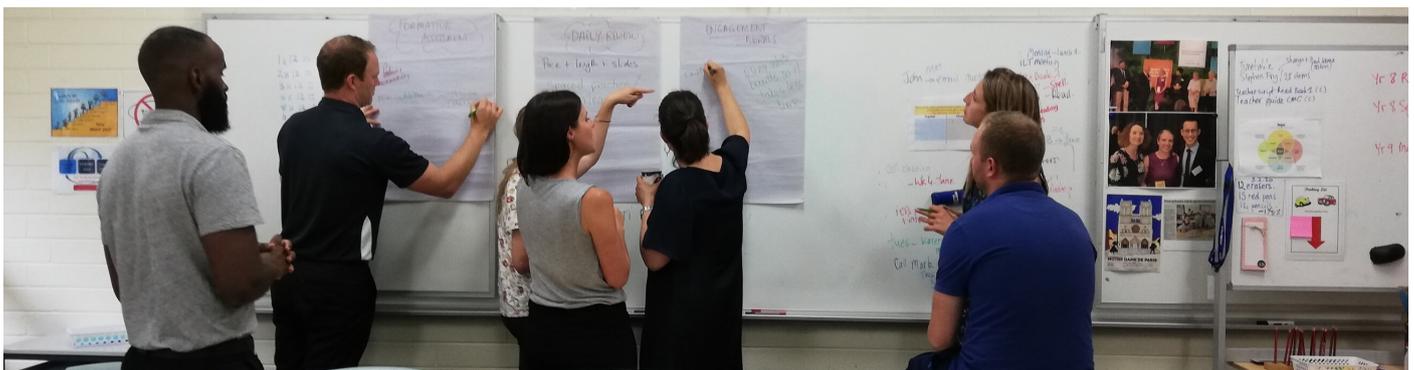
Student comments

Do you find reviewing previously learnt content at the start of the lesson useful in helping you to remember what you have learnt? Why or why not?

I think it is awesome. Most times with maths especially you can forget content very easily so reviewing having that little bit of a reminder helps heaps with the practice questions when asked?

Do you find reviewing previously learnt content at the start of the lesson useful in helping you to remember what you have learnt? Why or why not?

Yes, it certainly does. It refreshes my memory of the methods / processes, and I find that the rest of the questions are much easier to do after reviewing / revising the work.



YEAR 7 TRANSITION CAMP

Shaun Middleton - Year 7 Coordinator

The Year 7 transition camp over the 9th and 10th of March went off without a hitch. Two days of non-stop energy and warm weather led to some very exhausted students and staff by the end of it. 143 Students spent two days at Point Peron Camp School working alongside their peers, many of whom they have never met before to successfully complete the range of activities on offer over the two days. These activities included beach games, team games, prussiking, crate mountain, raft building and everyone's favourite kayaking. Many new friendships were formed and current friendships were cemented which was ultimately the aim of the entire trip.

Now with all this social distancing and isolation taking over our lives recently if the students claim they cannot possibly do dishes while at home. I have personally witnessed they all have the capability of doing so!

I wish all the students the best of luck with the rest of the year!



HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Bruce Emslie - HoLA

Jacaranda win the House Swimming Carnival

After a postponement of the Interhouse Swimming Carnival due to inclement weather we ended up having a fantastic, fun filled day on Thursday 12th March with perfect conditions. We had 136 students participate in individual events at the Interhouse Swimming Carnival. This year was a close tussle between all three Houses for the entire day, with Jacaranda ending up on top at the end. The final results were:

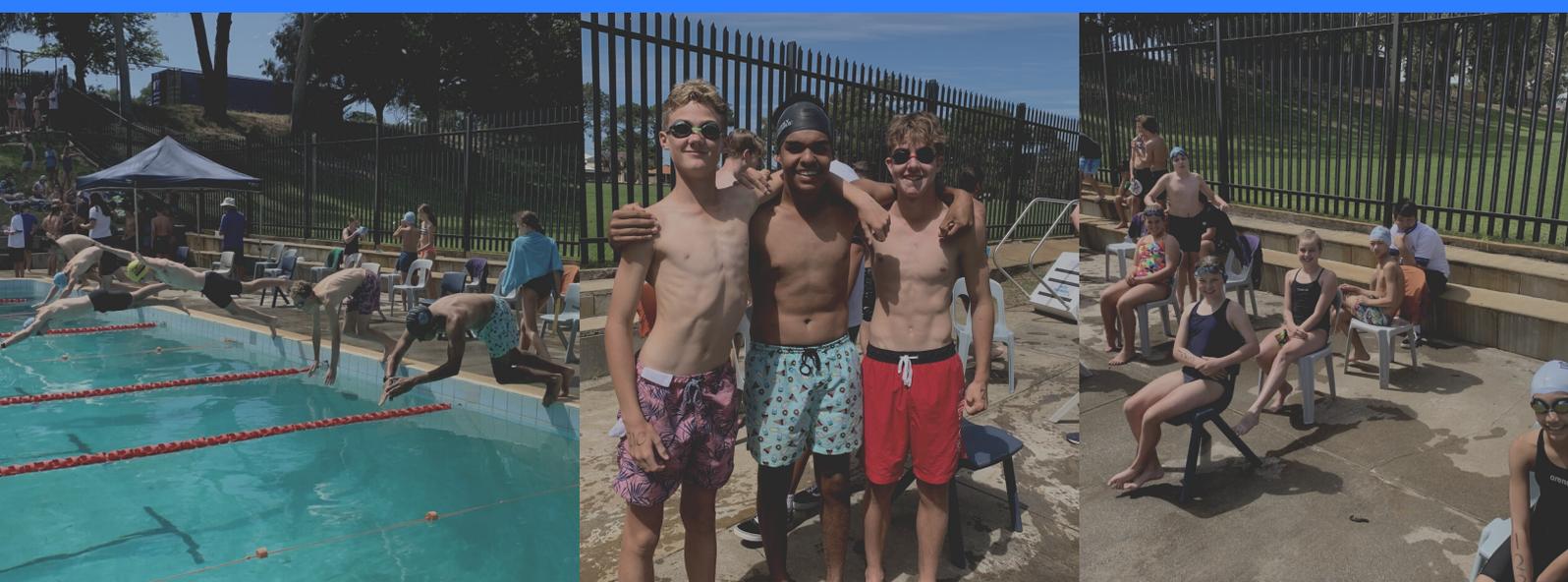
1st Jacaranda 1393
2nd Flame 1268
3rd Pine 1229

We had five New Records set for the day with Matthew Laidler a part of them all. The most impressive being a record that has stood since 1973, where Matthew shaved an impressive 4.04 seconds off the Yr 8 Boys 50m Backstroke time. Matthew also broke the Year 8 50m Freestyle Record (posted in 2006) with a brilliant time of 29.82 seconds. He also swam the Yr 8 50m Breaststroke with speed, breaking last year's record in a time of 39.40 seconds. Matthew also impressively broke the OPEN 100m Backstroke record in a time of 1:16:32 as a Year 8. Superb work Matthew.

The final record that was broken was the Year 7-9 Boys 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay, with Jacaranda recording a time of 2 minutes 21.09seconds. The record breaking team consisted of Matthew Laidler, Blake Darmody, Flynn Turner and Jared Moro.

Thank you to our student helpers, Como SC staff who made the carnival run so smoothly, the competitors for getting in there and having a go and the parent supporters!

Well done to all swimmers. Unfortunately the School Sport WA Interschool Carnival was cancelled due to the Coronavirus.



Interschool Swimming Carnival (Virtual)

School Sport WA has decided to run a virtual swimming carnival for those schools willing to participate. Como has joined in the fun and posted our recorded swimming times from our own House Swimming Carnival. Hopefully we have some success. Our Year 8 boys' cohort is an extremely strong group so will be interesting to see how we (virtually) swam! There will be an update in the next newsletter.

Kristina Gorry in a class of her own

A HUGE congratulations to Kristina Gorry (Year 10) for being selected to represent WA at the National Rhythmic Gymnastics competition. She really does have sensational proprioception, balance and body awareness when competing. She has complete control over her hoop when she flips it and can use both her feet and her arms to catch and throw with apparent ease. Amazing!!

RAC KEYS 4 LIFE Parent Seminar

RAC conducted a parent information evening for the Year 10 cohort here at Como Secondary College outlining the responsibilities and useful tips on how to deal with being a supervisor driver for their children when learning to drive. It was a fantastic presentation and helped put the parent's minds at ease (a little).



Individual Champions

YEAR 7

FEMALE

Jessica Laidler (Jac) - 107
Ginger Archer (Pine) - 56
Destiny Boulton (Pine) - 46

MALE

Jasper Smith (Flame) - 64
Alexander Alexandrovski (Flame) - 51
Jonah Pilatti (Flame) - 44

YEAR 8

FEMALE

Ruby Walker (Flame) - 100
Andy Petzke (Flame) - 80
Hannah Hudston (Flame) - 35

MALE

Matthew Laidler (Jacaranda) - 140
Flynn Fulton (Pine) - 81
Jared Moro (Jacaranda) - 66

YEAR 9

FEMALE

Georgia Neill (Pine) - 127
Jade Press (Pine) - 34
Taylah King (Jacaranda) - 21

MALE

Tate Cappelletti (Pine) - 60
Alexander Frehner (Flame) - 55
Jackson Harmsen (Pine) - 45

YEAR 10

FEMALE

Jade Osrin (Flame) - 80
Amelie Fairhead-Charlesworth (Pine) - 55
Isabella Daniels (Jacaranda) - 49

MALE

Lachlan Walker (Flame) - 96
Daniel McCreed (Flame) - 94
Kynan Smythe (Pine) - 44

YEAR 11

FEMALE

Chloe Walker (Jacaranda) - 73
Amberley Abbott (Flame) - 60
Amber Kuhne-Munroe (Jacaranda) - 60
Samantha Nation (Flame) - 36

MALE

Cleith Breen (Jacaranda) - 89
James Tan (Pine) - 56
Carl Viljoen (Pine) - 30

YEAR 12

FEMALE

Sara Nation (Flame) - 60
Nikkola Champion (Flame) - 31
Emily Leng (Flame) - 21

MALE

Luke Anderson (Jacaranda) - 39
Aidan Gawel (Pine) - 37
Keagan Osrin (Jacaranda) - 37
Zachary Albert (Jacaranda) - 34

COMO GOLF ACADEMY

Adam Smith - Teacher in charge

Corley Makes his Mark at Royal Perth Golf Club

Congratulations to year 11 student Corley McLernon (below) on claiming the Junior Club Championships at Royal Perth Golf Club in March. Corley, who won the event by a staggering 10 shots, is the second consecutive member from the Como Golf Academy to win this prestigious event after Jai Hutchison's victory in 2019. Well done to Corley on what is a very promising start to his Royal Perth and Como career.

All smiles for Jordan Jung

Golf Academy Captain Jordan Jung was recently selected to represent Golf WA in the Interstate series for 2020. This achievement was justified with an excellent performance in the WA State Amateur Championships, where Jordan put local knowledge to good use by finishing runner up. He was narrowly beaten on the last hole by former Academy member, Hayden Hopewell. Over the last 2 years the Como Golf Academy has had 3 past or present members in the final with 2017 graduate Azer Pehlic winning the title last year. Congratulations to Jordan continuing his outstanding performance and being a great role model for younger academy members.

Golfers 'Making a Difference' to our Community

Our golf students supported the Make a Difference Charity Golf Day at Lake Karrinyup Country Club in March. Harrison Andreou and Keanu Stevenson donated 'many' drives throughout the day and also developed their networking skills...this included meeting former Collingwood AFL premiership and West Coast Eagles player Sharrod Wellingham. A great day for all involved who supported this great cause.



THE ARTS

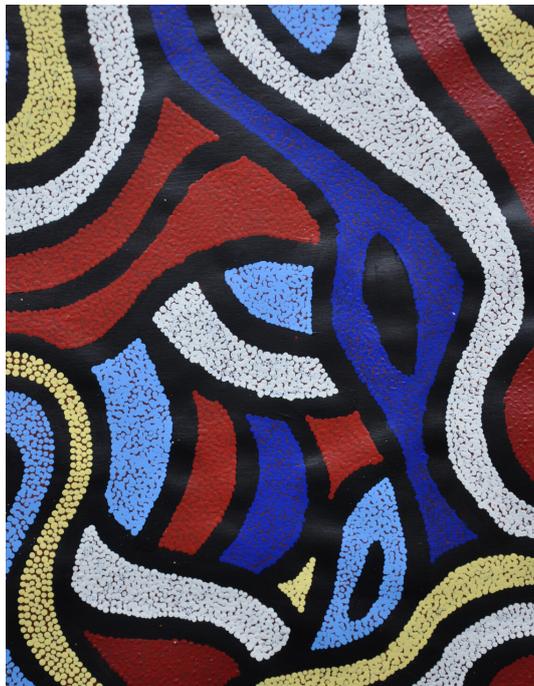
Monique Laves - HoLA

My Country

Recently, we have been very lucky to exhibit Lalla West's paintings in the Library. Over the years Como Secondary College has worked with traditional Aboriginal Elders with an Artist in Residence program. Enriching our creative skills and cultural knowledge.

Lalla West is from the Patjarr Community which is situated on the edge of the Gibson Desert Nature Reserve, her paintings represent "My Country". The land in which she and her family live on. If you are interested in purchasing an art work from Lalla please contact Ms Laves in the Art Department.

We are looking forward to future celebrations of the diversity of culture at Como Secondary College.

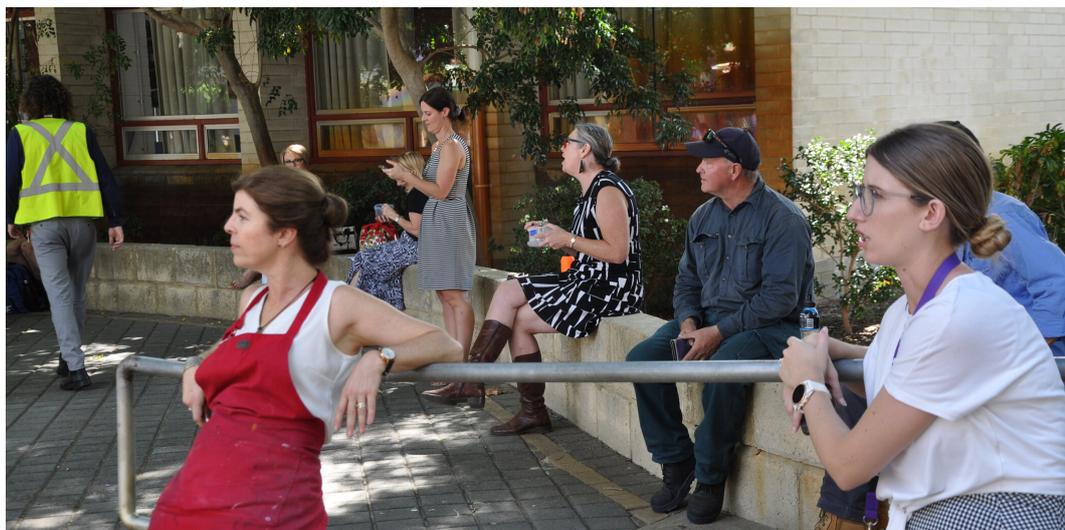


THE ARTS

Lifting the spirits with music

A big thank you to Mx Phan for bringing the school community together - at a socially acceptable distance - and lifting everyone's spirits through a music performance during lunch.

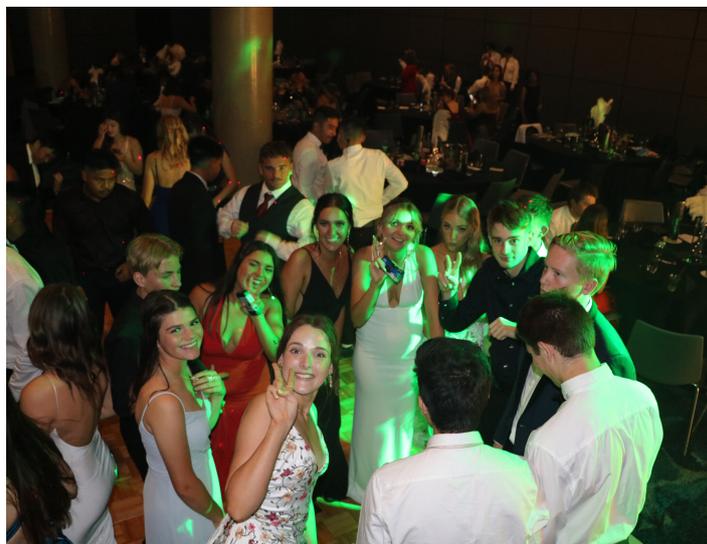
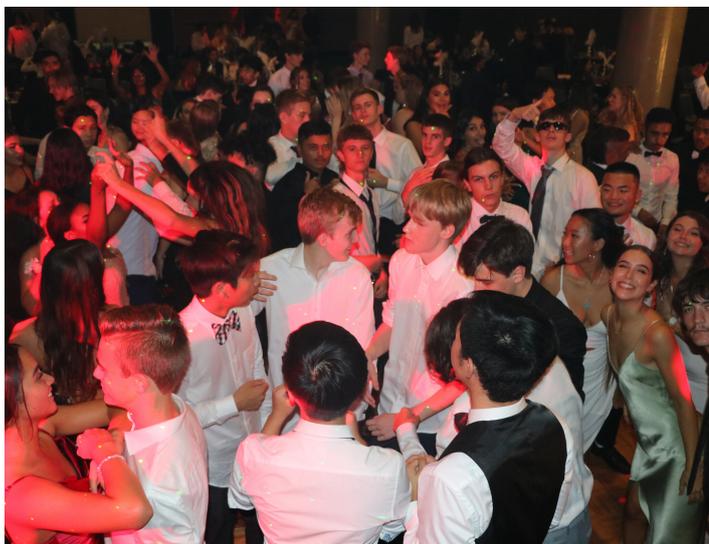
Your talents and generosity are much appreciated.



2020 SCHOOL BALL

Roy Dobson - Year 12 Coordinator

Como Secondary College recently hosted its annual Year 11 and 12 School Ball. This event, was held for the first time ever at Optus Stadium. Many thanks goes out to the ball committee for all their hard work and all the staff who gave up their time to attend this important event.



Nicole Richardson - Year 11 Coordinator

What a wonderful night seeing all my Year 11 students dressed to impress at the school ball at Optus Stadium on 13 March 2020. The Year 11 group were excellent throughout the night, they enjoyed the food and then danced the rest of the night away. A special thanks to Mr Dobson (Year 12 Coordinator) and Vicki Berich who did a fantastic job organising the event. We will look forward to our Year 12 ball in 2021!





COMMUNITY CONNECTION

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 help lines:

Call 000 in an emergency if you feel someone is at risk of harm OR for mental health emergency assessment, support and referral contact:

- Urgent Mental Health Telephone Support Line supports children and young people under 18 years (family who have concerns can call 24 hours a day/7 days a week incl. public holidays) - **1800 048 636**
- Mental Health Emergency Response Line (MHERL) is 24/7 - **1300 552 002** (metro) Peel callers - **1800 676 822** (free call).
- 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**

If you need someone to talk to:

Womens Domestic Violence Helpline	1800 007 339
Beyondblue	1300 224 636
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	135 247 (7AM to 7PM)

Online support can be accessed through the [WA Mental Health Commission](#)

P & C

Our next meeting

The P&C meet once a month during term time on the 2nd 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. The date of the next meeting is to be confirmed.

Second-hand uniforms

There is a second hand uniform shop located at the school. It is run by the P&C and all funds raised go towards projects to benefit all students. Non-students need to sign in at the front office and staff can assist as to where to find the shop.

Open every Friday 8.15am - 9am

Location: B Block

Enquiries: comoseconds@outlook.com

Payments: Cash only

The shop is run on donations only. Please consider donating any school uniforms that you no longer need, including any specialist program uniforms, e.g. black pants, white collared long sleeve shirts for music performances.

Donations: can be placed in the marked boxes in the Canteen or the front office during school hours or given to the shop when open.



COMO NOTICES

Please Remember the School Zone Speed Limit of



College Access

All visitors to the College MUST sign in at Administration.

Contact Details

Please advise changes via email to Como.SC.AdminSupport@education.wa.edu.au, or Change of Details form available at Administration. Please ensure the College has your current email address.

Contact During School Hours

Please DO NOT call the College to ask for a message to be given to your child. Please understand that with a College community of over 800 it is not possible to get messages to individual students. To avoid this issue, please ensure that after school arrangements are pre-arranged. This is part of helping students to become independent.

Drop-off

There is considerable vehicle traffic around our College site before and after school. It is expected that all vehicles use the Bruce Street car park or the marked drop-off bays to drop students off. Staff and Student car parks are NOT to be used for this purpose because it causes a great deal of congestion and potential danger to students.

Health

The Health Centre is open when the School Nurse is on site. When the Centre is open, students may access it at recess and lunch time without needing permission. If a student wishes to go during class time, permission with a note written in the College diary by their supervising teacher is required. If the Nurse is not available, students should see another member of the Student Services team or a Deputy Principal. Under no circumstances are students to contact parents/guardians directly and leave the College grounds without parents contacting the College and the student being properly signed out. In the case of injury, either a parent will be contacted or the student will be sent by ambulance to hospital, at the parent's expense.

NOTE: Please consider the health and wellbeing of others before allowing unwell students to attend school.