

Important dates:

Thursday 01 April
Last Day of Term 1

Monday 19 April
First Day of Term 2

Monday 26 April
ANZAC Day

Thursday 29 - 30 April
Futurelinks Camp

Thursday 06 May
Corporate Golf Day

Monday 07 June
Western Australia Day

Monday 19 July
School Development Day
(No Students Attend)

Monday 11 October
School Development Day
(No Students Attend)



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Digby Mercer

Term 1 has come to a close. Packing what is usually 10 weeks into 8 weeks has resulted in a very busy and tiring schedule for students and staff. The two main events of the term, the Year 7 camp and the school ball were very successful due to the hard work of Year Coordinators Michael Foster and Nicole Richardson and the teacher volunteers who attended the events. Hopefully the uncertainty and hectic pace will begin to settle as the Covid vaccination program rolls out and the rapid and unpredictable changes we have experienced are replaced by normality.

School Board

There are parent and community positions unfilled on the school board. Please contact me if you are interested in nominating. Nominations will close on April 23.

Media Report

The report in a media outlet over the weekend does not reflect the situation at this school. The overwhelming majority of students at this school are well behaved and create a secure and safe environment for themselves and their friends. Like any school, there is a very small minority of students who create problems, generally with each other. The school has strict disciplinary processes to deal with students who do not follow the rules. Over the past decade there has been a consistent decline in instances of poor behaviour to a level that would many schools would envy. As we have always done,

we will continue to work to develop every student and provide the best environment for all.

SunSmart Policy

The school has received 900 caps courtesy of the P&C. These will be issued during the first week of next term. As soon as the caps are issued, the policy will be the same as in primary schools – no hat, no play. Students engaging in outside physical activity during recess and lunchtime on the school oval, basketball courts or the four square area will need to wear a hat. There will be no exceptions. The wearing of hats during Physical Education lessons will be at the discretion of the teacher depending on the nature and location of the activity. Hats will now become a part of the uniform and our supplier will stock three kinds of hats and a beanie for winter.

Container Recycling at School

Two of our wonderful students, Amos and Jiahua, are introducing a recycling scheme to the school to help save the planet from the rising tide of plastic waste and to help clean up the environment. They will use bins kindly donated by the City of South Perth.

Mobile Phone Policy

The Student Mobile Phones in Public Schools policy bans students from using mobile phones from the time they enter school grounds to the conclusion of the school day. This includes smart watches and listening accessories, such as headphones and earbuds.

The Department of Education does not permit student use of mobile phones in public schools unless for medical or teacher directed educational purpose. It is acknowledged that when used effectively as a tool to enhance learning, mobile phones can play an important role in education. A ban on their use, however, when not in direct support of education will ensure that schools can provide a safe and productive learning environment for students in their care.

The decision to ban the use of mobile phones in schools is intended to remove the potential learning distraction for students, protect the privacy of staff and students, improve social connections at school and improve the health and wellbeing of students.

While it is recognised that cyber-bullying mainly occurs outside school time, banning the use of mobile phones will allow students to engage with their learning and with their peers, without the pressure felt when needing to respond to a mobile phone.

Schools are, and will continue to be, committed to the education of students, staff and their school community in the responsible and acceptable use of mobile phones. There is no requirement for students to have a mobile phone at school. However, for security and safety purposes to and from school, some parents/carers have supplied their child with a mobile phone.

Como students have largely been very responsible users of their mobile phones and have used them for a multitude of educational purposes. However, there have been some recent instances which have prompted a tightening of the policy at this school beginning next term. The following are basic instructions that students need follow:

- Phones need to be off and away during the school day.
- Switch your smart watch to flight mode.
- Put away headphones and earbuds.
- If you need to speak with your family, please come to the school administration.
- Only use it when a teacher says you can.

Sanctions for students not following these instructions will include either confiscation of the offending item to be collected at the end of the lesson or the end of the day. Repeated infringements will require the parent to pick up the item from the principal. Refusal to follow instructions will result in immediate suspension. Students using their phone to record others without permission will be suspended for ten days.

Mobile phones are very useful educational devices and I want to encourage their continued use for this purpose, however, this can now only happen at this school where a teacher has gained my permission to use them in the classroom for a specific reason. For some students a mobile phone may be used for monitoring a health condition. My permission needs to be sought for the use of a mobile phone at school as part of a student health care plan

ADMIN & FINANCE NEWS

Jo May - Corporate Services Manager

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 2021 school year, all course costs should be completed by **Thursday the 01 April 2021**.

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 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
- respond promptly to Absentee Letters

Contact Details

Please advise changes via email to Como.SC.AdminSupport@education.wa.edu.au or Change of Details form available at Administration. Many communications are sent by email – please ensure the College has your current email address.

Student pick up & drop off

Parents are reminded to please use the designated areas for pick up and drop off and not the Staff Car Park near Administration. We realise the temptation particularly when the weather is unfavourable, however it can cause more congestion in an already busy area of the school. Your cooperation is much appreciated.

Follow us on Facebook
and keep up to date with
all the news [here](#)



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE	1
ADMIN & FINANCE NEWS	3
SCHOOLTV	5
HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION	6
THE ARTS	9
ENGLISH	12
EMITS	13
SENIOR SCHOOL BALL 2021	15
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS	17
PARENTS & CITIZENS	18
COMO NOTICES	19

Call for nominations School Board 2021

Call for nominations for parent representatives on the Como Secondary College School Board 2 are open. Nominations will close on April 23.

The College Board at Como Secondary College is calling for parent nominations for 4 positions for a two (2) year tenure, 2021-2023. Parent Representatives must currently have a child in the school. For further information, see [here](#)

AGM has been postponed to Term 2, Monday 17 May

Young Changemaker Workshop

The Town of Victoria Park is excited to host its first ever Young Changemaker Workshop.

This workshop is for young people aged 12-25 who want to make a difference in their community but don't know where to start.

When: Thursday 15 April, 5.30-8.00pm

Where: Town of Victoria Park

Cost: FREE

Bookings: Essential at <https://www.victoriapark.wa.gov.au/Events-and-activities/Young-Changemaker-Workshop>

Hosted by the Youth Affairs Council of WA, young people can expect to:

- Level-up their changemaking skills with a mini-masterclass on becoming a youth advocate and leader
- Hear from young leaders in 'Chats with a Changemaker' to learn about what it's like to pursue changemaking as a young person
- Meet like-minded peers who are genuinely interested and invested in making meaningful change in the community
- Have access to a power-up pack post-workshop with opportunities, experiences and challenges to take part in to continue their journey as a changemaker
- Get a first look at the Town's new Youth Plan and have a say in how it comes to life

Food and drinks will be provided.



Educating parents on practical strategies to help manage modern-day issues and challenges affecting today's youth across both primary and secondary school levels.



Como Secondary College with the support of the P&C are pleased to announce SchoolTV is now available. SchoolTV offers a wide range of resources to assist with the challenges faced by students and families today. It is a valuable and diverse resource which can be easily accessed via our website homepage using the blue TV icon on the right, alternatively click on the link below.

A conversation on Consent

A recent petition, instigated by a former school girl from Sydney, calls for young women to come forward if they have been subjected to sexual assault whilst still at school. It has since gone viral with thousands of young women signing the petition or sharing their stories which are often graphic, disturbing and upsetting.

The petition calls for sex education, in particular consent, to be taught at a younger age in schools. The observation being that consent is being taught too late, with many young people not understanding the boundaries of consent resulting in sexual assault or rape. This call for change has made many schools reassess their curriculum around sex and life education to help protect young people across the nation.

Parents also need to start having conversations around consent sooner rather than later, as some teens experience their first sexual encounter well before the subject matter is delivered. It is not enough for parents or carers to assume that your

teenager knows or understands what consent means and the implications surrounding it. It is important for them to learn about boundaries to enable them to respect themselves and their partners.

This Special Report offers parents guidance around normalising the topic of consent to ensure your teenager experiences healthy and respectful relationships.

We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this Special Report, and as always, we welcome your feedback.

If you do have any concerns about the wellbeing of your child, please contact the school for further information or seek medical or professional help.

Here is the link to your special report:

https://como.wa.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-conversation-consent



HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Adam Smith - Acting Health & Physical Education HoLA

Interhouse Swimming Carnival - Thursday 11th March 2021

What a fantastic day our students had at the Interschool swimming carnival at Aqualife Leisure Centre Victoria Park. Students embraced the opportunity of competing in the 50m pool where a total of 6 school records were broken. Congratulations to Jacaranda for defending their title with a score of 1513 points, to the individual

year champions and to our new record holders – see results below. Flame finished in second place with 1233 points and Pine 3rd with 1091 points Well done to all students, volunteers and teachers who made it such a successful day for Como Secondary College.



Lower School Results	Year 7 Girls	Year 7 Boys	Year 8 Girls	Year 8 Boys	Year 9 Girls	Year 9 Boys
Champion	Eve Pilatti	Mitchell McGrath	Jessica Laidler	Jasper Smith	Anice-Joy Chan	Matthew Laidler
2 nd place	Kairina Ghadiali & Georgia Rowe	Gary Bezuidenhout	Ginger Archer	George Tan	Hayley Bezuidenhout & Andy Petzke	Jared Moro
3 rd place	Kara Verrall	Isaac Fulton	Alice van Bueren	Graeson Neill	Ruby Walker	Flynn Fulton

Senior School Results	Year 10 Girls	Year 10 Boys	Year 11 Girls	Year 11 Boys	Year 12 Girls	Year 12 Boys
Champion	Georgia Neill	Jackson Harmsen	Jade Osrin	Patrick Lee	Mei Proctor	James Tan
2 nd place	Taylah King	Zavier Millstead	Amelie Fairhead Charlesworth	Lachlan Walker	Amberley Abbott	Carl Viljoen
3 rd place	Mackenzie Fossilo	Brodie Ridley	Kristina Gorry	Corey Sly	Lilly Mann	Liam Mudd

New Records:

Patrick Lee – Yr 11 Boys 50m freestyle – 27.43
Matthew Laidler – Yr 7-9 Boys Butterfly – 30.66
Gary Bezuidenhout – Yr7 Boys 50m backstroke – 38.44
Matthew Laidler - Yr 9 Boys 50m Backstroke – 33.50
Matthew Laidler – Open Boys 100m Backstroke – 1:14.83

Year 7-9 Boys 4 x 50 Freestyle Relay – 2:12.67
Jacaranda: Matthew Laidler, Jared Moro, Flynn Turner & Blake Darmody

Interschool Swimming Carnival - Thursday 18th March 2021



Congratulations to the Como SC Swimming Squad who did the school proud with a strong performance in the School Sport Western Australia Inc. Interschool 'B' Division Swimming Carnival at HBF Stadium.

Our school won the Meritorious Shield and Patrick Lee won the Year 11 Champion Boy Prize. See [here](#) for our podium prize winners!



Thank you to Mr Findlater for organising and running the numerous training sessions in the lead up to the carnival. Well done to all students who represented the school in an impeccable fashion.

Cross Country – Monday 22nd March 2021

Our school cross country event was a successful afternoon with 4 new records set by the lower school students...see below.

Congratulations to Jacaranda who came out on top with a strong performance in all year groups. Pine finished in second place with Flame in third.

Our full results are [here](#). Please see our individual year champions:

Year 7 Girls Champion - Mia Cruickshank
Year 7 Boys Champion - Kane Darmody
Year 8 Girls Champion - Archer Ginger - New Record 8:25.36
Year 8 Boys Champion - Tommy McNamara - New Record 8:01.97
Year 9 Girls Champion - Lucy Taylor - New Record 8:30.87
Year 9 Boys Champion - Tony Thomas - New Record 7:09.39
Year 10 Girls Champion - Talia Negara
Year 10 Boys Champion - Jackson Harmsen
Year 11 Girls Champion - Grace Taylor
Year 11 Boys Champion - Kirby Hobbs
Year 12 Girls Champion - Lily Mann
Year 12 Boys Champion - Tristan Robertson

Thank you to all the staff, students and volunteers who made the event enjoyable and rewarding for all.



THE ARTS

Monique Laves - The Arts HoLA

Arts Enrichment Clubs – Create@Como

Create @ Como aims to provide Arts Enrichment clubs that are designed to stretch creative thinking and hands on practical skills as well as build relationships and have fun.

Throughout the year, specialty Artists from school and our local community offer optional classes after or before school. Clubs are offered Monday through Friday, typically from 3:05 – 4:15 pm. These classes vary each term, and offer different levels of expertise.

ARTS ENRICHMENT CLUBS have commenced this term, we are very excited to start Young Artists on Monday afternoon, students have been working on traditional techniques of still life, next week we will start a ceramic project. Choir on Tuesday mornings are practising for the Anzac assembly if any parents would like to come and listen, and Rock Band on Friday mornings is in full swing... but needs a lead singer!

Create @ Como students may choose more than one enrichment club and Clubs will offer new specialities each term. If you have any queries see Ms Laves in the Arts Office or email Monique.Laves@education.wa.edu.au



Create students in Young Artists Club





*Create students in
Performing Arts*



WEARABLE ART

Mandurah

2021
Entries Open

Join local, national and international artists competing in Australia's largest wearable art competition!



wearableartmandurah.com



For more information on how to enter
WEARABLE ART, MANDURAH

Click [here](#)

Or visit
[wearableartmandurah](http://wearableartmandurah.com)



Fashion Weekend Workshops

The Fashion department at ECU runs two workshops throughout the year that are open to years 10, 11 and 12 high school students and the general public.

Workshops are run out of the fashion and textiles construction and print studios at the Mount Lawley Campus, Perth.

To view more images of the venues and resources available to the student at the School of Arts and Humanities, head to our [Facilities](#) web page.

[Latest workshop details](#)

ARTS
ATTACK!



Sign up at the Arts Office!!
Compete in a solo, duo, trio or small group in any dance genre!!

Term 2 Week 5
Tuesday Lunch
Theatre 1:25pm

PRIZES FOR 1ST, 2ND & 3RD!

Kiara Wild - Music



	February	March
Yr 7	Gia	Pax
Yr 8	George	Gabby
Yr 9	Andy	Riley
Yr 10	Angelic	Georgia
Yr 11	Mariah	Harper
Yr 12	Sala	Halimah

These students have been nominated by Como’s Specialist Music program for February or March as Musician of the Month. Each student has shown dedication, a high level of musicianship and a willingness to help others. Congratulations! Keep up your awesome work!!
 Music Department

ENGLISH

Tyshana McEwen

A special guest appearance: author Will Kostakis at Como!

The English department were delighted to welcome Will Kostakis, Australian author of many award-winning young adult novels, to Como for the third time on Monday March 22nd. Will was set up in the school library to speak with the Year 12 General English cohort who are currently studying his novel *The Sidekicks* in class. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to see an author in the flesh and hear about how they craft dynamic characters and build a career out of writing. The experience no doubt inspired students, with many

particularly impressed with Will’s quick-wit and humour while sharing hilarious stories about his own high school days which are now reflected in his novels. Students had their copies of the novel signed, and a handful of students from writer’s club were also able to pop by and share their own story ideas for feedback during recess. Overall, it was an enjoyable morning and we look forward to continuing to support Australian literature by hosting local authors in the future.



EMITS

Ellen Sabatino - EMITS Coordinator

Year 7 EMITS

The Year 7 EMITS students have settled into their first term in the EMITS programs superbly. Their teachers have commented on how full of enthusiasm they are, how well they answer questions and how quickly they take to challenging tasks. We hope they continue to share their inquisitive minds with the EMITS group. I have created a Connect page for the EMITS program, where I will add information throughout the year about upcoming events, competitions and projects.

Trillion Trees Schools Program

This year, our Year 7 EMITS students are taking part in the Trillion Trees Schools Program. Over several months, students will work with Trillion Trees to rehabilitate land degraded by flooding, soil erosion, salinity, weed encroachment and fire damage.

Our Year 7's are focusing on growing native plants to:

- Be planted within the school grounds at Como Secondary College.
- Rehabilitate an area along the Swan River at Guildford Meadows which has been damaged by flood waters.
- Help rehabilitate fire damaged areas due to the bushfires in our Eastern suburbs.

Students will learn the importance of our environment, the need to sustain it and how to cultivate and maintain native seedlings. Students will also develop their Science Inquiry Skills as they plan and conduct investigations and fieldwork. Students will have an enriched opportunity to collaboratively measure and control variables, select appropriate equipment and collect data throughout the project.

Students and parents/guardians will be encouraged to participate in the community planting days later in the year.

Synergy Solar Car Challenge

Our Year 8 EMITS students have been studiously designing solar powered cars in the lead up to the Synergy Solar Car Challenge held on the Thursday 18th March at All Saints College. Students put their final designs to the test at Como Secondary College with Kathryn, Ridhima, Gloria and Zainab's design progressing to the interschool finals at All Saints College.

The girls had a great time competing, but

unfortunately were defeated by some faulty equipment. They handled the challenge with a lot of grace.

Have Sum Fun

On Friday 19th March, we had three teams of Year 7's and 8's compete at John Curtin College of the Arts and two teams of Year 9's and 10's compete at Aranmore Catholic College in the Have Sum Fun Competition.

Have Sum Fun is an exciting mathematics initiative that uses a quiz-night format where students in teams of six race against the clock to solve four intense rounds of eight challenging questions.

In the Year 7/8 division, one of our teams came 6th out of 30 teams from a wide range of schools. They scored a fantastic 25 out of 32 tricky questions.

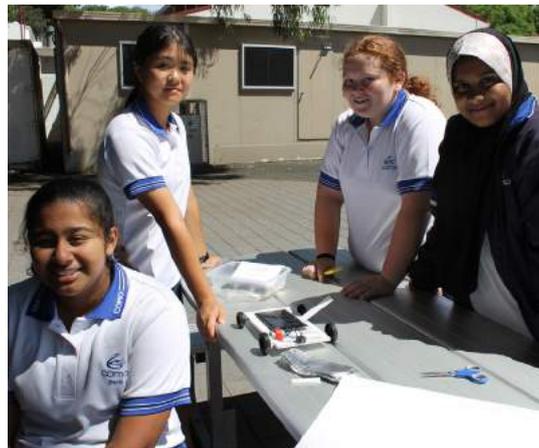
Well done to all students that participated in this event! It was a great night.

Australasian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiads

Our Year 7 and Year 8 EMITS students competed in the first of 5 Maths Olympiads on Wednesday the 24th of March. This is an annual contest which students take part in. The overall aim is to encourage students to develop important mathematical problem solving skills in an enjoyable environment. Although students are competing against other members of their class and teams from other schools, they are primarily competing against themselves. As each of the five contests are a month apart, there is plenty of time for students to practice and improve between rounds. We look forward to seeing our EMITS students problem solving skills improve throughout the year.

Brain Bee Challenge

The Year 10 EMITS students have been taking part in the international Brain Bee Competition. It is an opportunity for students to learn about the brain and it's functions, learn about neuroscience research, find out about careers in neuroscience and to dispel misconceptions about neurological and mental illnesses. If students do well in the online competition, they have the opportunity to compete regionally and internationally. Round 1 is held during the month of March and over Brain Awareness Week.



SENIOR SCHOOL BALL 2021

Nicole Richardson - Year 12 Coordinator

What a wonderful night seeing the Year 11 and Year 12 students dressed to impress at the Senior School Ball at Beaumonde On The Point on 12 March 2021. The students enjoyed their sit down 3 course meal and then danced the rest of the night away. A special mention to the Belle of the Ball – Lilly Mann and the Beau of the Ball – Jack Sun who were voted in by their year group and staff.





COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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) 18 years+ 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 Or Country Toll Free	9223 1111 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](#)

PARENTS & CITIZENS

Meetings

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.

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.

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, the front office during school hours or given to the shop when open.

Open every Friday 8.15am – 9am

Location: B Block

Enquiries: comoseconds@outlook.com

Payments: Cash Only



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.