

Important dates:

Friday 24 September
Farewell Year 12s
Last Day Term 3

Monday 11 October
Whole School Development
Day (No Students Attend)

Tuesday 12 October
Term 4 Commences
Office Opens
Students Attend

Monday 18 October
P & C Meeting

Golf Southwest Tour
Friday 22 October

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College Events Calendar](#)

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Digby Mercer

Canteen Refurbishment

The refurbishment is proceeding on schedule and should be completed for the start of next term despite some delays caused by Covid in the eastern states. The addition of the folding doors this week has revealed the final form of the building and emphasised what a wonderful addition it is to the school's facilities. As well as provide a comfortable dining space all year round, it will be a great space for meetings, assemblies and exhibitions. It provides a clear focal point for the school which will benefit every student.

Iyarn

Through the school's involvement with the Fogarty Edvance program we will be included in a trial of an app called Iyarn which is designed to check-in on the well-being of students or even staff. The trial will be subsidised by the Fogarty Foundation. We had a look last week on RUOK Day and were very impressed. It provides a means of easily surveying students using a technology our students are very comfortable in using. It provides instantaneous and therefore timely feedback.

Year 12 Leavers

The Year 12 dinner held at the Pagoda Ballroom was a wonderful and memorable event. A traditional feature of the event is an address by a Como graduate who outlines their career since leaving the school. This year it was Doctor Kate Jameson who emphasized the importance of grit, determination and hard work in reaching her goals. It was an inspirational story. Many thanks to Mrs Nicole Richardson, Year 12 Coordinator, who did an excellent job organising a great night for all.

ResearchEd

For the past two years the school has been co-organiser of an education conference called ResearchEd. There have been four such conferences in Australia, two in Victoria at Brighton Grammar and two here in WA at Bob Hawke College. This is a collaboration with DSF and Bob Hawke College. ResearchEd is a world-wide grassroots movement to promote evidence-based teaching. I am hoping to continue this association into the future as it will only grow and become increasingly influential in the WA education landscape.

Change to the School Day 2022

In order to drive the changes the school is trying to make, the school board has approved changes to the school day which will provide a common time on Friday afternoons during which all teachers can meet either as a whole or in learning areas. Currently it is almost impossible to regularly get all teachers together at the same time, especially in learning areas. To find the time, the four 15 minute form periods will be abolished which has been aided by the introduction of the SEQTA learning management system. This has automated the attendance process. Form periods have counted as face-to-face teaching under the teachers' enterprise bargaining period therefore each period will also be slightly extended so that teachers meet the industrial requirements for face-to-face teaching time. We are currently in conversation with Transperth however previous experience on days when we have had an early close shows that students disperse very quickly using the normally scheduled bus and rail services.

Minister's Visit

The minister for Education, visited the school two weeks ago. The original purpose was for an inspection and photograph of the canteen redevelopment. Local MP Geoff Baker was then able to organize a forum with the Minister in our staff room involving principals, school board and P&C representatives from local schools both private and government. All present were able to outline their concerns for their respective schools.

School Caps

The caps purchased by the P&C are being labelled and will be distributed over the coming weeks ready for summer. When distributed it will be "no hat, no play".

Covid

It is recommended that all eligible students get vaccinated as soon as possible, especially Year 12 ATAR students. The scare this week illustrates that the situation in WA could change at a moment's notice.



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.

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.



Transperth have advised that from Monday 11 October there will be changes to services for Como Secondary College to ease congestion around the school, speed up journey times, and simplify passenger boarding arrangements.

See [here](#) for further details.

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SPECIAL REPORT: The Wellbeing Barometer

SchoolTV has been supporting families and schools for quite some time now by providing guidance and information to help alleviate some of the challenges faced by young people, especially during the pandemic. Over recent months, many people have been impacted and it has proven to be a difficult time for some more than others.

However, irrespective of whether your family has experienced many lockdowns or not, the social, economic and psychological impacts over the coming months remain uncertain. There is substantial evidence to show that mental health concerns are on the rise, especially in relation to our young people who may require some extra support. Parents will need to play a vital role in providing this support, helping their kids reframe their worries and focus more on the things they can control in their life. Ensuring the mental health and wellbeing of our young people is important for many reasons, one of which is the direct impact it can have on educational outcomes.

In this Special Report, we are seeking parent participation through a short survey. The survey is designed to assist the school to provide a barometer on the state of wellbeing within the community. The information gathered will assist in focussing on the key issues affecting students and discovering where further assistance may be required.

We encourage all parents and carers to spend a few moments to complete the survey. This will help with understanding the nature and extent of your concerns and determine how best to support our community.

Please reflect on the information offered in this Special Report, and as always, we welcome your feedback. If this raises any concerns for you, a loved one or the wellbeing of your child, please seek medical or professional help.

Here is the link to your special report https://como.wa.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-wellbeing-barometer



YEAR 9 STUDENTS CELEBRATE R U OK? DAY

Tyshana McEwen - Year 9 Coordinator

On September 9th during Period 3 class, our cohort left the classroom and met in Performing Arts to celebrate R U OK? Day together and engage in some meaningful activities such as conversation bingo, mindful breathing and yoga. A big shout out to Alex Passalacqua who bravely led the cohort through a stretching routine, and to Pine 9 who took out the mental health rap battle presented by Kay Kannan & Arnika Zuideveld. We also took the time to recognise students already leading the way by always looking after their friends and teachers. This was an opportunity to pause, reflect, learn more about mental health and take time to have some fun.

A big focus in our Year 9 cohort has been wellbeing and checking in with each other. With the complex content in classes and the busy and everchanging social lives of Year 9 students, it's been particularly important to look out for one another. Students are encouraged to keep checking in with their peers, greeting their teachers and openly talking to family and friends about how they're feeling.

If you haven't already met the Student Services Team allow them to introduce themselves [here](#)





Some of Como's Create students as well as Year 10, 11 and 12 Dance students, competed in one of Perth's 2021 YOHFEST Heats. The Create Drama item 'Fading' was awarded Creative Interpretation of the Health Theme, the Dance trio 'Friends Come and Go' was awarded Excellent Physical Delivery of a Unique Dance Piece, and our dance troupe 'Pretty Hurts' was awarded Impressive Choreography.

VISUAL ARTS

Kirsten Hocking - Visual Arts Teacher

Year 11 Visual Arts ATAR students visited the Art Gallery of WA to see the Pulse Perspectives Exhibition. This is the exhibition of outstanding work by the previous year's ATAR Visual Arts students from across the state. The artworks submitted by all students goes through a rigorous selection and curatorial process so that only the very best works are exhibited, setting a high standard for the public and current ATAR students to see.

We caught public transport into the city and spent a happy 90 minutes, wandering through the Art Gallery, viewing the works. We

enjoyed the variety of ideas and media presented and were amazed by the high quality, professional standards being achieved by ATAR student artists. Visiting the exhibition has given us the opportunity to see some of the concepts that previous students have explored and how they have resolved these ideas into intriguing and original artworks.

It has inspired us for our own projects and we are already thinking about what we might make next year!



FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Kirsten Romany - HoLA Technologies

On Friday 17th September the Year 12 Food students served a two course meal to their guests under timed conditions. Their brief was to create invites for guests, obtain guest dietary requirements from the invites, trial a number of dishes before making a final selection dishes and modifications. They then needed to plan decorations, menus, place cards, peer evaluations and a welcome greeting for their guest explaining the experience to their guests on arrival.

The groups each did an excellent job of all of their dishes, created a welcoming, professional restaurant environment to some very impressed fellow students and staff, and learned a great deal from their hospitality experience. We can't think of a better exercise for their final practical assessment and we wish them all the best for whatever is in store for them next.



MUSIC

Kiara Wild - TIC

WASSEA

On Aug 10th, students in Como's Senior Stage Band & the Year 11 Combo performed at Crown for the WASSEA 2021 Conference. Armando Giglia, the president of WASSEA, shared this message of thanks to the students in the ensembles.

"The Western Australian Secondary Schools Executives Association would like to extend its thanks to you for organising the wonderful music that was presented at the WASSEA 2021 Conference on August 9-10th. The performance was enjoyed by all who attended and created an exceptional welcoming atmosphere to the conference. We appreciate the work, effort and preparation that the student put into attending on the day."

Thank you to all students involved in performing. While it was an early start to the day, it was well worth the efforts.

Choral Festival

Congratulations to Como's Vocal Ensemble who achieved an "Excellent" in the recent WA Schools' Choral Festival. Students performed two pieces, "A Thousand Years" and "Summertime". The vocal ensemble rehearse weekly under the direction of Mrs Bronwyn Sprogowski.

Jazz Festival

For the 2021 Schools' Jazz Festival, Como had 5 ensembles participating! For the Year 8 and 9 Jazz bands, this was their first appearance at the festival.

All ensembles received workshops after their performances by their adjudicators – getting lots of handy tips and tricks on playing jazz stylistically.

A big congratulations to all students, especially those that performed solos!

Contemporary Music Festival

This year Como's Rock Band entered the Contemporary Music Festival under direction of their new director, Mathew Fagan. The ensemble currently consists of students from Year 8 to 10 who enjoy playing guitar, bass, drums and singing. We hope to participate again in 2022! - Photography by: Graham Hall

Junior Concert Band Festival

Wow, what a performance! 73 students in Como's Junior Concert Band performed at the WA Schools' Junior Concert Band Festival on Saturday September 11th.

For many students, this was their first live performance in front of an audience and they all acted like professionals! The ensemble was fortunate to have Paul De Cinque (festival adjudicator and lecturer of music at UWA) give students a workshops after their performance of "Entry of the Noblemen", "Celtic Air & March" and everybody's favourite "Wild!".

Students from Como Secondary make up the majority of the ensemble, but we also welcome students learning instruments from local primary schools to attend rehearsals and participate in performances.

If you have a child learning an instrument who may be interested in joining the band, please feel free to email kiara.wild@education.wa.edu.au for more information.



GOLF

Adam Smith - TIC

School Sport WA Golf Team Championships

The Golf Academy students put in a solid performance at the School Sport WA Secondary School Golf Championships. Many of the players submitted good rounds of golf but the 'golfing gods' prevented us from having two good scores in the same group and, therefore, we missed out on the team prizes. The players took on the beautifully presented Lakelands Golf Club and came away with the following prizes:

Year 10 Runner up – Harrison Andreou

Year 11 Runner up – Sean Yang Sun



Captains Fantastic – School Sport WA Team Selection

Congratulations to our Golf Academy Captains Mai Julius and Corley McLernon who were selected in the School Sport WA 18s Golf Girls and Boys Team respectively. This is a fantastic achievement and they are rewarded with a Golf Experience Day at Mount Lawley Golf Club, which included a short game masterclass from 6 time European Tour winner, Brett Rumford and Australian Squad player Kirsten Rudgeley. This is Mai's third time at being selected and Corley was rewarded for his consistent performances within the last 12 months. Well done to them on this fantastic achievement and it is a great, and proud, way to finish their journey within the Como Golf Academy.

YEAR 10 INTER-SCHOOL FOOTBALL CARNIVAL

Roy Dobson

What a glorious day for an inter-school competition. The Year 10s looked splendid in their Leeds United outfits.

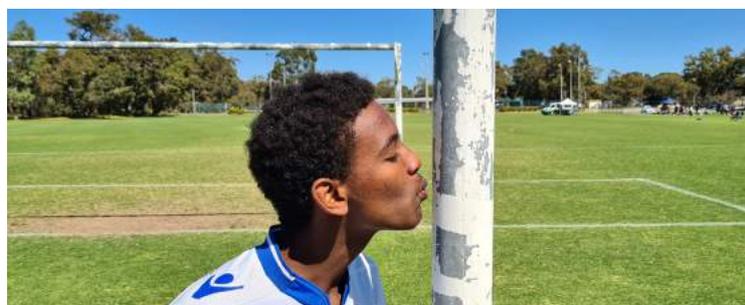
And for the fact that they hadn't had any training sessions, they played very well as a team, led by their captain for the day, Sam Di Lallo. Unfortunately, playing well doesn't always translate to getting results, and the boys were up against some very tough opponents.

The day started well with a win against Belmont. In their second game, they conceded two in the last two minutes to lose to Darling Ranges 2 – 1. The same losing score applied to the next game against Cannington, but was marked by a magnificent goal by Sam Hannah, who scored from the half-way line.

After lunch, the lads lost their way somewhat in the semi-finals and finals losing 4 – 0 to Darling Ranges and 2 – 0 to Belmont (a game where we just couldn't score).

That left, the play-off for last place, where the lads got back some of their mojo, and hammered Kalamunda 5 – 2 to finish on a winning note.

Stand out performances were from Sam Hannah (who seemed to be everywhere), Brandon Kift in goals (who produced some unbelievable saves) and the rest of the team. Well done lads.



COMO DAD'S GROUP



Sunday the 12th of September was a beautiful sunny day; a perfect day for bushwalking. The Como Dads' Group, with families in tow, headed out to Mt Cooke in the Darling Range. We headed up the "mountain" to be treated to stunning views of the natural Australian bush with wildflowers in full bloom.

Some of the kids discovered a cave with a geocache which included a journal with warnings from the future about the coming zombie apocalypse! RUN! We finished up with a well earned barbeque lunch and beverages back at the carpark.

We are all looking forward to the next Como Dads' event. You can catch up with our group on Discord here: <https://discord.gg/xxPs5kAHhF> or follow our events at The Fathering Project: <https://thefatheringproject.org/dads-group/como-secondary-college/>



THE ROTARY CLUB OF COMO 10TH ANNIVERSARY Rotary CAR SHOW



Sunday 3rd October 2021, 10am - 3pm
WESLEY COLLEGE

Ward Oval entry from Angelo Street to display area

Display Car Entry: Free, please register at comorotary.org

Public Entry: Adults \$10, Concession \$8, Children under 18 Gold Coin
Net proceeds go towards Rotary Club of Como and Wesley College Charities

Jazz Band, Slot Cars for Kids, Sausage Sizzle, Coffee, Ice Cream and Cake Stall

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 8.30AM – 9.15AM

LOCATION: B BLOCK

ENQUIRIES: COMOSECONDS@OUTLOOK.COM

PAYMENTS: CASH ONLY

COMO NOTICES

Please remember school zone speed limit



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.

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

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)

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