



Creating Futures Together

Wheeler's Hill Secondary College



The Hill 2024

Acknowledgement of Country

In the spirit of reconciliation,
Wheelers Hill Secondary College Community
acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country,
the Boonwarrung people.

We strive to benefit the land and its peoples with our
RESPECT, EXCELLENCE and CREATIVITY.

We pay our utmost respect today
to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
and their Elders both past and present.

May their connection with the land, sea and community
grow and be remembered with the values we hold while
CREATING FUTURES TOGETHER.

School Vision and Values

Vision

We believe our core responsibility, as an educational learning community, is to ensure that all our students have the opportunity to achieve self-actualisation, which is the fulfilment of their unique talents and potentialities. Each and every young person who enrolls at our school has the right to achieve excellence in their learning; that they respect the rights of others to learn in a safe and inclusive environment. By nurturing personal well-being, they have the resilience and perseverance to harness creativity in a proactive and collaborative way for the betterment of themselves and the world around them.

Values



RESPECT

At WHSC we treat others as we want to be treated.



EXCELLENCE

At WHSC we strive, thrive and excel. We give our best effort every time.



CREATIVITY

At WHSC we fuel creativity and problem-solving. We shape futures.





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From the Principal

Education is far more than just attending school; it is a pathway to our future and a reflection of who we are, not only as teachers, support staff, and students but also as individuals. It embodies our values, our successes, and our failures. While life is undoubtedly the greatest teacher, school plays a crucial role as a close second. As we near the end of the school year, it is important to reflect on the most significant and valuable lessons we've learned.

For me, some of the most rewarding experiences have been engaging with students during my regular yard duty—bucket and tongs in hand—and working closely with our exceptional Executive Student Leaders, Shay, Hannah, and Molly, as well as all our other student leaders. Their dedication to school improvement, alongside the efforts of staff, School Council, and my Principal Class colleagues, Judy Anderson and Jeremy Woods, has been inspiring. Even when we face challenges, such as the ongoing struggles teachers encounter, the commitment of our entire school community makes it all worthwhile. Leadership is a privilege, and I am deeply honoured to lead Wheelers Hill Secondary College.

This year has been marked by many remarkable moments. Our Sporting Carnivals were wonderful, and the outstanding School Production, *Mamma Mia!* has rightfully earned the title of our best ever. We will be taking on the challenge of surpassing it next year! Our Cross-Curricular Project, which culminated in the creation of our Indigenous Garden, as well as our Welcome to Country Assembly and the WHSC Acknowledgement of Country, were deeply meaningful experiences for our entire school community. My heartfelt admiration goes out to our Arts Leader and Marrung Officer, Khairi Razaai, who has been instrumental in leading this important work.

Our relationship with Monash Tech School continues to thrive, providing our students with fantastic opportunities to engage with STEM and cutting-edge technologies. We are also excited about the completion of our Master Plan,



Fern Brisbane
Principal

which includes a Stage One upgrade of our Science Precinct, valued at \$6.4 million. We remain hopeful that we will secure funding in the 2025 State Budget. Our incredible Wellbeing and Inclusion teams have supported students and their families through challenging times, and we are deeply grateful for their dedication.

We understand that school can be difficult for young people and that learning is not always easy. However, school is about more than just academic content; it is a place where students develop self-regulation, commitment, kindness, knowledge, and empathy. It is a time to build foundational skills like collaboration, problem-solving, and communication, which, although not always measurable by a score, are reflected in the respect, support, and friendships we cultivate.

To our Year 12 cohort, thank you for being such wonderful people this year. You have earned the respect of those around you through your maturity and resolve. To our staff, thank you for all that you do for our students. Teaching has never been an easy job, but your positive impact on your colleagues and students is undeniable. Finally, a huge thank you to our families. Navigating the education system can be challenging, especially with the increasing expectations placed on schools with limited resources, but please know that our commitment to you and your children is unwavering as we work together to shape their futures.



Judy Anderson and Jeremy Woods
Assistant Principals

From the Principal Team

As we conclude another bustling year, there is much to celebrate and reflect upon. Our primary focus as Assistant Principals has been on supporting the leadership and implementation of Department of Education initiatives, ensuring that every student in our care receives the best possible support for their academic and personal growth. Our efforts are guided by the College's 4-Year Strategic Plan, which informs our Annual Implementation Plan and shapes our actions throughout the year.

We take immense pride in the diverse range of activities and opportunities we provide to enhance our students' holistic growth and broaden their experiences. This year, students have engaged in a variety of enriching experiences, including the Year 7 Mt Evelyn Discovery Camp, the Healthy Minds Program, an array of sporting activities, the School Production of *Mamma Mia!*, Instrumental and Music Soirées, Monash Tech School immersion activities, various dress-up days, and the preparation for the 2025 NASA Camp.

Our dedicated staff play a crucial role in fostering the academic and personal development of all students. To support this, we have prioritised creating structures that enable staff to enhance their professional capacities. Throughout the year,

staff members have collaborated in Professional Learning Teams, sharing best practices and research methodologies to drive student growth. Additionally, they have participated in Professional Development sessions, including whole-staff PD days with esteemed guest speakers. A standout moment was the Term 3 Personal Development Day, featuring Andrew Douch's inspiring presentation, "Innovate to Elevate: Rekindling Joy and Solving Classroom Challenges."

As we look ahead to 2025, we are eager to continue our work by addressing the key priorities outlined in our next Annual Implementation Plan. We extend a heartfelt farewell to our Year 12 students and to the families concluding their association with the College. Witnessing our students' growth into responsible, productive members of society is profoundly rewarding, and we are truly privileged to contribute to their development.

We wish the entire WHSC community a joyous holiday season and look forward to welcoming everyone back on the first day of 2025—Thursday, 30th January!

From the School Council President



Kathryn Duncan
President

As the 2024 School Council President, I have had the incredible opportunity to see firsthand the efforts and passion that drive Wheelers Hill Secondary College. From our classrooms to our creative spaces, I have witnessed the dedication of the Principal Team, our amazing teachers, support staff, and fellow School Council members. Every one of them works hard to ensure the students have the best opportunities for success.

Our success isn't just about individual achievements; it is about teamwork, shared goals, and supporting one another. WHSC embodies the idea that together, we can achieve great things, and that is something I have seen time and time again throughout this year.

It has been a busy and exciting year as we continue looking for ways to make WHSC an even better place to learn, grow, and belong. We have made important changes, from developing a Master Plan to reimagine the future of our college, to updating parts of the school and reviving our gardens. These improvements reflect our belief that everyone should feel welcome and supported, no matter their background or interests. Our college is a place where learning is all about personal growth, and we have created an environment where that growth can thrive.

One of my personal highlights this year has been helping with our school production of *Mamma Mia!* As someone who loves musical theatre, it was incredible to be part of something so special. The passion and hard work from the students and staff involved made it a truly unforgettable experience, and I am so proud of the incredible talent here at WHSC. It is a perfect example of how much our school community can achieve when we come together.

There is so much happening at WHSC, from academic achievements to creative projects and beyond, and I feel privileged to have been part of it all this year. I can't wait to continue working with the School Council in 2025 to make our school an even better place for every student.

Student Leaders



- Row 4: Zoe Thomassen, Kayla Berwick, Hannah Wright, Kristen Swartz, Jacob Ware-Drakeford, Joseph Arhuere, Jake Adolphson, Jordan Gwynne, Noah Fox, Grace Alexander, Layla Wright, Aiden Carmichael
- Row 3: Sophia Sais, Chloe Burley, Lara Williams, Amy Parsons, Erin Freame, Shay Coxhead, Roselyn Kleinman, Molly Downie, Jordyn Pignolet, Kim Pillig, Maddison Palmer, Nadithya Manjali Thabrew Kaluduru
- Row 2: Thomas Burton, Bianca Jorgic, Zachary Donaghey, Kayla Vollerup, Samantha Mangan, Taylah Hurle, Josiah Fox, Neve Sharry, Imogen Campbell, Abbey Veal, Charlee McCafferty, Milan Stevanovic
- Front Row: Jayda Joyce, Charlotte Abrehart, Yasmin Luu, Caitlyn Nguyen, Hannah Tucker, Stella Aye Pe, Alex Nash, Samantha Loh, Olivia Hor, Teagan Okos, Risha Purandare

Student Leaders

Executive Team		LEAP Team	
Executive Leader of Excellence	Molly Downie	Learning Leader of Authentic Learning	Charlotte Abrehart
Executive Leader of Respect	Shay Coxhead	Learning Leader of Health	Jayda Joyce
Executive Leader of Creativity	Hannah Wright	Learning Leader of Creative Skills	Alex Nash
Culture Team Leader	Sophia Sais	Learning Leader of Digital Creativity and Media	Yasmin Luu
LEAP Team Leader	Kim Pillig	Learning Leader of Dama	Teagan Okos
Global Team Leader	Samantha Loh	Learning Leader of English	Olivia Hor
Middle School Leader of Excellence	Layla Wright	Learning Leader of Humanities	Lara Williams
Middle School Leader of Creativity	Stella Aye Pe	Learning Leader of Languages	Milan Stevanovic
Middle School Leader of Respect	Roselyn Kleinman	Learning Leader of Literacy	Hannah Tucker
Culture Team		Learning Leader of Maths and Numeracy	Thomas Burton
Derrimut House Leaders	Nadithya Thabrew	Learning Leader of Music	Chloe Burley
	Kristen Swartz	Learning Leader of Science	Yasmin Luu
	Charlee-Jane McCaffery	Learning Leader of Sports	Jake Adolphson
	Neve Sharry	Learning Leader of Student Voice and Agency	Layla Wright
	Jacob Ware-Drakeford	Learning Leader of Technologies	Aiden Carmichael
	Noah Fox	Learning Leader of Visual Arts	Amy Summer Parsons
Jells House Leaders	Bianca Jorgic	Learning Leaders	Aaron Zastawnik Matilda Williamson
	Jordan Gwynne	Global Team	
	Madison Palmer	Global Team Member	Kim Pillig
	Lara Williams	Global Team Member	Starr Kendrick
Napier House Leaders	Dylan Mitchell	Global Team Member	Roselyn Kleinman
	Imogen Campbell	Global Team Member	Aziah Mathys
	Taylah Hurlle	Global Team Member	Sophie Burton
	Grace Alexander	Global Team Member	Kayla Berwick
	Caitlin Ngyuen	Global Team Member	Matilda Williamson
	Sam Mangan	Global Team Member	Erin Freame
Scott House Leaders	Aiden Carmichael	Global Team Member	Risha Purandare
	Jake Adolphson		
	Jasmine Hamilton		
	Abbey Veal		
	Kayla Vollerup		
	Jordy Pignolet		
	Joseph Arhuere		
	Zoe Thomassen		

The Growth of Student Leadership, Voice, and Agency

2024 has been a year of remarkable progress and effort from our student leadership team. Continuing on from the newly revised leadership structure established in 2023, the student leadership team took their roles in stride and uplifted the voices of students at the college, fostering the values of Excellence, Creativity, and Respect within the school community.

The Executive Leaders this year upheld their respective values with pride and a great sense of responsibility. Many collaborative efforts emerged from the initiatives of the three leaders, along with many individual efforts stemming from the College values.

Molly Downie (Executive Leader of Excellence) pioneered a re-evaluation of teaching strategies and classroom dynamics, working towards a "Teach the Teacher Day" to elevate the perspectives of her fellow students and enhance the learning environments within the school.

Hannah Wright (Executive Leader of Creativity) utilised her creative ability to raise awareness for the presentation of the school, developing plans for a mural project in collaboration with the school community, bringing colourful masterpieces to the canvas of the school, including the mural for the college's First Nations Garden.

Shay Coxhead (Executive Leader of Respect) was inspired by the school's Aboriginal Content Curriculum, and directed their initiatives to bringing awareness to celebrations and acknowledgements of the country's rich First Nations history, culture, and communities, collaborating with Mr. Khairi Razaai, the ACCur Program and Marrung Leader, to conduct school-wide acknowledgements of National Sorry Day and NAIDOC week.

With further change to the leadership structure, new roles emerged in the Executive team in the form of our Team Leaders of Culture, LEAP, and Global. This connects the Executive and other leadership branches and allows collaboration to thrive within and beyond the Student Leadership team.

Culture Team Leader Sophia Sais held the responsibility of assisting the organisation of the College Swimming and Athletics Carnivals, bringing an understanding of school culture in every sense to the planning and organisation of school events and fundraisers.

LEAP Team Leader Kim Pillig utilised her passion for learning to uplift and celebrate the efforts of students across all subject areas. Her efforts encouraged consistent effort from students across all subjects and fostered a sense of celebration for achievements.

Global Team Leader Samantha Loh conducted a range of activities to promote cultural events that occur throughout the year, and developed initiatives to uplift sustainable practices across the school environment and community.

The Middle School Leaders represented their sub-school with passion, organising and catalysing many initiatives within school events with a focus on supporting their peers. As part of several fundraising days they organised Middle School dodgeball tournaments, and worked with our leaders in Year 11 and 12 in representing the school and providing support during promotional events such as Open Day.

Looking back, it is impossible to pinpoint just one highlight of the year for our Student Leadership Team. Immense effort has been put into everything they did. Successes were celebrated and struggles were taken as learning experiences for improvement. The team has led the way in organising fundraisers, free-dress and dress-up days, assemblies, and various school events. They have also represented our school with pride at parliamentary meetings, open days, and leadership conferences in partnership with Forest Hill and Wellington Secondary Colleges. Through these conferences and leadership days in particular, their understanding of leadership has been enhanced and new thoughts and perspectives regarding leadership dynamics, approaches, and focuses have been formed.

As we move into 2025, we look forward to witnessing the growth of our school through the efforts of our student leadership team, and we congratulate and thank everyone involved for their contributions throughout the school community.

Written by Shay Coxhead



Molly Downie
Executive Leader of Excellence



Shay Coxhead
Executive Leader of Respect



Hannah Wright
Executive Leader of Creativity

One of my main goals this year was to help foster stronger relationships between teachers and students by collaborating with the principal and my fellow executives to enhance how the curriculum is delivered. I'm proud of the progress we've made, and I hope next year's survey reflects these improvements. Balancing this role alongside Year 12 was challenging, but it has been an experience I'll always treasure.

I've learned invaluable lessons, especially the importance of teamwork, and I'm incredibly grateful for the support from those around me. I'd like to thank Mr. Gill, the Principal team, Hannah, Shay, and my dad for being my biggest supporters throughout the year. All the best to next year's captains!"

I applied for this role because I knew that it would provide me with skills and knowledge that I will need to apply in future pathways and careers, along with pushing me out of my comfort zone when it comes to public speaking, community connection, and wider organisation. Being in Year 12, I also wanted to make sure that I had really contributed something to the school community before my time at the college came to a close.

As the Executive Leader of Respect, I have worked closely with our leading teachers and the Principal Team to develop and implement my goals and initiatives. This year, the newly rebranded 'Respect Club' also allowed me to connect with members of the student body, collaborating primarily with the Global team to advocate for causes that matter to them. I am very grateful to Maddie and Laura for making this possible.

As a leader, I wanted to inspire current and future students to pursue leadership, create an environment within the school where all members of the community feel safe, welcome and motivated, and make sure that my fellow students' voices are heard and uplifted. I feel that I have accomplished that. I am thankful to Mr. Gill, the Principal team, and my fellow leaders and peers for giving me the opportunity to lead, and an opportunity to learn so much from it.

In my role, I collaborated closely with fellow Executive Leaders, attended key meetings, organised and led student assemblies, and represented the college at various events, including the Sir John Monash Commemorative Service. I also had the opportunity to meet with our Federal Member of Parliament, Ms. Eden Foster to discuss issues important to our generation.

This year my main goal was to improve the school's aesthetics to create spaces which encouraged and promoted learning, and environments which brought students together. Working with Mr. Razaai, Mr. Gill and KESO Mark Lumley, I have been proud to create and design an Indigenous Inspired College mural and community space, which I hope will inspire connection and an area for students to work and gather. I am grateful for the opportunity to build on the leadership skills and knowledge I've gained during my time at WHSC and for the chance to contribute to making our school an even better place for students to grow and learn. Working alongside other students and teachers has definitely been a highlight of my last year at the college.

I want to express my gratitude to Mr. Gill, the Principal Team, and my fellow student leaders for helping me achieve so many of my goals and shaping me into the leader I am today. A special thanks to Molly and Shay for always being there, supporting me, and believing in me.



WHSC Staff

Administration and Operations



Judith Walsh
Business Manager



Paula-Jayne Moorman
Assistant Business Manager



Tracy White
*Human Resources Manager
Principal's Assistant*



Amanda Briginshaw
Administrative Officer



Jessica Elms
Administrative Officer



Carolyn Dickinson
Registered School Nurse



Voula Jakubicki
Careers Coordinator



Karyn Sinni
Food Technology Assistant



Whakatane Bragg
Laboratory Technician



Peter Burrige
Maintenance Officer

Information Technology



Brendan Ariens
Specialist Technician

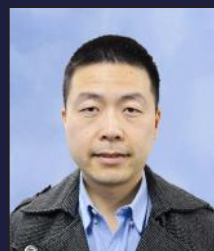


Daniel Ye
IT Technician

International Student Program



Jane Xing
International Student Coordinator



Randalson Xia
International Student Coordinator



Jun Li
Language Assistant

Library



Jane Callaghan
Librarian



Tracey Duff
Librarian

Wellbeing



Annette Paterson
PSD Coordinator



Mathew Bailey
Inclusion Support Officer



Michael Mariani
Inclusion Support Officer



Rhiannon Lainsbury
Inclusion Support Officer



Celine Tsang
*Wellbeing leader
Registered Counsellor*



Fosia Mohamud
Mental Health Practitioner



Madeleine Mitchell
Registered Art Therapist



Coco
Wellness Ambassador

Teaching



Andrew Steele



Angeliki Vogiatzoglou



Anna Anetoudis



Annie Stone



Asha Kumari
Chhunu Lal



Benjamin Shepherd



Brian Yong



Cameron Patience



Chloe Loudon



Corlien Heijnen



Damien Ryles



Daniel Lijnders



David Gill



Donia Yao



Fei Hu



Felicity Graham-Prowse



Filia Kasiotis



Gary Campbell



Harper Dawson



Helen Bourozikas



Irene McKeddie



Jacinta Wilson



Jean-michel Seago



Jeremy Shiftan



Jessica Zhu



Judith Riddoch



Kathleen Kennedy



Kerrie Lay



Kerry Harper



Khairi Razaai



Kira Cleary-Ingram



Kirsty Mechielsen



Kirsty Siu



Kristen Keating



Laura McClure



Lois Jane Vanguardia



Louise Ford



Melissa Mandarino



Melissa Robinson



Melita Sammut



Mikayla Ellis



Nandini Subramaniam



Natalie Benfield



Natasha Simpson



Nery Soto



Nicholas Gramatakos



Nicholas Molan



Panagiota Athanasiou



Peter Stone



Phyllis Chee



Quyen Nguyen



Rachel Liu



Rene Raulin



Rita Ramsaran



Ryan Joyce



Sally Pryde



Scott Malcolm



Sharon Sharpe



Srimathie (Manel)
Wijesinghe



Suma Nampoothiri



Vincent Lam



William Jones



Yeneo Pousoulis

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Educational Excellence and Development

Teaching and Learning at WHSC

At Wheelers Hill Secondary College (WHSC), the focus on teaching and learning extends beyond traditional education, aiming to foster lifelong learning and empower students. This year, several innovative programs were introduced to address the unique needs of students across different year levels. Year 7 programs targeted the development of STEM skills for girls and teamwork among boys, while Year 8 students engaged with AI-powered tools through the Beyond Autonomous program. Year 9 Rise students explored career paths in the clean economy via the MTS Career Launchpad, and Year 10 students demonstrated their global competencies by participating in the PISA assessment.

WHSC's commitment to professional learning also extends to its educators. Middle School teachers participated in a two-day design thinking workshop, enhancing creativity and problem-solving skills. Support for graduate teachers was provided, helping them navigate their early careers and achieve full VIT registration. Continuous professional development opportunities kept the WHSC Teaching and

Learning Hub up-to-date, ensuring staff remained informed of the latest educational trends and technologies.

Data-driven insights informed teaching practices at WHSC, with a focus on analysing NAPLAN results to enhance student performance. This approach ensures continuous improvement in teaching strategies, providing the best learning experiences for students.

Looking forward, WHSC aims to build on this year's achievements by continuing to emphasise Mastery, Autonomy, and Purpose in teaching and learning. The school plans to expand data analysis initiatives, pursue further professional development opportunities, and strengthen its partnership with Monash Tech School. WHSC remains committed to "Creating Futures Together," empowering students to explore the endless possibilities that await them.

Professional Learning at WHSC: Nurturing Growth and Innovation



At WHSC, professional learning was a key focus this year, fostering continuous improvement and empowering educators. The Professional Learning Day on August 19th was a success, featuring sessions on diabetes awareness, innovation in the classroom, and wellbeing strategies.





WHSC's participation in EduTECH 2024 further enriched staff development, emphasizing the transformative power of technology in education.

WHSC also celebrated external professional learning opportunities. One teacher attended the prestigious Teaching Excellence Program, reflecting the school's commitment to providing the best education for its students. Many teachers sought external learning opportunities, attending workshops, conferences, and online courses, which sharpened their skills and enriched their teaching practices.

Key takeaways from this year's professional learning include leveraging AI in education, celebrating neurodiversity in leadership, and utilizing ICT tools to personalize learning. These experiences have fuelled a passion for innovation, with WHSC educators eager to implement new strategies and create a dynamic learning environment.

WHSC and Monash Tech School: A Partnership that Ignites Innovation

WHSC's collaboration with Monash Tech School (MTS) this year opened up remarkable opportunities for students, particularly in the realm of STEM. The Superspace Program captivated Year 7 RISE students, immersing them in space exploration and technology through hands-on activities and expert collaborations. Industry immersions offered real-world insights into the tech industry, connecting classroom learning with practical applications.

A highlight of the partnership was the "Girls Innovate in STEM" program, led by alumna Chelsea. This initiative

empowered Year 7 girls to explore artificial intelligence and design thinking, inspiring future female leaders in STEM. The Beyond Autonomous program further enriched students' understanding of AI and autonomous technologies.

Looking ahead, WHSC's partnership with MTS will continue to inspire students to pursue STEM careers, fostering curiosity and innovation. The school values the enriching experiences this collaboration provides, empowering students to achieve their academic and professional aspirations.

Nery Soto
Teaching and Learning Leader





Numeracy and Literacy at WHSC

At WHSC this year, we have tried to enrich our numeracy program with a range of excursions and incursions designed to deepen students' understanding of mathematical concepts and foster engagement, collaboration, and creativity. Our excursions have taken students to real-world settings where they can see math in action—such as visits to local businesses, or trips to Monash Tech where they explored geometry and measurements in interactive programs. In addition, we have hosted incursions featuring guest speakers and hands-on workshops, including interactive sessions with Monash Tech staff who bring concepts to life through practical examples and activities.

These experiences have not only reinforced classroom learning but also encouraged students to work together on problem-solving tasks and creative projects, enhancing their ability to apply mathematical thinking in diverse contexts. By integrating such immersive activities, we are still aiming to make numeracy both relevant and enjoyable, helping students to see the value of these skills beyond the classroom.

Numeracy skills are crucial in today's society as they underpin our ability to make informed decisions, solve problems, and understand data. From personal finance and budgeting to navigating technology and analysing information, strong numeracy skills are essential for success in both personal and professional spheres. We will continue to look for opportunities and support to developing these skills through engaging activities to equip students for the future.

Andrew Steele
Learning Specialist – Numeracy

Literacy skills play a crucial role in today's society as they underpin our ability to understand information, analyse a concept, compare complex ideas and make informed decisions. Literacy is everywhere and not just in an English class; students require strong literacy skills in order to understand broad concepts and skills taught in each subject be it nuanced opinions in History or worded problems in Mathematics. Literacy skills are essential for success in both inside and outside the classroom.

This year we have provided students with support regarding command words that are utilised in assessments over multiple subject areas. Throughout the year, new command words were introduced with clear definitions and explanations to guide students on how to address questions using these terms. Identified by various school faculties, these words were emphasised in class to help students better understand what was being asked. Both students and parents were regularly informed, with over 30 commonly used words already identified and clarified.

Students in Years 7 to 10 were also encouraged to read regularly. Each week, English classes across these year levels dedicate time to foster a love of reading beyond simply answering questions. To further support literacy, the librarians introduced a Book Week creative writing competition. Additionally, students with artistic talents were invited to design their own book covers with corresponding blurbs. Congratulations to the winners of both competitions!

We are committed to supporting and developing student literacy skills by engaging them in various ways across multiple subjects. We look forward to building on these skills next year and further strengthening literacy in the years to come.

Brian Yong
Learning Specialist - Literacy



Careers

The Careers Department has had an eventful and productive year, engaging students from Years 9 to 12 in a range of dynamic and forward-thinking career-related activities.

Our goal is to not only equip students with the tools they need to make informed decisions but also to spark excitement about the diverse and rewarding career paths available to them. We believe that the future of work is filled with opportunities, and we are committed to helping students see their potential within it.

Throughout the year, we delivered programs such as:

Year 9 Morrisby Profile/Interview Program – helping students discover their strengths and explore career options early on.

Year 10 'I Plan' program – encouraging students to map out their career pathways and understand how their school subjects link to future ambitions.

A visit to the VCE Careers Expo – where students were exposed to industry experts, post-secondary education providers, and potential employers, all aimed at expanding their horizons.

Presentation by HeadStart on School-Based Apprenticeships – providing students with practical, real-world insights into apprenticeships that balance work and study.

In addition, our participation at Gateway LLEN's "Reimagining Work Experience Program" opened doors for students to rethink traditional work experience models, giving them exposure to evolving industries. Meanwhile, Senior School students were supported in securing and completing Structured Workplace Learning placements, gaining invaluable hands-on experience.

We are dedicated to making careers exciting and relevant for students. By offering access to cutting-edge programs and opportunities to connect with the workforce, we aim to inspire students to see the world of work as not just a necessity but as an exciting adventure full of possibilities.

Voula Jakubicki
Careers Coordinator





English

The English team at WHSC remains dedicated to fostering a meaningful, engaging, and culturally enriched learning environment for all students. We started Term 2 with the 'Unlocking Poetry Code' incursion, where Year 7 and Year 8 RISE students enjoyed a lively, 45-minute stage show from the company Poetry in Action. This performance not only entertained but also deepened students' understanding of poetic elements like rhythm, tone, and language techniques.

Our commitment to student agency is evident in our curriculum. We incorporate activities like power writing and group discussions that connect learning to students' experiences. By allowing students to choose their assessment topics, we tailor the curriculum to meet their needs by fostering ownership and engagement. RISE English, thriving in Years 7, 8, and 9, emphasises critical thinking, cultural

diversity, and contemporary issues to equip students with skills that extend beyond the classroom.

Our Writer's Workshop elective in Year 9 continues to inspire creativity. This workshop allows students to find their unique voice and refine their writing through peer and teacher feedback. The Aboriginal Content Curriculum has also been a key focus, with Year 8 and 9 students exploring Aboriginal poetry, history, and contemporary issues.

As our Year 12 students approach their final exams, they have embraced our support programs like Motivational Monday. With past success in English and EAL, we are confident this year's cohort will continue to excel.

Fei Hu
English Learning Area Leader





Health and Physical Education

This year, Health and Physical Education (HPE) students were engaged in a multitude of activities and events in their classes, aiming to foster an appreciation for physical activity, health and wellbeing. The annual "Baby Week" in Year 11 was again a highlight in Health, along with creative projects such as the Puberty Board Game in Year 7 Health, and designing a Road Safety Campaign in Year 9 Health. Additionally, in PE students really enjoyed working with local primary school students in Sports Coaching, developing motor skills in a range of sporting contexts, peer coaching in PE classes, attending excursions to the Velodrome and Icehouse for STEM in Sport, and attending the local gym for Year 10 PE.

Students in HPE engaged in numerous interactive activities that were designed to improve engagement, student agency and overall teaching and learning outcomes. Such practices include the use of hands-on activities such as parenting a baby (doll) during Year 11 Health, collaborative projects such as Stopmotion in Year 8 Sexual Health, using interactive e-books in VCE classes, working with the local community for Year 9 Sports Coaching, and having the opportunity to

engage in discussion and activities with various community experts in the fitness, road safety, bullying, and global health fields.

Looking ahead, we aim to continue to expand student agency opportunities both in theoretical and practical classes, and for students to continue their exploration of relevant HPE topics to encourage a lifetime of real-world application.

Natasha Simpson
Health and Physical Education Learning Area Leader





Humanities

Throughout 2024, students in Years 7 to 10 at our school took part in a range of activities designed to hone skills in creativity, critical thinking, and student voice. Year 7 students applied an understanding of urban planning when redesigning Wheelers Hill to enhance liveability, while investigating the multicultural topic through bright collages. They discussed the cost-of-living crisis and shared personal stories with keepsake boxes. Year 7 and 8 students made history fun and interactive when they built ancient civilizations and medieval castles in Minecraft.

Year 9 students personalised history as they wrote diaries of real and imagined people living through the Industrial Revolution and World War I. Among the other interesting courses taken, "Disasters and Dastardly Deeds" allowed students to delve into a variety of topics, including the Holocaust and Ned Kelly. Individual enterprise was inspired, through case studies, by entrepreneurs like Elon Musk and product innovations such as Vegemite and Earth Hour. Year 11 History students applied their knowledge about the Cold War through a creative poster presentation.

At all year levels, students developed knowledge, critical thinking, and collaboration. Our school continues to encourage engaged learners with project-based learning and active pedagogies.

The RISE class students combined historical studies within the RISE classes with different digital tools, such as building empires in Minecraft inspired by any ancient civilization. These projects combined research, creativity, and digital literacy that made history both more accessible and enjoyable.

Excursions and incursions added great value to the learning. The Year 9 students went on an excursion to the Shrine of Remembrance; the year 11 Business Management students

gained entrepreneurial experience with their well-organised Market Day. The Year 12 students attended an incursion with Yakult and a live court proceeding in their Legal Studies class, hence gaining exposure to real-life business and legal matters.

Notable achievements by our students include Ethan Verstak's Distinction in the Australian History Competition, plus several other students receiving awards. It is a reflection of the enthusiasm and engagement our students have with learning.

Filia Kasiotis
Humanities Learning Area Leader





International Student Program

The International Student Program at WHSC is experiencing a positive resurgence, with 34 students enrolled as of the start of Term Three, 2024, including three short-term students and 10 in the English Immersion Program (EIP). Additionally, 18 more students are eagerly awaiting their visas or finalising applications, highlighting a growing interest in our community.

In Term One, our ISP students worked with the Mandarin Program to host vibrant Lunar New Year celebrations, introducing the community to traditional activities such as brush painting, calligraphy, and shuttlecock kicking, fostering cultural awareness and mutual understanding.

This year, we successfully launched the English Immersion Program (EIP), which requires ISP students to study intensive English for at least six months before entering their year levels. The new Program has positively impacted our applications, thanks in part to the dedication of our teaching staff, especially Irene McKeddie, who has been instrumental in its success.

We proudly celebrate the achievements of our ISP students – Lilian Huang from China and David Choun from Cambodia – as they both complete Year 12. Lilian, who has been with us since Year 8, has served as our International Student Captain and exemplifies our college values of Respect, Creativity, and Excellence. She has excelled academically, completing VCE Unit 3 and 4 subjects, achieving a perfect score of 50 in General Mathematics and an impressive score of 43 in Chinese as a Second Language (scaled to 49). David is exploring exciting TAFE options for next year, and we encourage him to pursue his chosen pathway with confidence, knowing he has the potential to find great success.

Looking ahead, the International Student Program is poised for continued growth and innovation under the leadership of our new coordinator, Randalson Xia. With a focus on enhancing support for our international students, we aim to expand partnerships with local communities and educational organisations to provide more resources and opportunities for our students. As we move forward, we are excited to cultivate a vibrant and welcoming environment where every international student can thrive and achieve their dreams.

Jane Xing
International Student Coordinator

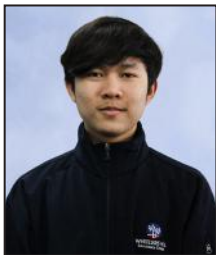




English Immersion Program class of 2024



Cao Huang



Chhun You Heng



Cui Xinmiao



Fang Ziqi



Hou Shuyu



Le Nguyen Uyen Nhi



Li Junxuan



Long Junkang



Yan Xiaofei



Languages



Mandarin

Our Mandarin Program embraced cultural learning with engaging projects and events. The highlight was our Lunar New Year celebration. Students and teachers participated in lantern making, dragon crafts, Chinese calligraphy, chopstick competitions, and the traditional sport of Ti Jian Zi. Through these hands-on activities, students connected with the rich traditions of the Lunar New Year, making language learning a joyful and immersive experience.

To celebrate the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Moon Festival, which honours the harvest, the full moon, and family reunions, the Year 8 Rise Mandarin students participated in a special crafting session on 17th September 17th. During the session, students worked together to create paper moons, mooncakes, lanterns, and bunnies—symbols of the festival that represent unity, prosperity, and joy.

French

Bastille Day, celebrated on 14th July, is a cornerstone of French national identity and pride. This historic day marks the beginning of the French Republic's journey toward democracy, liberty, and equality. It reinforces the collective memory of the struggle for freedom and unity, making it a vital and cherished occasion in the heart of French culture and history.

To celebrate such an important event, the French faculty made a short presentation on the importance of Bastille Day during lunch time on Monday 15th July in the library. A short film was also made available for viewing by students and staff.

Student Achievements:

We would like to acknowledge the following students who have achieved excellent results in Mandarin and French. Congratulations!

Mandarin

Year 7	Year 8
Alyssa Belakhov (7E)	Nate Beecroft (8D)
Joshua Francis (7E)	Fraser Dean (8A)
Rigo Engelbrecht (7E)	Olivia Hor (8E)
Alyssa Horsnell (7C)	Amelie Haahesy (8E)
Georgia May (7C)	William Jones (8E)
Kristina Pelliccia (7E)	Lexter Li (8D)
Kye Salter (7D)	Sophie Lizza (8D)
Max Stanguts (7E)	Nicole Loh (8D)
Bree Taylor (7C)	Kane Teunissen (8E)
Lucy Vallence (7C)	Olivia Wono Utomo (8E)

French

Year 7	Year 8
Kaitlyn Gilbert (7A)	Hannah Tucker (8A)
Ethan Nguyen (7A)	Abigail Mearns (8B)
Daniela Ponne Alibardi (7A)	Zara Holmes (8C)
Joseph Munnings (7B)	Milan Stevanovic (8C)
Sienna Scash (7B)	
Audrey Wang (7C)	

Congratulations to all for their hard work and remarkable progress!

Judith Riddoch
French Teacher

Jessica Zhu
Languages Learning Area Leader



As we reflect on 2024, the library has been a vibrant hub of activity and learning. From cultural celebrations to literary adventures, this year has been one for the books!

Chinese New Year: We kicked off the year with a lively celebration of Chinese New Year. The library was adorned with red lanterns, and students enjoyed a range of themed activities. It was a wonderful way to embrace the richness of Chinese culture and traditions.

Book Week: Our annual Book Week was a standout event, with students from all year levels immersing themselves in the world of literature. This year, the excitement peaked with a creative writing competition, where students crafted short stories that showcased their imagination. Alongside the highly anticipated Principal's Choice Award, the library also honoured exceptional entries with Library Awards. The creativity and passion on display were truly inspiring.

Olympics Fever: As the world tuned into the Olympics, our library embraced the excitement with a vibrant display of Olympic sports books and athlete biographies. We also screened key Olympic events before school and during lunchtime, allowing students to experience the global spectacle right here in the library. It was a wonderful

opportunity for students to enjoy the Games and celebrate diversity together.

New Books: 2024 also saw the addition of many new titles to our collection, both fiction and non-fiction. From gripping novels that transport you to other worlds to informative non-fiction that expands your horizons, there is something for everyone.

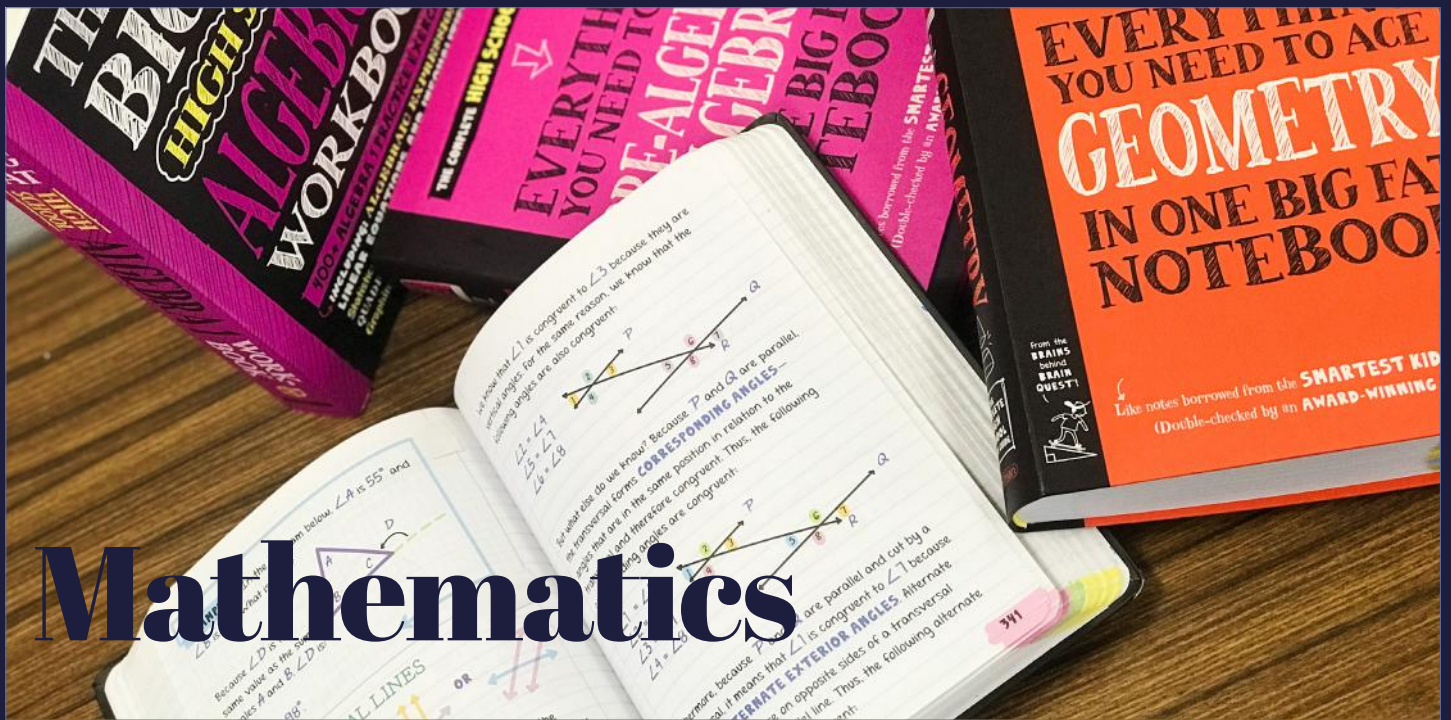
Jigsaw Puzzle Table: The jigsaw puzzle table continued to be a crowd favourite, offering students a relaxing break from their studies. The puzzles provided a great way to unwind and socialise with friends.

Various Displays: Throughout the year, our library featured displays on a diverse range of themes, from celebrating Indigenous culture to exploring different genres and promoting new books.

As we look ahead, we can't wait to see what 2025 has in store for us. Whether you are looking for your next great read, a quiet place to study, or just a spot to relax, the library is here for you.

Tracey Duff and Jane Callaghan Librarians





Mathematics

Congratulations to all staff and students for an exceptional year of learning, collaboration, and achievement in Mathematics at Wheelers Hill Secondary College! The Mathematics Learning Area has made significant strides in enhancing our curriculum and content delivery. Our dedicated staff had the privilege of presenting at esteemed events such as Edutech and the Mathematical Association of Victoria Conferences, where we proudly showcased our innovative approaches to mathematics education. It was truly inspiring to see our students' work recognised by colleagues from other schools, who expressed admiration for the creativity, perseverance, and hard work demonstrated in their challenging tasks.

A particular highlight this year was the involvement of our Year 9 RISE Mathematics students in a cross-curricular project with Mr. Razaai, which allowed them to explore and celebrate Aboriginal culture. This unique initiative beautifully integrated mathematics with cultural learning, creating a meaningful and enriching experience for all participants. Furthermore, our Year 7 RISE students embarked on exciting self-directed learning adventures, selecting their own mathematics topics and utilising technology to deepen their understanding. From building gardens to creating art, students across all year levels have discovered innovative ways to connect mathematics with other disciplines.

As we approach the end of the academic year, we extend our heartfelt best wishes to the Year 12 students preparing for their final examinations. We commend their hard work and dedication, and we are confident they will carry the skills and knowledge they have acquired into their future endeavours. Here's to another remarkable year of success!

Laura McClure
Mathematics Learning Area Leader





A Commitment to Inclusion and Cultural Respect

At Wheelers Hill Secondary College, Murrung represents our commitment to embracing and celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture within our school community. This initiative is more than a program; it reflects our dedication to collaboration and inclusivity across all areas.

The Murrung leader plays a vital role in advocating for the wellbeing, academic success, and cultural recognition of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, ensuring their unique needs are met with respect and understanding. Supporting Murrung involves focusing on key areas:

- **Wellbeing:** We prioritise the mental and emotional health of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students by providing access to resources, counselling, and support services.
- **Education:** Tailored Individual Education Plans (IEP) and Student Support Groups (SSG) are created to address our students' learning needs, fostering consistent communication between teachers, parents, and support staff.
- **School Events:** We integrate significant events from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander calendar into our school activities, celebrating moments that honour their history and culture.

This year, we deepened our connection with Country through events like a Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country led by Elders Shane and Mark at the opening of the First Nations Garden. A Yarning Session with KESO Mark Lumley enriched our understanding of culture and community. Regular wellbeing check-ins, attendance monitoring, and academic encouragement have fostered a sense of belonging, supported by close collaboration with

Koorie Education Support Officer Mark Lumley and Inner East Student Support Services.

By fostering an inclusive environment and maintaining ethical standards, we strive to ensure that Murrung enriches our entire school community. The success of this initiative depends on our collective commitment to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in every aspect of school life.





Aboriginal Cross Curricular Content Program

This year, our Year 9 RISE students participated in the ACCur program, an innovative initiative designed to embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives across the curriculum. Launched in Term 1, the program provided an enriching learning experience for the cohort.

The program commenced with a professional development session led by Jamil Tye from Koorisma Consulting, focusing on Indigenising Curriculum in the Classroom. This session laid the groundwork for meaningful educational experiences, complemented by excursions to Cranbourne Gardens and the Koorie Heritage Trust, which allowed students and staff to explore First Nations culture and landscapes.

Central to the curriculum was the theme of the First Nations Garden, integrated across subjects like Science, Humanities, Mathematics, and Art. Students developed their design thinking skills and personalised their Acknowledgement to Country, deepening their connection to the land and its traditional custodians. A highlight was the opportunity for students to present their garden designs

and acknowledgements to the Principal and other leaders. The garden, enriched with Indigenous plants from Willum Warrain Aboriginal Bush Nursery, was crafted with care by the students.

The ACCur Program concluded with significant events, including the official blessing of the First Nations Garden by Elders from the Bunurong Aboriginal Land Council during a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony. The garden was showcased during a whole school assembly for NAIDOC week, organised collaboratively by various school leaders.

Students received certificates of appreciation in a celebratory assembly, followed by a morning tea with Elders and participants. This program has been a remarkable journey of learning and growth, significantly enhancing students' understanding of First Nations cultures and fostering a strong sense of connection within the school community.

Khairi Razaai
Marrung and ACCur Program Leader





Science

Science is an exciting area of learning that every student can engage with from Year 7 to Year 10, with additional elective choices in Year 9, such as Forensic Science and Earth Science/ Astronomy. This pathway allows students to explore their interests further in Years 11 and 12, empowering them to shape their educational journeys.

Throughout the year, our passionate teachers guide students through the fascinating worlds of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Psychology, igniting their curiosity and encouraging them to ask questions about the world around them. Each year level is immersed in a variety of engaging activities designed to deepen their understanding, spark new ideas, and challenge their existing knowledge. These experiences provide valuable insights into the scientific principles that shape our lives.

Students have participated in hands-on practicals, dissections, and experiments involving light, sound, and electrical circuits. Extended Experimental Investigations

allow them to apply their learning in real-world contexts, making Science both relevant and exciting.

To enrich students' experiences, excursions were organised throughout the year. The Year 12 Physics group visited Luna Park to study motion and carnival rides, while Year 11 Biology and Psychology students explored animal adaptations at the Zoo. The Year 8 class enjoyed an Incursion focused on Sustainability during Science Week, and Year 7 students visited the Melbourne Zoo to learn about endangered species and their roles in food chains and webs.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the Science staff who have created these fantastic opportunities, nurturing our students' love for Science and fostering a sense of wonder that will stay with them throughout their educational journey. Together, we celebrate the discoveries and achievements that make Science a vital part of our students' lives!

Melissa Robinson
Science Learning Area Leader





Sports

A Celebration of Sports Excellence

We take immense pride in our vibrant sports culture, which fosters teamwork, perseverance, and school spirit among our students. This year has been particularly outstanding, with our athletes demonstrating exceptional talent and determination at various events. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all participants for their hard work and achievements, making our sports carnivals truly memorable.

Swimming & Diving Carnival

The Swimming & Diving Carnival was an exhilarating display of athletic prowess and school spirit. Jells took the top spot with an impressive 850 points, followed by Scott with 768 points. Napier and Derrimut rounded out the top four with 592 and 564 points, respectively.

Age Group Champions:

- 13 Years: Aisha Basel (Jells), Cora Mathys (Jells), Joseph Munnings (Napier)
- 14 Years: Jade Coxhead (Jells), Elias Petschel (Jells)
- 15 Years: Jenna Whetstone (Scott), Max Zogoulas (Napier), Oliver Jones (Napier)
- 16 Years: Aziah Mathys (Jells)
- 17 Years: Shay Coxhead (Jells)
- 20 Years: Kristen Swartz (Derrimut), Jordan Gwynne (Jells)

Records Broken:

- 20 Years 25m Freestyle: Kristen Swartz (Derrimut) - 15.57
- 15 Years 4x25m Freestyle Relay: Scott - 1:12.20



Athletics Carnival

The Athletics Carnival showcased remarkable athletic talent, with Scott emerging as the overall winner with 1416 points. Napier and Derrimut followed with 1223 and 1215 points, respectively, while Jells came in fourth with 982 points.

Age Group Champions:

- 13 Years: Tabitha Hutman (Jells), Ryder Hart (Derrimut)
- 14 Years: Emonefe Arhuere (Scott), Peyton Tavrou-Sougleris (Derrimut)
- 15 Years: Leilea Cocker (Derrimut), Nailetani Ligairi (Scott)
- 16 Years: Charli Paterson (Napier), Niki Stankovic (Scott)
- 17 Years: Samantha Mangan (Napier), Isaiah Peka (Derrimut)
- 20 Years: Jasmine Hamilton (Scott), TJ Cuningham (Napier), Isayah Schellebeck (Napier)

Records Broken:

- 20 Years 100m: Jasmine Hamilton (Scott) - 13.77
- 13 Years Shot Put: Tabitha Hutman (Jells) - 9.65m
- 20 Years High Jump: Jasmine Hamilton (Scott) - 1.45m

As we reflect on these thrilling events, we celebrate not just the champions but every athlete who participated, embodying the spirit of sportsmanship and commitment to excellence. Together, we continue to build a strong community that values and promotes active participation in sports!

Kerrie Lay and Sally Pryde
Sports Coordinators





Technology

This year has marked an exciting new chapter in Product Design and Technology, with the introduction of a study design that empowers students to write their own design briefs. These briefs guide their projects from Year 7 to Year 12, fostering engagement and creativity.

Students have embraced this subject matter, producing a diverse range of impressive products using various materials. Their work reflects a strong understanding of design intent, allowing them to take ownership of their projects while ensuring functionality and aesthetics are balanced with ethical design principles.

In Middle school, students have created engaging projects, including puzzles, toys, and Bluetooth speakers. They have incorporated laser engraving and 3D printing to enhance their designs, using the design thinking process to tailor their products for specific audiences.

VCE students have also applied the design process to develop innovative and ethical solutions to design challenges, crafting items such as braziers and aesthetically pleasing

branded lighting. Their folio studies, developed with Gary, showcase their dedication and creativity. Notably, Brianna Chandler in Year 12 Vocational Major has undertaken a remarkable Rocking Horse refurbishment project, skilfully integrating wood, metal, and resin into her design.

In Year 10, students are exploring functional and mechanical storage solutions, such as tambour openings. They have demonstrated remarkable creativity in presenting their ideas, either in a commercial context or customized for end-users.

Additionally, Year 9 students have applied the design thinking process in the 'Toys in the Community' project, creating meaningful connections with aged care participants.

Congratulations to all students for their impressive work in this subject, showcasing planning, persistence, and skill.

Gary Campbell
Teacher

Rene Raulin
Product Design and Technology Learning Area Leader





VCE Vocational Major

Vocational Major in Review: Creating Futures Together

The Vocational Major Program has been an extraordinary journey of hands-on learning, personal growth, and real-world exposure for students. This diverse array of experiences has not only equipped participants with invaluable skills but also broadened their perspectives on various industries and societal issues.

One of the standout experiences was the visit to Chesterfield Farm. Engaging with animals and learning about agriculture allowed students to connect with nature while exploring career opportunities in farming, animal care, and environmental stewardship. The practical aspect of starting a veggie garden further emphasised sustainability and self-sufficiency, encouraging students to embrace healthy living and environmental responsibility.

Another pivotal highlight was the Gambling Education session titled “Be Ahead of the Game.” This initiative provided critical insights into the risks associated with gambling, offering strategies for informed decision-making and promoting financial literacy. It empowered students to navigate societal pressures and avoid harmful behaviours in the future.

The Trades and Tech Fit Expo was an eye-opening experience for many, showcasing a variety of vocational pathways—from trade skills to the latest technological advancements. This event allowed direct interaction with industry professionals, helping students gain clarity on potential careers in construction, IT, and technical trades.

The Big Issue Classroom addressed the pressing issue of homelessness, providing a compassionate lens on the struggles faced by vulnerable individuals in society. This session served as a powerful reminder of the importance of empathy and social justice, encouraging students to think critically about how they can contribute to meaningful change.

Partnerships with companies like Form-A-Sign and Blue Connections IT offered practical, industry-specific knowledge. Whether exploring signage and design or understanding the importance of IT infrastructure, these sessions gave students hands-on exposure to potential career paths, making vocational learning both engaging and impactful.

The creative side of the Program shone brightly with the Sarah Munnings Jewellery workshop. Learning about jewellery design and craftsmanship opened students’ eyes to the world of artistry and small business, illustrating that vocational skills can be both profitable and deeply fulfilling.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all Year 11 and Year 12 Vocational Major students for their enthusiasm and commitment throughout the Program. Their dedication and eagerness to engage in these valuable experiences are commendable and will undoubtedly serve them well in their future pursuits.

Felicity Graham-Prowse
Vocational Major Learning Area Leader



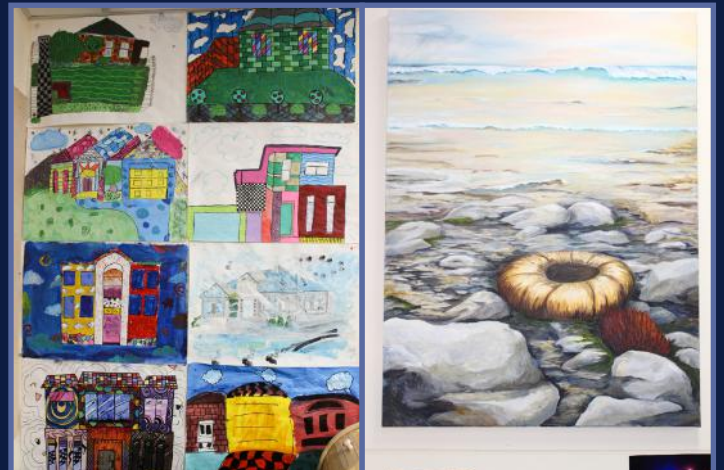
Visual and Performing Arts



Visual Arts: Celebrating Creativity and Collaboration

This year has been an exciting journey for the Visual and Performing Arts. Characterised by creativity, collaboration, and community, our faculty played a central role in the ACCur program, collaborating closely with Science, Humanities, Mathematics, and English. A key highlight was the creation of the First Nations Garden, designed by Year 9 RISE participants through a comprehensive Design Thinking process. This beautiful garden was officially opened and blessed by Elders Mark and Shane from the Boonwurrung Aboriginal Land Council. As part of this project, our students crafted a personalised Acknowledgement of Country, integrating our school values of Respect, Excellence, and Creativity, alongside our motto, "Creating Futures Together."

Our Art Club, which meets every Monday after school, has been a hub of innovation. The members contributed a vibrant new mural to our already colourful Art and Tech precinct, and their work, along with others, was proudly displayed in our annual Hill Art and Tech Show, showcasing the students' boundless creativity.



The Hill Art and Tech Show was a major success, bringing L Block to life as students from Years 7 to 12 showcased their

artistic talents and personal growth. The three-day event was a highlight of the year, featuring inspiring speeches from school leaders and recognising students who exemplified the core values of Respect, Excellence, and Creativity. The event was further enriched by musical performances from students, adding to the celebratory atmosphere. More than just an exhibition, the show was a testament to the strong sense of community at the school, embodying the motto "Creating Futures Together."

The Performing Arts

In 2024, the Performing Arts at Wheelers Hill Secondary College once again shone with the creativity and talent of our students. Classes in Drama, Music, and Theatre were bursting with enthusiasm and learning. The high level of scriptwriting, characterisation, presentations, and originality in bringing pieces “from page to stage” highlighted the students’ skills. Our students excelled in extra-curricular opportunities, performing at public events, attending live theatre such as MTC’s *A Streetcar Named Desire* and the musical *WICKED*, and featuring in the Annual College Art Show. A real sense of community and connection is felt when performing arts students share their talents, creative thinking, and productions with each other and their audiences. A huge thank you to the Arts staff, both Performing and Visual, who inspire, encourage, and develop the artists of the future.

VET Music

This year, VET Music students at Wheelers Hill Secondary College enhanced their talents through the VCE VET Music Program, partnering with COSAMP. They honed skills in performance, composition, and production while working towards their Certificate III in Music. Their passion was evident at school events, including Open Night, assemblies, and our annual college production.

A highlight was the Songmakers Workshop, where students collaborated with Australian artists Claire Rayner (Rromarin), Annika Schmarsel (Alice Ivy), and Hayden Lauersen, in partnership with APRA AMCOS, to produce original songs and gain industry insights.

The formation of two bands, *Odyssey* and *Lotus*, showcased their growth as they perform regularly and compete in the Battle of the Bands. The camaraderie between Year 11 and Year 12 students, especially in exam preparation, demonstrated the strength of the music community. The dedication and teamwork of all VET Music students have enriched both their learning and the broader school community.

We are incredibly proud of all our VET Music students. Their commitment to private tuition, ensemble performances, and school events has enriched not only their own learning but also the vibrant music community at Wheelers Hill Secondary College. We look forward to seeing where their music journey takes them in the future!

Khairi Razaai
Visual and Performing Arts Leader





Empowering Minds, Building Resilience

This year, the Wellbeing Team has been dedicated to ensuring that every student and staff member feels supported. The team has introduced several initiatives focused on Mental Health Education, aiming not just to raise awareness but to encourage open conversations about mental health.

Highlights:

- **Year 7 Wellbeing Workshops:** Workshops were conducted to help Year 7 students settle into high school by focusing on wellbeing and respectful relationships, ensuring a solid understanding of mental health from the start.
- **Year 12 Stress Management:** Recognising the challenges of Year 12, stress management workshops were offered in collaboration with Headspace Syndal, providing senior students with practical tools to manage their final year.
- **Healthy Minds Program:** A 16-week Mental Health Literacy initiative for Year 7 students was rolled out in partnership with The Healthy Minds Program, including training for staff and parents. The Program aimed to equip the community with tools to handle life's challenges and reduce the stigma around mental health.
- **Dedicated Space for Students with Disabilities:** A new space was introduced for students with disabilities, providing a calm and inclusive environment where they can socialise comfortably. This space is designed to meet their diverse needs, promoting a sense of belonging and allowing all students to engage meaningfully in school life.
- **Wellbeing Placement Program:** Five student counsellors from Monash University and Victoria University were brought in to offer one-on-one counselling, group activities, and wellbeing sessions. These sessions provided a safe space for students to explore strategies for school life, social interactions, mental health, and personal growth.

The Wellbeing Team embraces a strength-based approach, encouraging students to take ownership of their wellbeing. This approach is centred on the belief that true strength is shown by how one responds to challenges, not by avoiding them. By guiding students to view setbacks as opportunities for growth, the team helps them develop resilience, self-compassion, and the skills needed to navigate life's ups and downs.

Building on valuable feedback, we are excited to enhance the Wellbeing referral process next year by digitalising and centralising information. Our goal is to make it easier for students and staff to access the support they need, fostering a stronger sense of community and collaboration. By working together as a team, we can ensure that every individual at our school feels supported, valued, and empowered to thrive.

The Wellbeing Team





Senior School

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Excellence in Action: A Senior School Experience

The Senior School has experienced an incredibly successful year, marked by a remarkable array of achievements and memorable events. Guided by the motto "Creating Futures Together," the community has demonstrated dedication, hard work, and unity, resulting in numerous accomplishments both academically and socially. This year exemplifies the commitment to nurturing the potential of every student, showcasing the strong bond between our senior students and staff through engaging annual events and academic successes.

The Senior School's commitment to academic excellence was evident during a successful examination season. Year 12 students, in particular, showcased their dedication to their studies and their preparedness for the challenges of their final exams. The results will reflect the hard work and support of both teachers and students, reinforcing the school's focus on academic success.

Key Annual Events

Year 12 Focus Day

The Year 12 Focus Day was a pivotal event where graduating students came together to reflect on their journey, set goals for their future, and receive guidance on career pathways. The workshops and discussions throughout the day were insightful, helping students gain a clear perspective on their post-school options and strategies for the year ahead.

Year 11 Formal

The Year 11 Formal was a glamorous and unforgettable evening that brought the senior cohort together in style. This event provided an opportunity for students to relax and bond outside of the classroom, strengthening their sense of community and creating lasting memories.

Surf Camp

The Year 10 camp was a highlight for many students, offering them a chance for personal growth through outdoor activities. It fostered camaraderie, boosted self-confidence, and encouraged students to embrace new challenges while promoting physical well-being.

Senior Dress-Up Days

Throughout the year, senior students participated in various themed dress-up days. These events not only brought fun and laughter to the school but also allowed students to express their creativity and individuality, enhancing school spirit.

Motivational Mondays

The continuation of "Motivational Mondays" saw a significant increase in student attendance. These weekly sessions enabled students to engage with guest speakers, alumni, and experts in various fields, providing invaluable insights into potential career paths and fostering determination and resilience.

As we look ahead, we are excited to build on these successes and continue empowering our senior students to create bright futures. With this year's achievements as a strong foundation, we are confident that together we can create even more memorable moments for our Senior School students.

Felicity-Graham Prowse
Senior School Leader

Class 12A



Jessica
Anderton



Daniel
Carydias



Valentina
Celis Izaguirre



Cassie
Clifton



Shay
Coxhead



Molly
Downie



Jessica
Footit



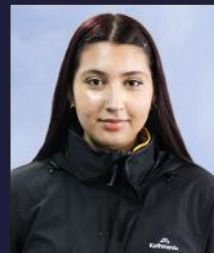
Claire
Inglis



Zachariah
Massalas



Ethan
Mauger



Gisele
Nayef



Caitlyn
Nguyen



Neve
Sharry



Nosheen
Thaquiyyuddin



Hannah
Wright

Not in picture

Summer Small

Class 12B



Chloe
Burley



Amy
Dale



Jordan
Gwynne



Jasmine
Hamilton



Zoe
Hunt



Hamish
Jones



Bianca
Jorgic



Lillian
Kleinman



Summer
Kung



Tanas
Kuzmanovski



Samantha
Loh



Samantha
Mangan



Charlee
McCafferty



Kirah
Millar



Dino
Pejic



Adam
Richardson



Kayla
Vollerup



Jacob
Ware-Drakeford

Not in picture

Lucas Morgan, Bailey Mylrea

Class 12C



Grace
Alexander



Ryan
Beaumont



Mason
Bull



Panhadavid
Choun



Bailey
Craven



Noah
Fox



Mia
Frazer



Logan
Gramberg



Xinle
Huang



Charlie
Liberati



Zak
Marinakis



Kim
Pillig



Jasmine
Poole



John
Ramos



Sophia
Sais



Brayden
Scholl



Aria
Small



Nadithya Manjali
Thabrew Kaluduru



Emily
Toth



Seth
Walton



Natalie
Wills

Class 12D



Kaylee
Archbold



Dev
Chandani



Joshua
Cooke



Charlotte
Donaghey



Erin
Freame



Caitlin
Henry



Christopher
Heyde



Abbey
Johnston



Olivia
Kelly



Natalia
Mayo-Castro



Jack
Nash



Grace
Newstead



Linda
Parker



Alex
Petreski



Kristen
Swartz



Olivia
Williamson



Kaleb
Zastawnik

Class 12V



Alex
Adomian



Lachlan
Agius



Bilal
Ahmad



Brianna
Chandler



Thomas
Cunningham



Brendan
Davidson



Carter
Dean



Christopher
Doros



Lauren
Eldridge



Matilda
Holland



Sireen
Kaiss



Arapo
Kendirjian



Morissa
Khun



Shanelle
Langford



Josh
Lantouris



Billy
Leris



Kira
McMillan



Sam
O'Callaghan



Javelle
Rowe



Jordan
Rowe



Isayah
Schellebeck



Ethan
Smith



Katelyn
Tidd

Class 11A



Aiden
Carmichael



Xuanhui
Gong



Minh
Ha



Harley
Irvine



Alexander
Johnson



Emmerson
Jones



Jayanth
Kasarla



Siyu
Li



Xinyu
Li



Zexi
Li



Mia
Logan



Yasmin
Luu



Adam
MacKintosh



Ahmad
Mahar



Emma
Neal



Nathan
Ornsby



Benedict
Ramos



Kristian
Saldutto



Waasiuddin
Thaqiyyuddin



Lara
Williams

Not in picture

Megan Chin, Sofia Sanader

Class 11B



Hayley
Alford



Victoria
Anestopoulos



Ellie
Coad



Benjamin
Crawford



Jessica
Driscoll



Andreas
Hajigeorgi



Olivia
Hardware



Chad
Jacobs



Aaron
Johnston



Tylah
Kelly



Merewalesi
Ligairi



Zac
Matheas



Charles
Mearns



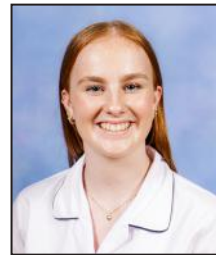
Kay Vern
Ng



Mobina
Norouzi



Teagan
Okos



Maddison
Palmer



Ava
Penna



Paris
Rule



Lucas
Simons



Liam
Teunissen



Bailey
Thomas



Hayden
Volk



Macy
Whetstone

Class 11C



Lachlan
Brodie



Emma
Edwards



Regan
Fleming



Joshua
Forder



Ava
Frazer



Taylah
Hurle



Dara
Jafari



Gemma
James



Mya
Khalil



Madison
Kleinman



Indiana
Kung



Nahria
Martin



Amy
Parsons



Jordyn
Pignolet



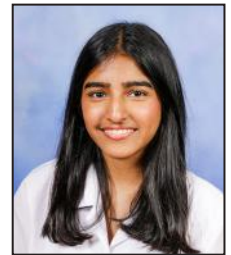
Maia
Rashleigh



Ellaha
Rezaie



Kade
September-Jones



Noorain
Thaquiyyuddin



Stefanie
Treloar



Padmae
Varnakulasingham



Ethan
Woods



Damon
Woolven

Class 11D



Aphroditi
Agatholeous



Cameron
Biggs



Shayna
Brereton



Elai
Butcher



Logan
Coutts



Benjamin
Craig



Lachlan
Everetts



Leena
Farhan



Sienna
Goncalves



Jackson
Janevski



Cassandra
Lim



Eustratia
Mandikos



Ashton
Nye



Tayla
Perry



Lacey
Quirk



Shehzad
Singh

Not in picture

Jonathan Loupatatzis, Deanna Sourtzis

Class 11V



Charley
Alderman



Andre
Christo



Luca
Christo



Jack
Davies



Josh
Edwards



Johnathan
Figueroa



Harvey
Francis



Brayden
George



Dylan
Harrop



Daniel
Kasapoglou



Jamie
Keller



Tathem
King



Xavier
Lubin



Cooper
McAloon



Joshua
McLaren



Jacob
Norman



Isaiah
Peka



Antonios
Symergelis



Jessica
Tavella



Ben
Weinert

Class 10A



Alexis
Adomian



Mia
Aidonopoulos



Jack
Andre



Teisha
Banfield



Charlotte
Bugeja



Oliver
Dimitrijevic



Elisha
Failla



Jimmy
Fitzgerald



Summer
Hall



Nicholas
Hetherington



Jemma
Higgins



Asher
Kung



Annika
Larsson



Le Bao Hoang
Nguyen



Thi Linh Ngoc
Nguyen Thi



Isaac
Norman



Jacinta
Palamara



Mitchell
Peacock



Charlotte
Rathje



Matthew
Singhaphanh



Mariah
Varga



Rebecca
Wright

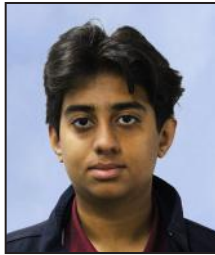
Not in picture

Keely Hodgkinson

Class 10B



Jake
Adolphson



Maarij
Ali



Stefan
Babickovic



Madison
Caples



Jincan
Chen



Mason
Fitzgerald



Ashton
Haesy



Jiaqi
Liu



Jake
Luxford



Lachlan
McLennan



Kynan
Mu



Jackson
Newstead



Emily
Pearson



William
Phillips



Tahlia
Pignolet



Risha
Purandare



Nicholas
Simons



Sonny
Stainthorpe



Kavithya
Thabrew Kaluduru



Rafaella
Villegas



Olivia
Yang



Aaron
Zastawnik

Class 10C



Riley
Adolphson



Hannah
Wen Ee Chua



Matthew
Dimeas



Jake
Falken



Tori
Goltsios



April
Goncalves



Bridget
Hamilton



Kaylee
Hamilton



Jayden
Kenna



Emily
Lewis



Melinda
Loh



Chelsea
Lynch



Aziah
Mathys



Shayley
Nada



Ryan
O'Gorman



Thomas
Orford



Connor
Paton



Elle
Penna



Mackenzie
Rooney-Ho



Chloe
Scash



Zoe
Thomassen



Zoe
Tulloch



Benjamin
Williams



Mingxuan
Zhang

Class 10D



Charlotte
Abrehart



Joseph
Arhuere



Imogen
Campbell



Cassandra
Charleston



Logan
Collins



Emily
Harris



Cody
Interligi



Leon
James



Daniel
Kambouris



Sofia
Kaplantzis



Jacquiline
Lim



Georgia
Mann



Ashlea
Mauger



Lilly
McMullen



Alex
Nash



Gabriel
Nayef



Kimberley
Olofsson



Natasa
Petrovic



Maggie
Relph



Harmonie
Robins



Shelby
Unwin



Maya
Utting



Sari
Yazbek

Not in picture

Demi Leris

Class 10E



Rachael
Andrews



Maddison
Borwanski



Jaimee
Cain



Josiah
Fox



Sienna
Hart



Mark
Kovari



Samantha
Lynch



Olivia
May



Aston
Paice



Charli
Paterson



James
Peng



Mia
Salter



Ella
Skinner



Vethmi
Thabrew Kaluduru

Not in picture

Annabella Nicholls

Class 10F



Caleb
Anderson



Eve
Ashley



Noah
Bortignon



Thomas
Burton



Matthew
Carter



Dylan
Crowe



Elias
Djokic



Abigail
Ellis



Nicholas
Gillespie



Emily
Joy



Marcus
Lakkis



Martia
Lovett



Charlotte
Marescaux



Dylan
Mitchell



Tijana
Pejic



Nikolaj
Stankovic



Kade
Van Mourik



Hanjue
Zhang

Not in picture

Lincoln Ebbage

Middle School

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CREALITY

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Respect, Creativity and Growth in the Middle School

What a fantastic year it has been for our remarkable Middle School students in Years 7, 8, and 9! 2024 has been filled with excitement, laughter, and significant growth, marked by their ability to conquer new challenges and discover hidden talents. From juggling textbooks at Monash Tech School to diving into pools and competing on sports fields, our students have made us proud at every turn, gaining valuable skills and experiences that will stay with them forever.

Key annual events

Year 7 Adventures: Growing Up and Glowing Up

For our wonderful Year 7 students, this year has been all about transitioning from the familiar environment of primary school to the vibrant world of secondary school. This transition is not just a step up; it is a leap into new opportunities! They have made new friends, embraced new responsibilities, and faced challenges with courage and a smile. Their adaptability has been as impressive as their knack for finding the best spots to hang out!

Mt. Evelyn Discovery Camp: The Ultimate Adventure

The Year 7 Transition and Adventure Camp at Mt. Evelyn was more than just a few days outdoors—it was an epic adventure! Our students engaged in activities that built confidence and forged friendships. Each day brought new challenges to conquer and skills to learn, transforming them into a group of confident explorers. They returned with stronger bonds, bigger smiles, and plenty of stories to share—proving that growth happens in the most unexpected places!

STEM-tastic Adventures at Monash Tech School

Our Middle School students had an exhilarating time diving into the world of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). With hands-on experiences in cutting-edge technology, they were not just learning; they were inventing and creating! A simple school visit ignited countless ideas and dreams, showcasing the potential of our innovative young minds.

Elevating Skills: Study Tips and Tricks

This year, our students enjoyed the Elevate Study Skills sessions, which equipped them with the tools to manage their time, set goals, and approach their studies with confidence. These sessions served as a personal training program for their minds, helping them succeed academically and develop effective study habits.

Carnival Fever: Swimming, Athletics, and Fun Galore

The Swimming and Athletics Carnivals were undeniable highlights of the year! Picture the sun shining, students racing with determination, and school spirit soaring. The atmosphere was electric, and the camaraderie on display was inspiring, with everyone cheering each other on as if they were competing for the ultimate championship.

Interschool Sports: Game On!

Our Middle School athletes showcased their skills in Interschool Sports competitions, where they exemplified not just athleticism but also sportsmanship and teamwork. Whether they won or lost, they represented our school with pride, demonstrating that the true victory lies in the friendships made and the lessons learned.

As we look forward to next year, we are excited to see the incredible things our students will achieve. Keep shining, keep striving, and continue embracing every opportunity—because the future is brighter than ever!

Ben Shepherd
Middle School Leader

Class 9A



Arjun
Ahilan



Joshua
Alexander



Kelly
Beal



Mason
Bowker



Christian
D'Ambra



Marcus
D'Angelo



Benjamin
Downie



Bianca
Ellis



Talia
Hider



Jasmine
Kennedy



Dimokritos
Koutros-Vouvakis



Kosta
Linnios



Zoe
Little



Thomas
McPherson



Willow
Millard



Scott
Munnings



Thomas
Roberts



Hayden
Spencer



Kees
Taylor



Abbey
Veal



Shanae
Veal



Marcus
Wills



Ethan
Woodcock



Maximus
Zogoulas

Not in picture

Mia Edwards

Class 9B



Lachlan
Archbold



Kayla
Berwick



Mia
Burridge



Roberto
Busby-Aoese



Blake
Chandler



Benjamin Wen
Yeung Chua



Tyce
Corcoran



Alyssa
Di Nezza



Taylor
Hamilton



Immanuel
Khalil



Vincent
Jeongmyoung Kim



Zoe
Kimber



Nailletani
Ligairi



Zahrah
Moin



Marlie
Moloney



Samuel
Park Brereton



Melissa
Pinkerton



Leonora
Rakovic



Marianthi
Symergelis



Tyler
Tambyah



Iliya
Vejdani



Amelia
Watt



Lucas
Woodcock



Benjamin
Wyckelsma

Not in picture

Oliver Jones, Elena Sanader

Class 9C



Tirunesh
Allain



Maya
Babickovic



Milly
Bull



Leilea
Cocker



Kaylee
Cotton



Abbey
Elliott



Kai
Fernando



Noah
Galvin



Riley
Gilbert



Leann
Habasch



Ollyver
Haesler-Hawke



Bailey
Horsnell



Alana
Hunt



Nazif
Khan



Skye
McMullen



Ben
Miller



Max
O'Callaghan



Chantelle
Perry



Anaie
Rashleigh



Tatianna
Tzimokas



Alana
Vollerup



Zoe
Wellard



Blake
Williamson



Lucas
Wilson



Lilly
Young

Class 9D



Mackenzie
Allison



Anastacia
Asimakis



Ruby
Balmer



Maia
Bulic



Zachary
Donaghey



Kai
Edwards



Ryan
Emerson



Oriana
Grigsby



Petros
Hajigeorgi



Stella
Higgins



Binghe
Huo



Erica
Kenneally



Jessica
Lewis



Calvin
Lim



Dimitri
Limnios



Rea
O'Toole



Lucinda
Pinel



Baohang
Qu



Oliver
Rennie



Zahra
Rippon



Lenny
Rose



Dylan
Smith



Sabrina
Stefanaggi



Jiahe
Wang

Not in picture

Alina Wing Yan Jiang

Class 9E (RISE)



Jainiza
Ali



Khadija
Asad



Stella
Aye Pe



Eric
Begley



Georgina
Bice



Sophie
Burton



Emma
Carmichael



Alyssa
Davies



Isabelle
Davies



Matilda
Ferrier



Nicola
Footit



Abby
Gorman



Jacinta
Hutman



Zoe
Ireland



Darcy
Jafari



Roselyn
Kleinman



Sophie
Pagnin



Benjamin
Shine



Jovi
Tuck



Jenna
Whetstone



Jaiden
Williams



Joel
Wilson



Alexa
Wong



Layla
Wright

Not in picture

Leah Kendrick

Class 8A



Alix
Banfield



Jasper
Beaumont



Mika
Burgess



Peixin
Chen



Tawana
Chishava



Oscar
Contin



Fraser
Dean



Charlotte
Everetts



Pal
Gatluak



Jordan
Haddad



Jessica
Hardware



Gabriella
Hawksworth



Mitchell
James



Jayda
Joyce



Maxx
Kriv



Luca
Krstinic



Mia
Lee



Madison
Melder



James
Pegios



Sameh
Rezaie



Xavier
Robinette



Ivan
Tse

Not in picture

Eliyh Cooper, Bree Dows, Spencer Patrzalek, Diego Ponne Alibardi

Class 8B



Levi
Becker



Jeremy
Brown



Jake
Cain



Audrey
Coles



Chloe
Duncan



Sienna
Habib



Zara
Holmes



Lucas
Joy



Maria
Koutros-Vouvakis



Zoe
Koutros-Vouvakis



Hishan
Lokuliyana



Liam
Martin



Cooper
Mauger



Abigail
Mearns



Riley
Miles



Eliza
Nelson



Juliet
Nicholson



Adriano
Riveri



William
Savage



James
Stepney



Jessica
Taylor



Jacinta
Vathanavong



Matilda
Williamson

Not in picture

Makayla Maanaima, Christina Petris

Class 8C



Laura
Bui



Benjamin
Burridge



Zoe
Edwards



Paolo
Foti



Bowen
Hall



Alira
Hart



Hailey
Hunt



Saranya
Kasarla



Tilleyah
Nada



Parmiss
Nozohour



Zidane
Rashwan



Kye
Tasevski



Hannah
Tucker



Liam
Walsh



Jude
Wild



Isabelle
Williams



Noah
Woods

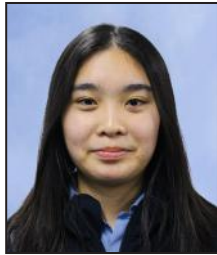
Not in picture

Meika Kensey, Mila Sehler, Mia Seymour

Class 8D



Nathan
Beecroft



Yu Shan
Chang



Melodie
Chung



Jade
Coxhead



Riley
Edwards



Bryce
Hunter



Raphaela
James



Riley
Johnsen



Hudson
Lazarou



Lexter
Li



Sophie
Lizza



Nicole
Loh



Alyssa
MacKintosh



Erica
Maruzza



Juliana
Ngo



Charlie
Phillips



Lola
Poletti



Daly
Richardson



Mohammad
Sabzi Vand

Not in picture

Taisheng Chen, Logan Hurle

Class 8E (RISE)



Magdalene
Arhuere



Benjamin
Brown



Evangelina
Davey



Connor
Dawe



Lana
Debski



Aarush
Gadda



Kai
Griffin



Sasen
Gunawardene



Amelie
Haesy



Olivia
Hor



William
Jones



Aayush
Patel



Elias
Petschel



Adaya
Phillips



William
Phillips



Sophie
Planck



Yasara
Senarathna



Milan
Stevanovic



Dante
Tavrou-Souglaris



Peyton
Tavrou-Souglaris



Kane
Teunissen



Ethan
Verstak



Joshua
Walker

Not in picture

Ameika Racioppo, Olivia Wono Utomo

Class 7A



Angelite
Benyhe Csuka



Elliana
Brodie



Mason
Cardamone



Addison
Dougan



Parastesh
Fayezi Zadeh



Tate
Ferguson



Thomas
Flogeras



Kaitlyn
Gilbert



Beshr
Habasch



Alice
Kelly



Mason
Kenny Hyde



Liam
Marshall



Charlotte
McLennan



Ethan
Nguyen



Olivia
Orford



Sashaangan
Pakeerathan



Kosta
Papageorgiou



Hope
Pollock



Daniela
Ponne Alibardi



Jaxon
Rathje



Sanmu
Sivakumar



Mia
Spencer



Zachary
Theofanis



Oscar
Visser

Not in picture

Autumn Cooper, Cara Doherty

Class 7B



Inuka
Abeyratne



Krishna
Ahilan



Brodie
Aumann



James
Caulfield



Matthew
D'Angelo



Dinaal
De Silva



Ana
Dimitrijevic



Roya
Farid



Luke
Fidgeon



Ella
Griffin



Jasper
Gulliver-Knevitt



Joshua
Larsson



Athena
Luxe



Joshua
McCole



Joseph
Munnings



Alexander
Peacock



Sophie
Pearce



Sienna
Scash



Ella
Simpson



Damsara
Suriyaarachchi



Kyle
Tucker



Ava
Unwin



Charlotte
Zeenni

Not in picture

Logan Kendrick, Hardik Sood

Class 7C



Kaiden
Appleby



Aisha
Basel



Anita
Bayat



Jack
Brown



Billie
Higgins



Alyssa
Horsnell



Baileigh
Kimber



Zimeng
Li



Siyao
Liu



Amelia
Lovett



Georgia
May



Jaxon
Millard



Aleeyah
Nash



Patris
Nozohour



Dean
Papandreou



Chloe
Pinkerton



Myah
Rhodes



Talia
Rose



Bree
Taylor



Lucy
Vallence



Raihan
Wali



Xiaochen
Wang



Kairi
Wiese

Class 7D



Anastasia
Abboud



Alara
Anderson



Caitlin
Caples



Lincoln
Hands



Katrina
Hubbard



Mia
Lawson



Miley
Lees



Evie
Lizza



Harper
Moloney



Cooper
O'Reilly



Oliver
Pearson



Bonita
Pinel



Daniel
Porcino



Noah
Ruse



Kye
Salter



Aimee
Simons



Ethan
Taptopulos-Kyriacou



Sophie
Taylor



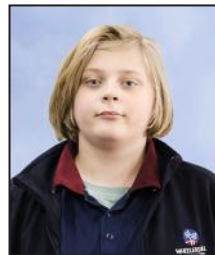
James
Thomas



Wiehann
Van Staden



Zachary
Visa



Blake
White



Ashane
Wijayasinghe



Marley
Wilmott



Alex
Zorian

Not in picture

Indiah Morris

Class 7E (RISE)



Naomi
Begley



Alyssa
Belakhov



Matthew
Bice



Samantha
Elford



Ilan
Engelbrecht



Rigo
Engelbrecht



Joshua
Francis



Fiona
Hardy



Ryder
Hart



Hayden
Hetherington



Tabitha
Hutman



Maddison
Kirk



Elli
Massalas



Cora
Mathys



Andrea
Miljanic



Dinadi
Nanayakkara



Kristina
Pelliccia



Maxwell
Stanguts



Hamish
Sulley



Kevin
Tittagala



Olivia
Whetstone



Ava
Williams



Amelia
Wilson

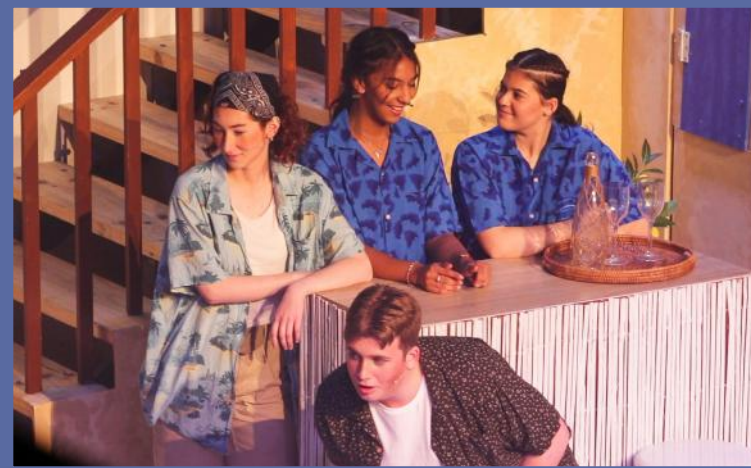


School Production: *Mamma Mia!*



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Behind the scenes:

Mamma Mia! Magic

The Cast	
Sophie Sheridan	Chloe Burley
	Sophia Sais
Donna Sheridan	Stef Treloar
	Teagan Okos
Sam Carmichael	Nicholas Hetherington
Bill Austin	Aziah Mathys
Harry Bright	Liam Teunissen
Tanya	Kaylee (KJ) Archbold
Rosie	Aria Small
Sky	Jackson Janevski
Ali	Mia Frazer
Lisa	Charlotte Abrehart
Pepper	Amy Parsons
Eddie	Lara Williams
Father Alexandrios	Milan Stevanovic
Dance Team	Mika Burgess
	Tilly Ferrier
	Amelie Haesy
	Natalia Mayo-Castro
	Abigail Mearns
	Amelia Wilson
Backing Vocals	Stella Aye Pe
	Jade Coxhead
	Isabelle Davies
	Nicola Footit
	Jayda Joyce
	Shanelle Langford
	Lilly McMullen
Ensemble	Emonefe Aruhere
	Ruby Balmer
	Naomi Begley
	Sophie Burton
	Molly Downie
	Chloe Duncan
	Starr Kendrick
	Cora Mathys

Ensemble	Ashlea Mauger
	Kira McMillan
	Shayley Nada
	Juliet Nicholson
	Ella Simpson
	Jessica Taylor
	Hannah Tucker
	Ava Williams
Creative Team	
Producer/Director	Mikayla Ellis
Musical Director	Damien Ryles
Assistant Director	Annie Stone
Vocal Coach	
Choreographer	Mia Frazer
	Mikayla Ellis
Set Design	Shay Coxhead
	Mikayla Ellis
Set Management and Construction	Nicholas Gramatakos
Lighting Design	Tomas Gerasimidis
Sound Design	Noah Fox
	David Gill
Costume Design and Sourcing	Lenny Parker
Costume Design and Sourcing	Mikayla Ellis
	Jackie Ellis
Props Design	Narelle Tabone (Graphic Attitude)
Rehearsal Pianist	Kirsty Mechielsen
Hair/Makeup	Lois Vanguardia
FOH Manager	Lois Vanguardia
Assistant Casting/Director	Melissa Robinson
Assistant Choreographer	Melita Sammut
AV Supervisor	David Gill
Marketing/Photography	Georgina Walton

Student Leaders	
Student Director	Kaylee (KJ) Archbold
Student Choreographer	Mia Frazer
Student Publicity Leader	Charlotte Abrehart
Lighting Leaders	Padmae Varnakulasingham Bailey Thomas
Sound Leader	Noah Fox
Stage Managers	Hannah Wright Jessica Footit Erin Freame
Makeup Leaders	Charlie Liberati Charlotte Fillingham
Props Leaders	Kayla Berwick Kelly Beal
Set Design Leader	Shay Coxhead
Costume Leader	Lenny Parker
The Band	
Musical Director	Damien Ryles
Keys	Kirsty Mechielsen Zac Jones Annie Stone
Guitar	Kaylee Hamilton Adriano Riveri
Bass	Alex Nash
Drums	Mathew Foo
Crew	
Stage Crew	Hannah Wright Jessica Footit Erin Freame TJ Cunningham Mitchell Peacock Charan Sivakumar Tabitha Hutman Melodie Chung Dinadi Nanayakkara Cooper Mauger Layla Wright
Props	Kayla Berwick Kelly Beal
Costumes	Lenny Parker Kristian Saldutto Alphie Hall

Sound	Noah Fox Benjamin Crawford Kayla Berwick
Lighting	Padmae Varnakulasingham Bailey Thomas Mya Khalil
AV Helpers	Kane Teunissen Hayden Hetherington
Ushers	Layla Wright Roselyn Kleinman Melodie Chung Kane Teunissen Hamish Sulley
Makeup	Charlie Liberati Charlotte Fillingham Rafaella Villegas
Set Design	Shay Coxhead Benjamin Craig Parmiss Nozohour Mia Seymour Jacinta Vathanavong Kristina Pelliccia Dinadi Nanayakkara Meika Kensey Kaylee (KJ) Archbold Chloe Burley
Parent Volunteers	
Kathryn Duncan	Susan Burley
Marlo Pearce	Emma Green
Jill Joyce	Leilani Burgess
Michelle Karton	Julie Janevski
Shannon Lee	Dennis Janevski



From Vision to Spotlight!

Shay Coxhead celebrates creativity, dedication, and the journey to the stage!

The magic of *Mamma Mia!* began long before the curtains opened! Our talented cast dedicated their Tuesdays and Thursdays to spirited rehearsals, while our amazing crew worked tirelessly behind the scenes, crafting everything from stunning sets and costumes to dazzling lighting and sound. And let us not forget the band, who fine-tuned their skills to bring the iconic ABBA soundtrack to life! With dedicated staff cheering them on at every rehearsal, the stage was set for an unforgettable performance that left everyone wanting more.

Both closing nights were filled with emotion, with songs like "The Winner Takes It All" and "I Have a Dream" bringing tears to the eyes of the cast, crew, and audience alike. The final performance was a true celebration of everyone's hard work—from the tireless parent volunteers who helped bring the design crew's vision to life, to the Year 12 students taking their final bow, and the Year 7 rising stars just beginning their performing arts journey.

Several special awards were presented to recognise outstanding contributions:

Sixer Award: Honouring Year 12 students who have been involved in every production during their six years at the school. This year's recipients:

- Sophia Sais
- Aria Small
- Mia Frazer
- Shay Coxhead

Harmony Award: Previously the 'Team Choice Award,' this is given to a student who exemplifies the core qualities of a production member—supportive, hardworking, humble, and committed. This year's winner:

- Mia Frazer

Rising Star Award: Voted on by Year 12s, this award goes to a Year 7 student who shows exceptional promise. This year's recipient:

- Ella Simpson

Director's Choice Award: Presented by the Student Director to a production member who displays outstanding dedication, potential, and leadership across all areas of the show. This year's award went to:

- Nicholas Hetherington

Backstage Award: Given to crew members who demonstrated exceptional teamwork, motivation, and responsibility behind the scenes. This year's honourees:

- Tabitha Hutman
- Cooper Mauger

A heartfelt congratulations to everyone involved! Your dedication and hard work have truly brought this production to life, creating an unforgettable experience for all. A special thank you to the staff and parents whose time and energy were invaluable—this show would not have been possible without your support. To our Year 12 students, thank you for your years of commitment; we wish you all the best in your future endeavours. And to the next generation of production stars, we eagerly await the incredible talent you will bring to the stage in the years to come!



Memories and Musings

"My roles in the 2024 production of *Mamma Mia!* included being the Student Director and playing Tanya. My favourite part of the entire process was the rehearsal phase—watching everyone master new choreography, harmonies, and form friendships was the highlight for me. The performance season was a thrill of its own. There's nothing quite like the energy of performing in front of a live audience, and as Student Director, I had the privilege of seeing some of the completed numbers before anyone else. Balancing Year 12 responsibilities with learning lines and coursework was definitely a challenge, but the incredible support from teachers made it manageable. To anyone considering joining the school production, I say go for it! You'll make new friends, gain invaluable experiences, and have an unforgettable time."

Kaylee (KJ) Archbold, Student Director & Performer (Tanya)

"In this year's *Mamma Mia!* production, I took on the role of Costume Leader and also helped with props and set painting. The highlight for me was designing and creating costumes, especially with the help of the volunteer moms. Special shoutout to Miss Ellis's mum, who hand-crafted

some of the pieces—she's an absolute legend! Managing the chaos backstage during performances, especially quick changes and keeping the boys' changing rooms in order, was a unique challenge. But despite the demands of Year 12, I'd do it all over again in a heartbeat. It was an amazing experience that not only strengthened friendships but also allowed me to work with talented performers and designers. Even if you prefer to stay out of the spotlight like I do, I highly recommend getting involved backstage—you won't regret it!"

Lenny Parker, Student Leader of Costume Design

"Being the Student Set Designer for *Mamma Mia!* was such a rewarding experience. From brainstorming ideas to bringing the set to life, I felt fully supported by both the staff and students throughout the process. It was incredible to be part of rehearsals, to witness the hard work of the cast and crew up close, and to watch the magic unfold both from behind the scenes and as part of the audience. This marks my sixth and final production at Wheelers Hill, and I will always treasure these memories. I hope future students embrace the opportunity to be involved in any way they can because productions like this are truly unforgettable."

Shay Coxhead, Student Set Designer



The Heart of the Ensemble

Phyllis Chee and Jacinta Wilson interview select cast members of *Mamma Mia!* as they reflect on bringing their characters to life, crafting a story rich in love, laughter, and unforgettable moments.

Sophie Sheridan – A Quest for Identity

Sophia Sais and Chloe Burley dive into the nuances of playing Sophie, a young woman searching for her true self.



Sophia Sais
Sophie Sheridan



Chloe Burley
Sophie Sheridan

Sophie is full of dreams and curiosity. How do you bring her youthful energy and optimism to life on stage?

Sophia: I brought Sophie's youthful energy and optimism to life on stage by using lively body language and a bright, bubbly voice. I emphasised her feminine and young presence with a sweet tone and energetic gestures, ensuring her vibrant spirit shone through every moment of the show.

Chloe: It was always quite easy for me to adopt Sophie's youthful energy as I feel that I had that in myself already. On stage, I amplified my own personality and channelled the excitement and thrill I experienced about the show into Sophie's character.

Sophie's search for identity is central to the story. How do you navigate her journey of self-discovery?

Sophia: I explored Sophie's journey of self-discovery through her evolving interactions with those around her. Initially determined to find her father, she ultimately finds joy in having all three potential dads in her life. This newfound comfort allows her to cancel the wedding she once desired, as she embraces her identity and experiences life fully, realising she doesn't need to rush into any major decisions just yet.

Chloe: Having grown up loving *Mamma Mia!*, I watched the movies and the musical numerous times before we began working on the show. This deep familiarity with

Sophie's journey helped me portray her character in a way that prepared her for her final destination and guided her through her self-discovery.

Which scene or song do you think best captures Sophie's character, and what do you enjoy most about performing it?

Sophia: I believe the song "The Name of the Game" best captures Sophie's character as she desperately pleads with one of her potential fathers, Bill, to acknowledge his role as her dad. This moment highlights that Sophie is not just bubbly and excitable, but also a complex character filled with concerns, conflicts, and strong desires. Performing "The Name of the Game" was particularly special to me; it allowed me to explore a more desperate and emotional side of Sophie, creating a richer character and providing a greater challenge to my acting skills.

Chloe: The song that I believe best captures Sophie's character is definitely "I Have a Dream." Its lyrics reflect Sophie's inner driving force—her curiosity and desire for exploration. I loved performing this song because it didn't involve any flashy dance moves, which allowed the focus to remain on the music and let me fully express the emotions beneath the surface.

Sophie has beautiful relationships with her mother and her friends. How do you approach these connections in your performance?

Sophia: During the rehearsal period, I collaborated closely with the actors playing Donna, Ali, and Lisa, which helped foster strong chemistry and friendships among us. These connections enabled me to portray authentic relationships in the musical, as my peers and I felt comfortable working and acting together. I emphasised Sophie's bonds with these characters by expressing her close connections through eye contact, physical touch, and a genuine rapport with both the actors and their characters.

Chloe: The production cast is a tight-knit group, and before the performance, I had already formed strong bonds with all my cast mates, especially those portraying characters close to Sophie. On stage, I drew on the love I felt for them to authentically portray the relationships Sophie shares with these characters.

Are there any aspects of Sophie's personality or journey that you personally relate to? How did that influence your portrayal?

Sophia: Like Sophie, I share a curious and energetic personality, which greatly influenced my portrayal of her character. I focused on ensuring she came across as youthful and bubbly, reflecting how I would act in similar

circumstances. This connection allowed me to tap into her emotions and motives, helping me to portray her in a way that feels authentic and relatable.

Chloe: I relate to Sophie's personality in many ways, particularly her adventurous spirit, curiosity, and, most importantly, her love for music. Recognising these aspects of myself helped me connect with the character on a deeper level, allowing my own traits to shine through and enabling me to create a more three-dimensional portrayal of Sophie.

What has been your biggest takeaway from playing Sophie in *Mamma Mia!*?

Sophia: My biggest takeaway from playing Sophie in *Mamma Mia!* is that developing my own interpretation of a character is more important than mimicking past actors in the role. This approach allowed me to bring a fresh perspective to Sophie and provided me with opportunities to analyse her intentions, beliefs, and values, ultimately leading me to create my own version of her. Through this experience, Sophie has taught me the importance of not rushing into decisions as I have my whole life ahead of me and should focus on living in the present without worrying about the future just yet.

Chloe: Playing the role of Sophie has been a long-held dream of mine, even before it was announced as our 2024 production. The biggest takeaway for me is the unforgettable experience itself, which I will cherish forever. It still thrills me to think that I had the opportunity to portray Sophie on stage in front of incredible audiences, and I will always be grateful for that chance.

Donna Sheridan – A Journey of Strength and Soul

Teagan Okos shares the emotional depth and resilience required to bring Donna Sheridan to life.



Teagan Okos
Donna Sheridan

How do you relate to Donna's character, and what aspects of her personality resonate with you?

I relate to Donna because she is hardworking, determined, loving, and gracious. Her kindness and selflessness are

qualities I strive to embody every day. Donna's tendency to stress about everything is also incredibly relatable. It was easy to portray her scenes of panic over changes or issues she couldn't resolve, as I often react in the same way!

Donna is such a strong, independent character. How do you prepare to portray her emotional journey throughout the musical?

Donna was a challenging character to prepare for. It took a considerable amount of time and effort to determine how to portray her, and it wasn't until a few weeks before the show that I felt completely confident in my interpretation. I infused all my own emotions into Donna, striving to understand what she must have been feeling in each moment, and I gave my all on stage. I found myself becoming emotional each night while singing "Slipping Through My Fingers" and "The Winner Takes It All," simply because the acting in those scenes was so emotionally charged.

What is your favourite song to perform as Donna, and why?

My favourite song to perform as Donna was "The Winner Takes It All." It was such an emotional piece. I felt so deeply while singing it, and I don't think I will ever forget that feeling. I will always cherish singing this song, and I am incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to perform it on stage.

Donna has a complex relationship with her daughter and the three potential fathers. How do you approach these dynamics on stage?

I approached these on-stage relationships differently for each character. For instance, Sophia (Sophie) and I are best friends in real life, so everything felt natural between us. We communicated and shared thoughts about our scenes, allowing everything to flow smoothly. We embraced vulnerability on stage, which helped us explore emotional opportunities that made our character interactions more realistic. Regarding the dads, particularly Nick (Sam), there were more intense scenes involving yelling and conflict. I communicated with Nick about how I would portray those moments, ensuring I didn't catch him off guard. We rehearsed rigorously and established boundaries that we both respected. Ultimately, our characters complemented each other well, and it was a joy working with him.



Can you share a memorable moment or challenge you faced while playing Donna?

A memorable moment I think about fondly is singing, "Slipping through my fingers," with Sophia (Sophie) on the closing night of *Mamma Mia!* This moment is dear to my heart, as it was my last time performing with my best friend.



Mamma Mia! is a musical filled with iconic ABBA songs. Do you have a favourite song that Donna performs or is part of, and why?

I absolutely loved the scene featuring "One of Us" and "SOS." "SOS" has always been my favourite ABBA song, and it was my favourite from the first time I watched *Mamma Mia!* I was beyond ecstatic when we began learning the choreography and harmonies for "SOS." "One of Us" was the only song I wasn't familiar with before taking on the role of Donna. Although it's my shortest song, it's the one that has stayed with me the most. So much emotion—sadness and a hint of anger—was infused into that piece. Looking out from the balcony, I became deeply immersed in the character, and I still feel that same connection when I listen to it now. Interestingly, when performing in a musical, you can quickly grow tired of certain songs, but "One of Us" is the only one I can still enjoy listening to.

Sam Carmichael – The Architect of Love

Nicholas Hetherington reflects on playing Sam, the character who blends passion with a past full of secrets.



Nicholas Hetherington
Sam Carmichael

Sam is one of the potential fathers with a deep connection to Donna. How do you convey their past and unresolved feelings in your performance?

In many of the interactions between Donna and Sam, I aimed to portray Sam as more playful around Donna, illustrating his attempts to reignite the spark they once shared. I wanted to convey that he still had feelings for her after all these years.

Sam's character evolves throughout the story. How do you show his growth and transformation?

To demonstrate Sam's transformation, I portray him taking on more responsibility in an effort to prove himself to both Donna and Sophie, showing that he can be a good father and husband. When he realises that Sophie may be his daughter, he actively seeks to spend more time with her and offers valuable advice to support her. Additionally, he shows a heightened interest in the events around the taverna and the wedding, striving to embody a sense of responsibility. This journey of growth is central to Sam's character throughout the story.

"SOS" is a pivotal moment for Sam. How do you approach performing such an emotional number?

I think for "SOS" it was important to convey his heartbreak and to illustrate how long he has had these emotions pent up. I aimed to balance sadness with frustration to capture the complexity of what he was feeling—sad that he and Donna weren't on the same page, and frustrated that she couldn't see he was trying to express that he still had feelings for her. By portraying these different emotions, I believe it added greater depth to both the song and the scene.

How do you balance Sam's serious side with the light-heartedness of the musical?

To balance Sam's serious side with the light-heartedness of the musical, I focused more on his lighter aspects. This approach allowed me to align better with the overall tone of the show. By emphasising these qualities, I made Sam a more relatable character, helping the audience connect with his intentions more easily.

What has been your favourite part of portraying Sam in *Mamma Mia!*?

My favourite part of portraying Sam in *Mamma Mia!* was the opportunity to interpret his character in my own unique way. I loved infusing various emotions into different scenes, allowing me to connect deeply with the role and convey the complexity of his journey.

Bill Austin – Embracing Adventure and Heart

Discover how Aziah Mathys channels Bill's free-spirited nature and love for life on stage.



Aziah Mathys
Bill Austin

Bill brings humour and warmth to the story. How do you infuse your performance with these qualities?

Playing Bill was immensely enjoyable. I concentrated on showcasing his humour and warmth, ensuring that his funny lines and playful nature stood out to create laughs and connect with the audience. Additionally, I aimed to reveal his caring side, ensuring that his jokes felt genuine and that his affection for others was clearly conveyed.

Bill's adventurous spirit contrasts with some of the other characters. How do you make him stand out while fitting into the ensemble?

Bill's adventurous and easy-going personality certainly makes him a memorable character. To highlight these traits while integrating into the ensemble, I focused on embracing the fun and silliness of Bill. During ensemble-heavy numbers, I ensured my presence was noticeable without overshadowing the scene. By staying true to Bill's character while collaborating with the rest of the cast, I aimed to create a balance that showcased his uniqueness while enhancing the overall performance.

Which scene do you find most challenging or rewarding to perform as Bill?

Performing "Take a Chance on Me" with Rosie was both the most challenging and rewarding aspect of the show for me. This scene centred entirely on our performances, requiring meticulous attention to blocking and our individual parts. The lifts, movement across the stage, and precise timing presented a real challenge, but it was also immensely rewarding. I cherished how this scene allowed us to showcase our talents, both individually and as a duo, making it a standout moment in my experience as Bill.

How do you approach Bill's relationship with Donna and Sophie, given the uncertainty of his paternal role?

Bill's relationship with Donna and Sophie was intriguing to explore. His uncertainty about his role as a father and fear of being involved in Sophie's life allowed me to portray his genuine effort to reconnect and be supportive, while also highlighting his hesitance, particularly leading up to the wedding scene. I emphasised his care for Donna and the joy he felt at the prospect of Sophie being his daughter, but he grappled with the unfamiliarity of parenthood, which contributed to his growing anxiety.

Can you share a moment from your time on the show that particularly resonates with you?

Closing night truly stands out for me. It was an incredible evening filled with a mix of emotions. While we were all celebrating the success of the show, there was also a palpable sadness as we realised it was the end of our journey together. After the final curtain, we were all crying and hugging, saying our goodbyes. That moment made us feel like a real family, which is what I love most about being in a production. It's about coming together to create something amazing, and that night encapsulated that spirit perfectly.

Harry Bright – The Charming Nostalgic

Liam Teunissen reveals the joy of embodying Harry, a character torn between past memories and present choices.



Liam Teunissen
Harry Bright

Harry is a character with a unique charm and a surprising past. How do you capture his essence on stage?

To capture Harry's unique charm on stage, I focused on his physicality and presence. When Harry first arrives in Kalokairi, I depicted him as someone who still carries the essence of Bloomsbury, UK, in the way he walks and holds himself. However, when he sees Donna, there's a shift in his demeanor as he reconnects with the memories of his past. This contrast highlights both his charm and the depth of his character, showcasing the journey he undergoes throughout the story.

Harry's personality has both serious and playful aspects. How do you balance these traits in your portrayal?

Balancing Harry's serious and playful traits was an important focus for me during the rehearsal period. I found that portraying his serious side came more naturally, as there were plenty of opportunities to showcase that aspect of his personality. However, bringing out Harry's playful side was more challenging due to fewer moments to express it. By the end of the rehearsal period, I had finally figured out how to effectively balance both traits, allowing for a more refined portrayal of Harry.

What do you find most rewarding about playing Harry in *Mamma Mia!*?

The most rewarding aspect of playing Harry in *Mamma Mia!* is putting on the Waterloo suit and seeing the audience rise to their feet, joining us in the celebration as we party on stage. It's a fantastic feeling to connect with everyone and share that joyous energy!

How has playing Harry influenced your own perspective on life and relationships?

Playing Harry has influenced my perspective on life and relationships by showing me that even someone with a high-powered job and a seemingly perfect life can embrace spontaneity and adventure. Harry's decision to drop everything and travel to a Greek island after receiving a letter from a former lover highlights the importance of being open to the unexpected. It reminds me that life is about more than just responsibilities; it's also about connecting with people and being willing to explore the deeper meanings behind our relationships.

Tanya – The Bold and Fabulous

Kaylee (KJ) Archbold discusses the thrill of portraying Tanya, a role full of sass, wit, and unshakeable confidence.



Kaylee (KJ) Archbold
Tanya

Tanya is known for her glamorous and confident personality. How do you balance the fun and flirty aspects of your character with the moments that show her depth and vulnerability?

Balancing Tanya's fun and flirty side with her deeper moments is all about understanding her past. Tanya employs her glamour and wit as a defence mechanism to shield herself from the struggles she faced in her younger years. When I portrayed Tanya, I focused on highlighting those instances where her guard drops—whether in her interactions with Donna and Rosie or during a brief moment of reflection.

Your character has some memorable one-liners and scenes. Which moment in the show do you enjoy performing the most, and why?

One of my favourite moments is performing "Chiquitita." It's a moving scene where Tanya, alongside Rosie, comforts Donna when she's feeling low. I cherish this moment because it reveals a softer, more nurturing side of Tanya. It allows for a deeper connection with Donna and highlights the strength of their friendship, as well as Tanya and Rosie's ability to uplift their friend. The song itself is beautiful, and performing it always feels like a special moment of genuine care and support among the friends.

Tanya has a strong friendship with Donna and Rosie. How do you bring that dynamic to life on stage?

I discovered that the key to portraying the dynamic between Tanya, Rosie, and Donna is chemistry and trust. During our downtime off stage, the three of us spent a lot of time together, building rapport so that it felt genuine on stage. In rehearsals, we concentrated on our timing, banter, and the little things—like shared glances or inside jokes—that make the friendship feel real.

Tanya has had multiple marriages in her backstory. How do you think these experiences shape her view on love and relationships in the show?

Tanya is experienced enough to know what she wants and doesn't want, and she is definitely more guarded. However, she hasn't entirely given up on love. I think her experiences lend her a logical approach to relationships, yet there remains a flicker of hope within her that, perhaps, she might find something lasting.

The role of Tanya often comes with a lot of humour. How do you ensure that the comedy lands with the audience while staying true to the character?

For me, timing is everything in comedy, but it must also come from an honest place. Tanya's humour is rooted in her personality—she's quick-witted and a bit of a diva, which is all part of her charm. I aim to strike a balance between exaggeration and subtlety. This approach ensures that the jokes feel natural and true to who she is, rather than merely playing for laughs.

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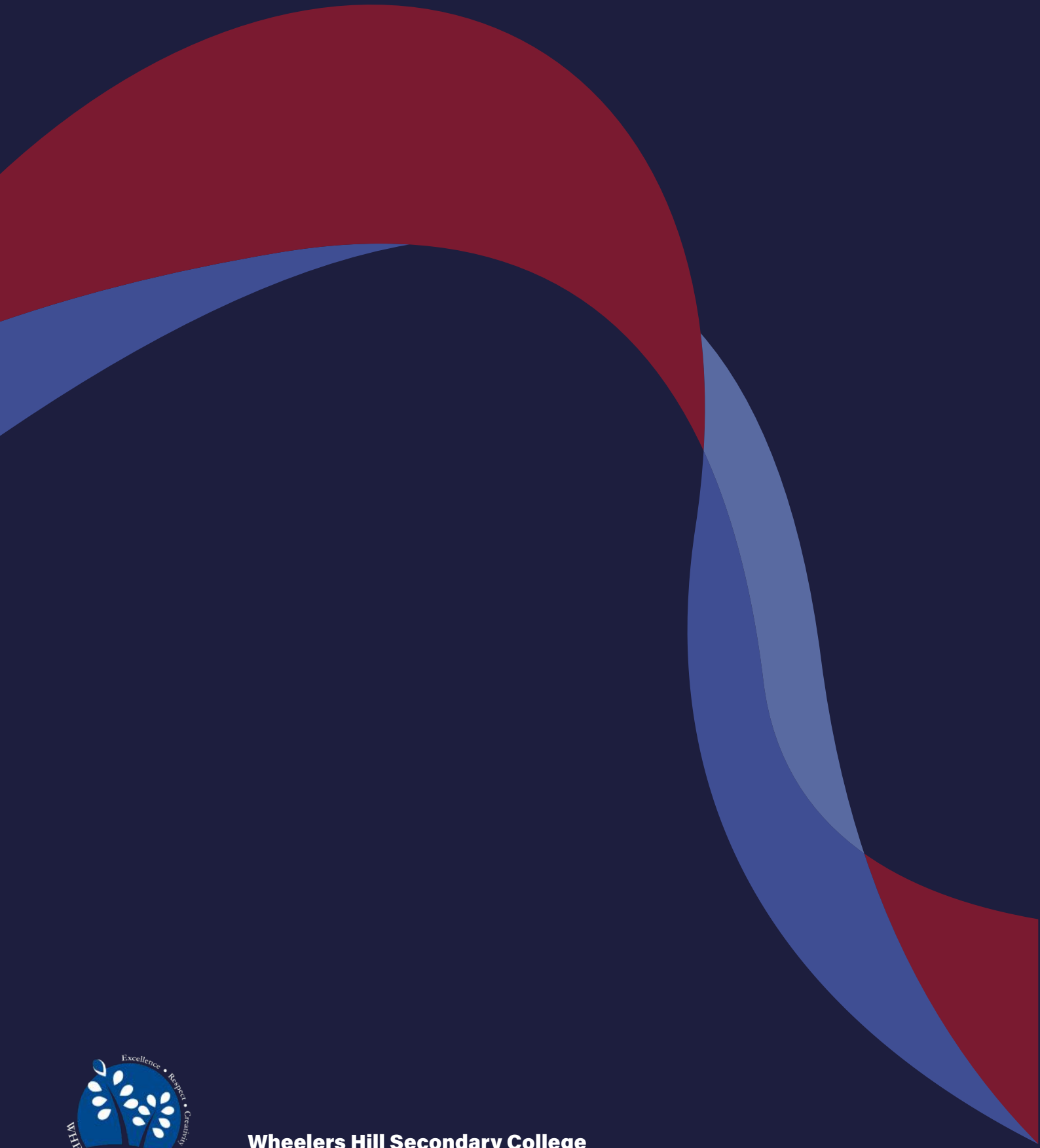
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