

# NEWSLETTER ISSUE 86



## Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Students, and Staff,

As we are coming to the close of another remarkable school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on all we have accomplished together and express my heartfelt gratitude to the staff, students and parents.

This year our students have shown incredible perseverance and enthusiasm in their learning. It has been truly inspiring to see how they've adapted, engaged, and thrived both in the classroom and with their extracurricular activities. Their curiosity, creativity, and passion for learning continue to impress and motivate us.

I would also like to acknowledge our exceptional teachers and staff who have worked tirelessly to create a nurturing and dynamic learning environment. Their commitment to excellence, innovation, and the well-being of our students has been unwavering. A special thank you goes to our parents whose support and collaboration are essential in creating a strong partnership between home and school.

To all staff, students and parents I wish you all a wonderful holiday. I look forward to welcoming everyone back in 2025.

Irfan Afzal  
Principal

## Hadith

قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم  
نعمتان مغبون فيهما كثير من الناس: الصحة والفراغ

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:

"There are two blessings which many people waste: health and free time."

(Sahih Al-Bukhari)

Assalaam Alaikum wrwb.

As the year draws to a close, we reflect on the invaluable blessings of health and free time, as highlighted by our beloved Prophet ﷺ.

These holidays are a golden opportunity for students and families to recharge spiritually and physically. Encourage your children to balance relaxation with acts of worship, such as offering prayers, reading the Quran, and helping others. Let us utilise our time to nurture gratitude, strengthen family bonds, and draw closer to Allah.

May we all make the most of these blessings and start the new year with renewed faith and purpose. Jazakumullahu Khayr

Abdullah Hakeem  
WGS Head of Islamic Affairs



# Kindy Orientation



In Week 7, WGS held two Kindergarten orientation sessions, which offered both parents and new learners a warm introduction to our school. The day included an informative session for parents, while our young learners engaged in fun activities.

During the orientation, the new students had the chance to participate in a range of fun and interactive activities aimed at creating a positive connection with school life. They enjoyed story time, Islamic studies, and developmental play, both indoors and outdoors. The activities were designed to help them become familiar with the WGS atmosphere and routines while also giving them a glimpse of the interactions and experiences they can expect as kindergarteners.

The parent session was led by a team of school leaders, including Deputy Principal Mr. Malik, Primary Coordinator Ms. Osta, Wellbeing Coordinator Ms. Saamiya, and Kindergarten teacher Ms. Aiesha Faytrouni. The session provided valuable insights and strategies to help parents support their child's transition to school. Topics included an overview of the school's Islamic program, wellbeing program and the various support systems in place for students. It also provided key expectations for Kindergarten readiness, helping parents better understand how to prepare their children for the school year. At the conclusion of the session, parents received helpful handouts and essential Get Reading Right resources to continue practicing at home with their children.

We look forward to welcoming all our new Kindergarten students and their families to WGS in 2025. We're excited to start this journey together and can't wait to see their children work, grow and succeed.

Faten Osta  
Head of Primary





# Kindy Recap of the year



What a wonderful year it has been for our little graduates! Watching them grow and flourish in their first year of school has been an absolute joy, and I couldn't be prouder of all that they have achieved.

This year, Kindergarten has made remarkable progress in learning new phonemes and words, which has been a strong foundation for their reading and writing. In Maths, they explored exciting concepts through hands-on learning experiences that brought numbers and problem-solving to life.

Through HSIE, Science, and PDH, they played, shared, and learned from each other's experiences, fostering a sense of curiosity and collaboration. One of the highlights of the year was their excursions to the farm and the zoo, where they met furry friends and learned fascinating facts about animals. These adventures brought their learning to life and created lasting memories.

Our Kindergartners also enthusiastically participated in various school activities, which added excitement and joy to their year. It has truly been a pleasure to witness their enthusiasm, resilience, and love for learning.

Here's to our amazing little graduates—  
congratulations on a fantastic year!

Ms Aiesha  
Kindergarten Teacher





# Crocs Playcentre



Excitement was in the air as our Year 1 students set off for their highly anticipated excursion to Crocs Playcentre. From the moment they stepped through the vibrant entrance, their faces lit up with joy and curiosity, ready for a day filled with fun, exploration, and learning.

The playcentre offered a variety of engaging activities designed to spark creativity, teamwork, and motor skill development. From the multi-level climbing structures to the thrilling slides, every corner of Crocs became a playground for adventure.

Throughout the day, the students demonstrated excellent behavior and collaboration as they navigated obstacle courses, built friendships, and cheered each other on.

It was a wonderful day for all, and we look forward to more opportunities for hands-on learning and fun filled exploration!

Ms Sanjana  
Head of Learning Support  
Year 1 Teacher





# Year 6 Graduation



The Year 6 Graduation marks a significant milestone as our students bid farewell to primary school and embark on the next chapter of their educational journey. This event celebrates their growth, resilience, and accomplishments over the years.

We are incredibly proud of the dedication, curiosity, and determination our Year 6 students have demonstrated. Graduation night not only honoured their achievements but also reflected on the cherished memories, friendships, and lessons that have shaped their primary school experience.

A heartfelt thank you to our teachers, staff, and families for their unwavering support in guiding these young learners. We pray for the continued success of each student as they step into high school with confidence and hope.

Congratulations, Year 6—this is just the beginning of a bright future!

Riane Ali  
Year 6 Teacher





# ISD Volleyball



The ISD Volleyball competition marked an exciting finale to our 2024 sports season.

Our volleyball team, comprising of 10 talented players and supported by 3 dedicated staff members, represented WGS with outstanding teamwork and spirit. Whether they were competing on the court, cheering on teammates, or recording plays for post-match reviews, every student played a vital role. Additionally, our players stepped up to referee other games, embodying the true spirit of sportsmanship.

While we didn't clinch the championship, we celebrated a hard-fought victory in one match and gave the eventual winners a run for their money. It's impressive to see how far this team has come in just six months of learning the sport. They executed excellent passes, spikes, and blocks—even against older and taller opponents—showcasing their resilience and dedication. The ISD competition was not just about volleyball but also a testament to the success of WGS students across various sports this year.

We're grateful for our growing community of athletes and the incredible support from our sponsors, which has been pivotal in our achievements. With such dedication and enthusiasm, 2024 has set the foundation for even greater victories in the years to come!

Captain Khan  
Visual Arts and PDHPE Teacher





# Grand Canyon Hike



Our Grand Canyon Hike with Years 7, 8, 9, and 12 was a fantastic experience that combined stunning natural beauty with the joy of seeing students engage with the environment outside the classroom.

The day began with a slight hiccup as we faced a delay with the bus in the morning. Once the bus arrived, excitement filled the air, and we set off for the Grand Canyon.

When we arrived, the spectacular scenery captivated everyone. The hike was challenging yet rewarding, with students of all year groups supporting each other through the more demanding parts of the trail. The blend of lush vegetation, dramatic cliffs, and serene waterfalls made it a truly immersive experience.

Unfortunately, due to the bus delay, we had to forgo our meal at Rashays and instead returned to school for lunch.

Despite the minor setbacks, the excursion was a great success. It was wonderful to see students from different year levels bond, work together, and appreciate the natural world. The day highlighted the resilience, adaptability, and spirit of our school, making it a truly memorable event for all involved.

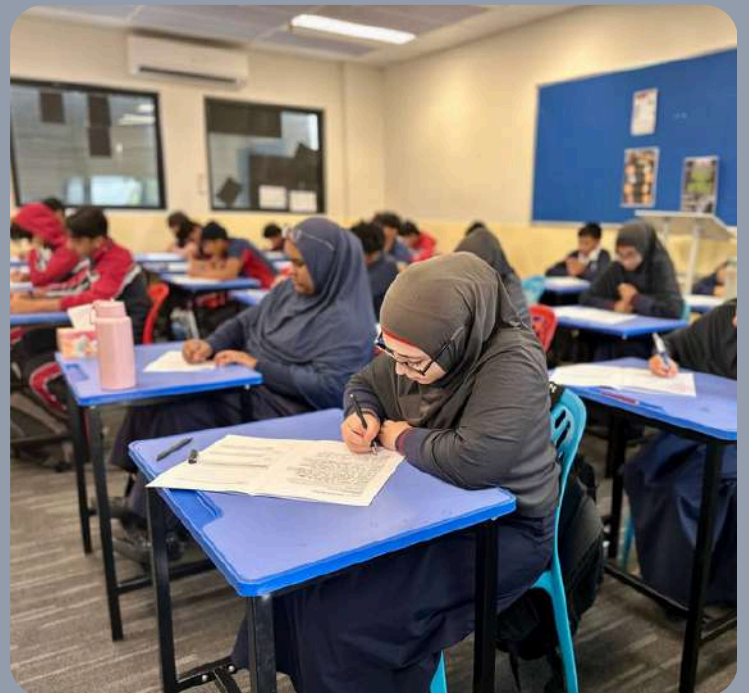
We pray to Allah that he grants us many more experiences like this one in the future, Inshallah.

Mr Hamid  
Highschool Teacher





# Yearly Exams



Alhamdulillah, Western Grammar's High School students completed Yearly Examinations earlier this term. These exams provide students important opportunities to demonstrate their learning through Semester 2, and they are also invaluable tools for teachers in seeking to understand the strengths and challenges of each and every student.

The examinations were held under strict conditions to ensure that they provided an accurate reflection of student performance. It is valuable for students to experience situations where guidelines must be observed, as they can draw life lessons from such realities that will assist them in coping with future demands, both inside and outside of school contexts.

Overall, the examinations were a success and students were able to showcase their learnings through them. We also thank all parents for their support and assistance with their child/rens' studies.

Mr Qureshi  
Head of English and PDHPE



# HSC Kickstart Biology Excursion- Sydney University

We are excited to share the highlights of our recent trip to the prestigious University of Sydney with our Year 12 Biology students. This enriching experience was designed to deepen their understanding of Module 5: Heredity, and Module 6: Genetic Change.

Our visit took us to the university's state-of-the-art biology laboratory, where students had the unique opportunity to observe real-world genetic research in progress. They worked alongside expert scientists and researchers conducting experiments that explored the complexities of heredity and genetic variation.

Guided by PhD students from the university, our students actively engaged in hands-on activities, with many expressing awe at the advanced technology in the DNA sequencing facility. They were particularly fascinated by the processes of DNA extraction, amplification, and sequencing, gaining a profound appreciation for the molecular mechanisms driving genetic change.

This experience not only enriched their understanding of genetics but also inspired a greater enthusiasm for scientific discovery, leaving them with lasting memories and a deeper connection to the field of biology.

Ms Yasmin  
Biology Teacher





# Highlights from the Library



As Term 4 comes to a close, we're delighted to share some of the exciting highlights and achievements from the library this term. It's been a dynamic and productive period filled with creativity, learning, and collaboration.

This term, the library was a hub of activity, hosting a range of events that brought together students and staff. A standout moment was our annual Book Fair, which enjoyed a record-breaking turnout and showcased the school's growing enthusiasm for reading. We also proudly launched the 'Premier Reading Challenge' program, which saw younger students excel by completing most of the book list and earning Gold certificates. Hundreds of other participants were recognized with participation certificates. This initiative not only enhanced literacy skills but also fostered mentorship and deeper connections within our school community.

Additionally, the library experienced a significant increase in book checkouts this term, reflecting the rising passion for reading among our students. We expanded our digital library collection as well, making e-books and audiobooks more accessible than ever. Our Year 12 students embraced the library as their go-to study space during study periods, making it one of the busiest and most vibrant areas of the school. Looking ahead, we're excited to build on this momentum in the coming term. Expect more engaging programs, new book arrivals, and opportunities to connect through the shared love of reading.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our library. Together, we're nurturing a space where imagination and learning flourish.

Rozina Qazi  
Librarian



# End of Year Assembly



Alhamdulillah, Western Grammar School successfully held the 2024 End of Year Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, 11th December. Despite last-minute venue changes due to maintenance issues at the hired hall in Blacktown, we adapted seamlessly by hosting the event in our school hall. We sincerely thank our parents and guardians for their patience and understanding with this adjustment.

The ceremony was a moment of celebration and achievement, comprising six sessions, including a memorable kindergarten graduation. It was heartwarming to see the enthusiasm and pride among students, parents, and staff.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all award recipients and commend the entire WGS student body for their accomplishments this year. May Allah continue to bless their efforts, and we look forward to another year of growth and success in 2025, insh'Allah.

Mr Hakeem  
Head of Islamic Affairs



