FAIRBRIDGE
COLLEGE

PINJARRA

NEWSLETTER
TERM 1
2025

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From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Fairbridge Community Members,

Welcome back! Term 1 at Fairbridge College has kicked off with a real sense of drive and excitement. It's been a dynamic start to the 2025 school year, packed with engaging activities and solid achievements.

A key feature of this term has been our excellent partnership with the Fairbridge Activities Team. Our students have thrown themselves into some great outdoor challenges, including snorkelling explorations, kayaking expeditions, and testing their mettle on the ropes courses. These activities have not only been a blast but have also built teamwork, resilience, and a genuine connection with our local environment.

The energy in our music department has been fantastic. Our music team, Ben and Dave, are doing a top job in nurturing a new wave of musical talent. It's been impressive to see the enthusiasm as students develop their skills. On top of that, they've introduced the practical and engaging world of podcasting, giving our students some valuable new communication tools.

We've made sure to provide plenty of opportunities for students and staff to connect outside the classroom through various outdoor pursuits. These shared experiences are crucial for building strong bonds and a supportive college environment. We're geared up for a strong continuation of this throughout the remaining three terms.

A significant achievement this term was our successful charity swim. The commitment shown by both students and staff in putting in the laps for a good cause was outstanding. It really highlighted the strong community spirit we have here at Fairbridge.

Our college community is growing with the addition of some new, skilled staff members. While we welcome them, we've also said farewell to some departing colleagues who are heading off on new ventures. We thank them for their contributions and wish them well in their future endeavours.

Our students deserve serious recognition for their role in fostering and maintaining a positive and safe atmosphere for everyone. Their respect and support for one another are commendable, and we'll continue to champion this throughout the year.

Keep an eye out for an invite to a community barbeque early next term – a great chance to connect and catch up.

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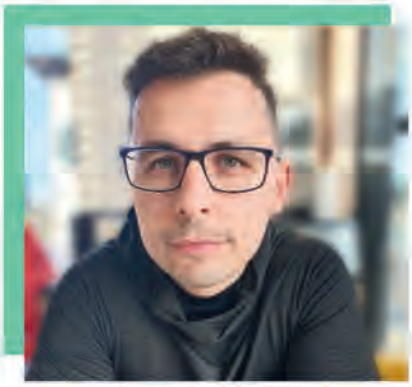
We're also looking forward to hosting an evening event next term to showcase our Cockatoo Project. Our students and staff have been working hard this term with environmental filmmaker Michelle Dado to produce a short documentary on our own environmental initiative. We're keen to share their hard work and successes with you.

As Principal, I'm genuinely impressed by the drive, involvement, and accomplishments of our students and staff this term. We're looking forward to building on this strong foundation in the terms ahead.

John Pearson

Peter's Paddling, Punting, and Progress



Reading, Resilience, and Really Fast Ziplining!

This term in TAG8 has been an absolute rollercoaster – minus the tracks and plus a whole lot of kayaking, swimming, and brainpower. Our Year 7 and 8 students have smashed their goals (and a few soccer balls into the bush) while building skills that will stick with them long after the term ends.

In the classroom, we've worked hard in **English**, sharpening our **reading comprehension** skills with texts that made us think, question, and sometimes argue (in a good way). In **Maths**, we've tackled problems with determination and more than a few "aha!" moments. Whether we're adding fractions or figuring out percentages, we've been stretching our minds and giving our calculators a run for their money.

Life Skills has been all about the big stuff – real-life conversations and learning that matters. We've talked about **addictive substances**, how they affect the body and mind, and how to make strong, informed choices. We've also focused on **building resilience** – learning how to bounce back from challenges, stay calm under pressure, and support each other when things get tough. Serious topics, but tackled with maturity and curiosity (and the occasional awkward giggle – we are still human).

Outside the classroom, it's been go go go. We absolutely dominated **Laps for Life**, swimming to raise awareness and funds for youth suicide prevention. And let's be clear – TAG8 can SWIM. We're not just dog-paddling here. We're talking full-speed, goal-driven, dolphin-level dedication. Legends.

We also went on some epic adventures. We visited the **zoo** and resisted the urge to adopt a capybara (barely). At **Falcon Beach**, we swam like champions, built questionable sand structures, and soaked up the sun. There's also been **soccer, basketball, kayaking,** and the always thrilling **ziplining,** where we launched ourselves through the air with the kind of bravery usually reserved for superheroes.

But it hasn't just been action-packed—we've also been cooking up a storm! Our **cooking sessions** have seen us create some pretty impressive meals (and even more impressive messes). Safe to say, some future chefs might just be in the making.

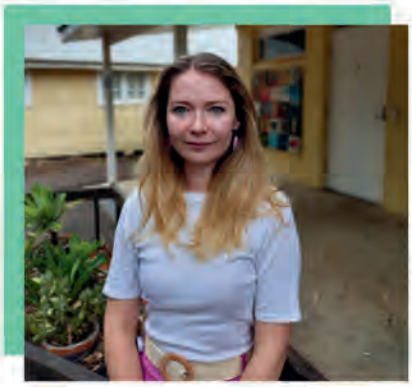
We also came together to celebrate **Harmony Day**, embracing the different cultures in our school community and reflecting on the importance of inclusivity. It was a day filled with fun, friendship, and a whole lot of orange!

It's been a term full of learning, growth, teamwork, and about 400 wet towels. We've shown what TAG8 is made of – kindness, courage, and a whole lot of energy. Bring on next term – we're ready for more.

Peter

PS: Catch a glimpse of our Term 1 adventures on the next page! >>

Magda's Managerie



A Community of Kindness, Fun, and Learning!

Magda's class isn't just a classroom—it's a comedy club, a brain gym, and a mini society of incredibly awesome humans. Every day is a mix of giggles, wisdom, and the occasional dramatic retelling of weekend adventures. From the moment we step in, the energy is buzzing, the conversations are flowing, and someone (always) has a joke up their sleeve. Learning happens, of course, but let's be honest—it's the fun and friendships that make this class unforgettable.

One of the most incredible things about our class is how engaged everyone is. Whether we're tackling a tricky subject, exploring new ideas, or diving into a fascinating discussion, every student brings enthusiasm and curiosity. And the best part? Our discussions are always meaningful—whether they are directly related to the lesson or simply conversations about life, they are full of honesty, insight, and respect. Everyone listens, everyone shares, and everyone grows together.

Beyond our studies, we know how to have fun. Our class is full of friendly, cheerful students who love to joke around and play games. There have been so many moments when we couldn't stop giggling together—whether it was a funny comment, a game we played, or just the joy of being in each other's company. This positive energy makes our classroom a place where everyone feels comfortable and included.

One of the highlights of this term was our fantastic trip to the zoo! Not only did we get to see amazing exotic animals up close, but the whole class demonstrated incredible behaviour throughout the trip. We took wonderful pictures, shared our excitement about our favourite animals, and made memories that we will cherish for a long time. It was a perfect example of how our class supports and enjoys each other's company, no matter where we are.

Hard work is also something we take seriously. Throughout the term, students have been earning lots of credits for their stellar behaviour, positive attitude, and dedication to learning. The best part? They've been able to spend those well-earned points on fun rewards like toys and sweets! It's a great way to celebrate their achievements and show that effort and kindness always pay off.
Being in Magda's class is like being part of the best reality TV show—there's drama (over who gets the last sweet), teamwork (especially when organising epic Spot it games), and plenty of unforgettable moments. It's a place where learning sneaks up on you between laughs, and friendships grow stronger every day. Honestly, if there were an award for 'Best Class Ever,' we'd already have a trophy… and probably turn it into a game somehow!

Magda

PS: Take a look at some of our Term 1 highlights on the next page! >>

Spot the Difference

NEW YORK

Reminiscing with Rhodes

The Rhodes class, made up of our Year 11 and 12 students, has had a busy and eventful term. In English, students have been diving deep into Lord of the Flies, exploring its themes and structure.

Meanwhile, in Maths, they've been focusing on building the necessary skills and routines to boost their confidence for next term's OLNA tests.

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been diving deep into Lord of the Flies, exploring its themes and structure.

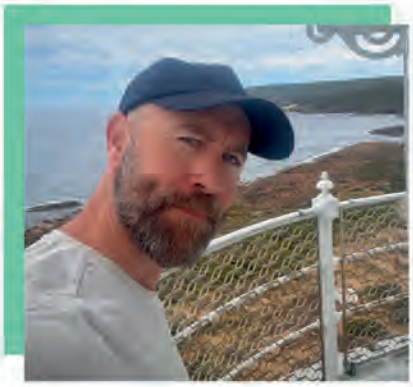
Meanwhile, in Maths, they've been focusing on building the necessary skills and routines to boost their confidence for next term's OLNA tests.
A major focus this term has been career readiness. Students have been identifying their skills and interests to help secure work experience opportunities for next term. This practical approach is helping students gain valuable insights into potential career paths.

In addition, the class has already completed 4 units of CGEA II, marking significant progress towards their learning goals. Despite a term full of changes and obstacles, the students have remained focused and resilient. With the upcoming term on the horizon, the hope is that it will bring steadier conditions for everyone, allowing them to get the most out of their learning experience.

Here's to another term of growth and success!

Shane

Your Update with Daniel



Term 1 has been a fantastic start to the year for Tag 5, filled with exciting learning experiences, both in and out of the classroom. With Daniel and Simon joining the Fairbridge team for the first time, there's been a strong focus on building relationships, exploring new opportunities, and creating a positive, engaging environment for all students.

A major highlight of the term were our excursions to Point Peron, where students had the chance to explore the stunning coastal landscape while learning about local marine life, coastal erosion, and environmental conservation. The hands-on learning experience helped bring classroom topics to life, and the beautiful weather certainly didn't hurt! Students particularly enjoyed walking on the beach, observing rock formations, and learning about the area's significance from both ecological and historical perspectives.

We also ventured out to visit the Mandurah Giants, where students were introduced to the incredible outdoor sculptures created by Danish artist Thomas Dambo. The excursions encouraged students to think creatively and reflect on themes of sustainability, as the sculptures are made entirely from recycled materials. The walk between sites became an opportunity to discuss environmental art, storytelling through sculpture, and the importance of reusing and repurposing everyday items.

In the classroom, the focus has been on developing strong foundations in literacy and numeracy, encouraging collaborative learning, and fostering curiosity. From investigatory activities to competitive Kahoot sessions to problem-solving activities, students have shown enthusiasm, resilience, and a willingness to take on new challenges.

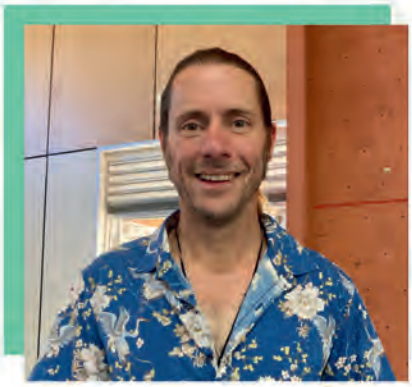
Daniel and Simon have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the students and becoming part of the Fairbridge community. Their passion for student engagement and hands-on learning has shaped a memorable start to the year, and they're both looking forward to an even more rewarding Term 2.

Thank you to all the parents and carers for your ongoing support. We hope everyone enjoys a well-earned break and comes back refreshed and ready for more learning adventures in Term 2!

Daniel

PS: Flip over to see what we've been up to this term! >>

Ben's Round Up



Creative Industries Update – A Rocking Start to the Year!

It's been an exciting and inspiring term so far in the Creative Industries class, with our music students making incredible progress in the studio. From day one, the energy and enthusiasm have been undeniable, and the results speak for themselves.

This term, our young musicians have taken on classic rock tracks such as "Breaking the Law" by Judas Priest and "When I Come Around" by Green Day. These anthems have not only challenged their technical abilities but also helped build their confidence and stage presence. Whether it's powering through guitar riffs, locking in basslines, or nailing those drum patterns, our students have shown dedication and passion in every rehearsal session.

A major highlight has been the continued success of last year's school band members. These more experienced students have returned with confidence and have embraced their roles as mentors to the newer cohort. Their willingness to share knowledge, offer tips, and support others has been truly heartwarming and instrumental in building a collaborative and inclusive studio environment. Their mentorship has helped fast-track the development of the next generation of musicians, proving just how powerful peer-to-peer learning can be.

We're also thrilled to announce that the overwhelming interest from aspiring musicians across the school has officially brought our School of Rock to life! With so many students eager to be involved, we've seen a surge in lunchtime band practice and spontaneous collaborations within the groups. This movement is more than just music—it's become a creative community where students are empowered to explore, express, and evolve.

We're incredibly proud of what the students have achieved so far and can't wait to see where their musical journey takes them next. Keep an eye out for upcoming performances—you won't want to miss what these rockstars-in-the-making have been working on!

Rock on!!

Ben

Dave's Soundcheck

Creative Industries PodCast Performance Perfection

Our Creative Industries students have truly found their voice this term—literally! With podcasting now at the forefront of their creative journey, the studio has been buzzing with ideas, laughter, debates, and powerful storytelling. What began as an introduction to sound equipment and editing software has quickly evolved into a diverse and exciting range of student-led podcast episodes.

Students have taken the reins on personal topics that matter to them, resulting in an engaging blend of humour, curiosity, and reflection. From heated (yet hilarious) debates about the best fast food—whether Macca's, KFC or the underdog, Red Rooster—to in-depth conversations about cockatoo conservation and the importance of protecting our native wildlife, the variety has been nothing short of impressive.

True crime stories have also emerged as a favourite genre, with students researching mysterious cases and presenting them in chilling detail. Paired with thoughtful commentary, their storytelling keeps listeners hooked while developing their scripting, pacing, and vocal delivery skills. On the lighter side, comedy skits and joke segments have become regular highlights—think knock-knock jokes, stand-up style routines, and spontaneous impersonations that leave the studio in fits of laughter.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the podcasting journey has been the genuine student interaction with the wider community, including Fairbridge. Through interviews, storytelling, and shared projects, students have explored real-life experiences and community initiatives, all while building empathy, communication skills, and a stronger sense of social connection.

Our returning Creative Industries students have also stepped up as mentors, guiding newcomers through the process of planning, recording, and editing their shows. Their support has made a huge difference in boosting confidence and encouraging creative risks.

We're incredibly proud of what's been achieved already and can't wait for the launch of our first student podcast channel. Stay tuned—you'll be hearing their voices soon!

Dave

Thea's Term Highlights

As a newcomer to the Fairbridge College team, I couldn't have asked for a better welcome. From day one, I've felt incredibly supported by both staff and students, which has allowed me to bring my classroom program to life in the best way possible.

This term has been a whirlwind of adventure and learning—blending real-world experiences with classroom progress in a way that makes school something to look forward to.

Weekly excursions have taken us to some amazing places: we've explored the stunning Wellington Dam (where, yes, one student casually picked up a water python and gave me the fright of my life!), done bommies off Coogee Jetty, gone fishing and crabbing in the beautiful Dawesville estuary, floated down rivers and swung from ropes at Lane Poole Reserve, and rounded out summer with one last epic day riding waterslides at Outback Splash. The Room 9 boys have definitely been spoilt—but more importantly, they've discovered a real love for learning and connection that has flowed into every aspect of school life.

One of the biggest wins this term has been in the gym, where you'll find the Room 9 boys during most recess and lunchtimes—fully engaged in high-energy, talent-packed basketball games with students and staff from across the school. It's been a joy to watch these games that bring everyone together.

In the classroom, while there may be the usual groans about "doing more work than ever before," the truth is that each student has stepped up. Pens are picked up (sometimes even without prompting!), and the results speak for themselves. Literacy and numeracy skills have improved across the board, and I'm eagerly awaiting the PAT test results to accurately report on their progression.

One standout example is Cooper Jackson, who has lifted his spelling level by an incredible four years in just eight weeks and is now sitting at year level. This has been achieved through daily spelling and comprehension activities that allowed him to fill some gaps and quickly progress.

These days, Cooper finishes most Friday spelling tests with a 100% score and a huge smile on his face—proof that consistent effort really pays off.This term also saw the introduction of "Cool Points," where three Room 9 students were rewarded for consistently demonstrating our school values—with go-karting as their well-earned prize! In addition, our Careers and Enterprise unit has helped students explore future career paths, apply for apprenticeships, and take those first bold steps into life beyond school. Jack White, for example, has secured a Fairbridge Apprenticeship in construction and is already tackling an additional maths program to support this ambition—his determination in class has been next level!

We also can't forget our time in the kitchen with trainer Linda, who we've officially declared the bee's knees! From cooking cultural dishes for Harmony Day to crafting individualised beef jerky recipes for entrepreneurship projects, the boys of Room 9 have become culinary stars. No matter what we throw at Linda, she rises to the challenge, with delicious results.

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Outdoor Ed hasn't been left behind either—despite the heat! Students have zipped, climbed, and screamed their way through rock walls and giant swings, often needing fresh pants and a moment to catch their breath.

And finally, our class welcomed pet leaf insects….who then welcomed a baby! All in all, Term 1 has been an incredible ride and a brilliant beginning to my time at Fairbridge College. Bring on Term 2!

Thea

Wellbeing Corner

Happy Easter from Jayne & Gal!

I hope you're enjoying a restful break and returning recharged for the term ahead! This is my first Wellbeing Newsletter for 2025, and it comes at a time of fresh beginnings and exciting new chapters.

After five wonderful years as a team effort, the Wellbeing space is evolving. Our much-loved Psychologist Bridget Leahy, who gave so much to our students and school community, has moved on to new adventures.

We're incredibly grateful for all she brought to Fairbridge and wish her the very best. Likewise, our amazing Wellbeing Officer Kate has also embraced a new opportunity. Both Bridget and Kate leave behind a legacy of care, humour, and connection that we'll continue to build on with pride.

This term, Gal (our loyal Wellbeing Dog) and I have been busy supporting new staff as they settle in—and we're thrilled to welcome our newest team member, Niamh! It's been a season of learning, growing, and shifting perspectives—my counselling focus even turned toward guiding our brilliant new colleagues as they found their feet.

This change reminded me just how important it is to keep our self-care fresh and flexible. As our roles and routines shift, our self-care needs might too. Lately, I've found calm in an unexpected place—a veggie patch made from old boots! Watering a few beetroot and carrot seedlings has become a peaceful daily ritual, filled with tiny moments of joy (yes, even the odd visiting spider!). Soon I'll harvest something small and wonky—but it'll be mine, and it'll remind me that growth happens with patience and care.

Wishing you your own little moments of peace and connection this term. Try something new—you never know what might bloom!

Jayne & Gal

This Term with Linda

What a wonderful term it has been!

It's been such a joy getting to know each of you, and I'm so glad to be back with you all. I'm truly proud of everything we've accomplished together in the kitchen this term. We tackled so many delicious recipes, and it's been fantastic to see how much your engagement and confidence grew as the weeks went on. Your enthusiasm for trying new things made all the difference in our cooking classes.

This term, we had some great fun preparing pizzas, brownies, cupcakes, and so much more. A highlight for me was Harmony Day, where we contributed to the village feast and enjoyed a delicious lunch together. It was a special moment of community and collaboration.

As we head into the break, I want to thank each of you for your hard work and dedication. You've made this term so enjoyable, and I hope you all take the time to relax and recharge over the holidays. I'm already looking forward to next term and the exciting new recipes we'll explore together!

A special thank you to the students who helped serve food in Com Ed this term. Your support and effort have been greatly appreciated!

Wishing you all a well-deserved break. See you next term!

Linda O'Connor

A Word from Linda

Exciting Times in Our Outreach Learning Community!

Greetings, everyone!

We are thrilled to share the latest updates from our vibrant online learning community. Our group of 16 enthusiastic students has been diving into a variety of engaging subjects, including English, wellbeing, and inquiry topics.

What's even more exciting is that some of our students have the option to come on campus and interact with their peers in person. This blend of online and on-campus learning creates a calm and inviting classroom atmosphere, fostering both academic growth and personal connections.

As we continue to explore new online adventures, we look forward to more enriching experiences and shared successes. Stay tuned for more updates!

Linda Noonan

Dan's Termly Wrap-Up

The first term has flown by! Life in the VET world is super busy, and the start of 2025 has been no exception.

A new timetable in school has given all students the opportunity to 'try before you by' the VET courses that will commence in Term 2. From our ever-popular Hospitality course to our new and exciting Creative Industries course as well as Community services and Outdoor Recreation there is plenty to choose from to complement the curriculum.

We have seen plenty of visitors here in Pinjarra this term with the **ADF** force coming in to speak to students and opportunities and pathways to join the army, navy or air force. In was enlightening to see how many possible career opportunities lie withing the ADF.

We also welcomed the **Apprenticeship Society** who visited to present to our Year 10,11,and 12 students. Students were very interested to learn of the traineeship and apprenticeships available and could really see the pathways to future careers come life.

Finally **Jobs and Skills WA** came to see us towards the end of term and prided one to one careers advice and resume support to students throughout the college. This invaluable help and support provides students with the best opportunity to be successful in the work place.

We are delighted to have joined together with **GMS Training Academy** who will take a number of our students on as Apprentices, studying the CERT II in Supply Chain Operations from next term. This provides a real opportunity for our students, combining paid work with study and the very real possibility of employment upon completion.

Our students continue to thrive in work experience placements and remain a credit to the college. Work experience is a vital part of the holistic experience we provide to students and is a pivotal factor when applying to TAFE or to employers and we are most grateful to any local business that continues to support our students and provide them with the knowledge and skills that can only be achieved through on the job experience.

As always, we are very grateful to our partners at **ALCOA** who through **Alcoa Sustainable Employment and Life Outcomes Initiative** continue to sponsor our apprentices within the village allowing them to marry paid employment with training and education. The Apprenticeships provide our young people with an incredible opportunity and one which they are talking with both hands!

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ADF CAREERS

APPRENTICESHIP support AUSTRALIA

JOBS & SKILLS WA

Phoenix has been working on the revamp of the mini golf by hand drawing and painting new hole markers. The old ones have faded and worn away.

Ashton has built a storage unit from scratch for the storage tubes which now hold all of our historical village maps and plans. He has also worked on redoing the edging and obstacles for mini golf and more Tafe study. He has also been installing new louvres in some cottages. He has received a glowing review from his Tafe lecturer stating that he wishes all his students were like Ashton. I have included a photo of the window project Ashton completed at Tafe.

Levi has been painting the new ice cream carts as well as Tafe study. Phoenix and Levi have also repainted the bollards at the office car park as well as the speed bumps throughout the village. They have also repainted the Noah's ark building.

Jarvis has been honing his skills on the ride on mower and whipper snipper as well as learning the chainsaw. He has improved in leaps and bounds this year and is showing initiative for jobs that need to be done without prompting. This has granted him permission to use the Polaris unsupervised.

We extend an extra special thankyou this term to ALCOA who have agreed to provide a scholarship to one of apprentices. Through the **ALCOA Skilled Hands Strong Futures Scholarship**, the sum of $2,500 had been granted to cover the costs of equipment, travel expenses, course materials et cetera. This is a fantastic opportunity and will go a long way to helping one of our young people achieve their dreams.

Have a restful and well-deserved Easter break and we shall see you all again next term – which looks set to be even busier!

Dan

Important News

Student Details
Thank you for returning the Re-Registration form for your child, which is issued at the start of the year, to help us keep records up to date. If you haven't returned you form, please arrange to do so as soon as possible. It is important to keep the office updated with any changes to your contact details, address or the medical history / changes to medications, throughout the school year.

Secondary Assistance Scheme (SAS)
Thank you to those of you who have returned SAS claim forms.These have been processed, and you should receive funds in your bank account in due course.

School Fees
You will soon receive an invoice for your child's school fees. You are reminded that payment plans can be set up if this will help you budget your payments.

For those of you who applied for SAS funding: part of the funding that gets allocated is paid direct to the school towards school fees, however, there will still be a small amount of school fees that will need to be paid by yourselves. The SAS funding that is paid directly to you ($300 this year) will cover the remaining school fees and leave sufficient funds for uniform or clothing for your child.

Outstanding school fees from 2024 should also be settled as soon as possible.

Immunisations
The School-based Immunisation Program runs at Fairbridge College. Year 7 students will be offered the HPV and Tetanus immunisations, and Year 10 students are offered the Meningococcal Immunisation. If students have missed their immunisations in their relevant year they will be offered a catch up.

More information and consent forms can be requested from the office or you can go to the website School-based immunisation program (healthywa.wa.gov.au)

We encourage you to get your child immunised and make use of this free service.

12.30 Bus
Please be reminded that the 12.30 bus is available for those students who have agreed modified timetables. Parents of fulltime students should not be requesting access to the bus early as space is limited. You can, of course, come and collect your child if they need to leave school early.

School Holidays at Murray
For more information, please click: https://www.murray.wa.gov.au/events/

Student Sign In/Sign Out
Please remember for health and safety reasons:

- Parent/Guardians need to sign in, at the office, if a student is arriving late. The student will then be given a late pass to take to the class Teacher.
- Parent/Guardians need to sign out, at the office, if a student is being collected early.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to call the School office or our Fairbridge Finance Department on **(08) 9531 7920**. Payments plans are available.

FAIRBRIDGE

HAPPY

Easter

THE Village AT FAIRBRIDGE

FAIRBRIDGE COLLEGE

FAIRBRIDGE EDUCATION

CAMP FAIRBRIDGE

SHINE
experience grow
become
FLOURISH
LEARN *be*