

TERM 3 2025 NEWSLETTER

Wednesday, September 24th, 2025









This year, JTCESC is celebrating 30 years. We have been known by many names, in multiple different sites across Mandurah, but our goals have remained consistent - to educate our students and empower them to reach their dreams.







Our school recognises the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the Country on which we live, work, learn and grow. We pay respects to Elders past, present, and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the heritage and connections of the Bindjareb people of the Noongar Nation.

JTCESC School Board



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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Engage • Educate • Enrich • Empower

As Term Three draws to a close at JTCESC. we reflect on a term full of learning, growth, and community spirit. Our students embraced a variety of activities designed to their journey towards support independence, emotional regulation, and being their best selves.

This term's curriculum was rich and varied. Students explored sustainability through hands-on lessons in recycling, reusing, and repurposing materials—including a visit to the local recycling plant. Physical activity and teamwork were promoted through indoor and outdoor games, with students preparing for 'Kalability' excursions in sports like cricket and basketball. A highlight was the cadet camp at Rottnest, which built valuable life skills and teamwork. Students who remained school enjoyed a Gaming Truck visit and an incursion from Red's Zoo.

Social and emotional learning remained a strong focus, with students developing selfregulation, peer interaction, and discovering their personal "spark"—the things that bring them joy and motivation. These skills were in activities like pickleball, hydrotherapy, cultural group engagement, the Backpack Buddies initiative. Creative expression also flourished through visual arts and dance.

Our transition program welcomed Year 10 students from Halls Head ESC and other local schools, offering cooking, workshop projects, cadet training, and sustainability sessions to build relationships readiness for Year 11. Workplace learning thrive, with continued to students developina employability skills across industries such as fabrication, hospitality, horticulture, and retail.

Looking ahead to Term Four, we're excited to host our annual Disability Expo at the Mandurah Aquatic and Recreation Centre on Friday, 17th October. With activities, a wide performances, and range community groups and businesses, it promises to be our biggest yet. We also look forward to celebrating our graduating class on Friday, 12th December, at the Saltbush Training Restaurant on our MET campus.

As always, we thank our passionate staff for their dedication and our families, carers, and community partners for their ongoing support. Together, we continue to Engage, Educate. Enrich and Empower every student, every day.

Acting Principal

DISABILITY EXPO

🌞 You're Invited: JTCESC Disability Expo 2025 🌟

Date: Friday, 17th October 2025

Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Location: Mandurah Aquatic and Recreation Centre (MARC)

John Tonkin College ESC is proud to host the Disability Expo 2025, a vibrant community event bringing together a wide range of **service providers**, **community groups**, **and local government services** — all under one roof!

Whether you're a student, parent, carer, educator, or community member, this expo is your chance to explore supports, resources, and opportunities available in our region.

What to Expect:

- Come & Try Sessions Get hands-on with interactive activities and demonstrations.
- Mini Performances Enjoy live entertainment from local talent.
- Photo Booth Fun Capture the moment with friends and family.
- Door Prizes Be in the running to win exciting giveaways throughout the day.
- Expo Guide & Social Story Plan your visit with helpful resources available for download.
- Scan the QR code below to find out more and access the Expo Guide or Social Story to help prepare for the day.



Let's celebrate inclusion, connection, and community together. We can't wait to see you there!



SERVICES

Term 3 has been a season of reconnection, growth, and student-centred initiatives for our Student Services team.

We were delighted to welcome back Hanna, one of our much-loved support dogs, after her recovery from illness. Helping her ease back into school life was her adorable cousin, Cooper, who visited a few times to lend some moral support. While Cooper is still too young to begin training, he's already winning hearts!

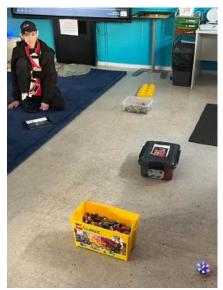
Our other support dog, Maple, has continued her wonderful work this term — providing calm and comfort not only to students but also to staff.

This term also saw a renewed focus on student voice and engagement. A standout example is "From The Stars," a thoughtful article by Year 11 student Deegan, featured on page 10 of this newsletter. We also welcomed Charlotte, our Admin & Marketing Officer, to the Student Services team on Wednesdays to help strengthen student engagement efforts.

Following a review of student toolboxes, our T1 classroom has been identified as a key reset space — a calm, safe environment where students can take part in relaxing activities throughout the day.

To support whole-school staff development, our school psychologist, Camilla, led the first in a series of three trauma-informed practice sessions, helping deepen our collective understanding of student and staff wellbeing.

We're so proud of the progress everyone has made this term, and look forward to building on this momentum in Term 4!









WORKPLACE LEARNING

The success of our Workplace Learning (WPL) program relies heavily on the generosity and support of our local employers. Without their involvement, students would miss the valuable opportunity to experience real-world work environments and develop essential employability skills, independence, and confidence.

We've received glowing feedback from employers about how well our students performed during their placements. Their professionalism and dedication have not only reflected positively on themselves but also on our school community. This strong impression enables us to confidently approach these employers again in 2026 for continued support.

A heartfelt thank you to all our students for representing the school so admirably and making the most of their WPL experience.

Marg Bowman VET/Workplace Learning Coordinator















TRANSITION

Over the past six weeks, Year 10 students from Halls Head College ESC have been participating in a special Transition Taster Series hosted at John Tonkin College ESC. This initiative is designed to support a smooth and confident transition into Year 11 in 2026.

Each week, the visiting students joined our current Year 11s in a variety of engaging group activities, including:

- Q Cooking learning practical kitchen skills and sharing delicious results
- Y Sustainability exploring eco-friendly practices and environmental awareness
- Workshop getting hands-on with tools and creative projects

These sessions not only introduced the Year 10s to the programs and environment at JTCESC, but also helped them build friendships, reduce anxiety, and feel a sense of belonging before they officially join us next year.

We're incredibly proud of the way both our current and future students embraced this opportunity with enthusiasm and positivity. We can't wait to welcome the Year 10s back as Year 11s in 2026!

Haron Spice
Transition Support Officer







This term, while our Year 11 students lead the way for our incoming Year 10s, our Year 12 students have been taking part in a series of excursions around town, designed to build their confidence and independence in public settings. They have had the chance to practice important everyday skills such as shopping, handling money, and making choices while out in the community. A highlight for many was visiting a local restaurant, where they enjoyed ordering and eating a meal together, practicing social skills and table manners in a real-world environment.

For our grand finale, we visited a local rock-climbing centre. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to challenge themselves physically and mentally, while also building teamwork, resilience, and a sense of achievement.

















students competed against other schools in basketball! Schools, including Halls Head College, came all the way to Bendat Basketball Centre in Perth. The Bendat Basketball Centre, formerly known as the WA Basketball Centre, is a state-of-the-art facility in Floreat, Western Australia, opening in January 2010. It was officially renamed the Bendat Basketball Centre on May 6th 2015, honouring Perth's Wildcats owner Jack Bendat.

an annual event focused on providing a fun and inclusive basketball experience for students with disabilities. Starting in 2024, it has quickly become a highlight of the Wildcats community calendar. The carnival involves Wildcats players and coaches in interactive basketball activities for students from various schools around Perth. "I am excited to play in the carnival and verse the Wildcats" -

The Bendat basketball facility is

a training base for Perth's

Wildcat players, and holds an

event called "All Abilities

Carnival". All Abilities Carnival is

Brayden

The Carnival is designed to be a safe and supportive environment for students with all abilities to participate in basketball. The carnival itself has grown significantly since its inception, with more than 500 participants from across Western Australia taking part in the event. The carnival often concludes with light-hearted games featuring the Wildcats stars playing against players of the carnival's standouts, creating a sense of belonging.



BRUNCH

This term, the students have continued to enjoy lots of fresh produce from the garden. I've been showcasing the silverbeet and broccoli in many ways, from broccoli patties to broccoli cheese, and the silverbeet has made an appearance in the frittata as well as on its own (known as the green stuff).

Next term should see tomatoes, lettuce, and many herbs make their way to the menu.

It's a pleasure to see the students try new foods while using the cafe as a space to interact















MS BROCKMAN'S CLASS FG03

It has been a busy and exciting term in FG03. Camp and Basketball tournaments were highlights, as well as learning how to make French toast and using mini shopping items in our money work.

We have been using Seesaw more for learning, which made Multiplication and Division much more enjoyable than expected. In fact, Multiplication stopped being scary when we realised the key to understanding it was something we already knew and had learnt. We are looking forward to an even busier and exciting term four.

Lexil Brockman Teacher



Fun at school...

..and on camp!











MR BENNETT'S CLASS FG04



The students in FG04 certainly put in a great deal of effort this term. Here's what they picked as Term 3 highlights:



"This term has been full of fun and learning. In Maths, we worked on direction, dimension, and space, and we really enjoyed it because it made us think. Tessellations were also a highlight, since most of us love doing art.

In cooking, we made lots of different foods. The butter chicken was a favourite—it was so tasty! Sushi was fun to make, too, even though the rice was so sticky, and it took nearly the whole day, off and on. We also made coconut ice, but have to admit, some of us didn't like it at all — kids really don't like coconut! Mr Bennett thought it was delicious, though.

Transition with the Year 10s was great. We cooked together, did Cadet activities, and worked on sustainability projects. We also went on a few excursions, like the trip to Nando's in Rockingham. We caught the train and the bus, and we really liked the food there.

Basketball was another big part of the term. Playing with the Wildcats was so exciting, especially because Matilda got to be captain for one of the teams. The Kalability basketball games were also a lot of fun, and some of our class members got to mentor other students, which was a great experience.

In class, Mr Bennett made our work interesting, even if school is a little annoying sometimes. He also read us Ugly Fish, which was funny but such an evil book!

Looking back, this term has been packed with cooking, sport, art, and new experiences. We

had lots of fun and learned a lot along the way."







MS SMITH'S CLASS FG09

It has been an awesome term in FG09! The students have continued to develop and improve their communication and socio-emotional skills, as well as their knowledge in all of their subjects, including English, Maths, Health and HASS. As always, the students have chosen mouth-watering meals for our cooking class. They enjoy the diversity of food and have been using our school garden more for cooking, including adding herbs for flavour and seasoning.

The students have almost completed all of their assessment tasks, showing just how proactive and productive they are! Their concentration and focus have been awesome! And a special shoutout to Courtney for her daily positive affirmations – throughout the year, she has written an uplifting sentence on our board and ensures we all keep smiling! We also add the artwork of the class to the board for display, making our class supportive and inviting.

We have had a busy Term 3, especially with the Week 8 Rottnest Island Camp and fun activities on-site for the other students. But there's more to look forward to... bring on Term 4 and graduation! Exciting times ahead!











MS LAMBERT'S CLASS T7

This has been another wonderful term!

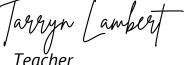
T2 continued their community engagement with Chorus, creating artwork for the Mandurah Arts Festival, which runs from 12 September to 12 October. We encourage you to pop in and view the incredible work of our students.

They also gave back to the community through Backpack Buddies, helping to pack snack packs for local students, an experience that was both rewarding and meaningful.

In the classroom, T1 explored a range of creative projects. They collaborated on a stunning flower artwork, with each student painting individual pieces that were layered together to form a striking final creation. They also experimented with jelly painting, cutting shapes to use as stencils and layering them to produce a vibrant collage.

Cooking was another highlight; students prepared delicious treats for staff, which were enjoyed by all. While some students were away on the Rottnest Island camp, those who remained had fun with extra creative activities and even enjoyed a visit from the Game Vault.

We are excited for what's ahead and look forward to another wonderful Term 4!











ART

We have had an interesting and busy term in The Arts. Students had the option to participate in a dance program for one hour a week, with great fun and success for both students and staff alike. In class, we learnt about dance and researched a dance style we thought might be interesting.

In the second half of the term, we focused on still life drawing. Multiple still life sets gave us the chance to try different drawing techniques. Techniques we experimented with included straight line drawing, using our non-dominant hand, continuous line drawing, and we even tried drawing without looking down at our paper! We then transformed our drawings into more art pieces using different techniques and media. Students used block colour, paper cutouts of selected objects and enlarging sections of their drawing to create a quite different piece of art.















WORKSHOP

This term, students put their practical skills to the test in Design and Technology. They began by using a range of hand tools and machines to carefully construct their own wooden phone stands. Once assembled, each student had the chance to personalise their work by laser-engraving an image of their choice onto the stand before applying a clear coat to finish it off.



After completing the phone stands, the group moved on to building bird houses. These projects gave students the opportunity to work independently, applying measuring, cutting, and assembly skills, while staff provided support and guidance when needed. The sense of achievement was huge, and the workshop was full of laughter and teamwork. It was a fun and rewarding experience for everyone, with students gaining confidence in using tools and taking pride in their creations.





















CADETS

Term 3 has been packed with hands-on learning and exciting experiences for our Cadets! We kicked off with the Bushfire Wars education series, a WA-based program that deepened students' understanding of bushfire safety, response strategies, and environmental impacts. Through teamwork and real-life scenarios, students learned how to assess risk and respond effectively.

Next, we focused on navigation skills—learning to use a compass, identify cardinal directions, and read maps. These foundational skills will be essential for future outdoor adventures.

A major highlight was preparing for our Rottnest Island camp. Students researched the island's history, cultural significance, and natural features. They explored transport options and created wish lists of what they hoped to see—from quokkas to lighthouses.

Packing became a team effort, with students learning how to prepare responsibly for camp—covering everything from sun safety to hydration.

Cadets also continued their important role in raising and lowering the school flags, especially on Tuesdays. This routine builds pride, responsibility, and teamwork.

We were thrilled to have Mrs Bianca White join us for Terms 2 and 3 while Mrs Hegney was away. Thank you, Bianca—and welcome back, Mrs Hegney!

It's been a busy and rewarding term. We're proud of our students' enthusiasm, teamwork, and growing independence—and we're excited for what Term 4 will bring!



Mat Harris ESCC Unit Leader







ROTTNEST CAMP

Our adventure began bright and early at 7am on Monday, 8th September. With everyone arriving on time, we packed the trailer and buses and hit the road right on schedule! The journey to Rottnest was smooth, though the choppy waters left a few of us feeling a little seasick. Thankfully, the short ferry ride made it manageable. Upon arrival, we were welcomed with a Smoking Ceremony and Cultural Walk led by Uncle Neville Collard – a meaningful start to our stay.

Lunch on Day 1 was a lively affair, with quokkas, seagulls, and crows launching a full-scale assault on our meals! Despite the chaos, we managed to protect most of our food and even snapped some great quokka selfies.

The afternoon was split between exploring the Museum and riding the train to Oliver Hill, where some lucky students got to toot the horn! After swapping activities, we walked to our accommodation at Kingstown. Dinner was a team effort with hamburgers and sausages, followed by a hilarious quiz night hosted by Mr Bennett and Charlotte. A peaceful night walk under the stars wrapped up a fantastic first day.





















WEEK 8











Day 2 kicked off with mini golf in the town centre, full of laughs and friendly competition. We then split into three groups for a Hop On Hop Off bus tour, visiting the lighthouse and seal viewing platform—some even spotted whales! Lunch on the beach was staggered as groups returned, and we all enjoyed a well-earned ice cream before heading back for more activities.

Pizza night was a hit, especially with the students! We celebrated birthdays with a song and wrapped up the evening with a group discussion led by Mr Bennett. The overwhelming feedback? "Let's stay an extra day!"

Our final morning arrived far too quickly. With an early start, everyone pitched in to pack up, clean, and enjoy breakfast—all by 7am! It was a fantastic team effort, with students and staff working side by side to get everything done.

We then took a final, leisurely walk into town and along the beach to the Northern Point viewing platform. The stunning views and peaceful atmosphere gave us a moment to reflect on the amazing journey we'd shared.

The ferry ride back to Fremantle was smooth and relaxing. Waiting for us were our wonderful bus drivers, Mr Barritt and Ms Bowman. After a short break, we boarded the buses and made our way back to school—tired but full of memories.

WEEK 8 ON CAMPUS

While many of our students were off enjoying the Rottnest camp, those who remained on campus had a week full of engaging and memorable experiences that were anything but ordinary!

From the Ranger Red's Zoo wildlife incursion — featuring a snake, frog, rufous bettong, blue tongue lizards, and a tawny frogmouth — to hands-on art activities like pottery, clay sculpting, and mosaics, there was no shortage of excitement. Students also enjoyed the high-energy Game Vault truck, which brought gaming fun right to our doorstep. The week wrapped up with a relaxed and joyful PJ and pizza party, celebrating connection and comfort.

These activities ensured that every student had the chance to participate in something special, reinforcing our commitment to inclusive and enriching experiences for all.





















CONSTRUCTION

During Term 3, Construction students completed a paving job for the school. Starting with clearing an old garden bed, then learning how to safely operate a compacting machine while compacting the ground. We unloaded the pavers, levelled the ground and then started laying the pavers. Once finished, we brushed in paving sand to lock the pavers in place. This was a great achievement by our Construction students!



















ANIMAL STUDIES

This term in Animal Studies has been all about growth—students have continued building their knowledge, confidence, and hands-on skills while working with a variety of animals.

Courtney has been diving into new learning by exploring different species and comparing breeds to better understand their unique care needs. She has also been polishing her cleaning techniques with dog crates, bird cages, and cat enclosures, showing real care and attention to detail. On top of that, she's been enjoying plenty of cuddle time with the dogs during their rest breaks—something the dogs certainly don't mind with all the extra love coming their way!

Eva has been making excellent progress in her Work Health and Safety and Hygiene unit. She's been practicing and mastering the cleaning and disinfecting of animal enclosures and has kept her title as the "queen of hazard identification." This term, Eva has also been researching how to properly care for budgerigars and has been practicing setting up their cages with everything they need to be happy and healthy. Her special bond with Bear the Border Collie is as strong as ever, and she never misses a chance to spoil him with a treat.

This final term has been full of learning, fun, and the chance to bring together all the skills developed over the year. We're so proud of the effort, progress, and enthusiasm both students have shown—it's been a wonderful and rewarding year in Animal Studies!











BEAUTY

The students continue to show commitment and engagement as they further fine-tune their skills and knowledge, including:

- · Hair washing at the basin
- Sectioning for blow drying
- Waxing
- · Brow and lash tinting
- Manicures
- Maintaining their workstations and equipment

In addition to the practical learning, students have been diligently working on the theory component of the course. This term has been Organise and Maintain the Store Environment. They have been demonstrating their understanding and knowledge of this component when we are in the Salon.

The staff and I are looking forward to seeing each student's growth and confidence continue to develop—both individually and as a group.

Trish Bradford Trainer & Assessor





RETAIL

This term, our Retail students have been working diligently towards completing their Certificate I in Retail, gaining valuable skills in:

- Understanding and applying rosters
- Navigating workplace policies and procedures
- Organising personal work requirements
- Maintaining and organising store environments

In addition to their coursework, students embraced community spirit through fundraising for Jeans for Genes and Backpack Buddies. They planned, prepared, and sold cookie mix in a jar, showcasing their creativity and entrepreneurial flair.

For RUOK Day, students showed compassion and care by checking in on one another and baking cupcakes for all students and staff, spreading kindness and connection throughout the school.

Well done to our Retail team for a term full of learning, commitment, and teamwork!

Meagan Freen Trainer & Assessor









Students' thoughts on Retail this year:

Jayden: "This term, I enjoyed learning how stores should operate and what skills you can learn in different stores."

Max: Enjoyed reviewing and building the LEGO Technik

Dwayne: "I learnt new skills such as cooking and fundraising."

Ethan: "I've enjoyed making our own Retail Kahoot." **Scott**: "I liked making and selling the cookie jars."



HOSPITALITY

All Aboard the Hospitality Train!

This term, our two Year 12 students, Jace and Indi, have been making incredible progress both in their public transport training and their Certificate 1 in Hospitality course. They've been catching the train and bus to Rockingham Senior High School Education Support Centre each week, working hard on building essential life skills for their future independence.

With the end of the course in sight, Jace and Indi are now preparing for their final assessments in making coffees. Both students have excelled in their previous units, Preparing and Serving Non-Alcoholic Beverages and Food Safety and Hygiene, and they have both achieved 100%!

Jace and Indi have truly embraced their roles in the cafe, and their contributions have not gone unnoticed. Indi has received positive feedback on her bubbly personality when delivering coffees, while Jace has been praised for his polite mannerisms and excellent attention to detail when taking orders.

I am so proud of them both as they continue to grow into young adults with valuable skills that will support them in their future careers and daily lives. These achievements are a testament to their dedication, and I'm excited to see what they accomplish next!

Next term our lovely staff will be receiving coffees made by our wonderful two students as they will be showcasing what they have learnt.













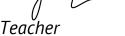
ENTERPRISE

This term, our students have been actively involved in a range of meaningful enterprise activities that support both our local community and upcoming events. We contributed to Food Bank by packing food parcels, helped WA Mums Cottage by tearing rags for reuse, and supported the 1000 Hearts project by packing felt hearts. In preparation for the Malibu Markets in October, students have been busy crafting items to sell, showcasing their creativity and teamwork. We've also been assisting with preparations for the upcoming Disability Expo by packing quest gifts and assembling show bags.

Additionally, each Thursday we visit our local university café, where students practise valuable life skills such as ordering, communicating with staff, and handling money. These experiences have helped build confidence, independence, and a strong sense of community

spirit.



















SUSTAINABILITY

We have had a great term in sustainability, with more eco-friendly efforts to keep our school and environment looking beautiful! The students have enjoyed their weekly nature clean-up walks, collecting general rubbish and 10c containers around the campus, for our Containers for Change program. We visited the recycling depot in Week 7, and the students enjoyed using the machines and conveyor belts to process our containers.

We've also done some fun experiments like 'fireworks' in a glass, dancing raisins and nature bracelets, adding some STEM into our classes too! We've had our peers from Halls Head Education Support Centre visit us this term for transition, which has seen our students become role models in sustainability – leading our nature walks and teaching the others about our program!

With our community focus, we've been learning about opportunity shops and how to help the local community. To strengthen this, we will have an exciting incursion from Salvos on Friday, Week 10! Well done to everyone for their eco-friendly and community-based

mindsets and efforts!

















OUTDOORS INDOORS

This term, students came together on the basketball court, with some trying the game for the very first time and others bringing back skills from their playing days. It was fantastic to see everyone learning, improving, and supporting one another as they grew in confidence and teamwork.

The highlight of the term was competing in two interschool basketball carnivals. Our students not only played with great energy and determination but also showed some of the best sportsmanship I've ever seen. They represented our school with pride and respect, both on and off the court.

There was also plenty of activity indoors, and if you stop by FG04, you'll see how talented our students are. The Gallery of Awesomeness is definitely well-named, and who could forget Ugly Fish?

For more on our basketball journey, make sure to check out Deegan's column about the

Wildcats on page 10.



















WELLBEING & CODING

Wellbeing and Coding has continued with many of the same activities this term, providing opportunities for students to increase their emotion vocabularies and explore their interests.

An exciting addition to our Friday classes was some robots to help with the development of coding skills. All our classes had the opportunity to use Indi robots, which use a sensor to read different colours for simple programming. A few students also had a go at using the Sphero Spark+ Robots, which require more complex block coding.

This term, the Blue class has started the special wellbeing program we run with our school psychologist, Camilla. We have started by exploring some simple strategies for coping with emotions such as worry and anxiety. We did some bubble blowing and drew an imaginary safe place that we can visualise to feel safe.











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