

WESTERN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

# Newsletter

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# Message from the Principal

MR IRFAN AFZAL

Dear Students, Parents, and Staff,

I would like to welcome you all to the 2025 school year! I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable holiday break and is now settled into the school routine, ready to embark on an exciting and successful year ahead.

As we begin this new year, I want to take a moment to reflect on our shared journey and the incredible growth we've experienced at WGS. Our school continues to be a place where academic excellence, personal growth, and student welfare and wellbeing are at the forefront of everything we do.

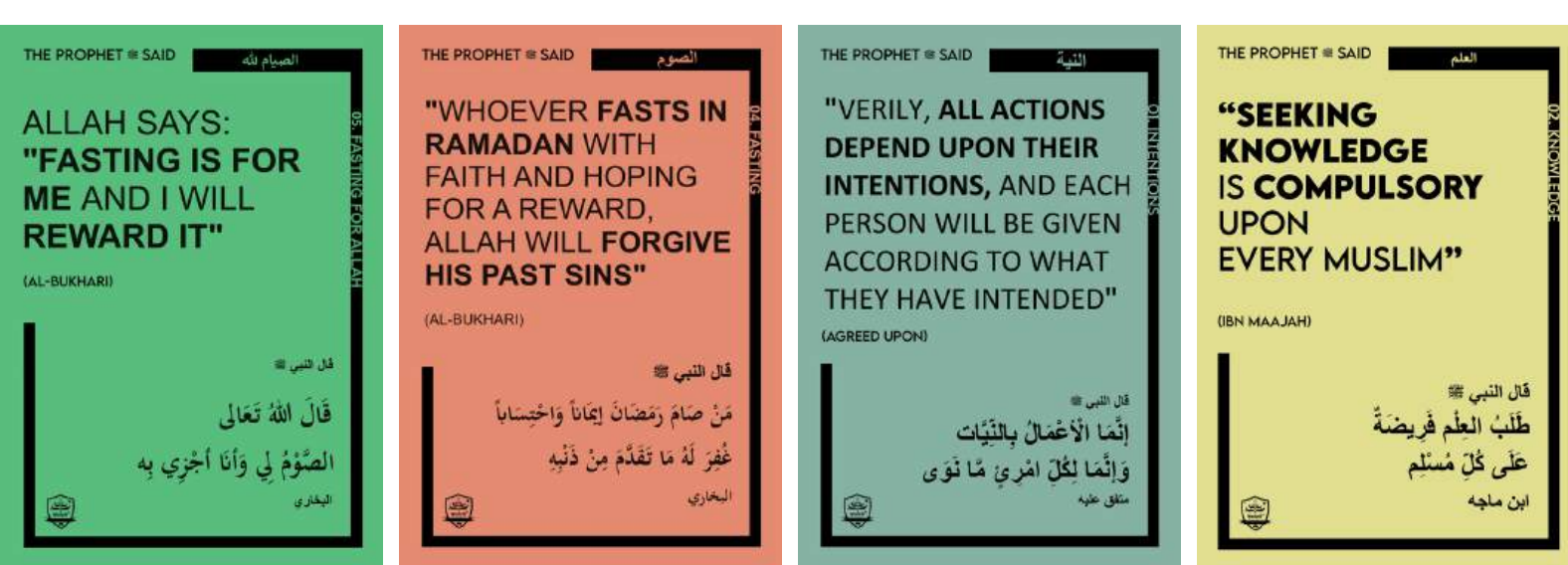
This year, the school will be undergoing infrastructure development to further enhance our learning environments. I want to assure you that these improvements will not disrupt student learning but rather strengthen our ability to provide the skills necessary for future success.

I would also like to emphasize the importance of a strong school-parent partnership. We believe that when parents, staff, and students work together, we create a positive, nurturing environment that inspires the best in each of us. I encourage everyone to build on this partnership as we move forward into the year.

I look forward to seeing our staff and students' collective accomplishments throughout 2025. Together, let's make this year memorable, impactful, and filled with achievements.

Warm regards,  
Mr. Irfan Afzal  
Principal





# Ramadan & Rewards

SH ABDULLAH HAKEEM

The Prophet ﷺ said:

مَنْ صَامَ رَمَضَانَ إِيمَانًا وَابْتِغَاءَ ثَوَابٍ غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ

"Whoever fasts in the month of Ramadan with faith and hoping for a reward, Allah will forgive his past sins." (Bukhari & Muslim)

Assalamu Alaikum wrwb Parents and Guardians,

As we have entered the blessed month of Ramadan, this hadith serves as a powerful reminder of the immense mercy and rewards Allah has promised to those who fast sincerely. Fasting is not just about abstaining from food and drink; it is an act of devotion that strengthens our connection with Allah, nurtures self-discipline, and purifies the soul.

At WGS, we encourage our students to embrace this sacred month with both dedication and sincerity. Just as we emphasise the importance of preparation in academics, Ramadan also calls for spiritual preparation; setting intentions, making duah, and striving to better ourselves. Parents and teachers play a vital role in helping our children understand

the deeper purpose of fasting and supporting them in their journey.

Practical ways to prepare include establishing a Ramadan routine, encouraging acts of kindness, and reminding children that fasting is not just a ritual but a means of seeking Allah's pleasure and forgiveness. More importantly, it is an opportunity to develop lifelong habits of gratitude, patience, and self-control.

In this blessed month, let us remind our children that their efforts, both in worship and in their daily responsibilities, are valuable in the sight of Allah. May Allah accept our fasting, grant us His forgiveness, and bless our students with success in both their spiritual and academic pursuits.



# In the Library

Term 1 has started and we are enjoying our holy month of Ramadan. 2025 is a milestone year for us as we celebrate library events. This term, the library was a hub of activity, hosting a range of events that brought together students and staff.

We started the Premier Reading Challenge. This initiative not only enhances literacy skills but also fosters 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.

This term, our school and library took part in Book Week, celebrating the joys of reading for pleasure with classroom activities, competitions, storytelling sessions and, of course, the popular school book parade. Book Week activities included reading, storytelling, crafts, and listening to audio books. The goal of Book Week is to encourage a love of reading and to build literacy skills.

Reading for pleasure has a range of benefits for children. Reading can enhance literacy skills and has a positive direct effect on academics, motivation, and achievement in later childhood and adolescence. 74% of children agree that reading helps them understand the world better, and 86% of children (age 6-17) said they loved being read books aloud at home or liked it a lot, the main reason being because it is a special time with parents.

Consider incorporating these reading activities:

- Read books together,
- Listen to audio books,
- Use books as writing prompts,
- Explore books through storytelling

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





# Kindy's Zoo Adventure

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Our Kindergarten students had an adventure at the Sydney Zoo, where they not only explored the animal kingdom but also took a deep dive into the rich Aboriginal heritage, culture, and traditions of Australia.

The students were welcomed by an Aboriginal guide who shared fascinating stories about the Aboriginal people. They learned about the history, culture, and traditions that have been passed down for thousands of years. The students were captivated by the guide's knowledge and enjoyed learning how Aboriginal

people have a connection with the land and animals.

One of the highlights of the day was the introduction to Aboriginal music and dance. Students were introduced to traditional instruments like the didgeridoo and clap-sticks, and they had a chance to participate in a fun dance. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to engage in a hands-on experience and appreciate the importance of music and movement in Aboriginal culture.

We were thrilled to see animals from all over the world, from kangaroos

and koalas, to tigers and elephants. The students enjoyed exploring the diverse range of creatures and learning interesting facts about them. They were especially excited to observe some of the Australian native animals up close, getting a better understanding of the country's unique wildlife.

The trip to Sydney Zoo was a truly enriching experience for our Kindergarten students, combining education about Aboriginal culture with a fun, interactive exploration of the animal world. It was a day filled with learning, excitement, and memories.





# Celebrating the 2024 HSC Graduates

MR YOUSEF ALKARNAZ



On February 14<sup>TH</sup>, Western Grammar School proudly hosted its annual HSC Graduates Forum, a special event dedicated to celebrating the outstanding achievements of the 2024 graduating class. The forum provided graduates with an opportunity to reflect on their hard work and dedication, as they engaged in an informal discussion and enjoyed a morning tea in their honor.



During the event, graduates were offered valuable advice from two key speakers. Sheikh Abdullah Hakeem, the Head of Islamic Affairs, and Mr Zulqarnan Malik, the Deputy Principal, shared insightful words that highlighted the importance of maintaining core values as the graduates transition to the next phase of their lives. Their messages centered on the themes of resilience, integrity, and the pursuit of excellence—both academically and personally.



As a further recognition of their exceptional accomplishments, graduates who achieved higher bands in their HSC exams were presented with monetary awards, a token of appreciation from the school. This gesture not only honors their individual efforts but also serves as an inspiration for future students to aim for excellence.

Congratulations to all of our graduates! We are incredibly proud of your achievements and look forward to seeing what you will accomplish in the future!



# Exciting Year of Sport

The 2025 sporting season at WGS is off to a fantastic start, with our students showing incredible skill, determination, and team spirit in basketball and touch football!

Our Basketball Opens teams hit the courts first, competing in a tough and exciting competition. The students put in countless hours of practice, and their hard work truly paid off. They represented WGS with pride, playing with passion and teamwork. Their dedication was evident in every game, and they were proud of their efforts. Well done to all involved!

Next up was our touch football competition, where WGS had an outstanding presence across all four divisions—15s Girls, 15s Boys, Opens Girls, and Opens Boys. Each team gave it their all, displaying impressive speed, strategy, and teamwork. Our teams secured some great wins throughout the competition, making the school proud with their efforts on the field.

With such a strong start to the year, we want to keep the momentum going! We encourage students to get involved in future sporting events by expressing their

interest early. Sport at WGS is about more than just competition—it's about teamwork, discipline, and making lifelong memories.

We also want to extend an appeal to parents and local businesses to support our athletes through sponsorships. Contributions help provide essential resources such as uniforms, training equipment, and transportation—giving our students the best possible chance to succeed. If you're interested in supporting WGS sports, please get in touch.







# Sun Safety

MR YOUSEF ALKARNAZ

Sun Awareness Week was an exciting and educational event aimed at teaching students the importance of protecting themselves from the sun's harmful rays. With Australia's high UV levels, it is essential that students understand the need for wearing hats, applying sunscreen, and staying in the shade during peak hours. Throughout the week, students participated in discussions and activities that reinforced these key sun-smart habits, ensuring they are prepared to stay safe in the sun and incorporate these safety techniques in their daily routine. Teachers emphasised the significance of these habits, linking them to Islamic teachings on self-care and looking after one's health.

The highlight of the week was the Crazy Hat Parade, a fun-filled event where students showcased their creativity by designing and wearing unique hats. From oversized sun hats

to colourful, themed creations, students and parents went above and beyond to express their artistic flair while reinforcing the message that sun protection can be fun! Some hats featured creative natural designs, while others incorporated clever sun-safe elements like built-in umbrellas and extra-wide brims.

Teachers and staff also got involved, wearing their own creative hats and encouraging students to take sun safety seriously, both at school and in their everyday lives. The day featured special awards recognising students for the most creative, funniest, and most sun-smart hats and an ice block party for the class with the highest participation rate. Congratulations to Kindergarten!

By the end of the week, students walked away with a deeper awareness of why sun protection is crucial, especially in Australia's climate. Sun Safety Week was a fantastic opportunity to blend education with creativity, ensuring that students remember to take care of themselves while enjoying the outdoors.

At WGS, we continue to emphasise the importance of health and wellbeing, and Sun Safety Week was a shining example of how learning can be engaging and enjoyable. Stay sun-safe, stay covered, and enjoy the sunshine responsibly!



# Learning Support

MS SANJANA

What a productive start in Learning Support in 2025! Students across Years 4–7 have been selected to participate in the QuickSmart program, where they receive individualised support tailored to their learning needs. They follow a structured, guided program designed to build their confidence and improve their foundational literacy and numeracy skills. The program focuses on mastering essential maths basics such as addition, subtraction, multiplication,

and division, ensuring students strengthen their understanding and fluency.

Through regular practice and targeted instruction, students have been developing essential strategies that help them become more independent and efficient learners. We're excited to see the growth and progress they achieve throughout the year!



# Work Grow Succeed