



Perth College

Anglican School for Girls



Always a PC girl





Welcome

Perth College is a School steeped in a proud history of excellence, but it is always reaching forward to an exciting and rewarding future.

The feisty, far-sighted Anglican Sisters who founded Perth College over a century ago, would be immensely proud to see just how significant their work was in laying the foundations of an institution that aims to inspire girls to be capable, caring and courageous. One hundred years ago the character and rationale of an all girls' school was defined very differently. With the exponential increase in research into learning over the last 25 years we now know that there are certain differences in the way girls and boys absorb knowledge. Here at Perth College, we believe that girls thrive in surroundings tailored to their learning style, and that a single-gender environment provides the best opportunity to enable our students to attain high academic achievement to become successful and worthwhile citizens who will contribute positively to society.

Neurological research too, has shown that girls can develop greater skills in rational and critical thinking by learning to control their emotions. This is why we encourage girls to step outside their comfort zones, take risks and develop different skills in a secure and controlled environment, experiencing the feelings of both success and failure. A healthy school ethos strikes a fine balance between support and challenge. That is what we aim for at Perth College.

We also hold dear the idea of a close-knit and personal community within which every student, and everyone connected to the School, feels that they are a valued member of our Perth College family. Education is a partnership as we all work together to fulfil the School's Vision of PC girls: Remarkable women. I hope you enjoy reading this information and catching a glimpse of life at Perth College. It is unique. Please accept our invitation to visit the School and judge for yourself. We welcome your interest.

Jenny Ethell
Principal
Perth College

Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

Perth College girls: Remarkable women

Mission

Perth College, an Anglican school, provides an academic and personal learning community enabling girls to make a difference.

Values

Always a Perth College girl

Capable: continuously learning and striving to fulfil our potential as resourceful, confident women

Courageous: welcoming challenges with strength, confidence and resilience

Caring: contributing to our community with integrity, respect and compassion





Our Campus

The Perth College campus in Mount Lawley provides a wonderful environment for learning. The School has been able to modernise and extend its facilities without damaging the character that the years have bestowed.

Perth College offers specialist teaching areas and excellent resources – a Library Resource Centre, leading edge science laboratories, a purpose-built Early Learning facility, drama and music studios, a beautiful theatre, a well-equipped gymnasium and a heated 50 metre pool.

For students to have the opportunity to experience and engage in a rich, world-class education, they must have access to personalised learning ‘any time, any place’. Learning powered by technology is one aspect of this goal. The School has a learning programme that is supported by personal learning devices, a future focused ICT infrastructure, and an extensive catalogue of systems, software and hardware deployed to all classrooms, and beyond. Technology makes it possible to transform the way girls think and learn, and to access the skills and knowledge they will need to develop into remarkable women of the 21st century.

A school’s character, however, does not lie only in its buildings. It is created by people. A sense of family is important at Perth College. A close-knit atmosphere is made possible by the architecturally cloistered nature of our campus and its intimate layout. But, more

importantly, we value small pastoral care groups designed to provide care and support for each girl, and the many opportunities for interaction between students, staff, parents, Old Girls and members of the local community. The family links continue after a student has graduated. For many students, their association with Perth College is lifelong and continues from generation to generation. The Old Girls’ Association is a strong organisation which has its own rooms on campus, and it facilitates the networking of past students through regular reunions and bi-monthly newsletters.



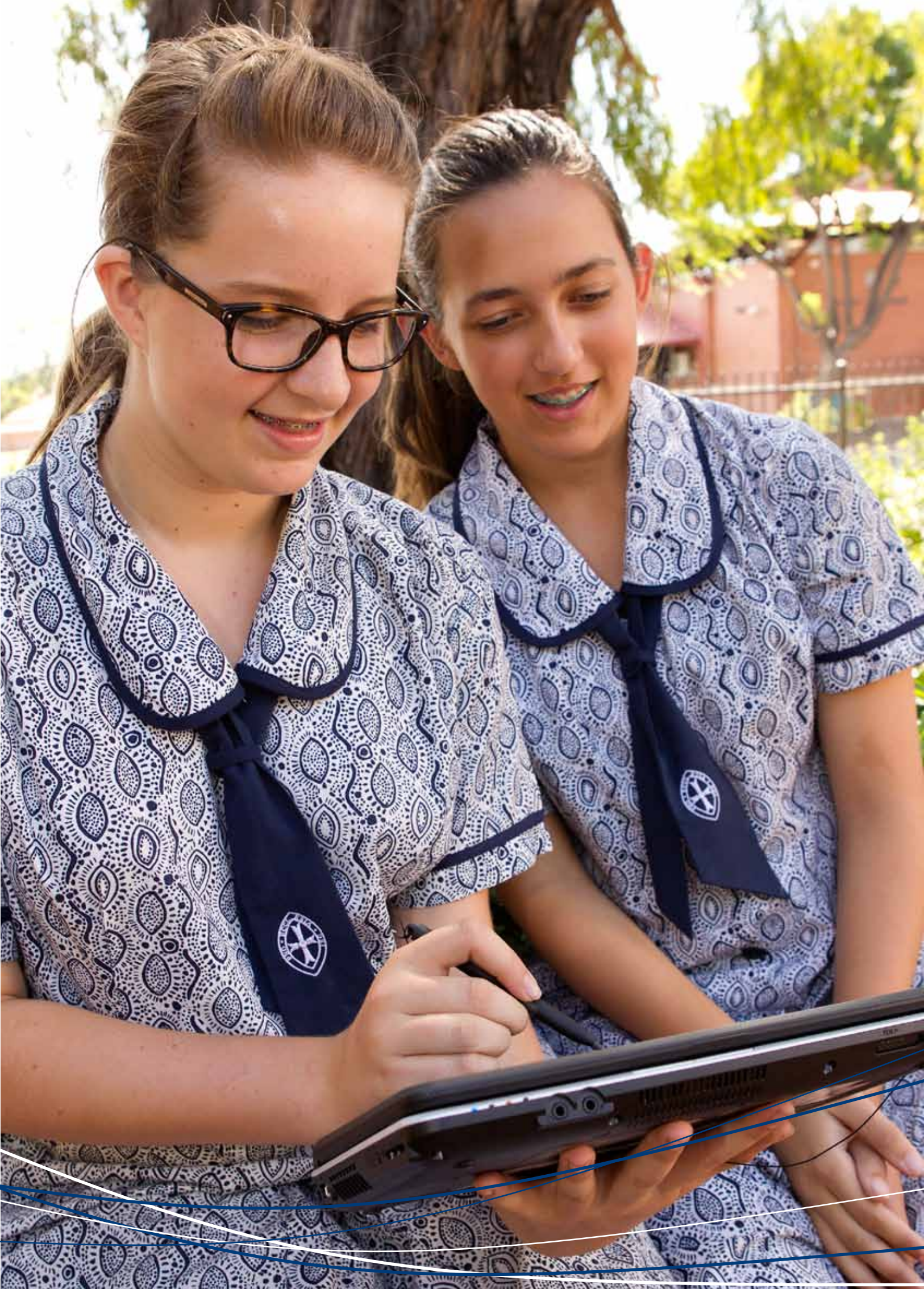
Spiritual

As an Anglican School, our tradition of Christian worship and education remains important, with all students taking part in Chapel services. The study of Beliefs and Values is an integral part of the curriculum at every level, offering our girls the time and space to discover their own spiritual dimension and explore the pattern of meaning in their life.

Our girls are offered the opportunity to take part in meaningful social justice projects, in turn developing an informed concern for other people. This concern is then expressed through action. Through our immersion experiences in Cambodia and the Solomon Islands, girls from Years 9 to 11 are offered the opportunity to spend time in developing countries, gaining great insight into other cultures, whilst experiencing first hand some of the hardships faced on a daily basis by these people.

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Teaching, Learning and Curriculum

At Perth College, we are a community of learners. We recognise that all students are individuals and have different learning abilities, learning styles and learning rates.

Our curriculum is designed with an emphasis on encouraging and supporting each student in her quest to achieve her potential, whatever it may be. We believe the best learning environment is one in which students feel safe to: take risks, express their opinions and ideas, ask questions and seek clarification, and reflect upon their learning, behaviour and actions. The environment needs to challenge students to move beyond their comfort zone, thereby allowing for the development of persistence and resilience.

Students have the opportunity to participate and make progress at their own level. Learning programmes contain variety, have purpose and (often) are fun!

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The Early Years: K to 2

In our Kindergarten and Preparatory classes, the Teaching and Learning Programmes are influenced by the Reggio Emilia philosophy, the Early Years Learning Framework and The Australian Curriculum. At this young age, the emphasis is on developing and nurturing a sense of wonder in a child-centred environment. The programme focuses on building meaningful relationships between children, teachers and families, and making connections to the School community are strongly valued and supported. The Early Years programme at Perth College focuses on enhancing self-confidence, individuality, creativity and self-expression through activities which stimulate and promote curiosity, thinking and problem solving, while refining gross and fine motor skills. We place a strong emphasis in these years on developing early literacy and numeracy skills and concepts through both explicit teaching and play-based activities. Importantly, we understand that we need to cater for different developmental levels, allowing each girl the time to master each step before taking her next one. Throughout the Early Years, our students are encouraged to reach their full potential, while developing at their own pace. A continuing theme of promoting positive

attitudes and building upon what they know and understand gives our youngest students a wonderful start to their Junior School education, with our girls gaining confidence and independence as they progress through the years.

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Junior School: Year 3 to 6

In our Junior School, Years 3 to 6 are about building confidence and consolidating and extending skills and concepts. At this time, our teaching staff can assess girls on an individual level and offer extension and additional support to ensure each student reaches her full potential.

Through activities such as excursions and visits from guest authors, artists and performers, our girls are introduced to cultural diversity. This exploration of their world and environment offers valuable links to their wider community; our girls develop confidence and an understanding of themselves and those around them.

Information Technology is also an important tool for exploration; our girls have access to the latest computing equipment and software packages. Each classroom has an interactive whiteboard, opening new worlds of possibilities across all subject areas. A strong curriculum focus not only concentrates on core subject areas but also on an enriching arts programme with opportunities for performance through House Poetry competitions, the Creative Arts Festival and the Junior School production. Our language programme ensures students are exposed

to languages from an early age through the study of French, Chinese or Indonesian; and Music, Dance and Physical Education are also enjoyed by our girls, who benefit from the specialist resources a K to 12 school offers.

A Junior School education at Perth College is designed to stimulate, challenge and build confidence in a safe and nurturing environment.





Senior School: Years 7 to 12

As girls mature into young women, they are afforded an increasing level of choice, are entrusted with more responsibility, and are encouraged to think independently and creatively.

Students are involved in an academically rich programme which is designed to meet the needs of each phase of development and allows students to discover their own strengths and capabilities in areas as diverse as Music, Physics, History, Visual Art and Philosophy.

Complementing the academic programme are activities ranging from Rowing and Dance, to service learning tours such as the Cambodian Odyssey. An extensive outdoor adventure learning programme also provides a further opportunity for personal growth, leadership and the building of resilience.

Perth College staff are experts in their respective learning areas and are passionate about teaching young women. The Learning programme in the Senior School is supported by extensive technology and purpose-built facilities.

Year 12 students leave the School confident and excited about their future, and prepared for the many challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

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Pastoral Care

Our goal is to assist girls to grow and develop into capable, courageous and caring young women able to make a difference in their world.

Perth College has a comprehensive pastoral care programme, providing opportunities for girls to explore the values of Perth College. Students are allocated to one of four Houses when they enter the School. In the Junior School girls are nurtured in their class group. In the Senior School each girl is a member of a small Form group within her House as she moves from Year 7 to Year 12. Teachers in each level work in a team with the Year Co-ordinator or the Head of the Junior School to monitor academic progress, to assist with study programmes, to counsel about individual problems and to foster personal development. Specialist care is given by the Deputy Principals, the Dean of Student Services, the Chaplaincy team, the Counsellor, and the Health Centre.

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Co-Curricular

We believe that children and young people need to be taught that active participation leads to a greater sense of personal fulfilment in adulthood. The School has a rigorous and extensive co-curricular programme at all levels. This includes sport, drama, dance, music, debating and other intellectual and cultural activities

The Music Department provides many opportunities for our girls across both choral and instrumental pathways. Music classes begin in Kindergarten while the formal instrumental programme begins in Year 3 when all girls receive individual lessons on a string instrument. The recorder and nine band instruments are introduced in the Upper Junior School years. The benefits of an excellent music programme are enjoyed by all students as the Choirs, String Orchestra, Concert Bands, Jazz Band and Ensembles perform regularly. Private music lessons are available through the School for voice and all instruments.

Perth College is renowned for its Drama and Dance programmes. All Drama and Dance classes are well subscribed and the Drama/Dance department maintains a demanding schedule of productions in the Judith Cottier Theatre and the smaller, more intimate Anne Hairsine Studio space. These productions range from large scale musicals, plays and dance performances to smaller showings including site-specific outdoor events, class works, speech and drama competitions and dance festivals. The Drama and Dance programmes, enhanced by superb facilities and inspired by experienced teaching staff and guest artists, embrace students of all ages and abilities. Perth College is committed to the development of new and exciting performance initiatives.

Debating, Mock Trials, Creative Writing, Myola the School Magazine, Titration Stakes, Biogeneius, Science and Engineering Challenge, National Chemistry Quiz, Astronomy Cup challenge, Australian Science Olympiad, Tournament of Minds, Future Problem Solving – the list of opportunities for participation is endless and student success impressive.

Physical Education is part of the core curriculum at all levels. Although participation in team sport is voluntary, almost all students play for their House or School. There is an enjoyable Inter-House competition in many sports. Local community facilities supplement the School's excellent sporting venues. At weekends, many girls represent Perth College in local competitions in netball, swimming, water polo, tennis, soccer and cricket. Outdoor Education, which aims to encourage initiative, self-reliance, courage and resourcefulness, is integral to the School's curriculum from Year 5 to Year 11. All girls take part in camps and activities tailored to the needs of each developmental stage. Our Senior School girls undertake a demanding ten-day expedition in small groups accompanied by Perth College staff. There are also many optional tours which may include service learning, adventure, sporting, cultural, historical and political interests.





Boarding

The Perth College Boarding House radiates warmth and is recognised for its strong family environment. Our Boarders are clearly acknowledged as the 'heart' of the School.

Perth College Boarders come from all around Western Australia, making this a uniquely rural boarding community within a city setting. Our community comprises a close-knit group of girls, who offer each other mutual support in their transition to city schooling. The Perth College Boarding House is a friendly and inviting environment where girls make friends quickly.

We see each girl as an individual who is encouraged to be responsible for her own actions and to contribute to her community. She is challenged to immerse herself fully in the life of the School and to live harmoniously with her peers. Students are assisted in the transition to Perth College through opportunities and experiences which enable them to develop self-esteem, and to become competent and self-sufficient, as they fulfil their potential and develop into remarkable young women. An older student is allocated as a mentor to help each new student settle into her first year of Boarding, forming a friendship that often lasts beyond this. A student Boarding Executive and Boarders' Council help to implement new initiatives and organise events to make the transition to Boarding life easier.

The Boarding House is led by an experienced, 'hands on', and caring team of people including the Head of Boarding, Deputy Head of Boarding, House staff and Chaplaincy team. Staff enjoy a positive and friendly relationship with Boarding parents and regular communication is considered essential.

The Houses have access to the School's information technology network, and students use these facilities in the evenings and at weekends. Supervised study is part of the daily routine, and academic co-ordinators and evening Tutors support the girls proactively, acting as an essential resource and link between Boarding and School.

Boarders fully participate in the School's extensive sporting, music, adventure and cultural activities. A lively co-curricular programme keeps the girls busy and active, and enables effective adjustment to their new lifestyle. A weekend programme of outings, socials, and 'in-house' events truly complement the Boarding experience, and new girls quickly develop a strong ownership of their new environment. A Boarding Life Skills programme is also delivered to Years 7 and 8 students.



Three Houses – Emily House, Karina House and Rosalie House – accommodate 113 Boarders from Years 7 to 12. Our youngest girls enjoy the company that comes with a shared bedroom, while older girls have the benefit of single study/bedrooms. Each year group is allocated its own Common Room and a central laundry, in addition to individual House laundries, which allows the girls to deal independently with their personal items. The warmth and intimacy of our Boarding House is well received by parents and the obvious care and attention to the fabric of our building is an asset.

You are warmly encouraged to take a closer look at Perth College Boarding and most welcome to pay us a visit, either during our open days or at a time of mutual convenience.

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Community

Nestled within the heart of Mount Lawley, Perth College enjoys being active within the local and extended community, and has held this place since 1916.

The School maintains a strong link with local retirement home, St David's, where many of our girls volunteer on a weekly basis. Through our Student Representative Council, Perth College recognises the work of Anglicare. From clothing appeals to sleep-outs, our students support homeless people in Western Australia.

Perth College enjoys a well-established place within the Community. Through this strong link we offer our support to local organisations through annual events such as the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal, the Hyde Park Community Fair and Lifeline.

The School has an active parent community who participate in the many out of hours events hosted by Perth College each year. The support of our parent community is quite simply remarkable, with generous donations of time and resources to support events and functions, fundraising initiatives and our co-curricular programme.

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