



Academic

Book Club

Junior and Senior Book clubs are alive and well at Mercedes College extending the range of books that students are exposed to and providing an opportunity for students to discuss the various topics elicited from their reading. Members are also given the opportunity to explore literature further with innovative activities including author readings and book shop visits.

Da Vinci Decathlon

A gruelling series of 10 intellectual tasks undertaken by the team, or sub-groups of the team, sees students challenged academically in disciplines including Engineering, Art and Poetry, Science, English, Creative Producers, Forensic Sleuths, Games of Strategy, Mathematics, and general knowledge, and provides valuable teamwork skills.

Debating

Interschool Debating is available for students in Years 8 to 12. Teams compete against other independent and private schools in the Western Australian Debating League. The Debating program allows the students to develop confidence, work as a team and assists in the development of the students' critical and analytical thinking.

Information Technology

To keep pace with the ever changing world of Information Technology, all students are offered opportunities to participate in a number of activities in the IT Lounge. Students immerse themselves with current technological issues facing them with an aim to encouraging an interest in the technological field. Every week brings a different topic or activity with discussions including IT and the Music Industry, Digital Wearables, the power of social media, and where are the girls in IT?

IT Angels

The IT Angels formed in 2014 to support the launch of the "Always Learning Anywhere Initiative" where every student has access to their own learning device. Regular meetings are held to discuss the current technological challenges in classrooms and share ideas on solutions and strategies to help solve any challenges. Being in the CBD provides students with easy access to collaborative workspaces about start-up companies and social enterprises.

Maths Activities

Students can extend themselves through the Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC), Have Sum Fun Competition (a quiz night style competition) and a House Times Tables Competition for Year 7 students.

Mock Law

A great activity for the budding barristers and solicitors among us. Each year Mercedes competes in the Law Society of WA Mock Law Trial Competition. A mock trial is a simulated court case in which teams contest a fictitious WA legal matter presented in the WA court system. The Supreme Court sets the scene for the teams who take either the prosecution/plaintiff or defence side of the case. Cases range from shoplifting and real estate evictions to murder. Students take on the roles of barristers, solicitors, witnesses or court personnel within teams. Involvement in Mock Law can enhance a student's ability to think flexibly, communicate clearly and precisely, apply past knowledge and think interdependently. Participants do not have to study Politics and Law (P&L) in Years 11 or 12, however involvement in the trials assists students who study 'P&L'.

Philosophy Club

A lunchtime activity that asks all the big questions! Philosophy means the 'love of wisdom', and we ponder and discuss a wide range of subjects relevant to the world today, as well as the ideas of the great thinkers of the past. In a relaxed setting, students have the opportunity to ask questions like: why is there something rather than nothing? Or, what is truth? And, what makes something or somebody, beautiful. Philosophy is also a practical discipline however, and we apply these thoughts to issues occurring in the world today, such as the fascination with reality TV, freedom of speech, and the age old question: Is Superman better than Batman? All are welcome.

Science Activities

A range of activities and competitions are on offer including the Rio Tinto Big Science Competition, The Siemens Science Experience (an enrichment and extension activity held at UWA), The National Chemistry Quiz, The RACI Titration Takes (a group competition for Chemistry students), The National Youth Science Forum, Science Talent Search is conducted by STAWA, and the College Science Club.

Writing Club

The Writers' Club is about developing and sharing creative talents. Meeting in the Library after school, student leaders invent creative ways for members to improve their writing skills using a variety of mediums including scripts, poems, monologues, short stories, novels and songs. Leaders provide opportunities for members to share their ideas and receive constructive criticism and encouragement throughout the process.

Cultural

There are many exciting opportunities for students interested in pursuing their passion in the area of Arts and Culture. Whether speaking alongside politicians and government representatives at the John Curtin Memorial breakfast, or walking down the red carpet to see who takes out the coveted House Film Award; there is something for everyone.

House Arts Festival

The House Arts Festival combines Drama and Dance Festival is a popular activity for students at Mercedes to be involved in. Using a theme of their choice, senior students and producers audition students from Years 7 to 11, to produce a performance incorporating different styles of dance with drama to tell a story. House DramaDance combines with House Choir to perform at the Performing Arts Festival held at the Concert Hall at the end of Term 1. The winners of the competition receive the coveted House DramaDance Fest Shield.

Drama

The Performing Arts Centre is the focus of many lively drama productions throughout the year. Taking part in College productions allows students from Year 7 to Year 12 to develop their technical skills in all aspects of theatre production. The school production is a highlight of the College calendar and showcases the outstanding talents of our young actors, and those of the technical and support crew. The Year 12 Drama Performance and Year 10 Showcase are other events where Drama students perform for an audience. Year 11 and 12 Drama students also have the opportunity to travel to Sydney for intensive NIDA drama workshops with professional actors and directors.

Media

Learn all there is to know about media, in state of the art facilities. A fully equipped radio station, run by students in the MCfm Radio Club, delivers broadcasts and musical entertainment throughout the year for special events. The AVID industry-standard editing suites allow students to develop and enhance their production skills in the ICUMC film club. The House Film Festival sees students walk the red carpet as they vie to take out the House Film Award and other awards including Best Director and Best Actress. For Year 11 and 12 media students a trip to Queensland's Bond University provides a wonderful opportunity for students to participate in intensive workshops. A photography club enables budding photographers a chance to hone their skills and capture great moments of student life.

Languages

Language tours to France occur every three years while the Italian study tour takes place every two years. These provide an opportunity for language students from Year 10 to 12 to improve their French or Italian, while immersed in the culture. Senior students are able to apply for exchange opportunities through the WAATI/Intercultura and NACEL programs that occur during the Christmas holidays. A variety of competitions are open to Language students including the Alliance Francaise, Dante Alighieri and the Australian Language Certificate.

Music

Music plays an important role in the life of Mercedes College. Students from Years 7 to 12 are offered instrumental music tuition in orchestral and concert band instruments, as well as piano, voice, percussion and drum kit. Students involved in this program participate in the College's ensembles including Orchestra, Concert Band, Choral Groups, Percussion, String and Wind Ensembles and a range of other chamber ensembles. Festivals, eisteddfods and external examinations help raise their level of confidence and engender a sense of pride in their playing. The Annual Music Showcase provides an opportunity to showcase the extraordinary talents of our musicians and voice students, while the House Choir competition at the Performing Arts Festival is an event for all our young women to shine.

Public Speaking

Each year students in Year 10 to 12 have the opportunity to participate in a number of public speaking competitions. Mercedes has an outstanding record of success in this area. Frequently, Mercedes competitors make it through to semi-finals and grand-finals and we have had a number of State winners. The competitions we regularly enter are: The Lions Youth of the Year Quest, Rostrum Public Speaking Competition, Rotary Four Way Test, APEX Effective Speaking and the Plain Speaking Award.

Speech

The speech program at Mercedes is one steeped in history and in more recent years, a touch of fame. The movie '*The King's Speech*' tells the story of speech therapist Lionel Logue. Mr Logue was once an elocution teacher at Mercedes College (formerly known as Our Lady's College). Today, Speech remains a popular subject for students wishing to improve their public speaking skills. Students gain confident presentation skills, often working through drama, poetry and prose sections. This is reinforced by Trinity College, London and Australian Music Board Examinations held each year.

Design and Visual Arts

Students express their creative talents in Visual Arts at the College in a variety of ways through community related projects and innovative College projects to celebrating events throughout the year.