



Welcome to edition 9 of our Community Newsletter. Keep up to date with the latest news and upcoming events for our Education Support program. Help us celebrate the achievements of our students and be part of the learning.

Our Community Newsletter will come out termly to showcase the incredible transformations and growth of our students.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

As we wrap up a vibrant and rewarding Term 3, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all our students, staff, and families. This term has been packed with achievements, joyful events, and memorable milestones that truly showcase the spirit of Atwell College.

Our newly appointed annual disco was a highlight, bringing together students and staff for an evening of music, dancing, and laughter. It was wonderful to see everyone letting their hair down and celebrating as a community.

Pathway exploration for our year 12s and 11s, has continued to provide our students with invaluable real-world experiences. Whether it's gaining confidence in new environments or building practical skills, our students have made us proud with their enthusiasm and commitment.

A special mention must go to our Year 12s, who are finishing their final term with us. Your resilience, growth, and achievements over the years have been inspiring. We wish you all the best as you take your next steps beyond Atwell—remember, you'll always be part of our community.

As we look ahead to Term 4, there are even more opportunities on the horizon. From new learning adventures to community events and celebrations, I am excited to see what we will achieve together. Thank you to our dedicated staff and supportive families for making Atwell College such a positive and inclusive place to learn and grow.

Let's finish the year strong and continue to embrace every opportunity!

Brent Passchier – Deputy Principal Education Support





EVENTS

Yr 11 and Year 12 Pathway exploration:

This term, our Year 11 and 12 students have been actively honing their work-ready skills through hands-on experiences at various local organisations. From stocking shelves at Woolworths to contributing to environmental projects with Landcare and APACE and even assisting at the City of Cockburn and the Cockburn Toy Library, our students are making a real impact. We are incredibly grateful for these valuable opportunities to connect with our community and explore diverse post-school pathways.



WILDCATS – All Abilities Basketball Carnival

We were excited to participate in the Wildcats Excursion, which took place on Thursday, 7th of August 2025 at the Bendat Basketball Centre. At the excursion we played three basketball games against other schools and cheered for our teammates from Atwell College. There were some spectacular skills from many students and terrific teamwork to have both teams undefeated for the whole day. Solomon and Krystal got to participate in the Allstars wildcats' game while Karri and Andre got the sportsmanship awards. We appreciated the support and help from Rio Tinto, Wildcats, SEDA students, teachers, Educational Assistants, and participants to make the excursion a success. I cannot wait to go next year!!!

By Emily Ewels from year 8.





DISCO FEVER!!!

This term, we hosted our very first school disco for our junior and senior EESP students, and what a night it was! With DJ Rhemix spinning the decks there was plenty of dancing, a lively limbo, and a parachute party. The energy was electric!

Beyond the fun and excitement, events like this give our young people the chance to build confidence, strengthen friendships, and experience the joy of belonging.

There's no doubt this will become an annual highlight, and in true Atwell style, each year promises to be bigger and better!





Year 8 Education Support Movie Excursion

Our Year 8 Education Support students recently enjoyed an exciting excursion to see *Bad Guys 2* at Hoyts Southlands. Before the trip, students explored the film trailer and made predictions, helping prepare them for a review activity back at school.

The VIP treatment from Hoyts staff, led by Manager Jacob, made the day even more special. Students loved the popcorn and water combo, and the spacious recliner seating added to the experience. The film delivered laughs and action, and students represented our school beautifully with their outstanding behaviour.



ACHIEVEMENTS

The Atwell College Positive Behaviour Support team drives our college values and expected behaviours, by supporting consistent practices and positive relationships. We foster a positive learning environment wherein our students can thrive, and we all feel a sense of safety, belonging and acceptance.

Within Ed Support we have our Student of the Week nominations which link directly to the PBS matrix. All the nominated students receive PBS points, and the winner also gets to choose a reward from the prize box located in Alli & Paris' office (2 of our Lead EAs). Here are some of our winners so far:



Ava – C9/10



Mary Claire – U12



William - U8



Calum – C10/12



BOOK WEEK – Book week was celebrated in the school library and was a great success.

The morning tea was attended with approximately 70 students and some lucky few who received awards or thank you presents. The turnout was wonderful, with almost all kids attending that were invited, they all had a great time, and we look forward to continuing this tradition next year.

The award winners were:

Sophie May – Best Overall Reader, Year 7

Isla Wall – Best Manga Reader, Year 7

Onaiza Nadeem – Best Overall Reader, Year 8

Mikayla Owen – Best Manga Reader, Year 8

Matthew Lister – Best Overall Reader, Year 9

Lucas Lynch – Best Manga Reader, Year 9

Sarah Legerstee – Best Fiction Reader, Year 10

Michael Sarzaba – Best Manga Reader, Year 10

Fihl Bitbit – Best Fiction Reader, Year 11

Lucy Ferguson – Best Overall Reader, Year 11

Chris Mileusnic – Best Book Borrower, Year 12

Kai Powell – Best Book Borrower, Year 12



Special thank you gifts were given to Maddi Bucktrout and Joy Eldridge for being wonderful Library Monitors who help at the circulation desk before school and at lunchtimes, and to our very efficient Workplace Student Jocelyn Dryden who does an amazing job helping us out once a week.





INNOVATION



Australian Association of Special Education National Conference

Leading Inclusion: Atwell College at the AASE 2025 National Conference ★

Brent Passchier (DP - Education Support) & Denelle Kennedy (Program Coordinator - Education Support) attended the 2025 Australian Association of Special Education's National Conference in Melbourne, 27th-29th August where they presented on Leadership in Education: A Focus on Disability and Inclusion at Atwell College.

The 2025 theme 'Great Expectations' acknowledges the importance of thinking about the future and planning for great achievements, creating innovative learning environments that equip, inspire, encourage and support the diversity of learners in Australian schools. It is about setting great expectations for all members of the education community.

They also toured some Special Developmental Schools, focusing on systems, facilities and practices. It was also great to network and make connections with other leaders from many states, and with New Zealand delegates and speakers.





Knowledge Series
ATWELL COLLEGE

Atwell College is excited to announce our next Knowledge Series session is on **Supporting Students with Down Syndrome** presented by Cassandra Hughes and Nikki Schwagermann. Joining them will be one of the DSWAAN Members, A young adult with Down Syndrome, who will share their journey of schooling and the exciting things they have done since leaving school.

Down Syndrome Western Australia

Cassandra has been CEO of Down Syndrome WA since October 2021. Under her leadership, DSWA membership has grown by 50%, with many founding and long-standing members returning. Her leadership has fostered a strong sense of inclusion and belonging, ensuring that DSWA is driven by the needs of its members.

Nikki has worked at Down syndrome WA since 2011 and been an active member of the association since her youngest of three sons, Wil, was born in 2009. Nikki brings to the team her years of knowledge and experience and has a strong passion for improving the lives of people with Down syndrome and their families through support, education, advocacy and forming networks within the community.

All are welcome; parents/carers, community members, school staff and allied health professionals.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH DOWN SYNDROME

REGISTRATION
via LINK or QR CODE

Session

Tuesday 5th August
5-7pm
Atwell College PAC

<https://forms.office.com/2F8J0K181AT>
or through PLIS <https://plis.education.wa.edu.au/EventDetails.aspx?EventID=67599>

Knowledge Series – Term 3

Down Syndrome Association of WA presented on Tuesday 5th August for our Knowledge Series. Andrew Denton, a person with Down Syndrome also spoke about his schooling experiences and raft of achievements, including travelling the world and representing Australia.

We look forward to Term 4 for our last knowledge series of 2025!

MEET OUR TEAM



C9- C102 Team

Kim Bettley

My name is Kim Bettley, and I've proudly worked at Atwell College for the past 15 years. Outside of work, life revolves around cricket with my three children all heavily involved in the sport. Between scoring, umpiring, and supporting their games, weekends often mean up to six matches across the summer season. Cricket has truly become a big part of both my family's life and mine.



Declan Ogiliv

I have been an EA at Atwell College for 2 years now and previously I worked at an education support school in London as an Education Support EA. I am at university studying teaching and inclusive education. In my free time I play ice hockey and teach martial arts as well.



Kylie Bird

Hi my name Kylie Bird, been working at Atwell College as an EA for 3 years. I enjoy working as an EA because every day is challenging and different. A bit about myself, I have 2 kids, love the outdoors and going to the gym.



Ashley Donovan

My name is Ashley. I'm married with two kids and recently joined Atwell College after deciding to make a change from running my own garden and landscaping business. I was encouraged to try working as an Education Assistant, and I'm really enjoying both the change of pace and the new challenges this role brings. In my spare time, I love going out with my family, taking my two dogs for walks, going for coffee and keeping busy with different projects

MEET OUR COMMUNITY



Gaelen Williams – APM Communities

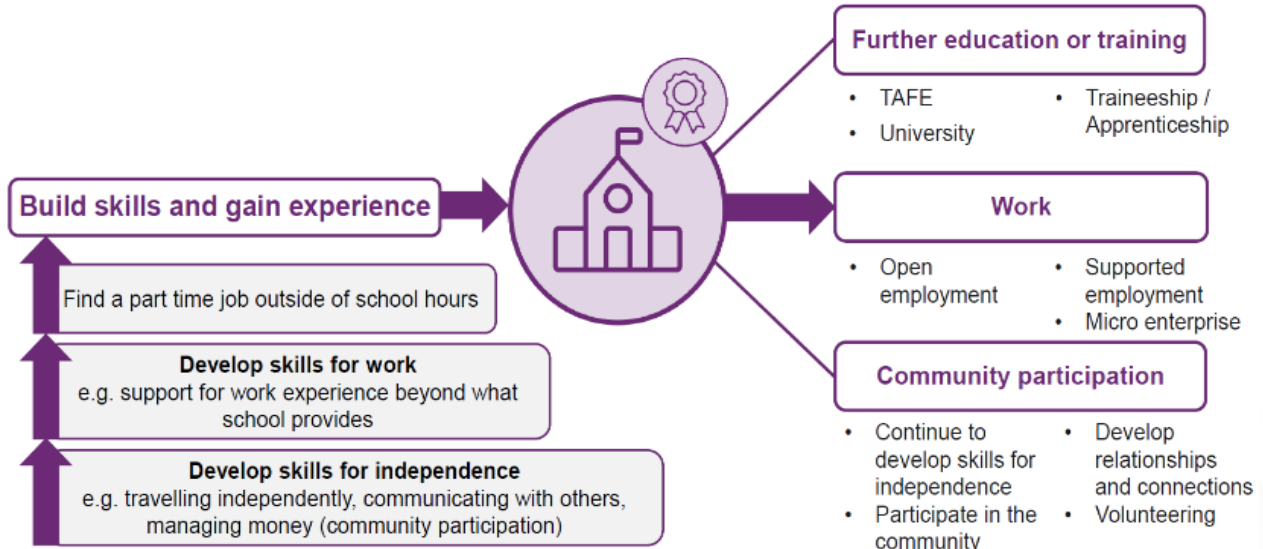
Exploring Customised Employment and NDIS Pathways

This term, Gaelen Williams and Will Scott from APM Communities delivered an insightful presentation on Customised Employment and the NDIS funding available to support post-school pathways for students with disability. Customised Employment is a person-centred approach that works with both the young person and the employer to create meaningful job opportunities tailored to individual strengths and interests.

Gaelen also offers parent mentor sessions to help families navigate the NDIS and explore options for life after school. These sessions provide valuable guidance for parents supporting their child's transition into employment and adulthood.



Pathway to work – Youth Employment



**EMPOWERING
AUTISTIC YOUTHS
THROUGH
GENERATIVE AI
EDUCATION**

**GEN•AI
BOOTCAMPS**

WA DATA SCIENCE
INNOVATION HUB
Powering an AI Future

**School Holiday Bootcamp
For Autistic Youths Aged 13-18 Years**

When
6-9 Oct 2025

Where
Mandurah Catholic College

Eligibility Criteria
An autism diagnosis

Duration
4 days
9:30am – 3pm

Desirable (but not necessary)

- An interest in AI
- Previous Scratch or block-style knowledge/experience
- Ability to type
- Basic communication skills (verbal or non-verbal)

Please visit www.genaibootcamps.com.au for more information and for other bootcamp dates and locations.

Please scan the QR Code to register. (Please allow yourself 15 minutes to complete the registration and have a soft copy of your child's proof of diagnosis handy.)



BARKING GECKO ARTS

The [AWESOME Festival](#) is back for 2025, and this year it's presented by [Barking Gecko Arts](#). Children and their families are invited to participate in an array of events and activities held across five locations, including Perth and Kwinana

During the first week of the spring school holidays, enjoy spectacular shows and workshops including theatre, dance, early childhood activities, music, film, literature, visual arts, and creative hands-on activities.

Other entertainment to look forward to include:

- Kids markets
- Book adventures
- Music and sing-alongs
- Sensory storytime
- Arts and Crafts
- And so much more!



DID YOU KNOW?

Department of Education's Strategic Policy Visit

On Monday 9th September, Atwell College welcomed Tom Antoniazzi, A/Director for Strategic Policy and Leanne Swingler, Manager of Strategic Policy. They toured our innovative learning environments and met with leadership to hear visions for excellence in disability and inclusion, including leading processes and practices.



Stan Perron Charitable Foundation Visit

On **Tuesday, 13th August**, we had the pleasure of welcoming **Elizabeth Perron** from the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation to Atwell College. Elizabeth toured the Sensory Zone and saw firsthand how the Foundation's contribution is making a tangible difference in the lives of our students. It was a meaningful moment for our staff and students, who are already seeing the positive impact of the space.

The Sensory Zone features calming furniture, sensory tools, and a thoughtfully designed layout to create a supportive environment that helps students manage stress, refocus, and feel safe. It is part of Atwell College's broader commitment to inclusivity and student wellbeing.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation for their generous support and to Elizabeth Perron for taking the time to visit and engage with our school community.

Loved this edition? You can find all our newsletters on our website too! Jump online and stay in the loop — anytime, anywhere!

[Community Newsletter – Atwell College](#)

HOLIDAYS

Please stay safe, refresh and enjoy the time away. We look forward to seeing all students return on Tuesday 14th October.



INCLUSIVE EDUCATION NETWORK
supporting every student