

Issue 1 - 2026

WHEELS MAGAZINE

Attendance

"Every day at school builds connection – and connection is one of the strongest protectors of mental health."



**JOHN TONKIN
COLLEGE**

EXCELLENCE | RESPECT | COMMITMENT



Attendance is a priority for staff and students at JTC.

Let's prove what this community is capable of and reverse the nationwide trend of decreased school attendance.

At risk of sounding a little repetitive this year, I will be talking about Attendance quite often! As a community, we need to push back against the increasing apathy towards school attendance. I'm not talking about those students and families who face significant hurdles and even barriers to getting to school. I'm talking about those families where it should be very possible for the children to be attending greater than 90% of the time.

Attending less than 90% places students at risk of not achieving to their potential. It is very challenging to catch up on missed learning and it also puts social skill and resilience building at risk.

In addition to this, students who arrive late in the morning are at risk of incurring a Half-Day absence that contributes to a decline in their overall attendance percentage. Arriving late is disruptive to your child's learning, it disrupts the teacher and therefore, the learning of others.

Based on all of the above, I am asking families to take the 90%+ Attendance Pledge, which has been sent out via Compass. Even those families where there are recognised barriers to attendance and the child's percentage is far lower, I urge you to still take the pledge as a commitment to keeping your child's attendance as high as possible.

Kim Savins
Principal

Attendance

PEER-ABILITY YEAR 7

Friday, 20 February 2026

"Experiences like Peer-Ability Camp help students build confidence, friendships and a strong sense of belonging at JTC."

This term, Year 7 students visited the John Tonkin College Marine Centre in Dawesville for the college's annual Peer Ability Camp Day, an event designed to help new students settle into life at JTC and build early connections with their peers.



Students participated in a range of team activities including stand-up paddleboard races, water challenges, fishing, bush walks and a creative boat-building challenge before launching their designs into the estuary. They also experienced Noongar fish net practice on land, connecting with local cultural knowledge.

Year 12 students supported the day, providing encouragement and leadership while helping welcome the new cohort to the college community.

The camp provided a valuable opportunity for students to build friendships, strengthen teamwork skills and begin their high school journey feeling connected to JTC.



Check out all the
action on Facebook



[Click here for more photos
from our Peer-Ability Day.](#)



STUDENT Wellness

Finding My Place: Charlotte's Big Picture Journey

For Year 11 student Charlotte, starting this year at John Tonkin College meant trying something new. By joining the Big Picture Program, she found a learning pathway that feels more connected to who she is and what she wants for her future.

While Big Picture is new to JTC this year, Charlotte already had some insight into the program.

"My older sister was part of Big Picture at Halls Head College, so I knew a little bit about it," she says. "When the option was introduced to us last year, I got really interested in this different way of learning."

But the biggest reason Charlotte chose the program was a realisation about her original course selections.

"The courses I first chose didn't feel right. It felt like I was picking what I thought I should do to finish high school, not what I actually wanted to do."

Big Picture offered a chance to rethink that.

A new way to learn...

Since starting the program, Charlotte says her motivation for school has noticeably improved.

"My motivation has improved a lot. I enjoy coming to school more because I get to work at my own pace and learn about things I'm actually interested in."

She also appreciates the flexibility and independence that the program allows.

"I feel like I have more control over what I'm doing each day. The class isn't black and white – everyone is different and brings their own personality and interests."

That variety creates a space where students can learn in ways that suit them.



check
it
out



Learning that feels personal...

For Charlotte, one of the biggest benefits has been the personalised learning approach.

"It's allowed me to explore what I really want to do and express myself in new ways," she explains. "That's helped me feel more comfortable with who I am."

She believes recognising each student's interests is an important part of the experience.

"Everyone has different hobbies and passions, and this space has allowed a lot of us to grow."

A stronger sense of community...

While Big Picture encourages students to take ownership of their learning, Charlotte says it has also built a strong sense of connection within her advisory group.

"Big Picture isn't about just one person. It's about everyone working together and supporting each other."

She has already noticed a shift in how some students feel about coming to school.

"Some people in our advisory didn't enjoy school much last year, but now they actually look forward to coming in. We feel more comfortable and supported by our small community."

Students have also formed new friendships along the way.

"We've built stronger bonds with people we've had classes with before and with people we hadn't really connected with yet."

Learning through passion...

For Charlotte and her classmates, being able to explore their interests has helped remove some of the stress that can come with traditional learning.

“ Lots of people don't feel pressured to do things they don't enjoy anymore. Instead, we feel proud to be learning about our passions. ”

As John Tonkin College rolls out the Big Picture Program for the first time, students like Charlotte are helping shape what this new pathway can offer.

For her, the experience has been simple but powerful: learning that feels meaningful, supportive and connected to the future she wants to build.



For more information on Big Picture;

Students can visit the Career's Hub at the MET Campus - Mon - Fri

Parents can email: johntonkin.col.pathways@education.wa.edu.au or phone: 9583 0547

Big Picture
LEARNING AUSTRALIA



JOHN TONKIN
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Welcomes Special Guest...

Justin
COULSON

Carrots & Sticks

*Better Ways to Build
Boundaries With Your Kids*



PARENTS SESSION



A Powerful Opportunity for Our Community: Dr Justin Coulson Comes to JTC

John Tonkin College is proud to welcome one of Australia's most trusted parenting voices, Justin Coulson, to our Tindale Campus in Term 2—an exciting opportunity that reflects our deep commitment to wellbeing across our entire community.

Known for his research-backed, practical approach to parenting, Dr Coulson is the co-host of Channel Nine's Parental Guidance and the voice behind the Happy Families podcast—Australia's most downloaded parenting podcast. With more than 100 million views across his platforms and 10 published books, his influence is both far-reaching and deeply impactful.

Supporting Students, Staff and Families

This unique event has been designed to support wellbeing across our entire community:



Students will take part in a session focused on mindset, resilience and personal growth.



Staff—including educators from local schools—will engage in professional learning that strengthens positive classroom culture and wellbeing.



Parents and carers will be invited to an evening session focused on building stronger, more connected families.

By opening our doors to the wider community, JTC continues to lead with purpose—creating opportunities that bring people together through shared learning and support.



Carrots
& Sticks

*Better Ways to Build
Boundaries With Your Kids*

happy families.
SCHOOLS PARENTS SESSION



Register Now!

Event Info

Host:

John Tonkin College
Tindale Campus, 35 Gibla
Street, Mandurah

Date:

Monday 4th May 2026

Time:

6pm - 7:30pm

Cost:

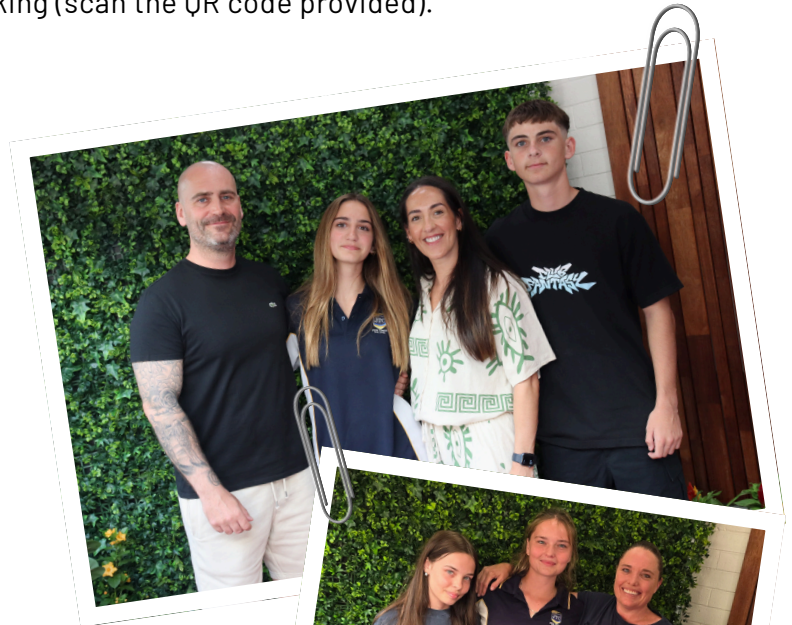
2 x free tickets per family.
Additional tickets, \$10



For Our Parents: Your Invitation

JTC families will receive an email from Principal Kim Savins with access to two free tickets per family for the parent session. Registration is essential and must be completed via the link provided in that email.

Additional tickets will be available to the wider community for \$10 via TryBooking (scan the QR code provided).



Carrots and Sticks: Rethinking Discipline

In his parent session, Carrots and Sticks: Better Ways to Build Boundaries With Your Kids, Dr Coulson challenges traditional discipline methods and offers a fresh, evidence-based approach.

Parents will gain practical strategies to:

- Move beyond punishment and reward-based systems
- Guide behaviour with clarity and confidence
- Strengthen connection through communication and understanding

The result is a calmer home environment, more positive behaviour, and stronger relationships between parents and children.

At JTC, we know that when we support the wellbeing of our students, staff and families, everyone thrives. This event is a powerful example of our shared commitment to building a connected, resilient and successful community.



Meet our team *in the* Wellness Hub

We believe. We empower. We succeed

Dee
Mindfulness Coach

Anushka
School Psychologist



Michelle
Youth Worker

Joseph
School Chaplain



Mandy and Tiffany
Attendance Officers

Hi! We are your Attendance Officers, Mandy and Tiffany.



Our role is about supporting students to attend school regularly because attendance and wellbeing are closely connected. When students are here consistently, they build stronger relationships, feel more confident, and are better able to engage in their learning.

If your child is absent without explanation, you may receive a phone call, message or maybe a visit from us. These calls are not about getting students into trouble – they are about checking in, making sure everything is okay, and working together to understand any barriers that might be affecting attendance. Sometimes a simple conversation can help us put the right support in place early.

At JTC, we encourage students to make a Personal Attendance Pledge – committing to showing up, giving their best effort, and communicating when they need help. We value the partnership we have with families and know that when we work together, students feel more supported, connected, and ready to learn every day.



in the Wellness Hub

We believe. We empower. We succeed

Empowering our Community



Triple P – Positive Parenting Program

Triple P – Positive Parenting Program gives parents strategies to help raise happy, resilient and confident kids. Visit Triple P to find a free program near you.

Tuning into Teens Stronger Connections



A powerful six session program designed specifically for parents/carers/guardians of 12 to 16 year olds. **Tuning Into Teens** helps you build deeper, more meaningful connections with your young person by focusing on emotional awareness, understanding and communication.

When: 6pm-8pm Tuesdays fortnightly from 24 March 2026
(24 March, 7 April, 21 April, 5 May, 19 May, 2 June)

Where: headspace Mandurah, 10c/327 Mandurah Terrace, Mandurah 6210

To register: Call 9544 5900
or email hello@headspaceman.com.au



By participating, you'll learn how to:

- Reduce conflict and create more harmony at home
- Boost engagement and strengthen your relationship with your tween/teen
- Better understand their world, including the issues and concerns that matter most to them
- Create a supportive atmosphere where they feel comfortable sharing – without fear of judgement
- Model emotionally intelligent communication that your tween/teen will naturally mirror

How to help kids thrive at school: parenting skills and routines that really work

There's no shortage of problems going to school can bring up, whether it's challenging behaviours, friendship dramas, poor grades or sore tummies in the morning.

Every parent and carer wants their child to enjoy school, reach their potential and make friends, but it's not always as easy as it sounds.

While school is naturally full of ups and downs, as a parent or carer you can help make it an overall positive experience. Whether your child is going back to school or starting school for the first time, these simple and practical strategies can help them succeed in the classroom and beyond.

[Triple P Parenting Article](#)



in the Wellness Hub

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Empowering our Community

Upcoming workshop - Fear-Less Triple P Seminar

Learn more about anxiety and how to help your child or teenager reduce worry and develop confidence and coping skills.

When

Thu, 12/5/2026 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Where

Carine SHS - Library

51 Everingham Street, Carine, WA

Provider

Iva Filipovska Department of Education WA
6235 7500

Iva.Filipovska@education.wa.edu.au

More details

Tea, coffee and a tip sheet provided!



Register here!



*Student
Reflection...*

MY JOURNEY

AT



JOHN TONKIN
COLLEGE

EXCELLENCE | RESPECT | COMMITMENT



After finishing up at Riverside Primary School, John made the move to Year 7 at JTC this year — and he hasn't looked back.

From discovering new favourite subjects to embracing the fresh start that comes with each class, John shares what he's enjoying most about the transition to high school in 2026.



"Every class is a fresh start — and Surf Science is the one I never want to miss."

High school has been really fun so far — there's always something to look forward to each day.

One of the best things is how each class feels like a fresh start. If one lesson doesn't go your way, you can reset as soon as you walk into the next one. New class, new teacher, new momentum — it makes a big difference.

I really enjoy Maths, but Surf Science is definitely my favourite. The Surf Science Camp has been a highlight, and it's something I'll always remember. I actually get disappointed if I have to miss school — especially when it means missing Surf Science!



FEBRUARY, 2026



IN THE NEWS



EYES ON US.

MUSSEL MONITORING PROGRAM



**JOHN TONKIN
COLLEGE STUDENTS
LEARNING AQUATIC
SCIENCE FROM
HANDS-ON MUSSEL
MONITORING
PROGRAM**

Check out the PerthNow article which explains how students are JTC students are working with Dr Alan Cunningham on the Cybernetic Mussel Monitoring Project.

