



5 November 2021

**WALO Week 2021**  
**Wicked Awesome Learning Opportunities**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Week 9 at Wirreanda Secondary School is **WALO Week** ('Wicked Awesome Learning Opportunities'). The aim of WALO Week is to expose students to a range of exciting, challenging and valuable experiences, with something different every day. These experiences will range from engaging workshops run at Wirreanda Secondary School to off-site excursion opportunities.

In 2018 Professor Zhao challenged 10 schools in South Australia, including Wirreanda Secondary School, to develop a project that raises students' aspirations and improves learning and engagement. As a result, a team of Year 8 and 9 students and staff from Wirreanda Secondary School developed a project based on the essential question...

*"How might we tap into learners' passions and talents, and leverage that for greatness?"*

WALO week is one important part of this solution, focussing on developing entrepreneurial and personalised learning, and has continued to evolve each year. The timetable for WALO week 2021 is below, with further details about each of the planned days/sessions on the following page.

Week 9 Term 4 2021				
Monday 7/12/2021	Tuesday 8/12/2021	Wednesday 9/12/2021	Thursday 10/12/2021	Friday 11/12/2021
<p style="text-align: center;">Year 7: House Culture Day <i>Cirkidz: Circus School and Ice Skating at the Ice Arena</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Year 8: Flinders University Experience</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Year 9: <i>Year 9 into 10 Transition and House Culture Building Day</i></p>	<p>Passion Project Day</p>	<p>Dare Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Exposure Day Excursions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">choose your own excursion to various locations</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(all students off site)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dare Day (Session 3)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">House Competition</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Attitude of Gratitude Assembly</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dismissal time: 2:30pm</b></p>

### ***Passion Projects:***

Students are offered the opportunity to choose an area they are passionate about and spend 100 minutes immersed in that passion & finding their FLOW. A state of FLOW is a key element of Positive Education. These sessions will enable and encourage that state of FLOW and promote a deeper understanding of one's meaning and purpose.

### ***Dare Day:***

Students have the opportunity to participate in challenges (dares) created by a team of teachers from specific faculties. Each dare will be completed in one learning block and students will have a voice and choice nominating for the dares they want to experience. Variety will be the focus for engagement and the key purpose is to provide opportunities to participate in mental, physical, critical and creative thinking challenges inspired by a driving question.

### ***Exposure Day Excursions (Thursday):***

The Exposure Day concept was inspired by the learning brought back by students and staff from the Yong Zhao Conference. Students will nominate for an excursion of their choice, something that exposes them to the diverse experiences and spaces that Adelaide has to offer.

### ***Year Level Specific Excursions (Monday):***

#### ***Year 7 House Culture Day***

Students will be exposed to a range of Circus/Gymnastics skills with qualified instructors at the **Cirkidz Circus School!** The intensive 2 hour workshop will combine risk-taking, problem-solving challenges, creativity and resilience activities. After lunch will be spent at the **Adelaide IceArena @ Mt Thebarton** and all students will have the opportunity to take on the challenge of ice skating with qualified IceArena Instructors. There will be a subsidised cost of \$20.00 associated with this excursion to cover the cost of transportation, instructor and skate hire.

#### ***Year 8 Flinders University Excursion***

Flinders University has partnered with us to offer our year 8 students the opportunity to spend the day on their campus to experience all the things that higher education at the Flinders University Campus has to offer. This excursion is free.

#### ***Year 9 into 10 Transition and House Culture Building Day***

Presented by the Senior School team, Year 9's will have the opportunity to meet with their new Senior School House Leaders and members of their new HG. On this day students will be introduced to the key features and expectations of being a part of the Senior School as well as be exposed to challenges and activities that centre around House culture. This excursion will be free.

*\*All year 7 and 8 students are expected to attend an excursion on Monday and Thursday, with no students allowed on site during these days. All year 9 students are expected to attend a Thursday excursion, with no students allowed on site during this day. Excursion letters and permission forms will be handed out shortly and are expected to be returned with payment if required, to the Finance Office as per notice instructions.*

If there are any questions, concerns or feedback you would like us to consider, please contact us through the contact page on our website <http://wirreandasecondary.sa.edu.au/contact-us/>

Yours sincerely,



Katrina Axford  
Middle School Senior Leader



Natalie Maddern  
Deputy Principal



Serge Minot  
WALO Week Leader