



Year 12 ATAR ENGLISH SWETA ECU DAY 2025 PROGRAM Friday 25 July 2025

8.45 – 9.10am REGISTRATION Meet in Kulbardi Court

SESSION 1 9:15am - 10:15am	COMPOSING	COMPOSING	RESPONDING	EXAM STRATEGIES	RESPONDING	COMPREHENDING	EXAM STUDY SKILLS	RESPONDING
	Imaginative Texts: Crafting Creative Texts with Purpose	Interpretive Texts: Learning the 'Write' Moves	Behind the Text: Why Context Counts	Mastering the ATAR English Exam: Insights from a WACE Marker	Responding Rescue: Thesis, Linking, and Critical Thinking	Reading Between the Lines	Study Smarter: Yes! You can study for English. This is how.	Cool Story, Bro: Digging Beneath Plot into Multimodal Mastery
	<i>Kelly Keegans</i>	<i>Xan Ashbury</i>	<i>Hayley Jones</i>	<i>Cherie Fielder</i>	<i>Katie Gray</i>	<i>Jonathon Palmer</i>	<i>Mark Austin</i>	<i>Micheal Price</i>
	A Building 5 Room 113/114 (60 pax)	B Building 5 Room 116 (50 pax)	C Building 5 Room 121 (30)	D Building 5 Room 125 (30)	E Building 3 Room 119 (42)	F Building 6 Room 101 (116)	G Building 6 Room 102 (50)	H Building 6 Room 103 (40)

10.15 - 10.45am

Morning Tea Break

(BYO morning tea. Cafe will be available. Students assemble in Kulbardi court)

SESSION 2 10:50am - 11:50am	COMPOSING	COMPOSING	RESPONDING	EXAM STRATEGIES	RESPONDING	COMPREHENDING	EXAM STUDY SKILLS	RESPONDING
	Imaginative Texts: Crafting Creative Texts with Purpose	Interpretive Texts: Learning the 'Write' Moves	Behind the Text: Why Context Counts	Mastering the ATAR English Exam: Insights from a WACE Marker	Responding Rescue: Thesis, Linking, and Critical Thinking	Reading Between the Lines	Study Smarter: Yes! You can study for English. This is how.	Cool Story, Bro: Digging Beneath Plot into Multimodal Mastery

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	Building 5 Room 113/114	Building 5 Room 116	Building 5 Room 121	Building 5 Room 132/133	Building 3 Room 119	Building 6 Room 101	Building 6 Room 102	Building 6 Room 103
LUNCH BREAK AND ECU PRESENTATION (SUBWAY Lunch provided) 11:55am – 1:00pm	<p style="text-align: center;">GROUP 1 Includes ALL students who attend SESSION 2 in Building 6 and 3 11:55am – 12:25pm - ECU PRESENTATION Building 6 5-minute changeover time 12:30pm – 1:00pm - LUNCH Kulbardi Court</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GROUP 2 Includes ALL students who attend SESSION 2 in Building 5 11:55am – 12:25pm - LUNCH Kulbardi Court 5-minute changeover time 12:30pm – 1:00pm - ECU PRESENTATION Building 6</p>							
SESSION 3 1:05pm – 2:05pm	COMPOSING	COMPOSING	RESPONDING	EXAM STRATEGIES	RESPONDING	COMPREHENDING	EXAM STUDY SKILLS	RESPONDING
	Imaginative Texts: Crafting Creative Texts with Purpose	Interpretive Texts: Learning the ‘Write’ Moves	Behind the Text: Why Context Counts	Mastering the ATAR English Exam: Insights from a WACE Marker	Responding Rescue: Thesis, Linking, and Critical Thinking	Reading Between the Lines	Study Smarter: <i>Yes!</i> <i>You can study for English.</i> This is how.	Cool Story, Bro: Digging Beneath Plot into Multimodal Mastery
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	Building 5 Room 113/114	Building 5 Room 116	Building 5 Room 121	Building 5 Room 125	Building 3 Room 119	Building 6 Room 101	Building 6 Room 102	Building 6 Room 103
<p style="text-align: center;">FINISH 2:15PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please leave all rooms in a neat and tidy state and ensure you dispose of all rubbish.</p>								



SESSION OVERVIEWS

COMPOSING - Crafting Creative Texts with Purpose

Presenter – Kelly Keegans ATAR English Teacher.

Banish the banal and cast away cliché! In this session, you will explore the tools and tricks that help you write with flair and focus. You will learn how to effectively tackle composition prompts, generate rich narrative premises, and embed key course concepts — all while crafting imaginative, engaging texts designed for success in the ATAR exam.

Kelly Keegans is an experienced English ATAR teacher and Head of Learning Area of English at Australind Senior High School. A lifelong “word nerd,” Kelly wrote her first novel — a tragic, tree-themed homage to ‘Charlotte’s Web’ — at eight years old. The love of creative writing took hold, and she never looked back. Not only an experienced educator, Kelly has also had creative works published in literary journals, blogs, and magazines.

COMPOSING – Interpretive Texts: Learning the ‘Write’ Moves

Presenter: Xan Ashbury, ATAR English Teacher

Forget interpretive dance — interpretive texts are all about the moves — the real showstoppers in Section 3. In this session, Xan will demystify the genre and teach you the steps to write with insight, creativity, and control. You will leave with compelling and creative ideas for a memoir, feature article or listicle, practical tips for structure and style, and the confidence to start writing like a champion.

Xan Ashbury is the Assistant Head of English at Christ Church Grammar School. Before entering teaching, she worked as a journalist in Australia and the UK. Xan also writes poetry, plays, and short fiction.

RESPONDING - Behind the Text: Why Context Counts

Presenter: Hayley Jones, ATAR English Teacher

Explore how context shapes meaning in texts — what it is, why it matters, and how to write about it effectively in the ATAR English course and exam. In this session, you will examine different types of context, examining how texts reflect or challenge the values of their time, and discover how context influences key elements such as voice, perspective, and genre. The session provides practical strategies for integrating contextual analysis into your written responses. Whether you are studying contemporary or classic texts, this session will sharpen your analytical skills and deepen your engagement with literature.

Hayley Jones is a dedicated English teacher with experience teaching ATAR English in a range of school settings. A regular contributor to SWETA English Day, she has delivered sessions on persuasive and interpretive texts and authored a SWETA practice examination. Passionate about student learning, Hayley focuses on building conceptual understanding through explicit teaching, structured feedback, and engaging pop culture references.



EXAM STRATEGIES - Mastering the ATAR English Exam: Insights from a WACE Marker

Presenter: Cherie Fielder, ATAR English and Literature Teacher, experienced WACE marker

Feeling overwhelmed by the English exam? This session breaks it down and shows you exactly what WACE markers are looking for in each section: Comprehension, Responding, and Composition. You will gain practical tips for managing time, avoiding common mistakes, and writing with clarity and precision — from someone with real exam marking experience.

Cherie is an experienced English teacher from the South West who has taught for over 30 years and has experience in teaching both the English and Literature Courses. She is also experienced in ATAR WACE English and Drama Marking. Cherie has an interest in writing for performance and is a member of the board of the Bunbury Fringe and Shorelines Festival.

RESPONDING – Responding Rescue: Thesis, Linking, and Critical Thinking

Presenter: Katie Gray ATAR English Teacher

Struggling to write a strong thesis? Unsure how to connect your ideas clearly? This session will guide you through the essential elements of high-quality essay writing for the ATAR English exam. You will learn how to craft sharp thesis statements, strengthen your analytical thinking, and use linking techniques that elevate your argument and impress WACE markers. Whether you're aiming to sharpen your skills or rescue a weak response, this session will help you write with clarity, purpose, and confidence.

Katie Gray is an experienced English ATAR teacher and WACE marker who has led the English Learning Area at St Mary MacKillop College for several years. Known for her practical, high-impact strategies and deep understanding of the exam requirements, Katie is passionate about helping students strengthen their critical thinking and writing skills in preparation for success in Year 12 English.

EXAM STUDY SKILLS – Study Smarter: Yes! You can study for English. This is how.

Presenter - Mark Austin ATAR English and Literature Teacher.

Chances are the methods you are using to study for English aren't that effective — and they are probably taking way more time than they need to. In this session, you will be guided through a variety of practical strategies for creating study notes, using memory devices, and efficiently getting information and processes into your head. You might even learn a bit more about how English works along the way.

Mark Austin teaches English at Manea Senior College in Bunbury. He's passionate about helping students study smarter, not harder—especially when it comes to English. Mark combines a love of language with practical tips that actually work, drawing on what we know about how memory and learning really happen. His sessions are down-to-earth, useful, and guaranteed to give you at least one “why didn't I try that sooner?” moment.



COMPREHENDING – Reading Between the Lines

Presenter: Jonathon Palmer, ATAR English Teacher

The most important meanings in a text often lie beneath the surface.

This session will equip you with clear strategies for interpreting unseen extracts in Section 1 of the exam. Designed to help you avoid misreads and write with greater accuracy, the session offers a scaffolded, step-by-step approach to analysing texts. You will learn how to use the question, context, and your knowledge of form and genre to make informed predictions and uncover deeper meaning. Exemplar notes will be provided, along with a short practical activity to consolidate your skills.

Jonathon has taught English and Languages for ten years, both nationally and internationally. He is the program coordinator for Year 11 ATAR and Year 10 at Cape Naturaliste College and runs various extra-curricular programs such as Write a Book in a Day. His fiction and non-fiction work has been published in Australia and the U.S., including his short story Follow the Water, which won the 2023 Aurealis Award for Best YA Short Story.

RESPONDING – Cool Story, Bro: Digging Beneath *Plot* into Multimodal Mastery

Presenter: Michael Price, ATAR English and Literature Teacher

Do your essay responses rely on surface-level plot events or basic image descriptions? You are not alone. In this session, you will explore an important — but sometimes misunderstood — course concept: how to analyse multimodal texts with precision and purpose. Learn how to move beyond what happened to uncover how meaning is constructed through the interplay of multimodal elements. This session offers practical strategies for strengthening analysis and elevating your responses in Section 2 of the exam.

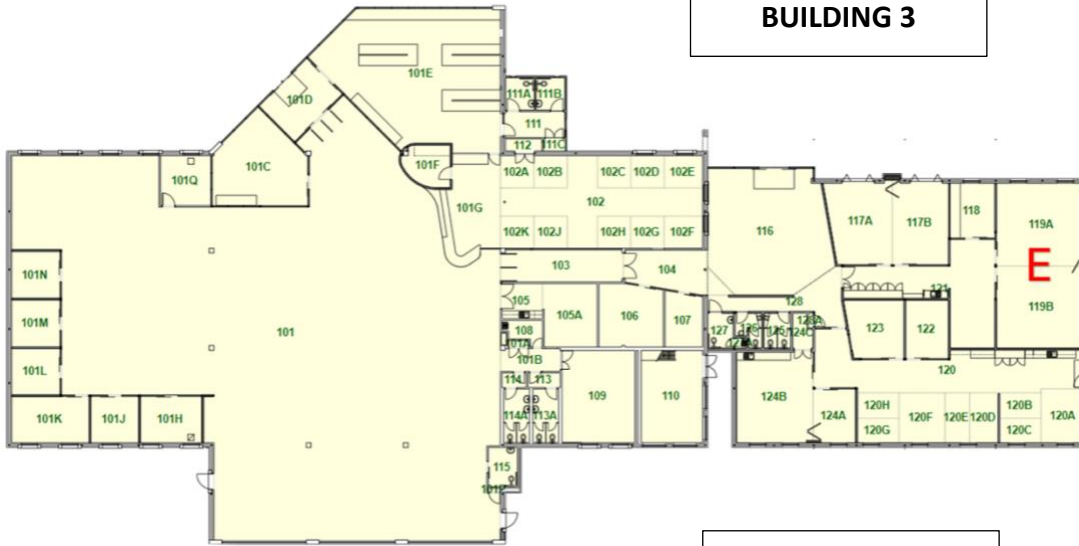
Michael Price has taught Year 12 ATAR English at Australind Senior High School for thirteen years and has led the course for the past seven. He also teaches English Literature and is known for helping students unpack complex concepts in clear, engaging ways.



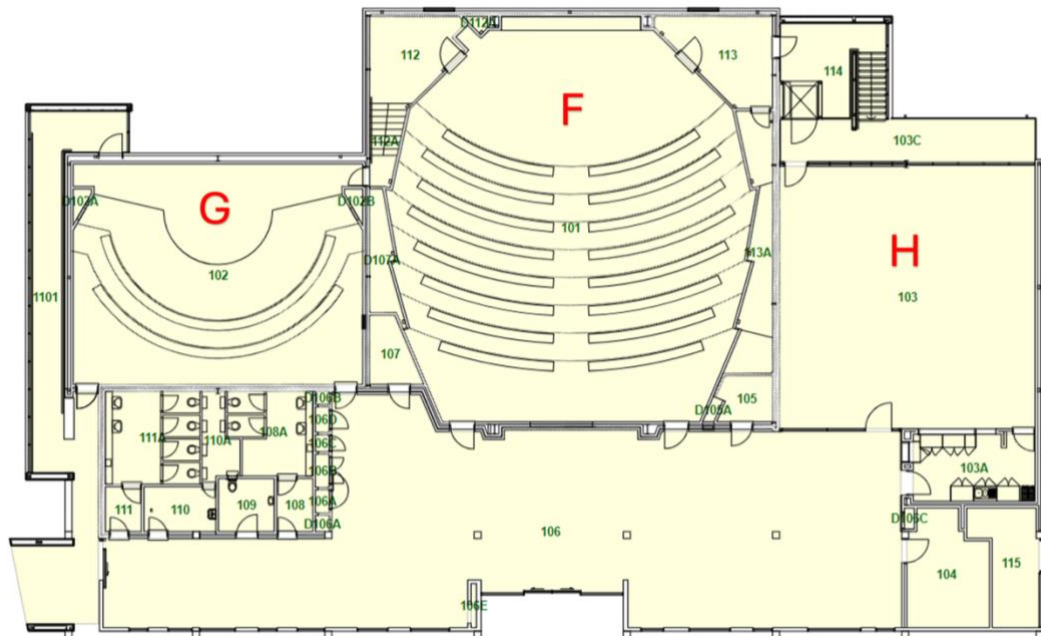
South West English Teachers' Association

Professional Learning and Networking for English Teachers in South West WA

BUILDING 3



BUILDING 6



BUILDING 5

