

# WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



## ACADEMIC SENATE

The meeting (**Meeting 26/02**) of the Academic Senate, Western Sydney University will be held on **Friday 8 May 2026** at, **9:30AM**, at **Parramatta South Campus, Boardroom 1 (PS-EB.2.02)**.

For apologies and enquiries, contact Georgia Vasiliadis by email at:

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## AGENDA

### 1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

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#### 1.1 INTRODUCTION, WELCOME, AND APOLOGIES

The Chair of Academic Senate, Professor Robert Mailhammer, will open the meeting and welcome members and attendees.

An Acknowledgement of Country will be provided:

*Western Sydney University acknowledges that today's meeting is being held on the country of the Burramattagal People of the Darug Nation People and acknowledges their ancestors who have been Traditional Custodians of their country for tens of thousands of years. Western Sydney University also wishes to acknowledge and pay our respects to Elders past and present.*

The Chair will welcome all members and attendees.

At the time of writing, apologies had been received from:

Dr Evan Crawford, Deputy Chair

Ms Shreya Sharma, International Student Representative

Distinguished Professor George Williams AO, Vice-Chancellor

In Attendance:

Ms Shubha Devadasen, Associate Director, Office of Governance Services, Secretariat

Professor Freya MacMillan, Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor Research

Ms Georgia Vasiliadis, Senior Governance Officer

#### 1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are requested to declare any interests they may have in relation to the items on this agenda or this Committee more broadly. Further information for members regarding declarations of interest is available on the [Integrity Compliance and Reporting Policy \(Conflicts of Interest, Gifts and Benefits\)](#) and the [Compliance Program Unit webpage](#).

Members will be reminded that they should also declare any interests that become apparent during this meeting.

### 1.3 STARRING OF ITEMS

Members will be asked which items they wish starred for discussion.

Apart from procedural items, the items below have been starred:

- Item 2.1 Coursework Program Committee Approvals
- Item 2.3.1 February Conferral of University Awards
- Item 2.3.2 April Conferral of University Awards
- Item 2.4 Amendment to Course Programs Committee Terms of Reference
- Item 2.5 Amendment to the Institutes Academic Board Terms of Reference
- Item 4.1 Chair's Report
- Item 4.2 Vice Chancellor's Report
- Item 4.3 Provost Report
- Item 4.4 Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education and Students Report
- Item 4.5 Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation Report
- Item 4.6 Student Report
- Item 4.8 Research Scorecard
- Item 4.9 Teaching Quality Framework
- Item 4.10 Uplifting the Educational Experience at Western
- Item 4.11 Academic Risk Management
- Item 4.12 Transnational Academic Governance
- Item 4.15 Questions on Notice

**It is recommended:**

*That the documents for all unstarred agenda items are noted and, except where alternative action is noted as appropriate, all recommendations contained in those items are endorsed.*

### 1.4 ☆ ORDER OF BUSINESS

Members to advise if a re-arrangement of the order of business is required.

### 1.5 ☆ OTHER BUSINESS

Members will be invited to nominate any other relevant matters for discussion at this meeting or for a future meeting.

### 1.6 ☆ MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on Friday 6 March 2026 (meeting 26/01) are attached for confirmation.

**For Confirmation.**

**It is recommended:**

*That Academic Senate confirms the minutes of the Senate meeting held on Friday 6 March 2026 (meeting 26/01) as an accurate record.*

## 1.7 ☆ ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

To assist members with monitoring and controlling the work of the Committee, the current action sheet (incorporating items arising from previous meetings) and the 2026 Forward Planner are attached.

Members are requested to report on any developments in relation to the items.

## 2. APPROVALS

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### 2.1 ☆ COURSEWORK PROGRAM COMMITTEE APPROVALS

*Higher Education Standard(s): 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.1.3, 5.2.1, 6.3.1a, c, 6.3.2c, d, f*  
*Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 2, 3*

The Chair's report – memo to Academic Senate following the Coursework Programs Committee (CPC) extraordinary meeting held on 25 February 2026 (meeting Ex26/01) and the Coursework Programs Committee (CPC) meeting held on 26 March 2026 (meeting 26/02), are appended for noting.

#### 2.1.1 PROPOSAL-20345 SOHCA PROGRAMS FOR SUSPENSION AND DISCONTINUATION FROM SPRING 2026

The Committee is requested to review the curriculum items for consideration at this meeting via the Curriculum Management Platform (CMP), [CMP Meeting Book](#).

**For Noting.**

*That the Academic Senate considers proposal 20245, and notes the program discontinuations, and approves associated transition arrangements.*

#### 2.1.2 PROPOSAL-21236 GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH SUPPORT

The Committee is requested to review the curriculum items for consideration at this meeting via the Curriculum Management Platform (CMP), [CMP Meeting Book](#).

**For Approval.**

**It is recommended:**

*That the Academic Senate considers proposal 21236, and approves the new programs and program discontinuation, and approves associated transition arrangements.*

#### 2.1.3 PROPOSAL-21234 GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH SUPPORT (EXIT ONLY)

The Committee is requested to review the curriculum items for consideration at this meeting via the Curriculum Management Platform (CMP), [CMP Meeting Book](#).

**For Approval.**

**It is recommended:**

*That the Academic Senate considers proposal 21234, and approves the new programs and program discontinuation, and approves associated transition arrangements.*

#### **2.1.4 PROPOSAL-21019 BACHELOR OF NURSING**

The Committee is requested to review the curriculum items for consideration at this meeting via the Curriculum Management Platform (CMP), [CMP Meeting Book](#).

**For Approval.**

**It is recommended:**

*That the Academic Senate considers proposal 21019, and approves the new programs and program discontinuation, and approves associated transition arrangements.*

#### **2.1.5 PROPOSAL-21228 DIPLOMA IN HEALTH SUPPORT (EXIT)**

The Committee is requested to review the curriculum items for consideration at this meeting via the Curriculum Management Platform (CMP), [CMP Meeting Book](#).

**For Approval.**

**It is recommended:**

*That the Academic Senate considers proposal 21228, and approves the new programs and program discontinuation, and approves associated transition arrangements.*

#### **2.1.6 PROPOSAL-21233 MASTER OF NURSING PRACTICE (PREREGISTRATION)**

The Committee is requested to review the curriculum items for consideration at this meeting via the Curriculum Management Platform (CMP), [CMP Meeting Book](#).

**For Approval.**

**It is recommended:**

*That the Academic Senate considers proposal 21233, and approves the new programs and program discontinuation, and approves associated transition arrangements.*

#### **2.1.7 PROPOSAL-21232 BACHELOR OF NURSING - WSU ONLINE**

The Committee is requested to review the curriculum items for consideration at this meeting via the Curriculum Management Platform (CMP), [CMP Meeting Book](#).

**For Approval.**

**It is recommended:**

*That the Academic Senate considers proposal 21232, and approves the new programs and program discontinuation, and approves associated transition arrangements.*

### **2.1.8 PROPOSAL-21229 ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN HEALTH SUPPORT (EXIT)**

The Committee is requested to review the curriculum items for consideration at this meeting via the Curriculum Management Platform (CMP), [CMP Meeting Book](#).

**For Approval.**

**It is recommended:**

*That the Academic Senate considers proposal 21229, and approves the new programs and program discontinuation, and approves associated transition arrangements.*

### **2.1.9 PROPOSAL-21756 2816 MASTER OF BUSINESS ANALYTICS**

The Committee is requested to review the curriculum items for consideration at this meeting via the Curriculum Management Platform (CMP), [CMP Meeting Book](#).

**For Approval.**

**It is recommended:**

*That the Academic Senate considers proposal 21756 and approves the program variation.*

### **2.1.10 PROPOSAL-20493 2848 BACHELOR OF LAWS, REPLACING 2502 B LAWS (NON-GRADUATE ENTRY), ASSOCIATED PROGRAMS & NEW SUBJECTS**

The Committee is requested to review the curriculum items for consideration at this meeting via the Curriculum Management Platform (CMP), [CMP Meeting Book](#).

2848	Bachelor of Laws
2502	Bachelor of Laws (Non graduate entry)
2849	Bachelor of Laws (Honours)
2829	Bachelor of Laws (Non Graduate Entry) (Honours)
2827	Diploma in Laws (exit only)

**For Approval.**

**It is recommended:**

*That the Academic Senate considers proposal 20493, and:*

- a) approves the new programs 2848 B Laws, replacing 2502 and 2849 B Laws (Honours), replacing 2829, and;*
- b) notes the program discontinuations, and approves associated transition arrangements.*

### **2.1.11 PROPOSAL-20370 MASTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ADVANCED)**

The Committee is requested to review the curriculum items for consideration at this meeting via the Curriculum Management Platform (CMP), [CMP Meeting Book](#).

#### **For Noting.**

##### **It is recommended:**

*That the Academic Senate notes the Provost's approval for the program discontinuation in proposal 20370.*

### **2.2 APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIPS**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 6.3.1b, c, 6.3.2b, d  
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 2*

The Committee is requested to consider and approve the following amendments to existing scholarships, new donor funded prizes and amendments to existing donor funded prizes for immediate execution.

#### *Amendments to Existing Scholarships*

- Robert Hayes Memorial Scholarship for Law

#### *New Donor Funded Prizes*

- R Legal Prize for Contracts (LAWS 7047)
- McInnes Wilson Lawyers Prize for Law of Employment
- Best Writing Award for Postdoctoral Grant Development

#### *Amendments to Existing Prizes*

- Advise Wise Award for First in SOA in Financial Planning

#### **For Approval.**

##### **It is recommended:**

*The Academic Senate review and approve the proposed amendments to existing scholarships, new donor funded prizes and amendments to existing donor funded prizes for immediate execution.*

## **2.3 GRADUAND LISTS, UNIVERSITY MEDALS AND POSTHUMOUS AWARDS**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 1.5.1, 1.5.2, 1.5.3, 1.5.4, 6.2.1h  
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 2*

### **2.3.1 ☆FEBRUARY CONFERRAL OF UNIVERSITY AWARDS**

A paper that seeks approval from Senate to confer awards to students identified in the February 2026 conferral, and provides a list of conferred students for noting.

#### **For Approval.**

#### **It is recommended:**

*The Academic Senate:*

- i. approve the award of degrees with distinction to graduands listed *Attachment A – Graduands for awards with distinction*
- ii. approve the award of the University Medal to the graduates listed in *Attachment B – Graduates to be awarded the University Medal*
- iii. note the conferral of awards to graduates with pass or honours coursework degrees as listed in *Attachment C - Graduates with pass and honours coursework degrees approved within Registrar and Chair - Academic Senate*
- iv. approve the conferral of awards to graduates with a research degree as listed in *Attachment D - Graduates with research degrees*
- v. note the conferral of the posthumous award as listed in *Attachment E – Posthumous graduates with research degrees approved within Registrar and Chair - Academic Senate*

### **2.3.2 ☆APRIL CONFERRAL OF UNIVERSITY AWARDS**

A paper that seeks approval from Senate to confer awards to students identified in the April 2026 conferral, and provides a list of conferred students for noting.

#### **For Approval.**

#### **It is recommended:**

*The Academic Senate:*

- i. approve the award of degrees with distinction to graduands listed *Attachment A – Graduands for awards with distinction*
- ii. approve the award of the University Medal to the graduates listed in *Attachment B – Graduates to be awarded the University Medal*
- iii. note the conferral of awards to graduates with pass or honours coursework degrees as listed in *Attachment C - Graduates with pass and honours coursework degrees approved within Registrar*
- iv. approve the conferral of awards to graduates with a research degree as listed in *Attachment D - Graduates with research degrees*
- v. note the conferral of the posthumous award as listed in *Attachment E – Posthumous graduates with research degrees approved within Registrar and Chair - Academic Senate*

### **2.3.3 POSTHUMOUS AWARD**

*Higher Education Standard(s) Satisfied: 1.5, 6.2.1h*

There are no posthumous awards for noting.

### **2.4 ☆AMENDMENT TO COURSE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 5.1, 6.2.1.g, 6.3.1a-d, 6.3.2.b, 6.3.3  
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 2, 3*

A paper to seek Academic Senate's approval of the proposed changes to the Coursework Program Committee's Terms of Reference relating to membership.

**For Approval.**

**It is recommended:**

That the Academic Senate approves as attached the amendments to the Coursework Program Committee Terms of Reference.

### **2.5 ☆AMENDMENT TO THE INSTITUTES ACADEMIC BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 6.2.1.g, 6.3.1a-d, 6.3.2.b, 6.3.3  
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6*

A paper to seek Academic Senate's approval of the proposed changes to the Institutes Academic Board's Terms of Reference.

**For Approval.**

**It is recommended:**

That Academic Senate approves the updates to the Terms of Reference of the Institutes Academic Board.

### **2.6 DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1d, 6.3.2.b  
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 3*

A paper to seek Academic Senate approval to disestablish the Senate Executive Committee.

**For Approval.**

**It is recommended:**

That Academic Senate approves the disestablishment of the Senate Executive Committee noting that all urgent matters be determined via e-meeting.

### **3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

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There is no business arising from previous meetings.

### **4. GENERAL BUSINESS**

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#### **4.1 ☆ CHAIR'S REPORT**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1, 6.3.2*

*Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5, 6*

A written report from the Chair covering activities undertaken on behalf of the Senate since 6 March 2026 has been circulated. The Chair will provide an update on any recent developments and will answer any questions in relation to the report.

**For Discussion and Noting.**

#### **4.2 ☆ VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1, 6.3.2*

*Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5, 6*

The Vice-Chancellor's Report is appended. Professor Deborah Sweeney, Provost will provide an update on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor.

**For Discussion and Noting.**

#### **4.3 ☆ PROVOST REPORT**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1, 6.3.2*

*Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5, 6*

The Provost's Report is appended. Professor Deborah Sweeney, Provost will speak to this report.

**For Discussion and Noting.**

#### **4.4 ☆ DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR EDUCATION AND STUDENTS REPORT**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1, 6.3.2*

*Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5, 6*

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education and Students' Report is appended. Professor Maryanne Dever, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education and Students will speak to this report.

**For Discussion and Noting.**

#### **4.5 ☆ PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION REPORT**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1, 6.3.2*

*Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5, 6*

Professor Ian Anderson, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation will provide a verbal report.

**For Discussion and Noting.**

#### **4.6 ☆ STUDENT REPORT**

*Higher Education Standard(s) :6.3.3*

*Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 3*

The report from the Higher Degrees Research Student Representative, Mr Prasad Perera is attached.

**For Discussion and Noting.**

#### **4.7 ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS – 2025**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 3.2.2-3*

*Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 5*

A written report provided to the Academic Senate in accordance with the Western Sydney University Promotions Policies.

**For Noting.**

#### **4.8 ☆RESEARCH SCORECARD**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 6.3.1.a-b, 6.3.2.e+h*

*Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5, 6*

A paper to inform Academic Senate of the University's research performance. Professor Ian Anderson, Pro Vice Chancellor Research and Innovation to speak to this paper.

**For Discussion and Noting.**

#### **4.9 ☆TEACHING QUALITY FRAMEWORK**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 3.1.3, 3.2.1-4, 6.3.1.a, 6.3.2.e+h*

*Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1,3, 5*

Professor Brian Stout, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Learning and Teaching, to provide an implementation update to Academic Senate.

**For Discussion and Noting.**

#### **4.10 ☆UPLIFTING THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE AT WESTERN**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 5.3.1, 6.3.1d, 6.3.2c+f, 7.2.2a*  
*Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5, 6*

Professor Maryanne Dever, Deputy Vice Chancellor Education and Students to provide an update on the product strategy to Academic Senate.

**For Discussion and Noting.**

#### **4.11 ☆ACADEMIC RISK MANAGEMENT**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 5.2.2, 6.2.1e-f, 6.3*  
*Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3*

Professor Cath Ellis, Pro Vice-Chancellor Quality and Integrity to provide a verbal update.

**For Discussion and Noting.**

#### **4.12 ☆ TRANSNATIONAL ACADEMIC GOVERNANCE**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1, 6.3.2*  
*Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1*

Dr Nicolene Murdoch, PVC Global Partnerships and Transnational Education to provide a verbal update to Academic Senate.

**For Discussion and Noting.**

#### **4.13 EXTERNAL REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 6.1.3.d, 6.2.1.e-g, 6.3.1a-d*  
*Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5, 6*

A paper to update Academic Senate about the implementation of the recommendations from the last external review of Academic Senate and University governance (the MinterEllison Report).

**For Noting.**

#### **4.14 UPDATE FROM FACULTIES AND INSTITUTES**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1a, b, c, 6.3.2d-f*  
*Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5, 6*

There are no Updates from Faculties and Institutes.

#### **4.15 ☆QUESTIONS ON NOTICE/HOT TOPICS**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1.a, 6.3.1.b, 6.3.2.g  
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3*

##### **4.15.1 GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES AND TIMELINES**

Has, or could the University develop, a set of Good Practice Guidelines and Timelines for conducting a regular review of programs as required by the Higher Education Standards? If a set of guidelines and relevant processes exist, would it be possible to share them with members of the University?

##### **4.15.2 MICROCREDENTIALS**

Could Academic Senate be updated on whether there have been any micro credentials created since the beginning of 2025, and if there have been what they are, and what records there are showing independent academic oversight, given that the Microcredentials Management Committee does not seem to have met since 2025?

##### **4.15.3 PROGRAM ADVICE**

This question builds on the Vice-Chancellor's update regarding student program advice at meeting 26/01, which highlighted acknowledged challenges regarding staffing (including recruitment and onboarding), response timelines, ensuring policy alignment, etc. Looking ahead to the next anticipated spike in demand for program advice (the beginning of Spring semester), what measures, including review processes, have been implemented to refine the quality and timeliness of student advising? Has there been assessment of Western's present capacity for quality program advising? Does Western have data assessing how students perceive the transition from academic staff provision of program advice to professional staff provision of program advice?

### **5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

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#### **5.1 COURSEWORK PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.1.3, 5.2.1, 6.3.1a, c, 6.3.2c, d, f  
Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 2, 3*

The confirmed minutes of the Coursework Programs Committee (CPC) extraordinary meeting held on 25 February 2026 (meeting Ex26/01), the report of the CPC e-meeting on 5 March 2026 (e-meeting e26/01), the confirmed minutes of the Coursework Programs Committee (CPC) meeting held on 26 March 2026 (meeting 26/02), and the unconfirmed minutes of the Coursework Programs Committee (CPC) extraordinary meeting held on 15 April 2026 (meeting Ex26/02), are appended for noting.

**For Noting.**

## **5.2 SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1a-d, 6.3.2d-f*  
*Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3*

The unconfirmed minutes of the Senate Education Committee held on 16 April 2026 (meeting 26/01) are appended for noting.

**For Noting.**

## **5.3 SENATE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1a-d, 6.3.2e-f*  
*Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 5*

The confirmed minutes Senate Assessment Committee held on 3 March 2026 (meeting 26/01) and the unconfirmed minutes of the Senate Assessment Committee held on 7 April 2026 (meeting 26/02) are appended for noting.

## **5.4 RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 6.3.1a-, 6.3.2e-f*  
*Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1, 3, 6*

There are no Research Committee minutes for noting.

## **5.5 THIRD-PARTY PROVIDER COMMITTEE**

*Higher Education Standard(s): 5.4.2, 6.3.1a, 6.3.1d, 6.3.2d*  
*Mitigation against risk(s) in Academic Senate Risk Register: 1,3*

There are no Third-Party Provider Committee minutes for noting.

## **5.6 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday 4 June 2026.

## **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

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If raised at the meeting.

## 7. NEXT MEETING

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The meetings scheduled for 2026 is as follows:

- 26/03 – Friday 3 July 2026
- 26/04 – Friday 11 September 2026
- 26/05 – Friday 11 December 2026.

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Paper Submission Deadline</b>
<b>26/03 Friday 3 July 2026</b>	<b>Friday 19 June 2026</b>
<b>26/04 Friday 11 September 2026</b>	<b>Friday 28 August 2026</b>
<b>26/05 Friday 11 December 2026</b>	<b>Friday 27 November2026</b>