

Music FAQs



HOW OFTEN DOES MY CHILD PARTICIPATE IN MUSIC CLASSES?

Students undertake music for the entire year. Music has three 50-minute lessons timetabled per two-week cycle. The Monday After School Middle School Music Programme is a co-curricular offering which is a separate programme, but the skills learnt are complimentary.

WHAT IS MY CHILD LEARNING?

In Year 7, students learn music practically through an instrument of their choosing. They are taught explicit skills by expert instrumental teachers and have performance outcomes in both a solo and ensemble context.

In Year 8 Music, students continue to develop their knowledge of musical literacy, form, critical listening and musical terminology. They will perform and compose music, exploring the various skills associated with these. Students will learn to use digital creation software (Soundtrap.com), DJ software and hardware, and will also develop handwritten notation, listening and responding skills.

WHAT KEY SKILLS ARE STUDENTS ENGAGING WITH?

- **Musical Characteristics:** Students manipulate and control elements of music within Soundtrap.com. They use the musical elements to demonstrate their musical ideas including tonality, dynamics, pitch, rhythm, expression and form. Students loops and/or midi input to create textural and timbral variety. They use musical terminology in their podcast which analyses how the elements of music are manipulated, and compositional devices are used.
- **DJ Unit:** Students perform to the class using the DJ decks, students manipulate and control the technology (Serato software and the Numark DJ deck) to manipulate the musical elements.
- **Game Composer:** Using the Major or Minor pentatonic scales, students compose (and perform) a leitmotif for a video game character. Students use traditional music notation to notate expressive qualities and understanding of the musical elements.

- **Film Composer and Sound Design:** Students create musical scores to a nominated moving image (30 seconds). Students demonstrate a deep understanding of musical elements by imaginatively exploring and using all the musical ideas including tonality, dynamics, pitch, rhythm, expression and form. Students source appropriate Foley sounds and SFX and applied these effectively. They identified key moments in the moving image and embedded their own Foley sounds. Students discuss and describe their creative process in detail using musical terminology and reflective language.

HOW DO I ACCESS FEEDBACK ABOUT MY CHILD'S PROGRESS?

Parents can view their child's progress, feedback, and assessment results via the Hive Learning Management System. As students only have three classes a week and are undertaking extended project-based learning activities, graded feedback will be available once each term and supported through Learning Behaviours feedback. Should you have any concerns about your child's progress you may contact the teacher via the classes tab on your child's profile page (accessed by clicking on their name on the Hive Dashboard).

WHAT DOES A SUCCESSFUL MUSIC STUDENT LOOK LIKE?

A successful Music student demonstrates the capacity to listen to and respond to a range of musical stimuli and describe how a range of musical elements contribute to the character or mood of the stimuli. Students can create and compose musical works that reflect a range of characters and emotions, and they can use software to help them understand song form and manipulate audio to create a DJ set. Successful students are also able to demonstrate how music is used to enhance film and television through analysis, experimentation and their own compositions, digital creations and sound design.

