

31st January 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In the first weeks of each new year, our Instrumental Tuition program begins to take shape. This program provides fantastic musical opportunities for our students and for some, is just the beginning of a life-long love of music.

I hope you find the answers to any questions or queries you have regarding your child's enrolment in this program within this document. I have attempted to keep this quite simple, so if you find that you still have unanswered questions, please feel free to contact me at the school on 02 7256 1111, or for a faster reply, via email at shane.lebreton@dbb.catholic.edu.au.

Due to the differences in timetabling and educational needs of both the Primary and Secondary schools, we approach the tuition timetabling quite differently for each. Therefore, the information provided for Primary is somewhat different to the Secondary information, so please ensure you have the correct information sheet attached to this letter.

If you intend to enroll your son/daughter in any kind of instrumental tuition, the first thing you need to do is **complete the contract via [this Google Form](#)**. Once we have received this, we can add your son/daughter to the timetable, or onto the waiting list if there are no available times. It should be noted that this is a first in – first served process. Of course, if a student wants to re-enrol from 2023, they will have the option to continue their tuition, but once again, the contract needs to be completed and returned immediately.

Please read through the information on the following pages and as I mentioned earlier, do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. As I am sure you understand, there is a lot of organisation involved in getting these lessons to run smoothly. I ask for your patience in the initial weeks of setting up the timetable, but the work is well and truly worth it! I look forward to the coming year and I am very pleased to be able to offer your son/daughter this opportunity.

Yours sincerely,



Shane LeBreton
Music Tuition Coordinator

SECONDARY INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

Frequently Asked Questions:

Learning an instrument is a life-long gift. Not only is it beneficial for so many developmental reasons such as improving your literacy and numeracy skills, confidence and self esteem, but it is also great fun.

The College currently has tutors who teach piano, singing, drums, guitar, bass and violin. These tutors have all agreed to teach both Primary and Secondary students.

As you can appreciate, there is a great deal of organisation needed for lessons to begin at the school. The following pages will hopefully answer all your questions.



Who can learn?

Any student in the Secondary school can be a part of this program.

Which instruments are available?

Virtually any! Please enquire if you have questions, as some of our tutors teach multiple instruments.

e.g. Piano, violin, vocals, drums, guitar, bass guitar etc...

When and Where?

The lessons will be held at school, within school hours on various days.

What time?

Secondary students are scheduled on a rotating timetable to ensure the students do not miss the same class every week. This requires students to be aware of their scheduled time, which is made available on the Music room noticeboard and emailed to you every Friday for the following week. Lesson times will also be on their compass timetable.

Students are expected to be punctual and take responsibility for remembering their lesson time. This includes reminding their classroom teacher that they need to attend their lesson and arrive 5 minutes before their scheduled time. If a student is late to their lesson every effort will be made to locate them, but if they've forgotten their lesson and could not be found then that lesson is forfeited.

Private or group lessons?

Most tutors offer both individual and group lessons. This will depend heavily on student interest and availability. Group lessons are not available for piano.

Cost:

Tutors set their own prices, so it varies between them but as a general guide:

Private lessons: approximately \$35.00 - \$40 for half an hour

Shared lessons: approximately \$25 per student for half an hour

This will be invoiced directly from the tutor and will be paid directly to the tutor. No money for lessons will be paid to the school.

The payment for lessons is as follows:

First term: - To be paid by Friday Week 3, Term 1

All subsequent terms need to be paid prior to the commencement of the term. Tutors will provide invoices to students in the last week of each term for the following term.

PLEASE NOTE: *If a student is more than two weeks behind in payments, they will be removed from the tuition program and replaced with another student. This is how our tutors make a living and it is vital that they know they will be paid.*

Do I have to purchase an instrument?

No. However, through tried and tested experience the students who own their own instrument are more committed, take better care of them and continue lessons far longer than students who hire instruments. These are two of the many companies that offer instrument hire:

<http://www.macronmusic.com.au> (Fair Winds Brass and Woodwind)

<http://www.musicorp.com.au/>

Can I stop lessons at any time?

No. If you do not wish to continue lessons you are to give a minimum of 3 weeks notice in writing, but you will not be allowed to stop during the term. If you do not attend your lessons, payment for the entire term is still required.

What happens if I am unable to attend a scheduled music lesson?

You are to call **the tutor directly before 8:30am or you will still be charged for the lesson** and no make-up lesson will be made. If sufficient time has been given, the tutor may be able to provide an alternative lesson time to make up for the missed lesson, however, this may not always be possible.

Please also inform your tutor of any school organised events that will disrupt the lesson, our tutors are private contractors and will not always be aware of all the events happening at the school. This will allow us to reschedule lessons ahead of time and minimise missed lessons and the need for 'makeups'.

PLEASE NOTE

It is highly recommended that students involved in the Music Tuition program are also involved in an ensemble offered at the College. Whether it be Choir, Guitar Ensemble, a String or Percussion group, playing with other musicians is a vital part of musical development.

Students are expected to participate in AT LEAST ONE of the three tuition concerts planned for the year. The dates for these concerts are currently being arranged and they are held in the McCormack Theatre, here at MacKillop. They are usually in Week 5 of each term, on a Wednesday afternoon.

What now?

Fill out the Google Form linked above, as soon as possible . Hopefully a tutor will be in contact with you shortly.

PLEASE NOTE: It is very important that this information is discussed with your parents. NO STUDENT WILL UNDERTAKE INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS WITHOUT THEIR PARENT'S CONSENT. All forms must be signed by your parents.

Thank you for reading through all the above information as music lessons are such a wonderful opportunity.