What is Music?

Students live in a world in which music has an important and pervasive presence. Whether actively engaging in music by listening (e.g. attending concerts, buying CDs, turning on the radio), performing (e.g. learning an instrument, playing in a band, jamming with friends) or composing (e.g. writing popular songs), or incidentally encountering music (e.g. riding in elevators, watching TV, using a mobile phone), students have an individual experience of music. Music is an integral part of everyday life serving self-expressive, celebratory, social, cultural, political and educational roles. As a powerful educative tool, music contributes to the holistic development of the individual. A study of music assists students in understanding and heightening the enjoyment of the arts in their lives and the music heritage of a range of cultures.

Why Study Music?

Music offers its own unique symbol system or language; its sensory system is predominantly aural, utilising sound and the sense of hearing.

Around the world music is the most popular leisure pursuit for young people. Music makes both a cultural and economic contribution to society. Vocational education is being adopted by many countries to build the skill level across all industries, including the arts industries. The contemporary, popular music industry is a comparatively young industry with a huge growth potential throughout the world.

Music contributes to learning through the development of aspects such as memory, coordination, concentration and inventiveness. The study of music also develops skills such as logical, critical and divergent thinking, decision making, concept formation, problem solving and memory. Students become adaptable and innovative problem solvers, making informed decisions and, as inquirers, develop their ability to deconstruct and critically evaluate.

Studies in music develop specialised skills that impinge on all aspects of development - cognitive, affective and psychomotor. In this way music contributes to the development of human intelligence. The discipline and commitment of music-making builds students self-esteem, personal motivation and independence as well as providing opportunities for the refinement of their collaborative teamwork.

Course Description

The study of music in Years 9 and 10 is organised within three complex and interacting dimensions: Listening, Performing and Composing. Within the course all of the dimensions are infused with the need for problem solving and higher order thinking skills.

Briefly, Listening involves the process of audition that involves understanding and finding meaning in music; Composing is the planned creation of music; Performing is musical behaviour that displays musical skills. The course is challenging and diverse, and students find the variety of experiences and tasks offered very enjoyable.

It is not necessary that students be able to play an instrument. The study of classroom instruments is included within the course.

Students who learn an instrument are strongly encouraged to study Years 9/10 Music as
the course provides greater scope and developmental skills in a variety of dimensions not covered in private tuition lessons. It will be both intellectually and artistically challenging and rewarding.

The Year 10 Music course will cover a broad range of interesting units. The first unit offered, (Music for Stage and Screen) will be a foundation unit that is designed to build and develop the skills of all students. **It must be noted that the only pre-requisite for this course is Year 8 Music.** No other music study or experience is necessary. However, it would be advisable to complete a Year 9 unit to assist with composition and aural skills.

As the study of music is based on a developmental approach, students considering the study of Music in years 10,11 or 12 are advised to complete the Year 9 course.

**Assessment**

Assessment exists within areas:

- Listening
- Performing
- Composing

**Homework**

Students will be responsible for preparing assessment items and completing tasks set to develop and prepare students for assessment items.