



16 October 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

### INFORMATION FOR YEAR 6 INSTRUMENTAL STUDENTS – 2018

It has been a wonderful year of growth and development in our strings and band instrument programmes for our 2017 Year 5 students. Our student numbers have grown in both Junior Concert Band and Junior String Orchestra, creating a fantastic hive of activity around the Music Department and a great sense of achievement from our young musicians. We would like to continue this momentum into 2018.

You may ask, why should my child continue to play a musical instrument? The research into this question is quite extensive and the main reasons include:

1. Playing a musical instrument relieves stress and gives you a sense of achievement.
2. Playing a musical instrument makes you smarter and improves memory.
3. Playing a musical instrument improves your social life and is fun.
4. Playing a musical instrument helps build confidence and develops discipline.
5. Playing a musical instrument teaches patience and creativity.

**In general, students in Year 6 are now required to provide their own instrument and pay for lessons.** There are, however, exceptions to this based on the instrument the student plays. Due to the very high cost of some instruments, we understand that families may not be in a position to purchase or hire an instrument. Parents will be contacted by the Music tutor if their child will be given the opportunity to receive a College instrument at no charge or at a minimal hire fee of \$50 per term.

There are also Brass and Bass Academies on offer to students from Years 6-12. Students who currently study the trumpet, trombone, euphonium, French horn, tuba, baritone and double bass are eligible to apply for free lessons at the College, however, an instrument may need to be provided by the student.

Music fees are added to College fees in Term 2 as this ensures that parents are only paying for the number of lessons completed.

Lesson selections:

- |  |   |   |
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| 1. Individual lessons for ½ hour             | - | \$36.00 each week                           |
| 2. Individual fortnightly lessons for ½ hour | - | \$36.00 each fortnight                      |
| Paired lessons (two students) for ½ hour     | - | \$18.00 each week (subject to availability) |
| 3. Group lessons (4-5 students) for ½ hour   | - | \$80.00 per term (subject to availability)  |

Music tutors will provide information regarding the purchase of new or second hand instruments, including brand recommendations. Tutors are able to assist in assessing the value of an instrument if you require their opinion as to the value of an instrument.

Parents will be required to purchase music books as assigned by the Music tutor. The cost will be approximately \$30 each. The books will need to be purchased as the student progresses through the various levels of music development and the Music tutors will provide parents with information about how to purchase these books.

**Forms are available from the Music Department for each of the above programmes.** Please complete these forms before the end of Week 8 this term to enable the organisation of groups and instruments for next year.

Please contact myself, or Mrs Shelley Bissett or the Music tutors with any further queries. We look forward to continue developing your child's musical skills.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Liz Smith', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mrs Liz Smith

**HEAD OF MUSIC AND INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC COORDINATOR**