Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Co-curricular Music Program at MacKillop College!

The role of the Co-curricular Music Program at MacKillop College is not only to provide musical enrichment to students but to provide a service to the parish and to the community. Ensembles participate in local festivals and events, provide music for Mass, attend workshops, perform at College assemblies and participate in band tours and competitions both nationally and internationally. Through these experiences we hope to nurture a sense of camaraderie, teamwork, community, cultural and spiritual service and a pure love of making and sharing music with others.

The following pages will provide you with all the information that you need in order to participate in the program. Please read this information carefully and contact me by email if you have any further questions.

Thank you for your support of the Co-curricular Music program at MacKillop College. I look forward to seeing you or your child in rehearsal and in performance on stage!

Yours sincerely

Robert Denham
MacKillop College
Co-curricular Music Coordinator
rdenham@lism.catholic.edu.au
Co-curricular Music Ensembles

There are many opportunities at MacKillop College for students to perform in music ensembles. It is advisable that members of ensembles be receiving private lessons but this is not essential. There is no cost for participation in the ensembles at MacKillop College. Many ensembles are open to all students, while some advanced ensembles require an audition or invitation to join. A team of musicians and teachers of the highest calibre direct a range of ensembles including concert bands, jazz bands, percussion ensembles and vocal groups. Such ensembles include:

**Concert Band**

The MacKillop College Concert Band is open to all students in Years 7 to 12 who play a band instrument. Rehearsals take place weekly before school. The Concert Band rehearse a wide range of music performing at assemblies, local eisteddfod and across the wider community.

**Brass Ensemble**

The Brass ensemble, derived from the concert band is open to all students playing Brass instruments in the concert band. Rehearsals take place weekly on a rotating timetable throughout the day and across lunch. The ensemble focuses on a broad range repertoire including music from the movies, pop music, blues, jazz and classical music.

**Woodwind Ensemble**

The Woodwind ensemble, derived from the concert band is open to all students playing flutes and clarinets in the concert band. Rehearsals take place weekly on a rotating timetable throughout the day and across lunch. The ensemble focuses on a broad range repertoire including music from the movies, pop music, blues, jazz and classical music.

**Big Band**

The MacKillop College Big Band is an advanced ensemble open to all students in Years 7 to 12 who play a jazz band instrument or show an interest in solo singing. Entry is by invitation or audition as places become available. Rehearsals take place weekly before school. The Big Band rehearse a wide range of jazz charts performing at assemblies, local eisteddfod: the local Big Band Blast music festival and across the wider community.

**Jazz Ensemble “The Groove Merchants”**

The MacKillop College Jazz Ensemble is open to all students (from the Big Band) in Years 7 to 12 who play a jazz band instrument. Entry is by audition or invitation as places become available. This ensemble is a small group focusing on traditional jazz charts based around improvisation. Rehearsals take place weekly during lunchtime. The Jazz Ensemble rehearse a wide range of jazz charts performing at assemblies, local eisteddfod and across the wider community.
Little Big Band
The MacKillop College Little Big Band is open to all students in Years 7 to 12 who play a jazz band instrument. Entry is by invitation or audition as places become available. Rehearsals take place weekly before school. The Little Big Band rehearses entry level jazz charts aimed at improving skill and confidence in the jazz style.

Junior Stage Band
The MacKillop College Junior Stage Band is open to all students in Years 7 to 9 who play a band instrument (including guitar and keyboard) or show an interest in solo singing. Entry is by invitation or audition as places become available. The ensemble meets weekly at lunch to prepare pop, Rock, Soul, R&B, Funk and Jazz charts aimed at developing student confidence in performance.

Senior Stage Band & Praise Band
The MacKillop College Senior Stage Band contains a number of experienced musicians both vocal and instrumental from Years 10 to 12. Entry is open to any student who plays a band instrument or has an interest in solo singing. This ensemble meets weekly to prepare pop, Rock, Soul, R&B, Funk and Jazz charts for school and community events in addition to providing accompaniment options to HSC music students. The Stage Band also functions as the MacKillop College Praise Band providing music for major Masses at school and Youth Mass services at St Agnes Parish Church every month.

Vocal Ensembles
The MacKillop College Choir is open to all students from Years 7 to 12. This ensemble rehearses weekly during lunchtime at the junior site. The MacKillop College Vocal Ensemble is open to more advanced singers. Entry is by invitation or audition and is restricted to a set number of vocalists. This ensemble is derived from the Choir and rehearses weekly before school. The role of the Vocal program is to develop a singing culture across the college and to provide a service to the community and the school by performing at major events and at Mass.

Percussion Ensemble
The MacKillop College Percussion Ensemble is open to advancing percussionists in Years 7 to 12. Entry is by audition as places become available. Rehearsals take place weekly preparing the ensemble for a range of performance opportunities throughout the year.

Guitar Club
The MacKillop Guitar Ensemble is open to guitar enthusiasts in Years 7 - 10. Students meet weekly to share songs, playing techniques and to share all things guitar.

SAPSS Ensembles
The St Agnes’ Parish Secondary Schools (SAPSS), have three combined Musical Ensembles which cater for students from MacKillop College, St Joseph’s Regional College and Newman Technical College. Details are as follows.

The SAPSS Drumline is by invite only as places become available – Mr Mark Spence, who is the drum tutor of all the Parish schools, will coordinate the drummers for this Ensemble.

The SAPSS Concert Band is open to all students who play a concert band instrument from the SAPSS schools. This ensemble aims to further develop the skills of these students in a more concentrated environment working on contemporary, jazz and classical repertoire.

The SAPSS Choir consists by default of students from the Vocal Ensembles at MacKillop College and St Joseph’s Region College. These Ensembles rehearse common repertoire and come together for special events and concerts. This ensemble will work on a range of repertoire including pop, jazz, classical and liturgical.
**SAPSS Ensemble Prerequisites**

In order to participate in a SAPSS ensemble you must be participating in your respective college’s co-curricular music program. The SAPSS ensembles are seen as “representative” ensembles and are aimed at further developing the musical skills of talented students whilst showcasing the St Agnes Parish Secondary Schools through performance. If you are interested in joining a SAPSS ensemble please contact Mr Denham.

**Rehearsals**

Rehearsal times for all ensembles are set out in the MacKillop College Rehearsal Schedule, which is available on the school website.

**Dress Code**

Students performing as part of an ensemble may be required to wear a “Performing Ensembles” shirt with black trousers, black shoes and black socks. Group orders are made at the beginning of each year for new students entering the program. A small number of spare shirts are available on loan throughout the year. This dress code may not apply to every performance. Details will be provided to students prior to performances.

**Enrolment**

If you are interested in your child joining one of our ensembles please contact me via email or complete the form provided below and hand it into the college office.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Denham

MacKillop College

Co-curricular Music Coordinator

rdenham@lism.catholic.edu.au
I would like my son/daughter (full name) ________________________________, who is in Year _____, to:

☐ to participate in a MacKillop College music ensemble (ensembles)

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Details of previous experience playing an instrument or singing:

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Parent: ________________________________

Contact: (H) ______________________ (M) ______________________

Email: ____________________________________

Signed: ________________________________________
Music Tuition at MacKillop College

Many aspiring music students of today often find “DIY” musical instrument teaching resources through online courses, apps and YouTube courses. Whilst such technology is a good aid for learning, research states that the best way to learn a musical instrument is through individual tuition from an expert teacher. Furthermore, the stage 6 music curriculum requires students to perform for assessment on an instrument of their choice. It is therefore necessary for schools with an interest in music excellence to provide opportunities for students to learn an instrument. As part of the MacKillop College Co-curricular Music Program students are provided with the opportunity to arrange private instrumental tuition directly with tutors at the homes or studios or at school in breaks or during class time.

Enrolment Procedures

Students wishing to join the Music Tuition program are required to contact the Co-curricular Music Coordinator by email providing the following information:

- Parent and student contact details
- The instrument that you would like to learn
- The preferred lesson time e.g before school, during class time or after school

The Co-curricular Music Coordinator will then contact a suitable tutor on your behalf to check availability. The tutor will then call you directly to confirm and arrange a suitable lesson time.

Fees

The cost of tuition is dependent upon tutor’s rates based on a 30 minute lesson. Tutors will invoice students for the Term and the payment is to be made directly to tutors, not to the school. Tutors have the right to cease lessons should the Term payment not be received within the time frames set by them.

It is expected that all students will maintain enrolment in instrumental music lessons for the entire school year. However, in the rare case where a student’s enrolment is terminated, this is to be done by giving a minimum of two weeks’ notice, or payment in lieu of notice to the tutor.
Music tuition at MacKillop College is scheduled on a rotating timetable across 8 weeks to ensure that students don’t miss the same class twice in a Term. When setting timetables, tutors (in consultation with parents and the Co-curricular Music Coordinator) are encouraged to schedule lessons outside of class time as much as possible. Preference will always be made to break times, before or after school and timetabled music lessons. For students attending the Senior Campus, lessons MUST take place before or after school, during break times and during timetabled study periods. All students receiving instrumental music tuition are responsible for catching up on classwork missed. Tutors are advised not to timetable lessons during examination periods. It is the responsibility of the student and the tutor to ensure that this occurs.

At the start of each Term tutors timetables will be posted on the Co-curricular Music webpage found in the Creative Arts section of the MacKillop College website. These will also be posted on the Co-curricular Music noticeboard outside the Music rooms in the “Music hub” area on the Junior Campus and outside the Music room on the Senior Campus. Although student should be told at the end of one lesson when their next lesson will take place, all students are encouraged to check the noticeboard regularly to remind themselves of the date and time of their next lesson.

**Attendance**

Students must endeavour not to miss instrumental lessons. If there are any issues regarding students missing a curricular lesson, staff, parents and students should discuss the matter with the Co-curricular Music Coordinator in the first instance. If a student has an important curriculum lesson which, for example, may contain assessed work, or activities such as school trips, it should be possible to alter peripatetic lesson times if adequate notice is given to inform other students of the timetable change.

- Lessons that are missed without prior notice will be forfeited. This does include missed lessons due to illness. Whilst our teacher may at their own goodwill try to recover these lessons, they cannot be guaranteed. Lessons are forfeited in the case of all unauthorized school absences. Students must give notice to their tutor if, for some reason, they cannot attend their lesson. This must be done, at the latest, on the morning of their lesson, before the tutor has left home. This enables tutors time to reschedule their day if need be.
- Where the tutor or the Co-curricular Music Coordinator is informed of an absence in advance (prior to the lesson itself), that lesson will not be forfeited and will be owed, or rescheduled in the timetable if possible.
- Naturally, an unforeseen absence on the part of a peripatetic teacher or in the unlikely event of school closure will count as a lesson owed. These are recovered before the end of term, and where this is not logistically possible, reimbursement will be issued.
- Rolls will be issued to all tutors at the beginning of each semester by the music trainee. All tutors are required to record the attendance of students at their lessons during the day. This roll is to be returned to the Music Tuition Rolls tray in the Co-curricular Music office or to the music trainee at the end of the teaching day. Attendance collated at the end of each Term.

**Venue**

All tuition takes place in the “Music Hub” at the Junior Campus. This area includes the theatre space and the music rooms.

**Progress Diary and Progress Enquires**

All music students are issued with a music diary. This is issued with this booklet as part of the welcome pack. This diary should be brought to each instrumental lesson by the student. Work for the week is to be written in the book – students can do this – and students are encouraged to show their parents each week. Tutors may also provide information on progress and suggestions for improvement in this diary. Reports are not issued to students, however, parents are encouraged to contact their child’s tutor if they have any questions or concerns regarding their progress.
**Practice**

Students are expected to practice regularly. Beginner students should be allocating 10 minutes a day. The golden rule is ‘little but often!’ Students studying at HSC level should be practicing at least for 1 hour per day. Tutors are requested to contact parents if there are any concerns.

Practice rooms are available next to the music rooms at both Campuses to practice their instruments during breaks in the school day and before and after school. Practice room bookings can be made through the Co-curricular Music Coordinator or the classroom music teacher.

**Instrument Storage**

Students may store their instruments in one of the designated practice rooms or music rooms at either campus depending on where they attend classes. **PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL INSTRUMENT CASES ARE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR NAME**. Students must take responsibility for their instruments by leaving them in the designated area. Whilst these store rooms are managed by music staff for the majority of the day the school cannot take responsibility for lost instruments if students do not leave instruments in the correct place.

**Instrumental Rental**

Please complete the **Instrumental Rental Form** from the school website and return it to the school if you require an instrument for lessons.

If you have any questions, please contact me via the email address provided below or by contacting the school.

Yours sincerely

Robert Denham  
MacKillop College  
Co-Curricular Music Coordinator  
rdenham@lism.catholic.edu.au
**Instrumental Rental Program**

Instrumental rental is available at MacKillop College for students involved in the Co-Curricular Music Program.

A wide range of band instruments are available for hire including trumpet, trombone, clarinet, flute, saxophone, violin, cello and guitar.

The cost for instrument hire is **$70 a term**. These fees are invoiced to subject & elective accounts each Term. As these fees are considered ‘extra-curricular’ this amount must be paid by Week 5 of each Term and must not at any time run into arrears.

The college will be responsible for minor repairs. Accessories such as reeds, valve oil and strings will be the student’s responsibility.

Please email me if you would like your child to rent a college instrument or complete the slip included below and have your child return it to me via the college office.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Denham  
MacKillop College  
Co-Curricular Music Coordinator  
rdenham@lism.catholic.edu.au

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I would like my son/daughter (full name) _______________________________, of Year _____, to:

☐ rent a (instrument) ______________________________________________________

I understand that the rental for this instrument is $70 per Term. I also acknowledge this amount will be invoiced to my statement fees and must be paid in full by Week 5 of each Term.

Parent/Guardian name: __________________________________________________________________

Contact: (H) ______________________ (M) ______________________

Email: ____________________________________

Signed: __________________________________parent/guardian
Dear Students and Parents,

All students participating in MacKillop College Ensembles are required to purchase a shirt to wear at performances. This shirt will be worn with black trousers, black socks and black shoes at all performance events including:

• Assembly performances and school functions;
• Lunch time concerts at the Glasshouse;
• Big Band Blast;
• The annual Music Awards Night;

Students are to see Mr Denham at rehearsal or in break times in the Junior Band Room to order a size. Sample shirts will be available for you to try on. All payments are to be made to the front office of your school with the attached note as soon as possible. I encourage students to order a slightly larger shirt if still growing. This performance shirt will be able to be worn across all MacKillop College and SAPSS Bands into the foreseeable future.

Thank you for your continued support of the Music program. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Denham  
MacKillop College Co-Curricular Music Coordinator  
rdenham@lism.catholic.edu.au
Ensemble shirt order form

I _____________________________________ would like to order a performing Ensemble shirt size____.

Please tick:  I include $25.00 and understand that this shirt is to be worn at all MacKillop College and SAPSS performances.

Parent/Guardian name: ______________________________________________________

Contact: (H) ______________________ (M) ______________________

Email: ____________________________________

Signed: ___________________________________________________ (Parent/Guardian)