

MUSIC HANDBOOK

**YEAR 7
STUDENTS
2021**





INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NORWOOD SECONDARY COLLEGE 2021

MUSIC MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

Some of the benefits of learning and instrument are:

- Reduces Stress
- Produces patience and perseverance
- Develops music appreciation
- Cultivates creativity
- Uses almost every part of the brain
- Strengthens your immune system
- Increases time-management skills
- Increases memory capability



CLASSROOM MUSIC

There are many opportunities for Norwood Secondary College students to be involved in Music. All students participate in Classroom Music in Years 7 and 8. Music electives – Contemporary Music and Music Technology, are offered in Year 9 and Year 10 and in Years 11 and 12 students can study VCE Music Performance (Group or Solo).

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

The Instrumental Music Program offers two lessons per week - one instrumental lesson and one ensemble lesson. Norwood offers tuition in a wide range of instruments including Voice. Students from all year levels are required to participate in at least ONE main College ensemble.

MAIN ENSEMBLES:

Year 7 Junior Band	(Beginner Brass, Woodwind and Percussion students)
Year 8 Intermediate Band	(Year 8 Brass, Woodwind and Percussion students)
Year 9-12 Concert Band	(Years 9-12 Brass, Woodwind and Percussion students)
Year 7-8 Choir	(Year 7 Voice, Piano and Keyboard students)
Norwood Chorale	(Voice, Piano and Keyboard students)
Junior Strings	(Year 7 String students)
String Ensemble	(Years 8-12 String students)
Guitar Ensemble	(Guitar students)

Once a member of the Norwood Chorale - students may audition for A'Cappella Choir

Once a member of the Concert Band or InterBand - students may audition for Jazz Band

This booklet outlines the Instrumental Music Program and ensembles at the College as well as information regarding the hire of instruments.

INSTRUMENTAL TUITION

Norwood is fortunate to have Instrumental Music teachers who offer tuition in the following instruments:

WOODWIND

Flute
Clarinet
Saxophone
Oboe
Bassoon

BRASS

Trumpet
French Horn
Trombone
Tuba

STRING

Violin
Viola
Cello
Double Bass

PERCUSSION

Band Percussion
(tuned/un-tuned
and drum kit)

VOICE

Soprano/Alto
Tenor/Bass
Classical/Contemp

GUITAR

Acoustic
Electric
Bass

KEYBOARD

Group keyboard lessons (up to 4)



BRASS, WOODWIND, PERCUSSION, STRINGS, GUITAR and VOICE GROUP LESSONS

There are two lessons given each week - the group Instrumental lesson and the Ensemble lesson. Instrumental lessons are provided to Years 7-10 students in small groups on a rotating basis so that students do not miss the same class each week. The ensemble lesson usually takes place after school or before school when all members of the group gather to prepare repertoire for performances.

Note: Where possible, lessons for Years 11 and 12 students are held in one of their spare periods.

SUBJECT CHARGES

The **tuition charge** is to enable the Music Department to maintain and update instruments and to purchase music for instrumental groups. This charge represents only a fraction of the cost of private tuition.

Solo Lessons Year 12	\$800
Solo Lessons Year 11	\$700
Solo Lessons Years 7-10	\$600
Group Lessons Years 7-10	\$400
Instrumental Hire/Service	\$200
Christmas Holiday Hire	\$30 – TO BE PAID IN ADVANCE

Other options are:

Compass Payment Plan:	Instalments for Music tuition
Compass Payment Plan:	Instalments for Instrument hire.
Contact the General Office:	9871 0400

Payment should be made by Week 2 of each Term.

AMEB EXAMS

The Australian Music Examination Board runs Music examinations each year for all instruments including Voice. The Instrumental Music teacher will recommend if the student is ready for the exam. This is not compulsory, but does give students a goal to work towards. There are costs involved to enrol and for the Accompanist.



HIRE INSTRUMENTS

College policy is to encourage the purchase of instruments. Some instruments are available for hire and preference is given to Year 7 students. The hire period is one year, at the end of which students continuing with tuition are expected to purchase their own instruments. In the case of the more expensive and larger instruments (e.g. French horn, Double Bass, Tuba, Bassoon) the hire term may be extended, subject to the availability of the instrument.

The following instruments are available for hire from the College - Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Oboe, French horn, Bassoon, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Bass and Lead Guitar. Some of the less common instruments such as Viola, Tuba, Bassoon and French horn are often easier to hire. Instruments can also be hired from a number of Music retailers.

Hire charges are shown on the Instrument Hire Contract. The hire charge is used to enable routine maintenance on current instruments. It does not cover loss or damage caused through negligence or abuse. Parents will be expected to pay for the replacement value of hire instruments that are not returned to the College and for any damage to instruments caused by negligence or abuse. If a student terminates lessons there will be a pro-rata refund of hire charges.

PURCHASING AN INSTRUMENT

If parents/guardians are considering purchasing an instrument, the Instrumental staff would be pleased to offer advice as to suitable instruments for students. There are many instruments available, but teachers have found that some brands are more reliable than others and offer better value for money. Factors to take into account before buying are quality, brand, relative intonation of the instrument, spare parts and servicing availability, condition and price. It is recommended that parents speak to an Instrumental teacher prior to making a purchase. This is particularly important if buying a secondhand instrument.

For more information, contact the Instrumental Music Coordinator or the Instrumental teacher at the College during College hours on 9871 0400.

INSURANCE OF COLLEGE INSTRUMENTS

All instruments belonging to the College are covered by insurance only while they are locked inside the College premises. When a student hires an instrument, parents are required to accept responsibility for loss or damage to the instrument.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC: HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

With any new skilled activity, students are at a greater advantage if they have the opportunity to form good habits. Regular and productive playing/practise at home is necessary. It is recommended for beginner students to practise for 20-30 minutes, five times a week. Ways to encourage this are:

- Be interested in their progress and encourage/praise improvements
- Encourage them to perform regularly for family and friends
- Have a regular time and place for them to play
- Ensure that the practise space is secure for them to leave their instrument out, so they can pick it up swiftly if there are a few minutes (whilst waiting for dinner, etc.) to fit in extra practise
- Ensure the instrument is coming home from school for practise. Ask about their Instrumental lessons
- Students will initially make some creative sounds! Be encouraging and urge them on. They will get better
- Purchase a Music stand to have at home. It makes playing much easier and develops good posture



FRIENDS OF MUSIC (FOM)

A group of parents/carers of Music students assist the Music Program in a variety of ways including:

- Raising the profile of the Music Program through active support
- Concert support – including backstage, front of house, refreshments, uniforms, stage management and transport
- Fundraising - each year the FOM take on a fundraising project in order to enhance the Music Program



RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS

- Once a student chooses to learn an instrument, it is important that the student practises regularly, including technical work
- Students are expected to attend lessons regularly. Lessons are rotated so that students will not be absent from the same class each week. If the student is absent for three consecutive lessons, without valid reasons, parents will be contacted and lessons may be terminated
- Students are expected to attend weekly Ensemble rehearsals, which are central to Norwood's Music Program. Everyone enrolled in the Instrumental Program is expected to participate in an ensemble
- Students are welcome to be in more than one Ensemble
- Students are assessed each semester on their Ensemble work
- Students are encouraged to sit a practical examination each year
- Students must bring their instrument, music, an exercise book, a pencil and an eraser to their lesson each week
- Students must regularly clean and maintain their instruments
- It is recommended for health reasons and care of the instrument that students do not lend instruments to others

COMPULSORY ENSEMBLE ATTENDANCE

- Students are expected to attend weekly Ensemble rehearsals, which are central to Norwood's Music Program. **Everyone enrolled in the Instrumental Program is expected to participate in an Ensemble**
Students are welcome to be in more than one Ensemble
- Students are assessed each semester on their Ensemble work
- All Year 7 Brass, Woodwind and Percussion students are required to join the Junior Band
- All Year 7 String students are required to join Junior Strings
- All Year 7 Vocal students are required to join Chorale
- All Year 7 Piano students are required to join Chorale
- All Year 7 Guitar students are required to join Junior Band or Guitar Ensemble as recommended by the Music Teacher

HOW TO DISCONTINUE

- It is expected that all students will commit to one year of tuition and ensemble and no refunds will be given for ceasing lessons without a significant reason. It is possible, after discussion with the Music Coordinator, to change to a different instrument and transfer charges to that instrument.
- If a student wishes to discontinue lessons on their instrument, their Instrumental teacher must be notified. Students must also provide a letter from their parent/guardian to the Instrumental Music Coordinator indicating that they wish to cease lessons. This must be handed in to the General Office to adjust charges.

ROLE OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- The most important responsibility of parents is to continually support and encourage their child. The beginner stages can be especially challenging for Instrumental Music students. It is important that all members of the family consistently demonstrate patience and understanding even when students are not yet fully competent in playing their chosen instrument. Keep in mind that some instruments will naturally produce loud sounds, especially with younger students. Time should be allocated within the family routine to accommodate the student's practise.
- Parents can support students by encouraging them to practise regularly. If parents have a knowledge of music, they can use this to help during practise sessions.
- Parents need to purchase music when it is required. It is essential for students to have the correct music.
- If at any time it is felt that the student's interest is declining or that a student is not making progress, parents are encouraged to contact the Music Coordinator or the Band Director during College hours.
- If the teacher feels that a student is not progressing because of a lack of practise, parents/guardians will be informed of this and may be asked to assist with the matter.



WHAT TO DO NEXT

Parents can enrol via the link on the Norwood SC website under 'Instrumental Music'. There will also be a short powerpoint called **Choosing a Musical Instrument for Year 7 in 2021** available on the Norwood SC Website, where you can hear the instruments played by our current students.

Remember:

How successful your child is at learning an instrument depends very much upon how diligently he/she practises and on the amount of support given at home. Keep in mind that although not every student can become a Concert Performer or a professional Musician, every student can benefit greatly from involvement in music as a leisure time pursuit.

Please contact Mrs Joanne Dema for any further information on 9871 0400.

Joanne Dema
Instrumental Music Coordinator