

# **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC HANDBOOK**

**YEAR 7  
STUDENTS  
2024**





## 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 elective and subject choices – Contemporary Music and Music Technology, are offered in Years 9 and 10. In Years 11 and 12, students can study VCE Music.

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

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/Instructors 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

### BASS GUITAR

Electric Bass (limited places)



### OTHER INSTRUMENTS - ACOUSTIC GUITAR

A private Guitar teacher/Instructor is available for weekly lessons; however, the charges are paid directly to the private teacher/Instructor at the current VMTA rates. Please ask the Music Coordinator for more details.

### PIANO (Australian Music Examination Board - Grade 3 minimum entry)

Piano lessons are only available to students who have reached Grade 3 AMEB standard. These students will be expected to join Chorale. Please contact the Music Coordinator to discuss.

## **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 before or after 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 CONTRIBUTIONS**

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 Year 10	\$600
Group lessons Years 7-10	\$400
Instrumental hire/service	\$200

Payment Options are:

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

### **All payments can be made via Compass Parent Portal**

*(Payments can be made in full or there is also an option to set up a payment plan)*

## **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 students to purchase their own instruments. Some instruments are available for hire from NSC 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, Bassoon, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Tuba, Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Bass Guitar. Instruments can also be hired from several Music retailers.

Hire charges are shown on the Instrumental Music Program Enrolment 2024. 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/carers 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 contributions.

## **PURCHASING AN INSTRUMENT**

If parents/carers 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 consider 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 second-hand instrument.*

For more information, contact the Instrumental Music Coordinator or the Instrumental teacher/Instructor 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/carers are required to accept responsibility for loss or damage to the instrument outside the College.

## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC: HOW PARENTS CAN HELP**

With any new skilled activity, students are at a greater advantage if they can 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 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 Guitar students are required to join Junior Band or Guitar Ensemble as recommended by the Music Teacher

## DISCONTINUING MUSIC LESSONS?

- 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 music lessons, students are asked to provide a letter or email from their parent/carer to the General office - [norwoodsc@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:norwoodsc@education.vic.gov.au), indicating that they wish to cease lessons.

## ROLE OF PARENTS/CARERS

- The most important responsibility of parents/carers 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 practise
- Parents/carers can support their child by encouraging them to practise regularly. If parents/carers have a knowledge of music, they can use this to help during practise sessions
- Parents/carers 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 their child's interest is declining or that no progress is being made, parents/carers 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/carers will be informed of this and may be asked to assist with the matter



## **WHAT TO DO NEXT**

Year 7 parents/carers can complete the **Music Enrolment Form** which is in your transition pack. The Music Enrolment form must be returned to the General Office. During the first two days of school next year, all Year 7 students will have a chance to meet the Music teachers/Instructors to look at some of the instruments.

Music Enrolment forms are also available on the Norwood Secondary College website or at the Music Office.

### **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***