Monday 1 February 2016

Year 7 Advanced CoCurricular Music Program

Dear Parents

Your son has nominated Music for his Year 7 CoCurricular activity, specifying that he is an experienced instrumentalist. We are thrilled to have him utilising and extending his instrumental skills in our program as a part of the College’s music ensembles.

Your son will attend CoCurricular Music on Monday afternoons from 3:15pm to 5:00pm (with Years 8 to 12) in the Centenary Building. The program commenced on Monday 1 February. During Week 2 he should have auditioned for a place in an ensemble that is suitable to his ability level. If he has not yet auditioned, signup sheets are outside the music office in the Centenary Building. Details will be released to you following these auditions.

Due to the level at which your son will be working, it is an expectation that he partakes in private weekly instrumental lessons to support the ensemble learning in the Co-Curricular sessions. Lessons on all the relevant instruments are available within the school with a member of the College’s impressive instrumental faculty, and the Instrumental Lesson Enrolment form is attached or can be found at music.tsc.nsw.edu.au. Alternatively, the lessons may take place outside the school and we would appreciate you providing us with the name of his teacher.

As you would be aware, learning an orchestral instrument as part of a musical ensemble teaches instrumental technique and musicianship though more importantly, participation in these groups also engages boys’ creativity. Further, as with any sports team, a musical ensemble relies on teamwork while teaching life skills such as self-discipline and organization, and promoting the development of interpersonal skills, and personal expression.

Interestingly, research has consistently shown that students participating in instrumental music learning experiences also achieve better results than their non-musician counterparts across the academic spectrum. The significance of these many positive factors notwithstanding, at Scots we primarily teach music for its inherent value, growing boys’ appreciation of varied musical styles and promoting a lifelong love of the arts, and of learning.
This program makes up 35 percent of the boys’ Year 7 academic music assessment. Marks come from performance assessments undertaken during Co-Curricular time on the instruments boys learn as part of this program. As such, dedicated and regular practice is expected of all boys including one practice session per week in the Music Department called a Drop-In Session. Election of a Drop-In Session should be completed on the slip at the bottom of this letter and returned to the Music Department.

The opportunity also exists for your son to commence learning a second musical instrument with the CoCurricular program on Thursday afternoons. At no cost (apart from a minimal textbook fee), he can further develop his musical skills by participating in the Year 7 beginner group tutorials and ensemble sessions that take place on Thursdays from 3:15pm to 5:00pm. This opportunity is available for our experienced instrumentalists on the following instruments: flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, trumpet, trombone, tuba, euphonium and double bass. Please contact me on the given email address to discuss: 

r.lowe@tsc.nsw.edu.au

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me on the email address given above. We look forward to your son’s participation in the Music Department.

Kind regards

Rebecca Lowe
MIC Year 7 Co-Curricular Music

Please circle preferred 30 minute drop in practice session.
This is a mandatory requirement of the program.

Tues 7:45am       Wed 7:45am       Thurs 7:45am
Tues 3:15pm       Wed 3:15pm