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Welcome to Great Southern Grammar, where wide-open spaces equal wide-open futures.

Our campus is as expansive as our curriculum. Situated on 144 acres adjoining Oyster Harbour in Albany, we offer your child everything from science to SCUBA diving, maths to maritime studies, and history to horse riding. It is this richness of learning, and breadth of experiences that allows your child to uncover their strengths and passions.

We believe in giving girls and boys from Kindergarten to Year Twelve a world of opportunity in a supportive, country setting.

At Great Southern Grammar, we give your child the room to flourish.

This handbook contains information relevant to your child. For further information, please contact your Head of Sub School.

Thank you for entrusting your child’s education to Great Southern Grammar.

Mr Mark Sawle | Principal

I join Mr Sawle in welcoming you to Great Southern Grammar.

The role of the Deputy Principal at GSG is to oversee the day-to-day operations of the School K-12; develop processes and procedures for effective communication; coordinate daily events; and attend to issues relating to duty of care.

The Deputy Principal manages the school calendar, maintains standards and ensures that learning outcomes are being met. I chair the Pastoral Committee K-12, the Occupational Health and Safety Committee and am the member of Executive overseeing Boarding and ICT.

Thank you for choosing Great Southern Grammar as your child’s place of learning.

Mr Richard Baird | Deputy Principal
Welcome to Great Southern Grammar’s vibrant and comprehensive Music programme, which offers a wide range of musical opportunities encompassing classical, jazz and contemporary music.

Music features at all formal school occasions and is a regular part of school assemblies and Chapel services.

This handbook contains detailed information regarding all aspects of musical life at GSG.

Why Enrol in Music?

Participation in the creative arts has been proven to have a positive impact on young people’s lives and development. Learning an instrument and being involved in music provides opportunities for children to foster creative skills, enhances literacy and numeracy, helps develop fine motor skills, aids in personal and social development and gives great enjoyment.

Fundamental elements in learning and experiencing music directly parallel aspects of learning:

- **Reading:** Visual recognition and understanding of music notation
- **Speaking:** Sounded expression of written music or improvisation
- **Writing:** Correct and meaningful writing of music notation
- **Listening:** Aural recognition, reflection and understanding of music

Students learn valuable life skills such as motivation and dedication through learning and practising an instrument. Performance occasions provide students with the opportunity to learn the importance of presentation and generate a feeling of excitement and pride in their achievements.

GSG Music Programme

At GSG students have the opportunity to learn a wide range of instruments from one of our experienced instrumental teachers. Individual lessons are 30 minutes in duration and are held during the school day. Group lessons are also offered for beginners. Further information and application forms can be found in the Instrumental Music Programme section.

Great Southern Grammar also offers students tuition on the bagpipes and marching drums as part of the Pipe Band, a distinctive band featured at all formal school occasions that is often invited to perform for formal events for the City of Albany.

There are many ensembles offered to GSG students to cater for all levels of musical development, age and style. Activities for ensembles include annual camps, regular tours within Western Australia and interstate and many performance and learning opportunities throughout the year.
In Middle and Senior School we offer a vibrant contemporary music programme for students. A number of student rock bands perform regularly at lunchtime concerts and other concerts throughout the year.

It is my hope that all students who learn an instrument will participate in an ensemble at Great Southern Grammar and enjoy the experience of making music with school friends.

I welcome all students to the Music programme at Great Southern Grammar. My goal is to provide a stimulating and exciting musical environment for students at all levels, both in and out of the classroom. I look forward to encouraging your child in his or her musical activities, whatever they may be.

Ms Emma Luxton | Head of the Arts, Director of Music
Classroom Music at Great Southern Grammar

At Great Southern Grammar we provide students with the opportunity to study and develop their musical skills and interests in a wide range of musical styles throughout their school lives.

Kindergarten to Year Seven Music

From Kindergarten to Year Seven, Music is incorporated into the curriculum as part of the weekly timetable. The philosophy behind Music in these years is to create an environment of enjoyment and appreciation. Students listen to music, sing and play a variety of musical instruments from different styles, cultures and historical times.

Year Two Music

All Year Two students are invited to participate in an introductory programme of violin and cello lessons in addition to their regular classroom music lesson. This is an enjoyable introduction to the violin and the cello, providing students with a unique opportunity to try these instruments. At the end of their introductory period, students are encouraged to begin individual or group lessons on either instrument.

Year Five Music

In Year Five, students are given the opportunity to learn either the flute, clarinet, trumpet or trombone in small group lessons for a semester. At the end of their introductory period students are welcome to begin individual or group lessons on either instrument.

Middle School Music

In Middle School, Music is offered as an elective subject with two separate classes.

General Music

General Music is focused on contemporary music. In this class, students form rock bands with classmates, learn songs and experiment with playing different instruments and singing. They have the opportunity to perform for their peers and record songs in the GSG recording studio.

Specialist Music

The focus of Specialist Music is engagement with music so as to begin to understand how it is created. Students look at how music is composed and has developed and continues to develop over time. In this class students have the opportunity to experiment with composition and arranging for their own instruments. These skills are developed and enhanced through technology and music programmes, such as Sibelius. Students learn relevant musical theory and are able to complete theory exams if they choose to. Completion of this course provides students with the opportunity to undertake the ATAR Music course in Years Eleven and Twelve.
Senior School Music

In Senior School, GSG offers two separate Music courses:

- The ATAR Music course in Western Art Music as part of the WACE is for students who are at an appropriate level of skill on their instruments and have some background in theory, history and aural training. We recommend that students complete Specialist Music in Years Eight, Nine and Ten to prepare for this course.

- VET Music allows students to complete the TAFE Certificate II over Years Eleven and Twelve. Students spend time writing their own songs, rehearsing and performing at various occasions. Units also include practical experiences in setting up and moving equipment, recording technology, and musical skills.

Music Scholarships

Great Southern Grammar offers financially attractive Music Scholarships to talented and committed Music students. Scholarships are available for students from Year Seven upwards and are awarded based on an audition process. Scholarship recipients are required to study Specialist Music in Years Eight to Ten. It is an expectation that students will study ATAR Music in Years Eleven and Twelve. Recipients must be members of at least one school ensemble and demonstrate a strong commitment to the musical life of the School.

Scholarships are reviewed annually. Commitment to music within the School, musical development and academic progress will all be considered in the review process.

Application forms are available at the end of Term Four. The closing date is the end of February and auditions are held in March every year.

Instrumental Music Programme

Learning an instrument offers rewards and challenges for each individual. The support of parents and the family plays a vital part in a child’s commitment to music.

The process of learning an instrument requires patience and dedication to regular practice at home. Please consider your child’s existing time commitments when considering learning an instrument and plan practice time into your child’s weekly routine.

Competence and mastery of an instrument develops over time. It is recommended that families commit to persevering with an instrument for a year.

Students have the opportunity to learn any of the following instruments from one of our experienced instrumental teachers: violin, viola, cello, piano, keyboard, guitar, drums, voice, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, euphonium and French horn. All lessons are 30 minutes in length and occur during school time.
Lessons are individual or, for beginners, we offer the opportunity to learn in a small group. It is recommended that group lessons be undertaken for a maximum of one year. After one year, musical progress is greater in an individual lesson.

Group lessons include a minimum of two and a maximum of three students of similar ages, as it is not appropriate or effective for students from different age groups to have lessons together.

Piano and keyboard lessons have a maximum of two children per group. It is not possible for students to have group lessons on drums.

- In Kindergarten, Pre-Primary, Years One and Two the Suzuki violin programme can commence.
- In Year One, violin, cello, piano and keyboard can commence.
- In Year Four, students can begin lessons on guitar and drums.
- From Year Five upwards, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, euphonium and French horn can all be learnt, provided the child is big enough to physically hold and play the instrument safely. Wind instruments require children’s lungs to be sufficiently developed to blow enough air through them to produce sound. Mouth shape can also affect a child’s ability to produce a sound on certain instruments. Instrumental staff will advise you on your child.
- All instruments can be started at any age in Middle or Senior School.

GSG Ensembles

At Great Southern Grammar we offer many ensembles and endeavour to create a musical ensemble experience for students of all ages and levels of development on their instrument. Ensembles enjoy performance opportunities at various events and venues at school and within Albany throughout the year. Ensembles attend the annual Music Camp in Term One in addition to other events, including: tours; workshops with visiting artists; collaborative events with other schools or musical ensembles; and participation in school events such as dramatic productions, musicals and an annual concert in the Albany Entertainment Centre.

To maintain the musical development of individuals and of collective ensembles, students must be undertaking lessons on their instrument to be eligible to participate in an ensemble at GSG. Members must continue to have weekly lessons to remain in an ensemble.

School ensembles rehearse weekly and perform at events throughout the school year. Attendance at rehearsals is required and students are expected to make themselves available for performances.
GSG CHOIRS

GSG currently offers the following instrumental ensembles:

- Concert Band
- Jazz Band, in the style of a 20-piece big band for selected students
- Foundation Band, for developing woodwind and brass students
- A beginner Junior School ensemble, the Violettes, for developing violin and cello students
- An intermediate string ensemble, Intermediate Stings
- An advanced string ensemble, Senior Strings
- A classical guitar ensemble
- Jazz Combo, a small jazz band for invited members

GSG Choirs

For young vocalists we offer three choirs including two Junior School choirs. One choir is for children in Years One to Three, while the other is for children from Years Four to Six. The choir for students in Middle and Senior Schools is the Senior Vocal Ensemble. These choirs rehearse weekly out of school time and perform at many events and concerts throughout the year.

GSG Pipe Band

Students have the opportunity to learn the bagpipes or the marching drums in a group lesson and to join the Pipe Band in Years Five, Six, Seven and Eight. Places are limited for lessons with the bagpipes and drums. Lessons occur during school time and are rotated each term to ensure that students do not miss the same class for more than a term. There is no cost for these lessons, other than for uniform as specified below.

There is a strong expectation that if students begin learning the bagpipes or the drums, they will commit to the Pipe Band for the duration of their school career.

When students have reached an appropriate level of development on either the bagpipes or drums, they are invited to join the Pipe Band. At this point they receive their full Pipe Band uniform of kilt, spats, hosetops, sporran, glengarry, belt and buckle. Students are required to look immaculate when representing the Pipe Band and to look after their uniform. There is no cost to the student for the Pipe Band uniform. Socks cost $45.00 and are charged to your school account.

The Pipe Band is involved in all formal school occasions and several public community events throughout the year. All members are required to attend weekly rehearsals and to make themselves available for all performances.
Fee schedule

**Individual lessons**
Instrumental lessons at GSG are charged on an individual basis to cater for each child’s musical development. The cost of individual lessons is $320.00 per term, or half the total cost of 17 lessons at $640.00 per semester, that is, $37.65 (including GST) per 30 minute lesson.

**Group lessons**
The cost of group lessons is $185.00 per term, or half the cost of 17 lessons per semester at $370.00, that is, $21.76 (including GST) per 30 minute lesson.

Students undertaking group lessons are required to make a commitment to the programme for a semester to ensure that a group is viable for a semester. If members withdraw from a group mid-year, it may be necessary for the remaining students to move into the individual instrumental programme if another group cannot be formed. Individual lesson costs will then apply.

Should there be any difficulty regarding payment of music fees, please contact the Director of Music.

**Instrument Hire**
A small number of instruments is available for hire from the School at a cost of $110.00 per semester. We currently have a small number of cellos, clarinets, trumpets and saxophones available for hire.

**Absence or Illness**
The payment of full music fees is necessary to hold a guaranteed place whenever a student is absent from school, and for music lessons for any period during the year. Lessons missed due to planned family holidays cannot be made up and no reduction of fees is possible. However, if an absence is for the duration of an entire term, the music lessons may be suspended without charge.

Lessons missed due to a student forgetting to attend will not be made up.

If a student is sick the teacher will endeavour to make up the lesson and our billing schedule facilitates this process.
Lessons missed due to school activities such as camps and excursions will be made up at a later date.

If students miss their lesson without explanation, parents will be notified via phone or email. The Head of Boarding will also be notified if boarders are absent without notification.

**Music Diary**

In order to help students and parents to keep track of music lessons, each student is issued with a Music Diary.

The diary is used as a means of communication between Music teachers and parents/caregivers with regards to practice, progress, books that may be required and lesson times. At each lesson the teacher writes down the student’s lesson time for the following week. We ask parents/caregivers to check the Music Diary after each lesson to confirm the time and day for the following week and to sign the diary.

Students who lose their Music Diary will be issued with a new diary at a cost of $12.00 which will be added to their school account.

**Music Lesson Allocation**

Lessons occur during class time and the times are rotated each term to ensure that a student does not miss the same class all year. We regret that it is not possible to accommodate individual requests for lesson times. There are a small number of out-of-school times available and these are reserved for Senior School students.

Junior School students in Years One to Four are collected from their classroom by their instrumental teacher. Students from Year Five upwards are required to attend their lesson on time. Lessons missed due to a student forgetting will not be made up.

Students are expected to inform their Music teachers of tests, excursions etc in advance to allow for rescheduling. Rescheduling of lessons should be planned at least two weeks in advance.

Music staff make every effort to keep to their timetable of lessons. However, one event occurring in the School usually results in multiple changes being required, often including changes of lesson times including students not involved in the particular event.

**Music Timetables**

Timetables are included in the Daily Notices every day. They are also posted on the screens in each school building and in the Music building. It is the student’s responsibility to check the Notices and timetable on the day of their lesson for any last minute changes.
Responsibility for Music and Instruments

Part of learning an instrument is developing responsibility for practice, planning lessons and attending lessons promptly with all required equipment. Instrumental teachers cannot teach effectively when a student has forgotten his or her music, diary or instrument.

Music Practice

In order to maintain steady progress a regular practice routine should be established and maintained. Parental support and encouragement are vital to ensure a positive musical experience for students. Younger children often require some supervision during practice sessions and some recognition of their efforts.

Your child will need a room in the house where he or she can practice without being disturbed. It should preferably be well ventilated with adequate reading light. A music stand is beneficial to promote good posture.

Regular practice is essential. As a guide, beginners should practise for ten minutes, five days per week, gradually increasing to 20-30 minutes. It can be helpful for children to practice at the same time each day to maintain a routine.

Please read the Music diary to check lesson days and times and to see what work the instrumental teacher has set.

Solo Nights are held several times each year and offer young instrumentalists opportunities to perform for their family and friends.
Instrument Purchase and Insurance

Students are encouraged to purchase their own instruments in order to make school instruments available for new students. Our instrumental staff may be consulted for advice when purchasing instruments. Please take care to ensure that your child’s instrument insurance covers the instrument while in transit to and from school. Home and contents policies do not generally cover instruments in transit or outside of the home and the school’s insurance policy does not cover students’ personal property.

Commencing and Withdrawing from Lessons

Lesson enrolment is assumed to continue from term to term. Any changes to the enrolment are required in writing a minimum of four weeks before the end of the term. Failure to provide four weeks’ notice may result in a charge being made of four weeks’ lessons. It is not possible to commence or withdraw from lessons during a term.

Participation

Please note the following:
All students are expected engage in the school’s programmes and experiences. It is anticipated that students learning a musical instrument will become a member of one or more GSG ensembles and contribute to the musical life of the School. This includes making themselves available for performances out of school hours. Making a positive contribution to the School through music may improve students’ eligibility for other programmes, including student leadership roles and Country Week selection.
The information provided in the GSG Music Parent Handbook is correct at the time of printing. However, the School operates in a dynamic environment and changes to routines and procedures occur during the school year. We endeavour to keep the School community informed about what is happening at the School and we encourage you to read the weekly Anchor newsletter and to visit the GSG website at gsg.wa.edu.au to keep up to date with the latest information.