



LYNDHURST  
SECONDARY  
COLLEGE

# Instrumental Music Handbook





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# Music at Lyndhurst Secondary College

Welcome to the Instrumental Music Program at Lyndhurst Secondary College. We would like to thank you for supporting your children in their artistic endeavours. The purpose of this booklet is to provide a guide for parents and students to instrumental music at Lyndhurst Secondary College.

Please find introductory information about our Instrumental Music Program at LSC.

## Why Learn an Instrument

Learning a musical instrument can be an incredible experience and opportunity for any child.

Research shows that music can also help your child learn a number of other valuable life skills. Music, as well as being an enjoyable mode of self-expression, contributes to intellectual and cognitive growth. Participation in group lessons and rehearsals also results in the further development of social and communication skills.

In addition, the art of learning to read and perform music, other benefits include the development of self-discipline required to practice, enhanced self-esteem. It is normal for teenagers at times to find it difficult to stay motivated. A sense of accomplishment comes from persevering through these challenges in order to achieve incredible music and success as a team.

## Why Learn at our School

Our instrumental program is carefully scaffolded in a student by student basis to ensure all students at LSC can experience success, we do this by:

- Instrumental/Ensemble participation at an appropriate level for the student
- Regular performance opportunities
- Progress reports and Regular contact with the parent via the practice journal/COMPASS.
- Assessments/Recitals if required
- Choosing instrument appropriate for student.

## **Which Instrument Should My Child Learn?**

Instrumental Lessons at LSC are offered on the Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Piano, Guitar, Bass and Drums.

The choice of instrument needs careful consideration. Probably the best guide is the sound of the instrument which the student likes most. After all, the student will spend many years listening to the sound of that instrument. However, the popularity of an instrument should also be considered as instrumental balance within ensembles must be maintained. For example, there is little sense in having two hundred students learning the saxophone if there are no students of the Piano, as the resultant imbalance in the Ensembles/Bands. Talking to the Music Teacher can be helpful in ensuring that your child learns an instrument which is likely to be in demand as your child progresses.

## **Learning an Instrument**

### **Enrolment for Instrumental Lessons**

To commence lessons, students must request an instrumental enrolment form from the Music room or the office and bring back to Ms Yeoman in the Music Room – They will then be invoiced via COMPASS, Once the teacher receives the form Lessons should commence immediately. Forms can be collected from the Music Room or downloaded from the School's website. A student can commence lessons at any time during the School year. However, in rare cases may be delayed due to there being a waiting list for some instruments as the demand for lessons expands.

### **Hire of Instruments**

Lyndhurst Secondary College has a limited number of woodwind instruments available to be borrowed by students participating in the program. Instruments on loan must be returned immediately when tuition ceases. Parents are responsible or repairs cost of an instrument resulting from any loss or damage while it is in the student's custody, the value of the item will be determined by the school. Students learning the Guitar/Bass/Drums are able to arrange with the teacher to practice during recess/lunch/afterschool and are encouraged to eventually purchase the instrument if the student is progressing.

## **Time and expectations within Instrumental Lessons**

Lessons occur during class time and the times are rotated each week to ensure that a student does not miss the same class consistently. It is the student's responsibility to catch up on any work missed. Students lessons will be on COMPASS to notify classroom teachers of their lesson.

Lessons will be divided into approx. 25-30 min blocks consisting of private / small group instruction and ensemble rehearsal team taught lessons. The goal of this approach is designed to make the delivery of lessons more effective and to help develop our students into well rounded and capable musicians.

Part of learning an instrument is developing responsibility for practice, planning lessons and attending lessons promptly with all required equipment.

## **Instrumental Fees**

Lyndhurst Secondary College offers instrumental lessons for secondary students on Woodwind, Piano, Guitar, Bass and Percussion for \$50 per Semester. Lessons will begin once payment and Enrolment form have been received.

LSC's Instrumental Lesson fees are competitively priced under \$5 per instrumental lesson. Many private instrumental tuitions/schools charge upwards of \$40 per instrumental lesson. At LSC we also offer scholarships and competitive rates as we believe in giving all students equal opportunity and access to instrumental music.

## **Student Illness, Lateness and Absence**

Students are expected 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 avoid being marked absent and chance to move their lesson slot.

If a student misses instrumental lessons without prior notification parents will be informed. This is to ensure parents are updated on the progress and performance of their student's learning.

## **Termination of Lessons**

Tuition, once commenced, will continue the entire semester and if students wish to continue will need to complete payment during billing period (Term 1 and Term 3).

If you wish your child to stop learning an instrument, written notification must be received by letter or email.

## **Ensembles/Bands at LSC**

Bands, Ensembles and Choirs are a vital part of learning an instrument, knowing how to play an instrument is already very special, however putting it into context serves to amplify your skills and communication with other musicians through creating Music as one.

**If you are interested in joining any Ensembles, please email:**

[alyce.yeoman@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:alyce.yeoman@education.vic.gov.au)

### **Pasifika Choir**

Since 2022, our department, in collaboration with multiple Secondary schools in the South-East, have worked closely with DET to run a multi-school Pasifika choir. This choir rehearses regularly throughout the year in preparation to perform as part of the Victorian State School Spectacular.

### **Modern Band**

In Modern Band, students are grouped into small ensembles consisting of Vocals, Guitar, Bass, Keys, & Drums. Students then learn repertoire to perform at school events such as assemblies, Concerts, as well as Lunchtime performances out in the school yard. Students primarily choose the repertoire from Beyonce to Elton John and everything in between.

### **Woodwind Ensemble**

Students who play the Saxophone, Flute or Clarinet have the opportunity to put their note reading skills together to create music. (Movie themes, pop music ect)



## Performance Opportunities

Students are provided with many opportunities across a range of settings to perform both within the school and at public concerts. Throughout the year, students also have the opportunity to participate in and observe instrument specific masterclasses and workshops.

- Mid and End of Year Concerts
- Lunchtime Performances (In the courtyard)
- Assemblies
- Talent Shows/Showcases/Harmony Day/R U OK Day
- Victorian State School Spectacular Choir
- Battle of the Bands





# What Parents Can Do to Help?

It is important to remember that no-one individual can teach a student how to play an instrument, it is a team effort, both at home and at school- a student can only be taught how to practice. It is, therefore, important that you ensure your child has time to practice by **establishing a regular practice routine**. While there is no 'upper limit' to practice time, as a general guide a student starting an instrument should practise between 20 and 30 minutes – 3 times a week. Frequent small amounts of practice with full concentration are of much greater benefit than great long practice sessions the night before the next lesson.

Hints on taking the pain out of practice:

- Establish a regular practice routine of two to three sessions per week.
- Be encouraging to your child, even if the sound being made is not always music as you know it!

Other ways to help: Music Stands

To play an orchestral instrument effectively, a good posture is vital. Parents are, therefore, strongly advised to purchase a music stand at the earliest opportunity. These can be purchased at many music shops, amazon or even JB-HI,FI.

## Practice Journals

Please make sure that you check your child's practice journal written with entries specially written by their teacher and feel free to write in the book. It is an easy way to communicate with the teacher and will assist you in making sure that your child practices all the required work instead of just the bits he happens to like best. Please communicate with teachers if you have any concerns at all, a message can be left with the Office asking the teacher to ring you at a convenient time.

## Concert Attendance

Please do your best to attend concerts when your child is performing, and even bring friends or relatives. The encouragement this gives to the students is colossal.

## Notices and Schedules

Notices are often distributed via COMPASS, please check this regularly for updates regarding Instrumental Music.

## Instrumental Music Scholarships

Music scholarships are available for students as at LSC we believe Instrumental Music should be accessible to all. Music Scholarships are offered to those who demonstrate the school Values, The Values our school hold are Encouragement, Commitment, Excellence, Integrity and Respect.

A Music Scholarship will require a completed scholarship application form with the inclusion of a letter from the parent/guardian as well as a teacher nominating them to be selected for this opportunity.

Students are generally chosen for these scholarships based on Merit and Equity and contributions throughout the Music Program however please enquire to Ms Alyce Yeoman if you would like to apply for a scholarship, may have prior Musical Training or demonstrate the values outlined above.



If you have any further enquiries, please contact Alyce Yeoman

✉ [alyce.yeoman@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:alyce.yeoman@education.vic.gov.au)

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