



BRENTWOOD  
SECONDARY COLLEGE

# Instrumental Music Program Student Handbook 2016



## **Welcome**

At Brentwood Secondary College, the Music Department is an exciting and energetic area of the college that provides students with a range of learning opportunities in many different areas of music. Our team of caring and professional Instrumental Music Teaching staff works with students to foster their understanding and love for music through the learning of an Instrument or Voice. The Instrumental Music program builds on the skills and concepts taught in the Classroom Music Program that runs from Year 7 through to Year 12 where students have the opportunity to complete VCE Music Performance.

Performance skills are a key part of the learning of Instrumental Music students at Brentwood, and students have many opportunities throughout the year to develop these skills through their participation in one of our many school Ensembles. Students can be a part of the Concert Band, String Orchestras, Guitar Ensembles, Choir, Percussion Ensemble and many more. We also have various chamber and contemporary music groups. There are further opportunities for more able students to facilitate and direct their own ensembles.

Participation in the Music Program helps develop traits such as cooperation, teamwork, leadership skills and persistence – important characteristics that contribute in other areas of education and student life.

2016 is shaping up to be an exciting year of music making at Brentwood, with many exciting performance and learning opportunities planned for the year. We hope you enjoy your musical journey with us.

Ben Franklin  
Director of Music

## Instrumental Music Staff 2016

Staff Member	Position	Days at BSC
Mr. Ben Franklin	Director of Music	Full Time
Ms. Sue Cook	Brass Teacher	Tuesday
Mr. Troy Male	Guitar Teacher	Thursday, Friday
Mr. Nicholas Milosevic	Percussion Teacher	Friday
Mrs. Ursula Cettolin	Voice Teacher	Monday, Wednesday
Ms. Cathie Presa	Strings Teacher	Monday, Wednesday
Mrs. Abby Calic	Woodwind Teacher	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday



## Instrumental Music Lessons

Students are taught performance, theory, aural training and sight-reading skills using standard curriculum and textbooks. Teachers will supply supplementary material in a variety of styles based on the students' interest. All students learning an instrument at school are required to participate in at least one school based ensemble. Their Instrumental Music Teacher will allocate students to the appropriate ensemble.

Beginner and intermediate students learn in small groups and are withdrawn from class for 30 mins once a week during the school term. Individual and extended length lesson are offered where possible for senior/advanced students, especially those studying VCE music. These attract a higher Instrumental Music Levy.











## Enrolment

Although places are limited, enrolment into the Instrumental Music Program is open to all students at Brentwood Secondary College regardless of year level or ability. Should an Instrument become full, remaining students will be placed on a waiting list until a place becomes available. Should this be the case, students are welcome to nominate a second preference of instrument.

Enrolment part way through the academic year is subject to availability. Students who wish to enroll part way through the year should speak to Mr. Franklin.

## Instruments Offered

The Brentwood Secondary College Instrumental Music Program offers lessons on the following Instruments:

 Violin	 Flute	 Trumpet	 Voice
 Viola	 Clarinet	 Trombone	 Guitar
	 Saxophone	 Percussion	

## Lesson Attendance

Students are expected to attend every lesson unless officially excused e.g. school excursion or illness. Students should attend their lesson punctually and be fully prepared. Students who are absent without notification for scheduled lessons will receive reminders through their teachers, as well as an email or letter sent home to parents. If the situation continues then students are jeopardising their place in the Instrumental Music Program. Good communication between students, teachers and parents is very important. Student attendance at instrumental music lessons is now tracked through a centralised role-marking database, 'Compass'. Parents may access their students' instrumental music lesson attendance and music timetable via Compass. When an instrumental music lesson is scheduled midway through an academic lesson, as a matter of courtesy, the student should alert their teacher at the beginning of the lesson that they will be leaving half way through.

## Timetabling

Each Instrumental Music Teacher will prepare a timetable and publish this at the beginning of each term. Each student will receive a copy of the timetable at his or her first Instrumental Music Lesson of the term. Students should ensure they keep a copy of their timetable in their planner to refer to. Instrumental Music Timetables will also be published on the Music Noticeboard outside the entrance to the Instrumental Music Teaching Rooms (A-Block).

Lessons rotate within the academic timetable to ensure students do not miss the same lesson on a regular basis. Students in Year 11-12 will have their lessons timetabled during a free period where possible.

## Instrumental Music Levy

Instrumental Music Fee's are highly subsidized by funding gained by all schools in Victoria, however, this funding alone does not cover the full costs of the running and up-keep of the Instrumental Music Program. To cover these extra costs, an annual Instrumental Music Levy is to be paid at the commencement of each year. Lessons will not commence until payment is made. The levy is a far cheaper than the standard Victorian Music Teachers Association (VMTA) rate for Instrumental Music Lessons. The table below outlines the fee's and a comparison to VMTA rates:

Lesson Type	Brentwood Secondary College Instrumental Music Levy	VMTA Recommended Fees
Group Lesson	<b>\$330 per year</b>	\$ 1440 per year
Individual Lesson	<b>\$500 per year</b>	\$ 2800 per year



## Instrument Hire

Brentwood Secondary College has a limited number of Brass, Woodwind and String (excluding Guitar) Instruments available for hire. Once satisfactory progress has been made on an Instrument, it is normally expected that students will purchase their own Instrument so that other beginners may take advantage of the College's Instruments.

An annual hire fee of **\$250** will be charged in 2015. This fee covers the general maintenance of Instruments and the replacement of older instruments.

Terms and Conditions of Hire:

1. An Instrumental Hire application form must be completed before an instrument can be hired for the year. The instrumental teacher will assign the hired instrument to the student.
2. The annual hire fee must be paid to the General Office before taking the instrument home. This payment covers reasonable wear and tear of BSC's Instrument and allows for the replacement of older instruments.
3. Students must return a BSC instrument to the Music Faculty in person immediately after cessation of lessons.
4. Reasonable care must be taken against the instrument being lost or stolen.
5. The hirer is fully liable for the instrument during the hire period and loss of the instrument during this period will incur full replacement costs.

6. The hirer must pay for any repairs necessary due to damage caused through negligence. On no account may the student or any person attempt repairs or adjustments to the instrument. Any damage or defects to the instrument must be brought to the attention of the Music Faculty Staff immediately.
7. When the Instrument is at school, but not in use, the instrument must be stored in Instrumental Music Teaching Rooms.
8. No person, other than the student or their teacher, may be allowed to play or handle the instrument.
9. At the end of the hire period the instrument must be returned to the Music Faculty personally, in clean condition and in good working order.

**Should you have any questions or concerns about Instrument Hire or Purchase, please contact Mr. Ben Franklin or your child's Instrumental Music Teacher.**



## Ensemble Participation

Brentwood Secondary College offers an extensive ensemble program, with a range of different ensembles to suit all students' ability and interests. Creating music with others is an exciting experience, and performing in small or large groups is an integral part of the music program. The skills students gain through playing in an ensemble are priceless, and for this reason, it is compulsory for all students enrolled in Instrumental Music Lessons to play in an ensemble. Ensemble participation offers students the opportunity to extend their skills, gain valuable team and performance experience. They also benefit from the camaraderie that such groups provide. If they wish, students may participate in more than one ensemble as it provides them with an opportunity to experience a variety of genre, teaching and musical styles.

Teachers will nominate a suitable ensemble according to the students' ability and taking into account the balance of instruments within an ensemble.



## Ensemble Attendance

Ensembles rehearse once a week and students are expected to attend every ensemble rehearsal and scheduled concert unless officially excused. Ensemble experience is as important as the weekly instrumental lesson and contributes to the musical development of each student. Every student is assessed on their ensemble skill development and receives a formal report.

Students should attend their ensemble rehearsal punctually and be fully prepared. A student must notify their ensemble conductor/director at least the day before if they cannot attend any rehearsals for whatever reason. Two or more absences will result in parents being contacted.

- It is expected that students arrive before the set starting time to help with the setting up, to warm up their instruments and to prepare for the rehearsal.
- Students are expected help pack up all equipment at the end of the rehearsal.
- Students are responsible to keep all their music in an organised folder so they can practice their ensemble music between rehearsals.

## Performance Dates 2016

For students to get the most out of the Instrumental Music Program and develop their performance presentation skills, it is vital that students attend and participate in all required performances. The school calendar features many music events including the annual Gala Concert held at the end of Term 2, The Spring Soiree, Studio Concerts and Lunchtime Performances. All students learning an instrument are required to perform at these types of events.

Other performance dates may be added to the school calendar. These will be communicated to students, parents and/or guardians in writing with as much notice as possible. Out of respect for their peers, Students are expected to stay for the duration of any performance event they are involved in. If this is not possible, a written letter explaining why a student must leave early must be submitted to the students Instrumental Music Teacher at least 3 weeks before the scheduled concert.

Confirmed Performance Dates will be confirmed and published in 2016.

## Performance Attire

Students performing at any Brentwood Secondary College music event must wear the following Music Uniform:

### Boys:

- Black Formal Trousers  
(Black Jeans are not appropriate)
- Black Brentwood Music Shirt
- Clean Black School Shoes
- Black School/Dress Shoes

### Girls:

- Black Trousers or Black Skirt  
(Black Jeans or Leggings are not appropriate. Skirts must not be shorter than the knee)
- Black Brentwood Music Shirt
- Black Shoes
- Black Socks or Stockings

