Year 7
Concert Band Program
2016 Information Handbook
# Year 7 Concert Band Program

## Information Handbook 2016

### 1 YEAR 7 CONCERT BAND PROGRAM

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Welcome to the Year 7 Concert Band Program at Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School. The concentration and application required in the learning of an instrument has been shown to enhance a student’s academic ability in a wide range of key learning areas. In Year 7 all students are given the opportunity to learn a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument in a concert band setting. This gives our students practical instrumental skills whilst learning first hand the value of playing in an ensemble, following a conductor and reading from a common score.

This program does not take the place of a student’s involvement in the cocurricular arts program, but rather, introduces all students to the academic and social benefits of learning an instrument. Students who are already learning an instrument are encouraged to continue their current studies and to choose, as part of this program, an instrument that complements their musical interests.

Students are also encouraged to participate in other musical activities offered at Lindisfarne and depending on ability may be offered a place in the School Concert Band, Stage Band, the Year 7 Showcase Band and other ensembles.

1.1 Overview

The Year 7 Concert Band Program is an exciting and practical way of learning about music. Lessons take place during timetabled classroom music lessons. Each Year 7 student is allocated an instrument and tutor book for the year. A $40 levy is charged each term and is used to cover some of the program costs.

It is an expectation that students will consider the acquisition of instrumental skills an important part of their homework obligation. Parents are asked to support the program by providing students with encouragement and a quiet area to practise.

1.2 Music lessons

All lessons occur during timetabled classroom music time. Year 7 classes are allocated three x 1 hour lessons per two week cycle. Two of these lessons are whole class band rehearsals. The other lesson is a ‘sectional’, where students work in smaller groups with a specialist teacher to gain instrumental skills.

For the safety of the instrument and to alleviate storage problems, instruments should only be brought to school on timetabled lesson days. The instrument is to be stored in the student’s locker until the timetabled music lesson and should be taken home that afternoon for practice during the week.

1.3 Optional private lessons

Students may also attend additional private group or individual lessons, either at school with our visiting instrumental teachers or by private arrangement outside of school. These 30 minute lessons are not compulsory and are offered at school at an additional cost. Approximate costs are:

- Thirty minute individual lessons approximately $30 - $40 per lesson (prices as per fee schedule)
- Thirty minute small group lessons approximately $15 - $20 per lesson (prices as per fee schedule).
Please note you are billed directly by the instrumental teacher for private instrumental lessons and that prices may vary slightly.

All private lessons held during school time are on a rotating schedule and timetables are posted on the music room windows. Parents are encouraged to maintain regular contact with the instrumental teacher.

Participation in private lessons is conditional upon the prompt payment of the fee account directly to the music teacher. Where a student is unable to attend a lesson, teachers must be given as much notice as possible (at least 24 hours) as this allows for an alternate lesson to be arranged. Without due notice, teachers are not obliged to make up the missed lesson.

1.4 Selection of instruments

Instrument selection will be negotiated between student and teachers. Students are encouraged to observe and discuss the roles, sounds, sizes and characteristics of each instrument in order to make an informed choice. Students will have the opportunity to try out the various instruments prior to formalising their selection.

Students learn best when they have a keen interest in an instrument and every effort is made to provide them with their first preference. It is important to consider that each instrumental section has a set number of members per band in order to maintain appropriate band colour and balance. This means that the final allocation of instruments will need to be made by the class teacher.

Each concert band class is comprised of the following instruments and students are to make their choices from:

- Flute  (approximately 4 players)
- Clarinet  (approximately 4 players)
- Alto saxophone  (approximately 4 players)
- Tenor saxophone  (approximately 2 players)
- Trumpet  (approximately 4 players)
- Trombone  (approximately 3 players)
- Bass guitar  (1 player)
- Percussion  (approximately 2 players).
1.5 Students who already own an instrument

For those students who are already learning an instrument, the Year 7 Concert Band Program affords them the opportunity to learn a new instrument. (Choosing a different instrument can be a lot of fun and reinforces skills and concepts already learned and affords the students another experience of participating in an ensemble setting.)

1.6 Parent commitment

Bringing home an instrument to practise can provide other family members with great opportunities to share in the learning process. Playing along on another instrument, providing positive feedback or simply listening with enjoyment are all great ways to positively reinforce your child’s new skills.

Parents are asked to support the program by providing:

- Encouragement
- A quiet area in which to practice, preferably with a music stand
- A safe place to keep the instrument at home
- A supply of reeds, cork grease and any other consumables for their instrument
- Regular contact with the class teacher regarding the student’s progress (either by phone, email or practice diary).

1.7 Student commitment

Students are asked to make the most of their time in the Concert Band program by:

- Practising regularly; smaller regular practice sessions are more beneficial. Usually 15 minutes several times a week is recommended for beginner instrumentalists which will probably increase during the year
- Ensuring they arrive at each lesson fully prepared and equipped
- Caring for their instrument, using the correct equipment and techniques (consult either the tutor book, class teacher or instrumental teacher)
- Ensuring any damage is reported to the school immediately
- Participating in all tuition and classroom music activities with enthusiasm.
1.8 Levy

While instruments and books are provided free of charge, a small levy is charged to each student in Year 7 to cover some of the ongoing costs involved in running the Concert Band Program. These costs include purchase and upkeep of band books and music, maintenance of instruments, accompanist fees for concerts and the purchase of auxiliary percussion instruments.

Year 7 Concert Band levy fees for 2016 are:

- Term 1 $40
- Term 2 $40
- Term 3 $40
- Term 4 $40

This levy is included in each term’s school fee account.

The Concert Band Program provides access to an instrument without the expense of purchasing one. However students continuing their lessons into Year 8 will be required to purchase their own instrument and books.

For further detailed information regarding the hiring or purchase of instruments please contact your child’s teacher or the Coordinator of Music Years 5-12, Ms Lucie Schuricht, on Ischuricht@lindisfame.nsw.edu.au or 07 5590 5099.

1.9 Equipment requirements

In order for your child to participate and gain the maximum benefits of the Year 7 Concert Band Program, they will need the following materials and equipment. All items listed are available at all good music stores. For advice or further assistance please contact your child’s class teacher or the Instrumental Music Coordinator.

Equipment to be provided by the School:

- Loan instrument for duration of program
- Tutor book ‘Tradition of Excellence’ (available for loan from the Library)
- Accompanying CDs are available through the Library. These CDs are optional but can be a fun way to practise at home.
Equipment to be provided by parents:

- Flute: cleaning cloth
- Clarinet: spare reeds, cleaning cloth/drop cloth
- Alto saxophone: spare reeds, cleaning cloth/drop cloth
- Trumpet: cleaning cloth
- Trombone: cleaning cloth and small water spray bottle
- Electric bass: guitar lead (a practice amp is provided)
  An electric tuner is helpful but not compulsory.

1.10 Queries

We welcome parent contact regarding concerns or queries, endeavouring to return your call as soon as possible. Initial enquiries can be directed to the School Reception, where some general information, including a list of instrumental teachers and their phone numbers is available. You can direct your specific queries to your child’s class teacher or the Coordinator of Music Years 5-12, Ms Lucie Schuricht, on lschuricht@lindisfarne.nsw.edu.au or 07 5590 5099.

1.11 Loan agreement information

Instruments within the Hire Scheme include flute, clarinet, alto and tenor saxophone, trumpet, trombone and bass guitar. The duration of the Year 7 Concert Band Program is four terms and the Instrument Hire Scheme loans are for the same period.

The loan is subject to the following conditions:

- All instruments supplied by the scheme remain the property of Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School and must be returned to the School when the student leaves the program
- The instrument is to be returned, upon request at any time for inspection, repair and adjustment or for any other cause
- The instrument is to be used by the student to whom it is loaned and by no other person
- Every care and attention must be given to the instrument during the period of the loan. In the event of loss or damage, the matter must be reported to the School immediately
- Parents/guardians will be responsible for the maintenance and safekeeping of any instrument hired by their children. Therefore, parents/guardians will be solely responsible for any cost incurred for damage or replacement of lost instruments. Please check with your own insurers as these risks may be able to be minimised through existing personal Home Contents Insurance.
The following appendix includes copies of forms:

Copies of these forms will be distributed at the Year 7 Information Evening or are available from Student Administration. Please return completed forms to Student Administration.

a) Instrument preference form

b) Loan agreement form
Instrument preference

(To be completed by all parents of students entering Year 7 in 2016)

Student Name ___________________________ Class ____________

Selection of Instrument

(In the box provided, indicate your child’s first two preferences, by writing 1 and 2 in the boxes)

☐ Flute ☐ Tenor saxophone ☐ Bass guitar ☐ Trombone
☐ Clarinet ☐ Trumpet ☐ Percussion ☐ Alto saxophone

Will you be using a school instrument this year?

☐ I will participate in the Instrument Loan Scheme

OR

☐ I will arrange the purchase of an instrument privately

_________________________  ___________________________  ___________________________
Parent Name                  Parent Signature               Date

_________________________  ___________________________  ___________________________
Student Name                 Student Signature              Date
The loan is subject to the following conditions

All instruments supplied by the scheme remain the property of Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School and must be returned to the School when a student leaves the Year 7 Instrumental Music Program.

The instrument is to be returned upon request, at any time for inspection, repair and adjustment or for any other cause.

The instrument is to be used by the student to whom it is loaned and by no other person.

Every care and attention must be given to the instrument during the period of the loan. In the event of loss or damage, the matter must be reported to the School immediately.

Parents/guardians will be responsible for the maintenance and safekeeping of any instrument hired by their children. Therefore, parents/guardians will be solely responsible for the cost of the repair of any damage or replacement of lost instruments. Please check with your own insurers as these risks may be able to be minimised through existing Home Contents Insurance.

My preferred instrument is: __________________________________________

We agree to the conditions of loan as outlined above and in the Information Handbook 2016

____________________________________   ___________________________   ________________
Parent Name                             Parent Signature               Date

____________________________________   ___________________________   ________________
Student Name                            Student Signature              Date

Please return to The Creative and Performing Arts Department via Student Administration