



Performing Arts Handbook



SAMUEL
MARSDEN
COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

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Introduction

At Samuel Marsden Collegiate School students are encouraged to strive for excellence in their academic, cultural and sporting pursuits; to value creative, innovative and independent thinking and to understand their responsibilities as local and global citizens. We provide an environment where students can choose to take part in a wide range of performing arts activities.

What to consider when signing up

1. The most important thing to remember when registering for an activity is that once you are signed up you are expected to be committed to it and attend all practices and events. If you cannot guarantee to do that, **PLEASE DO NOT sign up.**
2. It is suggested that you draw up a weekly timetable which indicates when you have time available for extra activities. Keep in mind your academic subject workload, any extra responsibilities you may carry and any outside school commitments you already have.
3. If you are unsure of anything, check with the Director of Performing Arts before you sign up, so that you know exactly what you have committed yourself to.
4. Sign up for each activity as required after consultation with a parent/caregiver.
5. After any auditions, lists will be available on the [Performing Arts Noticeboard](#) and further information will be distributed as required.
6. If you have any queries regarding activities, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Sarah Wilson, Director of Performing Arts: sarah.wilson@marsden.school.nz

Please complete the Performing Arts registration forms online at <https://community.marsden.school.nz/#performingartsnoticeboard> if you choose to participate in any of the musical, drama or debating events offered this year.

Itinerant music lessons have an additional online form which can be found in the letter at the end of this booklet.

The school production will be dealt with separately.

Celebrating success and participation

Many students perform outstandingly in their chosen field. It is therefore important that the school is advised of these achievements so that they can be acknowledged accordingly. Please provide this information by email to sarah.wilson@marsden.school.nz

Marsden reserves the right to promote and recognise student achievements in assemblies, newsletters, website, social media and media releases.

Dance

Wellington is the home of the Royal New Zealand Ballet, the New Zealand School of Dance and numerous other professional dance companies. A large percentage of Marsden students take dance classes outside of school and, depending on interest, there are options available within school as well.

Marsden may offer students the opportunity to partake in dance teams, focusing primarily on Hip Hop. Early in Term 3, these teams may choose to enter the regional Aerobics and Hip Hop dance competition held in Wellington and must be regularly committed to practices for this to happen.

Teams would be coached by senior students and opportunities for performance would be available. Depending on numbers, auditions will be held if required.

Should your daughter's team choose to enter the competition, she will be billed for entry to the competition and costumes.

If the team wins the regional competition, they have the option of attending the National Championships. Costs involved may include flights and accommodation, depending on the location of the event.

Dance Academy on site

The Jennifer Evans Dance Academy is based in the Rua Chandler Studio for after school classes. Enquiries concerning ballet, jazz, tap or hip-hop are welcome by contacting Jennifer Evans on 027 635 0191 or j.evansdance@gmail.com or visiting jevansdance.com

Kapa Haka

2018 saw the establishment of the Marsden Kapa Haka group.

Students learn a variety of waiata and action songs, as well as tī rākau and poi. Kapa Haka is open to all students, regardless of their ethnicity or experience, who welcome the opportunity to learn songs from other cultures.

Kapa Haka meets one lunchtime a week to practise, and often performs for school events.





Debating and public speaking

Marsden offers a number of debating teams:

- Premier A and Premier B teams, Senior Certificate
- Junior Premier and Junior Certificate teams
- Year 7 and 8 teams who debate in school

Students need to register their interest through the online registration form and trials will be held to allocate students to a team at the start of Term 1. Once chosen for teams, students will compete in a minimum of 5 debates and a maximum of 8 debates. If the team cannot make the date given, then the team defaults to the opposition. An alternative date will not be arranged.

Junior Certificate teams debate on Wednesdays after school. Teams will debate both at Marsden and at other venues and transport will be arranged accordingly. Junior Premier will debate on Tuesday afternoons at various Wellington school locations.

Senior teams usually debate on Tuesday evenings for Senior Premier A and B teams and Thursdays after school for the Senior Certificate teams. These are adjudicated by university students. Students in these teams will need to arrange their own transport.

Debating teams will be coached by staff members, parents or senior students. Please note that we can only offer teams if we have sufficient coaches and adjudicators to support them. If you would like to assist as a debating coach or an adjudicator, please contact sarah.wilson@marsden.school.nz

The Stockley Cup Public Speaking Competition is also an opportunity for students and allows us to enter one junior and one senior student. For more information, see www.wsu.co.nz/

Drama

Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival

Since the 1990s, Marsden has been involved in this annual Shakespearean Festival held in Wellington. Students have the option to perform in a piece directed by an adult (duration 15 minutes) or to perform their own student directed piece (duration 5 minutes). Pieces may be adapted in any way the students see fit, but must retain the original language of the play.

The competition usually takes place in the last week of Term 1 at Wellington East Girls' College, with top performers from the regional events heading to a National Festival later in the year.

Senior students who would like to either direct a short piece or audition for one on offer should sign up on the registration form early in Term 1 through the Performing Arts Noticeboard.

Junior House Drama

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 can take part in a House Drama competition in Term 4.



All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women
merely players."

William Shakespeare, *As You Like It* (Act II, scene vii)



Speech and Drama

Speech and Drama is run by trained teachers from outside the school. Details are available at <https://www.marsden.school.nz/i-site/speech-and-drama/>

Please contact Bridie Gray via email at bridie.gray@dramaclub.co.nz for more information.



School productions

Every second year, Marsden stages a musical production. Marsden has a fine tradition with the quality of its musical productions. Recent shows include *Godspell*, *Alice*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *High School Musical* and *Chicago*. Students are selected through acting, singing and dancing auditions. Boys from various Wellington schools have joined our casts in previous years. Wherever possible, we use students to form the band or orchestra and our backstage, hair and makeup, lighting and Front of House teams are all made up of Marsden students.

Music

Music at Marsden has a long and proud tradition. From handbells to choirs, there is something here for everyone. Our Director of Music, Mrs Marian Campbell, oversees the various musical groups, assisted by staff and student leaders.

Note that some groups have an additional charge, as external professionals run these practices.



Altissime

Led by: Ms Maaïke Christie-Beekman, Mrs Marian Campbell and student leaders

Open to: Years 10–13, by audition

Rehearsals: Tuesdays 3.30–5.30pm and Fridays 7.30–8.30am in the Auditorium

This is Marsden's flagship choir. Students perform at school church services, the Big Sing in June, the Showcase Concert, Old Girls' Day, the Carol Service, and numerous other events. In 2022, Altissime won a Silver award at the National Big Sing Finale.

Larks Choir

Led by: Ms Annabelle Cheetham

Open to: Years 7–9 students

Rehearsals: Fridays 7.45am in the Music Room

Students perform a range of styles and sing in parts. They are part of the Showcase Concert in June, The Kids Sing in November, the Carol Service in December and other events throughout the year, including concerts at local rest homes.

Ad Summa Chorale

Led by: Year 13 students

Open to: Years 9–13

Rehearsals: Friday lunchtime in the Auditorium

This is an all-comers choir and students perform at the Big Sing in June, the Showcase Concert, the Carol Service, and other events throughout the year.

Marsden Symphony Orchestra

Led by: Mrs Marian Campbell and student leaders

Open to: Entry by audition with Mrs Campbell

Rehearsals: Wednesday lunchtime in the Auditorium

Requirements: Students should have been learning their instrument for at least 2 years, or be at Grade 3 or higher. The orchestra performs on special occasions, at school services, the Showcase Concert, Old Girls' Day and Prize Giving.



String Orchestra

Led by: Ms Glenda Craven and student leaders

Open to: Any bowed string players with at least one year's experience

Rehearsals: Monday lunchtime in the Auditorium

String Orchestra is a string training orchestra, which supports the Symphony Orchestra. The Strings perform at Showcase Concert and Prize Giving.

Flute Ensemble

Led by: Student leaders

Open to: All flautists

Rehearsals: Mondays at morning tea in the Music Room

Requirements: Own flute and at least 6 months of lessons.

Rock Band

Led by: Mr Darryn Sigley and student leaders

Open to: Years 7–13

Rehearsals: Thursdays 1.10pm in the Lilburn Room

Requirements: Own instrument and a love of rock music.

Handbells

Led by: Student leaders

Open to: Years 10–13

Rehearsals: Monday and Tuesday lunchtimes in the Lilburn Room. Leaders will organise groups according to skill level.

The Handbells group performs at the Showcase Concert, Old Girls' Day and at Carol Service.

Piano Ensemble

Led by: Student leaders

Open to: Years 7–13

Rehearsals: Tuesday lunchtime in the Lilburn Room.

Requirements: No experience necessary.

Guitar Group

Led by: Student leaders

Open to: Years 7–13

Rehearsals: Wednesday lunchtime in the Music Room

No experience necessary and guitars are available for use.

Ukuladies

Led by: Student leaders

Open to: Any players

Rehearsals: Monday 12.40pm in the Primary School Music Room.



Betty Swainson Memorial Music Competition

Early in Term 3 Marsden holds the Swainson Memorial Music Competition; a wonderful event showcasing the musical talents of our students.

The prize is awarded each year in memory of Frances Betty Swainson, a former pupil (1922–1926) who died in March 1974. The prize was endowed to mark the School's centenary in 1978 and is awarded for excellence in musical public performance on any instrument or voice. This popular competition is held in conjunction with the Nell Clere Scholarship. The Nell Clere Scholarship is a monetary award to allow the recipient in Years 7–12 to continue her music tuition. Audience members are welcome at the concert. Application forms will be made available in Term 2 through the school newsletter.

External competitions

Each year there are various musical competitions on offer and students are encouraged to enter. See the relevant itinerant teacher for further information.

The Composer in Residence Programme

The Composer in Residence Programme was introduced in 2003. During the year, the chosen composer spends time mentoring Year 10–13 music students, giving an address in Assembly and composing a piece of music for the school.

Itinerant Teachers

Marsden employs a number of instrumental and vocal music teachers, most of whom play or sing regularly in professional Wellington music groups.

Lesson timetables are posted in advance on the Music Noticeboard in the back music corridor, and take place during the school day. All students are expected to consult the timetables or emails from their tutors regularly. Students are expected to take part in group activities suggested by the Director of Music or their tutors. Each term there is an informal evening concert for the itinerant tutors to showcase their students. Please check the calendar for dates.

Students wishing to take a music lesson should complete the online form at <https://www.marsden.school.nz/i-site/private-music-tuition/>

Technical production

Lighting Workshops

From time to time, students will have the opportunity to attend a lighting workshop, run at school by industry professionals. They will learn how to plan and rig a lighting design and learn to use the lighting board. Places are limited on this course.

Students trained in the lighting system can then form the lighting crew for school productions, special assemblies, and other events as required.

Behind the Scenes

Senior students with an interest in costuming, set design and stage management are encouraged to sign up for productions where they can lead a team of their peers and develop their own creative ideas to support the storyline. Interested students should contact Miss Wilson.



Private music lessons

We have a wonderful team of committed itinerant music teachers who look forward to being of service to you. The following information is helpful in explaining private music lessons at Marsden. Please note that Marsden Primary students must be at least Year 3 before commencing music lessons, or at the discretion of the Director of Music, after consultation.

Regulations and Guidelines

1. Timetables are posted in advance on the Music Noticeboard in the back music corridor. All students are expected to consult the timetables regularly and take their lessons at the appointed times.
2. Instruments are to be stored in the Music Resource Room located at the end of the small studios.
3. Students are expected to take part in group activities suggested by the Director of Music or their tutors. You will be notified and your support will be much appreciated.
4. Lessons are held during school time on a rotating timetable for students in Years 3–10; senior students often use study periods or lunchtimes.
5. Your tutor will issue you a report on your daughter's progress once each year.

The cost of lessons and payment for teachers

Individual lessons are \$37.50 per half hour. In certain instances, some instruments can be taught in a group. Two students per lesson will cost \$19 for each student. Three students will cost \$13 for each student.

Once you are assigned to a teacher, they will share their contact details with you.

Please ensure that you pay directly to the teacher listed at the top of the account, not the school, by the method that suits you both best.

All invoices must be paid in advance of commencement of any set of lessons. Please ensure that you have done this, or lessons will not be able to start.

Invoices for hiring instruments are handled through disbursements to school accounts.

Procedures for cancelling a lesson

If you know in advance that a lesson needs to be cancelled, please phone or text the teacher. This needs to be done at least 48 hours before the lesson in the case of a test or activity and, in the case of sickness, before 7am on the morning of the lesson. **Failure to do this will mean that the lesson will be charged for.**

Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Campbell at any time by email for any questions about the teaching programme.

Procedures for terminating tuition

A term of tuition, once commenced, must be completed or a full term's fees paid. Written notice of termination of lessons by parent/caregiver or teacher must be given a term in advance.

Please feel free to ring your music teacher at any time and discuss the progress of your daughter. The online form for lessons can be found [here](#) or by scanning this code:



Please complete the online form even if your daughter had lessons in school the previous year.

Marsden Itinerant Music teachers

Ms Karen Batten (Flute)

Ms Sandy Cairns-James (Jazz/Rock Voice)

Ms Annabelle Cheetham (Voice)

Mr Mark Cookson (Clarinet and Saxophone)

Ms Glenda Craven (Violin and Viola)

Ms Penny Miles (Bassoon)

Ms Barbara Paterson (Voice)

Ms Anastasia Reid (Voice)

Mr Ian Ridgewell (Tuba)

Ms Madeline Sakofsky (Oboe)

Ms Emma Sayers (Piano)

Mr Chris Selley (Brass)

Mr Darren Sigley (Drums)

Mr Tyson Smith (Guitar)

Dr Rachel Thomson (Piano)

Mr Brenton Veitch ('cello and Double Bass)

Ms Julia Walls (Piano)

Dr Kris Zuelicke (Piano and Harpsichord)



Performing Arts Awards Evening

This is held in the Auditorium early in Term 4 to recognise the achievements of students across the performing arts aspects of the school.

Colours, Certificates of High Achievement and Certificates of Service are awarded annually in recognition of performing arts achievements. There is also an award for Service Colours. This is an opportunity for us to acknowledge excellence, commitment and service and to thank those who volunteer their time to assist with culture at Marsden.

In addition to the above awards, there is also:

The Sophie Evans Cup for Performing Arts: This is awarded to a student who has excelled as an individual in her chosen activity, both within and outside of school.

The Orr-McFaul Cup for Excellence in Debating: This cup is awarded for high achievement in debating as well as promoting involvement within the school.

The Harcourt McKenzie Cup for the Pursuit of a Career in the Stage and Screen Arts: This cup is to recognise and encourage students who show the potential for a career in the stage or screen arts, for example in production design, writing, digital animation, directing, producing, music composition, lighting, sound design, costuming.

The Old Girls' Cup for Cultural Involvement: This award reflects the contribution by a senior student to the Primary, Middle, Upper or Senior Schools in regards to cultural activities. It may be for performance or for assistance behind the scenes.

The Thurlby Cup: This award is presented on behalf of the Bowie family for achievement in cultural activities.

The Year 11 Speech Cup: This is awarded to a student in Year 11, based on an NCEA assessment completed earlier in the year.

The Dalgety-Evans Cup for Cultural Involvement: This is awarded to a student in Year 10 who is involved in a range of performing arts related activities, but has not received a Colours or High Achievement award.

Honours Bars: these are awarded to students who have been selected to represent their country, for example through performance with the New Zealand Secondary Schools' Choir.

Students are nominated by staff, based on the records kept of their involvement. They may also nominate themselves. Consideration is given to activities both in and out of school time, such as music examinations, selection into national youth choirs or orchestras etc.

A nomination form is available online through the Performing Arts Noticeboard and may be filled in at any time.

Marsden Performing Arts Curriculum Vitae

Have you achieved at a high standard in performing arts activities this year? You might be eligible for an award.

A brief outline of each of the awards is given below.

We encourage self-nominations as you are the person who knows your achievements best.

After nominations have been received in Term 3, a committee meets to determine the final recipients.

Colours

Colours are awarded for excellence and outstanding achievement.

In most cases the student will have represented the School in the top group for two or more years and must be studying at Year 11 or above.

The student must have been continually committed to the group in both practices and competition and must always display good team spirit.

Junior Colours may also be awarded to students in Years 7–10.

For Colours in Music, a commitment to school music must be shown.

Recognition outside of school is required for Colours to be awarded. This may include but is not limited to selection by audition into a regional music group or local production, or the winning of a prize or placing in an externally run competition.

Service Colours

Service Colours are awarded to students who have made an outstanding contribution to the performing arts programme. This may be over one or more years during their time at Marsden.



Certificates of High Achievement

Certificates of High Achievement are awarded to students who have reached a high standard in their chosen activity but who have not fulfilled all the criteria for Colours to be awarded.

Honours Bars

Honours Bars are awarded to any student in Years 7–13 who is selected in a NZ, age group, or development programme that competes or performs in an international event.

Involvement in a New Zealand event that does not actually perform may not earn an Honours Bar.

Who to contact

For any queries regarding activities, please contact:

Miss Sarah Wilson

Director of Performing Arts

476 8707 ext 844

sarah.wilson@marsden.school.nz

Mrs Marian Campbell

Director of Music

476 8707 ext 843

marian.campbell@marsden.school.nz

