

# **MUSIC HANDBOOK**

2025 - 2026 edition



**BANKSIA PARK  
INTERNATIONAL  
HIGH SCHOOL**

# THE MUSIC PROGRAM AT BPIHS.

Music at BPIHS is made up of two main strands - an extensive classroom music program, supported by the instrumental program offering individual student instrument tuition across 7-12. Combined, these strands support a diverse range of learners, interests, and abilities. Students are often involved in both the classroom and the Instrumental Music program to strengthen their knowledge and skills across a broad range of music styles, performances and broader Music opportunities in community.

## WHY STUDY MUSIC?

Over the last 15 years, numerous studies have found a positive correlation between the study of music as a discipline, and cognitive development in young people. Music is the only known activity that exercises all parts of the brain at once (playing a musical instrument strengthens the visual, auditory, and motor cortices of the brain, which allows musicians to outperform in other activities).

People of all ages who study music experience...

- Improved attention and focus
- Improved memory and retention
- Improved resilience and 'stickability' (pathways in the brain that reward delayed gratification are engaged)
- Dramatically improved literacy and reading (Reading music and learning an instrument exercises the same parts of the brain associated with reading and writing skills)
- Development of empathy and social skills

## WHY ARE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS NECESSARY?

Instrumental music lessons are a vital part of music education. While classroom teachers focus on developing the whole musician (ensemble performing, composing and theory), they are not able to provide detailed and specific instruction on individual instruments. This is the task of the Instrumental teacher. Weekly half-hour lessons are essential for building instrument-specific skills, developing music reading, breathing and hand techniques, and receiving targeted feedback and practice strategies in a small-group setting. These skills are highly specialised and take years to develop. This training, along with the various skills developed in the classroom, combine to develop the whole musician.



**Watch:** *How playing an instrument benefits your brain*  
**Anita Collins**

# CLASSROOM MUSIC PROGRAM

## CURRICULUM PATHWAYS

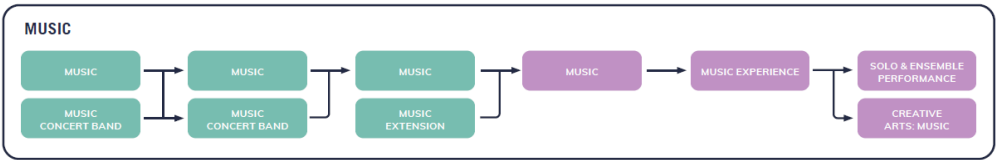
The music curriculum at BPIHS covers various aspects of music education beginning with fundamental music theory and skills through to specialisation in a particular instrument preparing for performance and further music studies.

From Year 7 to 12, the curriculum covers a comprehensive range of music tuition. In Year 7, students are introduced to essential music literacy skills, including notes, rhythm, and time signatures, along with early blues and rock music. They also learn to compose using digital technologies. Year 8 builds upon these skills, developing music literacy through Music theory, analysis and performance including Instrumental lessons in groups toward learning skills in concert band instruments. In Year 9, students develop their instrumental and aural skills, explore various genres, and create compositions with computer-aided software.

Year 10 focuses on advancing instrumental skills, analysis, and self-evaluation, preparing students for further music studies. Year 11 emphasizes critical evaluation, ensemble and solo performance, and advanced music theory. Finally, Year 12 offers options for performance or music explorations, with specific assessments and requirements based on individual choices and experience levels.

## AUDITIONS

Students who have not participated in classroom music in the previous year, MAY be offered the opportunity to sit a practical audition and (where relevant) musicianship test to verify their suitability to be involved in the classroom music program. This audition may be requested in person or by video.





FLUTE



CLARINET



BASS GUITAR

DRUMKIT & TUNED  
PERCUSSION

TRUMPET



TROMBONE



CELLO



VOICE



GUITAR



SAXOPHONE



PIANO



VIOLIN

# INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

## INSTRUMENT HIRE

These are three sources for instruments:

1. Private ownership
2. School loans/ IM Hire
3. Hire from music retailers

Many students in the program initially hire Instruments, then purchase their own at a later date. Most music retailers offer a rental program with several purchase options open after a three-month trial period.

Students who hire from the limited supply of school instruments are encouraged to purchase their own instrument after the initial twelve months to two years. A hire fee is charged each year for instrument use.

Instrumental Music (IM) students receive one 30-minute lesson on their chosen instrument weekly. Instrumental lessons are provided on a rotating timetable so as not to unduly interrupt school lessons. It is the student's responsibility to catch up on any class work missed. They should inform instrumental teachers and Music teachers ahead of time of any reasons why an IM lesson can not be attended.

## PARTICIPATION

Students are encouraged to be involved in classroom music, Instrumental lessons and / or an extracurricular ensembles as a part of continuous learning in Music. Engagement in learning instrumental skills, is an important process in ongoing Music tuition and participation in a range of Music events and opportunities.

Students are encouraged to participate in ensembles. BPIHS offers a range of ensembles across music styles. Entry into some ensembles is by audition or by teacher invitation.

## ASSESSMENT

Students will receive school curriculum grades based in classroom work. The Instrumental Music also provide a report for student achievement in learning their instrument. Students are individually assessed by their personal development in their instrument through the Instrumental Music program teachers. Reports are provided each semester alongside school reports.

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC ENROLMENTS

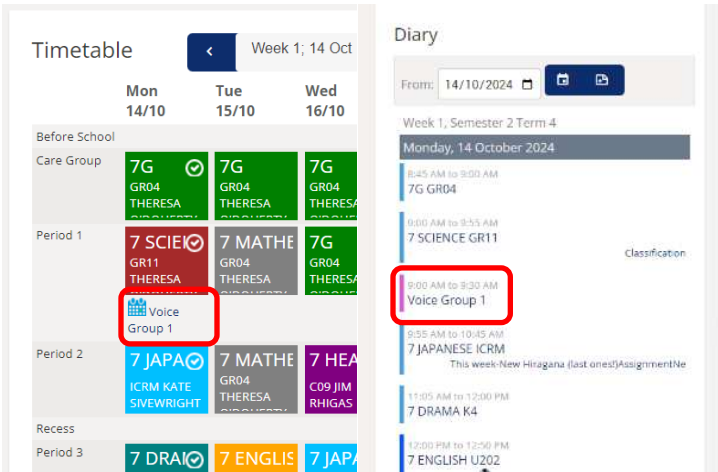
Lessons through the IM program are provided at no cost to parents/caregivers. Continuing Students are given priority for Instrumental Music lessons.

In years 7-11, instruction is organised on a small group basis. Year 12 students undertaking Solo Performance are entitled to individual lessons. There are limited numbers of IM places for certain instruments offered at BPIHS.

To start your enrolment please contact the Music team on [dl.1117.music@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.1117.music@schools.sa.edu.au) and the forms will be sent to you.

# SAMPLE INSTRUMENTAL TIMETABLE

Lessons are on the same day every week, however the times change every week to minimise impact on class lessons. All instrumental lessons are shown in students daymap as shown below.



## MUSIC TEAM

Instrumental Music teachers may change at the start of each year.

STAFF MEMBER	TIMETABLED CLASSES	EMAIL
BROOKE GARRETT	Learning Area Leader - Arts BPIHS	Brooke.Garrett473@schools.sa.edu.au
DAVID BREUKER	BPIHS Music Support Officer BPIHS	David.Breuker37@schools.sa.edu.au
DAVID GEBERT	Classroom Music Teacher BPIHS	David.Gebert829@schools.sa.edu.au
TOM HART	Instrumental Percussion Teacher	Tom.Hart247@schools.sa.edu.au
TIM HOGAN	Instrumental Guitar Teacher	Tim.Hogan229@schools.sa.edu.au
TOM HELPS	Instrumental Strings Teacher	Tom.Helps317@schools.sa.edu.au
TASSO BOUYESSIS	Instrumental Voice Teacher	Anastasios.Bouyessis388@schools.sa.edu.au
PETER YOUNG	Instrumental Brass Teacher	Peter.Young90@schools.sa.edu.au
LYNN SHERIDAN	Instrumental Woodwind Teacher	Lynn.Sheridan255@schools.sa.edu.au
SHAUN DUNCAN	Instrumental Bass Teacher	Shaun.Duncan82@schools.sa.edu.au
YVETTE BAER	Private Piano Teacher	yvette@yvette-baer.com

# ENSEMBLE

## PERFORMANCES

Throughout the year, we aim to have each ensemble perform publicly at least twice. As additional opportunities arise, we will let students and families know in advance. It is expected that all students involved in the ensemble will be present for the performance. Events we participate in take place both on school grounds and in the wider community, such as:

- **School Assemblies**
- **School Sporting Events**
- **School Celebrations**
- **School Music Nights**
- **Balaklava Eisteddfod**
- **Dinner Theatre/Cabaret**
- **Valedictory**
- **Primary School Concerts**

DAY	ENSEMBLE	ROOM
TUESDAY	Stage Band	Kumangka
WEDNESDAY	Senior Vocal Group	Kumangka
THURSDAY	Percussion Ensemble	Kumangka
FRIDAY	BPIHS Vocal Ensemble	Kumangka

## REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

The current rehearsal schedule is as follows. Students are expected to be set up ready to start by this time. Membership of an ensemble is a serious commitment. Regular attendance and routine home practice is essential. Students are required to set up promptly and be ready to commence rehearsing shortly thereafter. Ensembles regularly perform at school functions and ceremonies as well as local festivals and competitions. Notification of performances is provided as early as possible.

## UNIFORM

Students must be in the correct uniform to perform in ensembles. For informal performances, this means neat and correct daily uniform.

**For Formal performances, the uniform is:**

- **White long-sleeve button down shirt with the school logo.**  
These can be borrowed from the school for the performance, at no cost.
- **Long navy school trousers or BPIHS Checked Skirt.**  
Jeans/track pants are not acceptable.
- **Black school shoes and black socks.**
- **All hair beyond shoulder length should be neatly tied back into a ponytail or bun during all performances.**

Students are expected to wear their performance uniforms with pride at all times. They are not to adopt a “casual look” prior to performances by either changing or unbuttoning shirts. All shirts are to be ironed and hair tied back from the face. Additionally, bold makeup and excessive jewelry is not to be worn.



# LESSON & REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

At BPIHS, we strive for excellence in The Arts.

High standards of commitment, organisation and reliability are required of the students.

## THE BASIC EXPECTATIONS OF INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC STUDENTS ARE THAT YOU:

- Attend EVERY rehearsal.
- Attend EVERY Instrumental lesson.
- Attend EVERY performance.
- Access to a complete performance uniform
- Maintain and care for your instrument and store it safely and tidily.
- Maintain a neat and accurate folder of sheet music, clearly labeled with your name.
- Check upcoming important dates on the Music Noticeboard and daily bulletin.
- Are prompt to bring letters home to parents, and return all permission slips promptly.
- Participate to the best of your ability at all times.

## YOU SHOULD ENSURE THAT YOU:

- Are on time, tuned up and ready to play by the rehearsal start time. You should arrange to arrive with plenty of time to get your instrument and music organised, tuned and set up. This may take more time for larger instruments and percussionists.
- Are seated in such a way that you can see your conductor clearly.
- Work as part of a team - you are one section of a bigger ensemble.
- Listen attentively while your conductor is rehearsing.
- Raise your hand and speak politely if you have a question.
- Follow directions without hesitation - even if you disagree. If you think something should be interpreted a different way - this is a professional conversation for your lesson time, not the rehearsal session.
- Take your instrument home every day and practice. Instruments should never be left at school as you require them for practice at home.
- Arrive at Kumangka Building in the morning before homegroup if you need to store your instrument in the music storeroom. Instruments not kept in this area are left at own risk.

## USE OF THE KUMANGKA BUILDING REHEARSAL AND PRACTICE SPACES

- The Rehearsal and Musicianship Rooms (K1 & K2) are regularly utilised by extracurricular ensemble rehearsals.
- Practice rooms 1-3 may be used for individual practice during lunchtimes subject to availability. Please note that Instrumental Music Staff use these rooms as teaching spaces and you will need to be flexible depending on the day.
- Priority will be given to students whom are preparing for upcoming performances and assessments. You may have to be flexible with booking these rooms.
- You are expected to use the rooms for their intended purpose and leave them tidy.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHAT TO DO IF...

### **You know you will be absent from a rehearsal, lesson or performance:**

See your conductor/IM teacher before the scheduled lesson / rehearsal / performance and explain why you cannot attend. You may be asked to catch up at a later time.

### **You miss a rehearsal, lesson or performance by accident/illness etc.:**

See your conductor/director after the scheduled lesson/ rehearsal/performance and explain why you did not attend. You may be asked to catch up at a later time.

### **You forget your music/instrument for your lesson / rehearsal**

Attend your lesson/rehearsal as scheduled. If possible, see your conductor before the lesson/ rehearsal starts so they can have time to organise alternative arrangements for you.

### **You arrive late to a lesson/rehearsal:**

Enter, excuse yourself with a quick apology to the conductor/teacher and get set up with your instrument as quickly as possible. You may be asked to catch up at a later time.

### **You have a question during a rehearsal/lesson:**

Raise your hand and ask your conductor/teacher politely for clarification. Serious concerns or questions should not be raised in rehearsal time. If you have a problem, talk to your conductor/teacher after the rehearsal.

### **You wish to leave the instrumental music program:**

First speak with your teachers and conductors about your concerns. If you still want to stop learning music, you need to complete a withdrawal form that needs to be returned to BPIHS Music Support Officer. This needs to be done as soon as possible.

### **You want to borrow an instrument from the school:**

First speak with your teachers and conductors about the instrument you need. You will need to have your parents sign a hire agreement (a loan form). Your teacher will then fill out the details of the loan and you will be invoiced for the hire fee.

### **You need a permission note for an event/performance:**

Permission notes will be available from The Music Consent Forms folder on the Music Information Table. If you cannot collect one from school, please ensure your email is up to date with the school as we will email permission letters as they become available.

### **You are returning a permission note:**

Most permission notes will be returned to the permission slip collection box in the Kumangka Building

### **You lose a piece of music or equipment:**

Report the loss to your teacher/ conductor as soon as possible.

### **You are unsure of the details of a performance or workshop:**

1. Read the details on your permission letter.
2. Please check your emails for permission letters and information from the school.
3. If your question is not answered, please ask your teacher/conductor for more information in person or via daymap.

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PO Box 699, St Agnes SA 5097  
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bpihs.sa.edu.au



**BANKSIA PARK  
INTERNATIONAL  
HIGH SCHOOL**

**EDUCATING GLOBAL CITIZENS FOR GLOBAL FUTURES**



**Government of South Australia**  
Department for Education



Department for Education T/A South Australian Government Schools CRICOS Provider Number: 00018A