

15 June 2021

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,

Celebrating Achievements in Music

As Semester 1 draws to a close, and we break for a period of rest and relaxation, time needs to be taken to celebrate and appreciate the wonderful achievements of all our students across their Music learning.

In reflecting on my initial introduction to the International School Community back in May, I am often drawn to the very first performance that I experienced at the School; *Matilda The Musical*. While sitting in the auditorium, appreciating the vibrant and effervescent delivery of the performer's on stage, I knew from that very moment that IGS was filled to the brim with creativity and certainly valued Arts Education. Across this past semester, there is so much to celebrate, as we recognise the musical contributions of students in various school events such as *Early Learning Presentations, Suara, Kaboom and Taikoz and Japanese Cultural Workshops, Primary Music Assemblies, HSC Music Evenings, Student Leader Celebrations* and the well-loved *Music Ensembles Concerts*, where we thoroughly enjoyed welcoming the IGS Community back on-site as our audience members as some restrictions were eased.

Navigating our way through this pandemic, in making necessary adjustments to learning experience as required, we have been so impressed by the resilience, determination and understanding of all students, parents and staff.

In sharing this journey together, we certainly value the support and contributions of the wider School Community, and place this as an important factor in fostering, encouraging and creating rich learning environments for all individuals in pursuit of developing and extending their Music skills. Connections between home and school are paramount, and we believe that students, parents and teachers all play vital roles in this learning process. In supporting developmental goals for all our musicians, the department values partnerships that encourage regular practice routines in order to grow and advance musical skill-sets. As a faculty, we believe that learning to sing and the playing of a musical instrument, along with the values attributed to such experiences, is one of the many enrichment opportunities that our School provides. In pursuing a music learning journey alongside other studies, each child is provided with broad musical experiences that evokes curiosity, encourages determination, builds resilience, and ultimately cultivates grit through the study and application of new skills.

Planning Ahead: Semester 2

In order to assist you with planning ahead into next semester, please refer to the schedule below which outlines a snapshot of major events across Terms 3 and 4.

Coming-Up Semester 2 Events		
Date	Event	Other Information
Wed 14 July	Music Ensembles Photo Day	Schedule to be issued Week 1, Term 3
Thurs 5 Aug	Music Ensembles Concert # 3	Commences at 6.00pm in The Hall
Mon 23 Aug	Higher School Certificate Music Showcase	Commences at 4.00pm in Room 311
Thurs 7 Oct	Composition Festival - <i>A Night of New Music</i>	Commences at 6.00pm in The Hall

International Grammar School Sydney Limited

4-8 Kelly Street, Ultimo NSW 2007
Locked Bag 1022,
Broadway NSW 2007, Australia

ABN: 74002 807 525
www.igssyd.nsw.edu.au

Telephone: 61 2 9219 6700
Facismile: 61 2 9211 2474
Email: admin@igssyd.nsw.edu.au

Thurs 25 Nov	Music Ensembles Showcase Concert	Commences at 6.00pm in The Hall
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Composition Festival: A Night of New Music

Working in partnership with Composer In Residence, Ella Macens, the Music Department is pleased to announce a new initiative designed to provide young artists with the opportunity to develop their creativity and compose a piece of new music. As part of this collaboration, Ella has been exploring text with Year 4 and Year 12 Music students, and next term, looks forward to engaging with Year 11 English students in developing poetry and exploring connections between language and song. It is from these collaborations that Ella will compose a new work for IGS which will be premiered at this inaugural event. All students are encouraged to consider submitting an original music work for potential exhibition at this event in early Term 4. Students who would like to submit an original work can [click here](#) to download the form and complete an application.

Music Ensembles Program

New enrolments are welcomed for Semester 2 across our Choral, Concert Bands, Strings and Contemporary Programs. For more information regarding days and times, please [click here](#) for the overview of weekly rehearsals and outline of the diverse range of ensemble opportunities available to Primary School and High School students. To participate in the ensembles program next semester please [enrol here](#) to submit your application.

Music Leaders: Semester 2 Plans

The 2021 Music Leaders met together at the end of Term 2, to reflect on student achievements from Semester 1, and consider some new ideas and collaborations for Semester 2. More details will be announced in Term 3 in supporting student creativity and in facilitating other musical opportunities.

- Year 12 Music Leader – Mischa Belunek
- Primary Music Leaders – Matilda (Tilly) Benedictus and Alex Serawan

Music Tuition Fees

In line with the award rates by Music Teachers Association, the department would like to inform our Music Families that tuition rates for individual tuition will increase to \$45/half hour in Semester 2. Group tuition and ensemble fees will remain the same for the remainder of 2021.

2021 HICES Music Festival

In ensuring the safety of all students and staff across NSW during this pandemic, please note that the annual HICES Music Festival has unfortunately been cancelled for this year.

Ahead of the holiday period, I would like to take the opportunity to wish all students, parents and friends, a wonderful time with family and friends, and look forward to welcoming all students back to the Music Program in Semester 2. With a range of new opportunities available to all IGS students, it is anticipated that many students will engage with our diverse range of exciting music offerings across Terms 3 & 4. For any additional enquiries or questions contact Music Administration igsmusic@igssyd.nsw.edu.au

Yours sincerely,



Darren Kuilenburg
Director of Music