



BRENTWOOD
SECONDARY COLLEGE

2021 Instrumental Music Handbook



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 work 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 different Concert Bands, String Orchestras, Guitar Ensembles, Choirs, Percussion Ensembles and many other ensembles that run. 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.

If you have any questions regarding the Brentwood SC Instrumental Music Program, please email Director of Music - Mr. Ben Franklin – Ben.Franklin@education.vic.gov.au

2021 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 2021

Staff Member	Position
Mr. Ben Franklin	Director of Music
Ms. Ursula Cettolin	Voice Teacher
Ms. Sue Cook	Brass Teacher
Ms. Lauren Davine	Ensembles and Classroom Music
Ms. Cathie Presa	Strings Teacher
Mr. Damon Key	Woodwind Teacher
Mr. Troy Male	Guitar Teacher
Mr. Nick Milosevic	Drums/Percussion Teacher

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 35 mins once a week during the school term. Individual lessons 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 enrol part way through the year should speak to Mr. Franklin.

To submit an enrolment application please click on the following link: [Instrumental Music Application Form](#)

Instruments Offered

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

Strings: Violin, Viola, Cello,
Brass: Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn
Woodwind: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone
Other: Guitar, Voice, Percussion/Drums

Note: We do not offer Piano/Keyboard Lessons. Students who learn (or have learnt) piano are encouraged to take on a Brass, Woodwind or String instrument to enhance their musicianship and develop their ability to play music as part of an ensemble.

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

Instrumental Music Lessons will rotate across 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 study period where possible.

Ensemble Rehearsals will take place at either Lunchtime (1.05pm – 1.45pm) or Afterschool (3.10 – 4.10pm)

All Lesson times and Ensemble rehearsals are available on COMPASS and students must be responsible for checking their instrumental lesson and ensemble rehearsal times

Instrumental Music Fees and Levies

Instrumental Music Fees 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 fees and a comparison to VMTA rates:

Lesson Type	Brentwood Secondary College Instrumental Music Levy	VMTA Recommended Fees
Group Lessons	\$375 per year	\$1080 per year
Individual Lessons	\$575 per year	\$1800 per year



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 and 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.

Ensembles

- Junior String Ensemble
- Senior String Ensemble
- Chamber Strings*
- Choir
- Junior Concert Band
- Intermediate Concert Band
- Senior Concert Band
- Vocal Ensemble*
- Junior Guitar Ensemble
- Senior Guitar Ensemble
- Percussion Ensembles
- Jazz Band*

* Entrance via audition/invitation only



Performance Calendar

A full performance calendar will be published at the start of the school year. Additionally, all performance events will be on Compass. It is expected that all students are aware of these dates and are available to attend all performances. If a student is unable to be at one of the scheduled performances, a minimum of a terms notice must be given in writing to both the students Instrumental Music Teacher, as well as the Director of Music. Failure to attend performances will result in the students place in the program being reviewed.



Performance Attire

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

Boys:

- Black Formal Trousers (Black Jeans or Track pants are not appropriate)
- Black Brentwood Music Shirt
- Black Socks
- Black School/Dress Shoes

Girls:

- Black Formal Trousers (Black Jeans or Leggings are not appropriate) OR Black Skirt (no shorter than knee length) with Black stocking
- Black Brentwood Music Shirt
- Black Socks (if wearing trousers)
- Black School/Dress Shoes

The Brentwood Music Shirt is not available to purchase through the normal uniform provider. Students will be fitted for shirts during Term 1 at an Ensemble Rehearsal. Shirts are \$35 – parents will be notified on when shirts can be purchased.

Commitment and Expectations

For all students learning an instrument in 2021 is a **minimum year-long commitment** to the program, therefore, **Fees and levies are non-refundable** upon commencing within the Instrumental Music Program. The yearly fee covers 30 lessons per year. This allows for absences/camps/public holidays/curriculum days/work experience etc.

- Students are required to attend all lessons as scheduled by their teacher. If a student knows they cannot attend a lesson for whatever reason, they must contact their teacher via Microsoft Teams chat as soon as possible.
- Students are required to attend weekly rehearsals of the ensembles to which they belong to. This may also involve extra/extended rehearsals in the lead up to performances. Please note this is mandated by the NEVR region as a condition of music funding for the College.
- Students are required to bring all of the relevant materials needed for full participation in lessons and ensemble rehearsals. Items include: Instrument, Folder of Music, Music Diary/Homework Book and any other instrument specific requirements.
- Students are required to attend all of the performances listed in the performance calendar (distributed at the start of the school year) and on Compass that are relevant to their Ensemble/Instrument Group. See 'Performances' for further details.
- Students are required to practice regularly at home.
- Students are expected to catch up on any missed work whilst attending their music lessons.

These are the minimum requirements for students who choose to be part of the music program at Brentwood Secondary College. We ask that parents support the schools expectations of music student to ensure the best chance of growth and success in the students learning.

Instrument Hire

Brentwood Secondary College has a limited number of Brass, Woodwind and String (excluding Guitar) Instruments available for hire. We do not hire Percussion Instruments.

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 \$300 will be charged in 2021. 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 via Compass by the due date. This payment covers repair of reasonable wear and tear on 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 including if the Instrument is lost.

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