

## ***Communication from the Music Department | 18 August 2020***

Dear parents,

Many of you will be aware that advice from NSW Health on co-curricular music in schools has recently changed. NSW Health have raised concerns regarding singing and woodwind instruments. With this in mind there will be a number of changes to how the instrumental programs run at St Catherine's.

### **Ensembles**

In-person rehearsals for all choirs, bands and orchestra, and relevant chamber ensembles, will cease in their current format. Ensemble directors will inform families of the changes for each ensemble. For ensembles that move online, students will be provided with resources and fortnightly challenges to complete. Completion of each task will count towards each student's attendance record, and ultimately the music awards/badges that will be presented at the end of the year. For these online ensembles, supervision will be available for these morning and afternoon rehearsals. We would just ask that parents inform the music department if their daughter will be attending.

Ensembles that do not involve singing or woodwind, such as string or percussion ensembles, will continue as normal.

### **Instrumental Lessons**

All instrumental lessons will continue face-to-face. All studios are provided with hand sanitizer and Nanocyn spray. Vocal and wind tutors will avoid playing or singing, and all tutors have access to PPE.

### **Instrumental Programs**

The Year 2 String program will continue as normal. Year 3 IMP will move to short individual lessons for wind players. Both programs will remain in their regular times.

Please be assured that the music department will continue to follow NSW Departments of Health and Education guidelines. In addition to this, the St Catherine's music department has been monitoring the growing body of scientific research that explores to what extent a relationship exists between various instruments/instrument groups/rehearsal formats and the risk of transmission.

The music department has used all available information to put measures in place that promote the safety of students and tutors, while helping your daughters to continue their instrumental study in the most comprehensive way possible. We are also well-placed to continue to adapt and modify the music program if the official guidelines or scientific research suggest it to further reduce risk and continue instrumental lessons and ensembles during this period.

Regards,

**David Gresham**  
Director of Music

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**Headmistress Dr Julie Townsend**

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