



Foster Secondary College
Music Department



ENROLMENT



Dear Students and Families,

Foster Secondary College has been proudly running a vibrant and exciting music department as part of the South Gippsland Secondary College Schools Music Program (SGSMP) for over 30 years and we are now looking ahead to yet another year of quality and diverse music creation. Within this program, students can choose from a wide range of instruments to learn in small groups or individual lessons. Each student will also participate in one of the 3 large ensembles as they progress through their learning: *Bloomin' Beginners*, *Concert Band* and *Wind Orchestra*. Optional ensembles (Vocal Group and rock bands, brass/flute/saxophone, percussion and clarinet ensembles) are also on offer. These ensembles participate in music tours, professional concerts, eisteddfods and/or other gigs.

There are a variety of reasons for learning music, and our school's ethos strongly supports catering for a wide range of learning needs and wants. A number of our FSC students achieve outstanding results in the field of music and go on to study performance, composition, teaching and other musical fields professionally. However, we firmly believe that it is the right of all children to be music-makers and that all children should have access to the world of creativity via the performing arts. Many of our students may become physiotherapists, scientists, plumbers, journalists, mechanics, et cetera, but each and every person gains invaluable life skills on their music journey with us. We strongly encourage a sense of community here. We strive daily to make everyone feel welcome and safe. Music creation and ensemble work help improve self-confidence, concentration, empathy, lateral thinking and, maybe above all, proves to be a great deal of fun!

WHO CAN ENROL?

Secondary Students

We recommend that students start early as a way of better developing their skills. This also allows them to remain with their peers as they progress through the program. However, anyone, at any time, from Foster Secondary College can enrol in the Instrumental Music Program.

Primary Students

Within this secondary music program, we recognise that students of late primary age are often keenly ready to begin learning an instrument and, therefore, we offer **Grades 5 and 6** students from Fish Creek, Foster, Welshpool and Toora Primary Schools the opportunity to join us as well.

Adults

Music has always been a beautiful way to bring communities together and, to this end, we also invite adults from our community to join us. The old, the young, the middling.... professional musicians, amateur musicians, beginning musicians and musicians who haven't touched their instrument since, well, you can't remember! We have seen community musicians pick up their instrument after 15 or 20 years and join *Wind Orchestra*, finally having the opportunity to play as part of a thriving, fun band. Several keen instrumentalists previously joined our junior ensemble, *Bloomin' Beginners*, with only a lesson or two under their belt, and are now playing beautifully in our senior ensembles. You may have studied music in your youth and are just looking for a band to be part of, or you may wish to finally fulfill your lifelong dream of learning an instrument from scratch. This is the perfect opportunity for you.

Be brave my budding musicians! We greatly look forward to hearing from you.

**NOTE: Adults register as BAND ONLY students.
They will need to attend lessons privately.
Please speak to our staff about a variety of available options for lessons.**

1. Program details and application/enrolment forms are attached, along with fees and payment options. Enrolment forms can



also be found at the FSC general office or music office. Please read them carefully, fill in and return to FSC general office. Full payment is not required until the end of Term 1. If you wish to be on a payment plan that better suits your needs, organise this with our wonderful general office staff.

2. If you are uncertain as to which instrument you would like to play, we invite you to attend our **Music Information Night** (each family will be notified in writing of date and time, but please feel free to contact FSC front office for more details). Students and families can meet prospective teachers, play instruments they are interested in, make final decisions on the instrument/s they wish to learn, ask any questions regarding the program and offer suggestions as to the direction they would like music to take at FSC. Each budding instrumentalist can see, play and hear their chosen instrument up close. **Even if you are unsure as to whether music is for you, ALL are welcome to the information night! Experiencing the instruments first-hand can help your decision.** *If you are unable to attend, please feel free to email or call Rebecca to organise another time with instrumental staff.*
3. To ensure a place in this wonderful program, and for timetabling, staffing and educational reasons, it is preferable for beginning students to be signed up no later than **the end of February**. It is always best for the students to begin lessons at the same time as their peers to ensure they develop their skill and knowledge together. **However, please feel free to see Rebecca at any time of the year regarding possible placements if you change your mind regarding instrument learning. We are always open to new budding musicians joining us.**

Please feel free to call or email with any queries regarding music here at FSC. We greatly look forward to experiencing music with you and your wonderful children, whether as a performer or just as an audience member!

Kind regards,

Rebecca Bone
FSC Music Coordinator
56822066
rebecca.bone@education.vic.gov.au



Program Details

Lessons Students receive weekly music lessons during school hours. They are allocated a small group or individual lesson depending on availability and curriculum needs. These lessons will rotate around the 5-period timetable.

We try to schedule primary student lessons at a fixed time at the beginning or end of the day. This makes it easier for bus travelers and parents organising transport to and from lessons.

Senior students can negotiate with individual teachers regarding lessons out of school time (*eg. 8.30am, 3.30pm or lunch times*). This is entirely dependent on each teacher's availability. It is also advisable at the beginning of each year to let your instrumental teacher know of any study periods you may have so lessons can be slotted into these times accordingly.

Ensembles The Department of Education and Training stipulates that instrumental lessons are dependent on each student's participation in an ensemble. It is, therefore, compulsory for them to be enrolled in at least one of the large ensembles, ***Wind Orchestra, Concert Band, Bloomin' Beginners or Guitar Ensemble***. There are occasionally circumstances that make attendance difficult. Please make sure you speak to the music coordinator regarding any concerns you may have, and we will work together to sort out the problem. Other ensembles include **Stage Band/VCE Band** (*participation in these senior ensembles is through invitation only*). These are challenging and thoroughly rewarding professional ensembles created for those musicians who want to develop their musicianship to a greater level. Each instrument group (***clarinet, flute, saxophone, percussion and brass***) has their own **small ensemble**. These are run periodically throughout the year, often leading up to particular events or concerts, and do not require a year-long commitment. FSC also offers **Vocal Group** as another ensemble. Individual voice lessons are not available, but anyone from the high school is able to join this high quality group of singers. **No previous experience is required**, just a great love of wanting to sing.



Recording Studio FSC Music Department has its own recording studio. All musicians will have the opportunity to have their music professionally recorded, mixed and mastered throughout their time here.

Gigs, Camps and Excursions FSC musicians perform in a wide range of gigs each year, ranging from the intimate small soiree to the huge hall-concert with a lively dancing audience! We also take students to a professional show at the *Princess Theatre* in Melbourne each year and invite professional bands to play with and for us at our

concerts. Students are also given the opportunity to travel on overnight concert tours and rehearsals. Previously we have travelled to Sydney, Canberra, Bendigo, Melbourne and the like, playing music to a wide range of audiences and soaking up the local music scene.

Classroom Music

Any instrumentalists who find themselves really keen on studying music as a subject can join our **Music Performance** classroom in Years 10, 11 and 12. All elements of performance, composition, music theory and excellent musicianship are studied. How to form a band, how to run rehearsals, how to better your technique, etc are all elements taught in this class. Each instrumental student has the chance to perform as a soloist or as part of a band. The Instrumental Program perfectly compliments this subject, and VCE students are able to receive 1-hour instrumental lessons if they wish. This subject also gives you a pathway to studying music performance at university.

Australian Music Examinations Board

All instrumental students are offered the opportunity to sit their annual A.M.E.B. external exams on their chosen instrument. This is optional. All instrumental staff are qualified to teach beginning through to advanced students in this field.

South Gippsland Schools Music Program FSC is part of a larger group of schools in the region that combine several times annually to create large ensembles. We rehearse, perform and have a huge amount of fun!



Create and Join Your Own Band! At recess and lunch times we open up our rock band room for keen students to find like-minded musicians who wish to jam. This can be informal music creation, or become more serious if you wish by fully arranging, rehearsing and performing your music.

Ensemble Rehearsal Times

(Check Compass for starting dates at the beginning of each year)

Wind Orchestra

Tuesdays 7.30am-8.30am

Director – Rebecca Bone

Concert Band

Wednesdays 7.30am-8.30am

Director – Alasdair Campbell

Bloomin’ Beginners

Thursdays 7.30am-8.30am

Director – Rebecca Bone

VCE Band/ Stage Band

Fridays 7.30am-8.30am

Director – Roy John

Guitar Ensemble

Mondays 7.30am-8.30am

Director – Jamie Brandsma

Vocal Group

Tuesdays Lunchtime

Director – Rebecca Bone

**Flute/Brass/Percussion/
Clarinet/ Saxophone Ensembles**

Scheduled periodically during class time
in place of individual lessons, usually 1
leading up to concerts, 1-2 times a term.

Directors -**Brass Ensemble** Nicholas Beale

Flute Ensemble Rebecca Bone

Percussion Ensemble Roy John

Saxophone/Clarinet Alasdair Campbell



Payment

Our instrumental music fee structure, which has been set out below, reflects a fair cost to all students and is considerably lower than private music fees.

We understand that payment of instrumental fees may be difficult, especially if more than one child in a family is learning an instrument. Therefore, if need be, please ring FSC general office to work out a method of payment suitable for you.

We are insistent that no student misses out on opportunities due to financial difficulty and will help any way we can.

A refund will be given if a student withdraws from the program during Term 1. Fees must be paid, or payment arrangements made, before the end of Term 1.

Instrumental Music Fees *Note: Adults must pay GST.*

Standard Fee - Student One instrumental lesson and one or more bands per week.	\$308 per year
Second Instrument OR Second VCE Lesson A second instrumental lesson plus band per week.	\$154 per year
Band Only - No lessons but is a member of a band.	\$121 per year
Instrumental Hire	\$150 per year
Vocal Group Only (FREE for those learning an instrument)	\$100 per year

Cash, cheque, or credit card payments can be made at Foster Secondary College general office, or make a credit card payment over the phone on 56822066.