

# ASPIRE

MUSIC, DANCE, DRAMA

## PARENT INFORMATION SHEET 2024

### REHEARSAL VENUE:

**St Pius X  
Adamstown**  
Enter via Park Avenue  
entrance.  
Parents please wait in  
the designated areas.

### REHEARSAL TIMES:

**4.30pm – 7.30pm**  
**In Term 1**  
Junior Drama Ensemble  
from 4.30 pm - 6.30 pm  
Dance, Instrumental, Vocal and  
Design Ensemble from 4.30 pm –  
7.30 pm  
Senior Drama Ensemble  
from 5.30 pm – 7.30 pm  
**In Term 2 and Term 3**  
All Ensembles are required  
from 4.30 pm – 7.30 pm

### PRODUCTION VENUE:

**Civic Theatre  
Newcastle**

### PRODUCTION WEEK:

**Sunday 28 July 2024 –  
Saturday 3 August 2024**

#### Dress Rehearsals

**Monday 29 July 2024 and  
Tuesday 30 July 2024**

Students are required to be  
at the theatre on all days and  
nights of the performances.

Student attendance at school  
will not be affected as these  
days will be recorded as school  
business on their class roll.

**\* Please see production  
week schedule for times for  
cast and crew.**

### PERFORMANCES:

**Wednesday 31 July 2024 at  
11.00 am Matinee**  
**Thursday 1 August 2024 at  
11.00 am Matinee**  
**Friday 2 August 2024 at  
11.00 am Matinee**  
**Friday 2 August 2024 at  
7.00 pm Opening Night**  
**Saturday 3 August 2024 at  
7.00 pm Closing Night**

## CONTACT NUMBERS

### AND AREAS FOR DIRECTION OF ENQUIRIES

#### ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:

Anna Kerrigan on 0424 961 775 | [anna.kerrigan@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:anna.kerrigan@mn.catholic.edu.au)  
*For non-attendance, sickness of students, rehearsal information, script, costume, production enquiries, student concerns repertoire, behaviour, injuries, showcase production, production week, fee relief, complaints and concerns re the program, staffing of the program, publicity, staffing of the program and evaluation of the program*

#### ADMIN ASSISTANT:

Anne Atkins on 49791331 | [anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au)  
*For administration matters, fees, change to contact information, long term attendance issues, withdrawal, from program, Civic Theatre information, uniform, audition information, school liaison and information, communication and website.*

## ASPIRE STAFF

#### ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:

Anna Kerrigan

#### MUSICAL DIRECTOR:

Jessica Lopez

#### PRODUCTION MANAGER:

Luke Baker

#### DRAMA DIRECTOR:

Lisa Hall

#### VOCAL SPECIALIST:

Asha Lunarzewski

#### DESIGN DIRECTOR:

Lara Crockett

#### ASSISTANT DRAMA DIRECTOR:

Anastasia Griggs

#### VOCAL SPECIALIST:

Lonnie Mackertich

#### ASSISTANT DESIGN DIRECTOR:

Alice Scardone

#### CHOREOGRAPHER:

Lauren Harvey

#### INSTRUMENTAL SPECIALIST:

Christopher Turner

#### STAGE MANAGER:

Eden Bourne

#### ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER:

Montana Doyle

#### INSTRUMENTAL SPECIALIST:

Riley Warren

#### ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER:

TBA

#### ASPIRE INTERN:

Sophie Dein

## ATTENDANCE

**Students are required to attend every weekly rehearsal/workshop** and are expected to be punctual. **STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED AT LEAST 10 MINS BEFORE THE START TIME.** A roll will be taken each week. If students are unable to attend due to illness or for some other reason, the Artistic Director should be notified as soon as possible. Non-attendance at more than three (3) consecutive rehearsals/workshop sessions without adequate reason may jeopardise a student's place in the program. In preparation for the Performance Showcase, students must attend all extra scheduled rehearsals, the dress rehearsal and the performances themselves. Performing in ensembles is a team effort, where each performer relies on every other performer to ensure success. It is vital therefore that commitment to the program is given. The dates and times of weekly rehearsal will be published under separate issue. For older students, part time work commitments should be taken into account before committing to the program. The weekend rehearsals will be kept to a minimum, but once scheduled, **ALL students are expected to attend all of them and for the full allocated time. Production Week attendance is not negotiable.** All students are required to make ASPIRE their number one priority at this time. Competing school events such as debating, public speaking and competition participation cannot interrupt the commitment to Production Week.

## PAYMENT OF THE PROGRAM FEE

A once only fee of \$300 is payable to the Catholic Schools Office. This fee must be paid by week three term one. A payment plan can be organised if requested. Once this fee is paid, students will receive their ASPIRE t-shirt, jacket and ASPIRE package. This fee is non refundable. All other costs associated with tuition and venue hire etc. will be borne by the Catholic Schools Office. Incidental costs may be incurred but these will be kept to a minimum. ie. parents may be requested to provide some aspects of simple costuming. Students must provide their own musical instruments and their own dance shoes. Please note that the program itself is a very costly exercise. Students in the program receive expert tuition for a negligible cost.

## INSURANCE

Students in the ASPIRE program will be covered under the Catholic Church Insurance Policy in the same way as they are for other school related activities.

## THE PRODUCTION SHOWCASE

The ASPIRE program will culminate in a large scale theatrical production which will see the six ensembles coming together in an integrated performance. It is important to note that although there are discrete ensembles, all students may be required to learn and perform some simple choreography, dramatic techniques and/ or participate in singing a full production number. Some students will be selected by the Artistic Director and Ensemble Director for solo parts as part of this performance. All students are expected to participate fully in the rehearsals leading up to this performance by making themselves available for ALL extra rehearsals and ALL performances. Non attendance

at these rehearsals may see your child excluded from parts of the production. Production week attendance is required for all students. **It is imperative that this is an absolute priority.**

## PRACTISE

In order to gain full benefit from the tuition provided students must practise between sessions. This may include homework, learning lines, practicing music and doing research etc.

## PHOTOGRAPHY, FILM AND ART MEDIA

Students in the ASPIRE program may be photographed or filmed from time to time for publishing or promotional purposes. If you do not wish your child's image to be used for media or publicity purposes please inform the Catholic Schools Office in writing.

## STUDENT BEHAVIOUR

As a member of the ASPIRE program all students are required to behave in a cooperative, respectful and positive manner. Students whose behaviour is of concern will be approached in the initial instance by either the Assistant Ensemble Director or the Ensemble Director. If behaviour continues to be problematic, parents will be informed. Music, Dance, Drama and Design are team activities, and therefore rely on patience, good manners and a shared approach in order for the group to achieve success. It is the responsibility of every ensemble member to work towards this success. Serious concerns regarding behaviour will risk your child's place in the program. The expectations of students regarding behaviour are the same as those required at school. Participation in the program is regarded as a privilege. Many students audition for inclusion and many students also miss out. Therefore, we expect the highest standard of behaviour and manners from all involved with ASPIRE.

## RE-ENROLMENT IN THE ASPIRE PROGRAM

Students wishing to continue their involvement in the program will need to re-apply through the usual audition process. Re-enrolment is not automatic.

## RESOURCES, MUSIC AND BOOKS

All resources (including music scores, props, CDs and the like) remain the property of ASPIRE. Loss, damage or theft of resources by students will incur a replacement fee. Any resources issued must be returned by the due date.

## WITHDRAWING FROM THE PROGRAM

Parents wishing to withdraw their child from the program must do so in writing to the Artistic Director. At least four (4) weeks notice must be provided.

## EVALUATION

Student and parent feedback will be actively sought at defined periods during and after the program. The feedback we receive forms an integral part of our future decision making processes.

## INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

In general, students in the Instrumental Ensembles will need to provide their own instrument. This instrument must be in good working order and should be regularly maintained. ASPIRE does not take any responsibility for loss, damage, or theft of instruments whilst traveling to and from ASPIRE related activities or during ASPIRE workshops, rehearsals or performances. Students must bring their instrument and music to every rehearsal or workshop.

## CONCERNS, COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

In the interests of generating a peaceful, respectful and productive environment it is acknowledged that disagreements will occur from time to time.

It is important that all parties will be afforded procedural fairness. In the first instance, complaints, concerns or grievances should be directed to the Artistic Director.

If the complaint or concern requires further intervention or investigation, the matter should be referred to the ASPIRE committee, Lisa Little, Chair or through the Catholic Schools Office. The Diocesan Complaints Management Policy will be followed.

## FUNDRAISING AND SPONSORSHIP GRANTS

From time to time the ASPIRE committee may engage in fundraising activities to assist in building resources for the benefit of the students participating in the program. Parents may be asked to assist in this fundraising.

The ASPIRE committee may seek sponsorship from various bodies or business houses in addition to making application for Government and/or community grants to assist in the program.

## PARENTAL ASSISTANCE

Parents may be invited to provide assistance and to help with various aspects of the program. This assistance may include making props, sets, costumes, helping with make up and backstage management and general supervision. Requests for help will be notified through your child.

## COMMUNICATION

From time to time the Artistic Director will communicate with parents to provide important information regarding rehearsal schedules, requests for assistance as well as providing updates on the progress of the production.

Additional information will be available for students through Microsoft Teams. This will be discussed at the first rehearsal. Please make sure to carefully read all communication so that you are well informed. The ASPIRE intern will produce a blog for student and parent interest. A regular newsletter will be made available. This can be accessed via the ASPIRE website .