

ASPIRE

MUSIC . DANCE . DRAMA

PARENT INFORMATION SHEET 2025

aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au

Please refer to the ASPIRE website for all ASPIRE information, forms, updates, photos, and the newsletter.

REHEARSAL VENUE:

Trinity Catholic College, Adamstown

Enter via Park Avenue entrance.

Parents please wait in the designated areas.

Please note:
25/2/2025 Rehearsals will be held at San Clemente Catholic College Mayfield.

REHEARSAL TIMES:

4.30pm – 7.30pm

In Term 1

Junior Drama Ensemble

4.30 pm – 6.30 pm

Senior Drama Ensemble

5.30 pm – 7.30 pm

Design Ensemble

4.30 pm – 7.15 pm

Dance, Stage Band, Vocal Ensemble

4.30 pm – 7.30 pm

In Term 2 and Term 3

All Ensembles are required from 4.30 pm – 7.30 pm

(potential staggered collection times TBA)

PRODUCTION VENUE:

Civic Theatre Newcastle

PRODUCTION WEEK:

Sunday 27 July 2025 – Saturday 2 August 2025

Dress Rehearsals

Monday 28 July 2025 and Tuesday 29 July 2025

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 30 July 2025 at 11.00 am Matinee Performance

Thursday 31 July 2025 at 11.00 am Matinee Performance

Friday 1 August 2025 at 11.00 am Matinee Performance

Friday 1 August 2025 at 7.00 pm Opening Night Evening Performance

Saturday 2 August 2025 at 7.00 pm Closing Night Evening Performance

CONTACT NUMBERS

AREAS FOR DIRECTION OF ENQUIRIES

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ASPIRE:

Anna Kerrigan on 0424 961 775 | 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 regarding the program, publicity, staffing of the program and evaluation of the program.

ADMIN ASSISTANT ASPIRE:

Anne Atkins on 49791331 | anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au
For administration matters, fees, change of contact information, long-term attendance issues, withdrawal from program, Civic Theatre information, uniform, audition information, school liaison, communication, and website enquires.

ASPIRE STAFF

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:

Anna Kerrigan

DANCE DIRECTOR:

Lauren Harvey

DESIGN DIRECTOR:

Lara Crockett

MUSICAL DIRECTOR:

Jessica Lopez

PRODUCTION MANAGER:

Luke Baker

DRAMA DIRECTOR:

Lisa Hall

ASSISTANT DRAMA DIRECTOR:

Anastasia Griggs

VOCAL SPECIALIST:

Marty Worrall

VOCAL SPECIALIST:

Lonnie Mackertich

ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER:

Montana Doyle

INSTRUMENTAL SPECIALIST:

Christopher Turner

INSTRUMENTAL SPECIALIST:

William Blundell

ASSISTANT DESIGN DIRECTOR:

Alice Scardone

ASSISTANT DESIGN DIRECTOR:

Chelsea Iddon

STAGE MANAGER:

Eden Bourne

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER:

Sarah Morris

ASPIRE INTERN:

Daniel Smith

PARTICIPATION IN ASPIRE

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 that commitment to the program is given. The dates and times of weekly rehearsals will be published separately. 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 other competition participation cannot interrupt the commitment to Production Week.

PAYMENT OF THE PROGRAM FEE

A once only fee of \$350 for all ensembles except Design which is \$120 is payable to the Catholic Schools Office. This fee must be paid by Week Three Term 1 2025. A payment plan can be organised if requested. This fee is non refundable. All other costs associated with tuition and venue hire etc. will be borne by the ASPIRE Catholic Schools Diocese of Maitland Newcastle. 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 Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Catholic Schools policies 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, practising music, and doing research.

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 ASPIRE Catholic Schools 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 by the Artistic Director. Music, Dance, Drama, Production 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 their 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 yearly 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, workshop, and performance.

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, or through the Diocesan Complaints Management Team through the Catholic Schools website.

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, 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 is also available on the ASPIRE website: aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au. 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 also be made available. This can be accessed via the ASPIRE webpage .