

## The Arts: Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts in the Curriculum

### Years 7 - 10

In Years 7 and 8, students rotate through the elective subjects of Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts.

In Year 7 Drama, students are introduced to the fundamental skills and tools required for Drama. They will develop theatrical pieces using voice and movement to sustain character and situation, and construct dramatic meaning. The process of devising, rehearsing and performing drama is explored. Students will also use focus, tension, space and time to enhance drama, both scripted and unscripted, to engage an audience. As they experience drama, students will also draw on drama from a range of cultures, time and locations to respond, interpret and analyse different forms and elements.

In Year 7 Music, students are introduced to the fundamental skills and tools required for music. Students build on their understanding of the roles of artists and audiences as they engage with more diverse music. Students develop their aural skills by identifying and manipulating rhythm, pitch, dynamics and expression, form and structure, timbre and texture in their listening, composing and performing. They also extend their understanding by playing independent parts against contrasting parts. As students experience music, they explore meaning and interpretation, and use musical elements to make and respond to music.

In Year 8 Dance, students develop dance knowledge and skills by working and engaging with the materials of dance to enhance their kinesthetic awareness. Students are exposed to a wide range of dance styles to develop appreciation and understanding of how artists and choreographers work with the elements of dance relevant to the genre. Students learn how to apply the elements of dance to create their own dance works, with student compositions consisting of a specific choreographic intent relevant to the materials, knowledge and skills developed in class.

In Year 8 Visual Art, students are introduced to the elements of Art and create their own artworks working with different media. Students are given opportunities to experiment with different materials and develop skills in drawing, painting, printing and ceramics. They will investigate the work of artists to develop an understanding of the motivations and purpose of various artworks. Students develop their own Visual Art Portfolio Diaries, documenting their creative journey.



### **Years 9 and 10 Arts Elective Subjects**

In Years 9 and 10, students are given the opportunities to study a range of elective subjects. When studying these courses, students are given access to industry experts, excursions and exhibitions, and encounter authentic learning experiences in these fields. In the Arts, elective subjects are offered for a semester of study.

**Year 9/10 Dance:** Students in Years 9 and 10 build upon their previous dance experience, knowledge, skills and understanding through the study of Dance. Students will be able to perform in various styles and apply techniques to choreograph solo and group performances. Students will also learn to critically analyse various dance works, and create their own compositions, to showcase dance components such as technique, performance quality, production elements and the use of choreographic devices. Students will also investigate the pioneers of dance and their social, cultural and historical influences.



**Year 9/10 Drama:** students will build on previous experiences in making and responding to drama individually and in small groups. Students explore Drama as an art form through improvisation, scripted drama, rehearsal and performance. Students apply and manipulate the elements of drama to create belief in role and character, and maintain focus, space, language and time to show dramatic action. Students engage with a range of social, cultural and historical influences to understand directorial intention and the use of expressive skills in the drama they perform and view.

**Year 9/10 Graphic Design:** Students explore graphic design and digital media to communicate ideas and concepts through images and multimedia design. They will learn to evaluate how others use visual language to communicate their ideas and intentions, and identify the influence of other artists and designers on their own work. Students investigate the development of photography and design through different cultures, times and places, and learn to manipulate tools, techniques and processes to develop and refine techniques and processes to represent ideas and subject matter in their images and design.



**Year 9/10 Music:** Students continue to develop their aural skills as they build on their understanding and use of the elements of music. They extend their use and identification of timbre to discriminate between different instruments and different voice types. Students build on their understanding of their role within an ensemble as they control tone and volume in a range of styles using instrumental and vocal techniques. Students also extend technical and expressive skills in performance to evaluate performers' success in expressing the composer's intentions, and identify expressive skills in music they listen to and perform.

**Year 9/10 Photography:** Students explore photography and digital media to communicate ideas and concepts through images and multimedia design. They will learn to evaluate how others use visual language to communicate their ideas and intentions, and identify the influence of other artists and designers on their own work. Students investigate the development of photography and design through different cultures, times and places. Students will manipulate tools, techniques and processes to develop and refine techniques and processes to represent ideas and subject matter in their images and design.

**Year 9/10 Visual Arts:** Students investigate a range of processes and techniques for creating and developing their own artwork. They examine the artwork of others to develop their understanding of the motivations of artists and the purpose of artwork, and develop a Visual Arts Diary of the work they create, culminating in final works in different media, influenced by portrait work.



Photography by William Carey  
Theme: Food Waste



Photography by Georgia Wallace  
Theme: White Privilege

## **The Arts: Extra-Curricular Activities**

At St John Paul II College, we pride ourselves on our dedication to justice, peace and courage. Our extra-curricular program in the Arts aims to achieve the same dedication, giving students opportunities to explore how performance and creativity has the power to change people's hearts and minds, and the experience of working as a true team with students from all year levels. These activities are an essential part of a student's education and help them develop 21<sup>st</sup> century skills such as communication, collaboration, critical and creative thinking. Students are able to see the results of their endeavours through an emphasis on the development of skills, and realise the learning of these experiences in and out of the classroom.

### **Dance, Drama and Music Opportunities**

We offer an extensive range of Dance, Drama and Music programs. These activities encourage students to develop their performance and presentation skills. Students are able to participate in a range of clubs including:

- Drama Clubs – tailored to developing focused performance skills
- Year 7 Band, Concert Band and Vocal Group – performing at College and community events
- Dance Festival – performing in the annual AusDance Festival at the Canberra Theatre Centre
- Production Crew – learning skills for backstage and technical equipment use, supporting performances and events.

Additionally, students are offered performance opportunities in whole school events such showcases, talent shows and productions. Involvement in these varied extra-curricular experiences can lead to enhanced educational outcomes and an increased sense of belonging with the College community.

