

# ST MARGARET'S COLLEGE ARTS

## Aims

- To encourage maximum participation of students in a wide range of Co-Curricular activities.
- To promote teamwork and cohesion within groups and equity between members.
- To ensure that all students are offered opportunities for achievement, performance and exhibition.
- To provide quality leadership with appropriate facilities & resources.
- To generate an environment of enjoyment and satisfaction.
- To recognize commitment, contribution, achievement and excellence in the arts.

## Organisation

### Staff in Charge

Head of Performing Arts Faculty: Amanda Woods

Head of Visual Art Faculty: Callum Arnold

Curriculum Leader of Dance: Candice Cain

Curriculum Leader of Drama: Sarena Tokona

Curriculum Leader of Music: Amanda Woods

Curriculum Leader of Technology: Trudy Keys

Curriculum Leader of Visual Art: Callum Arnold

Teacher in Charge of Debating: Jenni McLaughlin

Teacher in Charge of Speech and Drama: Roz Speirs

Arts Facilitator: Mary Davison

Director of The Dance Academy: Alison Rossiter

Speech and Drama tutors: Roz Spiers, Trish Minns, Dinie Bevers

Itinerant Teachers: school music groups are lead by a staff member or visiting itinerant teacher who will come in to the school regularly for rehearsals.

### Staff Arts Committee

The Arts Committee is comprised of the Curriculum Leaders of Dance, Drama, Music, Technology and Visual Art and the teacher in Charge of Debating, along with the Arts Facilitator. The Committee is responsible for directing change and implementing new initiatives in the arts, as well as overseeing all arts processes including awards.

### Student Arts Council

This is a group of Year 12 and 13 students who help with the organization of the arts at school and are responsible for Arts Week and the Arts Soiree/dinner amongst other events. They are elected by student vote, with staff input, and are lead by the Arts Prefect in conjunction with the Arts

Facilitator. A Head student from each arts area is also elected as part of the Arts Council.

### **Middle School Arts Leadership**

2016 will see a selected group of Year 8-10 girls work together to look at promoting and supporting the arts and developing new initiatives for the Middle School. Students can also work towards leadership projects in the Arts such as organizing talent quests or leading junior school groups.

## **Communication**

Information is conveyed to students through a variety of forms:

- Arts noticeboard located outside the little theatre in the Winchester North second floor corridor
- Student Notices on the school Intranet
- Outside or just inside relevant Arts Departments or spaces eg Dance, Drama, Music, Visual Arts and English (for Debating & Public Speaking)
- Weekly newsletter
- School assemblies and chapel services
- School website

## **Commitment/Expectation**

Once a student signs up or is selected into a group, a commitment is made for the whole year or duration of that group, unless some unforeseen circumstance occurs. Students may be required to sign a contract.

## **Events**

### **School Events**

The Arts are celebrated yearly at school in Term 1 with Arts Week through lunchtime activities, student performances and visiting artists, and in Term 3 at the Arts Soiree/dinner, organized by the Arts Council, with guest speaker, performances, recognition of achievements and a buffet dinner. Other annual arts events include Twilight Concert, Performing Arts Showcases, NCEA Dance & Drama evenings, NCEA & IB Art Exhibitions, Myers Cup Speech Competition and talent quests. House Day involves House plays, Theatresports, Wearable Arts and Portrait competitions and students perform each year for Open Day guests.

### **Musicals & Major Productions**

A school musical or major drama/performing arts production will be presented every year as long as circumstances allow. There may or may not be involvement from students and staff of other schools.

### **Combined Events with Christ's College**

We have a Combined Orchestra and Collegium Choir with brother school Christ's College, and our music groups perform every year at a combined concert, as well as the St Margaret's-Christ's College Debate and biannual film collaboration.

### **Inter-school Events**

Our co-curricular arts groups participate annually at events such as the Big Sing Choral Competition, Voices Contemporary Music Festival, YSIH Barbershop Competition, Chamber Music Contest, Orchestra Festival, Jazzquest, Rockquest, Bandquest, Christchurch Schools' Music Festival, Kids 4 Kids, Theatresports Competition, University of Otago Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival, Stage Challenge, JRock, Canterbury Schools Debating Council.

### **Community Events**

Our groups also take part in events such as Children's Day, Ferndale Carnival, The Body Festival of Dance and Performance, SCAPE public art projects and other art initiatives in the community, and often perform for charity events.

### **Visiting artists & shows/ trips**

We have a number of visiting artists and shows come to perform for our girls annually including NZ Playhouse, NZ Opera, NZ Royal Ballet, CSO Outreach Education Programme, amongst others. We also take groups of students offsite to see shows at The Court Theatre, the Theatre Royal, and other venues.

## **Achievements**

Achievement in the arts at Middle School level is recognised with three types of awards for students in Years 7-10: a Certificate of Recognition, an Arts Badge and Colours in Arts. Colours take the form of a white braid to be sewn onto the sleeve of the school blazer. The following areas will be considered: Dance, Drama, Music, Oratory, Technical, Creative Writing and Visual Art. However, awards will be presented for "Arts" rather than for any specific area. To be eligible for a Middle School Arts award, the student must have a considerable level of proven skill in her field, as well as a minimum of two years' contribution and service to the arts at Middle School level, and a placing in a regional competition or high level exam qualification is also now required for Colours.

Achievement in the arts at Senior School level is recognised with three types of awards for students in Years 11-13: a Certificate of Recognition, an Arts Pocket and Honours in Arts. Pockets are sewn onto the blazer and are represented by the first initial of the arts area awarded. Honours are represented by the red blazer and a gold braid. The following areas will be considered: Dance, Drama (Theatre) Music, Oratory, Technical (Audiovisual) and Visual Art. Awards will be presented for each specific area. To be eligible for a Senior Arts award, the student must have an outstanding level of skill in her field, as well as a consistent contribution and service to the arts at school for at least two years (Pocket) or from Year 9 (Honours). To achieve Honours, the student must gain national recognition in her chosen field. A Pocket is a pre-requisite for the awarding of Honours (with some exceptions).

# Co-curricular Arts

## Dance

In addition to Dance being offered as a classroom subject, students have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of co-curricular opportunities. These groups provide an avenue for students interested or experienced in dance to extend their dance technique, gain experience, learn fun performance pieces, and develop an understanding of performance skills and practice.

### **Middle School Dance Company**

Students Years 7-10 are able to audition for this performance group, which consists of 15-18 students. Students need to have prior experience in a range of dance styles and be confident in performance. A high standard of discipline is required and students accepted into this group are expected to make it a priority. There will be two rehearsals a week, timing yet to be confirmed.

### **Pop Company**

This Dance Leaders' initiative is open to all Middle School girls. The group will learn choreography based on pop songs and will have the opportunity to showcase their work at Performing Arts events.

### **Performance-based Dance Group**

This group is auditioned, open to girls in Years 8-11, and performance-based. Students will have the opportunity to learn group choreography as well as solo work. There may also be a chance for members to create their own choreography. Rehearsals will be once a week, and the group is student-lead, with staff supervision.

### **Senior Dance Company**

Year 11-13 students with at least three years of dance experience in a wide range of dance styles are able to audition for this group. The Company will learn teacher-lead choreography as well as being given the opportunity to choreograph their own works. The students need to be confident in performance and available to perform throughout the year within school and the wider community. Students accepted into this group are required to show commitment and to prioritize this specialist group.

### **Choreography Club**

This group is open to senior girls in Years 11-13 who are interested in learning about choreographic methods. Girls will have the opportunity to work collaboratively and to create choreography for the group. The group will meet weekly with Miss Cain.

### **Junior School Dance Group**

Where possible, older students will have the opportunity to organize and run dance classes for girls in the Junior School through the Year 10 Leadership Programme or from students' own initiative. Rehearsals once a week.

### **Stage Challenge**

In 2016 St Margaret's College will enter the RAW Division of Stage Challenge. This is a student led performance and will be performed at the Horncastle Arena 17-18 May. Stage Challenge is a nationwide competitive event, which includes dance and drama. Auditions for Stage Challenge will be early Term 1 and are open to students in Years 9 - 13. Rehearsals will be held on Saturdays and, closer to the performance dates, more rehearsals will be scheduled as necessary.

### **Debating**

Teams at all levels compete during the year against teams from other schools in the local debating competition, which begins in Term 1, averaging two debates per term. A Year 10 or 11 team will be selected to compete in the Junior Press Tournament in Term 3 and the Nga Kete Debating Cup for Year 9 and 10 girls is held in late November.

Top Senior Debaters will represent the College at the Summer and Winter Quadrangular Tournaments as well as the prestigious Press Debating Tournament. There are also showcase debates, including the annual Christ's College and St Margaret's College showdown, which parents and friends enjoy.

Each team will be assigned a coach and practice times will be arranged accordingly. Debate Club takes place on Thursdays after school and the Interschool Competition is Thursday evenings.

### **Drama**

St Margaret's College offers students the opportunity to become involved in a variety of exciting extra-curricular activities in Drama. Events include:

#### **The University of Otago Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival.**

Preparation for the Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival is at the beginning of Term 1. Auditions will be held early Term 1 and are open to students in Years 11, 12 and 13. Rehearsals will be during lunchtimes, after school and on weekends.

### **Theatresports**

Students have the opportunity to participate in the St Margaret's College Theatresports teams both recreationally and competitively. We have a junior team for Years 9 and 10 and a senior team for Years 11, 12 and 13.

## **Middle School Drama**

Our student Head and Deputy Head of Drama will run inclusive drama groups which aim to ignite interest in Drama in the Middle School and develop confidence and team work.

## **Speech and Drama Tuition**

This programme runs in conjunction with other Arts activities and lessons are an 'extra'. Student timetables for these lessons are rotated in school, lunch, study and after school times. A full course description, fees and enrolment form are available at the School Office.

Speech and Drama tuition is available each term at St Margaret's. This may be taken individually or in a small group (not more than four). The aim of the lessons are to develop the mind, voice and body skills necessary to communicate effectively in a wide variety of situations.

The lesson plans are based on the requirements of Trinity College and The New Zealand Speech Board Syllabus, so students may choose to work towards effective Speaking and/or Speech and Drama exams. The content of the course is designed to be stimulating, challenging and fun. It can also be adapted to suit the particular needs of students.

For enquiries please contact Teacher in Charge Roz Spiers at [roz.s@stmargarets.school.nz](mailto:roz.s@stmargarets.school.nz).

## **Music**

Co-curricular Music is ever changing and has grown a huge amount over the last few years. There are now a number of groups on offer, but we are always open to forming new groups, dependent on student demand. If there is a group that you would like to be involved in, but you don't see it on offer, then please contact Ms Woods, Dr Hickford or Miss Whitaker. Co curricular groups all have opportunities to perform at different school events throughout the year, and some groups also have the opportunity to compete in regional and national competitions and events.

### **Private Music Lessons**

Private lessons are available in piano, keyboard, violin, viola, cello, double bass, flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, acoustic guitar, electric guitar, bass guitar, trumpet, trombone, drums and voice. Parents are invoiced directly by the itinerant teachers for these lessons.

Lessons are on a rotating basis although girls in Years 11 to 13 may negotiate with their teacher for a set time if available. For the most part, girls must own their own instruments, although there are a few available for hire.

All enquiries should be directed to the Head of Performing Arts, Ms Woods at [amanda.w@stmargarets.school.nz](mailto:amanda.w@stmargarets.school.nz).

### **Pop Choir**

This choir for Year 9-13 students has a total 'Pop' focus and girls will have a

lot of fun performing some great arrangements of well-known songs. Girls are expected to be able to sing in harmony. One rehearsal per week, timing yet to be confirmed.

### **Chamber Choir**

Girls from Year 9-13 may audition for this choir, which consists of 24 – 30 students who sing a variety of music in up to four parts. The Chamber Choir accepts frequent invitations to perform in the wider community. A high standard of discipline is required in presentation and performance. Girls accepted for this choir are expected to make it a priority. Two rehearsals per week, timing yet to be confirmed.

### **Collegium**

Girls from Years 9-13 may audition for this combined choir with Christ's College. Girls accepted for this choir must make it a priority. One weekly rehearsal, timing yet to be confirmed.

### **Fun Choir**

This is a choir for all to be involved in. Rehearsals once a week, open to students in Year 9-13, no auditions, Pop music focus, and an emphasis on having lots of fun.

### **A Cappella**

Unaccompanied 3-part choir. Gospel and Pop focus. No audition required. Open to Years 9-13. One rehearsal per week, timing yet to be confirmed.

### **Barbershop Quartets**

Barbershop groups can be arranged for more experienced and competent singers who are easily able to sing a musical line on their own. Please see Ms Woods if you are interested.

### **Year 7-10 Choir**

This choir is open to all Year 7-10 girls. This choir sings a variety of music, and throughout the year has many performance opportunities. One rehearsal per week, yet to be confirmed, but rehearsal will take place during a lunchtime.

### **Year 7-8 Chorale**

This is an auditioned group with weekly rehearsals yet to be confirmed.

Girls from Years 5-8 have the opportunity to participate in the Christchurch Schools' Music Festival. The Junior and Year 7 & 8 choirs participate at events such as Kids in Town and Kids 4 Kids as well as performing at various school assemblies, Chapel services and concerts.

**Year 1-6 Choir** is compulsory for girls in these classes and is part of their music programme. Rehearsals take place during school time.

### **Orchestras**

- 1) **The St Margaret's College Orchestra** – auditions, open to all year levels. Rehearsal times yet to be confirmed.

- 2) **The String Orchestra** – auditions, open to all year levels. Rehearsal times yet to be confirmed.
- 3) **Middle School Instrumental Ensemble** – one rehearsal per week, timing yet to be confirmed
- 4) **The Junior Music Ensemble** – A Year 1-6 instrumental group. Rehearsal time yet to be confirmed.
- 5) **The Combined Orchestra with Christ's College** – rehearses on Tuesdays from 4:00-5:00pm at Christ's College or St Margaret's. This orchestra is open by invitation to more advanced instrumentalists in Years 7-13. Girls who wish to play in this orchestra are expected to participate in either the St Margaret's College Orchestra, String Orchestra or Chamber Music groups.

### **Ukulele Orchestra**

This group is open to girls from Year 7 up who enjoy ukulele or who would like to learn. Repertoire is based on student choice of songs, and rehearsals are weekly, timing to be confirmed.

### **Flute Choir**

This choir is open to flautists of all levels. The emphasis is on having fun performing a variety of different music. There are many performance opportunities throughout the year for this group. One rehearsal per week, timing yet to be confirmed.

### **Jazz Band**

Instrumental music has grown significantly in the school particularly showcased with the Jazz Band who perform annually at JazzQuest. Rehearsals take place after school for one hour each week.

### **Rock Bands**

Rock and Pop music is encouraged and the girls can initiate their own Rock bands at junior and senior levels. These are monitored and mentored by senior musicians or tutors who are willing to become involved. Rehearsal times are negotiated and creativity is encouraged.

### **Chamber Music**

Chamber Music groups can be arranged for more competent instrumentalists from all year levels. Advanced groups are encouraged to enter the annual Chamber Music competition. Please see Dr Hickford if you are interested.

## **Technical**

The Technical Team is comprised of a group of students who help with all technical aspects in relation to the arts and school events such as Open Day, Drama and Dance productions, Arts showcases and concerts, sound board at assemblies etc. This involves sound, lighting, filming and editing. We have a range of up-to-date equipment and training is provided to further improve skills. Any student in Year 9 and above who is interested in being involved please contact the Curriculum Leader of Technology Mrs Trudy Keys.



# **Visual Arts**

## **Exhibitions**

There are opportunities for girls to display and organise artwork around the school, at Arts events, assemblies and in exhibitions during the course of the year. The IB Art Exhibition is held at the end of Term 3, and the NCEA Senior Exhibition early Term 4.

## **Art Club**

The Visual Art Club is open to girls from Year 9 to Year 13 and will include a range of projects within the school and the wider community.

## **Extra Tuition**

Girls may participate in supervised workshops and tutorial time, which is usually available once a week after school after consultation with supervising staff. Workshops for senior students are also held during weekends and holiday time.

## **Competitions**

Students are advised of local and national art competitions for individuals and groups through the Visual Arts Leaders, Student Notices and the Arts noticeboard.

## **Theatre and Dance Academy (TDA)**

The Theatre and Dance Academy at St Margaret's College has been established to provide opportunities for co-curricular dance studies for students at St Margaret's and for the wider community. Students are given outstanding opportunities to achieve internationally recognised qualifications in Jazz, Ballet, Tap and Contemporary Dance and to participate in open recreation classes in many genres, with a focus on developing repertoire and performance pieces. Performance opportunities are offered throughout the year both at St Margaret's College and in the wider community.

Students benefit from tuition from a team of accomplished dance teachers, who are experienced in training dancers with Versatility, Strength and Passion. Classes are available for boys and girls, aged 3 through to adult.

The aim for the Academy is to assist in providing technical training for our current students as well as a strong foundation for students wishing to continue dance at a tertiary level and attain internationally recognised qualifications in specific genre.

The following co-curricular examination syllabus classes will be offered:

AJDA – American Jazz Dance Affiliation. All levels – 3 years to adult

BBO – British Ballet syllabus. All levels – preschool to adult

Glen Wood Tap Dance - levels offered as appropriate

**Open Recreation Classes**

Open recreation / performance based classes are also offered for students 3 years to adult in the following genres:

Hip Hop, Contemporary, Commercial Industry Dance, Pointe Technique, Ballet Coaching, Jazz Technique, Yoga for dance, Jazz/Street Dance, Teens beginners dance, Work out and Stretch, Musical Theatre, Tap Dance, Cirque Theatre Dance. We are also working to incorporate Aerial Dance classes during 2016 with a focus on Silks and Lyra.

Open classes are fun, recreation courses with a focus on developing repertoire and performance based dance pieces. Opportunities for performance are offered during the year and for the end of year showcase. Enrolment forms for all classes, class information and the 2016 class timetable are available on the St Margaret's College website, under Dance Academy. Queries can be forwarded to the Manager of the Theatre dance Academy, Ms Alison Rossiter, [alison.r@stmargarets.school.nz](mailto:alison.r@stmargarets.school.nz).