St Margaret's College

Balanced foundations, bright futures.

Arts

2027





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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 development, achievement, performance and exhibition.
- To provide quality leadership with appropriate facilities and resources.
- To generate an environment of enjoyment and satisfaction.
- To recognise commitment, contribution, achievement and excellence in the arts.

Organisation

All co-curricular clubs and activities are supported and led by members of staff from:

- Performing Arts
- Visual Arts
- Creative Technology
- English



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 Director of Co-curricular Arts and the Arts Facilitator. This 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 organisation of the Arts and are responsible for College Arts events and the Arts Soirée amongst other events. They are elected by students with staff input, and are lead by the Arts Prefect supported by the Arts staff. A head student from each arts area is also elected as part of the Arts Council.

Middle School Arts Committee

Year 7 to 10 girls can apply to be selected as part of this committee to promote and support the arts and develop new initiatives for the Middle School. Students can also work towards leadership projects in the arts such as organising arts events or leading Junior School groups.

Committee and Council roles are announced in Term 4.

Communication

Information is conveyed to students through a variety of forms:

- Arts noticeboard located outside the Ngaio Marsh Theatre in the Winchester North second floor corridor
- Student Notices via emails and Google Classroom
- Outside or just inside relevant arts departments or spaces e.g. dance, drama, music, visual art and English (for debating and public speaking)
- Fortnightly school newsletter
- School assemblies and Chapel services
- Emails to girls' school email addresses
- School Bridge

Commitment/ expectation

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

Events

School events

The Arts are celebrated throughout the year at school with the Twilight Concert, Music Showcase, Dance & Drama evenings, Senior Arts Collaborations, Orchestral Extravaganza, NCEA and IB Evenings and Art Exhibitions, the Myers' Cup Speech Competition, Cushion Cabarets and other events. House Day involves House Plays, Wearable Arts, Grid Portrait, other arts activities, and students perform each year for Open Day guests. Fundraisers such as EGGstravaganza also take pride of place on our arts agenda.

Musicals and major productions

A school musical or major drama/ performing arts production will be presented every year. 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 choir with brother school Christ's College, and our music groups perform every year at a combined concert, and the annual Sedley Wells Concert. There is an annual St Margaret's / Christ College Debate as well as other opportunities for collaboration between the schools with Theatre Sports.

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, Southern Jam, Rockquest, Bandquest, Christchurch Schools'

Music Festival, Kids For Kids, Theatresports Competition, University of Otago Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival, TheatreFest, Canterbury Schools Debating Council, Robotics Cup, EPRO8 and more.

Community events

Our groups also take part in events such as the, Ferndale Carnival, Outstanding Feet, SCAPE public art projects and other arts initiatives in the community,
and often perform for charity events.

Visiting artists and shows/trips

A number of visiting artists and shows come to perform for our girls annually including NZ Playhouse, NZ Opera, Royal NZ Ballet, CSO Outreach Education Programme and international acts. We also take groups of students off site to see shows at The Court Theatre, the Isaac Theatre Royal, and other venues.

Achievements

Achievement in the Arts at Middle School level is recognised with three types of awards for students in Year 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. A placing in a regional competition or a high level exam qualification is also required for Colours.

Achievement in the Arts at Senior School level is recognised with three types of awards for students in Year 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 (audio visual) 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 11 (Honours). To achieve Honours, the student must gain national recognition in her chosen field. A Pocket is a prerequisite for the awarding of Honours.

Awards criteria is available via School Bridge.







Dance

Students have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of co-curricular dance groups. 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. If there is a group that you would like to be involved in but you don't see it on offer, please contact the Arts Office.

Junior School Dance Group

Where possible, older students will have the opportunity to organise and run dance classes for the junior girls. Rehearsals are once a week. This group works towards performing for school events.

Middle School Dance Company

Students in Year 7-10 are able to audition for this performance-based group. 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. The company rehearses twice a week.

Middle School Performance Group

This group is open to any Middle School girls from Year 7 - 10 who are interested in dance. Experience is not necessary. Choreography will be fun, exploring a range of dance styles in a welcoming and low pressure environment. The group will work towards participating in Twilight and the Dance Showcase. Senior students may be guest choreographers throughout the year.

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-led choreography as well as being given the opportunity to choreograph their own works. The students need to be confident in performance and be available to perform throughout the year within the school and the wider community. Students accepted into this group are required to show commitment and to prioritise this specialist group which rehearses twice a week.

Senior Performance Group

This group is open to any Senior girls from Year 11-13 who are interested in dance and might have some experience. Choreography will explore a variety of dance genres and the group will work towards participating in all school Performing Arts events.

Hip Hop

This group is for dancers from Year 7 - 13 keen to explore the genre of Hip Hop with a professional tutor. A fun and exciting environment to try something new. The group will work towards a range of performance opportunities and regional competitions.





Drama

The co-curricular opportunities available to students are ever changing and dependant 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 the Arts Office.

SCGNZ Shakespeare in Schools

Preparation for the Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival is at the beginning of Term 1. Auditions will be held early in Term 1 and are open to students in Year 7-13. Rehearsals will be during lunchtimes, after school and on weekends.

Theatresports

Students have the opportunity to participate in the College Theatresports teams, both recreationally and competitively. We have a junior team for Year 7-10 and a senior team for Year 11-13.



Speech and drama tuition

Speech and drama tuition is available each term. This may be taken individually or in a small group (not more than four). The aim of the lessons is 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 the 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.

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 an enrolment form are available at the School Office and via School Bridge.



Kapa Haka

Kapa Haka is available to all age groups, from Pre-School through to Year 13. All girls from Year 1-7 participate in Kapa Haka on a weekly basis, and our Middle and Senior School Kapa Haka is open to students in Year 8-13. This group rehearses weekly and performs at regional events, at Prizegivings and at other important College and community events.




Amelia Siegrist





Music

Co-curricular music is ever changing and is dependant on student demand. There are a number of groups on offer, but we are always open to forming new groups. 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. 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.

Itinerant 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, french horn, harp and voice.

Lesson times are on a rotating basis although girls in Year 11-13 may negotiate with their teacher for a study period if available. For the most part, girls must own their own instruments, although there are a few school instruments available for hire. Parents are invoiced directly by the itinerant teachers for these lessons. All enquiries should be directed to the Head of Performing Arts, Ms Woods, at: **amanda.woods@stmargarets.school.nz**.

A Cappella Choir

This is an unaccompanied three-part choir, with a pop focus and no audition required. It is open to Year 7-13 with one before school rehearsal per week and many performance opportunities throughout the year.

Barbershop Quartets and A Cappella Groups

Barbershop groups and A Cappella groups can be arranged for more experienced and competent singers who are confident at singing in parts. See Ms Woods if you are interested.

Pops Senior Choir

This choir for Year 11-13 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. There is one lunchtime rehearsal per week and many performance opportunities throughout the year.



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. There is one two hour rehearsal per week on Mondays from 3:45pm.

Middle School Choir

This choir is open to all Year 7-10 girls. The choir sings a variety of music, and throughout the year has many performance opportunities. There is one lunchtime rehearsal per week.

Year 13 Choir

The name of this choir speaks for itself. It is a fun Year 13 choir that rehearses once per week.

Junior choirs

Girls from Year 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 for Kids, as well as performing at various Chapel services, concerts and school assemblies.

Year 1-3 / 4-6 choirs

These choirs are compulsory for girls in Year 1-6, and are part of their music programme. Rehearsals take place during school time.

Orchestras

1) SMC Orchestra – open to all year levels with one rehearsal per week. All students learning an instrument at school are encouraged to play in this orchestra.

2) SMC String Orchestra – open to all year levels with one rehearsal per week.

3) Combined Orchestra with Christ's College – rehearses on Tuesdays from 4:00-5:00pm at Christ's College or St Margaret's College. This orchestra is open to competent instrumentalists in Year 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 Group

This group is open to girls from Year 7-13 who enjoy ukulele or who would like to learn. Beginners are welcome. Repertoire is based on student choice of songs, and rehearsals are weekly. There will be at least two performance opportunities during the year.

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. There is one rehearsal per week.

Jazz Band

Our jazz band is a great band to be a part of. Open to experienced saxophone, trumpet, trombone, horn, piano, bass, electric guitar, drums and percussion players and singers. There are many performance opportunities throughout the year for this group. There is one rehearsal per week.

Rock bands

Rock bands are becoming more and more popular. Bands are formed according to student demand. Mr Steve Fowler and Ms Emily Farrell are great rock band teachers and these groups have lots of fun. Weekly rehearsals and many performance opportunities are available.

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 contact Dr Hickford if you are interested.

Maggie's Jazz Combo

This is a small jazz combo for Middle School students and Old Girls. Open to saxophone, drums, trumpet, trombone, piano, bass, electric guitar players and singers. There is one rehearsal per week and many performance opportunities throughout the year.



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 in Term 4.

Extra tuition

Workshops for senior students are usually 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.

Art Club

Open to all students, the Lunchtime Art Club is a creative studio space where you can explore a wide variety of artistic mediums—from photography and painting to drawing and sculpture. Whether you want to develop new techniques, work on personal projects, or simply enjoy a relaxed space to create alongside friends, all skill levels are welcome. Open to all year levels and experience backgrounds.



Wordsmiths (Oratory/Literary)

Debating

Our student Head of Debating will run weekly Debate Club sessions which aim to ignite interest in debating in the Middle School and develop confidence and teamwork.

Debate Club takes place on Wednesday lunchtimes and some Thursdays after school, and the inter-school competition is Thursday evenings.

Teams from Year 9-13 compete during the year against teams from other schools in the local CSDC debating competition, which runs Term 1-3, averaging two debates per term.

Senior students assist with coaching Middle School teams. Top senior debaters will represent the College at the annual showcase debate with Christ's College. Other one-off tournaments include Senior Regionals, Junior Regionals, Senior Impromptu, Whiua te Kupu (against Christ's College) and Ngā Kete for Canterbury girls in Year 9 and 10. These are mostly held on weekends.

Creative Writing

This will be for Middle and Senior girls that runs fortnightly, enabling students to explore a range of writing styles.



Innovation / Technical

A range of co-curricular activities are available to students which will extend their learning in all things technical. The following clubs stretch your skills in:

- problem solving
- perseverance
- team work
- creativity

Technical Team

The Technical Team is comprised of a group of students who help with all technical aspects in relation to the arts and College events such as Open Day, drama and dance productions, Arts showcases and concerts and sound board operation at assemblies etc.

This involves sound, lighting, filming, editing and live streaming. We have a range of up-to-date equipment, and training is provided to further improve skills. Any student in the Middle School who is interested in being involved please contact the Head of Creative Technologies, Mrs Keys.

Robotics Group

We use the Lego Mindstorm EV3 robots to learn to code. Students have an opportunity to develop their problem solving skills, team work, patience and perseverance. There are also opportunities to compete in regional and national competitions. Students from Year 6 and above are encouraged to join this club that runs after school until 5:00pm. Please see Ms Chong if you are interested.

Coding Group

This group operates after school and is open to girls at SMC and beyond. Students have an opportunity to learn to code and extend their coding skills. We are supported by Code Club Aotearoa who provide volunteer tutors to work with the girls. This club ranges from beginners who learn Scratch, the intermediate group who work with HTML and Python, and our advanced group programme who use C+ in the group we call the "Maker Club". Students from Year 5-13 and above are welcome to join these clubs. Please see Ms Chong if you are interested in getting involved.

Construction Club

This club is an engineering and problem solving club. It runs during lunch time. Students have an opportunity to:

- build large sized structures
- solve practical problems
- engineer using pulleys, motors, gears, wheels and axles
- invent simple machines
- construct electronic circuits
- solve practical maths problems

In this club, students will build using EPro8 equipment, and have an opportunity to compete in the EPr08 National Competition: (**epro8challenge.co.nz**). Please see Ms Audrey Campbell if you are interested in getting involved.

Minecraft Club

Minecraft is a virtual platform that allows students to create and build structures individually, or collaborate as a group. Students have to be resourceful and use the surrounding environment to gather building materials. They can build amazing structures and understand the concept of how electricity works. They can discover all the versatile ways dust from the Redstone ore can be used to enhance their creations and bring them to life. As an extension, students can use their agent (an assistant robot) and learn how to code it to work and build for them. This club is lead by students at lunch time. Please see Ms Campbell if you are interested in getting involved.

Tech Teras

This group meets during lunch time during Term 3 and 4. Students get to plan, design and create. We usually focus on a different project each Term.

- 3D print
- Makey Makey
- Garage Band
- Green screens

If you enjoy problem solving and making things work, this club is for you. Students from Year 5 and above are welcome to join this club. Please see Ms Campbell if you are interested in this club.


Music Performance
A Cappella
Directed by Amanda Woods



St Margaret's College

Balanced foundations, bright futures.

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