Year 4 & 5
Music Immersion Program
Parent Information Booklet
Welcome to the Year 4 & 5 Music Immersion Program
This handbook presents a brief overview of the Year 4 & 5 Music Immersion Program, and provides a point of reference for families. As the program is such an active part of College life, we encourage you to keep up to date with the Music Immersion Program through the College website as well as our Music Facebook page.

The Music Immersion Program presents a wonderful opportunity for your son or daughter to experience learning an instrument as part of their academic program. The Music Immersion Program runs for two years (on the one instrument), integrating listening, theory and composition under a framework of performance.

Within the Music Immersion Program, students will learn to care for an instrument, learn the correct way to hold and play their instrument, understand the importance of time management and organisation in regards to practise, learn to read music and participate in a performance of their work. Students will be taught through both small, instrument-like groups as well as within large ensembles. To assist with their instrumental playing, the students also partake in a choral session each fortnight, which assists to develop their aural capacity and assist in the internalisation of sound so necessary for successful instrumental playing.

I trust that you and your child share my enthusiasm for this program, and we look forward to sharing some wonderful music with you as the students progress.

Kind regards,

Cade Bonar
Head of Music (Curriculum)

Andrew Eunson
Director of Co-Curricular Music
1. Instrument Allocation
In 2015, the students in Year Three had a detailed look and discussion about all of the available instruments on offer as part of the Music Immersion Program. The process for selection this year was based on the students preferencing the sounds that they liked the best, as there is much evidence suggesting that this is a key motivational factor for continued engagement. From this, staff met with individual students to test for specific physical attributes, pitch aptitude and academic indicators such as effort. With all of this data, students were then allocated instruments and efforts were made to ensure balance and blend of ensembles. Of course, resource limitations also factored into this allocation model.

2. Transition Period
As learning an instrument is a new process for many students, the College will endeavor to ensure that students and families are happy with their instrument allocations. Term One of 2016 will be treated as a transition term for the students and if you feel that there is a major issue with the instrument allocation, please contact the Music Office in writing to discuss this. The transition period will end on Monday 21 March and all students will move ahead for the duration of the program (end of 2017) on their allocated instrument.

3. The Curriculum
The curriculum spans approximately 36 weeks (36 lessons) each year and covers;

   a) care and maintenance of an instrument,
   b) music reading,
   c) technique and tone production,
   d) ensemble experience and performance, and
   e) vocal tuition to support the internalisation of sound.

The first few weeks of the Music Immersion Program are focused on the delivery of the course objectives to students, care and maintenance of instruments.

Essentially, the curriculum is outlined by the student resource – New Directions for Strings and Traditions of Excellence. After the initial few weeks content have been covered, students will sequentially work through the tutor book and CD in class.

More detail regarding the curriculum content of lesson of the Music Immersion Program can be obtained by contacting the staff involved. The curriculum is influenced by student achievement and progression through the tutor book. In each lesson students are taught correct technique and note reading.

4. Practice
Practice forms an integral part of your son/daughter's development and also enjoyment of the Music Immersion Program. Each student will be allocated an instrument, and it is hoped that practice can be done at school during break times, or before and after school. Instruments are able to be taken home and this is strongly encouraged.
5. Assessment
Assessment of student achievement in the Music Immersion Program will be largely through observation and anecdotal records kept by the teachers. The primary objective of the course is for students to develop an appreciation for playing an instrument.

6. What if my son/daughter already plays an instrument?
I am aware that several students in Year 3 have been learning an instrument, some for several years already. For these students the Music Immersion Program represents an excellent opportunity for leadership on their current instrument; these students may be empowered through assisting their peers. Alternatively, these students may elect to try a different instrument. The value in gaining knowledge and experience on another instrument of the same family, especially an instrument of a different clef, will be very beneficial to their ensemble awareness and appreciation of instrumental technique.

7. Continuing after the Music Immersion Program
At the conclusion of your son or daughter’s involvement in the Music Immersion Program I would like to extend an invitation to your son or daughter to continue learning their chosen instrument, or indeed to try another, through the Co-curricular Music Program.

The Co-curricular Music Program provides the opportunity for students to study their instrument through private lessons with specialised staff. Lessons are primarily conducted during school hours and are held on a half-hour basis for students. Lessons are usually held on a fixed day; however, are conducted through a rotating timetable. Students participating the Co-curricular Music Program can also be involved in weekly ensemble rehearsals.

Through participation in Music at St Andrew’s students will be encouraged to pursue excellence in performance, to improve their personal best and be part of a team. Committed participation in the Co-curricular Music Program has benefits that transfer to all parts of schooling life including academic performance. We strongly encourage all students to become involved in Music at the College and congratulate those who have already made the decision to join.

As well as this the College offers an exciting Instrument Incentive Program which will allow families to purchase the instrument that they have been learning at heavily discounted prices not available in stores.

If you son or daughter is interested in continuing with their musical study then I invite you to look over the information on the Music section of the College website (www.saac.qld.edu.au). Here you will find the Music Handbook which details the musical opportunities available to your son or daughter, as well as lesson registration and instrumental hire forms and information. Please feel free to contact the Music Office on 5449 5852, or email musicoffice@saac.qld.edu.au should have any questions of the Co-curricular Music Program.