



Catholic Schools
DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

ASPIRE

MUSIC DANCE DRAMA

PARENT INFORMATION SHEET 2026

PLEASE REFER TO THE ASPIRE WEBSITE FOR ALL ASPIRE INFORMATION, FORMS, UPDATES, PHOTOS, AND FURTHER INFORMATION..

REHEARSAL VENUE:

Trinity Catholic College, Adamstown

Enter via Park Avenue entrance.

Parents please wait in the designated areas.

Pick up:

Vocal- Parents to pick up in front car park off Fletcher St

All other ensembles- Parents to pick up from back car park off Park Avenue

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 Ensembles

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 26 July 2026 – Saturday 1 August 2026

Technical Rehearsal

Monday 27 July 2026

Dress Rehearsals

Tuesday 28 July 2026

*** Please see production week schedule for times for cast and crew.**

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.

PERFORMANCES:

Wednesday 29 July 2026 at

11.00 am Matinee Performance

Thursday 30 July 2026 at

11.00 am Matinee Performance

Friday 31 July 2026 at

11.00 am Matinee Performance

Friday 31 July 2026 at

7.00 pm Opening Night

Evening Performance

Saturday 1 August 2026 at

7.00 pm Closing Night

Evening Performance

CONTACT NUMBERS AREAS FOR DIRECTION OF ENQUIRIES

For non-attendance or sickness of students please email:

aspire@mn.catholic.edu.au

ADMIN ASSISTANT ASPIRE:

Anne Atkins on 4979 1331 | 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, costume, production enquiries, repertoire, and website enquires.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ASPIRE:

Anna Kerrigan on 0424 961 775 | anna.kerrigan@mn.catholic.edu.au

Student concerns, behaviour, injuries, production week, fee relief, complaints and concerns regarding the program, publicity, staffing of the program and evaluation of the program.

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:

Kirsty Bowden

ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER:

Olivia Prentice

INSTRUMENTAL SPECIALIST:

Christopher Turner

INSTRUMENTAL SPECIALIST:

William Blundell

ASSISTANT DESIGN DIRECTOR:

Alice Scardone

STUDENT SUPPORT:

Chelsea Iddon

STAGE MANAGER:

Eden Bourne

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER:

Sarah Morris

ASPIRE INTERN:

Charlotte Wilkie



PARTICIPATION IN ASPIRE

THE PRODUCTION

The ASPIRE program will culminate in a 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 may be selected by the Artistic Director and Ensemble Directors 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. If this cannot be met, please do not accept a position in the program.

ATTENDANCE

Students are required to attend all specified rehearsal/workshop times and are expected to be punctual. A roll will be taken each week. If students are unable to attend due to illness or for some other reason, ASPIRE 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 production, students must attend all extra rehearsals, the dress rehearsal and the performances. Performing in ensembles is a team effort, where each performer engages with and contributes to ensure success. It is vital therefore that commitment to the program is a constant. **For older students, part time work commitments should be considered before committing to the program.**

Production attendance is not negotiable and must be a priority. Students and parents must carefully consider the dates of required rehearsals and production, particularly in relation to any competing school events such as exams/assessments, sports, debating, public speaking and competition participation.

PAYMENT OF THE PROGRAM FEE

A once only fee of **\$350** is payable to the Catholic Schools. This fee must be paid prior to the commencement of the first session, being **Tuesday 10th February 2026**. This fee is non-refundable.

Once this fee is paid, students will receive their package. All other costs associated with tuition, production ticket, production workshops, and venue hire etc. will be borne by the Catholic Schools. Incidental costs may be incurred but these will be kept to a minimum. Parents may be requested to provide some aspects of simple costuming. Students may need to provide 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 Insurance Policy in the same way as they are for other school related activities.

PRACTICE

To gain full benefit from the tuition provided, students will be expected to practise their roles/routines between sessions, in effect, homework is a mandatory requirement each week.

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 Catholic Schools, through the Artistic Director, in writing.

EXPECTATIONS FOR BEHAVIOUR

As a member of the ASPIRE program, all students are required to behave in a safe, cooperative, respectful and positive manner. Students whose behaviour is of concern will be approached in the initial instance by the Ensemble Director. If behaviour continues to be problematic, or poses a risk to the safety, welfare or wellbeing of the student, other students, or staff, parents will be informed.

Music, dance and drama are team activities, and therefore rely on patience, good manners and a shared approach for the group to achieve success. It is the responsibility of every ensemble member to work towards this success.

The expectations of student behaviour are the same as those required at school, being in accordance with the School Community Code of Conduct (enclosed). Participation in the program is regarded as a privilege, not a right. Therefore, we expect the highest standard of behaviour and manners from all involved with ASPIRE.

Parent engagement must also be in accordance with the School Community Code of Conduct, and otherwise as required in engagement with the school at which your child is enrolled.

RE-ENROLMENT IN THE ASPIRE PROGRAM

Students wishing to continue their involvement in the program will need to re-apply through the usual audition process. Re-enrolment is not automatic or assumed.

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, being 3rd August 2026.

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 before the production week 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.

COMMUNICATION

The Artistic Director will communicate regularly via email, COMPASS notifications, and newsletters 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 Catholic Schools website:
www.mn.catholic.edu.au/aspire

Please make sure to carefully read all communication so that you are well informed.

CONCERNS, COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

In the interests of generating a safe, respectful and productive environment, it is acknowledged that conflicts may 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 relevant Ensemble Director or Artistic Director so that initial handling can be dealt with as close to the concern as possible.

If the complaint or concern requires further intervention or investigation, or if you would prefer to remain anonymous, you may raise feedback or complaint directly to the Complaints Management Service by email to feedback@mn.catholic.org.au. The Diocesan Complaints Management Policy will be followed.

For more information you may access the following link: [Feedback and Complaints - Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle](#)

STUDENT USE OF MOBILE PHONES DURING ASPIRE PROGRAMS

Catholic Schools recognises that mobile phones and wearable technologies can pose risks and challenges to student wellbeing, learning and engagement.

In accordance with the Catholic Schools Use of Mobile Phones and Wearable Technologies Guideline, a switched off and away approach will be adopted as the expectation for student engagement in the ASPIRE program.

This means that students will be expected to have their mobile phones and wearable technologies **'off and away'** and stored safely in their bags during scheduled rehearsal and other required sessions associated with their participation in the ASPIRE program.

Unless informed by, or with agreement from the ASPIRE Artistic Director or other ASPIRE staff, students will not be permitted to remove their mobile phones or wearable technologies for use during allocated ASPIRE sessions including designated breaks. Appropriate times to use these technologies may include when students are requested to access resources from the ASPIRE Teams accounts and emails.

Students who have a significant diagnosed (or imputed) medical or learning need which will require them to access a mobile phone, or wearable technologies may seek an exemption based on these grounds. Appropriate evidence or supporting documentation will be required to support this request. Approval of exemptions are made by the ASPIRE Artistic Director and communicated in writing to parents.

Catholic Schools is not responsible and shall not be liable for any loss, theft, or damage to mobile phones and wearable technologies brought onto the site of the ASPIRE program.