

## ASPIRE Intern Blog #1

Well... here we go again. Another year, another intern, and even more blogs.

Rehearsals week one. Let me tell you, it's been quite the journey getting to this point. And no, I'm not talking about the heinous undertaking of battling traffic all the way from Maitland to the inner city and THEN trying to find a park (although that in itself is quite the journey). I'm talking about all the long, hard preparation that went into making sure this show even had a name. I'm still not sure how I feel about Lost and Found... so make sure you fill out the forms if you have ideas for something more fitting. Aaaaand trying to keep this year's merch colour a secret... how do we feel about the teal??



My favourite part about day one of rehearsals is always seeing all the new faces, and let me tell you, ASPIRE 2026 did not disappoint. A big warm welcome to everyone new joining the Aspire gang this year, and I just want you to know that Senior Drama are not as scary as they seem... I promise. And a big welcome back to all our returning ASPIRE students. It's been oddly wholesome watching those first conversations happen again the whole ordeal of "Wait... you're back again this year?" It's been really special seeing both sides of it, the brand new kids finding their feet, and the past students slipping straight back into something that clearly means a lot to them. It's a strange little community, but it feels like home.

This year, our ensemble directors wasted no time putting everyone straight to work. In my wandering around, I witnessed the design ensemble working collaboratively on concept building for some of the leads, and the ideas coming from this new group were incredible. It was so good to see everyone stepping out of their comfort zones and putting their best foot forward. I snuck my way into drama and got some thoughts and opinions on which characters and songs they were most excited for. I attempted to infiltrate band land and miserably failed, but whatever they were doing in there sounded great. GO BAND. Vocals kicked off the year with a sing-along to some of the best songs from the show (they better watch out though, because I heard Chelsea aka. Miss Iddon hitting those runs... definitely a shoe-in for this year's solo). Dance was working hard and serving energy: this year's dance ensemble is looking more determined than ever.



And just like that, week one was done. New faces, old friends, big ideas, and a whole lot of noise in every possible rehearsal space. If this is what week one looks like, I can't wait to see where the rest of the year takes us.

A slightly lost and most definitely excited  
Charlotte