

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 20 September 2019

New Performing Arts Academy boosts regional excellence in stage and performance

As a first for regional NSW schools, leading co-educational day and boarding College, Scots All Saints in Bathurst, today announced a new Performing Arts Academy to provide students of all ages from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12 with a complete and blended experience in the core disciplines of Music, Dance, Media and Drama.

Head of College, Mr John Weeks said this new holistic approach to stage, performance and entertainment has been introduced within our school learning environment to help students discover and pursue their passions for all things performing arts from an early age.

“Currently, we have a large proportion of our students involved in a wide range of performance within our College and we want to further encourage this. It is pleasing to see more than 90 students learning a string instrument, over 40 band ensembles, 2 large-scale on-stage musicals per year as well as community performances through the recent Junior and Middle/ Senior School Musical Showcases,” Mr Weeks said.

“Now we are taking this approach to the next level and giving it a boost. We have a highly inspiring learning environment for performing arts. Students will have access to a blended experience, combining Music, Drama, Media and Dance with real-life industry opportunities through stage performance, musical tours, musicals, bands, ensembles, production, lighting, staging sound recording and so much more.”

Under the direction of Mr Jonathan Clipsham, Head of Performing Arts Academy, the Scots All Saints College Performing Arts Academy will foster talent through collaboration with leading experts in the industry.

“We are fortunate to have a dedicated team of professional tutors, educators and specialists to provide extensive music, dance, drama, media and performance activities to expand and challenge students in all year groups. All students from our three tiers within the College of Junior, Middle and Senior School, have the opportunity to make art, be it in film, in a choir, riff on a guitar, dance or act,” Mr Clipsham said.

“This is a very exciting opportunity and we invite students with an interest in performing arts to join us to maximise this rewarding experience. We believe this focussed approach to performing arts will greatly boost the industry in regional NSW.”

Scots All Saints College Performing Arts Academy encourages energy, passion and hard work to achieve individual and team goals. Students have the opportunity to learn an instrument, sing in a choir, perform on-stage, thrive and excel in performing arts as part of the everyday learning. In addition, students can choose co-curricular activities in Pipes and Drums, Highland Dancing, contemporary dance, song writing, and technical components of stage such as lighting, sound recording and film.

Junior School students from Years K to 4 are currently rehearsing for the upcoming musical, *The Jungle Book* on Friday 1 November at 6pm, on All Saints Campus and auditions are underway for the 2020 Middle School and Senior School musical, *Annie*.

Recently, Scots All Saints College presented 42 music performances at the Bathurst Eisteddfod who were awarded 36 places altogether including 19 first places across many genres which was an exceptional result for the College.

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Media Photo Opportunity: Media are invited for a photo opportunity, tours and interviews with Head of College, Mr John Weeks and Mr Jonathan Clipsham in the Scots All Saints College Performing Arts Centre, Scots Campus, O'Connell Rd, Bathurst on Friday, 20 September at 10am.

