



Curriculum information for general Speech and Drama

(1) General Speech and Drama Groups

In Terms 1 and 2, students work on basic speaking and acting skills, including vigorous articulation, projection and breath control exercises. Students also begin working on their poetry anthologies and select pieces to compete in various Eisteddfod competitions throughout the year (optional). Students are also encouraged to choose their own stories/novels/prose texts to practise expressive reading techniques. The term ends with a Performance Poetry and Prose Open Class when all are welcome.

Term 2 includes public speaking and conversational exercises ending with their own polished talk, using cue cards. The end of term Open Class provides an opportunity to present their prose readings (if they haven't already done so in Term 1), with memorised introductions (Voice and Communication students) or a memorised prose section (Drama and Performance students) as well as their talks and/or formal presentations. Those who have entered for AMEB examinations will also put their learning to the test towards the end of June, using the work prepared in Terms 1 and 2.

Term 3 focuses on acting skills and rehearsals of a short play in preparation for a festival of plays on Drama Day, the 2nd Saturday of Term 4.

Term 4 includes Drama Day which is filmed, a useful tool for self-assessment and enjoyment, followed by creative and self-devised lessons and improvisations. Term 4 is also used to 'fill in the gaps' and to provide a relaxing, fun time for all. Beginner students are invited to join in the last 5 lessons of the year.

Entering **Eisteddfod competitions** is an exciting aspect of the course for those who wish to take these opportunities; it requires a high level of vocal skills and is a lot of fun! The Balaklava Eisteddfod is very popular in August each year.

Individual work is always encouraged to allow students to develop in such areas as oral poetry and prose reading, storytelling, impromptu and prepared talks, introduction of guest speakers, thank you speeches, conversational skills, voice and breathing techniques, and improvisation. Correct sounding of the speech sounds, a pleasant quality, flexible expressive pitch, adequate volume, distinct articulation, the use of pause and eye contact, appropriate character development, are fundamental elements of the course. As the student develops skills, Voice and Communication Examinations may be taken with the A.M.E.B. (Australian Music Examination Board) at the end of Term 2. These studies may eventually lead to the Certificate in Voice and Communication, Australia (CVCA) and the Associate Diploma in Professional Communication, Australia (APCA).

Drama Club is a "No-stress drama mess", a no-pressure class in which younger students learn the basics of socialisation, empathy, team-work and resilience through play and performance. These classes are NOT directed to AMEB exams and curriculum and suit those challenged by societal norms and communication, as well as those students who do not enjoy a pressure-packed situation. Students can move to other classes when they are ready. Drama Club fees are the same as Group fees but the classes are 1 hour in length.

(2) Advanced Speech and Drama Groups

This course is for those who are at least Year 6 and older, have completed at least one year of a Speech and Drama course and wish to take their training more seriously. Students will only be accepted for these groups if recommended by the teacher. Students will be given opportunities to compete in various Eisteddfods throughout the year. They may also work towards Speech and Drama AMEB examinations. Separate classes are available to study **Speech and Performance theory** which is necessary if the student wishes to continue on to Diploma Level. The AMEB Speech and Drama syllabus offers candidates the opportunity to develop performance and communication skills from Elementary to Third Grade, to consolidate technique and literary background from Fourth to Seventh Grades and to attain a high level of performance and technical knowledge at Diploma Level.