

Participation in Extracurricular Activities¹ Policy

At the Conservatorium High, two courses of study run concurrently: the NSW curriculum that is binding on all schools in this State, and the Conservatorium High music program that is unique to the State's only specialist music high school. The music program is funded by a grant from the State Non-Tertiary Music education grant. Con High students and their parents are the beneficiaries of that grant. The school must ensure that these special State funds are used to optimal advantage.

Accordingly, Con High commitments always take precedence over extra-curricular activities.

The school readily acknowledges that certain extra-curricular activities can be of benefit to students, if the activity serves to complement the school's music and/or academic programs. However, music making at Con High is a corporate based approach which gives back to the community - not an individual activity. Therefore, we do not encourage individual events such as competitions, examinations, etc.

Con High students have very full timetables into which many hours of personal practice have to be fitted. Before seeking permission to take on extra-curricular commitments, students must ensure that the proposed activity would neither clash with existing school obligations nor impede giving of one's best at school. Applicants seeking permission to take on additional (extra-curricular) activity must demonstrate how it can be accommodated on their timetable.

The prime focus of students in Years 11 & 12 (including accelerated students) is the Higher School Certificate (HSC). Any extra-curricular activities that fall during the period of preparation for the HSC will **not** be approved. In Term 4, Year 11 students work collectively with their elected House Captains to develop, rehearse and present the Con High end-of-year House Concerts, one of the highlights of the school's musical calendar. The school expects all Year 11 students to be committed wholeheartedly to the educational success of the House Concerts.

A student seeking permission to participate in an extra-curricular activity must submit a written request to the Principal outlining:

- a) What measures are proposed to minimise the impact of missing school
- b) The classes and school-based activities that would be missed.

If permission is granted, full responsibility for catching up on work rests with the student. Staff are not obliged or expected to devote extra time to assist the student.

HSC Assessment always takes precedence over extracurricular activities. On those infrequent occasions where an Assessment task procedure can be altered for the individual, Assessments must be submitted or completed prior to an absence due to extra-curricular commitment.

School Spectacular

Students in Years 10 & 11 **will not be** considered for involvement in Schools Spectacular due to the clash with HSC Assessments and House Concerts rehearsals running at the time of School Spectacular. HSC Course Assessment Tasks (for accelerated Year 10 students and all Year 11 students) **must** take precedence over any other engagement. The educational experiences associated with the House Concerts as a House Captain of Year 11 who lead the rehearsals and are responsible for all the associated production matters – are unique to Con High and naturally take precedence over School Spectacular.

In addition to the previously mentioned requirements, any student wishing to be considered for Schools Spectacular must seek approval from their House Captains to be absent for the whole week.

Any student wishing to be considered for Schools Spectacular must have demonstrated consistent and diligent application to all school subjects, be up-to-date with assessments, homework and in-school academic and musical "minimum requirements".

¹ This policy is applicable to, but not limited to the following activities and organisations: Sydney Youth Orchestras, Gondwana Choirs, eisteddfods, AMEB grade exams, Talent Development Project, Arts unit ensembles. Australian Youth Orchestra, music camps, School Spectacular.