



Wellesley in the Arts - 2019

Welcome to another vibrant year of “Wellesley in the Arts”.

2019 will undoubtedly be another exceptional year for our boys to ‘*discover their best*’ in the creative arts. As always, there are a lot of exciting things to look forward to, so we thought we’d provide a brief outline below.

Performing Arts lessons

Last year we welcomed Carolyn Currington to the team and she has done an incredibly wonderful job of turning the Performing Arts Suite into a dynamic, creative space for our boys to express themselves in. Her passion is undeniable, reinvigorating the music programme and creating interesting weekly lessons for our boys to enjoy. Outside of Wellesley, she willingly spends a lot of her free time leading and conducting a very successful Faultline Chorus group.

Visual Art Lessons

Glen Jorna, our resident artist, teaches Visual Art lessons to all of our boys. The boys receive a half term block of 90 minute lessons, learning about art history, the elements and principles of design, and skills and techniques relating to a variety of media: drawing, painting, mixed media, sculpture, print-making, photography, collage and design. The boys have opportunities to also showcase their work in exhibitions, attend art galleries and go on photography trips. Personally, Glen has developed as an artist over the last few years due to the encouragement of Principal Brendan Pitman to move his studio space to the art room. It’s a wonderful opportunity for our boys to not just see Glen as their teacher, but also as a successful artist who exhibits in local exhibitions.

Extra Curricular Activities in the Arts

Wellesley has always had a strong reputation in the Arts and we are fortunate to be able to offer the boys a number of extra curricular activities in the Arts. These include opportunities to learn a musical instrument, to be involved in the School Orchestra, to perform in the rock band, to sing in a choir, to act in a play, to practise drawing skills and to extend yourself in visual art. More information about these activities below.

Wellesley is indeed fortunate to have Mary-Anne Morgan who offers extra-curricular music activities. She is a talented pianist and singer with a long history in the Arts at Wellesley, and a passion for instrumental music. She is the contact person for music lessons, orchestra and rock band: mary-anne@wellesley.school.nz

Music Lessons

Private music lessons with our talented Itinerant music teachers begin in week 2. Instrumental tuition is available at Wellesley on piano, violin, woodwind (recorder, clarinet, saxophone), trumpet, drums and guitar. Specialist vocal tuition is also available. To enrol for lessons, please visit the Arts tab on the school website and fill in the music lesson enrolment form. You will be contacted directly by the music teacher who will give you all the information you need.

Orchestra

Boys of any age who have the ability to play an instrument to the level required are welcome to join the school orchestra. Music is usually at a Grade 2 or 3 level but it varies with the pieces chosen. Rehearsals start late in term 1 of each year, and run weekly until the end of term 3 currently. The goal is for boys to enjoy playing and performing together and to be the best they can be as a group. Boys perform at special school occasions and off site when opportunities arise. Playing at the Wellington Bands and Orchestra Festival is always a highlight!

Rock band

Rock band starts mid term 1 and runs the whole year. It is lead by guitar tutor Rob Joass. Priority is given to Y8 students however if a talented younger student auditions then a place may be made for him if possible. Rock band is paid for by parents. Boys perform at various events, engage in exchanges where possible and aim to enter 'Battle of the Bands' every year.

Wellesley Choir

Aside from Carolyn's role in teaching the Performing Arts curriculum, she also leads the school choir. It is an auditioned choir consisting of boys from year 6 to 8. They sing a wide variety of repertoire and have had up to 60 members in past few years. If your son is new to Wellesley and would like to be a part of the choir, he can let Carolyn know so that she can arrange an audition time. The choir has a two day camp at Silverstream retreat where they learn new songs and get to know each other better plus they sing at several school events and have annual exchanges with Queen Margaret and Chilton Saint James – these are always a highlight of the choir calendar. Rehearsals are one lunchtime (either Monday or Tuesday depending on the part they sing) and Wednesday afternoon 2.10-3pm.

If you have any queries about the choir please contact Carolyn: carolyn@wellesley.school.nz

Year 4 and 5 choir

This year Carolyn is also starting a choir for the boys in years 4 and 5. This is for anyone interested in being part of a singing group. Unlike the Year 6-8 choir, this is not auditioned, so anyone from the year 4 and 5 classes who wants to be in it can. The focus is on developing a singing culture and having some fun. Rehearsals will be Friday lunchtime.

If you have any queries about the choir please contact Carolyn: carolyn@wellesley.school.nz

Drama Club

If you are keen to be improve your acting skills, Wellesley will be offering a Drama Club this year. These boys will have opportunities to perform at various school events. Most of the rehearsals will occur during lunch-times. More details about the Drama Club will follow soon.

Drawing Club

Every lunchtime, the art room is open for boys to come and participate in a drawing club and practise their drawing skills. Sometimes they are given a drawing prompt, but most of the time they can draw what they want. They can sketch in their visual diaries, or bring in equipment of their own. This space at lunch-time has a relaxed feel to it, with music playing in the background. Every boy is welcome.

Art Extension

Art extension classes will be offered again this year for our Year 8 boys and possibly a few Year 7 boys (depending on space in these classes). The classes will run on a Wednesday afternoon until 4:30pm. These boys have the opportunity to work independently on an area of interest, under the guidance of their art teacher, Glen Jorna. They will have opportunities to create resolved artworks with a high level of craftsmanship, with the intention to showcase them in exhibitions. One of these boys will also be chosen to receive the Major art prize at the end of the year (more details below). The contact for Art Extension classes is Glen Jorna: glen@wellesley.school.nz

Art Week and “Create for a Cause” Student Art Exhibition

Wellesley runs a popular biennial ART WEEK programme and this year the student art exhibition will occur on an evening in Term 3. The Hall is transformed into a contemporary art gallery, for our students to showcase the work they created during Art Week. All of the student work will be for sale, and the buyer will be asked to make a donation - whatever they see fit. All of the money raised will then be donated to a charity chosen by the boys.

ARTBOURNE Artist in Residence Programme

This year in Term 3, we welcome an established artist (tbc) to take up a 3 week residency at the College, in the adjoining studio to the Art Room. This is a wonderful opportunity for the boys to have a behind-the-scenes insight into the process of an artist, from initial conceptual ideas, through to the creation of highly crafted resolved pieces of work. Our artist in residence will then have an opportunity to showcase their work alongside our students' work at the Student Art Exhibition evening in Term 3.

ARTBOURNE Artist Workshop Series

As part of our ARTBOURNE programme and due to the success last year of the Weekend Workshop led by our 2017 Artist in Residence Richard Adams, we will be offering three art workshops during the year, to include the resident artist's workshop. More details on this and how to register will be communicated through to parents through the Wellesley Weekly Newsletter.

Warren and Victoria Miro Contemporary Art Award - Y8

An Old Boy from the early 1950s, Warren Miro, with his wife Victoria run a series of world renowned galleries called Victoria Miro. Together, they want to provide a wonderful opportunity for one of our boys.

Each year, a Year 8 promising artist will be selected from those applying to receive the Warren and Victoria Miro Contemporary Art Award. The process surrounding the application and the conditions of the award and the subsequent scholarship will be advised at a later date. In the meantime, I'm currently working on offering an Art extension programme (as mentioned) to some of our Senior boys this year, and this extension class will be the first stage in being able to apply for the award at the end of this year.

As you can see, Wellesley provides wonderful opportunities for our boys to discover themselves in the Arts. I personally thank all of the teachers who so willingly devote their time and share their expertise to developing our Arts programme.

Glen Jorna
(Head of the Arts)

DISCOVER YOUR BEST
