

Dear sir or madam

I am gravely concerned about the proposed withdrawal of funding for the Canterbury Girls' Secondary College music program.

In the words of my daughter, Erin 'But that would rip the heart out of my school'.

This program is integral to the school's learning offer and has enormous educational benefit, including:

- . Positive learning impact, particularly in mathematics disciplines where the overlap between concepts such as patterns, proportions and percentage are reinforced.
- . The daily need for practice supports student development of organisation, personal discipline and accountability to their own outcomes.
- . Progress and development is a joy to the students and encourages a positive attitude to learning. The sort of attitude we should be fostering in all our children if they are to become thought leaders and life-long learners of the future.
- . Musical ensembles establish team work in a way that sporting teams simply cannot. Members of a band or orchestra are as integral to the performance as each tiny mechanism within a clock or wristwatch. This is critical learning that supports the concept that even the tiniest part has a role to play. A valuable lesson students can draw on right through their career and adult life.
- . Sharing music lessons and group participation establishes and consolidates strong connections within the student body, the school community and beyond.
- . The many opportunities this program presents are fertile ground for creative thinking, promoting leadership and developing whole individuals.
- . The positive self esteem students draw from the recognition of their peers, performance opportunities and simply week-by-week improvement is a highly desirable outcome.

I am unsure as to the supporting rationale for any decision to withdraw this valuable cultural element from Canterbury Girls' Secondary College. However, it is my personal belief that not everything of educational worth is easily measured by tests and scores.

Indeed, every modern-day entrepreneur of note has a similar story about a inspiring guide or mentor. If such are to be our citizens of the future, we cannot leave students searching for the encouragement and motivation the CGSC music program already provides.

Anne Macindoe