

To whom it may concern

My name is Miriam Pekolj and my daughter attends St. Helena Secondary College. She is currently in Year 10 and is learning the trumpet at the school.

I have found that she has become more focused in other areas of school life and believe that has occurred because of learning to play an instrument. She has a much better concentration level than when she was in primary school and enjoys going to school each day regardless of whether she has a lesson or not. She is now also doing Music Performance as a subject in Year 10, has been in a school band since she started at high school (currently in Senior Band and Intermediate Jazz) and is excited about anything she hears on the radio, television or live (especially if trumpet is a feature instrument). She has learnt time management skills which help her juggle her school work, band rehearsals, school play commitments and sport commitments. She has become a much more confident person undertaking different responsibilities (such as being Stage Manager for the school plays) than she would otherwise have done. I believe this is directly due to learning to play an instrument at school as she now has the confidence to perform in front of other people. She is very excited at the moment as she has been told that she is First Trumpet for the Intermediate Jazz Band. I would recommend that funding be continued for all school instrumental programs as it gives students the chance to learn instruments that they may not have thought of previously, is a great chance to interact with students of all abilities and ages, builds confidence in their abilities not only musically but academically as well and lets them achieve anything they want to! The more music the better!

Thank you

Miriam Pekolj

