

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to make comment about the Music Education Programme that my daughter is involved in at school.

We came over to Australia 4 years ago from the UK.

My daughter had been playing the cornet in the UK and was involved in bands both at school and externally.

She started at St Helena Secondary College, Eltham North a month after we arrived in Australia.

On arrival at school she immediately started with instrumental lessons and joined the intermediate concert band. It was not long before she was asked to join the intermediate jazz band and the senior concert band.

My daughter had what can only be described as a 'rough' year in year 10. She became very despondant about her school experience. As a family we supported her as much as we could but she also received some amazing support from the music department at school. When I say the music department I mean the school music teachers, her instrumental teacher and her band colleagues. I strongly believe that it was this support that made her want to go to school and eventually got her through the year. It would be fair to say that the bands members are very close and support each other in lots of ways. My daughter has a lot of respect for the music teachers and the work that they do.

My daughter is now in year 12. She plays trumpet in both senior concert band and senior jazz band. She also sings with the senior jazz band. She is also one of the music captains. Music performance is one of the subjects that she is studying for her VCE and she would like to make a career in music of some form.

I hope this can contribute to your discussions about the Music Education Programme in schools.

If you have any questions or I can help you any further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kate Holmes

