

As parents of a student at Canterbury Girls Secondary College we are very concerned to hear that there may be funding cuts to the school music program. Music is an integral and extremely valuable part of our school educational program. For many high school students, it is the one area in which they can really excel. Music and the music teacher have made the difference between a student remaining at school and gaining success or dropping out and being reduced to failure. For students, not only does a good music program give them the opportunity to experience another medium, there is a direct link between rhythm and the ability to learn and memorise for many students. A good music program which is tuned in to the needs of students not only forms close links between school and life for many students, but it also develops close links with parents and our wider community. Schools can't exist without one.

Being one of the multiple intelligences, music makes an important contribution in providing a balanced education. Music promotes the acquisition and development of many skills. It enhances hand/eye co-ordination, fine and gross motor skills, SELF CONFIDENCE, CONCENTRATION and memory. Music also provides rich opportunities for purposeful interaction with others. As an integrated part of the curriculum, music aids the development of literacy and numeracy skills. There is a strong body of research which indicates children who are exposed to a rich related arts experience perform better in other areas of their academic pursuits. Some children who have difficulty in other subjects at school can shine in music, thus building self esteem and a positive attitude to their learning.

The music program at the school was one of the reasons we chose this school for our daughter and we would like to strongly register our opposition to any changes to this wonderful music program.

Yours sincerely

Clare & Martin Jones