

September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are currently gauging the level of interest in students joining the Belconnen High School Band Program in 2027. If you would like to enrol your child in this program next year, please fill out the attached application. There are many good reasons to join a band in Year 7 including giving students an immediate social anchor and a powerful cognitive boost during the high school transition. Amongst the many benefits are:

- **Instant Social Connection:** Band creates an immediate, supportive community. Students bond across different primary school feeder groups through shared goals, regular rehearsals, and performances.
- **Cognitive Acceleration:** Fine-tuning instrumental skills acts as a full-brain workout, strengthening executive function, working memory, and spatial reasoning that directly benefit a wide range of skills and brain development including maths and literacy.
- **Discipline and Resilience:** Learning an instrument normalises making mistakes and practicing through them, building self-regulation, patience, and confidence under low-stakes pressure.
- **An Inclusive Fresh Start:** Australian Year 7 band programs cater heavily to complete beginners in addition to providing opportunities for continuing students. They offer an equal-opportunity environment where students can try something new without needing prior experience.
- **Stronger School Belonging:** Early participation in co-curricular music increases overall school engagement, attendance, and pride in the broader school culture.

Currently Band is for students from Year 7 – 10 and is run one afternoon a week from 2:50pm – 4:30pm. It is open to all students, whether they were in their IMP Band in primary school or are complete beginners. ***Please note that there is limited help available at present for beginner students, and they may need to have private lessons outside of school to enable them to participate fully in the BHS Band Program.***

Participation in the school Band incurs a fee of \$65 per year, which covers instrument hire, repairs and maintenance. Students can choose from the following:

Flute
Clarinet
Alto/Tenor Saxophone

Trumpet
Trombone
Euphonium

Tuba
Bass Guitar
Percussion

If your child already plays oboe, bass clarinet or French horn, please contact the school – there is currently no provision for beginners on these instruments in Year 7.

Please contact john.alston-campbell@ed.act.edu.au for support with payment, including the possibility of a payment plan.

Please be aware that we need to balance student preference with the balance of instruments in the Band. We can't have large numbers of bass and percussion players, and for this reason we may need to ask your child to audition for that instrument. It is important that students know if they choose percussion that this isn't just drums – they will also be expected to play mallet and auxiliary percussion as well.

If you would like your child to be in the school Band program, please fill out the Expression of Interest regardless of participation: [School Band Expression of Interest](#). Applications for School Band will be sent later in the year.

Please don't hesitate to call the school on 6142 1690 or email our Band teacher [Holly Britton](#), or head of the Arts and Technology faculty, [Jo Hopman](#) for further information about this program.

Kind regards,

Paul Branson
Principal