

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT REPORT

FEBRUARY 2, 2016

Welcome back to another year of music making here at Clayfield College and my first newsletter as acting Head of Department while Angela Lockyer takes some well-deserved long service leave.

There have been some staffing changes in the Music Department over the break. Paula Newcombe, Chloe Williamson, Tony Bernal and Sarah Crane will unfortunately not be continuing with us this year. However, we welcome Charlotte Burbrook and Emily Francis (strings), Sophie Collis (Bass) and Leanne Kenneally (vocal) as they join our tuition staff in 2016. Shannon has been very busy over the break ensuring all parents of students affected by these changes have been notified.

We are also delighted to welcome to our classroom teaching staff, Miss Kate Llewellyn, on a one-term contract while Mrs Lockyer is on leave. Kate will be teaching some primary classes, as well as taking year twelve classroom music, Music Extension and the College Canzona.

In week six of this term we will farewell Mrs Shannon Tobin as she takes maternity leave. Shannon's current role will be divided into a Co-ordinator of Strings position and a Director of Co-curricular. We welcome back to staff Mrs Vicki Dede to fill the Strings position, while Miss Aimee Sisley will increase her current role in the department to include Director of Co-curricular music.

Sofie Spencer is enjoying her new role as Head of Campbell house, but will still continue to teach for the music department and continues as Director of Senior choir. We are working hard to strike a good balance of demands for Sofie as she works between two very busy departments as such she sends her apologies tonight.

This week all ensembles and choirs commenced rehearsing for 2016. As mentioned in newsletters late last year, there has been a restructure of the choirs for 2016. In the Primary school there are now two choirs: Piccolo Choir for students in years 2 & 3 and Campo Della Voci for students in years 4,5 & 6. Piccolo will rehearse in the Chapel, Friday mornings at 7.30am and an email outlining reasons for this changes was sent home last week. Campo Della Voci will take over the rehearsal space previously occupied by the discontinued Mezzo choir, and will meet on Tuesday, 7.15am in the Chapel. Both these groups will be directed by Ann Slade in 2016.

In the secondary school, Clayfield Choristers, (now open to students in years 7,8 & 9) and Senior choir (year 10,11 & 12) continue to rehearse on Wednesday mornings. Miss Sofie Spencer will remain as director of Senior Choir and Mrs Wendy Rolls will take on the direction of Clayfield Choristers.

A new initiative this year, the BEGINNER BAND PROGRAM kicks off this Thursday with the timbre test, and we expect that instruments will be allocated by the end of this week with lessons starting in full next week. Eighteen students so far.

Already there have been individuals and groups preparing for early performances. Thanks to Shannon and Tim who organised students to provide music at the P&F welcome evening last Friday night. They achieved wonders in a short time frame and under less than ideal conditions. This Friday the String Quartet will play at the first Academic awards ceremony of the year and Tim's Brass ensemble are busy preparing to play at foundation day assembly on Tuesday. There is no slow start to the year here.

There has been much work done around the school over the break and the music rooms did not miss out. Room 91 & 92 have seen fresh paint and the large concrete beams removed. Carpet has gone into rooms Mu1, 91 and 92 and new shelving is going into the upstairs rooms this week as well.

I would like to welcome and thank all the parents and our MSG executive who have made me feel so at ease at this first meeting as HOD. Enough from me – need to talk about the busy year ahead.