

Gifted and Talented Policy

Rationale and Belief Statement

Gifted and talented students have unique social, emotional and learning needs which should be recognised, valued and catered for appropriately. MCSS has a responsibility to educate all students to their full potential and produce high quality educational outcomes for all, including gifted and talented students. We have an obligation to provide developmentally appropriate educational provisions and strategies through differentiation, grouping, acceleration and ongoing learning experiences in a challenging and engaging environment.

MCSS Mission Statement

MCSS fosters a supportive environment of respect, trust and intercultural understanding. Each student is encouraged and challenged to learn, grow and accomplish personal, academic, social and vocational excellence.

Definition

“Giftedness refers to a student’s outstanding natural abilities or aptitudes located in one or more domains.”

“Talent refers to a student's outstanding performance in one or more fields of human activity...”

(ETD Gifted and Talented Student Policy 2014).

Gagne’s model recognises giftedness as a broad concept that encompasses various abilities including intellectual, creative, leadership, social and physical skills that places the student at the minimum in the top 10% of age peers in that domain.

“Giftedness refers to potential distinctly beyond the average for the student’s age and encompasses a broad range of abilities in the intellectual, creative, socio-economic and physical domains. Talented denotes achievement distinctly beyond the average for a student’s age as a result of application to training and practice” *(NSWDET)*

The Gifted and Talented Program at MCSS is called the Magellan Program.

Magellan Primary School Program – will involve students in the feeder primary schools.

Magellan High School Program – will cater for students studying at years 7 – 10 level.

Magellan College Program- will cater for students studying at the year 10 – 12 level.

Students involved in any of the Magellan programs may be referred to as “Magellan Students”.

Gifted and Talented may be referred to as “GAT” in this document.

Aims

The MCSS Gifted and Talented Student Policy aims:

- To enact the ETD Gifted and Talented Students Policy 2014.
- To identify gifted and talented students within the school using a range of identified subjective and objective measures.
- To maximise learning outcomes for students with special abilities.
- To offer a developmentally appropriate program to Gifted and Talented students.

- To support gifted students as they transition from Years 5 & 6 (through the Magellan Primary Program) through to Year 12.
- Engage the teachers, students, ETD and parents to work collaboratively to share the responsibility in the education of students with special abilities.
- To encourage the achievement of excellence in all students.
- To enable students so they can independently manage the unique demands placed on gifted students as they achieve their potential.
- To raise parent and student awareness of opportunities and challenges to students with special abilities.

Identification of Gifted and Talented Students

It is essential that identification of gifted and talented students is rigorous and transparent. The process must be justifiable and defensible and include a comprehensive range of identified tools. Consistent with the ACT ETD Gifted and Talented Student Policy 2014, and therefore MCSS, identification is considered with reference to Gagne’s Differentiated Model of Giftedness and Talent (2008). (Appendix 1)

Gifted students are found in all communities, regardless of socio-economic, cultural or ethnic background. Some students are difficult to identify, as they may be underachievers, have a disability or specific learning difficulties. Identification at MCSS will be an ongoing process and will continually evolve, recognising different levels of giftedness. It will use multiple criteria and tools appropriate to our community and population and use a range of objective and subjective measures that are culturally fair, ethical and transparent. It is important to not only identify GAT students, but to identify their level of giftedness.

MCSS may include the following tools as part of their identification process:

Objective Testing:

- CogAT Test
- AGAT Test
- NAPLAN test
- Off level testing
- PAT Maths, PAT Reading and / or PAT Science
- Teacher developed testing
- Talent identification through performance

Subjective Testing:

- Parent checklists and nominations
- Under achievement checklists
- Teacher-Nominations and interviews
- Peer-Nominations
- Self-Nominations
- Observational and anecdotal evidence
- Rating Scales eg the Purdue Academic Rating scales
- Educational history

MCSS will follow guidelines set out in the ACT Gifted and Talented Student Policy 2014 relating to identification. Training will be provided to staff relating to GAT Identification and the use of a trained psychologist will be enlisted to oversee testing of students that require a specialised approach.

Identification Process
All students will complete and submit the Magellan and Fast Pace Application form. (If applicable, Parent/Peer/Self Nominations to be completed and submitted with Magellan Application form.
Magellan primary students receive automatic entry into the Magellan HS Program (but for information purposes will also complete the other elements of the identification process, including the Magellan Application form and testing.
Objective Testing (eg CogAT & PAT)
Magellan Interviews
Where required, additional data sourced from primary schools and Gifted and Talented Liaison Officers from the primary schools (GaTLOs) will be sourced
Letters of placement sent out to the successful candidates via email
Unsuccessful candidates contacted via email
Second round offers sent out where available

Specific Skills

Successful Fast Paced students are characterised by a high level of academic skills, evidence of which could include:

- Above average grades in key subjects
- An inquiring approach and independent learning skills
- Being a reader by choice
- Expressing ideas and information confidently and creatively in a variety of communication modes
- Interest in gaining in-depth knowledge
- NAPLAN and Academic Competition results
- Mastery of basic numeracy processes
- Showing a thoughtful consideration of their own learning

Formation of classes

The most significant of these programs is MAGELLAN, a program for students who have been identified as gifted and/or talented in one or a number of disciplines. These students have a specially modified curriculum that extends and challenges like-minded and like-ability students. Students may move through the curriculum at an accelerated rate but are also able to go into more depth to develop their higher order thinking skills. Students also benefit socially from enrichment activities and mixing with students with similar interests and abilities.

In Years 7-10, students may be offered placements in MAGELLAN in the core subjects Mathematics, Science, Language and Literature (English) and Individuals and Society (SOSE). MCSS also recognises that students may be gifted and or talented in specific areas. This may mean that students may be in the Magellan Program for some but not all subjects. Magellan will run for four years from Year 7 to Year 10 in the High School with the addition of a year 10 Magellan program being offered on our college campus. While the college campus does offer a Magellan program for Years 11 and 12, because of the wide variety of curriculum choices, it does not have Magellan classes.

Student numbers and ability levels of each cohort of students will determine the exact configuration of the Magellan Program for each year group. It may include a standalone class for core subjects or run with a Magellan stream and additional Magellan elective. Teachers of the Magellan Program are offered specific professional learning to better meet the needs of GAT students.

Expectations and Placement Review

Students accepted into the Magellan Program are expected to maintain a high standard of academic achievement and satisfactory progress and effort. Students are also expected to maintain a willingness to work consistently at a high level to remain in these classes. Those students who are not coping with the level of work may be disadvantaged by staying in the Magellan program and may be placed in a class that better allows those students to fulfil their potential. Student placements are reviewed at the end of each semester or as required. Parents and carers will be consulted if there are any concerns and if movement in or out of the Magellan Program are being considered (refer identification flowchart in appendix for more information).

GAT education and the IB MYP

A focus on the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) inquiry-based learning model is a major feature of our year 7-10 curriculum. This prepares students well for either the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme or the *ACT Senior Secondary Certificate*

Within the MYP framework, we encourage organisational skills, individual research with both interdisciplinary and global connections. The MYP also creates inquisitive learners who integrate their own passion for learning in a holistic way

In Year 9 the students commence their MYP Personal Project, lasting 9 months, which is both demanding and rewarding. It is externally moderated by the International Baccalaureate ensuring high global standards. It allows high ability students to follow an area of passion to a high academic level they may not have had the opportunity to study



within their subject areas. Skills associated with in-depth study of unit modules are promoted by MYP learning processes.

Key Elements of the Magellan Program at MCSS

- **Magellan Primary Program** – prior to entering MCSS, identified and selected GAT students from partnering primary schools will be involved in an ongoing program that challenges and extends students in science and mathematics

At MCSS a multi-faceted approach will be taken for gifted and/ or talented students. These will include:

- **Differentiation** – Magellan students will be identified in their specific area of giftedness. These students will be catered for through a differentiated curriculum. Being a MYP candidate school, we have an inquiry-based learning focus, which supports differentiation in the classroom. Magellan students will be identified to staff within their class.

- **Grouping & Extension**– at regular times, Magellan students will be taken out of the normal classroom setting and grouped with students of similar ability to undertake a challenging and educationally appropriate program to meet their specific needs. They may miss some class content but as they would have demonstrated mastery in it. What will be provided will replace the content with a more developmentally appropriate, complex and or abstract program that will provide rigorous and challenging work beyond the scope of their peers.

- **School and ACT Wide Competitions** – Magellan students are encouraged to participate in a range of Academic Competitions and Challenges to extend and enrich their education such as OZCLO, Tournament of the Minds, Da Vinci Decathlon, ICAS, National Sporting Competitions, and Dance Eisteddfods etc.

- **Acceleration- within the current class. / Curriculum Compacting** – allows students to remain in the same class but accelerate through the normal curriculum, allowing them to advance in the relevant subject area.

- **Subject Acceleration** – a developmentally appropriate placement of students ahead of their chronological age or their chronological peers in one or more subjects or by one or more whole learning years.

- **ILP** – Individual Learning Plan, where the case management process recommends it or students undergo subject or whole year acceleration, when students have identified dual exceptionalities or a parent or carer requests it and deemed appropriate. (Dual exceptionality (or twice-exceptionality) refers to gifted students who also present with one or more specific learning difficulties; physical, emotional or behavioural disabilities; or other factors which may impair performance and mask high potential.)

- **Talent Workshops** – specialised workshops for identified students in specialist areas (GATEWAYS, GERRIC, MCSS developed)

- **Honours Program** – subject specific specialisation that recognises consistent outstanding achievement and participation in extension and enrichment programs within the MCSS school community.



- **Enrichment** – embedded program at MCSS that provides opportunities to enhance, extend and enrich student’s education through programs run outside the normal classroom environment.
- **Independent study** – GAT students often achieve greater success and higher levels of engagement through the use of independent study.
- **Differentiated Homework** – homework can be tailored to meet the needs of the Magellan students, without increasing the burden of homework quantity.
- **Mentors** – where appropriate, students may be paired up with a mentor to help the student reach their potential and cope with their unique needs.
- **Graded Classes in selected subject areas** – Fast Pace classes are selected on past achievement, selection criteria and established potential identified through the MCSS Identification Process.
- **Head Start** - early entry to college. Students in Year 10 have the opportunity to begin their college entry during year 10 in a range of specialised subjects.
- **Subject specific programs** – may include band, musicals and performing or visual arts programs, talented athlete programs and Fast Pace classes strengthened to offer further opportunities for Magellan students

MCSS fosters collaborative home – school partnerships to identify students and meet their educational needs. An open and transparent system of identification and engagement will be communicated with parents through a special newsletter.

Honours

Both programs have close connections with the MCSS Honours program. The MCSS Honours Program aims to provide a range of enrichment and extension activities to all students with gifts and / or talents. The Honours Program also serves to recognise the outstanding achievements of individual students and their contribution to the wider MCSS culture. Honours are subject based awards. The Honours Program will be run each academic year, with students receiving their Honours Certificate at the end of the year.

It is a requirement that Magellan students compete in a minimum of two Academic Competitions in their area of strength and/ or interest per year.

Additional Magellan Programs on offer during the school year:

Magellan Dance

Talented Sports Program

Faculty extension programs (including academic competitions – refer to appendix).

Policy documents and resources:

ACT Education and Training Directorate Gifted and Talented Students Policy 2014 (updated 2017)



Cagne's Differentiated Model of Giftedness and Talent

IB Middle Years programme: *From Principles to Practice*, May 2014

The *Australian Curriculum* can be viewed online: <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au>

IBO Middle Years Programme: *Further guidance for developing MYP assessed curriculum*, April 2015

Review Dates:

June 2014

June 2016

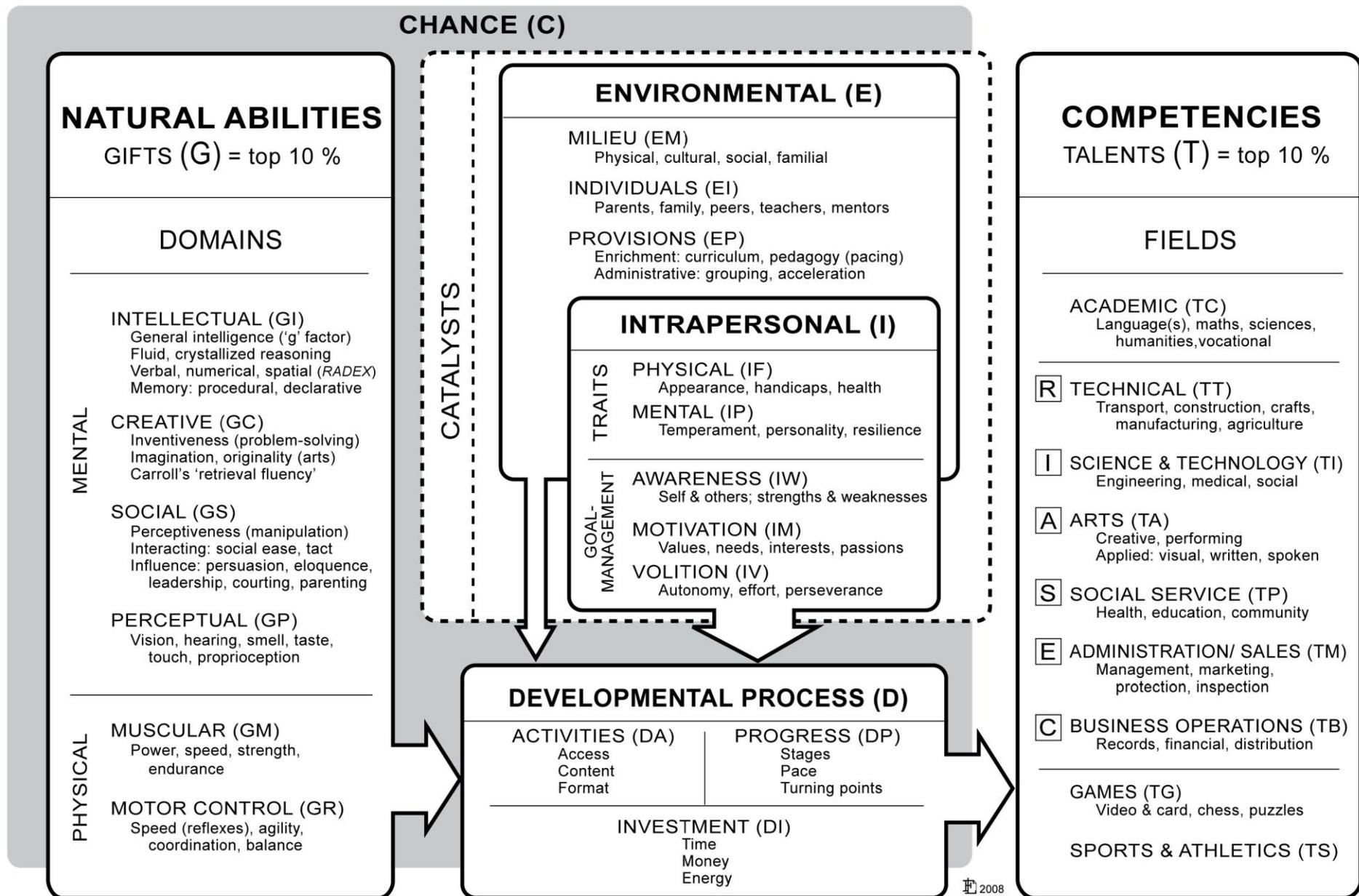
April 2018

April 2019

Appendix:

- Cagne's Differentiated Model of Giftedness and Talent (2008).
- Identification Flowchart
- Faculty extension programs





MCSS Gifted and Talented (G&T) Magellan and Fast-Paced Programmes

Application by early June:

All students complete and submit the Magellan / Fast Pace Application form to MCSS. Students may be nominated by parents/guardian or their school.

Assessment:

During the enrolment process, a range of evidence will be collected using multiple criteria and tools appropriate to the MCSS community and population. This will include Magellan testing run by MCSS in **mid to late June**, as well as subjective tools such as teacher or parent checklists, GaTLOs (Primary School Gifted and Talented Liaison Officers) referrals, educational history, performance evidence etc.

Identification:

Student data and evidence assessed by the G&T Committee to determine each student's suitability for the Magellan and Fast Pace Programs. Committee advises Executive of class placements.

Placement in other classes:

Students placed into classes, including FAST PACE, based on gathered evidence.

Identified as Gifted and Talented

Not identified as Gifted & Talented.

Evaluation:

Evaluation of student progress in the Magellan and Fast Pace programs each semester or as required.

Magellan Program:

Students placed in a specially designed curriculum that extends and challenges like-minded and like-ability students.

Acceleration:

Within subjects or year group through off level and/or psychometric testing.
accelerate
 the Years Program
 Diploma Program

Faculty Extension Opportunities

Language & Literature and Individuals & Society

Program / what could be offered	Date	Year groups					
		7	8	9	10	11	12
Magellan Program	All Year	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Australian Geography Competition	May	✓	✓	✓	✓		
ICAS Writing	May	✓	✓	✓	✓		
ICAS Spelling	May	✓	✓	✓	✓		
ICAS English	July	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Australian History Competition	March	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Dorothy McKellar Poetry Competition	Term 2	✓					
International Baccalaureate Certificates (Literature, History, Philosophy, Psychology)							✓
Litlinks Writing Competition						✓	✓
UNSW English Competition						✓	✓
National History Challenge						✓	✓
ANU Social Sciences Day						✓	✓

Language Acquisition

Program / what could be offered	Date	Year groups					
		7	8	9	10	11	12
OZCLO: Work in a team of four to complete a 2-hour language analysis challenge. The winners from each region then compete at a national level. Achievements are recognised at the junior (years 9-10) and senior (years 11-12) levels.	July-August			✓	✓	✓	✓
ANU Language Extension Program Year 11/12							✓
Education Perfect Language Perfect Championships	April	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Student Exchange opportunities	Various			✓	✓	✓	✓
International Trips	Various			✓	✓	✓	✓
French and Spanish Film festivals	March	✓	✓	✓	✓		
International Baccalaureate Certificate							✓
ANU Languages Day						✓	✓
Mandarin Contest Award							✓
Australia and China Friendship Society Awards							✓



Science & Design

Program / what could be offered	Date	Year groups					
		7	8	9	10	11	12
Magellan Program	All year	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Australian National Chemistry Quiz	August	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Australian STEM Video Challenge: Ever wanted to design and build your very own video game? All you need is a couple of friends and a great idea. The challenge is divided into categories for Years 5-8 and Years 9-12. Upper Primary and Secondary (Year levels 5-12)	February - April	✓	✓	✓	✓		
ACT Science Fair Projects	January - August	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Streamwatch project. https://australianmuseum.net.au/streamwatch Water quality monitoring project engaging students with community groups around testing local watercourses.	All Year	✓	✓	✓	✓		
ICAS Science	All year	✓	✓	✓	✓		
ICAS Digital Technologies	All year	✓	✓	✓	✓		
NCSS Coding Challenge (programming)	July	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Hour of code Competition(programming)	December	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Code Quest Competition (Python Coding)(Request will be sent to the Shared Services to install Python IDE onto students' Chromebooks)	July	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Web.Comp (HTMLCSS)	March	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Computational And Algorithmic Thinking (CAT): A one-hour competition where you'll have to use your problem solving skills to perform procedures and answer questions. There are four papers; upper primary, years 7-8; intermediate years 9-10; senior years 11-12	March/April	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

RoboCup Junior Australia : Work as a team to program your robot to compete against others in a game of soccer, a dance routine, or a rescue mission. There are competitions right across the country – check out their website for dates and details.	September	✓	✓	✓	✓		
National Cyber Security Challenge	From February	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Google Code-in: Discover what it's like to work on an open source project, as you complete bite-sized tasks and compete against other students from around the world.			✓	✓	✓		
Cyber Taipan – Cyber Security challenge	Term 3 and 4			✓	✓	✓	✓
CIT Bridge Building	Term 2				✓	✓	✓

Health & Physical Education

Program / what could be offered	Date	Year groups					
		7	8	9	10	11	12
Talented Athlete Program	All Year	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Volleyball Squad	All Year	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Exercise Science	All Year				✓	✓	✓
College Sport and Recreation	All Year / Sem 2				✓	✓	✓
College Sport	All Year				✓	✓	✓

Mathematics

Program / what could be offered	Date	Year groups					
		7	8	9	10	11	12
Magellan Program	All Year	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Maths Olympiad: 5 competitions over 5 months (school funded)	March - September	✓	✓				
Australian Maths Competition	July / August	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ANU Maths Day							✓

Arts

Program / what could be offered	Date	Year groups					
		7	8	9	10	11	12
Limelight	July / August	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Art Competition: http://www.ozkids.com.au/gallery.php	September	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Art Competition: http://www.blackswanprize.com.au/	April – July	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Band Program – includes performances and eisteddfods	All year	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dance Festival	September	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



MCSS Arts Extravaganza	October / November	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
School Musical	Semester 1 2020	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ANU School of Art (3 day residential)						✓	✓
ANU School of Music – Prep courses – college				✓	✓		
Magellan Dance Program	All year	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CIT Rock Band Comp – College?				✓	✓		
Deck Design Competition				✓			
Dance Eisteddfod	August		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

