

## JOHN CURTIN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS: A UNIQUE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

John Curtin College of the Arts was one of the first Independent Public schools in the State and is Western Australia's only Selective Arts College. We cater for more than 1600 students from Years 7 to 12 and offer Gifted and Talented programs in Ballet, Dance, Drama, Media Arts, Music, Music Theatre and Visual Arts, as well as a Specialist Soccer Excellence Program. As a Registered Training Organisation (50549) we provide accredited certificate courses in arts related industries.

Our dedicated and professional staff provide an academically balanced educational program with a focus on academic excellence, Gifted and Talented arts and soccer excellence. We strive to provide an holistic education for all students with a focus on pursuing personal excellence in learning for life. Students study a full range of academic subjects to complement their studies within the Gifted and Talented Arts and specialist Soccer Excellence Programs.

We provide a specialised differentiated curriculum for Gifted and Talented Arts students and those identified as academically talented, providing them with opportunities for extension, enrichment and acceleration. Students have the advantage of being able to interact with peers across the Arts, and work in an Arts environment that provides extensive opportunities to learn.

Learning occurs in a caring, supportive and inclusive environment that is responsive to students' abilities, needs and learning styles, and which challenges and engages them to achieve excellence in their particular field. Learning is underpinned by the college values of creativity, innovation and imagination; respect, care and compassion; excellence; a fair go; responsibility; and integrity.

We have an outstanding record of academic achievement and we are highly ranked in the top schools in Australia and the State for Year 12 university entrance examinations and academic achievement. In order to cater for the highly able students, the college provides academic extension programs in humanities, mathematics and science.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM) education has innovation, and creative and critical thinking at its core. As winner of the 2017 Governor's School STEM Award for Leadership Excellence, we are a leader in advocacy, engagement and achievement of STEAM in public schools. Our collaborative whole school approach to STEAM is integrated and supported throughout all learning areas.

Students have access to state-of-the-arts facilities, including dance and rehearsal studios, art studios, media arts studio and two theatres, all offering unparalleled learning opportunities. Students are given unique opportunities to participate in performances, exhibitions and concerts.

Our strong community and parental support contributes to exemplary student achievement.

Expert, merit selected teachers in all learning areas demonstrate high levels of knowledge, understanding and commitment to excellence in their specific disciplines. They are often gifted performers with expertise in their own field and are well connected with industry. Teaching staff are expected to complete professional development in the delivery of gifted and talented education.

Access to arts industry based professionals to support the learning of students is unique to the college. These professionals include tutors in the Arts, artists in residence, and guest directors, choreographers and performers, who provide flexibility and diversity to the programs.

Teaching staff at John Curtin College of the Arts are expected to demonstrate commitment to:

- Creating an environment of excellence based on shared and agreed goals.
- Using a well-constructed differentiated curriculum to address the needs of all students in their classes.
- Utilising effective assessment/diagnostic evidence as a basis for student differentiation.
- Providing curriculum materials for individual gifted and talented learners, in which students are differentiated, accelerated, enriched and extended, as appropriate.
- Collaborating with colleagues in planning and structuring learning programs and activities.
- Ongoing professional learning. Teachers will be prepared to model learning, engage in reflective practices and ongoing professional development, particularly in the area of gifted and talented education.
- Modelling the values of the college.
- Working with parents and the wider community to support students' learning.
- A dress code which reflects the professional ethos of the college.

As a selective school, there is an expectation of all staff to understand and engage in different research methods and styles that reflect current research and practice in gifted and talented education.

Our students use their love and passion for the arts to help them achieve their academic goals and become confident, creative and tolerant community members and leaders. Immersion in their area of interest and ability value adds to their academic learning, enabling them to achieve to their full academic potential and have a range of choices on completing their secondary schooling.