

Programs of

EXCELLENCE





Cairns State High School offers a range of Programs of Excellence which offer a range of high-performance programs.

These Programs of Excellence extend student curriculum experience provided by normal QCAA classes in Years 7-12. Students develop skills, attributes, talents, abilities and academic knowledge beyond the standard classroom setting. This often involves students engaging in extra-curricular performances, school events, competitions, projects, community events and industry-specific activities. These activities may be on a local, state, national or international level.

Students often have access to additional resources, experts in their field, as well as community/business and industry mentors in order to develop individual student skills and attributes. Real world activities, problem solving, performances, tournaments/matches and other scheduled events are an integral part of all of these programs.

Students engage in a selection process to access a Program of Excellence whether they reside within the enrolment catchment or outside the catchment area.

Excellence Programs also require students to attend the program outside of the normal school hours and all enrolled students must attend these timetabled sessions. This could be before school from as early as 6.00am or 7.00am or after school until as late as 5.30pm depending on the length of the program lessons for each week.

Students and parents/carers should be aware of their commitment to pay fees, attend associated events, performances, workshops or activities related to the Excellence Program.

Christopher Zilm

Executive Principal





The STEM program

Cairns State High School is at the forefront of the STEM (Science, technology, engineering and mathematics) agenda. The range of subjects on offer to every student in compulsory, elective and extension curriculum provide for a full range of learning opportunities. STEM touches almost every aspect of our lives.

Innovations driven by people skilled in STEM are changing how we live, work and understand the world.

Students engaging in the Program of Excellence in Aerospace & Engineering are provided with unique opportunities to explore STEM concepts within the realistic work experiences provided by Engineering and Aerospace. The program empowers students to harness opportunities designed to enable them to meet future challenges in these fields. The program helps our students harness the opportunities and meet the challenges of the future.

Areas of Study

- Flight dynamics, drones and rockets
- Coding and robotics
- Data collection
- Engineering study challenge

Assessment/Workload

Assessment is of a highly practical nature complemented by design folios.

Careers

There are multiple websites listed at the careers page on our website.



Contact

Mark Hall, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Champion

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The Choral program

Choral Music caters for all students interested in developing their singing skills through choral singing the school choirs: Young Singers Ensemble (Years 7-9), Young Men's Choir and Cairns State High Chorale (Years 9-12). Year 9 students will be placed in the choir most suited to their experience and vocal development.

The course is essentially practical and is designed to develop in participating students, the knowledge, skills and experiences associated with vocal and choral music from a wide range of styles and periods. The academic content of the course is presented in the context of practical experience. This content is intended to develop the students' musicianship skills and ability to appreciate and interpret choral and vocal music.

Areas of Study

- Vocal skills (voice production, choral blending)
- Musicianship skills (musical literacy, aural ability, sight-singing)
- Performance skills (solo, small group, large group stage presence)
- Interpretational skills (style, phrasing, dynamics, etc.)
- Attitudinal skills (responsibility, confidence, independence, leadership, pride in achievements)
- Appreciation skills (choral music in general, community groups (Australia and overseas) involved in choral music etc.)

Students will study, listen to and, if possible, attend rehearsals of a number of local, interstate and overseas choirs. They will be given the opportunity to work with guest conductors and possibly other school or community choirs. It is hoped that by emphasizing and enhancing student abilities to enjoy and participate in vocal and choral music, they will enter the community as musically active performers and as an educated audience.

Assessment/Workload

Assessment by way of attendance and performances, knowledge of parts and general participation and behaviour will occur throughout the course. Students may need to make themselves available for the Eisteddfod.

Associated Subject Costs

Subject fees to cover text and resources

Contacts

Lauren Hannay, Director of Choral Music

lhann8@eq.edu.au





The Instrumental program

- Big Band
- Chamber Strings
- Jazz ensemble
- Percussion ensembles (Senior/Junior)
- Stage Band
- String Orchestra
- Symphonic Winds
- Symphony Orchestra
- And other ensembles and groups

Music is one part of the total education of a child. Students are led to a high-level awareness of music and an appreciation of the part music plays in their own lives and the lives of others.

Areas of Study

- The Instrument
- Playing Posture
- Tone Production
- Tuning and Intonation
- Articulation
- Symbols and Terms
- Rhythmic and Melodic Perception
- Sight Reading
- Performance
- Improvisation and Composition

Students will study, listen to, and, if possible, attend performances of a number of local, interstate and overseas ensembles. They will be given the opportunity to work with guest conductors and participate in master classes. Students will also be expected to attend and review a number of instrumental performances. It is hoped that by emphasizing and enhancing student abilities to enjoy and participate in instrumental music, they will enter the community as musically active performers and as an educated audience.

Assessment/Workload

Assessment is by way of attendance and performances, knowledge of parts and general participation which will occur throughout the course.

Associated Subject Costs

Students are encouraged to attend various professional performances and selected students will have the opportunity to participate in workshops/master classes.

Contacts

Lizanne Smith, Director of Music

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Dance

Students engaging in the Program of Excellence Dance:

- Extend both performance and choreographic appreciation skills beyond the classroom situation
- Develop creative thinking through combining the expressive and aesthetic qualities in the use of mind and body
- Develop communication of issues and ideas using the body as the instrument of expression
- Develop the complete artist through exposure to a range of resources and experiences to challenge and extend

Areas of Study

This course offers three main areas: performance, choreography and appreciation

- Understanding your style
- Eisteddfod performance and costume creation
- Group choreography for Dance Night
- Performance for Dance Night
- Other public performance

Special Subject Advice

- Students wishing to do this subject generally also engage in private dance lessons
- Entry is by audition in late January/early February of the current year
- Places are limited to approx. 18-20 students
- Senior (11-12) Tuesday afternoon 3:15pm - 5:20pm
- Intermediate (9-10) Tuesday afternoon 3:15 - 4:30pm
- Junior (7-8) Wednesday afternoon 3:15 - 4:30pm

Assessment/Workload

By way of performances and set choreographic tasks. Some of these are public performances which occur outside of school time.

Associated Subject Costs

There will be a cost to cover costume costs, guest artist workshops, theatre performances, make-up and Eisteddfod entry fee.

Contacts

Lauren Portman, Dance teacher - lport91@eq.edu.au

David Marsden, Head of Department The Arts - dmars34@eq.edu.au





Drama

The POE Drama program:

- provides students with a range of acting and performance skills in a variety of contexts
- extends both performance and forming skills beyond the classroom situation
- provides opportunities for students to publically perform
- develops the complete artist through exposure to a range of resources and experiences to challenge and extend.

Areas of Study

Making/Forming

- Improvisation
- Playbuilding
- Blocking
- Devising

Making/Performing

- Improvisation
- Scripted drama
- Performance
- Physical theatre
- Realism

Special Subject Advice

- Focus is on practical work and performance
- Entry is by audition in late January/early February for the current year
- Places are limited to approximately 20-22 students
- Junior Thursday 3:15-4:30pm
- Intermediate Thursday 3:15-4:45pm
- Senior Thursday 3:15-5:30pm

Assessment/Workload

By way of polished performances. Students will need to be available for some events which may occur during school holidays. Although much of the workload is conducted during class time, students will be required to attend lunchtime and weekend rehearsals in the lead up to public performances.

Associated Subject Costs

There will be additional fees to cover play texts, guest artist workshops, competition entry costs, costumes and props for production.

Contacts

Nicole Cleland, Kelly O'Mahony: Drama Teachers
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David Marsden, Head of Department The Arts
dmars34@eq.edu.au





Basketball & Football (Soccer)

The POE Sport provides the region's elite junior sports people with a skill and knowledge platform from which they can maximise their performance. Students will not only be taught how to perform skills but will also be coached to understand the concepts behind that skill and the physical requirements needed to successfully carry out the task.

Areas of Study

Five main areas of study are highlighted and common throughout all subjects:

- Intensive individual and team concept trainings
- Athletic development program, including strength and conditioning
- Sports Science (psychology, nutrition, etc.)
- Refereeing, coaching and administration (accreditation and practice)
- Life skills (time management, goal setting, etc.).

Special Subject Advice

Each program is supported by their various local and state associations. The basketball program has strong links with the Cairns Taipans NBL team.

Assessment/Workload

Each subject varies in the workload required and the associated assessment.

Associated Subject Costs

Applicants should note that there is a cost involved in these subjects. Some subjects may require their participants to be involved in fundraising activities. Applicants from outside the Cairns region are required to find suitable accommodation.

Contacts

Damon Heuir, Director of Basketball - dheui0@eq.edu.au

Josh Taylor, Director of Football (Boys) - jtayl783@eq.edu.au

Josh Purton Director of Football (Girls) - jppur0@eq.edu.au

Geoff Mayes, Head of Sport - gmaye1@eq.edu.au





Visual Art & Film

Programs of Excellence in Art and Film provide opportunities for students to work in areas of the visual arts that are not possible in the normal school curriculum. The program is suited to students who are creative, passionate and highly motivated in the visual arts. It is interesting to note that Cairns State High School has been offering a visual art excellence program since 1985. In the COE Visual Arts there is a strong focus on

- access to media, processes and techniques beyond the normal curriculum.
- a high level of resolved work suitable for exhibition in both school and community galleries and community events, for example - CAD wearable art Fashion Parade.
- linking with industry professionals and artists through masterclasses, artists in school programs, exhibitions, gallery visits, artist talks and collaborative projects.
- provide a program which will link studio practice with specialised individual focus

Areas of Study

This course offers a wide variety of practical visual arts experiences, focusing on the development of deep knowledge in technical processes and techniques. Some examples for Art are ***Drawing, Printmaking, Ceramics, Sculpture, Painting, Fibre Arts, Photography and Projection Art, Fashion Design and Public Art.***

Special Subject Advice

Entry is by audition

Assessment/Workload

Assessment is by way of attendance and involvement in group exhibitions. Making, responding and participation will be assessed throughout the course. Students should note that the class takes place after school on Tuesdays from 3.10pm - 4.20pm.

Associated Subject Costs

A fee goes towards the purchase of materials and equipment for studio practice.

Contact

David Marsden, Head of Department The Arts

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