



**MERCEDIS
COLLEGE**



Curriculum Extension Activities

Performing Arts

Curriculum Extension Activities (CEAs) provide a wonderful way for students to learn and grow, outside of the classroom. We encourage our students to be creative and critical thinkers, try new things and take risks – all of which help to build resilience, develop leadership skills, and discover new passions and areas of interest.

Mercedes College has always had a strong focus on the Performing Arts, as we understand the value of creative expression, importance of social interactions, and benefits of physical performance, as well as being part of a choir, ensemble, dance troupe, or cast.

There are a wide range of opportunities for students in the Performing Arts realm. We have several choirs, bands, drama performances, dance troupes, and musical ensembles, and there are opportunities for students from Year 2 to Year 12 to be involved.

Welcome to the world of Performing Arts at Mercedes College...

College Production (Years 8–12)

Audition required

Students will be involved in on and off-stage roles to bring a College Musical, or Dramatic Performance to life. All onstage roles have an audition process. Backstage positions involve an interview process to secure these roles. The College Production is staged in Term 2 or Term 3.

Rehearsals occur after school and/or on weekends. There is a full production week prior to the show opening, and all performances (matinee and evening) are open to the public. This is a high-performance experience, and attendance at all rehearsals is essential.

Dance Club (Years 4–5 and Years 6–8)

Our Dance Club is open to Junior and Middle School students. They learn the foundation techniques of dance, with a focus on jazz, hip-hop, and lyrical styles. Students acquire knowledge of combination sequences, rhythm and timing, as well as technical dance terminology and the fundamental elements of dance.

Throughout the year, there are opportunities for students to perform in front of their peers, helping build performance and confidence skills. (Dance shoes required for Middle School students).

Dance and Play (Reception –Year 2)

This lunchtime opportunity is to introduce students to the foundations of dance, musicality, tempo, and coordination.

It is an ideal start for any young students with an interest in movement, with a strong focus on building confidence and teamwork skills.

CEA | Performing Arts

Drama Company (Years 3–5 and Years 6–9)

Junior and Middle School students in our Drama Companies will learn how to develop their stagecraft skills through participation in weekly drama sessions, with a focus on improvisation and theatre sports.

Middle School students participate in Semester 1, and Junior School in Semester 2.

Festival Choir (Years 5–7)

Audition required for Year 5

Our Festival Choir aims to bring together budding singers to help build skills in musicianship and performing as part of an ensemble. No prior singing experience is required and students are not expected to be able to read music, as this skill will be encouraged and developed. The Festival Choir performs at major College events, and externally in the annual Catholic Schools Music Festival.

Jazz Combo (Years 9–12)

Our Jazz Combo is an advanced ensemble that plays a variety of jazz music in a small group setting.

Students must have extensive experience with their instrument, be able to demonstrate advancing skills (including highly proficient note reading and musicianship) and strive to deliver a very high standard of music by focussing on jazz rhythms, articulation and style.

This ensemble performs at College events throughout the year, and as our leading Jazz ensemble, attends the Generations in Jazz Festival at Mount Gambier (one weekend in May - additional cost TBC).

Guitar Ensemble (Years 5–12)

Students will be placed into one of multiple ensembles that best match their current developmental stage.

Ensembles will develop a range of musical styles such as electric/rock, acoustic, traditional, and modern numbers.

Guitar ensembles are suitable for students with beginner/intermediate experience playing acoustic guitar (approximately Preliminary to Grade 1 ANZCA exam level) right up to students who can demonstrate advancing skills (including highly proficient note reading and musicianship), and those somewhere inbetween.

All Guitar Ensembles play at College events throughout the year, helping to build confidence and performance skills.

College Orchestra – includes Strings Ensemble, Stage Band and Percussion (Years 5–12)

Our Mercedes College Orchestra will form the foundation of our ensembles, with students attending a weekly Orchestra rehearsal that breaks into smaller groups.

Orchestra allows our school community to combine the individual talents and dedication of our students into an impressive larger group.

Based on the students, numbers and skill levels, other groups such as Stage Band, Strings Ensemble, and Percussion will be formed.

Cost includes Orchestra and the other bands.

Stage Band, primarily comprised of trombones, trumpets, saxophones and a rhythm section, will also perform at the Generations in Jazz Festival at Mount Gambier (one weekend in May - additional cost TBC).



Art has the power to transform, illuminate, educate, and inspire...

CEA | Performing Arts

Percussion Ensemble (Years 5–12)

Students just starting to learn an instrument are encouraged to join this ensemble. Ensemble members will learn music reading skills, ensemble playing techniques, and basic percussion techniques, which will set them up well as they progress with their instrumental studies, and will play arrangements on a range of traditional and non-traditional percussion instruments.

Petites Voix Choir (Years 2–4)

This Choir is for our youngest singers and focusses on building teamwork skills and confidence while participating in a Choir. Students are not expected to read music. Songs will be sung in unison (one part) with an introduction to harmonies (singing in two parts).

Petites Voix performs at College events throughout the year.

Rock Band (Years 3–5)

Our Junior Rock Band will introduce students to the unique elements of rock music across a range of instruments.

Rock Band (Years 6–7)

The Middle Rock Band is suited to students who are comfortable with their chosen instrument who wish to develop their repertoire of rock tunes.

This band will perform at College and community events across the year.

Sing and Move (Reception –Year 2)

Run over eight weeks of Term 3, students will have the opportunity to spend one lunchtime a week using their voices and bodies to communicate.

Students will learn the foundations of vocal control, and how to tell stories through song and movement.

Key to these sessions will be a focus on building confidence and presentation skills through wlt is expected that students in the intermediate ensemble can read standard notation and play notes on all strings.

Ensembles perform at College events throughout the year, which provides great performance opportunities for our younger musicians in their formative years.



Vocal Ensemble (Years 8–12)

Audition required

Our Vocal Ensemble will be a mature choir of singers with good knowledge of vocal technique, developing strong harmonies, and at least a basic familiarity with reading sheet music.

This ensemble will form the heart of many College events, including whole-of-College Eucharistic celebrations.

Vivace Choir (Years 8–12)

Vivace is for students who are looking for challenging vocal repertoires. Students do not have to study voice, however it is highly recommended. This is an advanced Choir and an audition is required.

It is expected that students have some experience reading music/following a score. Vivace performs at College events throughout the year, and at the Generations in Jazz Festival at Mount Gambier (one weekend in May - additional cost TBC).

VoxPop Choir (Years 7–12)

Students who learn other instruments (for example, piano) are strongly encouraged to join this ensemble to complement their instrumental playing with vocals. No singing experience is required, and students are not expected to read music, however this is a skill that can be developed during rehearsals. VoxPop performs at College events throughout the year.

This is a great way to expand students' musical knowledge and skills performing in a group ensemble context.

Further Opportunities

Generations in Jazz

Our Jazz Combo, Stage Band and Vivace Choir have the opportunity to participate in annual Generations in Jazz Festival in Mount Gambier.

A weekend where more than 5,000 students get the chance to play in 'the big top' and hone their skills in this popular music genre (one weekend in May - additional cost TBC).

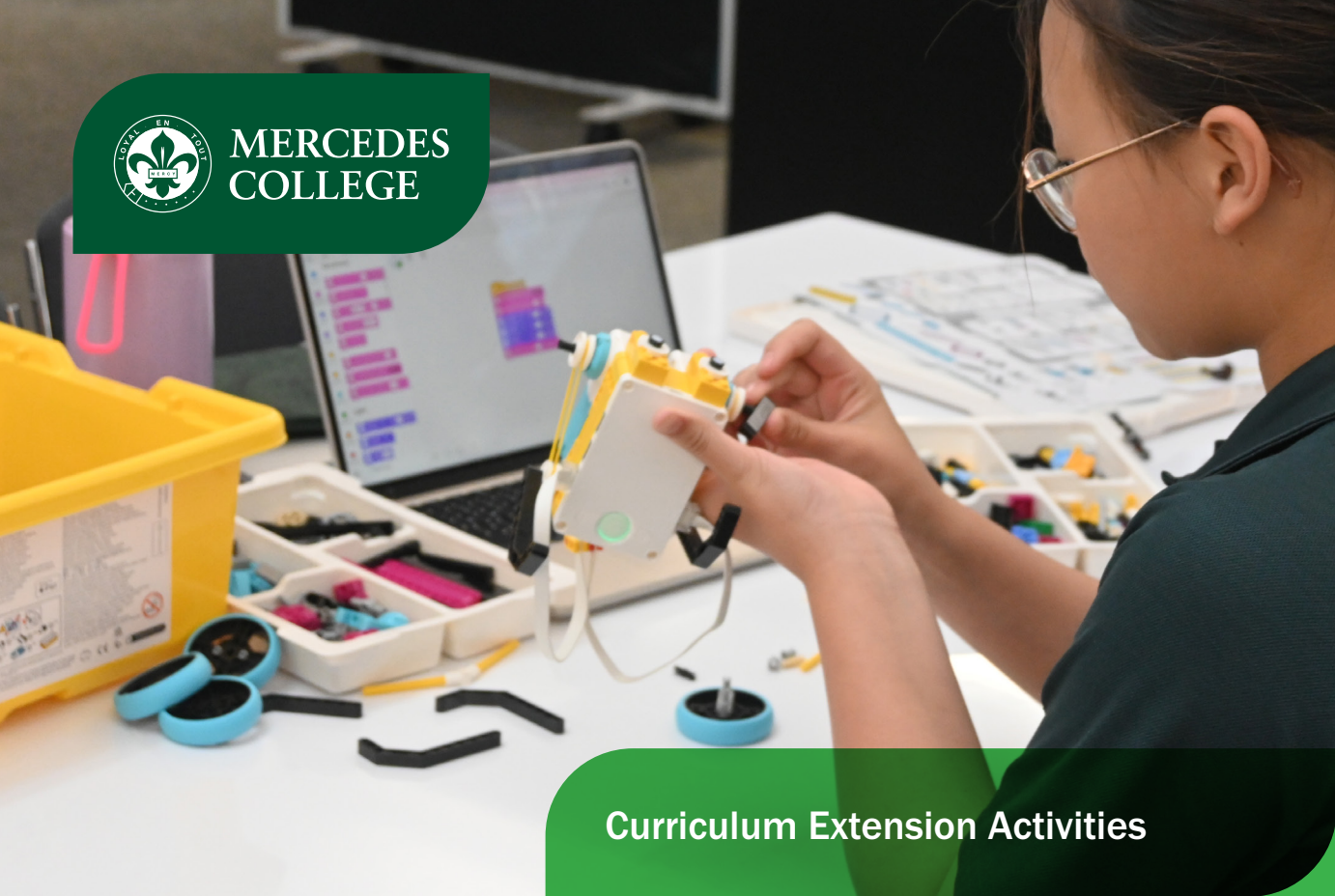
Catholic Schools Music Festival

The Catholic Schools Music Festival is a week-long showcase involving approximately 2,000 upper primary and secondary Catholic school students.

Our Festival Choir forms part of the 374-voice, combined school choir, and other performers have the opportunity to audition to be included in the programme.



**MERCEDES
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Curriculum Extension Activities

Clubs and Societies

Curriculum Extension Activities (CEAs) provide a wonderful way for students to learn and grow, outside of the classroom. We encourage our students to be creative and critical thinkers, try new things and take risks – all of which help to build resilience, develop leadership skills and discover new passions and areas of interest.

Mercedes College has a wide range of Clubs and Societies that students can be involved in.

Welcome to the world of Clubs and Societies at Mercedes College...

Art Club (Junior, Middle and Senior Schools)

Students work in art rooms at lunchtimes to create personal projects with guidance from teaching staff. Projects may include painting, drawing, sewing, crafts, or other interests.

Senior students also have the opportunity to work with an Artist in Residence to develop drawing and painting techniques. This is also open to teachers, and parents. Over the last two years this has included local artists such as Rebecca Hastings and Mel Brown sharing their oil painting skills to create portraits.

Being You | Boys (Year 9)

Designed to help boys navigate their journey into manhood, Being You provides students with an outlet to explore what it is to be a man in today's society. It is an opportunity for peers to discuss stereotypes and challenges specific to adolescence, whilst building strong bonds and personal resilience. With a focus on health and social education, the programme includes weekly workshops covering topics such as mateship, leadership, respectful relationships, managing feelings and risky behaviours, and an end of Term three-day camp. Students submit a written application with their reasons for wanting to be involved in this programme after attending an information session in the new year.

Break Free | Girls (Year 9)

Break Free is an opportunity for girls to raise and discuss topics that build trust, communication, and independent thought. Specific topics include social media use, norms and trends, bullying and exclusion, and influences and role models. Bonds created and learning undertaken by participants culminates in an end of Term three-day camp. Students submit a written application with their reasons for wanting to be involved in this programme after attending an information session in the new year.



Chess (Junior, Middle and Senior Schools)

Students interested in playing Chess, and who wish to develop their skill levels, are all welcome and encouraged to participate in Chess at Mercedes College.

Participants receive weekly coaching at the College and are expected to commit to all coaching sessions.

Selected Chess students play on a team in fortnightly competitions against other teams at a similar skill level. Competitions are run through the South Australian Junior Chess League.

Students wishing to receive coaching without competing are also encouraged to sign up to attend weekly training only.

Debating (Junior, Middle and Senior Schools)

Debating has a rich tradition at the College and in 2024 two of our Year 9 students were awarded 'Debator of the Year' for their age and year level in both male and female categories.

Debating has many benefits – including creative consideration of topics, public speaking skills, confident presentation, agile thinking, and engagement – all great life skills.

Debating planning and coaching are facilitated with a Debating Coach at the College during recess or lunch.

Competitive debates are coordinated by Debating SA.



Mock Trial (Years 10–12)

Mock Trial, facilitated by the Law Society of South Australia, simulates court cases where students from opposing schools contest a fictional legal matter. Students receive an introduction to the law, legal processes, and the South Australian legal system in general, with guidance and experience with members of the legal profession, including Members of the Judiciary.

Our Senior School students have a reputation for excelling at Mock Trial and is a great experience for those interested in this area of learning.

Oliphant Science Awards (Rec-Year 12)

The Oliphant Science Awards inspire students to explore science and develop critical thinking skills through hands-on projects in categories such as Scientific Research, Science Writing, Multimedia Presentations, and Experimental Investigations.

Participants are evaluated based on their creativity, scientific methodology, and presentation skills, with awards recognising exceptional work in each category.



**A group that
challenges
and inspires
you will
change your
life forever...**

CEA | Clubs and Societies

Mercedes College has a commitment to Science across our curriculum, and students have won state awards for their projects.

Podcasting (Years 7–12)

The Podcasting Club provides students with the opportunity to conceptualise, record, and edit their own podcasts with like-minded peers.

It takes a 'by students, for students' approach, giving them agency in the kinds of content they create, and allows them to develop skills in collaborating, writing, presenting, interviewing and editing.

Students are encouraged to interview College staff as well as invite external guests into the studio.

Robotics (Years 6–12)

The Mercedes College Robotics Club meets weekly to design, build, and code robots while developing engineering, programming, and teamwork skills.

Each year our students take part in South Australian industry-based competitions (Past examples include the VEX Challenge, SA Power Networks Schools Competition). All new members are welcome.

STEP Trek | Mimili (Years 9–10)

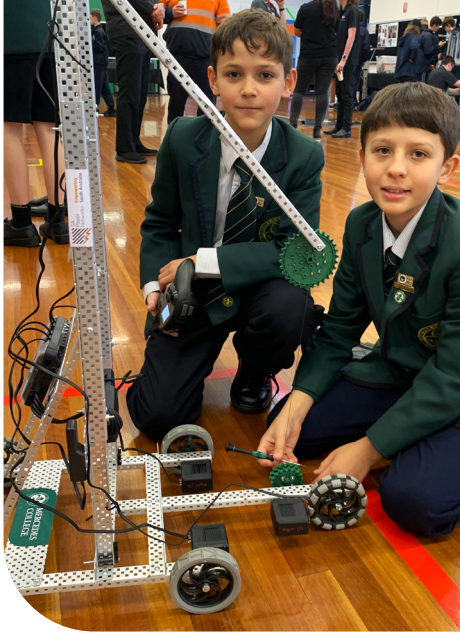
The annual Study Thinking Extension Programme (STEP) Trek has been running for 27 years at the College, and is based on a long-standing relationship with the community of Mimili in the APY Lands.

Students are taken into the Australian desert and spend 10 days as guests in Mimili, building an understanding of indigenous communities and their culture, and learning more about Australian history.

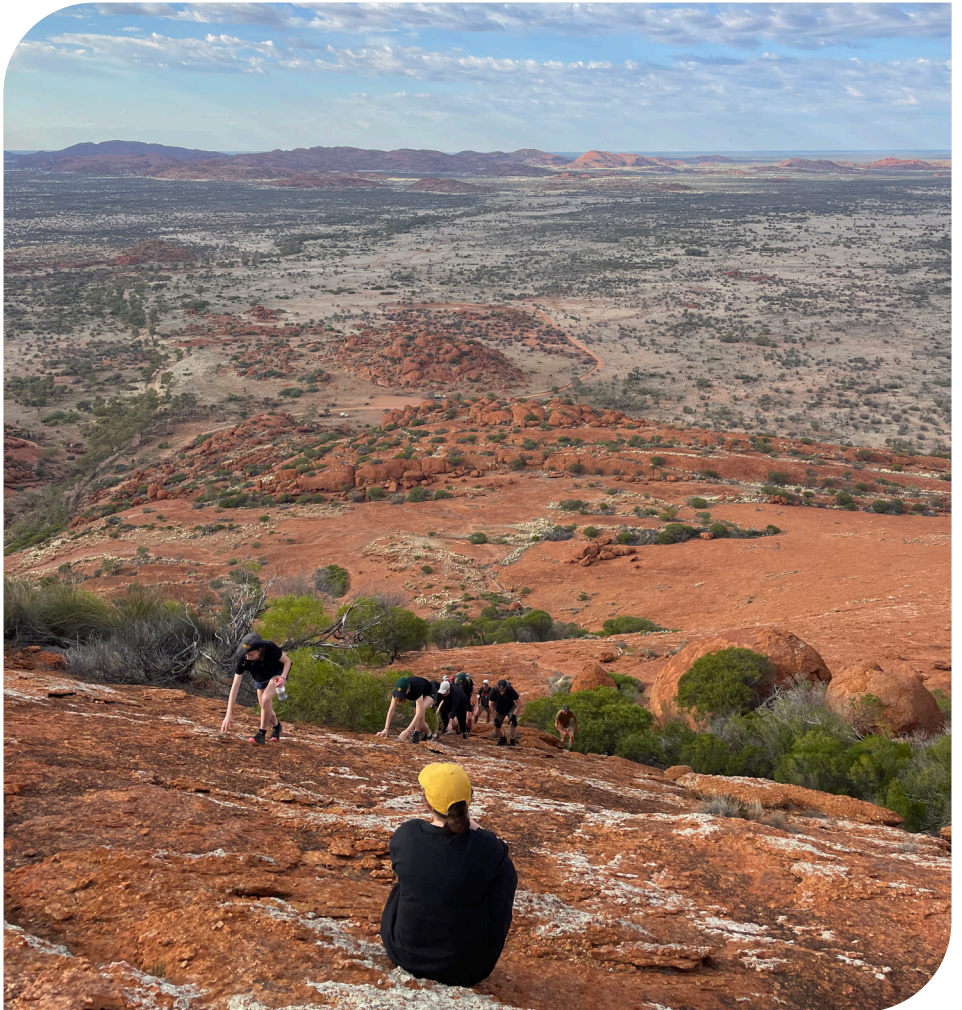
Students apply to go on this life-changing Trek through a written submission.

Junior School Coding (Years 2–5)

An introduction to programming languages and design principles, our Junior School Coding Club develops critical and creative thinking skills that opens an early love of digital technologies.



The path to greatness is alongside others...





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Sport

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Mercedes College has a long and proud sports heritage. We see it as an important part of life – working as a team, and building resilience, communication and leadership – all invaluable life skills on and off the court or field.

We also believe in the importance of moving, keeping fit, and developing an enjoyment for healthy and respectful competition.

Mercedes College offers a wide range of sporting opportunities for students from Reception through to Year 12 – ranging from having fun and taking part to high performance skills development.

Welcome to the world of Sport at Mercedes College...

Primary (Rec-Year 6)

Summer | Term 1 and Term 4

Athletics
Cricket
Introduction to Sports (various)
Basketball Academy
Softball Development
Swimming
Table Tennis Development
Tennis Development
Touch Football
Volleyball

Winter | Term 2 and Term 3

Auskick
Basketball
Cross Country
Football
Netball
Netball Development
Soccer
Tennis Development

Secondary (Years 7-12)

Summer | Term 1 and Term 4

Athletics - Mixed
Basketball - Girls
Cricket - Boys
Tennis - Girls and Boys
Touch Football - Girls
Volleyball - Girls and Boys
Water Polo - Girls and Boys

Winter | Term 2 and Term 3

Basketball - Boys
Cross Country - Mixed
Football - Girls and Boys
Netball - Girls
Soccer - Girls and Boys
Strength and Conditioning Training - Mixed
Table Tennis - Mixed

Further Opportunities

District and Statewide Competitions

Statewide carnivals and knockout competitions offer an invaluable opportunity for students. These performance-based events enable students to demonstrate their skills and gain experience in other competitive settings.

Mercedes College enters teams based on the previous year's performance, and current nominations.

Additionally, students can compete in prestigious State Championship events in sports such as Athletics, Cross Country, Netball and Swimming, provided they demonstrate consistent, high-level involvement.

Interstate Tournaments

Throughout the year, Mercedes College offers numerous opportunities for students to travel interstate to play in tournaments against teams from across Australia and beyond.

Representative teams are selected for both Open and Middle School divisions, providing an excellent platform to showcase students' natural abilities, techniques, fitness, and skills.

Specialist Clinics

Mercedes College is expanding its sports programmes by integrating skill acquisition opportunities from renowned special guests, including players from the Adelaide Thunderbirds Netball team and the Adelaide 36ers Basketball programme.

These elite athletes offer unique training sessions and coaching, providing students with invaluable insights into advanced techniques, strategies, and fitness. These partnerships inspire our students to reach their full potential in their chosen sport.

Working closely with these high-level athletes offers students the chance to refine their skills, gain confidence, and learn the mental and physical aspects of elite performance.



**Victory
is having
done your
best...**