



Junior School Electives Program 2026 - Darlington Campus -



Junior School Electives Program

- Darlington Campus -

Junior School students have the wonderful opportunity to select from a wide range of creative and stimulating courses offered through the Electives Program. Classes are purposely designed to provide differentiated learning experiences whilst fostering individual differences and embracing the richness and diversity of whole person development. Rather than one-off sessions or in-residence visits, our classes form part of our regular program. They run both in school time and after school and are primarily offered to students from Years 1-5.

As educators, we are well aware that all students learn in varying and different ways. What may work well for one student potentially has no learning impact for another. As such, it is most important that schools do not follow only one specific theory or educational innovation when planning and delivering learning experiences, but rather, individualise student learning - *making time spent at school appropriate to every child's educational needs*. Addressing multiple intelligences can assist educators to achieve individualised learning and this is carried out at the Junior School as part of our ongoing and regular teaching and learning program.

Dr Howard Gardner of Harvard University has identified several distinct intelligences. This theory has emerged from cognitive research and according to Gardener, *documents the extent to which students possess different kinds of minds and therefore learn, remember, perform, and understand in different ways*.

According to Gardener, intelligences are:

Learning strengths	Intelligence
Word smart	Linguistic intelligence
Number / reasoning smart	Logical-mathematical intelligence
Picture smart	Spatial intelligence
Body smart	Bodily-Kinesthetic intelligence
Music smart	Musical intelligence
People smart	Interpersonal intelligence
Self-smart	Intra-personal intelligence
Nature smart	Naturalist intelligence

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With such varying intelligences, our embedded Electives Program provides a wonderful platform for students to develop, strengthen and relish and be catered for in their own natural style of intelligences.

Put simply, the Electives Program complements the classroom and specialist teacher learning and teaching program by providing opportunities for students to engage in a variety of dynamic, vibrant and fun filled lessons in an area of personal interest - combined with skill development, creative expression, teamwork and collaboration.

DARLINGTON CAMPUS What we offer	
Intelligences	Electives Program
Linguistic intelligence	Drama
Logical-mathematical intelligence	Computing
Spatial intelligence	Create and Make Visual Arts
Bodily-Kinesthetic intelligence	Mixed Dance Classical Ballet Active Movement Taekwon-Do
Musical intelligence	Drums Piano Guitar
Interpersonal intelligence	Drama

Showcases

Annual showcases are delightful occasions that enable students and family members the opportunity to celebrate and share the various aspects of Elective subjects. We currently offer showcases for Drama, Dance and Music. Details and promotion of these events are communicated throughout the year.



Active Movement - Rhiannan Eva

The Active Movement program expands on the movement exploration introduced in Creative Movement lessons. It emphasises the overall benefits of movement, particularly in developing sporting skills and fitness, through a range of physical activities, with a focus on ensuring everyone can participate fully. Active Movement offers a host of health and wellbeing advantages, such as improving coordination, fine-tuning motor skills, and strengthening muscles and bones all while building confidence in their abilities.

\$208 - 15 lessons (group) per semester (PP-5)



Classical Ballet - Mersades Mucciarone

Mersades is well versed in numerous dance genres, with classical ballet being the driving force of her passion for dance. Ballet classes will help to develop student's physical skills, stamina, creativity, expression and musicality using a range of sounds and musical styles. Students will be introduced to basic ballet positions, techniques and movements. Creative tasks to develop the imagination will be incorporated; such as dancing to a theme or story. Students will also work towards performing in the annual showcase.

\$208 - 15 lessons (group) per semester (PP-5)



Computing - Linda Thompson

Linda enjoys teaching the Electives Program, incorporating the students' interests, and utilising a variety of media and technologies to achieve the desired outcomes for their projects, including blogs, videos, coding animations, games and art projects. Students will further their knowledge of the Office suite programs, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Desktop Publishing - exploring various features in each application and developing lifelong ICT skills.

\$187 - 15 lessons (group) per semester (Y1-5)



Create and Make - Marie Jacquier

The Create and Make Elective offers students the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of creative and experiential three-dimensional art. The learning experiences are process and project-based, allowing students time to experiment and explore, while developing practical skills and techniques through art play and sensory exploration. Encouraging hands-on creativity and discovery is the basis of the learning, and topics may range from textile arts, nature art, to recycled sculpture and seasonal projects. Students will experience a great sense of pride and accomplishment upon completing and sharing their various crafted pieces.

\$219 - 15 lessons (group) per semester (Y1-5)



Drama - Brodie Bergin

Brodie has loved watching and performing in drama productions for as long as she can remember, and adores sharing her passion of the theatre! In the Drama Elective, students will learn the performance skills of voice, movement, characterisation and improvisation, as well as the stagecraft skills of stage directions, costuming and set design. Senior classes will also explore written scripts and various theatre styles. All students will work towards creating a performance to present at the end of year showcase.

\$187 - 15 lessons (group) per semester (Y1-5)



Drums - Stephen Hartley

Steve is a WAAPA graduate with extensive experience in drums and percussion, eager to inspire the next generation of musicians. Alongside teaching the technical skills of drumming, he emphasises the joy, creativity and personal expression that music brings. With his friendly, patient and enthusiastic approach, Steve's passion for drumming shines through in every lesson as he enjoys sharing his music knowledge with students of all ages and levels.

\$565 - 15 lessons (individual) per semester (Y3-5)



Guitar - Daniel Johnston

Daniel is an experienced musician having taught in multiple schools and private studios for over 15 years. He enjoys sharing his passion for the guitar with his students. Students will learn to play engaging music with good technique, expression, rhythm and energy, read music from music notation and will develop a solid knowledge of music theory. They will also learn how to play chords, strumming patterns and will build confidence in their musical expression and themselves.

\$565 - 15 lessons (individual) per semester (Y1-5)



Mixed Dance - Mersades Mucciarone

Mixed Dance will allow students to be exposed to many dance forms including contemporary, lyrical, hip hop, funk, jazz and acro to name a few. With a focus on fun first, Mersades is also motivated to help students improve to the best of their ability. Mersades gets no better satisfaction than passing on her experience to ensure all students can dance in a safe method, whilst instilling confidence and self-expression into their dancing. Students will also work towards performing in the annual showcase.

\$208 - 15 lessons (group) per semester (Y1-5)



Piano - Hayley Ferris

Hayley is a dynamic piano tutor with years of experience teaching in multiple primary and high schools. She has a strong passion for playing and teaching the classical piano. During individual piano lessons, students cover technique, tone production, note reading and music theory, giving the students a strong foundation for further music studies.

\$565 - 15 lessons (individual) per semester (Y1-5)



Piano - Noelene Beacham

Noelene has over 30 valuable years of piano experience that includes Yamaha Music Foundation adjudicator and teaching positions and Grade 7 Pianoforte Australian Music Examination Board certification. Noelene is passionate about music and teaching and she enjoys sharing this feeling with her students. As each piano student is different, the lessons are tailored to meet individual needs and interests. Noelene has seen many students through the AMEB exams and enjoyed many performances from her students.

\$565 - 15 lessons (individual) per semester (Y1-5)



Taekwon-Do - Linda Low

As an ITF Grand Master and Chief instructor, GM Linda has a wealth of teaching experience and has been with Helena College for more than 25 years. In Taekwon-Do classes, students will learn basic martial arts techniques and self-defence in a safe, fun and supportive environment. Using balance, flexibility and coordination exercises, Taekwon-Do improves core strength and agility. Through the gradual development of skills, mutual-respect and progression in belt levels, our students gain confidence, sense of personal achievement, courage and above all, a peaceful and indomitable spirit.

\$178 - 15 lessons (group) per semester (Y1-5)



Visual Art - Marie Jacquier

Marie is a qualified teacher with over 25 years experience and recent post graduate qualifications in Creative Art Therapy. The Visual Arts Elective allows students to explore the creative process and experience a range of art activities including painting and drawing, sculpture and textile art. Marie encourages individual creative expression and teaches specific art skills - immersing students in a wide variety of art techniques and mediums.

\$219 - 15 lessons (group) per semester (Y1-5)

Frequently Asked Questions...

When can we nominate our Electives choices?

Semester One nomination forms are distributed to students towards the end of Term Four, ready for classes to commence Term One the following year.

Amendment forms and Semester Two nomination forms are distributed to students at the end of Term Two, ready for classes to begin early Term Three.

New students commencing mid-way through the year, will be able to submit their nomination forms before/on commencement at the College.

Can my child change Electives during the semester?

Yes, where possible, your child can change Elective lesson choices during the semester however, please note no fees will be refunded for the withdrawn Elective. Fees for the new Elective will be charged on a pro-rata basis based on the commencement date.

Do we pay a fee for my child to enrol in an Elective and if so, how do we pay?

Yes, the Electives fees are additional fees to College tuition and other annual charges. Fees shown within the Electives Booklet and on the nomination form are for 15 lessons per semester. Electives fees are charged up front at the commencement of each semester to secure a place in an Elective lesson. School Tuition fees are required to be up to date before consideration can be given for a student to participate in the Electives Program. Please contact the Business Manager if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Can my child trial an Elective before enrolling for the semester?

Yes, if your child is interested in trialling a new Elective, arrangements can be made via the Electives Coordinator to enable this to occur. Due to timetabling restrictions and other program matters, please understand this may not always be possible.

Are there any requirements for any of the Electives?

Yes, the following Electives do have the following requirements for lessons:

- **Classical Ballet and Mixed Dance** - Students will be required to wear a dance uniform to classes each week. A copy of the uniform requirements are provided to enrolled students at the commencement of each semester.
- **Guitar (Classical)** - Parents will be contacted by the Elective staff member to discuss book and/or instrument requirements. As a guide, students will require a classical acoustic guitar - either half size for Years 1-3, or three quarter size for Years 4-5.
- **Piano** - Parents will be contacted by the Elective staff member to discuss book and/or instrument requirements. Students are able to use a piano style keyboard (with weighted keys) for practice at home.
- **Drums** - Parents will be contacted by the Elective staff member to discuss book and/or instrument requirements. Students are able to use a drum practice pad or an electric drum set at home.
- **Taekwon-Do** - Students should wear their sports uniform to the first lesson where Grand Master Linda Low will advise parents of Gi uniform requirements. Additional grading fees may also apply during the semester.

Will my child be missing out on any new class content whilst attending an Elective lesson during school time?

No. Students who remain in the classroom whilst others are attending Electives will work on learning projects of personal interest. While teachers may take the opportunity to follow up aspects of the teaching and learning program with individual students/small groups, they do not start new courses of study during Elective times.

What happens when the Elective staff member is absent or my child is absent from school?

If a staff member is absent for a class, the lesson will either be made up or a refund given. We regret that when a student is absent due to situations such as family holiday, illness, or other appointments, the staff member is unable to make up the lesson and the full fee will be charged. Instrumental tuition fees will not be charged where a student is absent because of a class camp or school activity (i.e. Assembly, Easter Parade etc.).





Bringing out the best together

Please contact:

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should you have any questions regarding the
Junior School Electives program at the Darlington Campus.