



THE
McDONALD
COLLEGE

Well-rounded
performers.

Prospectus



Contents

The only school of its kind	1
Principal’s welcome	4
Junior School	5 – 7
Secondary School	9 – 13
Performance opportunities	15
Performing Arts streams	17 – 29
Performance Sports streams	29 – 30
Facilities	31
Boarding House	32
Wellbeing	33
Diverse Learning	34
Alumni	35 – 38
Admissions	39

Research shows that when students are doing something they feel passionate about and are properly supported, they will perform to the best of their abilities in school.

Woods, Frantz, & Demaray, 2019; Liu et al., 2020; Bottiani, Bradshaw, & Mendelson, 2021.

The only school of its kind

In 1984, The McDonald College was founded by three women with an ambitious idea – to create a school where young people could pursue their passion and receive world-class performance training while receiving a rigorous academic education.

It was the first school of its kind in Australia – and we remain unique.

While the history of the College is steeped in Classical Ballet and Dance, and these are art forms that the College is known for – we have expanded our offerings across all streams of Performing Arts and also offer Performance Sports – Elite Tennis and Rhythmic Gymnastics.

Through performance training, students also develop highly transferable skills such as self-discipline, time management, empathy, humility, adaptability, and resilience. Skills they can take into any career they choose.

For us, performance is not just about what happens on a stage or on the court. It is also about performance in the classroom. Likewise, creativity is not just about the arts and literature. Creativity also lives in Science, Technology, and Mathematics.

From Kindergarten through to Year 12, we foster critical thinking, communication and creative problem-solving in students' academic studies.

Our graduates become well-rounded performers and global citizens thanks to a distinctive blend of academic excellence, performance training, and the cultivation of transferable skills.

My daughter is a changed person just after one week at the College. She is finally excited to go to school and is so happy. The small classes are just what she needs to get her confidence back with her academic work. The genuine care for her and communication is confirmation that we have made the right decision for the rest of her schooling.

Kirstyn Burton



Well-rounded *performers.*

On-stage.



On a court.

In class.



We are an independent, non-denominational, co-educational Kindergarten – Year 12 school. We specialise in performing arts and elite sports, with an equal focus on academic rigour.

Register for our next Open Day or Audition.

mcdonald.nsw.edu.au | 02 9752 0500

Acting
Classical Ballet
Contemporary Dance
Commercial Dance
Music
Musical Theatre
Technical Production
Elite Tennis
Rhythmic Gymnastics



As a parent, I know choosing a school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will ever make.

Principal's welcome



I often hear from students and parents alike that they wish they had enrolled at the College earlier, and it is one of the reasons why I still find daily joy and fulfilment in my role as Principal – a position I have held since 2005.

I co-founded this unique school with the aim to ensure that every child is supported to achieve their personal best academically and personally, and that they are well-placed to discover their passion, all while developing skills to prepare them for life beyond school.

I invite you to visit the College during school hours to get a feel for our inclusive and nurturing environment, and see how our students genuinely enjoy coming to school every day.

We offer a series of Open Mornings & Open Days, and I am happy to provide you with a private tour at your convenience.

I look forward to welcoming you to The McDonald College.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Maxine Kohler', set against a light grey background.

Maxine Kohler
MEd, DipTch (RAD), MACE
Principal

Junior School

Kindergarten to Year 6

Small class sizes means we can tailor your child's education to their abilities. We identify needs early and provide adaptive programs so your child can flourish.



Academic

Our focus is on developing foundations of literacy and numeracy. Our engaging, enquiry-based learning approach supports and guides children to be well prepared for the next phase of their learning lives.

Subjects

- English
- Mathematics
- Science and Technology
- Human Society and its Environment (HSIE)
- Music
- Art
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)
- French

Creativity

From Kindergarten – Year 2, we tap into your child's natural creativity with skills-based activities of dance, music, singing, acting, and gymnastics / acrobatics integrated into each learning day.

In Years 3 – 6, students are exposed to additional Music as part of their performing arts experience, and then are able to pursue a focus on dance or acting.

Year 6 students work with students in Years 7 – 9 one day per week as a transition to Secondary School.

Year 5 and 6 Tennis students use this time to hone their tennis skills.

Your child will have the opportunity to participate in in-house and external performance events, including our High Performance Season held at venues such as The Parade Theatre, NIDA.



Social

We nurture self-aware, confident, and resilient children who think for themselves and, importantly, of others. We actively encourage collaboration, especially when it comes to creative problem-solving.

Elite Tennis

From Years 5 – 6, students can participate in our Elite Tennis program. Students should already be demonstrating a strong level of performance and must meet the entry requirements of our partner Voyager Tennis Academy.

Students engage in 8 hours a week training at the highest level, which is integrated into their academic day.

The teachers at the College supported Evan with a flexible learning environment and took into account the challenges of catching up on schoolwork while he was on set for the Stan film. They also helped him get back into the swing of things when he returned from production.

Michelle Stanhope

Junior School

Kindergarten to Year 6

After school activities

- Chess Club – where students receive coaching and play games against other children
- Circus skills – where students can learn juggling, balancing, throwing diablo, stilt walking and riding unicycles
- Team sports – such as soccer or basketball
- Claymation – where students make clay and plasticine characters and sets and learn stop-motion techniques.

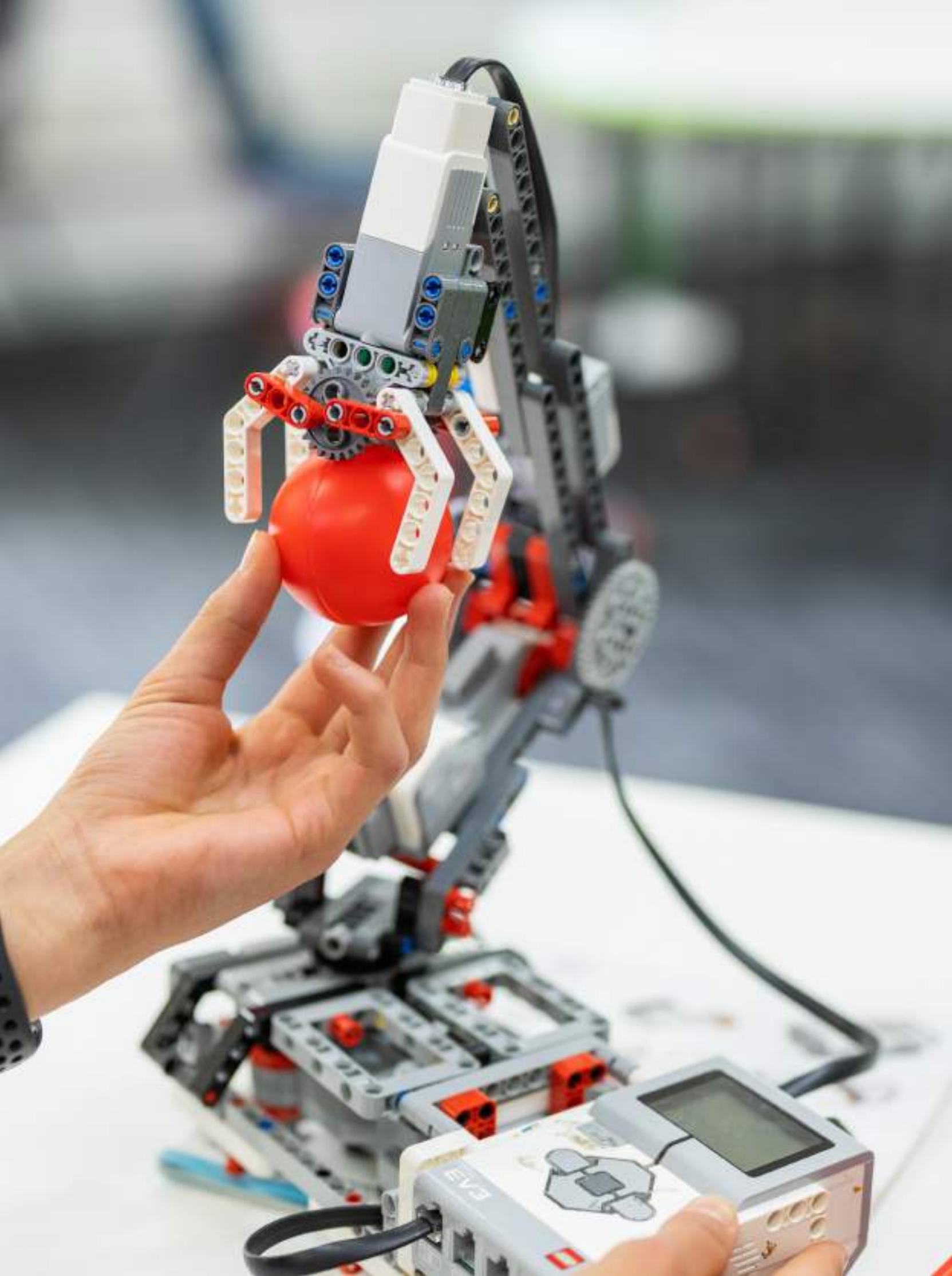
Note: After school activities generally rotate by term and are subject to change.

Many of our students also participate in **The McDonald College After Hours program**, where they can build upon their ballet, dance, music, musical theatre and acting skills. Find out more by visiting: mcdonald.nsw.edu.au/afterhours

Buddies

In your child's first week at the College, they will be paired with a friendly buddy (some have been at the College since Kindergarten) to help them settle into their new school. Older children play a significant role in the young ones' socialisation into the inclusive environment that we are known for.





Secondary School

Years 7 to 12

We are grateful that our daughter has found her people. This incredible school has provided a supportive and nurturing environment for her to thrive personally, academically, socially and in her area of performing arts. I can't thank the staff enough for all they do. My only regret is that we didn't find The McDonald College sooner.

Sharon Read



The McDonald College is the perfect place for secondary students to work towards their HSC and prepare for life after school, whether that means tertiary education, vocational training or entering immediately into their industry of choice.

Drawing upon a wealth of knowledge and expertise, our dedicated and nurturing staff provide each student with a structured transition to subsequent years so they feel supported to perform to the best of their abilities.

Academic

In Secondary School, a greater level of personal responsibility is expected of students. Our teaching and learning methods are collaborative and we foster an environment of critical enquiry and resourceful problem-solving.

Students are encouraged to utilise the skills they are building as performers and bring these skills to the classroom – skills such as discipline, focus, and teamwork.



Performing Arts

The programs for our unique Performance streams are designed to provide students with world-class training in each area.

Our Performing Arts faculty consists of educators who are actors, dancers, singers, musicians, and directors who have worked in the industry and often are actively involved in the arts.

- Acting
- Classical Ballet
- Contemporary Dance (Years 10 – 12)
- Commercial Dance
- Music (Instrumental and Vocal)
- Musical Theatre
- Technical Production

Elite Tennis and Rhythmic Gymnastics

We partner with Voyager Tennis Academy for our Elite Tennis program; and with Synergy Gymnastics Academy for our Rhythmic Gymnastics program.

Students should already be demonstrating a strong level of performance and must meet the entry requirements of our partners.

Students engage in 2 hours of daily training at the highest level, which is integrated into their academic day.

Secondary School

Years 7 to 10

At the beginning of each year, students in Years 7 – 10 nominate a Performance stream as their core study area and participate in 2 hours of specialised training per day. Additionally, each week all students in Years 7 – 10 have an Elective day.

Performing Arts students (with the exception of Musical Theatre students) can maintain their core area of study on this day or they may choose an alternative, complementary Performance stream.

Performance Sports students use their Elective day for further training.

All Performance stream lessons are conducted in mixed-year groupings:

- Years 7 – 9
- Years 10 – 12.

To see an example of the timetable visit mcdonald.nsw.edu.au/eg_timetables
Variations to individual performance timetables may be considered, if appropriate.



Years 11 to 12

In Years 11 – 12, a greater level of self-directed learning is expected of students. This is scaffolded by expert facilitation from our experienced and dedicated staff.

We continue to build on the critical enquiry and problem-solving skills developed in previous years.

We aim to ensure each student has the support they need to optimise their results academically and in their Performance stream of choice.

To see an example of the timetable visit mcdonald.nsw.edu.au/eg_timetables
Variations to individual performance timetables may be considered, if appropriate.

The HSC

The HSC is for students who

- want an ATAR enabling direct entry to Australian universities
- are seeking admission to overseas universities
- want an HSC that includes nationally-recognised qualifications through vocational education and training (VET) and TAFE courses
- do not want an ATAR but do want a recognised school credential.

HSC course requirements

All 2 Unit courses are comprised of a

- Preliminary course (completed in Terms 1 – 3 of Year 11); and an
- HSC course (which begins in Term 4 of Year 11).

All 2 Unit courses conclude with the final HSC exams at the end of Year 12.

A student must successfully complete the Preliminary course before they can take the HSC course.

Year 11 students must successfully complete a minimum of 12 units including 2 units of English in order to progress to their final year.

HSC subjects in Dance, Drama and Music may be the perfect subjects for students dedicated to pursuing tertiary studies in their focus area.

Vocational Education & Training

We also offer access to VET courses at TAFE. These courses count towards the HSC and lead to qualifications recognised across various industries.

Read more at mcdonald.nsw.edu.au/vet

Secondary School

Academic syllabus

The McDonald College utilises NESA (NSW Education Standards Authority) syllabuses to develop student educational programs. Programs are developed in the following key learning areas.

Years 7 – 10

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Geography
- History
- Commerce (Years 9 – 10)
- French (Year 10)
- Music ^
- PDHPE
- Technology ^
- Visual Arts ^

^ Mandatory for students in Years 7 – 8 and an elective for students in Years 9 – 10.

Years 11 – 12

- English – Standard; Advanced; Extension 1 & 2 *
- Mathematics – Standard; Advanced; Extension 1 & 2 *
- Biology
- Chemistry *
- Physics *
- Business Studies
- Legal Studies
- History – Ancient or Modern
- PDHPE
- Dance (HSC)
- Design and Technology
- Drama (HSC)
- Music 1; Music 2 *; Music Extension * (HSC)
- Visual Arts

* Dependent on enrolment numbers.

Extracurricular activities

Students in the Secondary School have opportunities for age-appropriate extra-curricular activities. This includes activities such as the College Debating team or nominating themselves for election to the Student Leadership Team. We also support student-led initiatives from wtime-to-time.



Performance opportunities

At The McDonald College, performance is integral to the learning process. We offer numerous opportunities throughout the year.

Performing arts

For Performing Arts students, these opportunities include an annual full-length classical ballet performance and an annual full-length musical – as well as a myriad of plays, concerts, and recitals.

Some performances are staged in our Conference Centre or our Blackbox Theatrette. Our High Performance Season is held at venues such as The Parade Theatre, NIDA and the Seymour Centre.

These events allow students to showcase their skills and gain valuable ensemble and performance experience. Our productions are directed and choreographed by our staff and are designed to challenge and inspire our students, while entertaining our audiences.

If students secure professional roles such as on television, on stage or in movies, we work with parents and producers to ensure students are supported to maintain their academic outcomes.

From time-to-time, our Performing arts students may have the opportunity to take overseas excursions for immersion in the international professional scene, attend workshops, tours and experience world-class performances.

Performance sports

Our Performance Sports students are encouraged and supported to participate in local, state, national and international competitions and tournaments, as appropriate.

We also provide guidance for students seeking international tertiary placement; and decide to sit for the US college Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT).



Performance streams

Acting

Students gain a strong understanding of the expectations of the industry and the discipline and preparation required to audition and gain further experience. We help them tap into their talents and find 'their voice'.

Our students learn from working writers, actors, directors, and producers. They receive tuition in a range of performance areas including but not limited to

- acting for the stage and screen
- script analysis
- character development
- vocal control
- improvisation
- audition preparation
- movement.

We can offer audition coaching to students for external acting opportunities so they can gain as much professional experience as possible while still at the College.

We often have enrolled students performing in professional theatrical productions, television shows and feature films and we ensure they have the support they need to maintain their academic studies.

Students benefit from our relationships with casting agents, major theatre companies and other industry-related professionals.

Years 3 – 6

Students in Years 3 – 6 develop skills in improvisation, and scripted drama. They participate in several productions each year in addition to our High Performance season.

Years 7 – 12

In Secondary School, there are three focus areas

- acting for the screen
- approaches to acting
- production.

Students who have an interest in other elements of acting and theatre such as costume, or set design, directing, producing and writing are encouraged and supported, where possible. Students may be allocated production roles during the rehearsal process.

Many of our graduates go on to study at some of Australia's leading performing arts tertiary institutions, including the National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA), Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), or the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA).



Performance streams

Classical Ballet

The McDonald College has been at the forefront of dance training in Australia since 1926 when the Ann McDonald College of Dancing was established.

Our ballet students graduate as well-rounded, artistic, competent and healthy dancers, capable of moving audiences with their artistry, technique, precision and sophisticated approach.

Our graduates are highly sought-after by world-renowned finishing schools and tertiary education institutes. Our alumni can be seen on stage in prestigious ballet and dance companies around the world.

Our holistic and thorough training program begins with introducing the fundamental skills for a career in classical ballet. We build upon these skills by developing technique and artistry.

Our progressive training encompasses a sound knowledge of body awareness, safe dance practices, wellbeing (both physical and psychological), and a quest for continual development as an artist.

We offer pre-professional performance opportunities to our students to help prepare them for a career in classical ballet.

Where appropriate, we also offer students coaching and support for competitions such as the Alana Haines Awards (New Zealand), Youth America Grand Prix (USA), and the Prix de Lausanne (Switzerland) in addition to the Sydney Eisteddfod.

Years 3 – 6

Junior School students participate in 4.5 hours of dance training per week which includes a contemporary production class.

Years 7 – 10

All students in Secondary School receive 10 hours of training per week. This includes open class work, pointe, boys' coaching, contemporary and production classes.

Students in Years 9 – 10 can choose to take a Ballet Elective (rather than an Academic Elective), adding time to their weekly training schedule.

Henry started at the College in Year 5. He has just been accepted into the Royal Ballet School. Neither of us have a dancing background, and so the support and patience and assistance we received from the school was amazing.

Mark and Kate Burgess

Years 11 – 12

Students can complete their HSC while maintaining 10 hours of classical ballet training per week.

Alternatively, they can complete a partial HSC by studying English and two additional HSC subjects; and spend more time on their classical ballet training

Students who choose this pathway also have the option of completing the HSC in full with an additional year of schooling, in a way that suits their needs.

We offer HSC Dance as a 2 Unit subject for Classical Ballet students.

Ballet Electives for students in Years 9 – 12 may include Pilates, yoga and body conditioning, wellbeing and self-esteem workshops, specialised coaching for boys, pointe and variations, pas de deux, stagecraft, contemporary and production classes.



Performance streams

Commercial Dance

Our Commercial Dance stream is diverse and encompasses the dance styles of contemporary, hip-hop, jazz, tap, and classical ballet.

We work with students to build their knowledge, help them discover their unique brand of artistry, and refine their technical skills, while they work towards their HSC.

Our thorough training program covers safe dance practices, musicality, creativity, wellbeing (both physical and psychological), nutrition, strength and conditioning, and opportunities beyond school including audition techniques.

We offer performance opportunities to help prepare students for real-world performance careers. See page 15 for more information.

Years 3 – 6

Students in the Junior School partake in 4.5 hours of dance training per week including classical ballet, and contemporary, with the option of an additional 1.5 hours of jazz dance.

Years 7 – 12

Students in Secondary School have 10 hours of training per week including contemporary, hip-hop, jazz, tap, and classical ballet classes. Students may elect to take a different option one day per week, such as sport, acting or music.

Years 11 – 12

HSC Dance is offered as a 2 Unit subject in addition to our Commercial Dance stream.

Our Commercial Dance students graduate as well-trained, artistic performers who are versatile in multiple dance genres and well prepared for the next level of pre-professional training and audition opportunities.



Performance streams

Senior Contemporary Dance

In partnership with

**SYDNEY
DANCE
COMPANY**

This unique program is for students entering Years 10 – 12 who wish to develop into creative, forward-thinking contemporary dance artists without compromising their academic studies.

The program is integrated into the school day, with students receiving 10 hours per week of classes. One day a week, they work with Sydney Dance Company's pre-professional students at their studios in Walsh Bay.

Skills learned across the three focus areas of technique, creativity and performance support students' development across all areas of contemporary dance.

Subjects include

- Ballet
- Technique
- Repertoire
- Choreographic development
- Improvisation, and more.

The students develop their artistry while working with different guest teachers, choreographers, dance practitioners and educators who are pioneering their art form.

By exploring various improvisation skills and movement qualities, students enhance their ability to collaborate in a co-creative environment becoming active creators in choreographic development.

Sydney Dance Company is thrilled to be collaborating with The McDonald College on this innovative program for young dancers. It gives me great pleasure to witness these dancers receiving the support and industry expertise required to transform into sophisticated artists.

Rafael Bonachela, Artistic Director



Performance streams

Music

Our Performing Arts Music stream is a unique industry-based program that goes beyond the broad academic music curriculum offered by most schools.

Ours is an ensemble and performance-based program with a focus on preparing students to perform at the highest possible standard in multiple genres.

We focus on live performance through the consistency of daily practice under the tutelage of highly qualified and passionate staff who draw upon many years of experience as practising musicians.

Students extend their knowledge in the fundamentals in music theory, the study and execution of different genres and styles of music, performance techniques and composition styles.

We build on these fundamentals by nurturing each student's natural creativity. We encourage exploration and experimentation with different instruments, genres and styles.

We help students refine their technique and discover their unique brand of artistry, and provide pre-professional and real-world performance opportunities, from time-to-time.



Kindergarten – Year 2

Kindergarten participate in a 30-minute music lesson weekly called *Storytelling through sound and song*. In Years 1 – 2, children learn the violin as part of a group music lesson for one hour per week. All Infants students participate in a weekly Choir rehearsal.

Years 3 – 6

Performing arts students in Years 3 – 6 take a one-hour music lesson per week. Instruments offered include violin, flute, trumpet, clarinet, saxophone, acoustic guitar, and percussion. They also participate in the weekly Choir rehearsal.

Years 7 – 12

All Secondary School Music students receive up to 10 hours of specialised group training per week.

On their Elective day, they can choose to have extra time in Composition / Song Writing, a different Performing Arts stream, or participate in sport.



Performance streams

Musical Theatre

Musical theatre is a very popular course of study as it traverses the genres of singing, dancing, and acting.

Students should be competent in at least one area of expertise – singing, dancing, or acting and have a strong desire to work hard to become a ‘triple threat’.

We provide all students with a strong foundation in the diverse range of skills and experiences that performing in musical theatre productions entails.

Our team of experienced performers and educators share a passion for storytelling and are dedicated to nurturing each student to perform to the best of their abilities and helping them find their individual ‘voice’ within the context of a production.

The sheer number of alumni who have performed in best-selling productions in Australia and overseas is testimony to our world-class teaching.

Students experience a variety of classes and genres of performance, including

- musical theatre repertoire
- drama skills
- vocal technique
- singing for both group and solo numbers, as appropriate
- dance in various forms
- performance
- audition technique and preparation, and
- history of musical theatre.

Years 3 – 6

Students in Year 3 – 6 are provided with a Musical Theatre opportunity on their Elective day once a week.

Years 7 – 12

Secondary School Musical Theatre students receive 10 hours of training per week.

For our Year 7 daughter, joining this school has been life-changing. She has found her tribe and flourished both academically and with her confidence and vocal ability. We thank you wholeheartedly. We have also found the communication and friendly staff to be a breath of fresh air.

Amanda Hawley



Performance streams

Technical Production

This stream appeals to students who have a love of the performing arts and entertainment industry and a fascination for all that goes on behind the scenes.

Our Technical Manager who leads this stream is one of the industry's highly sought-after professionals.

Students learn about theatrical design, technical and operational aspects of lighting, sound engineering, stage management and other facets of production such as planning, rigging, seating systems, and maintenance.

Rhythmic Gymnastics

Rhythmic gymnasts cultivate artistry as they learn to perform technical routines choreographed to music.

This program is designed for students in Years 7 – 12 who are already demonstrating a talent for this Olympic sport. Students receive up to 10 hours of training integrated into a normal school day.

Training may also include freehand, rope, hoop, ball, clubs, and ribbon. Students also receive tuition in dance and movement, ballet, acrobatics, and strength and conditioning.

In partnership with



Elite Tennis with Voyager Tennis Academy

Our Elite Tennis program is overseen by Voyager's head coach Luke Bourgeois, a former international professional who has played with tennis legends such as Andy Murray and Roger Federer.

Our program focuses on athlete development and encompasses strength and conditioning, on-court training and match play, injury prevention, sports psychology, nutrition, tournament mentoring, and guidance regarding US college pathways.

This program is for students in Years 5 – 12 who are already demonstrating a strong level of play.

Students receive up to 10 hours of training per week which is integrated into a normal school day.

Voyager Tennis Academy regularly arranges for our students to compete against and alongside some of the best young players from overseas, dramatically fast-tracking their development.

In partnership with



Awards

- 2022 Most Outstanding School (NSW Tennis Awards)
- 2022 Coaching Excellence, Development – Luke Bourgeois (NSW Tennis Awards)
- 2019 Most Outstanding School (NSW Tennis Awards)
- 2018 Australian Schools Championships National Winner



Facilities

mcdonald.nsw.edu.au/facilities

Our academic facilities include science laboratories, art studios, a darkroom, a fabrication laboratory (a small-scale workshop with digital fabrication facilities) and two libraries.

The College boasts nine fully equipped dance studios with sprung floors and air conditioning. Our music studios and ensemble rooms are outfitted with an array of instruments and technical equipment, including a recording studio. We have a 60-seat Blackbox Theatre. Our Conference Centre can seat up to 130 people when in performance mode.

We also have an on-site costume department and a technical production team. Our Technical Manager has years of experience to share with students who develop an interest in the technical aspects of production.

Our Elite Tennis students train at Sydney Olympic Park – one of Sydney's premier tennis venues with two indoor, 13 outdoor Plexicushion courts and two clay courts. Students travel the 10-minute trip by private shuttle bus.

Our Rhythmic Gymnastics students train in the College dance studios.

The College has a Pilates studio on campus, operated by a reputable external provider, and a Physiotherapist who is onsite one day a week.



Boarding House

mcdonald.nsw.edu.au/boarding

We can accommodate up to 45 boarders of all genders from Years 7 – 12. Our boarders come from everywhere, from China to Cooma and even as close as Concord. The Boarding House is a secure, safe, caring and comfortable space to live and study.

Our strong community values, together with holistic guidance and support for our boarders, creates close family-like relationships that last long after graduation.

Our boarders accumulate important life skills. Your child's interaction with people from different backgrounds will open their minds and broaden their horizons as they learn from each other. Seniors are afforded more autonomy as they enter their senior years.

Every day, we see our boarders' knowledge, skills and confidence grow and many progress to leadership roles within the student environment and beyond.

We take a transparent and collaborative approach in our communications with you and your child to ensure they are fully supported to reach their potential. Parents are welcome to visit anytime (by prior arrangement).



Wellbeing

mcdonald.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing

Balancing social, physical, cognitive and mental health in an inclusive and caring community.

All staff at the College are committed to supporting and enhancing the emotional, psychological, and social wellbeing of each student.

We recognise and value diversity and promote a safe, inclusive, and positive environment. We encourage personal responsibility to develop awareness and respect for others.

Our programs include

- a Buddy system for new students
- Junior School wellbeing sessions are embedded into classes
- Secondary School wellbeing sessions
- Peer Support (where Year 10 students are trained to mentor Year 7 students)
- a Senior Mentoring program (where Senior students are paired with a teacher who supports their wellbeing during the HSC years).

All teaching staff partake in weekly student wellbeing briefings.

We regularly highlight issues impacting our students in various forums, and host guest speakers from time-to-time.

We often organise camps for students in Years 5 – 9 and Year 11 that focus on team-building resilience and contemporary social issues.

We also offer a referral and self-referral service with our on-site College Psychologist.



Diverse Learning

mcdonald.nsw.edu.au/diverselearning

Inclusive approaches to teaching and learning are critical for all students, regardless of their personal abilities, prior learning experience, gender, ethnicity, cultural, or socio-economic background.

Our Diverse Learning team delivers support in the classroom, in small group settings, and via one-to-one sessions, as required.

Uniquely, our approachable team is often visited by a cross-section of students from across the College, regardless of personal need.

Differentiated curriculum

When a student with diverse learning needs starts at the College, we aim to meet with the student's parents, students, teachers, and their Year Coordinator. We work together to determine the most appropriate adjusted study program within the mainstream class environment.

Differentiation in curriculum delivery and assessment is provided by the classroom teacher in consultation with the Head of Department and the Diverse Learning team.

Acceleration

If a Secondary student demonstrates exceptional skills in a particular subject, the College may recommend acceleration. This is where we guide the student through their studies at a faster pace than their peers, as appropriate.

Disability provisions

Disability Provisions are provided for all eligible students for assessment tasks and examinations. This process is formalised with NESA for Years 11 and 12 when further documentation is essential.

Other services

- Providing specialised support for English as a Second Language
- Briefing and providing teaching staff with strategies and professional readings to facilitate teaching and learning for all
- Training and management of teacher-aides and volunteers
- Facilitating professional development for staff regarding students with diverse learning needs
- Collaborating with the College Psychologist and other external professionals supporting individual students

Alumni

mcdonald.nsw.edu.au/alumni

1



Our alumni are regularly seen on international and national stages, in cinemas, presenting the nightly news, or on the television. They can be heard on the radio, or Spotify with their ARIA chart-topping albums. Or seen on YouTube growing their subscribers by the millions.

Because the College places an equal emphasis on academics, graduates find they have a wealth of options to choose from.

Often they choose completely different paths to what they specialised in at school. Some go on to study at the best universities in the world and thrive in successful careers as Walkley-winning journalists, surgeons, lawyers, university professors and respected executive leaders.

2





1. Lachlan Monaghan, Principal Dancer, Birmingham Royal Ballet (photo: Johan Persson)
2. Felicity Ward, comedian, actor, writer (photo: Philip Gatward)
3. Tim Draxl, actor, singer, artist (photo: John McRae)
4. Emma Watkins, former Wiggle and creator of Emma Memma (photo supplied)
5. Bojana Novakovic, actress (photo: Ben King for Bing)



Alumni

mcdonald.nsw.edu.au/alumni

Although I did not choose a career in performing arts, I was supported in my dream of becoming a surgeon. The McDonald College teaches you so much more than how to be a dancer, an actor or a musician – you learn how to communicate and how to approach any situation with confidence. I would not be the person I am today were it not for my time at the College.

Dr Rewena Keegan (nee Shaw) MBBS (Hons) and BSc (Physiology & Physics), Breast Surgeon



1. Dr Rewena Keegan (nee Shaw), Breast Surgeon
2. Gen Fricker, comedian, radio presenter (photo: Cole Bennetts)
3. Kip Gamblin, actor, dancer, musician (photo supplied)
4. Hannah Barlow, actor and film-maker (photo: Andrew Walker)
5. Emily Flannery, dancer (photo: courtesy of Bangarra Dance Theatre, by Daniel Boud)
6. Meg Mac, singer / song-writer (photo: Heather Gildroy)

4



5



6



Admissions

mcdonald.nsw.edu.au/apply

We welcome students of all ages and abilities to apply to study at The McDonald College. We consider enrolments throughout the year.

How to apply

1. Attend an Open Day or Open Morning or book a Private Tour with our Principal or the Director of the Junior School.
2. A Parent / Guardian to complete the Application Form and ensure copies of all necessary documents accompany the application.
3. Register for an Audition, if applicable. Students entering Kindergarten – Year 4 are not required to audition, nor are those applying for Technical Production.
4. If you are interested in Elite Tennis or Rhythmic Gymnastics, we will connect you with the relevant Program Director at Voyager Tennis Academy or Synergy Gymnastics Academy.

Auditions

Auditions are held four times a year. Students can audition up to two years prior to entry and may audition for more than one stream.

The auditions are conducted to demonstrate a student's interest, passion, and skill and to ensure they will thrive in a performance-rich environment. Students are encouraged to enjoy the audition experience as it may be the first of many.

Academic test

All students enrolling into Years 5 – 12 undertake an academic test on Audition Day to assess written and numerical competency.

We found out that Micheal was admitted to Harvard University and we cannot be more grateful to the College, which played a fundamental role in his admission. Thank you for providing Micheal such a rewarding and enriching high school experience. He has grown immeasurably as a person due to the nurturing environment and the mentoring he has received at the College. We count ourselves so lucky to be a part of this irreplaceable school community

Cathy, David and Micheal Zhang (who achieved an ATAR of 99.95 and a perfect SAT Score.)





General enquiries

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Enrolment enquiries

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*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we learn:
the Burramattagal, Bediagal and Wangal people of the Eora Nation.*