

Contemporary Ensembles

Princes Hill Secondary College



We offer 7 ensembles that explore a range of contemporary music styles.
All ensembles rehearse weekly from Term 1 Week 3

Beginner - Intermediate level

- PLANET 7
- PLANET 89
- Used Car Horns

Senior - Advanced level

- Stage Band
- Contemporary Jazz Ensemble (**CJE**)
- Latin Band
- Soul Street

Performance / Event Calendar

Term 1

- Twilight Concert (Week 10)

Term 2

- Music Camp (Week 2)
- 'Plugged' (Week 7)

Term 3

- Jazz / Latin / Soul (Week 9)

Term 4

- EOY Twilight Concert (Week 8 or 9)

Tuesday
Lunchtimes

PLANET 7 / PLANET 89

Ensemble Leader: Charlie Woods

Tuesday
After school

The 'planet' groups are all about giving our middle school students opportunities to develop their ensemble skills in a modern band setting.

In Year 7 students can submit an 'expression of interest' for Planet 7, before choosing to continue on to Planet 89 in Years 8 and 9.

Both bands take up to 12 students and instrumentation is based on student interest. They commonly include drums/percussion, bass, guitar, keyboard, horns, vocals.

The planet bands often serve as a pathway for students auditioning for Stage Band, Latin Band, and Soul Street as they enter Senior School

Tuesday
Lunchtimes

Used Car Horns

Ensemble Leader: Andy Williamson

The Used Car Horns is a **saxophone ensemble** for beginner and intermediate level students. Loosely taking the New Orleans concept of a street style band with multiple horn parts; the group plays a repertoire that covers New Orleans brass band, 80's pop and more.

The parts are tiered so that less experienced students can still play alongside more experienced players. With multiple players on any given part the emphasis of the group is participatory and inclusive - accuracy is definitely encouraged but not at the expense of getting everyone honking!

The ensemble also includes a rhythm section featuring drum kit, percussion, bass, keyboard/synth, and guitar parts.

Tuesday
After school

Stage Band

Ensemble Leader: Andy Williamson

Stage Band is an ensemble consisting of predominantly senior students dedicated to exploring a wide ranging repertoire. In addition to more conventional college big band material, the group also branches at various times into Funk, New Orleans brass band, Afrobeat, Salsa and more.

Tunes generally feature improvised soloists but overall emphasis is more upon developing strong sectional playing and a dynamic group performance.

The ensemble is by invitation/audition, and features rhythm section, trumpets, trombones, saxophones, and clarinet.

Thursday
After school

Contemporary Jazz Ensemble (CJE)

Ensemble Leader: Kade Brown

CJE is an ensemble whose musical focus is improvisation. Its repertoire explores a broad range of musical styles but less emphasis is placed upon complex arrangements to allow more room for spontaneous ensemble interaction and exploration of improvisational language.

The ensemble is auditioned annually and features Drum Kit, Bass, Guitar, Piano, 2 - 3 horn players.

Thursday
Lunchtimes

Latin Band

Ensemble Leader: Andy Price

Latin Band offers a chance to experience the intricate weaving of ten+ independent parts into a unified sound.

It is all about unique rhythms, great melodies and rich harmony. It's great fun and challenges every instrumentalists' abilities with rewarding results plus a chance for drummers to explore a range of alternative percussion sounds and techniques.

The ensemble is by invitation/audition, and features rhythm section, percussion, brass, and woodwinds.

Friday After
School

Soul Street

Ensemble Leader: Matthew Schmalkuche

Soul Band is a senior ensemble that focuses on playing both new and old soul music and associated genres/styles.

The horn section focus on playing as a unit while also having solos and improvisations, the rhythm section look at playing tight and groovy, and the vocalists tell the story by embellishing the lyrics and putting their own touch on them.

As a senior ensemble Soul Band develop the skills to rehearse and progress independently and how to work effectively within a contemporary group.

The ensemble is by audition only as required.

