Finding your place at Macarthur

Co-Curricular Opportunities
Monday
Preparatory Orchestra
Orchestra
String Orchestra
Agriculture at Lunch
Fitness Club
Oasis Christian Group
Student Prayer Meeting

Tuesday
Latin Dance
The Studio
Mathematics Help
Robotics Club
Rowing (Terms 1 and 4)
Agricultural Show Team
Triathlon

Wednesday
Programming Club
Student Ministry Group
School Choir
Choral Ensemble
Agriculture at Lunch
Creative Textiles

Thursday
English Help
Mathematics Help
Preparatory Band
Woodwind Ensemble
Concert Band
Stage Band
Vocal Ensemble
1220 Club
Agriculture at Lunch
Socrates
Bible Studies at Lunch

Friday
Rock Boys
Drama Club
Drum Corps
Model Club
Community Service
Rowing (Terms 1 and 4)
Chess Club
Agriculture at Lunch
Oasis Christian Group

Other Opportunities
Photography Club
Sound and Lighting
Equestrian
Snow Sports
Socrates Club
Aristotle Club
Duke of Edinburgh Awards
Public Speaking
Debating
Indonesian Club
Horticulture Club
GATEway 8
GATEway Quest
Musical Theatre
Dramatical Theatre
International Study Tours
Outreach Trips

Please Note: In response to student demand, there are from time to time changes to the days on which certain activities take place. Please contact the School to check the latest schedule.
Why are Co-Curricular Activities so Central to a Macarthur Education?

Learning is achieved in so many ways and the process of learning can be quite different between individuals. At Macarthur we hold the view that individuals learn differently and as such we have teaching and learning programmes that allow students to learn in their preferred style.

It is well known from educational research over the years that students learn differently from subject to subject. Later educational research focussed on the fact that students studying a second language and music learn in very different ways to each other and indeed the other academic disciplines. Any teacher who has taught several subjects will tell you that the learning and thinking patterns associated with different subjects vary. It is argued that this is the reason for individuals to develop a ‘favourite’ subject.

In recent years the research has delved into learning styles even further and discovered that different experiences cause our brains to function in slightly different ways. Alternative and new synapse and brain pathways are triggered when different activities are experienced. If this is the case, then the brain’s capacity can be extended and greater potential can be explored if a variety of experiences are had. An education then with diversity is a great advantage.

At Macarthur this drives our desire to have students explore new and varied opportunities. It is not a simple afterthought at Macarthur that students should be kept busy, rather it is an integral part of a Macarthur education to have broad learning experiences.

Some of these opportunities are furthering a talent or an interest that has already been developed. However, it is our hope that during a student’s life at Macarthur they will experience new and yet to be discovered passions.

A curriculum that has a wide range of choice outside of the classroom is as important as one that offers broad subject choices. The mandatory annual Outdoor Education Programme seeks to gently encourage students into an experience through the camp activities. Whether it is archery, high ropes, water activities or rockclimbing and abseiling, students are encouraged to face the challenge and do their best. Nothing is forced - everything is encouraged.

In a voluntary way, the Co-Curricular Programme at Macarthur seeks to provide the depth of experience in a more targeted and ongoing way.

By being involved, Macarthur students are not only having fun but are allowing their brain to function in new ways, developing more complex brain functions and synapse pathways.

Dr David Nockles
Headmaster
**Ag at Lunch** - Students are invited to go down to the farm every lunch time (except Tuesday) and are involved in a variety of activities including feeding animals, collecting eggs, handling steers, alpacas and goats (parading, grooming, etc).

**Agricultural Show Team** - Students in the Agriculture Show Team are involved in the above and also weigh the steers weekly. They also attend after school on Tuesdays and at other times as required to prepare the animals for the shows they attend: Camden Show, Sydney Royal Easter Show and many more.

**Bible Studies at Lunch** - Meet each Thursday lunch time to study a Bible passage and see how God leads through his Word.

**Chess Club** - This group meets during lunchtimes to compete against each other and discuss ways of improving tactical play.

**Choir** - Students sing a wide variety of songs, secular and sacred and have regular performance opportunities.

**Choral Ensemble** - Students in Years 5 and 6 have the opportunity to participate as a small ensemble in the second half of choir time.

**Community Service Team** - Students on the Community Service Team visit the local retirement home, help out with basic home and garden maintenance and community work such as restoring the historic wagon from the gardens of the Camden Council Chambers.

**Concert Band** - This ensemble caters for students at an intermediate and advanced level of performance.

**Creative Textiles** - This group explores the use of textiles through weaving, tapestry, embroidery, applique, crochet and knitting.

**Debating** - Regular competitions both locally (MISA) and across the state (HICES) provide students from a range of year groups the opportunity to train and compete against other schools.

**Drama Club** - Students are taught skills in operating theatre equipment and learn about technical aspects such as lighting and sound, theatre sports and playbuilding activities.

**Drum Corps** - Tenor, side and bass drum students come together as a performance group, performing at major school events.

**Duke of Edinburgh Awards** - The D of E Award is available to all 14 to 25 year olds. The Programme’s framework is the same in every country and is made up of three levels, Bronze, Silver and Gold, and four
domains: skill, service, physical recreation, adventurous journey/expeditions.

**English Help**
The English Faculty run a homework/study help afternoon at various times through the week. All students in Years 7 to 12 are invited. Students should be prepared to work on their English homework, ask questions of a member of the English Faculty or use the computers to access online information that might help with their English Study.

**Equestrian** - Students compete in regular Gymkhanas throughout the year.

**First Aid** - Each year, the Year 10 students are given the opportunity to participate in an accredited First Aid Course. They are taught to manage emergency situations and first aid techniques and treatments for the most commonly encountered illnesses and injuries.

**Fitness Club** - Students are welcome to join in a range of activities to increase their fitness and overall wellbeing.

**GATEway 8** - GATEway 8 is a competition to challenge gifted students in creative academic pursuits from Year 5 to Year 10. The competition is held between teams of eight students from a range of schools who complete a series of tasks designed to stimulate the eight multiple intelligences. Macarthur Anglican School host and run the GATEway 8 Academic Challenge Day across three days each year.

**Horticulture Club** - Students are given an opportunity to plant trees as part of the various environmental days and take care of the organic vegetable beds.

**International Study Tours** - Each year there is at least one study tour overseas covering subjects such as History, Indonesian and Music.

**Latin Dance** - Latin American Ballroom Dancing offers unique and explicit techniques for students to develop in weekly dance lessons. With a focus on mastering balance and control, students will learn both basic and interpretive choreography as they work towards perfecting performance.

**Mathematics Help** - The Mathematics Faculty run a homework/study help afternoon at various times through the week. All students in Years 7 to 12 are invited. Students should be prepared to work on their Mathematics homework, ask questions of a member of the Mathematics Faculty or use the computers to access Maths Online or other sites that might help with Mathematics.

**Model Club** - Model club do a variety of things such as painting Warhammer miniatures, constructing Warhammer terrain, paper models of Star Wars helmets, repairing RC cars and most recently playing Heros Quest and Dungeon and Dragons.

**Musicals** - Each year the School stages a musical. The musical productions alternate between Senior Musicals for
students in Year 7 to Year 12 and Junior Musicals for students in Year 3 to Year 6.

**Oasis Christian Groups**  
*(Mon Yrs 7-12, Fri Yrs T-6)* - Oasis is a student led meeting of fellowship to know Christ and works to make him known to the School.

**Outreach Trips** - Each year there is an opportunity for students in Year 6 and Year 11 to be involved in community projects either in North Queensland or internationally in Thailand and in the future Ukraine.

**Orchestra** - Students must be of third Grade AMEB standard on their instrument and working at a fourth Grade AMEB level and above.

**Photography Club** - Students are regularly asked to take photos during school events/functions. Mr Looyen will teach the students and in the process help them to grow in skill and knowledge with their photography skills.

**Drum Corps** - Tenor, side and bass drum students come together as a performance group, performing at major school events.

**Preparatory Orchestra** - Students in the early stages of learning, grades 1 to 3. Students are expected to be receiving peripatetic lessons.

**Programming Club** - Students meet at one lunchtime a week where they share ideas and explore programming languages of their interest. In the past, students have used Scratch and Python to develop computer games and software programs. Students also have the opportunity to participate in programming competitions run by UNSW and the University of Sydney.

**Public Speaking** - Students are given an opportunity to compete against other Macarthur students in a variety of competitions as well as represent the School in public speaking events throughout the year.

**Robotics Club** - Students meet once a week after school to learn about robotics. Using LEGO Tetrax kits and CAD software, students learn how to model and build a robot as a team. They also receive mentoring from students who entered the LEGO Robotics Competition.

**Rock Bands** - Students are encouraged to form their own lunch time rock bands.

**Rowing (Spring Term and Summer Term only)**  
Boys and girls from Years 8-12 are eligible to try out for the rowing squad. Regattas are held on weekends. Competitions include the CIS, Head of the River and NSW State Championships and the Interstate Independent School Regattas.
**Socrates and Aristotle** - Socrates and Aristotle are forums to share and enjoy extension learning. Socrates is for students in Year 9 and Year 10 while Aristotle is for Years 8 students. Students complete a research project based on a particular field of interest with the assistance of a mentor.

**Sound and Lighting** - Students are taught to set up the different sound and lighting requirements for events around the School.

**Stage Band** - For students who are at an advanced skill level on their instruments and who have an interest in Jazz performance skills.

**String Orchestra** - Students to have reached an AMEB fourth Grade standard on their instrument and working at a AMEB fifth Grade level and above.

**Student Ministry Group** - Students meet each Wednesday lunch time to plan leadership for Chapel and Oasis.

**Student Prayer Meeting** - Students gather for devotions and prayer for the School and the Community.

**Theatrical Plays** - In addition to the Musical each year, the School produces a theatrical production ranging from comedies to drama to classics.

**The Studio** - The Studio is an art club that is on in AC1 every Tuesday afternoon from 2.40pm until 4.00pm. It is open to any student in Years 7 to 12 not just those who have chosen art as an elective. Students are given the opportunity to try different mediums and either do experimental work or work on a project of their choice. It focusses on students enjoying art making in a relaxed and less-structured class. The emphasis is on experimentation and enjoyment.

**Triathlon** - Students may compete as an individual or in a team events between October and March.

**Vocal Ensemble** - Singing students are encouraged to come together to learn to harmonise and sing popular repertoire.

**Woodwind Ensemble** - Meet together at lunch to practice as a small ensemble, flute, oboe, clarinet and bassoon students.

**1220 Club** - “1220 Lunch Club” operates on Thursday lunchtimes and invites students in Years 5 to 9 to play G rated Nintendo Wii games with their peers in a relaxed environment. It is an initiative designed to assist students to continue to develop their social interactions in a fun, safe place facilitated by the shared interest of computers and gaming.
MACARTHUR ANGLICAN SCHOOL

Established traditions, proven success!

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