

EARLY ENTRY PROGRAM - FRENCH HORN

The GWSC Music Program

Each year about 150 Year 7 students apply to learn an instrument as part of the GWSC Instrumental Music Program.

Successful applicants to the program receive a weekly group lesson with a specialist teacher on their instrument. This takes place during school time, moving through rotated time slots so you don't miss the same class each week. It's also compulsory to also attend a weekly ensemble rehearsal in either the Beginner Band (Tuesdays 7:15am-8.20am) or Beginner Strings (Wednesdays 7.15am-8.20am).



Members of the program perform in both the Autumn and Spring Gala Concerts, attend the Victorian Schools Music Festival (usually in Geelong), are eligible to attend NEVR (regional) band days and other events. Of course, they can also audition at the end of the year for higher level ensembles.

The normal price for lessons and ensemble is \$595 per year. We encourage students to consider taking up some of the lesser known instruments (French horn, euphonium, tuba, trombone, cello, double bass) by offering a 50% discount for beginners who are in Year 7.

All of the detailed information about our program can be found in the Handbook.

Why Does Early Entry for French Horn have prerequisites?

The French Horn is a uniquely rewarding instrument that offers a wonderful challenge for students. While it is true that it requires a good sense of pitch, this is an exciting opportunity for growth, particularly for those with a strong background in piano. These students often find they can easily transfer their musical skills, like reading music, which can make their journey with the French Horn even more enjoyable.

With the guidance of our dedicated and expert teacher, Ms. Burgess, students receive personalized support that nurtures their talents and builds confidence. Learning the French Horn not only enhances musical abilities but also fosters resilience and determination. Join us in discovering the special journey that awaits!

What's Involved in the Application Process?

We ask you about your piano background and grades you have completed.

We ask you why you would like to play the French Horn.

We give you a short test (completed online at a later date) where we play short musical notes and ask you questions such as "Which one is higher?"

Do I need to buy a French Horn?

No. As French Horns are quite expensive to buy we will make an instrument available for hire. The cost of this is \$360. After Year 7 we consider students on a case by case basis and may continue to offer a hired instrument depending on demand and availability.

When are Successful Students notified?

Successful applicants will be notified by the start of December.

What does the French Horn look and sound like?

Watch our teacher, Ms Burgess, demonstrate the horn in this short [video](#).

When do applications close?

Friday November 21st, 2026.

Any questions?

Please contact the Director of Music, Mr Brad Slater on bsl@gwsc.vic.edu.au

Ready to apply?

Make sure both students and parents have discussed the information above and then complete the [link](#). We'll be in touch shortly after.