



AUSTRALIAN  
PERFORMING ARTS  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS 2026



# ABOUT APGS

## OVERVIEW

The Australian Performing Arts Grammar School (APGS) is an inner city, co-educational secondary school established solely to educate and inspire students with an interest and passion for the performing and creative arts. APGS seeks to build confidence and ability in each student through an innovative school programme focusing on academic and performing arts rigour.

APGS caters for students from Years 7-12, with entry to the school based on an audition and interview. Once enrolled students study the NESA approved curriculum leading to their HSC, along with a rigorous performing arts programme fostering the development of skills in their chosen disciplines and interests.

## OUR CAMPUS

APGS launched its exciting new Broadway campus in 2012, located within close proximity to the Sydney CBD and right in the heart of the education district.

A vibrant and bustling area packed with cafés, shopping and performance venues, the APGS Broadway campus is strategically located close to Central Train Station, Broadway Shopping Centre, Victoria Park, Seymour Centre, Sydney University, UTS and a number of other landmark amenities and educational establishments.

The APGS campus is housed in a magnificent building refurbished with purpose-built facilities for students and staff including auditoriums, learning areas, computer and technology lab, art studio, and a number of specialist rehearsal spaces to cater for dance, drama, music and theatre training. This unique environment is conducive to learning and creativity, further

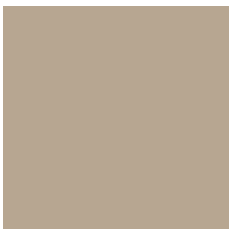
enhanced by the beautiful surroundings with Victoria Park and Lake Northam on it's doorstep.

The APGS campus is easily accessible by public transport, located within a short walk from Central railway station and with regular bus services stopping in front of the building from many areas of Sydney.

## STRATEGIC LINKS

APGS is an ideal institution through which to build a network of contacts. Outward looking and aware that the arts and entertainment industries turn over billions of dollars, APGS brings to the students working professionals with the energy and vision to make projects happen.

Industry seasoned producers, directors, film makers and performers are regularly invited to share their stories with the students, balancing inspiration with the awareness of the perspiration it takes to forge a career in the arts. Links with other training organizations, local and international, are nurtured as a priority as APGS opens pathways to further learning, whether technical, financial or artistic.





# CURRICULUM

The Australian Performing Arts Grammar School brings together young people of creative ability and academic commitment. The School offers an enriched curriculum which fosters independence, self-esteem, and a sense of commitment to the wider community. Our philosophy revolves around the values of respect, commitment and connection, and our students are encouraged to explore ideas and to expand their skills within a framework of trust and encouragement. APGS offers an arts rich and rigorous academic education in an environment that fosters and provides students with the opportunity to flourish intellectually, creatively, and spiritually.

## JUNIOR CURRICULUM

At APGS we offer a diverse curriculum which is delivered in semester blocks. In all subjects, students will be placed with their age cohorts in all subject areas.

To satisfy the NESA requirements for the RoSA students must complete a specified number of courses and hours in a variety of subject areas. Some courses are mandatory whilst others are electives. In Year 7 and 8 all students must complete the mandatory areas of study in English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Technology, a language other than English, Visual Arts, Music and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education. At APGS, all students also study their individual performing arts discipline each year. Year 9 and 10 students study the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education and two electives. Mandatory

electives subjects include Drama and Music, with the third elective being either Dance or Visual Arts. Languages may be studied through Distance Education.

## SENIOR CURRICULUM

A wide range of Board Developed and Board Endorsed courses are offered at APGS. In the Preliminary Course students undertake 12 units including 2 units of English (which is mandatory) and a minimum of five subjects (10 units including 2 units of English). In Year 12, course offerings include English, Drama, Dance, Music 1, Visual Arts, and then a choice from a range of courses which may include Mathematics, Business Studies, Design & Technology, Extension 1 and 2 English. The courses offered each year may vary to suit the needs and interests of that cohort. The school also offers a comprehensive range of electives which are offered through the Sydney Distance Education High School and the NSW School of Languages.

Senior students have the flexibility to undertake their HSC through various pathway opportunities.

Information Technology tools are integrated throughout all aspects of teaching and learning. Students undertake studies across the curriculum to meet all NESA requirements. Equal emphasis is placed on academics and performing arts to help empower graduates with diverse study and career pathways for the future.

Students complete their academic studies according to timetable allocations and elective

choices over the course of five days. Fridays are dedicated to skills training by industry professionals. Students are divided into specialized groups according to their chosen major focus area: dance, music, drama or design/art. Students collaborate according to the assigned project they are rehearsing for performances. Dancers work with musicians, composers with directors, singers with instrumentalists, actors with choreographers. The emphasis on these classes is on original work, cross-art collaboration and ensemble work practices. Students can also choose to develop individual repertoire for solo performances as part of their studies whilst committing to collaborative projects.

Extra curricular activities centre on the creative arts, with outside performances, productions, competitions, ensemble work, excursions and the publication of student works being a regular occurrence.

# PERFORMING ARTS



The APGS performing arts program is rigorous, challenging and provides an environment for extended learning in Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts. The program consists of a range of elective courses and companies. Elective courses may vary each semester to offer students a wide range of training and skills development.

## DANCE

### Open Styles

This class focuses on performance in a range of contemporary dance techniques. Students will be challenged technically, physically and mentally as they work with choreographers to develop their technical and expressive skills. Students will work towards creating a dance work that expresses a specific intent for performance.

### Jazz

This class focuses on preparing performance quality routines with an emphasis on the speed of learning choreography while concentrating on the detail and accuracy of the jazz style. Routines will be physically challenging and students will engage with the unique musicality and expressiveness of jazz choreography.

### Lyrical

Lyrical dance combines the techniques of Jazz and Classical Ballet. Lyrical is a slower, melodic and more expressive form of Jazz often to ballad music. Dancers gain fluidity of movement, grace and control. Dances are often choreographed to communicate expression and storyline, often aligning with lyrics in songs or the mood evoked in the music used. Students gain skills in technique as well as development of individual expression within dance.

### Hip Hop

Students will learn to perform hip hop moves and routines in a variety of ways with an emphasis on clean and precise movements. They will understand why particular movements work with different music and the need to listen closely to the music and not just dance over the top of it. Students will be encouraged to move out of their comfort zone and challenge themselves by learning more difficult moves. They will also explore and develop their creative style through choreographed routines.

### Ballet

The class will have a performance focus on creating choreography with an edge by incorporating other genres. This is geared towards producing triple threat dancers. Strengthening classical ballet technique supports all dance styles and helps to build artistry in movement. Students will build on the dynamics and musicality of movement while pushing the boundaries of classical steps and developing a strong foundation to execute turns, extensions and elevations.

### Musical Theatre

This class will focus on preparation of works from musical theatre repertoire for the APGS Showcases. The program is designed to build skills in every aspect of musical theatre, giving students the best possible chance of success as a versatile performer, incorporating singing/dance/drama skills required by "triple threat" musical theatre performers.

### Latin

Salsa, tango, cha cha and rumba – latin dance styles that originate from South America, Cuba and Latin America. These dance styles are fun yet they each require discipline - precise steps and rhythmic precision to perform well. Think "Strictly Ballroom" and "Dancing with the star" - and be prepared to work at your technique while also enjoying the fabulous music that accompanies these styles.

### Technique/ Strength and Conditioning

Technique/Strength and conditioning class involves a wide range of exercises to develop and build a variety of technical dance skills, with a focus on stability, strength, endurance, agility, precision and balance. These skills improve all dance technique, overall fitness and performance stamina, as well as flexibility and agility. A bootcamp session that will benefit all dancers (and any performer).

**Elite Dance Company** -auditioned company This elite company will rehearse after school on Thursdays 3.15pm - 4pm for additional performance opportunities, and working towards external performances – this elite company will be open to students in year 10,11,12 only. A place in this company will be by audition, in week 1.



## MUSIC

### Digital Music Technology

Students will learn skills in contemporary composition utilizing digital instruments, loops and samples to create a finalized project. Digital technology may include GarageBand, and various current music apps. The work will be done on Mac computers, and iPads. Composition techniques such as chord progressions, structure, musical layers and electronic sound design will be explored. The class covers a range of other related topics such as music technology and the use of recording and notation software.

### Senior Music Company: Instrumental/vocal

This is an advanced PA class for the most experienced instrumentalists and vocalists, who have demonstrated an outstanding level of technical skill and motivation. The format will be based on learning within an ensemble experience which may be flexible and will vary according to the needs and strengths of current students. Repertoire will cover Blues, Soul, Fusion and jazz genres, with students gaining stylistic skills in repertoire chosen in consultation with the tutor.

### Music Ensemble Skills: Instrumental / vocal

This is a performance class, with a focus on developing the ensemble skills used in contemporary bands comprising drums, bass, guitar, keyboard, lead vocal and backing vocals. Students will be placed into ensembles with this structure, or similar – to workshop, rehearse and prepare performances for possible inclusion in the Showcase.

### Percussion Ensemble

The Percussion Company is a percussion ensemble for both drummers and non-drummers. If you can count to 4 and know your left hand from your right hand then you have all the tools you need. The class covers

basic drumming technique, rhythm reading, to more advanced technique and rhythm for the drummers. The class culminates in an end of year showcase performance that never fails to disappoint. Previous years performances have included buckets, Japanese inspired taiko and tribal grooves.

### Solo/duo /trio vocal technique and performance skills

Students will focus on developing vocal approaches to suit the demands of contemporary singers –as well as performance practice, stagecraft and microphone technique and preparation for performance in organising accompaniment options. Students will need to perform as a soloist for this class. Students may also work in duos or trios, to develop vocal harmony skills. Students will explore and perform vocal techniques associated with the unique demands of different vocal styles such as jazz vocals, and pop and rock genres such as R'n'B, soul and Country. They will explore from a vocalist's perspective, the vocal styling and nuances of these styles and how these styles are technically approached.

### Song writing and performance workshop

This class is for aspiring song writers who would like to develop their song writing skills and workshop their songs through performance. Along with writing lyrics and putting lyrics to a melody, the work will focus on developing an understanding of chords, and arrangement techniques. Students will develop the skills required for s to write their own chord charts and arrangements, for practical application in live performance. The skills developed in this class will allow students to write original songs. The class covers a range of other related topics such as music technology and the use of recording and notation software. Students can workshop their songs through performance and digital composition programs.

### Music Theory and arranging techniques

Theory and arranging/composition techniques such as chord progressions, melody writing, form and structure, musical layers and sound design will be explored. The class covers a range of other related topics and compliments the digital class to include work on arranging and composition techniques incorporating use of notation software.

For singer/song writers, this class can incorporate putting students original lyrics to a melody, with a focus on developing an understanding of melody, chords, and arrangement techniques.

Students will develop the skills required to write their own chord charts and arrangements, for practical application in live performance.

Students will be assessed on their weekly participation in class activities, their improvement in musical skills, and completion of specifically designed set tasks. Students will be encouraged to compose and record an original song or instrumental piece of music as a complete individual project.

### Guitar Ensemble

This is an ensemble class for guitarists who will rehearse and perform a range of popular repertoire from two to three parts. Emphasis is placed on the development of guitar performance technique (chords and melodic work assigned to students within the ensemble depending on their previous level of skill) tab/chord/notation-reading, and ensemble performance skills. The group will perform each semester in Music Showcases.



## DRAMA

### Senior and Junior Drama Companies

The Senior and Junior Drama Companies will work as professional performance ensembles. In both of these Drama Companies students will become immersed in the rigour of the rehearsal process, from script work and line learning, to movement and blocking, physical and vocal preparation, and the ever-challenging bump-in/technical/dress rehearsal process. This process will leave students well-equipped with professional skills for auditioning, performing, and working creatively and effectively as an ensemble.

### Improvisation and Play Building

This class is a chance for students to explore elements of an actor's craft, including:

- Stage Presence
- Improvisation, and Making and Accepting Offers
- Creating Characters
- Believability, Conviction and 'Being in The Moment'
- Committing to Choices
- Imagination and 'Sense of Play'

While focused primarily on Improvisation, the class may involve devised performances and use of simple scripts. Students may be selected to prepare a performance for the drama showcase.

### Acting for Screen - Working with scripts

Students will study screen acting in a process that equips them for the demands of the industry. Students will work with industry standard camera equipment, learning to improve their on-camera technique and become more comfortable in real-life casting and filming situations. Scripted monologues, small scenes as well as working as a presenter, will be covered in the Working with Scripts class. Material in this class will be the basis for performances developed in Acting for

Screen.

### Scripts and Scenes

Incorporating voice for actors  
This class is for actors to develop skills in working with scripts and to focus on effective and healthy characterized vocal delivery. Exploring professional acting techniques, this class aims to help students develop truthful, dynamic performances. Techniques will be applicable to finding truth within both stage and screen scripts. Students may be selected to perform scenes in a Drama Showcase. Using published works, students will develop skills in:

- Actions, Objectives and Stanislavski Technique
  - Generating Truth in Performance
  - Creating Detailed Characters
  - Making Bold and Dynamic Choices
  - Stagecraft and the Actor's Imagination
  - Commitment to 'Being in the Moment'
  - Developing a Strong 'Actor's Voice
  - Pitch, Pace and Volume in speech
- Class will include detailed scene study of scripts from published works.

### Improvisation and Theatre Sports

This class is a chance for students to explore elements of an actor's craft, including:

- Stage Presence
- Improvisation, and Making and Accepting Offers
- Creating Characters
- Believability, Conviction and 'Being in The Moment'
- Committing to Choices
- Imagination and 'Sense of Play'

While focused primarily on Improvisation, the class may involve devised performances and use of simple scripts.

## VISUAL ARTS

### Body of Work

The BOW class focuses on spending a semester developing a series of individually developed artworks. The number, style and medium of the work is up to the student. They are given a theme and from then on make their own decisions. It is especially good for senior students to further their skills in advance of creating their major BOW's in Year 11 and 12.

### The Mischievous Grid

Experiment with various grid work techniques in your painting and drawing in Term 1 to produce your final artwork in Term 2. Materials will be provided.

### Claymation - Stop-Motion Animation

Create a stop motion animation based on a clay character(s) of your design.

### Tile Triptych - Decorative Art/Sculpture

Explore different decorative and sculptural techniques to create a nature-based tile triptych.



# ADMISSIONS

## ENROLMENT PROCEDURE

### Enrolment Enquiry

You can make an enrolment enquiry at any time by completing the General Enquiries Form or contacting the school for further information. Prospective families may choose to book in a tour of the school throughout any of the school terms.

### Overseas Enquiries

For overseas applicants, enquiries may be made through the General Enquiries Form. We will also require the submission of current results of an Assessment of English Competence report, such as IELTS. We require a minimum of 6 or equivalent.

### Application For Enrolment

To apply to enrol at APGS, you must submit an Online Application Form and pay a non-refundable application fee of \$250 or \$350 for scholarships at this link: [apgs.nsw.edu.au/php/Form\\_Application.php](http://apgs.nsw.edu.au/php/Form_Application.php).

### Interview and Audition

In the year prior to your child's commencement date, you and your child will be required to participate in an interview and audition. Once your interview and audition have been confirmed, you will be required to provide the following:

1. Copy of birth certificate
2. Copy of most recent academic reports
3. NAPLAN where available
4. Medicare Immunisation History statement – (the school does not require C19 vaccination).
5. JPEG Photo – for students file
6. One written character reference relating to you, the parent/guardian, from persons qualified to support the application (such as friends, teachers, neighbours, business acquaintances or clients).

Your child will be required to provide videos of 2 contrasting pieces of approximately 2-3 minutes total. Visual Arts students are to submit 5 – 8 pieces of their own work.

\*Auditions for students without any previous training will be based on an interview.

### Confirmation of Enrolment

After the interview and audition, your child may be offered a place at the School. In order to register your acceptance, you will be required to complete the Enrolment Agreement and return this to the School along with the payment of the non-refundable enrolment fee of \$1,500.

## CONTACT

For application or enrolment queries please contact:

APGS Admissions:  
Tel. 02 9518 5123  
Email. [admissions@apgs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:admissions@apgs.nsw.edu.au)

Web. [www.apgs.nsw.edu.au](http://www.apgs.nsw.edu.au)  
CRICOS: 02647M

### Private Tours and Open Mornings

APGS offers Private Tours of our school on a weekly basis, we also conduct school open mornings throughout the year. You may register your attendance through our online booking system or alternatively, you may contact our Admissions Officer directly.