Senior School

CO-CURRICULAR CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES 2019

Be yourself.
**INTRODUCTION**

This booklet is to assist students and parents in their understanding of the co-curricular program at Canberra Girls Grammar School.

Please note, to ensure we meet the interests of our students, details may vary from time to time.

It should be used in conjunction with the Sports booklet and the Music booklet as a guide when deciding in which activities students wish to participate.

The first section explains the philosophy of the co-curricular program at CGGS. The remainder of this booklet focuses on information about the range of other clubs and activities that are available.
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OUR PHILOSOPHY FOR CO-CURRICULUM

The co-curricular program is an integral part of the educational experience at CGGS and includes all activities that support, enhance or complement the formal academic curriculum.

It is based on the philosophy that personal growth occurs when students and staff can access a broad range of experiences. Success in future studies, employment and life itself can result for those who have a balanced approach to work and broader social commitments and who have developed their capacity to work effectively with others.

Our program offers each student the opportunity to explore and cultivate their passions and interests, to be inspired to discover their own potential, to showcase their talents and develop leadership, self-esteem and pride.

Our program offers teachers, parents and volunteers the opportunity to build relationships, to enhance connectedness with our students and to further develop their own personal and professional journey.

The Philosophy is based on these principles:

- A range of co-curricular activities that provide opportunities for students to explore their passions and interests, to find new pastimes and to develop leadership skills;
- Activities that are designed to complement and balance the curriculum and at the same time encourage participation by all students regardless of their skill level;
- The program offers a variety of competitive and non-competitive activities and promotes the importance of physical and intellectual activities as a means of enhancing a student’s general well-being;
- The importance of social interaction across year groups promoting a connectedness with a range of students within the School;
- The importance of being a member of the School community, promoting a sense of belonging, and a commitment to other students and staff participating in that activity; and
All activities offered in the co-curricular program give attention to the value of active participation in the School, the local community and the global community.

**CO-CURRICULAR CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS**

The information following is a brief outline of the clubs and activities available through the co-curricular program. Students are able to join in the activities to pursue personal interests by contacting the Teacher-in-Charge. Most of the activities have minimal or no associated cost.
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

This co-curricular group is for students who are passionate about human rights, social justice and being actively involved in the community. Following the Amnesty in Schools program, and forging connections with other social justice and philanthropic organisations, the CGGS Amnesty group welcomes students who are keen to be part of a global movement to improve the lives of the world’s most vulnerable. Amnesty campaigns include the plight of refugees, persecuted peoples and child labour. Meeting weekly to explore, plan and act on issues of human rights and social justice, the CGGS Amnesty group relies on the committed involvement of students in both senior and junior years.

When: Weekly meetings at lunchtime

Eligibility: Years 7 – 12

Contact: Mrs Stephanie Spiller

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Phone: 02 6120 3359
BOOK CLUB (LIBRARY)

Information: The Library Book Club is a student-driven activity. Under the direction of a nominated staff member and led by an elected Captain the group meets fortnightly to discuss books. There is no limit to numbers in the club and students may either email the contact or attend a meeting to join. Activities include swapping favourite books, reading in a particular genre, sharing a poem and discussing books that have been read. Members are also kept up to date with author and reading events outside of school. The group maintains a blog for sharing book ratings. The aim of the group is to foster a lifelong love of reading and community opportunity to discuss books with other interested students.

When: The club meets fortnightly in the Library at lunch time

Eligibility: Years 7 – 12

Contact: Ms Necia Agnew

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Phone: 02 6202 6463
BURRAWI – SCHOOL MAGAZINE

Information: Burrawi, the annual school magazine, is largely a student-driven publication. Under the direction of a nominated staff member a committee of about 12 students is formed through a process of selection. The committee is responsible for producing and editing Burrawi. Students work in groups to collate content about the various aspects of the life of the school over the course of the year. They liaise with Captains of activities, Teachers in Charge and participants in activities to collect articles, photographs, examples of creative work, original writing, artwork etc. The range of skills developed, or improved, include quality control, photography, layout, editing and computing, including word processing and publishing.

When: The committee meets regularly during the year. Some weekend and holiday time is required, particularly near the end of the year when the compilation is being completed.

Eligibility: Years 8 – 12

Contact: Dr. Natalie Jenkins

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Phone: 02 6202 6444
CHESS AND BOARDGAMES CLUB

Information: The Chess and Boardgames Club club meets each week during a lunch break. Students have the opportunity to learn about a variety of strategy games or chess, to compete in competitions or simply enjoy improving their game.

When: The club meets weekly at lunch time.

Contact: Mr Paul Maullin

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Phone: 02 6120 3360

CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

Information: The Creative Writing Group meets once each week during lunch time. Students have the opportunity to share their creative pieces and to explore new techniques and genres for writing.

Each year, this group participates in the ‘Write a Book in a Day” event, which combines the skills of group work, creativity and persistence. This activity is also used as a charity fund-raising event.

There may be the opportunity to submit creative pieces in to the school magazine, Burrawi or to enter other writing competitions.

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Phone: 02 6120 3360
DANCE

Information: Students may participate in the Ausdance Youth Dance Festival, which is held annually at the Canberra Theatre Centre in September. The festival is non-competitive, but rather a celebration of dance in ACT schools. It is not a requirement that students study dance as a subject at CGGS in order to be involved.

Students are charged a small fee to be involved in the Dance Festival to cover entry fees and some costuming and make-up items.

Dance opportunities also exist in school plays and musicals.

Eligibility: Junior Item – Years 8–9
             Senior Item – Years 10–12

Auditions are held, as numbers are restricted.

Times: Rehearsals are held weekly during Terms 2 and 3.

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Phone: 02 6120 3390
DEBATING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

Information: The ability of students to express themselves clearly is encouraged through debating and public speaking. Participation in debating equips students with skills useful in their studies as well as day-to-day communication.

Eligibility: Years 7 to 12 (in different divisions and/or sections)

Debating Competitions: Inter-school competitions include: the Junior Open and Fictional Worlds Competitions (Years 7-8), the Senior Open and Junior Premier Competitions (Years 9-10) and the Advanced Open and Senior Premier Competitions (Years 11 and 12).

CGGS also competes in Mock United Nations, Legislative Assembly Debates, Australian Independent Debating and Public Speaking Championships, Constitutional Convention, AHIGS Speech Festival, and a number of other events.

Selection: As there is a limit on the number of teams in some inter-school competitions, students may be required to participate in selection trials or to be selected on the basis of their ongoing performance and participation in debating and public speaking events. Generally, however, we field as many teams as there are interested students.

Times: ACT Debating Union (ACTDU) Competitions run from March to October with other events occurring during the year. Debates are held in the evening:

Junior Open/Fictional Worlds – Monday
Senior Open/JPC – Wednesday
Advanced Open/SPC – Thursday.
(These days may change annually)
Trainings are held in the afternoon after school. Typically:
Year 7–10 debating training: Monday & Friday afternoons 3.30–5.00pm. Students are expected to attend at least one session.
Year 11–12 debating training: Monday 3.30pm–5.00pm.
Public Speaking training: Tuesday and Wednesday 3.30pm–5.00pm.
All teams arrange one other training per week.

**Public Speaking:**
There are several competitions of varying lengths to enter, including:
- AHIGS “Festival of Speech”
- Rostrum “Voice of Youth”
- Royal Commonwealth Society competition
- United Nations Youth Association
- Plain English Speaking
- Australia Britain Society Public Speaking

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DRAMA PRODUCTIONS

Information: Co-curricular Drama productions are available to all students, whether or not they study Drama as a subject at CGGS. Each year our School presents several productions in conjunction with the Drama Department.

Eligibility: Years 7 to 12 (usually by audition)

Performance Opportunities:

In 2019, the year commences with the major musical production, ‘Wicked’, for students in Years 6 to 12. Later in the year, a drama production for students in Years 8 to 10 will be produced, with direction by students in Years 11 and 12.

As a showcase of students work, Cabaret Night is a compilation of drama, dance and music items. Students are given the opportunity to audition to be included in the program.

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DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

Information: The Award is a leading structured youth development program, empowering young Australians to explore their full potential. It is offered in more than 130 countries with over 8 million young people having participated worldwide and 775,000 young Australians having participated in the Award over the past 58 years. As a non-formal education framework, the Award can play a vital role in providing opportunities for young people to develop essential life skills, increase their employability and foster their creativity and innovation.

CGGS is a Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme unit, offering its students the chance to participate in this program of cultural, practical and adventurous activities embracing the four sections of Service, Adventurous Journeys, Skills and Physical Recreation.

Each participant, in conjunction with adult helpers, devises a program which is flexible enough to meet her aptitude, background and available resources. The Scheme is voluntary and non-competitive. On completion of a program, participants qualify for an Award at the Bronze, Silver or Gold level. They may complete one or several Awards during their time at CGGS.

For more information visit: www.dukeofed.com.au

Eligibility: Students from Years 10–12 can participate in the CGGS Duke of Edinburgh program. A Bronze Award option is offered through Year 9 Camp.
**Costs:**
$185 per Award level (Bronze, Silver, Gold) paid directly to the Duke of Edinburgh organisation via its online record book, and $100 one-off joining fee payable to the School on entry to the program.

Expeditions start at $200 for a 3-day trip and $250 for a 4-day trip. Some trips will incur additional charges to cover items such as transport, equipment hire, park or camping fees and use of outside guides or providers.

The CGGS Duke of Edinburgh program can lend students basic camping gear such as packs, tents, stoves, sleeping bags, sleeping mats and wet weather clothing at no additional cost.

**Time:**
Students complete the sections in their own time, but candidates are expected to attend the regular lunchtime, after school and weekend meetings for their Award level.

**Expectations:**
Students can only complete the Award by fulfilling the requirements of the four elements. Part of the challenge of the program is for students to organise themselves to complete the requirements in their own time using their own initiative.

**Adventurous Journeys:**
The School offers a range of Adventurous Journeys each year and will assist students to organise and complete safe expeditions, from the planning and training through to the completion of the assessment. Only Adventurous Journeys undertaken through an approved Duke of Edinburgh Award Unit can be counted towards students’ Award.

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Mr Nick Crisp

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**Phone:**
02 6202 6360
ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

Information: The group is designed to engage the imagination of students and involve them in considering their future. The group raises environmental awareness within the School together with the school's environmental profile by engaging in organised events such as Clean Up Australia Day and Earth Hour. There is also scope to make functional use of waste products by creating items to sell at the school fete.

Eligibility: Years 7 – 12

Costs: Nil

Times: Meetings once a week at lunchtime. As well as the regular meetings, the students look to conduct “awareness raising” activities for the wider school community.

Contacts: Mrs Dianne Gilbert

Email: dianne.gilbert@cggs.act.edu.au

Phone: 02 6202 6447
INDIGENOUS FOCUS GROUP

Information: The Indigenous Focus Group is largely a student-led activity, in which interested students meet weekly during lunchtime to examine indigenous issues. Students discuss issues raised in newspaper or magazine articles, radio or television news bulletins or from awareness in the community. The group also arranges some excursions to galleries that display indigenous art, promote the Central Australia tour, or research current information. The group may also raise funds for Indigenous Charities such as the Yalari Foundation.

Eligibility: Years 10, 11 & 12

When: The group meets once a week at lunch time

Contact: Mr Mitch Robinson

Email: mitch.robinson@cggs.act.edu.au

Phone: 02 6120 3355
**INNOVATION CLUB**

**Information:** The Innovation Club is based in the IT centre with the aim to support the interests of students and work with them on projects and technologies that most engage them. The space is home to a number of technologies, from drones and robotics through to 3D printers and circuitry. A mentor is available to facilitate a range of coding, 3D printing and robotics projects.

**Eligibility:** All students in Years 7 to 12

**Location:** IT Centre

**Times:** Tuesday afternoons (3.30pm – 4.45pm)

Thursday, Friday Lunch (space open to work on projects)

**Competitions:** The club will explore the option of entering competitions such as the First Robotics League

**Contact:** Mr Matthew Broadbent

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**Phone:** 02 6202 6444
Melbourne Avenue Media is the school’s student-led production group. Combining Technical Production and Film Crews with a Studio Recording stream the team is tasked with the goal of ‘capturing’ the life and activities of the school.

**Technical Production:** This activity is for students who have an interest in the technical aspects of performances. The students are introduced to the use of sound and lighting boards, interfacing AV equipment, intercom systems, design and planning for performances and OHandS issues. The students have the opportunity to use their skills by working on the Technical Crew for assemblies, concerts, plays, musicals and other public performances.

**Melbourne Ave Films:** This activity is for students who are interested in film and journalism. The students are trained in effective camera techniques and are involved in the filming of school activities and events on a roster basis. The goal of this team is to produce a range of films that creatively showcase and promote aspects of the school. Material produced by the group may go up on the School website and used in promotional activities of the School.

**Studio Recording:** This activity is for students who are interested in audio engineering and music. The team will learn how to capture and edit audio for a range of purposes and be involved in recording activities and events of the School’s music program.

**Eligibility:** Years 7 to 12

**Times:** Team meetings and training afternoons are held after school, on a Tuesday afternoon each fortnight. Additional afternoons and/or weekend time may be involved in
Preparing for performances. Members of each team will assist at evening performances on a roster basis.

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## MOCK TRIALS AND MOOTING

**Information:** In Semester 1, our school enters a team which participates in the NSW Law Society’s Mock Trial Competition. Students who are interested in law as a career and developing confidence in public speaking find it a beneficial and enjoyable activity. Cases are prepared by the NSW Law Society. Two schools compete at each trial – one prosecution/plaintiff and one defence. Trials can be held in Canberra or in the Southern NSW region (most commonly Cooma) and are organised at the start of each round. Students prepare their case using legal notes, witness statements etc. provided by the Law Society. In Semester 2, we compete in the University of Canberra Capital Region Mock Trial Competition. The competition is held on a fixed schedule in Term 3. The School normally enters two teams to this competition. In addition, Bond University conducts a Mooting Competition. A team of 3 students from each school argues a legal case on appeal.

**Eligibility:** Only selected students in Years 10, 11 and 12 participate

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THE MUSIC ACADEMY PROGRAM

A diverse range of co-curricular ensembles and classes are offered through The Music Academy at Canberra Girls Grammar School. Throughout the year, ensembles participate in school concerts, eisteddfods, music festivals and tours. Ensembles also regularly provide musical support for community events, school functions and services.

The Music Academy ensembles and classes are divided into six main categories: Bands, Orchestras, Choirs, Chamber, Specialisation and Ensembles.

Please visit www.themusicacademy.cggs.act.edu.au for details of the variety of options available to students in the Senior School.

The handbook (available online) also includes terms and conditions, pricing and a link to the enrolment form.

Contact: Mr Joel Copeland
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Phone 02 6202 6446
NEXUS CLUB

Information: The NEXUS club is for students who have an interest in books, movies or television shows in the genres of fantasy and/or science fiction. The students participate in regular weekly meetings to compare readings, discuss new movie releases, play games and complete a variety of organised activities. Occasional sleepovers are held at school for movie marathons (e.g. Lord of the Rings trilogy or Doctor Who series), as well as trivia nights, movie premieres and other activities. Some creative pursuits include writing original fantasy or sci-fi material, or even making short films.

Eligibility: All students from Years 7 to 12

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Phone: 02 6120 3356
SAFE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Information: The Safe School Committee comprises 4 staff members and 18 student volunteers. The Director of Pastoral Care, the Head of the Junior School, School Counsellor, and one other teacher meet regularly with the students where the message is to “Speak Up”. The approach used by this committee is one of creating connections in social relationships and ensuring a safe and supportive environment for students across the whole school. Student focused activities using proactive strategies include poster and essay competitions, drama skits, Assembly presentations, Newsletter items and awareness raising through videos. An annual Father-daughter/son breakfast is held to promote the Safe School message ‘speak up’. Harmony Day is also celebrated to promote cultural diversity.

Eligibility: Students from Year 6 to 12 may apply to join the Committee each year.

Selection: Students are asked to submit a written application and these are assessed by the incumbent committee and staff.

Contact: Ms Skye Tyler
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Phone: 02 6202 6488
SCIENCE CLUB

Information: Students use the time to discuss Science topics of interest to them, design and carry out experiments, build models and attend field excursions when possible. This provides enrichment in Science for interested students. The aim is to present Science in a fun and interesting way, through demonstration and hands-on activities. The group decides upon the topics to be investigated at the beginning of the semester.

Eligibility: There are no prerequisites for entry into the Science Club. Any interested student can join.

Costs: There may be a small cost for excursions or guest presenters.

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Phone: 02 6202 6444
REPRESENTING THE SCHOOL IN OTHER COMPETITIONS

Students are able to participate in a wide range of competitions such as:

- Australian Schools English Competition
- Alliance Française Competition
- Da Vinci Decathlon
- Modern Language Teachers Association (MLTA) Language Competition
- Physics, Chemistry and Biology Olympiads
- Australian Schools’ Science Competition
- Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI) Robotic Competitions
- Titration Competition
- Australian Schools’ Mathematics Competition
- Australian Mathematics Challenge

The participation in competitions may vary from year to year, depending on other events and opportunities for students.

These competitions are usually arranged by the relevant faculty and students are notified through appropriate class groups.