

# Music Extension Program (MEX)



Education for Life  
**KENMORE STATE HIGH SCHOOL**

# Kenmore State High School Music Extension Program (MEX)



## CONTENTS

Overview.....	2
Unique experiences available through MEX.....	3
Combination of MEX and German Immersion or KENX.....	4
Timetable.....	5
Instrumental & Vocal Music Program.....	5
Commitment.....	5
Frequently Asked Questions.....	6
Student Reflections.....	7

Last Updated: May, 2025



## OVERVIEW

Music Extension (MEX) is an academic classroom subject specifically designed for students who have already developed sound music reading and performance skills during their primary years of education. This exciting program provides a unique opportunity for students to refine their musicianship skills in a supportive and challenging environment alongside peers who share their passion for music.

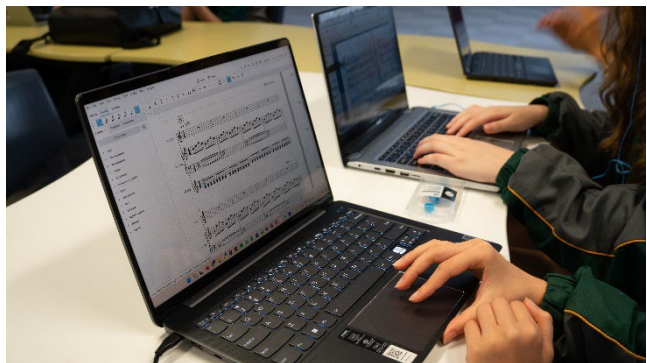
Music Extension is a 2.5 year program. Successful applicants are expected to remain in the Program of Excellence for the entirety of the course until the end of Year 9. Students who wish to continue can then choose to reselect Music Extension as part of their Year 10 subject selection.

Students are also required to participate in at least one of our school's extra-curricular music ensembles enhancing their experience through diverse musical collaborations. Involvement in the Junior Choir, *Vox Nova* is strongly encouraged as it strengthens aural and musicianship skills essential to the MEX classroom curriculum.

The MEX program involves a range of creative performance opportunities such as full-class, small group, and solo performances where students gain confidence and proficiency in multiple instruments, including guitar and keyboard, as well as developing their aural skills.

Our curriculum program involves a range of creative performance opportunities such as full-class, small group, and solo performances, where students gain confidence and proficiency in multiple instruments, including guitar and keyboard. A strong emphasis is placed on aural-vocal development, ensuring students refine their listening skills and musical expression as they progress through the program.

Students will gain a greater understanding of music by exploring musical elements and their relationships to style, context, and genre, both visually and aurally. This approach to music education ensures that MEX students are well-equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in all aspects of life.





## UNIQUE EXPERIENCES AVAILABLE THROUGH MEX

Music Extension offers students the opportunity to elevate their musical abilities well beyond the traditional classroom setting through a range of engaging and enriching experiences. MEX students have access to a range of exceptional opportunities, such as:

- **Interactive Workshops:** Participate in hands-on sessions such as African drumming and Kaboom Percussion, exploring diverse musical styles.
- **Working with Universities on Composition Projects:** Work alongside tertiary composition students from the University of Queensland and Griffith Conservatorium of Music to develop advanced composition techniques.
- **Live Performance Experiences:** Attend professional musical theatre productions to gain insight into the art of live performance.
- **Specialist Jazz Workshops:** Learn from industry professionals through in-class sessions with the Jazz Music Institute (JMI).
- **Recording and Producing Original Music:** Record and produce original songs in state-of-the-art facilities at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) while collaborating with tertiary music students.
- **Diverse Performance Opportunities:** Showcase talents in unique settings, such as busking at Open Day, performing at art showcase evenings, and entertaining at parent breakfasts.
- **Queensland Symphony Orchestra (QSO) Compose Project:** Collaborate with QSO mentors to create an original orchestral work, culminating in a live performance by the QSO at their Southbank studio.

These experiences are designed to inspire creativity, enhance technical skills, and provide students exposure to the professional music world.



# COMINATION OF MEX AND GERMAN IMMERSION OR KENX

Students have the unique opportunity at Kenmore SHS to combine MEX with another Program of Excellence:

- Music Extension + German Immersion (GIEP)
- Music Extension + KENX

Alternatively, students may choose to apply for Music Extension as a standalone program.

## Advantages of combining MEX with GIEP or KENX:

**Broader Skill Development:** Combining these programs equips students with diverse competencies, from creative problem-solving to advanced academic reasoning.

**Enhanced Cognitive Abilities:** Research shows that music education strengthens areas of the brain associated with memory, focus, and multitasking. Learning a language or engaging in critical thinking (KENX) can boost problem-solving abilities, which are also critical in musical composition and analysis.

**Cultural and Global Awareness:** Language introduces students to another culture, enhancing their understanding of global perspectives. Paired with studying world music or culturally rich compositions in Music Extension, students gain a well-rounded appreciation for diversity.

**Time Management and Resilience:** Balancing two Programs of Excellence helps students master time management and build resilience. These skills are invaluable for future studies and careers.

**Creative and Analytical Balance:** Music Extension offers an outlet for creativity and emotional expression, balancing the structured and logical focus of other subject areas.

**Teamwork and Individual Growth:** Programs like Music Extension involve collaboration (e.g., ensemble performances), while academic programs often emphasise individual achievements. This balance fosters both teamwork and personal accountability.

**Future-Ready Skills:** Proficiency in a second language, advanced academics, and musical talent are sought-after skills in the modern job market. These programs prepare students for diverse fields, from STEM and humanities to the arts and beyond.

These Programs of Excellence support the development of the six 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning competencies – critical thinking, creativity, communication collaboration, character and citizenship. By pursuing more than one Program of Excellence, students build a rich foundation of skills and experiences, setting themselves up for academic, professional, and personal success.



## TIMETABLE

Music Extension is a classroom subject integrated into the regular school timetable alongside other core subjects such as Mathematics, English, and Science. Students receive three 70-minute lessons per week with their classroom music teacher.

In Year 7, students participate in Music Extension for one semester, allowing them to explore an alternative elective in the other semester.

- MEX only students – **Semester 1**
- German Immersion (GIEP) or KENX students + MEX – **Semester 2**

Once in years 8 & 9, all students will participate in MEX for **both** semester 1 & 2.

Please refer to the [Junior Secondary Curriculum Handbook](#) (pages 5-7) for details relating to Programs of Excellence timetabling.

## INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Students in MEX are also required to participate in our comprehensive and highly regarded Instrumental Music and Vocal Music Program. Students will be assigned an initial ensemble based on their MEX audition, with all students also strongly encouraged to participate in the Junior Choir (Vox Nova)\* as this helps strengthen and build musicianship skills used in the MEX classroom. Students can participate in multiple ensembles.

Refer to the [Instrumental and Vocal Music Handbook](#) for specific details.

*\*This change will be implemented from 2026 onwards*

## COMMITMENT

Students who accept an offer to join the Music Extension (MEX) Program of Excellence are committing to the following:

- **Completion of the 2.5 year program:** Students are expected to remain in the program for the entirety of the course until the end of Year 9. Students who wish to continue can then choose to reselect Music Extension as part of their Year 10 subject selection.
- **Active participation in the Instrumental and Vocal Music Program:** Students must be enrolled in at least one ensemble. Involvement in the Junior Choir, Vox Nova is strongly encouraged as it strengthens aural and musicianship skills essential to the MEX classroom curriculum.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: The MEX application asks for documentary evidence (if applicable) of my child's musical education. What is this?**

**A:** AMEB Certificates – (the highest certificate only), Trinity College certificates, references from private teachers (you do not need a reference from school instrumental teachers as these are included in your child's report card), Eisteddfod certificates, etc.

**Q: My child learns an instrument at Primary School. Is he/she able to enrol in MEX?**

**A:** Yes. The program is designed specifically for these students. All applicants will audition for the MEX program.

**Q: My child has not completed any AMEB exams. Can he/she still apply to be in MEX?**

**A:** Yes. Your child will have the opportunity to showcase their musical ability during the live audition.

**Q: My child sings/plays guitar/plays the drums. Can they still apply to be in MEX?**

**A:** Yes. For guitarist - as long as your child can read music notation (not just TAB) they can apply to be in the program. If your child is auditioning on drum kit, they must also audition on a tuned percussion instrument (e.g., xylophone or glockenspiel).

**Q: Will my child be required to participate in an ensemble?**

**A:** Yes. Students must be enrolled in at least one ensemble. All Year 7 MEX students are also required to participate in the Vox Nova choir. Rehearsals take place before school at 7:30am.

**Q: Are there costs associated with the program?**

**A:** Yes. **MEX:** a \$200 administration fee is required when applying for a place in a Program of Excellence. Full details of the costs can be found on the KSHS website.

**Instrumental & Vocal Music Program:** refer to the Instrumental and Vocal Music Handbook 2025.

**Q: How do I apply? What is involved in this process?**

**A:** Detailed information is available in the *Program of Excellence Enrolment Guide* located on the Kenmore SHS website - [www.kenmoreshs.eq.edu.au/curriculum/programs-of-excellence/music-extension](http://www.kenmoreshs.eq.edu.au/curriculum/programs-of-excellence/music-extension)

Round 1 offers for Year 7 students commencing in 2026 have been finalised. However, an additional opportunity to secure limited remaining places in this program will take place on Enrolment Day (June 14<sup>th</sup>). All 2026 students are encouraged to attend our Open Day on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Students auditioning will be required to present their live audition in front of a panel. Please see [MEX Audition Requirements](#) documentation for specific details. In addition to this live audition, students are also required to perform a short sight-reading exercise on their auditioning instrument as well as sit a short written music theory test aimed at an AMEB preliminary level (note identification, rhythmic values, musical signs and definitions).



## STUDENT REFLECTIONS



*"The Kenmore State High School's Music Extension program is an amazing program that enhances your musical understanding and performance aspects in many ways. It is a great way to connect with fellow classmates that share the love of music and can help you build up great skills. I decided to join the MEX program after building up a huge passion for drumming and wanting to learn what goes on in the music making process. The teachers are definitely a highlight of the program offering all the assistance and knowledge you need to improve. Through MEX we have been challenged analysing, composing and performing music in groups and individually. Overall, I would I highly recommend!"* **Hamish McNutt (Year 10) – KENX & MEX**



*"At Kenmore State High School, music has always played a large role in the culture and excellence of the school. Prior to high school, I had been playing piano for 5 years, and I never would've thought I would be at the place I am today. Now, on top of piano, I have been playing guitar for almost 2 years; and have developed many music skills including enhancing my musical theory, composition tasks, musical analysis and many more. If anyone were to ask what my favourite classes were and why, I would always say MEX because of its fun lessons, engaging practical assessments, and all of the incredible friends I made along the way".* **Sam Dashtdar (Year 10) - MEX**



*"I originally joined Music Extension to further my musical knowledge, and it has exceeded my expectations of this! But the community and support from the students and teachers has been by far the highlight of my musical journey. I have NEVER felt uncomfortable to perform or challenge myself in MEX".* **Emma Eagleson (Year 12) – German Immersion & MEX**



*"The Music Extension Program (MEX) has really enhanced my confidence, musicianship, and creativity; it has given me valuable opportunities to extend my musical skills and form meaningful connections with like-minded people. The teachers in MEX are some of the most supportive and dedicated teachers in the entire school. Students who are passionate about music get a real sense of community."* **Manling Sun (Year 12) – German Immersion & MEX**



*"Kenmore State High School's Music Extension Program is a great program that extends your musical skills and knowledge in every way. I chose to be part of MEX because I had been playing piano and violin from a young age and really enjoyed music. MEX is always a highlight of my week because of my teachers, the friends I've made in the program and the practical lessons. MEX has challenged me and taught me great group work and performance skills".* **Asha Baldwin (2024 Graduate) – German Immersion & MEX**

## Want to know more?

**Jo Willett – Head of Department (Arts)**

E: [MEX@kenmoreshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:MEX@kenmoreshs.eq.edu.au)

T: (07) 3327 1555

W: [www.kenmoreshs.eq.edu.au](http://www.kenmoreshs.eq.edu.au)