Welcome to ASPIRE 2017! It’s going to be a fabulous year; I can feel it in my bones! We are looking forward to seeing this year’s production ‘The Close’ develop over the next 6 months and I look forward to everyone’s input.

A few things to remember about ASPIRE

- Please wear your uniform to every rehearsal.
- Remember to bring a drink of water, it’s thirsty work making theatre.
- Please advise Anna if you’re going to be absent, a call or text message is fine.
- Enjoy the experience and throw yourself into rehearsals. Don’t be afraid of getting things wrong particularly. If you’re going to fail, fail spectacularly!

Our Ensembles will be working on learning songs, choreography and blocking in this first term before focusing on pulling it all together in Term 2. Please make sure you look over your ASPIRE material in between rehearsals so we aren’t having to relearn things week to week. Make notes on your scripts and handouts as much as you can, it helps you remember!

I will let people know when there are productions on and sometimes I may send out an email to invite certain ensembles to events. This week there is a letter about an ASPIRE trip to Kinky Boots which I have to allocate tickets for on a first come first served basis. Please email to advise me you wish to take up one of these spaces.

Have a great first few weeks of rehearsal

Anna

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE ENSEMBLES

DRAMA:

Tuesday was such an exciting day beginning a new Aspire year and beginning the journey of a new show. The Drama Ensemble was just buzzing with energy as we gathered together for the first time. I would like to begin by welcoming back all “old” Aspire members and a special welcome to the new members who are now a part of this very special family that we call Aspire. This year we are joined by Pippa in the role of Diocesan support person for Drama and I am really looking forward to working with her and sharing her ideas and creativity.

For the next few weeks we will be working on our skills, getting to know each other and beginning some work in devising scenes. Our first week demonstrated how much talent these students bring to our group. Each week I would like students to bring a pen and notebook to Aspire. This is really important as we may require them to write notes, ideas or responses. Also please make sure that everyone brings water especially at the moment when it is so hot.

I am really looking forward to working with these students, developing their skills and working to create a show that demonstrates how very capable this cast is. I ask that students remember the need to stay online when we are working. Enjoy your week and remember to think back over the session and analyse the work that we created.

Lisa Hall and Pippa Hartshorne
DANCE:
Hola Dancers!

Thanks for a great first week of Aspire! I am so excited to work with you all and look forward to seeing you dancing as a team.

It’s really important during the course of Aspire that you look after yourselves. We don’t want to see you put in all this hard work and not be able to see it through, so make sure you are making smart choices in your other activities. Always warm up and cool down your bodies to help avoid injury!

It’s time to step outside the square....

Make sure to bring your creative minds as we will be always trying new things and to push boundaries.

Yay for Aspire 2017! Go team!!

Lauren Wheatley and Sarah Purnell

MUSIC:
Welcome to ASPIRE for 2017! The band and strings had a great first rehearsal. We were introduced to all of our members in the ensemble and started to develop some ensemble skills by playing and improvising using a 12 bar blue chord progression.

This year the music has an Australian theme. Please have a listen to the songs that will be included in the show, especially the songs that you are unfamiliar with. Next week, you will start to receive your music for each of the songs.

Remember to bring a music stand, a black folder, pencil and water bottle to every rehearsal. We are really looking forward to working with you all this year!

Jess Lopez and Dominique Cunningham

VOCAL:
Welcome to ASPIRE 2017 and congratulations on being accepted into the ASPIRE program. It is a great privilege to be a part of this wonderful adventure. We are very excited about our new show this year, and we are looking forward to working with all the talented, enthusiastic and energetic vocalists.

If the sound we made together in our first rehearsal is indicative of our work together ... then 2017 will be one of the best ‘singing’ years EVER!

Please remember to bring your folder, pencil and WATER bottle every week and take care of your voice. Don’t forget to check your CSO emails during the week for updates, scripts, tracks, lyrics etc.

Check out the new ASPIRE website too!

Jeanette Chapman and Michael Nolan

EXCITING AND IMPORTANT DATES

Project Compassion Launch at the Sacred Heart Cathedral 28 February 2017 (Drama Ensemble only)

Catholic Schools Week Mass at the Sacred Heart Cathedral .... 7 March 2017 (Vocal Ensemble only)

ANNA RECOMMENDS:

Anna will list production she thinks look interesting for cast members. Please let her know if you are in a production so she can advertise it for you and celebrate that involvement!

Belvoir Theatre’s Jasper Jones (suitable for aged 14 upwards) at the Newcastle Civic Theatre 1-4 March 2017

One Man Two Guvnor’s at Hunter School of the Performing Arts 2 - 4 March 2017

Musica Viva: Eighth Blackbird at The Newcastle Conservatorium 2 March 2107