



Northcross Intermediate presents...

# Arts Academy

## 2026





# Who am I?



Ex-Northcross student, former Arts Academy student (2012).

Second-year Arts Academy teacher, going into my 5th year of teaching.

Dance and drama have been part of my life since age 2.

Earned an Arts Degree (Drama & English) at Auckland University.

Choreographed and performed dance at Disneyland California and Hollywood Boulevard.

Started teaching dance at age 14 at Dance Dimensions Browns Bay, as well as leading after school dance at Long Bay College.

Lead role in a short film as well as being involved in multiple university productions!





# What is the Arts Academy?

The **Arts Academy** is a **specialist programme** for passionate Year 8 students who want to grow their talents and creativity in the **performing and visual arts**.

Students in the Arts Academy will:

- Work on collaborative creative projects
- Develop skills in drama, dance, music, and visual arts
- Perform, create, and share their work with others
- Be part of a group that values teamwork, confidence, and self-expression
- Take part in showcases, school-wide events, and creative workshops







# How the AA operates...

The Arts Academy is a single cell classroom that teaches all curriculum subjects: Maths, Reading, Writing, Project-based learning, Health, Science, many more....

The Arts curriculum is weaved throughout, allowing students to explore these subjects in a variety of ways.

Arts Academy PBL topics are individual to the class, allowing them to explore the Arts rather than the school-wide PBL. The exception to this is Term One, where students focus on the Y8 Waikato Unit in preparation for camp.



# Class Culture

- **Collaboration:** We work together, listen to ideas, and share the spotlight.
- **Creativity:** We take risks, experiment, and try new approaches.
- **Respect:** We value each other's contributions and encourage positive feedback.
- **Commitment:** We show up ready to give our best and follow through on our projects.
- **Resilience:** We embrace mistakes as part of learning and keep going when things get tricky.
- **Celebration:** We acknowledge each other's successes, big or small.



# The Arts Academy is not...



A class of students who think they are 'better' than others.

For students who only want to be the 'centre of attention'

For students who only want to work individually.

For students who cannot work well with the teacher.

## It is...

It is a collaborative and creative space that encourages students to work together, share ideas, and learn from one another. Through this process, students develop not only their artistic skills but also their ability to communicate, problem-solve, and think critically. This environment values experimentation, reflection, and expression, allowing each student to contribute their unique perspective while engaging in collective artistic growth.





# Four Arts Strands



## Drama

Thinking, acting, and performing

Exploring different identities, experiences, and characters

Using spoken and written language with control and confidence



## Music

Creating, performing, and listening to music

Exploring different sounds, styles, and rhythms

Expressing ideas, emotions, and stories through sound



## Dance

Using body language, movement, and space

Performing, creating, and exploring different styles

Expressing who we are as individuals, in groups, and across cultures

## Visual Art

Creating, observing, and interpreting visual art and film

Exploring colors, shapes, textures, and storytelling through images

Expressing ideas, emotions, and perspectives through visual mediums





# Teaching the Curriculum - Dance

## NZ Curriculum:

- Apply dance elements (space, time, energy, relationships).
- Develop movement vocabularies and choreographic ideas.

## The Focus:

- Creating original choreography in groups.
- Linking movement to themes, music, and emotion.
- Performing with expression and precision.



# Teaching the Curriculum - Drama

## NZ Curriculum:

- Develop ideas through improvisation, role, and drama conventions.
- Use voice, movement, and technologies to create meaning.

## The Focus:

- Devising group performances from prompts.
- Building skills in characterisation, projection, and stage presence.
- Exploring conflict, collaboration, and storytelling.



Works nicely alongside Literacy!

# Teaching the Curriculum - Music

## NZ Curriculum:

- Develop and refine musical ideas using elements of music and simple technologies.
- Communicate and interpret meaning in music.

## The Focus (Term 4)

- Composing short pieces or soundscapes for performances.
- Using rhythm, melody, and dynamics to enhance storytelling.
- Exploring music technology for creative projects.





# Teaching the Curriculum - Visual Art

## NZ Curriculum:

- Explore and develop visual ideas using a variety of materials, processes, and technologies.
- Understand the influence of artists, designers, and media creators across cultures and time.

## The Focus:

- Designing sets, props, and costumes for live performances.
- Experimenting with mixed media, digital design, and stagecraft.
- Creating film elements: Storyboarding, camera angles, shot composition, and editing for short films or recorded performances.
- Connecting visual design to themes, mood, and storytelling in both stage and screen productions.



# Literacy and the Arts

**Scriptwriting** Students write their own scripts and plays, learning how to use dialogue, stage directions, and character development. This strengthens their creative writing and storytelling skills.

**Reading & Analysis** Scripts, films, poems, and song lyrics are treated as “texts.” Students practise comprehension strategies like finding themes, making inferences, and analysing author’s purpose.

**Research Projects** Arts projects often include research (e.g. the origins of fairytales, the science of the Waikato River, or background on an artist). This builds information literacy and critical thinking.

**Reflection & Feedback** Students keep journals, write reviews, and explain their creative choices. They also give and receive peer feedback, practising reflective and persuasive writing.

**Oral Language** Through performances, presentations, discussions, and improvisations, students learn how to communicate ideas clearly, use voice effectively, and build confidence in speaking.

**Creative Integration** Arts and literacy come together. For example, turning a story into a performance, writing a narrative to match a dance, or creating a poem that inspires a visual artwork.

# Arts Academy Opportunities 2025

Guest Speaker - Mary Lyn Chambers

Play performances

Onscreen Film Competition

Theatre company workshop with Foolish Wit at the Pumphouse Theatre (working with ACTUAL theatre actors.)

Viewing of LBC's Level 3 production 'Heavenly Bodies'

Cross-curricular integration of the Arts





# 2025 Arts Programme

Term	Arts Focus
Term 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Introduction to the programme</li><li>➤ Setting up for success</li><li>➤ Camp</li><li>➤ Introduction to script writing</li></ul>
Term 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Script Writing for stage performances</li><li>➤ Guest Speaker – Performance</li><li>➤ Performance rehearsals</li></ul>
Term 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Student Short script performances</li><li>➤ On Screen</li><li>➤ Guest Speaker – Film and Screenplays</li></ul>
Term 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Talent Show</li></ul>
All Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Focus on movement</li><li>➤ Improvisation Skills</li></ul>

# Spotlight on the Arts

Weekly focuses on the Arts in Terms 1 & 2. This included:

- Drama improvisation, mime, drama elements (voice, body, character work)
- Dance elements, experimenting with movement
- Exploring film techniques, engaging film moments and dialogue.
- Term 4: Focus on music, what makes a song engaging, looking behind the lyrics, storytelling through music.

# How to Apply?

1: Google Form available in tomorrow via the Daily Notices - pay close attention to the closing date! This will close next Friday 19th September.

We will arrange a meeting to go over any questions students have or if they just want to find out more about whether the class will suit them.

2: Auditions will be held in the PAC during school hours. Here students will be given various Arts tasks to complete with groups. **These will take place in Term 4, Week 2 - Monday 13th October**

3: Callback auditions for a selected group. **Date is Term 2, Week 2 - Friday 17th October.**

4: Students who were called back for the second round of auditions will be asked to submit a video and a written essay about why they should be in the Arts Academy.

As part of the selection process, Year 7 teachers/Associate Principals, Specialist teachers, and Deputy Principals are asked about the students ability to collaborate, attitude towards learning etc.