

11 March 2026

Dear Principals and PAF Coordinators

The purpose of this communication is to, firstly, thank you for your significant support for the Catholic Arts during 2025 and secondly, to provide the 2026 Updates of the Performing Arts Festival for your information.

In 2026, we celebrate the 37th year of the Performing Arts Festival. The Festival commences with an Opening Mass which will be held at St Mary's Cathedral on Thursday, 23 July. All sections of the Performing Arts Festival take place from 24 July through until 4 September.

Principals will receive this memo, the 2026 Performing Arts Festival poster and calendar via bulk mail. School PAF Coordinators will receive all information digitally.

The Angelico Art Exhibition takes place from 10-28 August. Further information on the exhibition will be provided soon.

PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

- Live Performances and Recorded Entries are offered.
- Recorded Entries will be viewed by Adjudicators and feedback provided. Due to schools' capacity to record and the nature of recordings, these will not be eligible for Shields, however Awards may be presented based upon Adjudicator recommendations. Reduced entry fees apply. Adjudication takes place in Term 4 (Mon 19 – Fri 23 October). Feedback will be provided thereafter.
- Live Performances: Venue Admission is determined by the capacity and the regulations that apply at the venue.
- The Festival Finale takes place at Newman College on Tuesday 15 September.
- The majority of communication from the Catholic Arts Office is via emails and the website with fewer bulk school mail outs. Please check the website regularly for any updates on the Festival or contact the office if unsure, so you are kept up to date.

With, in excess of 20,000 students involved from 162 Catholic schools from across Western Australia, the overall coordination of the Festival is an onerous task which continues to grow in complexity. To assist the staff at the Catholic Arts Office, the Performing Arts Festival Committee has reviewed practices over the past few years and compiled the following information to assist both schools and the office in ensuring efficient operation and participation for all. **Please read the information** carefully and contact the Catholic Arts Office catholicarts@cewa.edu.au should you require any clarification.

Again, we thank you for your support during the 2025 Festival and look forward to continuing the Catholic Arts journey with you and your school community in 2026.

Yours sincerely



Darryl Winsor
Chair, Catholic Arts

2026 IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE

Please ensure you familiarise yourself with the following information

LATEST NEWS

PLEASE REVIEW THE RULES FOR EVERY SECTION YOU ARE ENTERING

A REMINDER

It is important that all staff involved in preparing and supporting student participation in the Performing Arts Festival are cognisant of this spirit of participation which should take precedence over the pursuit of Shields and school recognition. The rules governing each section of the Festival have been established and modified over a long period of time and are to be adhered to. The final decision regarding adherence to Festival rules will rest with the section coordinator who may choose to liaise with the PAF committee for clarification. It is not appropriate for staff to approach students from another school in any way should they consider a breach of the rules may have occurred.

MUSIC AND STAGE PLANS CAN BE UPLOADED WITH YOUR ONLINE ENTRY

The facility to upload sheet music and stage plans to your online entry form is now functional. Please note: There may be some temporary slowness when uploading your files. If you are experiencing any severe interruptions, please contact us at catholicarts@cewa.edu.au, and we will work through rectifying this.

When you upload the music score, it will automatically annotate, so there is no need to write the name of the student, section or school anymore.

Please do not send your music/stage plans in the mail.

If music/stage plans are not submitted by the due date, the item will be ineligible for an Outstanding Award, Excellence Award or Perpetual Shield.

Instrumental Solo/Duet PERCUSSION - DRUM KIT ONLY

This year, a separate performance date has been organised for those student(s) playing a Drum Kit. Please see amended rule below:

ENTER ONLINE AS FOLLOWS:	
DRUM KIT ONLY	<i>Enter in 'Percussion Solo/Duet – Drum Kit ONLY' section.</i>
Drums (bongos, snares, tom toms etc)	<i>Enter in Percussion Solo/Duet section</i>
Percussion instrument and Drum Kit	<i>Enter in Percussion Solo/Duet section</i>



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CERTIFICATES AWARDED

The marking criteria for Adjudicators is used as a guide only. Adjudicators are briefed on the criteria. Awards are not determined by the location or number of ticks received on an adjudication report. The Awards are at the adjudicator's discretion. Some Adjudicators award freely whilst others do not. The Office cannot overturn an Adjudicator's decision.

Please see 'Appendix 1_Criteria for Awards' on the website for more information. There will be no more 'Participation Certificates'. All participants will receive a Merit certificate except for those performers who have received an Outstanding or Excellence Certificate.

ONLINE ENTRIES ARE NOW OPEN

Entries to the Festival are available via the Catholic Arts Website www.spiritofthearts.com.au. 'Instructions on How to enter online' are included on the Online portal. Please contact the Catholic Arts Office staff if you have any questions. As a PAF Coordinator, your login details remain unchanged. All new coordinators will receive a 'Welcome Email' with instructions.

LIVE PERFORMANCES

CLOSING DATE OF ENTRIES FOR LIVE PERFORMANCES: SUNDAY 10 MAY 2026

N.B. Please ensure there are no entries sitting "In Progress" on your Home Screen after closing date.

It is advisable to log in early, so you are aware that your access is working correctly. Don't leave entering online to the last minute as late entries will not be accepted.

MUSIC AND STAGE PLANS FOR LIVE PERFORMANCES - DUE FRIDAY 22 MAY 2026

RECORDED ENTRIES

If you wish to submit an item via a recording, please enter your item on the online portal and select '**Recorded**' – ***Please ensure this is ticked otherwise the item will be timetabled as a live performance.*** Recordings are uploaded via sharepoint (a much more efficient process). Tips on how to submit recorded entries will be provided to schools. Adjudication feedback will be provided along with awards (if nominated by the Adjudicator). Shields are not awarded.

CLOSING DATE OF REGISTERING RECORDED ENTRIES: SUNDAY 10 MAY 2026

Please register your entry by this date. The office will not accept any late entries.

CLOSING DATE FOR UPLOADING THE URL FOR RECORDED ENTRIES: FRI 31 JULY 2026

Please upload your recorded entries to Microsoft Sharepoint prior to this date and provide the URL on the online entry. The office will not accept any late submissions.

ADJUDICATION OF RECORDED ENTRIES

Adjudication of recorded entries takes place between 19 – 23 October with feedback provided to schools in Term 4.

MUSIC FOR RECORDED ENTRIES – DUE FRIDAY 22 MAY 2026, these can be uploaded on the entry form. (Stage plans are not required for recordings)



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VENUES

Please see the attached 2026 PAF Calendar

INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL SOLO/DUETS – BACKING MUSIC

A reminder that students are to bring their own backing. For reliability on reproduction of sound – all students must bring their own mobile device & speakers – Ready to Play (preferably Bluetooth/wireless) No CDs. If using a mobile phone, please bring your own aux. cord and adaptor applicable for your phone.

ENTRY TO VENUES – VIA TRY BOOKING ONLINE TICKETING – NO DOOR SALES

Seating availability is dependent upon venue capacity and in accordance with the number indicated as ‘Seats to Reserve’ on the entry form for group sections.

On the website, patrons will be able to click on the specific event/date/session they wish to attend and register with payment online. Patrons will not be permitted to select seating. Patrons will receive a confirmation and a bar code. This bar code is to be made available on your mobile phone to allow entry to the venue.

Tickets on sale Friday 3 July (with the exception of the Dance Section). As PAF Coordinator of your school, the office will send a reminder when tickets are open for sale. Please advertise this to your school community and advise parents to **book early** to avoid disappointment of missing out on seating. Seating capacity is dependent upon the venue, tickets will be sold on a first come basis until the maximum limit has been reached.

If there are any restrictions in place during Festival events, the audience will need to vacate the venue in between sessions and/or interval for evening performances – to allow the next group in.

Entry to venues will not be permitted without the purchased ticket.

Once Timetables are complete, changes cannot be made as this affects ticket sales within try booking.

FIRST NATIONS CONTENT

If you are entering items which contain First Nations story, art, music or content, please ensure that cultural sensitivity is observed. You will also need to ensure that the correct permissions have been approved. This can be done through consulting with local First Nations community or by contacting the First Nations team member in the relevant CEWA office.

CONFLICTING DATES WITH SCHOOL CALENDARS

Please ensure that you have double checked your School’s calendar so that Performance dates do not clash with PD days, Catholic Days, Pupil Free Days, Excursions, Camps, Sports Days etc. Once the timetabling is complete, the office will not be able to swap dates of performances. We ask for due consideration when entering your performances.



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[SPECIAL REQUESTS](#)

Special Requests are taken into consideration only in extenuating circumstances and in accordance with reasons stated in Appendix 4B (see website for further details), however, not all requests can be accommodated.

[TIMETABLING](#)

The Festival Committee has ruled that schools may not request changes to timetables and emphasises the need for schools to adhere to the allocated performance dates and times. The office will not be able to swap dates of performances once timetabling has been completed. Timetable changes also affect Try Booking ticketing. Schools will receive their timetable package in June.

[PRINCIPAL'S RESPONSIBILITY](#)

Please ensure that your Principal has checked that items are appropriate and suitable in content of song, choreography and costume choices as this is their responsibility (e.g. no drug references, inappropriate language or dress, suicidal or sexual connotations.)

N.B. The Principal or their nominated representative must check the list of entries and tick the box on the online entry acknowledging the school's acceptance of the Festival Rules & Procedures.

[PRIVACY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS](#)

Please refer to the Privacy Information Sheet for Group Performers and Solo/Duet Performers on the website. This important information must be distributed to all parents/guardians of Festival participants paying particular attention to videoing and photographs for publicity purposes. This form will also be included in the timetable package sent in June.

[AUDIENCE VIDEO RECORDINGS OF FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES](#)

The general public may video or photograph a Festival performance depending on Venue considerations, however, **uploading any images to social media is strictly prohibited**. Flash photography is not allowed as this distracts performers. Certain privacy restraints relating to entrants or schools may be in place, whereby videoing or photographing of those performances will not be allowed. The audience will be advised of these by the MC at the commencement of each section. **Filming at the Dance section at PCEC is not permitted.**



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CATHOLIC ARTS STAFF

The office is open Monday to Friday 8AM to 4PM.

Staff:

Sabrina D'Roza	<i>Executive Officer</i>
Nikki Diodato	<i>Senior Administrative Officer</i>
Kara Shead	<i>Administration Officer</i>
Audrey Poor	<i>Administration Officer</i>
Chelsea Goldsworthy	<i>Administration Officer</i>
Mary Fotty	<i>Administration Officer</i>

Email: catholicarts@cewa.edu.au

Phone: 9278 0202

Website: <https://www.spiritofthearts.com.au>

Address: St Catherine's Centre, 31 Williamstown Rd, Doubleview

Thank you for participating in the 37th Annual Performing Arts Festival



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