School Profile
Hunter School of Performing Arts is a K to 12 school offering a comprehensive curriculum with a performing and related arts specialty for both primary and secondary students. Students come from the Hunter Region, the Central Coast and beyond, and entry into the school is through audition in music, dance or drama.

Currently the career education program at Hunter School of the Performing Arts provides:

a. Careers curriculum to all students in Year 10
b. Careers information to the whole school community through a range of communication methods
c. Individual career guidance to all Year 12 students and school leavers with strong linkages to the world of work. The school has a strong network of business providers for work experience in Year 10 and work placement for students in Years 11 & 12.
d. Strong links to the “School to Work” program through student use of the “Employment Related Skills” logbook. Currently this logbook is presented in formal interviews on completion of Year 10 before students make the transition to employment or the senior school.

A full time careers adviser delivers careers curriculum and careers guidance and a number of specialist subject teachers deliver vocational education programs.

With this strong beginning the Hunter School of Performing Arts is embarking on a new project that is further embedding a whole school commitment to career education through a holistic approach.

Teaching and Learning Committee

The Teaching and Learning Committee is led by the Principal, Bryan Campbell and Deputy Principal, Jan Nelson. The committee is made up of executive and teaching staff across a range of faculty areas. The committee meets fortnightly to plan a range of learning opportunities for the whole school community.

The Teaching and Learning Committee is currently managing the implementation of the “Pathways to the Future” project, supported by The Lighthouse School funding, an Australian government initiative. This project has been designed to build onto an existing program of student interviews that support student’s transition through and from school.
by identifying student’s individual needs and empowering students to become more self-managing.

The “Pathways to the Future” project aims to engage all students in goal setting activities, portfolio development and a formal interview each year with opportunities for feedback and reflection. The project will be sustainable through the provision of ongoing professional development for teachers and parents in the career building process combined with the efforts of a hard working and committed staff.

A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO CAREER EDUCATION BY:

- Providing all students with the opportunity to recognise and monitor their achievements across the curriculum through the involvement of staff from all faculty areas.
- Integrating the development of the student’s achievement / career building portfolio across the curriculum.
- Including personal management into a meaningful approach to career development activities.
- Training staff and community members in providing career and transition support to all students. Staff will develop an understanding of the whole student including their strengths and interests in addition to their constraints and commitments.
- Providing early intervention support. The yearly interview process will identify students at risk and mentors will provide individual support.

DELIVER BEST PRACTICE CAREER EDUCATION WITHIN THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

The goals are comprehensive and include:

- Student monitoring of their educational achievements through the provision of quality work samples and recording of their achievements.
- Recording of their participation in active citizenship through their contributions to school and community events.
- Providing support to all students at each transition point, ie. each year of school, to develop their learning pathways plan that includes specific career planning skills and a formal interview/reflection process.
- Accessing career information and guidance in the skills shortage areas through the involvement of business and industry representatives.

There will be a continuous process of learning and development for all students from ages 10 to 18. The interview process will be underpinned by students developing an ongoing portfolio of their achievements in the lifelong learning process. This will include:

- A record of their achievements in all areas of education and training listed in their resume.
- Community involvement
- Experience as panel members on interviews for other students
- Career information gained from expos, seminars, guest speakers and industry representatives.
- Cultural activities and performing arts involvement
- Life roles
- Sports and other interests
- Work experience and vocational learning
- A record of their career development ideas and access to career resources.

INCORPORATES THE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OF TEACHERS, EXECUTIVE AND THE WHOLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY BY:

- Addressing the need for a change of school culture to include staff understanding of the need to adopt a facilitative approach that supports all students’ self-management skills in the career development process.
- Sharing the accountability for successful student transitions through school among the whole school community through the student portfolio development process.
- Up-skill staff in the provision of support to students as they reflect on their progress and record their achievements and work through the career building process. Staff will be better equipped to provide effective advice on educational options (including links with the world of work) that are better matched to student’s interests, talents and intended destinations.
- Developing a system that actively engages staff and community members with students as they make their transitions through school.

INTENDED OUTCOMES

All students from Year 6 onwards will develop learning pathways plans that will provide:

- An opportunity for all students to reflect on their achievements each year with the support of peers, parents, staff and the business sector through presentation of quality work samples and the preparation of a learning pathways plan and a personal resume,
- Opportunities to acquire portfolio development and interview skills
- An understanding of career pathways and a range of employment possibilities.
- ATSI students will each have ongoing support in the development of their personalised learning plans (PLP’s)

For more information please contact: Janeanne Hardie, Careers Adviser, Hunter School of Performing Arts on telephone: 02 4952 3355 or email: janeanne.hardie@det.nsw.edu.au or huntperfor-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au