BCDA Information Pack 2015 - 2016

Includes Application Form
Principal’s note

Berwick College is proud to announce the official opening of Berwick College Dance Academy in 2015. This focus on Performing Arts has been a proud tradition of this college for many years and the introduction of this program builds on the highly successful ‘Berwick to Broadway’ and ‘Born This Way’ productions of 2013 and 2014.

Our Dance Studio is purpose built to suit the delivery of dance, and our dance teachers are highly trained, exceptional teachers.

This selective program caters to young people who have an interest in dance and performing. Students who are lucky enough to be selected will have the opportunity to take part in performances and to develop their skills, compete in competitions and build upon training they may already have.

I welcome all who wish to apply to attend the inaugural intake of the Berwick College Dance Academy.

“If you look at a dancer in silence, his or her body will be the music. If you turn the music on, that body will become an extension of what you’re hearing.”
— Judith Jamison, Dancing Spirit: An Autobiography

Ms Kerri Bolch

Principal
Background Information

The Berwick College Dance Academy (BCDA) is situated in the outer Melbourne metropolitan suburb of Berwick, which is also home to the College’s 170 seat Performing Arts Centre. Until recently, it was the largest single campus government secondary college in Victoria. The College’s official motto is I Shall Grow, and our values, excellence in learning, positive relationships, and personal growth guide our practice. The school consists of approximately 1500 students and 200 teachers, principals and support staff.

Berwick College exists to promote excellence in education and see students fulfill their potential. A broad, challenging curriculum caters for individual needs and prepares students for further education, the workforce and society. The College aims to promote independent thinking, acceptance of responsibility, adaptability, respect for others and a tolerance of individual differences, whilst maintaining a safe, supportive environment for all students and staff.

What is the BCDA?

The Berwick College Dance Academy (BCDA) commenced in 2015 and is a full-time academic and dance program, which will link students’ educational pursuits with their performing arts interests. The program caters for passionate and aspiring artists, increases student engagement and improves student outcomes. It is designed to prepare students for VCE Dance, VET Dance and Theatre Studies, as well as the world of professional dance.

The program caters for many styles of dance including Classical Ballet, Contemporary, Lyrical, Jazz, Tap, Musical Theatre and Hip-hop as well as options to undertake Music and Drama. Students will also study a range of core subjects that include Mathematics, English, Humanities, Physical Education, Science and LOTE.

The BCDA has a focus on individual pathways, 21st century learning and the creation of a professional resume and portfolio. As well as learning from an industry expert at the College, students will engage in an extensive dance program including professional workshops, excursions and incursions, performances within the College as well as in the local and wider community. Each and every student will be provided with a rich and meaningful experience that aims to excite and motivate students to reach their creative passions.
The BCDA’s Focus

The BCDA is aimed at providing an integrated academic pathway driven by young students’ dance and performing arts aspirations. This elite program allows young students to enhance and develop their dancing talent while concurrently receiving their secondary education. It is crucial to the BCDA that students’ academic pursuits are of the highest priority and that each student’s interest and aspiration in dance assists them in achieving high results both academically and within dance.

The BCDA’s Commitment
- Providing strong pastoral care for all students.
- Constant monitoring of academic performance and achievements.
- Providing a unique high quality specialised dance program, allowing students to reach their full potential in their selected area of dance.
- Creating skills within the Academy’s students to provide unique opportunities aimed at future employment.
- Use of reflective practice.
- Make increased use of national and local arts resources.
- Embrace challenge, innovation and change.

The BCDA’s Student Commitment

Successful applicants will be required to sign a BCDA contract which outlines their commitment to the academy. This is can be viewed on the College website. Students will be required to attend minimal rehearsals outside of school hours however to ensure students are able to fit in all core subjects period zero classes will be running for most academy classes. A period zero class commences at 8am and concludes at 8:50am. Students may be required to attend two rehearsals outside of school hours for the State School Spectacular which is organised externally from the school. Students will be required to travel on a weekend in May/June (this may change depending on the competition organisers). If they progress through the competition students and parents will decide whether to continue to travel to further competitions. The State School Spectacular will be available for Year 8 BCDA students only. Students are strongly encouraged to take part in the school production which will require them to stay back at school one night per week for a rehearsal period of approximately three months. The rehearsals will occur on a Wednesday afternoon 3:30pm until 5:30pm. Students with lead roles will need to attend extra rehearsals at some lunchtimes and on some Monday afternoons afterschool.

The contract will also outline that if academic achievement in all core subjects is not at a satisfactory level students will be placed on a warning and if there is no improvement students may be asked to exit the BCDA.
**BCDA’s Classroom**

Our classroom will focus on *technique*, *strength* and *flexibility* whilst students build upon fundamental skills in Years 7 and 8. As students develop and master these skills the focus will shift to gaining more experience and confidence in performing and choreography in both troupes and solos.

Our classroom will also include:

- Inspiration from a broad range of sources, including dance styles from different cultures
- Offering unique opportunities in the Arts and historical contexts
- Opportunities to transfer skills, knowledge and understanding from the classroom into the workplace and the broader community
- Self and peer evaluations where students regularly review and amend their work opportunities to explore and develop knowledge of local and global values
- Opportunities to work in diverse teams within and beyond the school
- Challenging tasks that allow students to create, justify and reflect on their learning
- Encouragement for students to be independent in the completion of tasks
- Investigations and inquiries that require sustained thinking and deep understanding
- Safe dance practice
- Flexibility vs. Warm up
- Nutrition and healthy living

**Breakdown of a 30 Period Timetable (One Week)**

*Year 9:* Academy class 5 periods of dance per week (including one period zero class)
*Year 8:* Academy class 5 periods of dance per week (including two period zero classes)
*Year 7:* Academy class 6 periods of dance per week
Cost Breakdown

The cost per student in the Academy class is **$300 per year**. This covers:

- BCDA dance top
- Competition entry fee (troupes only)
- State School Spectacular (Year 9 course) (not including transport) **see note below**
- Professional workshops (on and off site)
- Costuming for competition (not including school production)
- Top class excursion (Year 9 BCDA students)
- Professional performance excursion (not including transport)
- Classroom materials

**Note:** There is no textbook required at Years 7 and 8. Some students may have additional costs if they are successful competition winners and are required to compete interstate. This will be decided by the parents should this situation arise.

*Berwick College have been placed on a waiting list for the State School Spectacular and as such may or may not participate in the event.*

*There will be an additional cost for students in the school production. The $15 charge will cover some costuming and general expenses.*
Uniform

Berwick College takes pride in the appearance of our students and therefore it is part of our policy that all students must be in full school uniform at all times, including the Berwick College Dance Academy students.

The uniform should be worn correctly, neatly and in clean condition. All students from Years 7 - 12 are expected to wear full school uniform. Uniform is to be worn from the time the student leaves home to the time the student returns home.

Please refer to the link below to see a full list of the required College uniform:


As we have a strict uniform policy at Berwick College, students are only able to arrive in the BCDA uniform for period zero classes. At all other times BCDA students are to arrive in proper school uniform and get changed in and out of their dancewear before and after class. Changing rooms are provided in the Performing Arts Centre. Students must arrive already changed for the commencement of class which means they will get changed at the end of recess or lunch.

Dance Bags

If students require a separate bag for dance this should be kept at a small size to fit in the students allocated locker. Bags are not to be taken to classes other than dance. If a student’s dance bag does not fit they are able to leave them in the Performing Arts Centre before school but will not gain access to it until 10 minutes before their dance class.

Hair, Jewellery and Make up

All students are required to have their hair pulled back and off their faces. Neat buns or high ponytails are recommended.

Students can only wear sleepers or studs and cannot wear watches, rings or necklaces during classes as this can be a safety issue for the student and other dancers. Students will require diamanté studs in their ears for performances.

Students are not required to wear make up for classes. Students will be required to wear appropriate make up for performances which include:

- Red lipstick
- Liquid eyeliner
- Brown and white eye shadow
- Blush
- Foundation
- “Gwen” eyelashes or size D
- Eyebrow pencil
Uniform List
Ballet/Lyrical/Contemporary

Girls options
Plain Black short or long sleeved leotard
Pink ballet tights
(Convertible if possible to access bare foot)
Pink Ballet shoes with elastics
Optional Pink or black nylon/chiffon wrap skirts
BCDA top with black hot pants
Foot undies/Dance paws (Lyrical)

Boys options
Plain Black/White t-shirt/leotard
Black ¾ Length or full length pants
Black Ballet shoes with elastic
BCDA top
Foot undies/Dance paws

Jazz/Hip Hop/Acrobatics

Girls options
Plain Black short or long sleeved leotard
Black, tan or pink tights
(Convertible if possible to access bare foot)
Tan jazz shoes with elastic if possible
(Black for students who have already purchased shoes)
BCDA top with black hot pants

Boys options
As above
Black Jazz shoes

Tap/Musical Theatre

Girls options
Plain Black short or long sleeve leotards
Pink or tan stockings
Tan tap shoes with a buckle
BCDA top with black hot pants

Boys options
As above
Black Tap shoes

*Stockings must be worn by female students in all styles of dance unless specified otherwise. Crossovers and leg warmers are also permitted.
Berwick College Dance Academy

Providing pathways in the Arts
Students are able to purchase the school jacket with the BCDA logo on it if they are enrolled in the BCDA which is available from Noone Imagewear. The BCDA dance top will be provided by the academy.

Please note that students are to wear the BCDA jacket to and from competitions, performances and excursions. Dance wear and shoes are at the cost of the student however, the BCDA top is included in the course fee. If these items are lost, damaged or grown out of replacement uniforms are at the cost of the student.

Sample BCDA jackets and tops will be available to try on at the meet and greet later on in the year. Please ensure you record your child’s size and allow for growth.

Additional uniform items can be purchased at:

**Noone Beaconsfield Menswear and Schoolwear**
Beaconsfield Hub - Shop 4
52-62 Old Princes Hwy
Beaconsfield Vic 3807


**Energetiks Fountain Gate**
Shop 1174
Westfield Fountain Gate Shopping Centre
352 Princes Hwy
Narre Warren VIC 3805
Ph: (03) 9704 1655


**Dance n Dreams**
Shop 2, 8 Gloucester Avenue
Berwick 3806
Ph: (03) 9707 4275

**BCDA students will receive 10% off purchases**
Important Dates 2015

Tuesday May 19th
Information Night for potential students
Berwick College Performing Arts Centre,
Manuka Rd, Berwick.
7pm - 8pm

Contact PS
Enrolment forms returned to
Primary School (Grade 6 students)

Tuesday June 2nd
Application forms due
Please return to
Miss Melissa Quenette BCDA Director of Dance
Manuka, Rd Berwick 3806
Or quenette.melissa.c@edumail.vic.gov.au

Friday June 19th
Year 7 2016 Auditions 4pm to 5.30pm
Year 8 and 9 2016 Auditions 5.45pm to 7.30pm
Please meet in the Performing Arts Centre

Monday June 22nd
Year 7 2016 Auditions 4pm to 5:30pm
Year 8 and 9 2016 Auditions 5.45pm to 7:30pm
Please meet in the Performing Arts Centre

Monday July 13th
Successful Applicants notified of
provisional entry into the Academy

August
Confirmation released for Berwick College acceptance

Wednesday October 7th
BCDA Meet and Greet and uniform fitting
Berwick College Performing Arts Centre,
Manuka Rd, Berwick.
4pm to 5pm

Friday November 20th
BCDA course fee due
Payments can be made at the front office

Please check Berwick College’s website www.berwicksc.vic.edu.au
for upcoming events and changes.
Frequently Asked Questions:

**Does my child need to dance outside of the school if they are enrolled in the BCDA or if they want to audition?**
Students are strongly encouraged to dance outside of school to further enhance their skills. However, it is not a requirement for the student to be enrolled in a dance school.

**What if my child cannot attend production rehearsals or competitions dates?**
We understand the big commitment many students have with non-school related extra-curricular activities and therefore are lenient if students cannot attend as long as prior notice is given.

**Can my child still audition if they cannot attend the audition dates?**
Yes. Parents must contact Melissa Quenette to arrange a private audition at a convenient time.

**Once my child is enrolled in the BCDA, will they have to re-enroll each year?**
If the student is progressing well in the program the student will automatically be placed in the following year’s program. However, if a student has not met all requirements and assessments and is not progressing they will be required to sit a parent and teacher meeting to discuss their placement.

**Is there a cap on enrolment numbers for 2016?**
Yes, there is a cap on numbers. Each class will have a maximum of 26 students. There is a possibility to run two classes at each level, however, that will only be possible if we have enough applicants to fill both.

**Can my child be involved in the High Achievers Program and the BCDA?**
Due to timetabling constraints students are unable to be enrolled in both programs.

**What happens if competition dates and performances clash with your dancing schools performances?**
The BCDA keeps in regular contact with local dance schools to make a conscious effort to avoid clashes. If this does happen parents and students need to contact their school teacher as soon as possible.
Enrolment Process for Grade 6 (2015) Students

To be considered for the BCDA parents must nominate Berwick College as their number one preference when enrolling for perspective secondary schools.
On July 13th BCDA applicants will be notified of their provisional entry into the academy but will not receive full confirmation until August when Victorian secondary school’s send out official confirmation on placements.

For further information on this process please contact:

Lauren Kenny Junior School Leader
(03) 8768 1031
kenny.lauren.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

Enrolment Process for Year 7 and 8 (2015) Students

If students are already enrolled in the academy they will not need to re-enroll providing they have successfully passed the year. To be considered for the BCDA students who are already enrolled at Berwick College and those who are not, must complete the provisional application form below and return it by June 2nd and attend an audition. If successful, students will be contacted with further enrolment details.

Providing pathways in the Arts
Selection Criteria

The BCDA would like to encourage any student who believes they meet the selection criteria to apply. Please note that it is a possibility that not all applicants will be accepted.

The following criteria will be applied to all applications:
- Highly developed artistic ability in at least one style of dance
- Highly developed technique, flexibility and knowledge of dance terminology
- Demonstration of a positive attitude and commitment to academic study
- Demonstration of a positive attitude and commitment to the development of skills in their chosen artistic field
- A strong desire to pursue their passion for the arts
- A high level of commitment and motivation in pursuit of personal success

Note: Upon receiving the application, parents and students will be contacted to book an audition time. See Important Dates for auditions times.

If you would like to apply please remove and complete the Student Provisional Application Form (on the following pages) and mail to:

Melissa Quenette
Berwick College
Manuka Road Berwick, 3806

Or email:
Melissa Quenette
Quenette.melissa.c@edumail.vic.gov.au

Please mark envelope with: ATT: (BCDA Application) Please include the following with the application:

- A copy of the student’s latest report
- Details of competitions, awards or productions the student has participated in/received
- A 100 word report, written by the student, detailing why he/she would like to be a part of the program

Provisional application forms are due June 2nd, 2015
**Provisional Application form 2015**

**Student’s Details**

Surname ________________________________________________

First Name ___________________________ Middle Name ___________________________

Gender (please circle) M/F Date of Birth ____________________________

Current year level in 2014 _________ Year level to enroll in 2015 _________

Current school ______________________ Current dance school ______________________

Has the student attended Berwick College previously: YES / NO

Does the student have siblings at the school: YES / NO

If yes, name and year level of student/s:

__________________________________________

**Parents’/Guardians’ Names**

Mother/Guardian _______________________________________________________________________

Father/Guardian _______________________________________________________________________

**Primary Family Home Address**

Street Number & Street ___________________________________________________________________

Suburb _____________________________ State _______ Postcode _________

Parent Phone Numbers: H___________________________ M___________________________

W _____________________________ Email address _______________________________________

**Dance Style Preference**

Please indicate, in order of preference, which dance styles you are interested in pursuing. **Please indicate at least three styles.**

£ Ballet £ Contemporary/Lyrical £ Musical Theatre £ Tap £ Jazz

£ Hip Hop

**How did you find out about the BCDA? (Please tick)**

£ Berwick College website

£ Berwick College employee (specify)

£ Current Berwick College friend/family member (specify)

£ Schools Guide/Publication (specify)

£ Media Release (specify) £ Other (specify)
Audition Requirements

The audition will take the form of participation in a practical dance class and presentation of a solo dance. The practical dance class will consist of:

1. Basic warm-up
2. Flexibility
3. Technique
4. Corner/Traveling steps
5. A routine taught by the teacher (jazz style).

The student will also be required to present a short dance routine in a style of their choice, no longer than 60 seconds. Students will not have to perform in front of other applicants. At this point some students may be asked to demonstrate particular skills on their own.

It is important that this routine demonstrates the student’s strengths and incorporates flexibility, technique and creativity.

Students should come in dance appropriate attire with the correct shoes. Please have your music on a CD or MP3 player (example iPod or iPad).
Enquiries

Call our Director of Dance, Melissa Quenette on (03) 8768 1054 or Email quenette.melissa.c@edumail.vic.gov.au

Stay Informed

The College newsletter is published regularly via the College website www.berwicksc.vic.edu.au
It features important dates, upcoming College events and much more.