

13 September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great pleasure that we are broadening the scope of the Production in 2025 to include students from our Junior School. The aim of the 2025 Production is to provide a hybrid model which will involve both Senior School and Junior School students collaborating in the cast. The core aim of any Production at The Illawarra Grammar School is to provide a learning experience for students. To best suit the hybrid model, we will be performing *The Little Mermaid Jr.*

#### **BEFORE AUDITIONING**

Please note that by auditioning you agree to the following terms:

- Attendance at rehearsals will be a priority in both 2024 and 2025. We understand that sometimes absence is unavoidable due to illness or the occasional one-off commitment. However, inclusion in the cast assumes availability for rehearsals. These will be held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. The 2025 dates will be confirmed in Term IV, 2024.
- Full attendance at the Production Week rehearsals and performances. These will be held on:
  - Monday 16 June - Wednesday 18 June 2025: Day time rehearsals
  - Thursday 19 June 2025: Evening performance
  - Friday 20 June 2025: Evening performance
  - Saturday 21 June 2025: Matinee performance
  - Saturday 21 June 2025: Evening performance.
- We expect all students to uphold the values of the School and work collaboratively and positively with others. We also expect that students involved in Production keep up to date with school work. Failure to meet these expectations will result in a meeting with the relevant Senior School Producer or Junior School Coordinator to determine the continuing involvement of the student in Production, regardless of the position that they hold.

Please see below some definitions of terms that will be used frequently to provide clarity:

- **Lead cast** members refer to the main characters in the Production. These people have large speaking and singing roles and will be appointed by audition. Successful

candidates will be chosen based on skill in singing, dancing and acting. This requires attendance at all rehearsals including any weekend rehearsals.

- **Ensemble cast** members refer to smaller, on-stage roles that support the lead cast members. Some of these roles will have small speaking parts and supporting singing roles. Individual speaking parts and singing roles within the ensemble will be determined once Production rehearsals have commenced in 2025. This requires attendance at all rehearsals including weekend rehearsals.
- **Choir** members will be part of the Junior School and will have limited singing only parts throughout the Production. These students will not be required to audition for the role. However, they will need to opt in so we can confirm numbers and staging requirements. This will be taught in class time and will only require attendance at one Sunday rehearsal and during the performance week.
- **Musicians** will be providing elements of live music at points throughout the Production. This will require attendance at some rehearsals and the performance week as directed by the musical directors.

### Communications

Due to the nature of the hybrid Production, communication is vital to the success of the Production and, as such, there will be a main point of contact in both the Senior School and Junior School. It is important that the relevant staff members are contacted for the respective schools so that clear and concise communication is maintained.

- Mr Brody Toombs will be the Senior School Producer and main point of contact for Senior School families.
- Mrs Rebecca Young will be the Junior School Coordinator and the main point of contact for Junior School families.

### Auditions

Lead cast and Ensemble cast members will require auditions to be part of the Production. These roles will be exclusively available to students who will be in Years 5 to 11 (in 2025). There will be specific roles for Junior School and Senior School students respectively, with some flexible roles that could be allocated to either. Junior School students will have access to audition materials at the conclusion of Term III, with a video audition required to be submitted by the first day of Term IV. Senior School auditions will then take place in the early stages of Term IV with the aim of starting rehearsals with the Lead cast members in the second half of Term IV. Any student who receives an offer for a Lead cast member will be expected to be available for after-school rehearsals on Tuesday and Thursday from 3.15pm - 4.30pm.

## Live Music

The majority of musical numbers in this musical will be provided by backing tracks. This is a condition of the licence and cannot be avoided. Having said this, there will be opportunity for some small musical accompaniment roles that will play along with the backing track. These roles will be determined in 2025 and will be offered to students as appropriate to the required instruments.

## Round 1 Auditions

Auditions for students in Year 5 and Year 6 will take place by video submission. Due to the nature and maturity of some of the roles in *The Little Mermaid Jr*, some roles will be reserved for Senior School students. All roles are labelled appropriately on the Google form to be provided in coming weeks.

- **A separate communication with the audition form and materials will be sent in the coming weeks.**
- There will be preferences for roles. Please only complete the audition material for the **first preference** character.
- Videos should be shot in landscape and the acting, singing and dancing should be edited into **one** file.
- Ensemble students will be announced with the full cast. However, some specific ensemble characters will not be allocated until 2025.
- Files should be named as follow: `firstname_lastname_2025yeargroup_auditioning character` (e.g `joe_blogs_year6_sebastien`)
- **Senior School students who will be new to the School in 2025 are required to complete a video audition through the requirements above.**
- **Senior School students will be required to complete this form prior to their live audition but will not be required to submit a video.**

## Round 2 Auditions

Senior School students and callback auditions for Year 5 and Year 6 will occur in a live format.

- Live auditions will be attended by at least two members of the Production team and will be videoed. The purpose of the video is for the whole Production team to review the auditions and will not be shared with students or other staff members.
- Please note that callback auditions are not a shortlist of cast members; we may allocate roles based on first round auditions. We use callback auditions for students to provide additional information that may not have been included in their first round audition.

## 2024 Rehearsals

It is imperative that we begin rehearsing with the Lead cast as soon as possible. For the Lead Cast members, rehearsals will commence with an initial read through during Term IV, 2024. These rehearsals will be held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3.15pm – 4.30pm. A Consent2Go will be sent out once the cast is finalised.

TERM 4 2024		
OCT	Tues 15 <sup>th</sup>	JS video audition submissions due by 9.00am
	Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup>	3.15pm – 4.30pm JS audition callbacks - <i>invite only</i> (SS Recital Room)
	Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup>	3.15pm – 4.30pm JS audition callbacks - <i>invite only</i> (SS Recital Room)
	Tues 29 <sup>th</sup>	3.15pm – 4.30pm SS auditions Year 7 (SS Recital Room)
	Thurs 31 <sup>st</sup>	3.15pm – 4.30pm SS auditions Year 8 (SS Recital Room)
NOV	Tues 5 <sup>th</sup>	3.15pm – 4.30pm SS auditions Year 9 (SS Recital Room)
	Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup>	3.15pm – 4.30pm SS auditions Year 10 (SS Recital Room)
	Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>	3.15pm – 4.30pm SS callback auditions - <i>invite only</i> (SS Recital Room)
	Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup>	3.15pm – 4.30pm SS callback auditions - <i>invite only</i> (SS Recital Room)
	Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	3.15pm – 4.30pm Introductions. All cast script read through (Begbie)
	Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup>	3.15pm – 4.30pm All cast script read through (Begbie)
	Tues 26 <sup>th</sup>	3.15pm – 4.30pm Rehearsal (IGC)
	Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup>	3.15pm – 4.30pm Rehearsal (IGC)
DEC	Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup>	3.15pm – 4.30pm Rehearsal (IGC)
	Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup>	3.15pm – 4.30pm Rehearsal (IGC)
	Tues 10 <sup>th</sup>	3.15pm – 4.30pm Rehearsal (IGC)
	Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup>	3.15pm – 4.30pm Rehearsal (IGC)

Should you have any questions, please contact the relevant Producer or Coordinator for the Senior School or Junior School.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Brody Toombs

**Head of Performing Arts - Senior School**