



ASPIRE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES  
FUTURE PERFORMERS & FUTURE ARTISTS PROGRAMS

## History and Rationale

The ASPIRE Creative Industries Program began in 2016 and is continuing to develop as interest and numbers within the program increase. What began as a Music Excellence Program in 2015, catering only for successful Music students who attended extension lessons before or after school, soon developed into a curriculum program with extension opportunities across the Arts disciplines: Drama, Music and Visual Arts. Now, 9 years later, the program has evolved into a holistic Creative Industries program that encompasses the Project Based Learning model into our two sectors of Future Artists (Media Arts & Visual Arts), Future Performers (Drama/Dance & Music).

The Arts have the capacity to engage, inspire and enrich all students, sparking the imagination and encouraging them to reach their creative and expressive potential. Students learn as artists through the intellectual, emotional, and sensory experiences the Arts has to offer. They acquire knowledge, skills and understanding specific to the Arts subjects and develop critical understanding that informs decision making and aesthetic choices. Through the Arts, students learn to express their ideas, thoughts, and opinions as they discover and interpret the world in which they live.

## Goals and Purpose

The ASPIRE Creative Industries Program epitomizes our commitment to nurturing multi-disciplinary artists, ready to lead within our community, guided by the core values of creativity, excellence, and courage. Our mission is to ignite curiosity and encourage creative development, providing students with an inclusive classroom environment where their passion for the arts can flourish.

We aim to foster a culture of participation, experimentation, and performance within the college community, empowering our students to dream big and achieve success in both internal and external contexts. Through industry-aligned theoretical frameworks, performative learning experiences, collaborative engagements, and project-based assessments, students are afforded the opportunity to realise their creative potential and cultivate their unique artistic voices.

The ASPIRE Creative Industries Program, is where the convergence of creativity, excellence, and courage paves the way for the emergence of visionary artists, ready to make a profound impact on the world stage.

## Key Personnel

### Head of Department

**Cameron Sarasola – [AspireCultural@varsitycollege.eq.edu.au](mailto:AspireCultural@varsitycollege.eq.edu.au) / [casar0@eq.edu.au](mailto:casar0@eq.edu.au)**

Cameron is the Head of Department for Creative Arts and Instrumental music. Cameron is a Drama and Film Television New Media Teacher. Cameron manages the ASPIRE Creative Industries Programs and Languages department; also overseeing the Instrumental Music programs and extracurricular arts initiatives.

As Head of Department for the Creative and Performing Arts, Cameron is dedicated to the development of enriching Arts Programs that inspire students to reach their creative potential. Within his practice, Cameron seeks to provide young artists avenues to innovate within their

chosen subjects through engaging curriculum development, and by creating industry links for students through co-curricular avenues. He encourages all students who have an interest in enhancing their established skills or are looking to explore passions with the Arts to apply.

## ASPIRE Creative Industries Coordinator

**Zoe Koris – [AspireCultural@varsitycollege.eq.edu.au](mailto:AspireCultural@varsitycollege.eq.edu.au)**

Zoe is the ASPIRE Creative Industries Coordinator and teaches a variety of arts subjects including Film, Television and New media, Arts in Practice and Visual Art. She has upheld professional relationships with external providers and community members as a means of creating opportunities for students to not only reach their full potential but surpass it. Over the last 9 years at Varsity College, Zoe established the College as a Gateway to Industry in Screen Media school, which provides unique industry level opportunities for our Film and AIP students.

She also established the VC Film Festival, a standalone event for students in Film, AIP and Visual Art across years 7 – 12 to showcase their work. Zoe has also managed the costuming/makeup and digital set design for many of our College's musical and play productions. Zoe's role as ASPIRE Creative Industries Coordinator involves providing extra-curricular opportunities for our Aspire students such as workshops, excursions/incursions and competitions.

## Program Overview

In 2025, Students enrolled in our Creative Industries program can elect one of two branches: Future Artists (Media Arts & Visual Arts) or Future Performers (Drama/Dance and Music).

Through an innovative Project-Based Learning model, ASPIRE Creative Industries students will develop their skills and knowledge at a higher level than the mainstream students by engaging in a variety of industry level experiences such as artists in residence, excursions and incursions, as a means of offering a comprehensive framework that prepares students for diverse pathways within the creative arts.

## Extra-Curricular Opportunities

In addition to the extension offered throughout the Aspire Cultural Program, students will have the opportunity to participate in one or more of the following Creative Arts Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular programs.

It is expected that successful Cultural Aspire applicants contribute to these Creative Arts Extra-Curricular offerings.

- Aspire Cultural Camp
- College Productions and Events
- Creative Generations
- Drama Club
- Eisteddfods & Busking events
- Queensland Theatre's Scene Project
- Gold Coast Secondary School's Drama Festival (Dramafest)
- Mudgeeraba and Gold Coast Show Art Competitions
- Discipline Workshops/Excursions and Incursions
- Access to Screen and Media Gateway opportunities

Please note: This list is not exhaustive and additional opportunities for student enrichment may arise throughout the academic year.

## Partnerships and Industry Links

ASPIRE Creative Industries students will have the opportunity to participate in workshops with professional artists, filmmakers, theatre and/or gallery trips, exhibitions, eisteddfods and/or competitions.

We have cultivated links with industry professionals and educators in each of the Arts disciplines and continue a working relationship with local Gold Coast and Brisbane based artists, musicians and theatre companies.

In addition, Varsity College is a Gateway to Industry Screen and Media School, which provides students with unique opportunities to engage in industry level workshops.

Our students can access opportunities with our industry links at various stages of the academic year. Our ASPIRE Cultural staff will pass on opportunities as they arise to their class as they deem appropriate.

## Student Selection Criteria

Students wishing to apply for ASPIRE Creative Industries will be required to complete an application form and an audition. See below for selection criteria.

Successful applicants for the ASPIRE Creative Industries program will need to demonstrate:

- A high level of ability in their chosen Arts strand (Future Artists: Art/Media, Future Performers: Dance/Drama or Music)
- Above average level of behaviour and effort
- A clear desire to extend their skills within their chosen Arts strand
- Commitment to ongoing contribution to the broader Creative Arts community of the College through participation in Creative Arts Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Programs.

For specific details on requirements for each Arts discipline, please see details below.

### Future Performers – Drama & Dance

Applicants will be required to attend a 1 ½ hour Workshop at Varsity College Secondary Campus:

- The workshop is an interactive audition using text, image and music stimulus to devise a polished improvised performance work to present in small groups, where we will be assessing performance skills as well *collaboration* and *leadership*.
- Students will engage in a short interview with the teacher to talk about their skills and aspirations as a performer. This acts as an opportunity for the student to share their successes in their chosen strand.

## Future Performers – Music

Applicants are required to attend a 1 ½ hour Music exam and audition session at Varsity College Secondary Campus.

- 45 Minute Theory and Aural Exam to ascertain current levels of theoretical skill and knowledge
- Students are required to perform a piece of repertoire on their chosen instrument that best represents the student's ability (2 minute maximum).

## Future Artists – Visual Art & Media Arts

Applicants will be required to attend a 1 ½ hour Workshop at Varsity College Secondary Campus:

- The workshop will encourage students to work collaboratively to design, build and produce a stop-motion animation production. Catering to a variety of skillsets.
- Students are required to present two of their own works during a one-on-one interview with the teacher. These artworks should be recent and demonstrate skills and subject interest. Students should provide evidence of work relevant to their preferred strand.  
*This could include, but are not limited to:*
  - Sketches, paintings, sculpture, pottery for Art
  - Short film, stop motion animation, digital media content for Media.

Digital work or large artworks to be presented on a USB.

## Expectations and Commitment to Program Requirements

The ASPIRE Program is committed to providing and maintaining a high performing and supportive learning environment for all its students. Being a part of the ASPIRE Program is a privilege, and students involved in the program must value and respect their placement. To this end, ASPIRE students will endeavour to perform at the highest level across the Global ASPIRE Performance Areas:

### Academic (classroom and extra-curricular)

- Maintain high academic standards. This is considered a 'B' grade across all relevant ASPIRE subjects.
- Maintain no lower than a 'C' grade in all other subjects.
- Submit all assessment, completed and by the due date.

### Behaviour and Effort

- Maintain a very high standard of behaviour and effort across all subject areas.
- Respect teachers and fellow students at all times.
- Be punctual and prepared for all lessons.
- Display high levels of appropriate behaviour at all times, not only during ASPIRE lessons, but with all Varsity College staff (teaching and corporate services), contract and supply teachers.

## Culture

- Students understand they bear responsibility as an ambassador of the ASPIRE Programs to be seen as a positive role model to others within the local community.
- Maintain a high level of school attendance in order to maintain learning standards.
- Active participation in competitions, events, activities and excursions related to the ASPIRE programs.
- Maintain high uniform standards in line with the Varsity College Appearance Policy.
- Be accepting and tolerant of all students.
- Show modesty and humility when interacting with students.

## Maintenance of Position in Program

ASPIRE Programs operate a formal review process at the end of each term for students who consistently are not meeting Global ASPIRE Performance Areas as outlined in the Expectations and Commitment to Program Requirements. Grounds for review may include:

- Consistent lateness.
- Truancy, repeated detentions, after school detentions, suspension.
- Failure to submit assessment on a regular basis (monitoring and due dates).
- Failure to meet academic, behaviour and effort standards as outlined in the Expectations and Commitment to Program Requirements.
- Failure to meet the financial commitment of ASPIRE Program.

**The ASPIRE Review Process for students consistently not meeting expectations is completed at the end of the term. The following procedures are then implemented:**

- The students and their parents are contacted by either the ASPIRE Coordinator or the Head of Department where expectations of the program will be discussed. Specific targets will be identified and it is the student's responsibility to meet these.
- The student will be placed on probation for the following term. If students fail to meet their targets throughout this period, their enrolment in the program will be cancelled, and they will be placed in a mainstream class for the remainder of the year.

## Application Process

The Varsity College ASPIRE Program applicants are required to:

- Complete the online ASPIRE Program Application which can be found on the Varsity College website.
- Upload all required documentation as required and submit by the closing date.

***Please note that incomplete applications will not be accepted.***

- All applications must be received no later than **the close date advertised on our platforms.**
- You will receive further correspondence about testing dates and times once your application has been received and processed.

Upon completion of the application process, staff and specialist teachers will decide on the suitability of each applicant. Successful applicants will be notified by the school and the **school's decision will be final.**

## APPENDIX 1: Student Parent Agreement

### Student Agreement

I understand the purpose of the ASPIRE Program is to select and retain the most highly motivated and knowledgeable students who will maintain the level of commitment, dedication and interest necessary to successfully achieve quality learning outcomes in their program of study.

The ASPIRE Program will create and maintain a learning environment of like-minded students that will support me in achieving my personal and academic goals in my program of study.

1. In all areas of college life, I understand that I bear responsibility as an ambassador of the ASPIRE Program to be seen as a positive role model to others within the local community.
2. I will endeavour to perform at the highest level across the Global ASPIRE Performance Areas.
3. I will demonstrate grit and determination as I strive towards my goals with the support of my parents.
4. If I do not adhere to the standards of the ASPIRE program, I understand that I may be removed from the program and forfeit my entrance fees.

I would like to accept my position to be a part of the Varsity College ASPIRE Program in 2025. I am aware that by accepting a place, I will agree to adhere to the ASPIRE Expectations and Commitment to Program Requirements and uphold the values and expectations therein.

### Parent Agreement

I understand that the purpose of the ASPIRE Program is to provide my child with a learning environment that supports and facilitates quality learning outcomes in their program of study. I also understand an aim of the ASPIRE Program is to ensure that I, as a parent, am supportive of both my child in the program and of Varsity College.

I will, as much as possible, assist my child in maintaining a high level of commitment in order to successfully achieve quality learning outcomes in their program of study.

#### I will commit to the following:

- Assist my child in maintaining a high level of attendance in order to maintain learning standards.
- Actively encourage my child to maintain high standards in all subject areas.
- Provide support to my child and the college in adhering to Varsity College policies and procedures.
- Monitor the completion of homework set.
- Maintain open lines of communication with the college to ensure success for my child.
- Meet all financial commitments as outlined during the application process (please note all ASPIRE fees are non-refundable).

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student)