



Newsletter | Summer Term 2026

Welcome to NCAM!

Welcome back and Happy New Year to you all. I do hope that you all enjoyed a lovely summer holiday with family and friends.

The End of Year Concert was a beautiful day full of music and a range of genres. It was a delight to hear the students perform, from beginners to more advanced students, the range of talent on display was wonderful. Thank you to everyone involved, with special thanks to our tutors who prepared our students so well.

We must thank Nathan Houghton for his teaching at NCAM as sadly Nathan left the Academy at the end of 2025. We wish him well in the future.

I must also congratulate all of our prize winners who received their awards at the Final Concert. It was a pleasure to have Mayor Dan Gordon at our final concert to present these awards.

Julia Holcroft Cup for Dedication and Achievement

Owen Sanders Cup for Musicianship

2026 NCAM Scholarship

Simon Harnett (Drums)

Emily Grinder (Piano)

Hannah Clenshaw (Piano)



2025 was also a successful year for our examination students with a set of lovely results. Congratulations to you all, who I am sure will join me in again thanking our tutors for their support and encouragement in preparation for these examinations.

Louisa Sulzberger	Piano	Grade 6	Pass
Simon Harnett	Drums	Grade 5	Merit
Pearce Conole	Violin	Grade 5	Merit
Emily Grinder	Piano	Grade 4	Pass
Monique Jansen van Vuuren	Cello	Grade 4	Pass
Shilo Milne	Singing	Grade 2	Distinction
Addison Drake	Singing	Grade 2	Merit
Hannah Clenshaw	Piano	Grade 2	Merit
Benny Ferguson	Piano	Grade 2	Merit
Audrey O'Brien	Violin	Grade 1	Pass

I would also like to take this time to thank our committee who generously give their time to ensure that NCAM continues to run. Please find a selection of photos from our concerts last year in the gallery portion of our website. If you would like a copy of a specific photo, please do send me an email.

Alexandra H Watson, MA(Dist) MusB BSc

Musical Director

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2026 Key Dates

Term 1: 9 February - 2 April (8 weeks)

Term 2: 20 April - 25 June (10 weeks)

Catch-up week: 29 June - 2 July

Term 3: 20 July - 24 September (10 weeks)

Term 4: 12 October - 19 November (6 weeks)

Catch-up week: 23 - 26 November

AGM: Thursday 2 April at 6:30pm

Mid-year Concert: Saturday 20 June (*timetable to be published in Term 2*)

End of Year Concert: Saturday 21 November (*timetable to be published at the end of Term 3*)

Group Timetable

Choir	Monday 4:45 - 5:30	Studio 1	Jeannette McGrath
Cello Ensemble	Thursday 5:00 - 5:30	Studio 3	Naomi Harmer
Celtic Fiddles	Thursday 5:30 - 6:30	Green Room	Jeremy Brownbrooke
Academy Orchestra	Thursday 6:30 - 7:45	Function Room	Mark Hodgkinson

Examinations



If you are interested in taking an examination this year please talk to your tutor who will help you select the grade and examination board that are best suited to you best. Please find the links below to the Trinity and ABRSM websites which will outline examination dates and costs.

Trinity: <https://www.trinitycollege.com/local-trinity/new-zealand>

ABRSM: <https://nz.abrsm.org/en/exam-booking/exam-dates-and-fees/>

The first examination session for Trinity is in late May and the closing date is Friday 20 March. Please have your entries forwarded to me and the Trinity examination fee paid to NCAM by **Monday 16 March**.

The only examination session for ABRSM is October - December and the closing date is 8 July. Please have your entries forwarded to me and the ABRSM examination fee paid to NCAM by **24 June**.