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# New soundproof studio helps young musos aim for high notes

Sophie Trigger05:00, Aug 05 2020



SCOTT HAMMOND/STUFF

Music teacher Vita Vaka and his student Poppy Lane had a singing lesson in the new music room on Monday.

A music room and recording studio at Marlborough's youth centre will give students a "little spark to their dream," says their music teacher.

Completed at MySpace at the end of June, the rooms would provide a sound-proof space for youth to learn and practice music.

Music teacher Vita Vaka said just having the rooms visible in the youth centre would give young people the inspiration to pursue music.

"Music is universal, but it's something that's undermined as a career option," he said.

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“Having a space like this is great because it reminds me of a time when I was at school and there was nothing like this, we just had to stay at home and record in our bedrooms.

“For the youth to experience something like that while they’re still in school is great ... it’s a little spark to their dream.”

Marlborough Girls College student Poppy Lane, 14, had been having singing lessons for the past year and said it helped to have a private space to practice.



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Poppy Lane said the private space gave her the confidence to go for the harder notes.

“We used to do it at Springlands School and it’s good here because then I know people can’t hear me when I have a mad voice crack or something.

“It’s more of a private lesson, you’re able to sing a bit louder or go for the harder notes.”

Marlborough Youth Trust manager Jo Lane said a music room was something youth had requested, in a 2018 survey that asked them what they wanted at the new centre.

“A lot of musos throughout the years have struggled to find somewhere to practice without getting into trouble for being too loud,” she said.

“It means there are facilities outside of college, so that when they’ve finished they can still do their music.”



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Young people had requested a music room in a survey that asked them what they wanted in the new centre.

She said the room could also support business enterprises, as teaching music was a good way for young people to support themselves.

The room had been supported by the community, through donations from the Lotteries Commision and Blue Door.

Lotteries Commision had donated \$30,000 towards the rooms' soundproofing, which had been done by Matt Cutts from Cutts Builders.

The doors of the room were blue, a nod to a \$20,000 donation from Blue Door, which had paid for the room's music gear and equipment.

Advice on sound and music equipment had been given by Chris Holdaway of Sound Solutions and Brendan Lott from Umbrella Productions.

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