

X-Factor shows Ross the way to the top

ROSS Pirrelli always knew he had a love for music, but whether or not to pursue it as a career took some soul-searching.

After taking a gap year to consider his study options, the 20-year-old says he found his calling to pursue a lifelong career in music stronger than ever. He enrolled in Music Performance at JMC Academy, and is now gaining a well-rounded insight into the industry he's so passionate about.

"After looking at other colleges and attending an open day, it became obvious to me that JMC had a unique vibe unlike any of the other campuses I had visited," he says.

"The students seemed so passionate about the course and their teachers. I loved that JMC catered for a wider range of instruments and music genres, not just classical or rock."

“ If anything, this experience has inspired me to value and appreciate the remaining two years of study. It takes a lot more than sheer talent to be a long-term success in this industry ”

Only a few months into his first year at JMC Academy, Ross was able to put his studies and gigging experience to the ultimate test when he was called to appear as a contestant on Australia's *X-Factor*. Competing with his band, Audio Vixen, Pirrelli rocked his way into the top nine, and was mentored by judge Ronan Keating.

Getting into this prominent spot meant the band had to work hard to stand out among thousands of hopefuls, including JMC Academy music graduate Jacqui Newland who made it to the top 10.

Performing in front of a live audience, tough judges and cameras ready to beam any mishaps to television screens across Australia was nerve-racking, but Pirrelli says the things he'd learnt from the early days of his course helped him to stay focused and gave him some useful background: "Because the music students at JMC are also taught about the importance of understanding and collaborating in areas associated with music like audio, screen media, and music business, I was definitely able to use my knowledge in these areas during the *X-Factor* experience," he says.

"From talking to the guys in *X-Factor*'s audio production team to reviewing contract and copyright terms, I was actually surprised at how transferable and relevant what I have been learning at JMC is."

While delighted by the experience, Pirrelli and his fellow band members haven't been carried away by their television success. "We have our feet firmly planted," he says. "We will continue to make music, and I will definitely continue to study at JMC Academy. If anything, this experience has inspired me to value and appreciate the remaining two years of study. It takes a lot more than sheer talent to be a long-term success in this industry."

● **JMC Academy is now taking enrolments for bachelor degrees and diplomas for next term, starting in June 2012. Prospective students are invited to attend an open day at the campus, 41 Holt Street, Surry Hills, on April 28.**



Ross Pirrelli and Audio Vixen: Their successful appearance on *X-Factor* gave them valuable experience

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