

MUSIC

Our lessons provide students with essential life skills

The skills of teamwork are essential in our ensemble pieces, ensuring your part works with everyone else, independent, and reflective learning skills are built into every session, students continually ask themselves what is working and what they need to do to improve. Long- term goal setting and an understanding frustration is a tool which encourages us to succeed are all essential for their role within the modern world. The music department also highlights employability skills as part of its routines in and out of the classroom. In particular, Performance helps students understand their 'Self-motivation' and 'Working to deadlines' skills when preparing for an instrumental, vocal or ensemble performance. When rehearsing the 'Teamwork' and 'Communication skills' are essential parts and highlighted by the teacher. The pieces we listening to are from all Eras, styles and parts of the world. Students show respect and understanding of styles they, themselves like or dislike, enhancing their ability to 'Value diversity'. When composing much of the skills need and improve 'Numeracy and IT' skills when working in rhythms and later in GCSE when using the Noteflight composing program.

Our lessons encourage further discovery outside the classroom

Our curriculum is strengthened by our extra-curricular offers and the work done by visiting peripatetic teachers. Reference is made in lessons to our ensembles and the tours we have taken in the past. Students of all abilities are encouraged to participate in our groups and contribute to the wider life of the school. This includes the opportunity for all to take part in concerts, visits to venues in the local and wider community, international tours, performing in some of Europe's greatest venues and making lasting memories and friendships. Pupils experience the work done by professional musicians as part of our curriculum when we discuss professional musicians such as orchestral and band musicians. Links to the recording industry when we look at the vast array of popular music in KS3. Our alumni of past musicians also lead panels where students are able to ask questions about the day-to-day roles they have and how they prepared whilst in education for their professional life.

Curriculum

Our curriculum is based around joyous interactions with music. Students spend their time in lessons discovering exciting new styles and revisiting styles of music already known to them, discovering new ways to create music, and understanding that they are capable of self-expression when finding their own interpretation of other people's music. In the last few years, we have seen that although we live in a time where we have more access to music, the variety of music young people regularly listen to is less diverse than previous generations. It is therefore our role to ensure pupils understand the vast selection of musical styles and point them towards how to access this music and new live experiences as they get older. In our lessons music is used as a conduit to explore historical, social, ethical, and interpersonal issues.

Through our listening, performance and composition students are led through tasks that allow for self-discovery of skills they didn't know they had and experiences which show them that perseverance and focus can allow anyone to accomplish great things.

We also ensure that students know that any positive contribution is of value, when working in ensemble or on a solo performance, when writing their own composition or describing the contextual reasons why a composer decided to employ a particular technique in a piece.

The Music Department has a long tradition of offering excellent music opportunities and exciting, rewarding lessons to all our students.

Pupils have a weekly lesson in Years 7, 8 and 9 and then have the option to take this as a GCSE Lesson.

In our Year 7, 8 and 9 lessons students learn to perform music on a variety of instruments including keyboard, Ukulele and Guitar. Students are also encouraged to learn additional music on their own instruments and perform on those instruments in class. Composition forms an important part of the classroom experience. Students learn the basics of music notation and then use this understanding to compose music of their own. This develops at GCSE to using the online composing program 'Noteflight' many of the pieces composed by students are then performed by our school ensembles.

In lessons, we listen to and experience a wide range of music from different eras, cultures and genres is an essential part of our lesson. Noting the significance and importance of these key styles and composers. Pupils leave lessons with a new appreciation of music they were unaware of when they walked into the classroom.

All teachers in the Music department have strong musical knowledge and a clear understanding of the schemes of learning. They develop and refine these schemes each year to incorporate new research which reflects the needs of our pupils. This enables us to have great success with our students at GCSE.

To support the musical growth of our pupils we have an excellent team of visiting peripatetic instrumental and vocal teachers who give tailored guidance to our students. Lessons are available to all students. Please see Mr Spacey in the music department for more details.

Our music ensembles remain strong and an important part of the school's life. We perform at our Christmas Concert, Summer Concert and also at local venues. Every two years the music department go on tour. Recent tours include Italy, Barcelona and Paris.

Thank you for taking the time to read about the Music Department. If you do have any other questions, please feel free to contact Mr Spacey at the high school on 01253 733192.