

MUSIC

Course Outline

This is a course designed to extend and develop students' musical skills, knowledge, and understanding. Students participate in a range of musical activities that integrate the core learning skills of performing, composing, appraising and listening to music.

Both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 classes are organised in mixed ability groups to facilitate the unique requirements of learning a practical subject. There are practice room spaces located off the main teaching classrooms which are available for individual rehearsal and for group work.

Key Stage 3

At Key Stage 3, the National Curriculum Programmes of Study are delivered through half term Units of Work. Students perform on a range of classroom instruments with increasing skill and control of performance techniques. They are taught to listen and to explore musical ideas within given styles and traditions. They learn to analyse and communicate their ideas and feelings about music.

The Music Department enjoys excellent resources following recent upgrades in facilities and equipment. This makes learning music a lot of fun! All students have access to an individual keyboard. Students are also encouraged to develop guitar playing skills on both acoustic and electric guitars. The department has a comprehensive stock of percussion instruments for classroom use. An established Year 7/8 African Drumming Ensemble uses authentic, African drums.

Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4, students are offered the opportunity to broaden their musical interests and skills. They listen to and appraise music from different historical contexts. They explore a variety of musical styles and traditions through the analysis of specific set works.

Performance coursework consists of solo and ensemble performances. Composition coursework develops a portfolio of original pieces and students use music software to produce their notated composition scores. All department computers are equipped with Sibelius and Cubase music software packages.

Beyond The Classroom

The Music department provides a comprehensive and exciting extra-curricular programme. All instrumentalists, irrespective of their musical ability, are encouraged to participate in weekly extra-curricular group rehearsals culminating in termly performance events. Instrumental tuition on a wide range of musical instruments is provided by an outstanding team of peripatetic teachers.

The department collaborates closely with the Drama and Performing Arts Departments to mount musical productions of an extremely high standard. These shows, put on at local, professional theatres, are a real highlight of the musical calendar.

Parental Guideline

Parents can support students' musical progress by providing opportunities for learners to experience and enjoy live music performance events. Instrumentalists should have access to a musical instrument at home and be encouraged to follow a planned, daily practice regime.