

Statement of Intent

In our music department, we are dedicated to nurturing a vibrant and dynamic musical community that celebrates the richness of the art form and its profound impact on our lives. Our mission is to provide students with a comprehensive and inspiring music education that transcends boundaries and fosters creativity, collaboration, and a lifelong passion for music. We are committed to promoting musical excellence through teaching and learning. Our faculty, comprising accomplished musicians and educators, guides students on a journey of musical discovery, ensuring that they reach their fullest artistic potential. We believe that music is a universal language that transcends cultural and social barriers. Our department embraces diversity and inclusivity, welcoming students from all backgrounds and encouraging them to explore the rich tapestry of musical traditions from around the world. Music is a vibrant and evolving art form. We empower our students to be creative thinkers and innovators, encouraging them to push the boundaries of musical expression, composition, and performance. We understand the power of music to unite and inspire. Our department actively engages with the community through concerts, workshops, and outreach programs, fostering a sense of social responsibility and a love for music in our students.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

Students have one lesson per week dedicated to Music performing arts key stage 3. During each year, students move round a carousel with Drama, Music and Dance each being taught for one full term. During KS3, students explore a variety of traditional and contemporary styles of music with lessons focussing heavily on Performance, Composition and Listening and Appraising skills. Students will learn Music Theory, The History and Context of music, singing, keyboard and rhythm skills within solo and group activities, and explore a wide array of Styles and Genres from across the world.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

In music, students study a vocational course known as The Tech Award Level 2. This course is designed to equip them with the skills and knowledge needed to become modern music practitioners. Throughout the course, students will explore the creation of various music styles, with a particular emphasis on popular music styles from the 20th century. They will also develop foundational skills required in the music industry. The focus is on development of key skills that prove learners' aptitude in music, such as responding to a musical brief using musical skills and techniques. Processes that underpin effective ways of working in the music sector, such as the development of musical ideas, and using skills and techniques for rehearsal, creation, production and performance to respond to a musical brief. Attitudes that are considered most important in the music sector, including personal management and communication. Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector, such as musical skills and styles. The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills in a practical way through exploration and development of techniques and styles.

Key Stage 5 Curriculum

We currently offer BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Music Technology (Sound Engineering) at KS5. This is a vocational qualification that complement students either taking a mostly academic or vocational pathway. This certification is equivalent to one full A level. Students have 5 x 1-hour sessions per week. Students are also expected to supplement their learning during supervised study either in the sixth-form or specialist learning spaces, for example our very own Recording Studio, Apple Mac Suite and Practice Rooms. There are two mandatory units, which cover the following aspects of sound engineering: studio recording techniques and digital audio workstation (DAW) production. The optional units: are live sound, mixing and mastering techniques and working and developing as a production team. Music Technology is an exciting new area that is becoming popular amongst students across the country. This course is designed to teach students how to produce music both in the studio and during live events, working as part of a team to deliver high-quality products using industry-standard equipment.

Extended Learning

What we offer to extend the learning of our students

- An annual whole-school production that brings together all of the performing arts disciplines.
- Smaller events such as concerts, lunch time concerts, recitals, performances and showcases throughout the calendar year.
- Extra-curricular clubs such as Choir, Keyboard Club, Music Tech Club and School Band/Orchestra.
- Peripatetic instrumental lessons provided for all KS4 and KS5 music students.
- Affordable peripatetic instrumental lessons offered to KS3 students.
- Trips to Performing Arts events.
- Career advice for KS5 for Music courses at university and work experience.

What can parents do to support extended learning in this subject?

- Find opportunities to take your child to performing arts events such as concerts, plays, musicals and dance performances. Even a daytrip to watch some street performance in Covent Garden can be of huge benefit.
- Discounted events and ticket lotteries can be found on apps such as TodayTix. You can even attend events such as WestEndLive in Trafalgar Square which is an annual free event and has performances from nearly every West End show.
- Speak to Mr W Mohanaraj if you would be interested in purchasing instruments or instrumental lessons, he is happy to advise and support.
- Watch live performances using streaming platforms such as YouTube, BBC iPlayer, Apple TV, Disney+ and Netflix. Ask Mr W Mohanaraj for this list of recommended watching.
- Go to old vintage record stores to see what records, CDS, tapes you can find.
- Discuss the history and context that surrounded music styles that were popular when you were younger. This understanding of history (even if very recent) is essential for our students to learn.