



CURRICULUM INTENT

Music

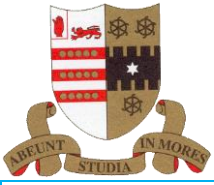
- **Challenge** lies at the heart of our curriculum. It goes beyond what is statutory or typical; students are encouraged to deepen their understanding of the fundamentals of their learning at every opportunity.
- Our curriculum is fully **inclusive**. All students have access to a broad range of experiences for as long as possible, regardless of prior attainment or additional needs.
- Our curriculum is **knowledge rich**, with subject curricula designed to ensure that any 'powerful' knowledge and skills that are critical to future success are regularly re-visited.
- Our curriculum is **expertly planned** and is therefore sequenced to enable students to build their knowledge and skills towards ambitious agreed end points.
- Wherever appropriate our curriculum gives students the opportunity to **personalise** their experience, thereby facilitating enjoyment and success for all.
- The importance of reading and wider **literacy** skills is a key thread that runs through our curriculum. As well as broadening students' vocabulary, all subjects will develop students' subject-specific literacy, so they can speak, read and write as, for example, a Historian, an Artist or a Physicist.
- A carefully considered and inclusive **extra-curricular** programme supports broader and deeper understanding of the taught curriculum, as well as developing the cultural capital our young people need to be global citizens.
- Students' **personal development**, including careers education, is central to our curriculum, through all subject areas, as well as PSHE lessons, tutor time, assemblies and off-timetable activities.
- Homework and summative **assessment** tasks are strategically designed to promote the concepts of regular review and spaced practice, therefore contributing to a long-term retention of knowledge and skills.

The Music curriculum is designed to encourage students of all abilities, including those with additional needs, to develop an appreciation, understanding, and enjoyment of music through an active participation in performing, composing, and appraising. Our aim is to create well-rounded musicians who are capable of both creating and analysing music, with a strong foundation that can support further study and a lifelong engagement with music. Music is a compulsory subject in Years 7 and 8, which can then be chosen for Year 9, GCSE, and A level, if students wish to pursue their studies of the subject.

We encourage students to actively engage in the process of practical music making to broaden musical experience and interests, develop imagination and foster creativity. Students across all key stages develop performing skills to communicate musically with fluency and control of the instrument/s, as soloists and within an ensemble. Challenge is generated at an appropriate level to the learner, for example, through the exploration of more difficult repertoire and musical notations. Students of all abilities are then encouraged to participate in the many performing opportunities offered by the department to promote a love of music, develop confidence, and to establish a supportive and inclusive learning environment that appreciates musical performance.

From Year 7, students develop composing skills to demonstrate the organisation and manipulation of musical ideas and the use of musical devices, conventions, and appropriate musical sounds. Along with performing, these practical music making components give students the opportunity to personalise their learning experience through the exploration of live instruments and music technology. When students receive verbal or written feedback, whether formative or summative, time is always allocated for them to embed their learning further, encouraging them to become critical and reflective musicians.

The acquisition of these practical skills is designed in a systematic way to build student confidence and resilience. For example, the introduction of simple one-note accompaniments in Year 7 is followed by three-note chord accompaniments and chord inversions in Year 8 and progresses onto more difficult seventh chords in Year 9, leading to more complex score analysis at GCSE and A Level. This systematic approach both reinforces and extends prior learning and develops students' understanding of the theory underpinning the practical work. Appraising skills are taught through listening to commercial recordings of music from different styles, genres, and traditions of music to students' keyboard performances in the classroom. Listening focuses on classroom discussion of the key musical elements of the recorded music to develop students' aural analysis skills and their understanding and application of subject specific terminology.



Extra-curricular music opportunities are hugely important in nurturing creativity and musicianship beyond the curriculum. The department offers an inclusive extra-curricular programme that caters to a wide range of musical interests and abilities, providing performing opportunities both within school and in the wider community, supporting students to achieve their full potential in music.