



## Music

There is a long tradition of excellence in a wide range of Music at Eltham College with a strong emphasis that Music should be both inclusive and enjoyable for everyone but also capable of inspiring first class musicians to perform at national levels. There is a staggering breadth of co-curricular opportunities at Eltham College: over 50 ensembles rehearse each week in the Senior School alone and there are over 30 musical events in the calendar each year. Throughout the week hundreds of instrumental, vocal, theory and conducting lessons are held, with close to 70% of students learning at least one instrument. Every musician is encouraged to and expected to be in a music ensemble and, as such, there are plenty for them to choose from including several orchestras and choirs, and junior and senior section ensembles as well as other more exclusive ensembles, clubs and societies. Many pupils also perform with local and national orchestras and choirs, and a large number attend Music Conservatoire Saturday schools. Music Scholarships are available at Year 7, Year 9 and Lower Sixth.

The department is housed in the purpose-built Music School allowing the pupils access to a range of facilities and equipment including a chapel organ, one Yamaha grand piano and two Yamaha baby grand pianos, a Percussion Studio, a Harp and Double Bass studio and a suite of computers with the latest musical notation and sequencing software. Academic lessons take place in two specialist classrooms which are also suitably large enough to be used as a rehearsal space. The department has dedicated office space for staff housed in the music school.

There are regular performance opportunities within the department, with informal concerts in Central Hall throughout the year, focusing on instrumental families and run by Heads of Section, student compositions, chamber music combinations, A Level & GCSE concert performances and many more. This is in addition to the enormous annual concert schedule including our Choral & Concerto concerts at St. Alfege's Church, St John's Smith Square and Cadogan Hall, featuring many of the larger ensembles, choirs, choral society and talented concerto artists. Our regular lunchtime slot at Ronnie Scott's is certainly a musical highlight of the school calendar, as well as the annual musical performed at the end of November. Recent musicals have included *Anything Goes*, *Oliver!*, *West Side Story* & *Les Miserables*.

The performance opportunities continue outside of school, with music students representing the College in local and national ensembles and organisations such as the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, National Youth Choir of Great Britain, Bromley Youth Concert Band & Symphony Orchestra (Bromley Youth Music Trust) and the Centre for Young Musicians. Students also attend various Junior Conservatoire programmes in London, including the Royal College of Music, Royal Academy of Music, Trinity and Guildhall School of Music.

Music is a compulsory subject for Year 7 and 8 students, with one academic double lesson per week. The emphasis in lessons is on practical development through sound contextual understanding, with a considerable lean on performance and composition. Many students have good prior practical musical experience from Eltham College Junior School which has a thriving concert tradition and outstanding academic performance. Music is a popular options subject in Year 9, and student numbers at GCSE and at A level are healthy. A large number of students go on to study Music at UK conservatoires and at university. In recent years, musicians have gone on to hold choral, instrumental and organ awards at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

### Choirs, Orchestras & Bands

For the singers in our choirs and the musicians in our orchestras and bands, there are opportunities for all to perform at various venues throughout the year as well as international tours. Every effort is made to ensure that all students learning musical instruments are placed in College ensembles to help them



progress. Ensembles are graded by ability and if a student wishes to perform in a group there will be an opportunity for them to do so.

### **Music Workshops**

Students meet to discuss our practice the things that they particularly enjoy or want to experiment with. These workshops are a little bit more specialist and in tune with student interests.

### **Music Tours**

Music department tours have included Dubrovnik, Washington and New York, Malta, Venice and Verona, all of which give our students the opportunity to perform overseas showcasing Eltham College as an international musical school of excellence.

## **Person Specification**

We seek an inspirational and academic qualified teacher with a proven track record to manage and oversee the academic teaching of this key department.

The successful candidate will be a graduate of a good university, able to demonstrate a sound subject knowledge, high academic standards and an ability to enthuse pupils of all ages. Experience in a similarly high-performing academic environment will be a distinct advantage.

All teaching staff are expected to contribute to our extensive co-curricular programme. A willingness to be involved in Games (boys' or girls') would be a particular recommendation.

*The post holder's responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young persons for whom he / she is responsible, or with whom he / she comes into contact will be to adhere to and ensure compliance with the School's Child Protection Policy Statement at all times. If, in the course of carrying out the duties of the post the post holder becomes aware of any actual or potential risks to the safety or welfare of children in the School he / she must report any concerns to the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead.*