

# PERFORMING

WADDESDON CHURCH OF  
ENGLAND SCHOOL

## PERFORMING ARTS

Music and Drama are at the heart of our school life. From the wonderful music in morning assemblies to the after school drama and music clubs, these two subjects are enjoyed by the students both in formal curriculum time and in extra-curricular activities. A school without Music and Drama is a school without a soul.

This vacancy provides the opportunity for the right candidate to lead the Music Department, teaching across the curriculum from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 5 and contributing to the extra-curricular events and activities.

### Drama

Drama is a thriving subject area within the school and is extremely popular with students. Students respond positively to the high expectations that are set and this is reflected in their hard work and successes. The Department offers enthusiastic support for extra-curricular

projects throughout the year. The regular production of school shows and the organisation of theatre visits make this a busy, vibrant department.

All students in Year 7 and Year 8 have one lesson of Drama per week and are taught in form groups. Students make their GCSE choices at the end of Year 8 and Drama is a popular option, attracting many students each year. Two or three GCSE groups follow Edexcel Drama in Years 9, 10 and 11. At Key Stage 5, Edexcel Drama and Theatre Studies is the main option and this is also a popular course, appealing to students with an interest in the theatre and drama who wish to develop their studies and skills at A Level. A number of students continue their interest at university and drama school.

Facilities include a purpose-built drama studio, fully equipped with a lighting and sound system, and a dedicated section of the school hall. The hall is equipped with an excellent lighting system, operated from a Zero 88 'Fat Frog' lighting desk, and the school owns a flexible staging system, making it possible to build a full stage with conventional proscenium arch,

a theatre in the round, or any other configuration desired.

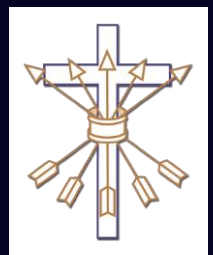
The school production encourages impressive levels of participation, attracting casts and crew of up to 150. As interest in both Dance and Music is strong, the school has focused on musical theatre in recent years, with past shows including 'Cats', 'We Will Rock You', 'Oliver!', 'Guys and Dolls' and, most recently, 'High School Musical Junior'. The Drama Department works very closely with the Music Department to achieve high standards of performance.

Extra-curricular clubs are offered to students, with theatre trips being run throughout the year. The culture of student involvement makes Drama a very inclusive subject across the school.

### Music

Music attracts a wide range of interesting and talented musicians and singers and is a vital element of the school. Music at Waddesdon enables pupils to express themselves through listening, performing and composing activities. We believe that music learning is

# ARTS



Waddesdon  
Church of England School  
Waddesdon,  
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MACBETH



at its best when young people are making music, and when their existing passion for music is reflected and built upon in the classroom. As a Champion School for Musical Futures, we strive to engage all young people in meaningful, sustainable musical activities. We offer a varied approach to music education and to practical activities in order to enable young people to experience both practical music making and Music Technology.

As with Drama, all students in Year 7 and Year 8 have one lesson of Music per week and are taught in form groups. Students make GCSE choices at the end of Year 8. At least one group follows GCSE Music in Years 9, 10 and 11; the course followed is OCR. At Key Stage 5, we offer the Pearson Level 3 BTEC in Music. The BTEC course allows a wider range of students to pursue their musical talents and ambitions. The summer WADDFEST music event has established itself as a yearly fixture, which

is organised by the Sixth Form students as part of the course. It is popular with the students, their families and even the staff who cannot resist taking to the main stage!

The Music Department is very well resourced, with sufficient keyboards, ukuleles and tuned/un-tuned percussion for all Key Stage 3 students to have their own instrument for classroom music. The Department also has a large selection of electric and bass guitars and students can also work in practice rooms equipped with drum kits. Music Technology is taught in a specialist room with iMac computers and during lessons pupils have access to a number of programs including Garage Band, Logic, Sibelius, Guitar Pro and Virtual DJ.

The Music team plays a vital role in the whole-school productions as well as having its own concerts and musical events. Performance is richly integrated into school life through regular concerts, year group and assembly performances, as well as regular Friday lunchtime concerts. Pupils have performed in several venues over the last few years including Jokela High School, Finland, Porvoo Cathedral,

Finland, Stewkley Church, The Finnish Church, London, St Michael at the West Gate in Oxford, Waddesdon Church and Waddesdon Village Primary School. The school enjoys a strong relationship with Jokela High School in Finland.

The department works closely with The Buckinghamshire Music Service to offer lessons to students both during the school day and up to 5.00pm in school. These include brass, woodwind, strings, guitar, piano/keyboard lessons and voice. Included in the department's suite of extra-curricular activities are: mini-orchestra, string group, percussion ensemble, Year 7/8 singers and choir.

**Both departments make an extremely valuable contribution to the social and cultural life of the school. This post will provide an exciting opportunity to build on the successes of the past and help shape the future for our young people through Music and the Performing Arts.**



Guys and Dolls



WaddFest

