

THE CHARLES DICKENS ACADEMY – MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Facilities

The Department of Music comprises of one dedicated music classroom and two practice rooms, as well as a music technology room. The rooms are purpose built and the main room is a large space, suitable for both individual/paired keyboard work and large scale ensemble activities. The music technology room is a modern space, with a suite of PCs, all running the latest music composition software.

Key Stage 3

Grammar stream and secondary ready students have one 60 minute lesson per fortnight and mainstream students have two 60 minute lessons per fortnight. We follow the music national curriculum and the learning is supported by a wide range of practical activities, ICT and printed resources, ensuring that a variety of activities is offered to suit every type of learner. The units of work are topic based and focus on practical skills, supported by theoretical concepts. Lessons cover a wide range of music from Western Europe, popular genres and music from around the world, to ensure that students get a broad diet of contexts and cultures.

Key Stage 4

Music is optional at Key stage 4. The time allocation for KS4 is five 60 minute lessons per fortnight.

Year 10 & Year 11 are undertaking the Edexcel GCSE, a robust course that allows students to perform, compose and listen to pieces from a wide variety of genres. In terms of composition, students are encouraged to produce pieces of music in clear forms (e.g. ternary waltz.). GCSE Music now commences in Year 9.

Extra Curricular

Historically the department has been fully involved with the performing arts, hosting many successful productions (e.g. Busey Malone). A roster of extra curricular activities is developing, including a year 7 choir and preparation for a joint Battle of the Bands with Barton Court Grammar School.

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