**Highams Park School’s quick guide to the Music Department.**

The Music department consists of two full-time members of staff along with ten peripatetic teachers and a technician. The department delivers courses across the Key Stages including both GCSE and A level. Current GCSE uptake is above the National Average with groups as large as 24. There are separate groups of 3 students taking A level music in Year 12 and 13. The successful candidate will be expected to teach to these levels. All lessons last one hour.

At Key Stage 3, a different model applies to each year. In Year 7, students carousel with drama and will have the equivalent of two terms worth of lessons over the academic year. In Year 8, dance comes into the carousel and students spend the equivalent of two fifths of an hour each week on music, spread across the year. In Year 9, students choose to study two of the three subjects, music, drama or dance, for 1 hour each week throughout the year. The majority of the year continue with music.

At Key Stage 4, students who opt for music receive 5 one-hour lessons over two weeks and we currently deliver the EDEXCEL course.

At Key Stage 5, students receive 9 one hour lessons over two weeks and we currently deliver the EDEXCEL course.

The Music Department’s accommodation is housed in a separate block shared with art and drama. Music is contained on the ground floor with two large teaching rooms and a suite of five practice rooms. Each teaching room contains an acoustic piano (one upright and one grand), 15 Yamaha PSR 443 keyboards, numerous percussion instruments from LP, half class sets of djembe and balafons, electric guitars, amplifiers and computers. Each teaching room contains a proper hifi playback system with one room having a full 5.1 surround system. Both rooms have blu ray playback as well as LED 75’ interactive screens. The practice rooms all contain electric full weighted Yamaha Clavinovas with some also containing an acoustic piano. The drum room contains a Pearl Export kit. One room has a dedicated proper hifi system for examination students to listen to music and complete private study and score read. It also contains a range of CDs and books. For concerts, additional equipment is stored near the stage in the school hall. This includes two drum kits by Yamaha and Pearl and numerous guitar amplifiers by Marshall and Blackstar (valve and transistor). We have a variety of sound mixing desks by Studiocraft and Yamaha, including a 32 channel desk used for whole school productions. Recording equipment includes CD/Minidisk/hard disk and various radio microphones by Sennheiser, AKG and Shure as well as several dynamic and condenser microphones. We are well resourced to put on shows and record GCSE and A level coursework.

We offer instrumental and vocal tuition via our ten peripatetic teachers. Currently about 120 students take up this opportunity. Students are regularly entered for ABRSM/Rockschool/Trinity grades from Prep test to Grade 8. For the summer session, examinations take place at school with a visiting examiner from ABRSM.

There is a good variety of clubs and activities at various times throughout the academic year for students to get involved in, some delivered by teaching staff and some by peripatetic teachers. This ranges from wind ensemble, choir, guitar, show band/orchestra, a listening to music group and Grade 5 Theory.

There are numerous opportunities for students to perform throughout the year. These include evening concerts as well as those at lunchtime. The school show runs for a week with a matinee performance for a local school and five evening performances. Recent musicals include “Oliver!” (2019), “School of Rock” (2018), “Little Shop of Horrors” (2017), “Wizard of Oz” (2015), “Grease” (2014) and “Les Miserables-School’s Edition” (2013). We work very closely with the Drama/Dance department on these events. Music enjoys a high profile in the school and is well supported by the Principal and SLMT.

Applicants for this post should indicate what instruments they play (with the grade studied to) under the qualifications section of the application form.