**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. 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 EDUQAS course.

At Key Stage 5, students receive 9 one hour lessons over two weeks and we currently deliver the EDUQAS 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 is equipped with an acoustic piano (one upright and one grand), 15 Yamaha PSR 443 keyboards, set of djembe and balafons, tuned and untuned percussion instruments, electric guitars, amplifiers and computers. Each teaching room has LED 75’ interactive screens and full playback systems with one room having a full 5.1 surround system. We are well resourced for putting on shows and recording GCSE and A level coursework with a comprehensive collection of mixing desks (Studiocraft and Yamaha), microphones (Sennheiser, AKG and Shure) and dynamic and condenser microphones.

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 GCSE and A Level coursework club to chamber ensemble, choir, rock school, show band/orchestra, 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.