

## **Coombe Girls' School Music Department An Introduction to the Department**

The Music Department currently consists of two full-time members of staff, and eleven peripatetic teachers. The department delivers courses across the age range, including GCSE and A level Music and the person appointed would be responsible for ensuring the healthy uptake of Music at KS4 and KS5 by students of all backgrounds, abilities and ethnicities.

The Key Stage 3 syllabus aims to provide a practical experience of music through active involvement in performing, composing, listening and appraising. The staff aim is to provide a creative and imaginative approach to their teaching across the age range, within a happy, positive, safe and supportive environment, reflecting the ethos of the school.

Pupils in the Lower School currently receive one lesson of music each week lasting one hour. Year 10 students receive five lessons over two weeks, Year 11 six lessons over two weeks and A Level students receive 9 lessons over two weeks.

The Music Department accommodation comprises of a large Recital Room with 3 practice rooms and a recording studio, a Music Technology room with 2 practice rooms and 3 further practice rooms for peripatetic staff. The Music Technology Room is equipped with 20 computers running Sibelius and Mixcraft software. In addition, the Recording Studio has Logic Pro X software for digital recording.

The Department is generously resourced and has a variety of pitched and unpitched percussion instruments, a set of steel pans, assorted keyboards, 30 acoustic guitars, a bass guitar, an electric guitar, and drum kits. Both teaching rooms have interactive whiteboards and comprehensive sound systems.

Instrumental and vocal tuition is popular, and a large amount of students are receiving lessons in school time. Individual tuition is currently arranged for the flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, violin, viola, cello, guitar, piano, keyboard, voice and drum kit.

There is a wide variety of clubs and activities available at various times in the academic year and the Music Department aims to ensure wider participation in the musical enrichment programme by students of all backgrounds, abilities and ethnicities. The extra-curricular programme includes Orchestra, Training Band, String Orchestra, Year 7 Band, Chamber Music

ensembles, Coombe Consort, Federation Choir, Wimbledon Federation Choir & Music Technology club.

There are numerous performing opportunities for students at Coombe throughout the academic year. There are lower and upper school informal concerts which takes place in the recital room, as well as the annual Carols by Candlelight which is federated with Coombe Boys' School. In the spring term the fiercely contested House Music competition takes place with an auditioning process and a grand final with a live judging panel in the school hall which is incredibly well attended by students and parents. During the summer term students have the opportunity to showcase their musical talent in the Summer Concert in the various ensembles they rehearse with.

In the past, the department has been involved in many successful tours abroad, providing many unforgettable experiences, and has been privileged to perform in St Mark's Basilica in Venice, Salzburg Cathedral, St Nicholas' Church in Prague, venues around Toronto and last summer students in the choir and instrumental ensemble went to Lake Garda. The Chamber Choir was honoured to perform in Westminster Abbey to celebrate the school's fortieth birthday a number of years ago.

Music enjoys a high profile in school life at Coombe and a good reputation in the Borough of Kingston-Upon-Thames. It is well supported by the Headteacher, Governors and Parents and Friends Association, together with Kingston Music Service.