**Redborne Upper School**

**Music department**

**Background information – May 2019**

Redborne is a successful and over-subscribed school which enjoys an excellent reputation for its work in the arts in general and for music in particular – we are one of the leading centres for music within Central Bedfordshire. If you have read our most recent Ofsted report you will know that the school has been praised for its commitment to maintaining a very broad curriculum with a commitment to wide subject offer with full student choice. We have not pursued league table points by closing down access to the arts, technology or vocational options.

The department is a vibrant and exciting environment for our students where all students take music lessons in year 9 and we have achieved and maintained four option classes per year for music at GCSE. We offer both Pearson GCSE and BTEC courses to our students and we have around 40 A-Level music and music tech students. The department is well resourced with three computer rooms and two studios as well as several practice rooms. There is a team of three teachers and the department has a dedicated staff of peripatetic teachers who offer instrumental and singing lessons throughout the week.

We provide a wide range of extra-curricular groups including orchestra, jazz band, wind band, choir, boys’ acapella, girls’ acapella, percussion group, flute group, string group, advanced strings, advanced wind group and guitar group. We put on regular concerts, gigs, shows and events and are involved with performances in the local community. Advanced level students in recent years have gone on to study music at universities including Oxford, Cambridge, York and Birmingham and students have also successfully gained places at music colleges and conservatoires. Many of our music technology students have also gone on to study at Huddersfield.

The school also benefits from the recent completion of the Connolly Hall, a state-of-the-art theatre and flexible performance space which can seat up to 400 people. This has been used for concerts, our annual *Jazz Café* and musical productions – in recent years we have put on performances of *Les Misèrables* and *Into the Woods.* A production of *Oliver* is planned for this autumn.