

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

THE TEAM

The department consists of 4 music teachers and 1 admin support assistant, who all work closely together to plan courses and deliver extra-curricular activities. In addition we are supported by a team of staff providing Brass, Woodwind, String, Percussion and Voice tuition. Regular meetings are held to share views and discuss developments. Each member of the team is given an opportunity to contribute to the department and encouraged to develop professionally.

THE FACILITIES

The Music department benefits from 4 main teaching rooms across two sites. At the Newport Pagnell campus, the Music department consists of two large teaching rooms which each house keyboards, PC's running Cubase and Sibelius, along with guitars and full ranging percussion (tuned and untuned). There are also 5 practice rooms, and a newly fitted and equipped recording studio and control room. A room with music PC's running Cubase Pro 10 is also used for Music Technology.

At the Olney campus, a modern large music classroom also consists of keyboards also connected to PC's running Cubase and Sibelius. The classroom is also very well resourced with percussion, acoustic and electric guitars. There are 4 practice rooms, and a fully equipped recording studio.

YEARS 7, 8 & 9 (Pre Covid-19 Curriculum)

All students study Music in Years 7 and 8 with students opting for music in year 9. Students in Year 7 and 8 re 1 hour of Music per week and are taught in mixed ability groups. Year 9 music students have 2 hours per week. The emphasis is on the development of practical skills focusing on the interconnected areas of performing, composing and listening. The building of self-confidence and co-operative teamwork is a central part of our work.

YEARS 10 & 11

Music is a popular subject and high achieving subject at GCSE Level. Students at KS4 follow the AQA syllabus and the department consistently achieves above the national average. In June 2019, 61% of students achieved 7-9, with 94% achieving 4-9. In June 2018, 48% achieved 7-9 with 96% achieving 4-9.

SIXTH FORM

Students have the opportunity to study Music and/or Music Technology at KS5. Music students follow the AQA syllabus. Music Technology students follow the Edexcel course and are encouraged to make regular use of the excellent facilities available to them. Sixth form students are encouraged to work closely with teaching staff and also participate and lead extra-curricular activities within the department. Results are consistently above national average. In 2019, 80% of Music students achieved A*-B, and 100% of Music Technology students achieved A*-C.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR/ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

School concerts and are considered to be very important events and all team members contribute to the extra-curricular/enrichment programme. Concerts are established events on the school calendar and are well supported by both staff and parents. The pre Covid-19 extra-curricular/enrichment groups included Voctave (Junior Chorus), Encore (Youth Chorus), Anacrusis (Auditioned Choir), Ousedale Concert Orchestra, B.B.L.B. (Big Band's Little Brother), Flute Ensemble, Saxophone Ensemble, String Ensemble, Ousedale Jazz Band and many smaller student lead groups. Under normal circumstances, the music and drama departments collaborate to produce an annual large scale musical production. The department is a hive of activity providing music for a variety of events and staff are encouraged to lead groups that are specialist to their individual skills. During the Covid-19 pandemic, much of the extra-curricular work has moved online, with joint students and staff virtual performances a particular highlight.

STYLE

The Music Department enjoys a high profile within the school and is very well supported by the Senior Leadership Team. In 2017 & 2018 the department was awarded a national award by the Incorporated Society of Musicians (ISM) for uptake and attainment at GCSE music. The department was nominated to become a Music Mark School Member by Milton Keynes Music Hub (2018 and 2019) in recognition of our commitment to high quality music education. Over recent past years, the department has regularly received invitations to perform at National Music for Youth Festivals.

The Department welcome colleagues who have vision, a sense of humour, work hard, share best practice, and who can work within a team which is supportive, enthusiastic and dedicated to its subject. A passion for Music and a desire to inspire students is a must.