

Department on a Page – Music

The intent of the Music curriculum is to encourage students towards fulfilling their musical potential and enthusing and motivating all student's engagement with the subject. The curriculum aims to make music relevant to young people, connecting their in-school and out of school interests and enabling them to experience music making, to understand the process of music making, and for music making to contribute to their overall social, educational and personal development. Every project at KS3 concentrates on the creative and practical aspects of the subject, allowing and encouraging students to realise their creative musical potential. Working alongside this are the opportunities and experiences offered by practical music making both within the department and with extra-curricular musical activities, giving as much opportunity as possible to all students. The department has a flourishing extra-curricular program, which includes a Wind & Brass Ensemble, String Ensemble, Orchestra, a Whole School Choir (staff included) and an award winning Chamber Choir. All of these ensembles perform regularly in concerts and at many other occasions during the school year, including in the local community, alongside a large selection of smaller group ensembles and soloists.

The Music Department is staffed by the Head of Music, Richard Garbett, multi-instrumentalist and ex professional performer on saxophone and clarinet, and Gemi Hammond, a Music and Drama teacher. The department is housed in two specialist music rooms located in a purpose built Performing Arts block.

Using a variety of teaching and learning styles, the curriculum is implemented through guiding and modelling rather than telling, with students also acting as peer leaders. All students are engaged in music participation, helping with confidence, self-esteem and motivation. Students' own personal musical interests are highly valued, acknowledged and built upon in the classroom. The curriculum promotes independent learning and helps to enable students to demonstrate their musical potential.

The Music Department regularly collaborates with the Drama Department to produce large scale musical productions, latest shows being the hugely successful 'We Will Rock You', 'The Snow Queen', 'Chicago, Teen Edition' and 'Legally Blonde'.