

THE TEAM

The department will consist of 3 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 freelance staff providing Brass, Woodwind, String, Percussion and Voice tuition. Regular meetings are held to share views and discuss developments. Each member of staff is given the opportunity to contribute to the department and encouraged to develop professionally.

THE FACILITIES

The Music department benefits from 3 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 6 and Sibelius 7, along with guitars and full ranging percussion (tuned and untuned). There are also 3 practise rooms, and a newly fitted and equipped recording studio and control room.

At the Olney campus, the modern large music classroom also consists of keyboards also connected to PC's running Cubase 6 and Sibelius 7. 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

All students take Music in Years 7, 8 with students opting for music in year 9. Currently, students at KS3 have 1 hour of Music lessons per week and are taught in mixed ability groups. 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 at GCSE Level. In September 2016, there are 3 teaching groups in Year 11, with a cohort of and 3 groups in year 10. Students at KS4 follow the AQA syllabus and the department consistently achieves above the national average. The 2015 GCSE cohort achieved 100% A*-C grades with 63% of students achieving A*/A grades.

SIXTH FORM

Students have the opportunity to study Music and/or Music Technology at KS5. Music students follow the AQA syllabus. 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 2015, 75% of Music students achieved A*-B grades.

Music Technology students follow the Edexcel course and are encouraged to make regular use of the excellent facilities available to them.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR/ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Performances are considered to be very important and all team members contribute to the extracurricular/enrichment programme. Concerts are established events on the school calendar and are well supported by both staff and parents. The current extra curricular/enrichment groups running are OJC (Ousedale Junior Chorus), Ousedale Chorus, Ousedale Concert Band, B.B.L.B. (Big Band's Little Brother) Brass Ensemble, Woodwind Ensemble, String Ensemble, Ousedale Jazz Ensemble and many smaller student lead groups. During enrichment sessions, we offer in addition a Rock School, African Drumming group, and Keyboard Ensemble. The music and drama departments collaborate to produce a musical once every two years. The department runs 'Friday Music Recitals' performed by our talented students on a weekly basis. The music making is not limited to students alone, with several staff from other departments supporting in enrichment music making. The department is a hive of activity providing music for a variety of events and staffs are encouraged to lead groups that are specialist to their individual skills.

STYLE

The Music Department enjoys a high profile within the school and is very well supported by the Senior Leadership Team. 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.