

Music

Our Music department is a busy place and there are many extra-curricular activities which are expanding rapidly. There is a strong expressive arts community amongst the pupils and we work closely with the Drama department. Just under 190 pupils in 2019 regularly attended one or more of our many clubs and ensembles over the course of the year.

Christmas is celebrated with an annual concert featuring large and small ensembles and choirs from all year groups encompassing classical music, musical theatre, film music, and modern day pop/rock songs rearranged in Christmassy ways you couldn't imagine possible. It's such a big annual event for the music department that the planning usually starts in August!

Traditionally the school Eisteddfod gives pupils the opportunity to perform in small bands, perform solos, and most importantly, sing together as a congregation some of the hymns and folk songs from Welsh culture.

We have put on two west-end style musicals here in our own school: Beauty and the Beast (2018), and Oliver! (2019) Offering pupils the opportunity to perform in all their glory with full make up, costumes, set, lights and the magical feeling of having a professional band of musicians to really bring the show to life.

We also run theatre trips and take pupils to perform at other venues outside of school.

Lunchtime / breaktime clubs include choirs and orchestra, with smaller clubs running as pupils request, such as: keyboard club, theory club, recorder club, ukulele club, violin club, and rock bands.



Key Stage 3

At KS3 pupils learn the basics of a range of instruments are encouraged to attend the extra-curricular activities to hone their skills and have fun with like-minded people. They also learn to read music and study a wide range of styles.

At KS4 pupils can opt to study GCSE music; they study a wide range of genres including both historical and modern music, and recently the WJEC added film music to the examinations. Pupils must be able to play an instrument or sing, and be able to read music or guitar TAB to study the course at GCSE.

Externally our music pupils enjoy a variety of successes. A number of pupils attend the Caerphilly County Youth music ensembles, the Cardiff and Vale Music Service ensembles, and some are members of the 4 Counties Youth Ensembles. Our budding rock stars have performed at gigs and talent contests locally, and many individuals are members of both local and UK musical theatre schools performing regularly.

We have a team of specialist visiting music tutors who teach instruments either one to one or in a small group. We currently offer tuition in: Piano, Woodwind, Strings, Brass, Percussion & Drum Kit, Guitars and Voice. These lessons are additional to timetabled curriculum lessons and pupils will be encouraged to work towards graded examinations.

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Key Stage 4

This option is a two year GCSE course, which prepares learners for careers in the Performing Arts, Music or Entertainment Industry whilst developing skills required for any profession such as confidence, organisation, time keeping and ICT.

Pupils work towards a WJEC GCSE in Music. This course provides good progression to Nationals or AS/A2 levels.

Compulsory units studied: Performing 35% (solo and ensemble)
 Composing 35% (2 pieces)
 Appraising 30% (Externally marked listening exam).

Will this course suit

you? You must be:

- organised
- able to work to deadlines (like in the music industry!)
- able to work as a team
- willing to perform live to an audience.



The following skills are required:

- the ability to play an instrument or sing (minimum grade 2 standard) at end of Year 9 (level 7)
- the ability to read music (essential)
- good piano skills
- good general ICT skills.

Assessment

The course is predominantly practical with each unit having 1-2 large assignments for completion.

EVERY PIECE OF YOUR WORK COUNTS TOWARDS YOUR FINAL GRADE.

Pupils who opt for Music are expected to contribute to the school community and performing arts; participating in school ensembles (orchestra / choir / rock band etc) school concerts, productions and events and county ensembles (when the required standard has been reached). This can contribute to your portfolio.

