

ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC GRAMMAR SCHOOL

MUSIC AIMS & POLICY STATEMENT

The Music Department offers a broad and balanced education in line with the National Curriculum whilst also supporting the ethos of the school. Music is an important component in the development and growth of all pupils. It is a powerful means of communication, which not only offers pupils opportunities for self-expression but also challenges the way they think, feel and act. It also increases creativity, aesthetic sensitivity and greater spiritual awareness. Many character- building attributes are developed through the experience of Music, chiefly teamwork and high self- esteem.

Music Department aims:

To provide an enjoyable learning environment for all pupils to extend and enrich their understanding

To explore music in a range of styles, from different periods in history and from different cultures through the activities of listening, performing and composing

To encourage pupils to develop their musical skills in a challenging way in a supportive environment

To provide all pupils with opportunities to discover their musical preferences and deepen their knowledge

To offer all pupils opportunities to learn an instrument in school, to participate in a variety of extra-curricular activities and to perform in concerts

Resources

- Music Room
- Music ICT Suite equipped with 20 iMac Computers, each with GarageBand and Sibelius software
- 4 practice/individual teaching rooms
- A selection of classroom instruments including access to 20 keyboard instruments, a very good range percussion instruments, electronic and acoustic drum kits, recorders, violins and guitars

Other facilities

- Use of the Hall and the Chapel for rehearsals and performances

Instrumental Lessons

Instrumental and voice lessons are available in the following:

Violin, viola, cello, piano, trumpet, bass, electric classical/acoustic guitar, recorder, flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, drum kit and voice.

Extra curricular activities

Junior Choir, Chamber Choir, String Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Concert Band, Glee Club, Junior Recorders, Senior Recorders, Guitar Group and Jazz Band. Each year the music and drama departments do a joint musical production.

Extra-curricular activities take place before school (Jazz Band) and during lunchtime except for rehearsals for joint productions, which happen after school and on selected Sundays.

Junior Choir

All girls in Year 7 and 8 are encouraged to join the Junior Choir. The Choir performs at the Carol Service, in liturgies, in assemblies and take part in the Spring and Summer Concerts and Music Festivals. Everyone is welcome to join. The Choir performs a variety of styles of music.

Chamber Choir

The Chamber Choir is available to any girl in Years 8 to 13. There are no auditions. The Choir sings at the Carol Service, in the Spring and Summer concerts, in liturgies at school, church services and concerts outside school.

String Orchestra

The School Orchestra is open to any pupil who has played her string instrument for at least a year or has achieved the equivalent standard in less time. This group performs in School liturgies and events including the Carol Service and the Spring and Summer Concerts. The string orchestra is run by our Cello teacher, Mrs Osborne.

Concert Band

The Concert Band is open to any pupil who has played her woodwind or brass instrument for at least a year or has achieved the equivalent standard in less time. Other pupils may attend as keyboard or percussion players if they have the necessary music reading skills. This group performs in School liturgies and events including the Carol Service and the Spring and Summer Concerts.

Chamber Orchestra

The Chamber Orchestra is open to any pupil who is at Grade V standard on an orchestral woodwind instrument or string instrument. This group performs in School liturgies, at Speech Night, in the Spring and Summer Concerts and often accompanies school productions.

Glee Club

Glee Club is available to any girl in Year 9 to 13. The Club focuses mainly on popular music but performs a variety of choreographed, static, accompanied and a cappella arrangements. Glee Club performs at a variety of events and enter various competitions during the year.

Guitar Group

Guitar group is open to all year groups and is run by our Guitar teacher, Mr Lewis. It helps to develop ensemble playing and sight reading skills. A variety of musical styles are covered in the repertoire chosen. Guitar group perform in the carol service and at the Spring and Summer concerts.

Recorder Groups

The recorder groups are run by Mrs Broadbent, and anyone is welcome to join. A variety of musical styles are covered and the recorder groups play at a variety of events during the year. Our senior recorder group regularly wins in its class at the North London Festival of Music and Drama.

Jazz Band

The Jazz Band is run by pupils for pupils who enjoy Jazz style who are at Grade III on the flute, clarinet, trumpet, saxophone, piano, drums or guitar. The group meets before school on a Thursday each week. They perform at a variety of events during the year.

Musicals

The Music and Drama departments have mounted very successful productions in recent years, including 'The Dreaming', "The Sound of Music", "Fame", "Bugsy Malone" and "The Wizard of Oz". The cast, band and production crew include girls from Years 8 to 13. Rehearsals take place after school and on selected Sunday afternoons.

Concerts and Performing Opportunities

Opportunities to participate in concerts include an annual concert presented by the whole of Year 7, a Spring and Summer Concert for all years, an Autumn Showcase for KS4 pupils and some individual instrumental teachers also organise concerts given by their pupils. This year we are running what we hope will be the first of many singing competitions, to be judged by West End professionals, and also we are launching a House Music competition in the summer term.

Outside school events

We support the local community by visiting and entertaining the elderly, in the past this has included giving concerts for the St Alban's Wednesday Club, and carol singing at Oak Lodge, Torrington Park and for the Holy Trinity Church Christmas party.

Summer Music Tour

Summer 2012 saw the inaugural summer music tour to Italy. Over 80 students from Extra-Curriculum groups travelled to Lake Garda and performed in a variety of venues in the area. This was a very successful and rewarding trip for all involved, and plans for the Summer 2014 tour are underway.