

## Summary of the Department

The Music Department is a flourishing and successful department which above all provides a foundation upon which a joy of music can be nurtured and developed in every student. Our aim is to develop musical skills and understanding in students encompassing a very wide range of abilities and to encourage pupils to co-operate and work together in the classroom and within musical ensembles through extra-curricular activities. Students are given the opportunity to develop their instrumental and vocal skills in the classroom as well as through peripatetic music lessons which are taught by a highly qualified, experienced and well-motivated team of instrumental teacher.

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### The Department Staff:

- Mrs Cooper (Director of Performing Arts & Head of Music)
- Mr Wood (Teacher of Music)
- Mr Halon (IMI Singing/piano)
- Mr Matthews (IMI Drums/guitar)
- Mr Draper (IMI Guitar and piano/keyboard)
- Mr Tugwell (IMI Woodwind)



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### Key Stage 3

Music is taught throughout the School from Year 7. Within Key Stage 3 a comprehensive scheme of work is followed with the emphasis placed on the involvement of all pupils in the fundamental musical activities of performing, listening and composing. All students are given the opportunity to try a range of instruments in the classroom including voice, guitar, bass, drums and keyboard before settling as soon as possible onto the instrument that suits them best. By positive participation in these practical activities, as well as following a rigorous course of music theory, pupils bring together aspects of intellect and feeling allowing for personal expression and emotional development.

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### Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5

At GCSE, AS and A level, students follow the Edexcel syllabus which covers the musical skills of listening and appraising, performing and composing. These are fairly rigorous courses demanding a wide range of skills - practical, analytical, essay-writing, performance, research, creative, listening and compositional. However, Music is a popular subject with universities because of the intellectual and creative firepower generated by study of this subject.

BTEC in Music is taught at Level 2 and Level 3 preparing students for careers in music or for further study. Through study of solo and ensemble performing, composing to a commercial brief, and research into the industry of music, students learn the value of sustained effort to achieve excellence and the concrete rewards of hard work. Employers are looking for multi-dimensional workers with the sort of flexible and supple intellects that music education helps to create.

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## Learning Outside the Classroom

Students are encouraged to learn to play a variety of orchestral and wind instrument, rock and pop instruments, plus vocal training is also on offer. Currently there are almost 300 students engaged in instrument and vocal lessons. All instrumental/vocal students have the opportunity to enter for Trinity Guildhall Music Examinations each year in which we have an enviable record of success from Grade 1 to Grade 8.

There is a real buzz for music at William Howard and there are many high quality musical ensembles in which students may participate including the orchestra, swing band, dance band, Big Band, separate woodwind, string and brass ensembles, guitar ensemble, junior and senior choirs, junior and senior wind bands, rock and pop bands, etc. Music theory tuition, band practise and composing using software are the most popular activities.

Major calendar events for music include regular school concerts, Nine Lessons and Carols at Christmas, Rock Nights, Acoustic Nights, competitions, participation in the Carlisle Music Festival, performance of large-scale choral works, etc. Students also perform musically in a range of school assemblies and at the popular tea parties for older people in the local community.

The school also hosts an annual Music Week for young instrumentalists and singers from nearby primary schools. The youngsters have the opportunity to work and perform alongside William Howard students and staff in a week-long project culminating in concerts for friends, family and other visitors from primary schools at the end of the week.

Musical Theatre productions are a highlight of the year in William Howard with students from years 7 through to 13 working hard together to create a showcase of talent which our audiences find hugely entertaining and enjoyable. Music and drama departments work together giving a great many students the opportunity to be involved, whether on stage performing, as part of the technical crew creating set, sound and lighting or as musicians in the orchestra. Past performances include 'the Sound of Music', 'West Side Story', 'Oliver', 'Les Miserables', 'We Will Rock You', 'a Christmas Carol' and 'High School Musical'.