

# ST RICHARD'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE



## Music Department



## Meet the department:



Mrs R Byrne  
Acting Head of  
Department



Ms O Okargbo-Reffell  
Temporary Teacher of Music

### **Subject outline**

Music is central to every pupil's experience at St Richard's, and has the potential to enrich their lives enormously. There are three main strands to their experiences:

- In the classroom
- The extra-curricular programme
- Supporting the Faith ethos of the college

Pupils tell us that they really enjoy their involvement in music at St Richard's, whether through singing, playing a range of musical instruments in our well- equipped department, joining choir, orchestra or any of eight after school/lunchtime ensembles, or becoming involved in music for a Liturgy. The music area is a busy, thriving and exciting place to be, and we do everything we can to make pupils feel welcome and valued, whatever their musical interests.

We are extremely proud of our reputation within the County, and beyond, for the high quality performance opportunities we offer all pupils. We also enjoy working collaboratively with the dance and drama departments, and regularly organise performances involving at least 100 pupils.

We have strong links with East Sussex Music Service and, through this, pupils can receive instrumental or vocal lessons in school, as well accessing a wide range of County ensembles including area youth orchestras, youth choirs, swing bands and Rock School.

Studying music is a gateway to a lifetime of enjoyment and life-enriching creativity, and there are many and varied career paths for pupils who gain a GCSE qualification in the subject; these opportunities include performing, composing, teaching, recording studio engineering, sound design for film and theatre and sound reinforcement. Pupils who study music develop many skills, making them an attractive proposition for potential employers!

Currently, the choir has around 70 members of mixed gender and rehearses regularly. They have sung at numerous concerts within school and out of school. We were selected to sing with leading professional soprano, Laura Wright, in Eastbourne. The choir have also been invited twice to sing at Westminster Cathedral during their Advent services, along with eight other leading choral groups. The standard is always extremely high and we hold our own alongside professional choirs.

Orchestra has around 20 members, and regularly supports services and Masses, as well as performing in Showcase Concerts, Eastbourne Proms and other concerts. It is inclusive, and players of all abilities are welcome. Many of our more experienced players will leave at the end of this term, and there is an opportunity for the successful candidate to develop ensemble skills with younger and less experienced players.

We have represented the school at 'St Mary's in the Castle' in Hastings for the last two years, presenting a substantial piece of music, dance and drama for their annual Holocaust Memorial Service. We have already been asked to perform again next year.

The choir have recorded an original piece of music for a composer, Miles Nicholas, and this was played during an 8-minute visual performance that took place in Australia (Sydney) during the Christmas period, two years ago. It was played every 15 minutes for 4 weeks! St Richard's voices have travelled far and wide.

Our Performing Arts team produces high quality shows annually with over 100 pupils involved each time. Music, Drama and Dance feature highly in all of these shows. Three nightly performances sell out with an excellent response from all audiences.

There is a wealth of experience within the music department.

Mr Roadknight (just retired after 17 years) has written books for music departments all over the country; has 'good practice' highlighted in publications by HMI inspectors, and is a very experienced educator and multi-instrumentalist. He still comes in on a Monday after school to lead the orchestra rehearsals. Mrs Byrne has a professional performance background and has led many choirs, and has extensive experience in the music industry. She has sung and played for many artists such as Pulp, Unkle, Paul Heaton, Suzanne Vega, Catatonia and more recently sang with Noel Gallagher on his last two solo albums 'High flying Birds'. She has sung in various bands throughout her career and has a good understanding of what it takes to succeed in the business. The team is dedicated to providing a diverse, exciting, accessible and uplifting musical curriculum with countless opportunities for pupils to develop and showcase their talents. The diverse skills and experience of the current department members ensure that pupils get a top quality music education. This is further enhanced by the strong working relationship with East Sussex Music Service who offer top quality instrumental tuition to our pupils, as well as the opportunity to be part of many ensembles.

What the pupils say:

*I really enjoy music, you get to express your creative side. You get to be independent and it's really enjoyable. You get to have a chance to join the school show.*

**Isabella, Year 9**

*Music is great! There is a lot on offer. There is also a chance for pupils to show off their skills in class.*

**Lexie, Year 9**

*Music is one of my favourite subjects and it helps me express myself. We get to sing in assemblies and attend activities after school and it is easy to get involved.*

**Matthew, Year 7**

*Music is one of my favourite subjects. Music is an everyday life sound! Music is a challenging subject but if you try your very best you are sure to be rewarded.*

**Caedan, Year 7**

*I love music because it is the one thing where I can properly express myself and my feelings fully without hesitation. With music club and choir I can do that properly.*

**Solomon, Year 7**

*I have thoroughly enjoyed the GCSE music course and feel as though I have progressed massively as a musician, both in terms of my practical skills and my comprehension of music around the world.*

**Edward, Year 11**



### **Celebrating our successes**

As a department we are *always* rehearsing for a performance (usually several at the same time), and this hard work consistently leads to outstanding results. Parents, pupils and colleagues throughout the County regularly tell us that they want their children to be at St Richard's when they see and hear our pupils working at such high performance levels. It is something we are very proud of, and we are constantly striving to build on our success because we want our young musicians to have musical experiences that will shape the rest of their lives in some way.

We are also proud of our GCSE success. For the past couple of years, over 90% of pupils entered for GCSE music were awarded A\* for both the performance and composition components of the course. As a department, we are now consistently meeting or exceeding our GCSE A\* to C and point score targets.

More recently on results day, we were delighted with the success of our Year 11 cohort: 87.5% of pupils gained A\* to C grades. We had our highest number of A\* grades this year.

### **A summary of KS3 music work**

Our KS3 curriculum has been developed to give pupils a broad and practical experience of music. It is largely based on the 'Opus' published resource (Heinemann), which was co-authored by Mr Roadknight, our former Subject Leader for music. The resources from this scheme have been adapted to meet the specific needs of our pupils.

#### **The specific units studied in KS3 are:**

##### **Year 7**

- The Telford Time Machine
- The Folk Tradition
- Rhythms of the Nile
- Impressionism

##### **Year 8**

- Reggae
- Making connections
- Going solo
- Film Music
- Night music

##### **Year 9**

- Chords into Jazz
- Making arrangements
- Polyrhythm into minimalism
- Music for special occasions
- Special project

During KS3, all pupils sing, play keyboards, guitars, ukuleles and tuned and un-tuned percussion. They perform solo and in groups and compose. They use iMac computers running Garageband, Logic and Sibelius software. They listen, appraise and learn about music theory including how to read and write standard notation.

### **A summary of KS4 music work**

GCSE music is presently a two year course, and we are now following the WJEC/Eduqas syllabus.

The course has ***four areas of study, a practical portfolio which includes two performances and two compositions.***

The aims of the GCSE course are to:

- Develop candidates' interest and enjoyment of music that will be sustained in later life, so that they are inspired, moved and changed by studying a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study.
- Develop candidates' own musical interests and skills including an understanding of how to make music individually and in groups.
- Enable candidates to evaluate their own and others' music.
- Develop understanding and appreciation of a range of different kinds of music.
- Develop broader life-skills and attributes including critical and creative thinking, aesthetic sensitivity, emotional awareness, cultural understanding, self-discipline, self-confidence and self-motivation.

### **COURSE OUTLINE: KS4 GCSE EDUQAS/WJEC**

**There are 4 areas of Study: 40%**

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Musical Forms and Devices</li><li>• Music for Ensembles</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Film Music</li><li>• Popular Music</li></ul> |
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**The final area is based on the Performance and Composition component.**

#### **Section 1: Musical Forms and Devices**

- The Development of music (Western Classical Tradition)
- Musical Form and Structure (Musical Forms)
- Devices (Prepared piece: Mozart/Eine Kleine Nachtmusik)

#### **Section 2: Music for Ensemble**

- Sonority, Timbre and Texture
- Musical Ensembles
- Chamber Music
- Musical Theatre
- Jazz and Blues

#### **Section 3: Film Music**

- The Film Industry
- The use of Musical Elements in Film Music
- Musical Devices and Techniques that are used in Film Music
- Composing Film Music: Responding to a Stimulus or Commission
- Appraising Film Music in the Examination

## **Section 4: Popular Music**

- Rock and Pop
- Musical Features of Rock and Pop Music
- Fusion
- Bhangra
- Prepared Extracts for Detailed Study

## **Section 5: Performance and Composition = 60%**

- Performing (Solo/Ensemble or 2 Ensembles)
- Composing (2 compositions)
- Appraising

## **How music is assessed**

The assessment of music is a complex area, as progress is not always ‘linear’; pupils progress through a ‘spiral’, making progress, re-visiting and reinforcing areas of learning and moving between different strands of learning.

There are five main things we consciously or subconsciously ask ourselves when listening to how pupils can progress in their musical learning:

- Pitch (how accurate is it? Is it appropriate? Does a drummer select appropriate drums, methods of hitting the drum?)
- Rhythm (how accurate is it? Is it appropriate?)
- Ensemble skills (are they in time with each other? Are they responding to each other?)
- Contrast (are they making adjustments to the music to maintain the listeners’ interest?)
- Style (is the piece in a recognisable style? Is there sensitive attention to articulation, phrasing and breathing?)

Throughout KS3, pupils have specially designed workbooks, which include pages designed to support the assessment process. They receive regular verbal and written feedback, and are encouraged to regularly make critical judgements about their own and others’ work.

The assessment policy for the department has recently been completely re-written. Composition and Performance work is formally assessed at the end of each unit, via a newly developed system that encourages pupils to be involved in the process from the outset.

At KS4 level, this process is continued through a range of performance, composition and listening tasks which gradually increase in challenge. Pupils learn how the exam board will assess them, and develop a clear understanding of the complexities of the process.

30% = Performing x 2 (72 marks) - 30% = Composition x 2 (72 marks)

40% = Listening Test (1hr 15 mins) (96 marks)

	<b>AO1</b>	<b>AO2</b>	<b>AO3</b>	<b>AO4</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Component 1</b>	30%	-	-	-	30%
<b>Component 2</b>	-	30%	-	-	30%
<b>Component 3</b>	-	-	20%	20%	40%
<b>Overall weighting</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>100%</b>

The table above shows the weighting of each assessment objective for each component and for the qualification as a whole.

## **Extra-curricular music**

We pride ourselves in offering our young musicians an extensive range of extra-curricular experiences, and there really is something for everyone to enjoy. Pupils really value the welcome they receive in the music area, and know that we do everything we can to help them become confident and engaged musicians.

Our regularly rehearsing ensembles include: Orchestra, Campfire Songs, Songwriting School, Choir, GCSE choir, GCSE Intervention, Band Night and Drum Club, and all pupils are encouraged to participate in an activity that suits their personal interests and ability level. The music room is never quiet, and in addition to the 'formal' ensembles, we rehearse for specific performance events and for Liturgies.

The extra-curricular programme is generously funded, and we have been fortunate in securing the services of East Sussex Music staff to run Rock School, String group and Drum Club.

### MUSIC DEPARTMENT CLUBS

	<b>CLUBS</b>	<b>Lunchtime @ 1pm</b>	<b>After School 3.15pm -4.15pm</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>Electronic Club Orchestra Songwriting School</b>	<b>Electronic Club</b>	<b>Orchestra Songwriting School</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>Music Team meeting Choir</b>	<b>Music Team Meeting</b>	<b>Choir</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>Garageband Club GCSE Intervention</b>	<b>Garageband Club</b>	<b>GCSE Intervention</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>GCSE Club GCSE Intervention</b>	<b>GCSE Club</b>	<b>GCSE Intervention</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>Campfire Songs Band Night</b>	<b>Campfire Songs</b>	<b>Band Night</b>

**Examples of performance opportunities:**



## Previous Summer Shows :

*The Wiz*  
*West Side Story*  
*Disco Inferno*  
*Oliver*  
*Annie*  
*Little Shop of Horrors*  
*Back to the 80's*  
*Thoroughly Modern Millie*  
*Our House*



Annual Music showcases (with contributions from Choir, Orchestra and soloists), Eastbourne Proms (Choir, Orchestra, soloists and Dance), Summer Sing at the De La Warr Pavilion, Westminster Cathedral Carol Services, Advent services, Easter services, and other performances within the community.

Pupils also have an opportunity each year to experience opera at Glyndebourne. Most recently, pupils enjoyed a visit from David Pickard (Director of the BBC Proms).



***We are looking for an enthusiastic, committed, creative individual who can contribute fully to our already engaging and inspiring department. This is an excellent department with outstanding results.***