

Music

“Where words fail, music speaks” — Hans Christian Andersen

The intrinsic value of music in education has long been widely recognized for helping pupils to develop critical analysis, problem solving, memory, cognitive and communication skills.

The Music department's aim at St. John's is that regardless of ability, every pupil is given the opportunity to increase their confidence, creativity, aesthetic sensitivity and sense of fulfilment.

Throughout Key Stage 3, pupils learn by performing, composing and listening. They have opportunities to work independently and to collaborate with others on a range of engaging tasks, exploring various genres, cultures and traditions whilst being given an appreciation of the historical, social and political contexts of the music.

Music Technology is used regularly in class, allowing our pupils to create, manipulate and structure sound in their own compositions and to aid the learning of traditional music notation.

The weekly music lessons are structured so that our pupils develop their critical skills, an ability to listen and make judgements about musical quality and to appreciate a wide variety of music in preparation for GCSE, should they choose to take the subject to examination level.

At Key Stage 4, we offer the [AQA GCSE syllabus](#) which offers a rich variety of study ranging from set works by Joseph Haydn to various songs by the Beatles! The course is a natural progression from our Key Stage 3 music studies and we find that pupils are confidently able to employ many of the skills already acquired.



The GCSE is divided into the three main sections of Understanding Music or listening and analysing (40%), Performing (30%) and Composing (30%). Pupils have always enjoyed a strong record of success at GCSE over the years.

Extra-Curricular Music

Our one – to-one peripatetic music lessons on numerous different instruments have remained very popular. Around a third of the school currently have opted to receive a 20 minute or 30 minute lesson with a visiting professional each week. Please see our website for further information on conditions and how to apply for music lessons.

In addition, the music department provides a range of different extra – curricular clubs and events which we encourage our pupils to take part in, such as Orchestra, VOX Vocal Group, Jazz Band and

Samba Band, performing at the House Music competition, Carol Service, Annual Spring Concert, Workshops, and the Annual School Production. Pupils also have the opportunity to perform in assemblies throughout the year and the high profile Annual Prize Giving event.