

## Music

As one of the three named subjects in our Arts College, music plays an important role in the school and as such has had the opportunity and resources to promote standards both at a departmental level and across the school. The provision for talented pupils is extensive and growing as outlined in this policy.

**Our provision will be outlined in detail in the following pages but can be summarised by the following list of activities: -**

- Extension materials for curriculum work.
- Opportunities for pupils to work with professional musicians to develop curriculum themes.
- Visits to concerts and musical theatre.
- Enhanced curriculum at KS3 to include Music Tech on an Arts Carousel.
- Partnership with Connecting Youth Culture to provide extended curriculum opportunities and summer schools.
- G&T pupils work with children from primary schools and Forest Special School as part of our partnerships as an Arts College.
- Excellent resources that encourage students' creativity and the opportunity to work independently on projects that through the use of high quality resources enables professional results.
- An Arts Recording Engineer who works extensively with talented pupils both in the curriculum and extended curriculum.
- Participation in national initiatives and success in national competitions.
- Extensive range of peripatetic instrumental teachers that offer a full range of instruments including organ, harp as well as samba percussion.
- Instrumental scholarships are offered to support pupils for whom fees are a problem.
- Students are actively encouraged to participate in ensembles at our local music centre, at a county level and nationally.
- There is an extensive range of musical ensembles and talented pupils are expected to lead ensembles and arrange concerts.
- Annual international concert tours.

### **Criteria for Identifying Talented Pupils.**

There are a range of indicators that identify children as talented in music and these include: -

- Captivated by music and are compelled to engage with what they hear.
- Able to memorise music easily.
- Sing and play with musicality being able to shape phrases, use appropriate dynamics and communicate with their audience.

- Enjoy improvising, or experimenting and find it difficult to put an instrument down.
- Show strong preferences and an inner drive to make music
- Demonstrate the ability to invent musical ideas and compose without effort.

**Giftedness in music is about the quality of response at any level and we have mechanisms in place to identify these students.**

- As a Specialist Arts College we work in partnership with our seven feeder primary schools. Each of the primary schools is asked to identify gifted and talented musicians. We also systematically visit each primary school for seven weeks each year and this also helps us to identify gifted and talented students at an early stage. Each summer we organise a workshop for primary students, we invite gifted and talented students to workshops run by professional artists and to perform at concerts at St John Fisher. We also send questionnaires to primary schools in year 6 to help identify gifted and talented students on entry to St John Fisher.
- On arrival in Year 7 students are base-lined by a series of aptitude tests and the cohort of Gifted and Talented students identified.

**Within the KS3 curriculum we provide the following opportunities**

1. Main composition assignments all have extension targets.
2. Class performances have different levels of performance with more difficult parts for Gifted and Talented students.
3. Listening work has open-ended questions designed to encourage the use of more specialist vocabulary and give the students the opportunity to identify sophisticated features of the music.
- 4.

**Within the KS4 curriculum a majority of students taking GCSE music** are talented and our curriculum, as well as fulfilling the requirements of the Edexcel GCSE, is designed to stretch the most able. This is reflected in the increasing number of students who achieve A and A\*. In addition, we provide additional twilight classes for composition and an extensive range of performance opportunities. Music technology is an important feature of our KS4 scheme and students have the opportunity to use professional software and work in a professional recording environment to produce compilations of their own music.