

## **The Music Department at St. Bede's Catholic College**

The music department at St. Bede's Catholic College is a lively and thriving place in which to work. High quality learning is prevalent, both in class and in the outstanding extra-curricular provision.

Pupils in years 7 and 8 have two hours of music per fortnight, increasing to three lessons per fortnight in year 9. The KS3 curriculum includes a wide range of topics that enhance pupils' performing, composing and listening skills. A large number of pupils opt to study GCSE Music (following the AQA GCSE Music specification). At present, there are two classes in year 10 and a further two classes in year 11. We offer AQA A Level Music for our post 16 students, with one class in year 12 and another class in year 13. Examination results are excellent. In 2019, 100% of GCSE Music pupils attained levels 9-4, with 69% of students attaining levels 9-7.

The music department is staffed by two full-time and one part-time members of staff. Department staff strive to model exceptional practice and endeavour to motivate and challenge pupils to make excellent progress in their learning. The department staff are supported by a team of 18 peripatetic music tutors who teach instrumental and vocal lessons to a very large number of students.

The department's resources are first-rate. There are two classrooms, each with an upright piano, suite of Apple iMac computers, Yamaha keyboards, a drum kit, guitars and a variety of tuned and untuned percussion instruments. The college owns a range of woodwind, brass and string instruments that students and staff may use. In addition to the two classrooms, there are 6 practice rooms and a recording studio.

The music department runs a vibrant programme of extra-curricular activities. The college choir and orchestra are well-attended by students. There are also a number of smaller ensembles, including a flute group, string group, guitar group, Glee club, staff choir and staff band. Opportunities to perform include concerts, recitals, services, college events and the annual college production which has included the Wizard of Oz, Grease and the Adams Family. Our students also have the opportunity to perform at venues such as Bristol Beacon, Cabot Circus and Clifton Cathedral. Trips and visits to concert halls and theatres in and around Bristol enrich our students' learning.

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