

PERFORMANCE AND PARTICIPATION : MUSIC



Aims :

To make music 'live', enjoyable, real and worthwhile for all students through:

- helping students realise their performing potential in singing and playing instruments
- increasing their awareness of the wide variety of music
- encouraging composition and a knowledge of the structure of music

Staffing:

There are currently one full time and two part time members of the music faculty supported by 8 peripatetic music teachers offering tuition in: Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Violin, Vocals, Piano, Keyboard, Electric/Acoustic Guitar, Bass Guitar, Steel Drums, and Drums. There is also the support of a Teaching Assistant in some lessons.

Accommodation:

- A comparatively new music suite, with three specialist teaching rooms plus a recording studio, practice rooms etc.
- Instrumental lessons take place in one of the five practice rooms.
- An 'Apple Mac' computer suite.

The Hexagon is used for performances.

Resources:

- The department has a large stock of orchestral instruments currently on loan to students.
- We have a large number of electronic key-boards, synthesisers, guitars, ukuleles, amplifiers, D J equipment, percussion instruments (including Steel Band and Samba Band) and six drum kits, including an electronic kit.
- Each music room is equipped with a hi-fi system and there are 20+ Apple Mac computers in the department.
- Currently MU1 and MU3 have an interactive whiteboard; MU2 has a large screen.
- The King's Oak Academy Yamaha School of Music (Music Point) started in October 2008. We currently offer Yamaha School of Music tuition in Electric Guitar, Keyboard and Drum kit. We are the only School/Academy to host a Yamaha School in Bristol. This experience is aimed at Primary aged children and acts as an excellent liaison activity. We also offer road shows which visit Primary schools as part of the Yamaha Music point.
- Tuition is offered as part of the extended school day.

Homework:

- Many students possessing a keyboard or other musical instrument will follow-up their classwork at home.
- Students learning an instrument in school are encouraged to practise every day.
- Students are asked to listen carefully to a selection of music and be able to distinguish the various elements of music.
- Topics are set at the beginning of term, to be completed by individual, independent thinking and research.
- Homework is set as per the school system.

Special Educational Needs:

Students work at their own level in music within a mixed ability grouping.

KEY STAGE 3: YEARS 7 – 9

Course:

All students have Music lessons in the first three years. During the time they will be involved in a number of different activities.

- **Instrumental Music**

Students will regularly play keyboards both individually and in ensembles. A wide variety of other instruments will also be used in the classroom and with an emphasis on hands-on experience. Students are encouraged to participate in instrumental/vocal tuition and in certain cases financial support is provided.

- **Listening and understanding**

Students will hear contrasting styles of music and learn to identify them and their different forms.

- **Composition**

Students will learn to create and compose their own music which will be on record either on CD or computer, in notation or graphic form.

- **Singing**

Musicians develop most of their basic skills through singing and students at King's Oak Academy will be introduced to a wide variety of songs.

Students will create and recreate many types of music.

Assessment:

Students are involved in a large amount of practical work. They review their work and achievements in self-assessment booklets continuously so that their level of performance, composition and listening skills improves.

Student Groupings:

Years 7, 8 and 9 are taught in mixed ability groupings.

KEY STAGE 4: YEARS 10 AND 11

BTEC

Four units of work about:

The Music Industry

Managing a Musical product (putting on a show)

Music composition

Music performance

All units have a strong vocational context; the course is centred on the practical e.g. making music!

BTEC Assessment:

One hour exam on the Music Industry (Unit 1)

All other units are internally assessed as coursework

Students are encouraged to continue their music studies at Post 16 level and a good number do.

Learning an Instrument:

At King's Oak Academy we have 8 experienced instrumental teachers, giving lessons on a variety of instruments. Many students benefit from these lessons and, although a fee is charged, the cost is reasonable. In cases of hardship, financial support may be available towards the cost of instrumental tuition. A large number of instruments are available for loan.

Students often study for practical examinations in Associated Board, Trinity College, Rock School and London College of Music examinations.

Extended Curriculum Activities:

- The Department runs a wide range of lunchtime and after school activities. We have: Wind groups, Rock bands, Drum groups, Steel bands, Choirs and many smaller ensembles. Many students also form and rehearse their own bands.
- Professional musicians regularly visit the school to hold workshops and performances.
- Trips to local concerts, musical productions and other music/performance related activities are held regularly throughout the school year. Students are encouraged to participate in all performance opportunities.
- We produce several events during the school year, including concerts, rock nights, Talent shows and music production, our most recent being Annie (2017) and Oliver (2018).
- A major feature is our annual Christmas Concert, which is held at the Colston Hall, in conjunction with a number of our partner Primary Schools. In excess of 400 voices join together at this event.
- The school is also the base for the Kingswood South Gloucestershire Music Centre which meets every Saturday morning during term time.