



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Fact

BOOK



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Music

AT THE HALL

1

All boys at The Hall receive a first class music education through a comprehensive programme of Ensemble work coached by highly skilled visiting staff members, all of which support the curriculum.

2

Many of the high profile events during the course of the year have music at their core and high standards are achieved and expected at all levels.



Junior

SCHOOL MUSIC

3

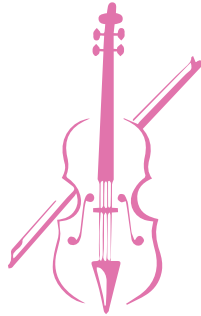
During curriculum lessons, **boys in Reception** learn about all of the orchestral instruments that they can learn at The Hall.

4

In the Spring Term, all boys also have a series of small group taster sessions on string instruments (**violin, viola, cello and double bass**) with our string specialists.

5

From Year 1 onwards, boys will have an opportunity to learn an instrument at school.



6

They can choose between piano, string instruments (**violin, viola, cello, double bass**), or woodwind, (**recorder, flute, oboe, clarinet and bassoon**). Taster sessions take place in the Spring Term for boys to try an instrument.

7

Boys who want woodwind or brass tuition start on recorder if they are not big enough to handle the physical demands of a larger instrument.

8

Boys learn the recorder as part of the music curriculum in **Year 2 and 3**.

9

Brass instrument tuition normally starts in **Year 3** due to the physical demands of the instrument however, exceptions can be made on an individual basis.

10

Boys are limited to missing only one academic lesson per week.

11

This means that if a boy learns more than one instrument, one lesson will be fixed either before school, after school or during playtime after lunch.

12

However, please note that we only have a limited number of places available for pupils who want to learn more than one instrument.

13

Any boys wishing to learn a second instrument in school need the recommendation of The Assistant Director of Music in the Junior School and the Head of the Junior School.

14

Lessons taught during the school day will rotate as widely as possible throughout the academic timetable.

15

We treat each academic subject as equal and as such, parents and boys cannot request to miss one particular subject in preference over another.



16

Year 2 have an instrumental concert in Autumn and Spring Terms.

Year 3 have an instrumental concert in Autumn and Summer Terms.

17

Year 1 boys have an instrumental concert in the spring and summer terms.

18

Boys will gain experience in how to introduce themselves, play their piece and acknowledge applause afterwards. This is a very friendly and supportive forum to introduce boys to the world of performing.

19

Parents are warmly invited and encouraged to attend these concerts. Boys learning instruments externally are encouraged to perform in these concerts.

20

All string or woodwind/brass players in **Year 2 and 3** (*minimum standard applies*) are invited to join either the **Junior School String Orchestra, Band or Recorder Ensemble**.

21

Rehearsals take place before school or during the school day.

22

All boys in **Year 3** are invited to join the **Junior School Choir**.

23

The orchestra, choir and band regularly perform during important school events (*including the prestigious Gala Concert*).

24

Apart from class assemblies and year group productions, the Music School is also responsible for coordinating the annual **Christmas Carol Service** where all the boys in the Junior School participate.



Timetabling

25

Over any given week, hundreds of instrumental lessons are delivered by the 31 VMT of the Music School. These lessons are co-ordinated by the school but remain a private contract between the VMT and parents.

26

The vast majority of these lessons take place during the school day, while a small number are held before and after school.

27

It is unavoidable that a boy will miss an academic lesson for an instrumental one.

28

If a boy learns only one instrument, this lesson will rotate as widely as possible throughout the academic timetable. This rotation, however, is governed by the boy's availability and his teacher's hours.



29

If a boy learns **two instruments**, we will aim to arrange one of these outside of academic lesson time. We treat each academic subject as equal and as such, parents and boys cannot request to miss one particular subject in preference over another.



Lessons
AT HOME

30

We appreciate that some families prefer their sons to pursue their musical interest out of school.

31

We make every effort to ensure that boys who learn an instrument out of school have the same opportunities for performing as those who learn in school.

32

We would ask you to inform us if your son is having lessons out of school so that we may involve him in appropriate school activities.



Missed
**INSTRUMENTAL
LESSONS**

33

If a boy misses an instrumental lesson due to an official school activity (*published in the termly calendar*), the lesson will be made up by the VMT or parents will be reimbursed by the VMT at the end of the academic year.

34

Instrumental teachers will also make up lessons if they were absent due to illness or other professional commitments.

35

Lessons will not be made up if boys are ill or have missed lessons due to extra-curricular activities, including visits to senior schools.



Instruments

36

We offer tuition in the following instruments and subjects:

Flute
Recorder
Oboe
Clarinet
Saxophone
Bassoon
Trumpet
French Horn
Trombone
Tuba
Drums and Percussion
Violin

Viola
Cello
Double Bass
Acoustic Guitar
Electric Guitar
Music Technology
Piano
Jazz Piano
Singing
Bass Guitar
Jazz (*Year 6-8*)



Lessons,
**CONTRACTS
AND PRACTICE,
AND CONTACT
WITH YOUR
TEACHER**

37

Boys are given around **30 lessons** over the course of the academic year.

38

Invoices will be issued directly by instrumental teaching staff, and they are payable at the beginning of term.

27

39

Planned absences are normally taken into consideration before bills are issued. Please liaise with the relevant staff members directly.

40

Notice to cease music lessons must be given with a half term's notice in writing:

- (a) **If you do not wish to continue lessons after a half term holiday** (either the October, February or May half term holiday), please indicate in writing by the last day of the previous term (ie. before the start of the Christmas / Spring / Summer holidays as applicable)
- (b) **If you do not wish to continue lessons into the next term** (Autumn, Spring or Summer term), please indicate in writing by the last day of the previous half term (ie. before the start of the October, February or May half term holiday as applicable)

Please note that unless the required notice is given, half a term's fees are payable in lieu.

41

A contract is issued between the instrumental teacher and parent at the beginning of each academic year, and each instrumental lesson invoice details the date by which notice must be given in the event of a parent or boy wishing to discontinue lessons.

42

You can contact your son's teacher via their preferred email address – or by any other means they provide.

43

There are also **two yearly parents' meetings** and one instrumental report to update you on your son's progress.



Music
SCHOLARS

44

Over the past five years, **35 pupils have won music scholarships**, exhibitions and other music awards to some of London's top day and boarding schools.

45

Potential scholars receive guidance and coaching from numerous music staff, and will be able to participate in a number of opportunities to prepare them for the highly competitive auditions held during the beginning of **Spring Term**.

46

Parents are encouraged to make an appointment with the **Director of Music** to discuss their son's possibilities for future music scholarships.



Music

**EXAMINATION
SUPPORT**

47

A designated staff member will be available during allocated break times to rehearse the piano part with boys playing orchestral instruments.

48

Boys will be advised and signed up by their instrumental teachers for a maximum of **two slots** (*five minutes each*) per morning break time.

33

49

There will also be session earmarked for aural training. Details will be published in the weekly newsletter.



Theory

51

The teaching of music theory takes place during class music lessons from **Year 4** onwards.

52

Year 4: Boys will learn the basics of music theory as a class during their class music lessons.

53

Year 5: Boys who have reached a standard of Grade 3 on one of their instruments will have a separate dedicated theory lesson during this lesson. If parents do not want them to miss out on the curriculum taught during class music lessons, private lessons out of school will have to be arranged by parents.

54

Years 6-8: Boys learning theory in school will have separate theory lessons during class music lessons. If parents do not want them to miss out on the curriculum taught during class music lessons, private lessons out of school will have to be arranged by parents.



Theory
CLUB

55

Boys can also sign up for **Theory Club** on Tuesday afternoons from 4-5 pm. This is only for boys who will sit the **ABRSM Grade 5 theory examination** at the end of term.



Orchestras
**AND
ENSEMBLES**

56

Apart from the **16 string quartets**,
there are a range of orchestras
and ensembles to join across
the three schools.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

String Orchestra

Band

Recorder Group

Choir

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Training Band

Y4 and Y5 String Orchestra

Saxophone Group

Clarinet Group

Double Reed Group (oboe and bassoon)

Flute Group

Percussion Group

Brass Group

Choir

Electric Guitar Group

Piano Duets/Trios

7 String Ensembles

SENIOR SCHOOL

Concert Band

Chamber Orchestra

Saxophone Group

Clarinet Group

Double Reed Group (oboe and bassoon)

Percussion Groups (one per year group)

Brass Group

Brass Quartet

Wind Quintet

Flute Group

Electric Guitar Groups

Jazz Bands (one per year group)

Barbershop Ensemble

Piano Duets/Trios

9 String Quartets

MIDDLE AND SENIOR SCHOOL

Symphony Orchestra

Symphony Band

Chapel Choir

57

Boys do not have to learn an instrument through school to be part of any orchestra or group. Boys learning with external teachers should contact the **Director of the Music School** to be included.

58

Boys will be assigned to different groups by the **Director of Music** and specialist staff members.



59

Only boys having jazz lessons will be able to join one of the jazz bands.



Concerts,

**COMPETITIONS,
FESTIVALS
AND OTHER
MUSICAL
EVENTS**



The Music School is responsible for putting together a varied programme of concerts and musical events throughout the academic year.



Pupils'

**INFORMAL
CONCERTS**

(PIC)



Four informal concerts are presented
each term and take place on
Wednesday or Thursday
afternoons at 4.15 pm.

62

Boys will be advised by their teachers when they are ready to perform. A PIC slip should be completed and submitted to the Music Office by 4pm on the day before the concert.

63

Slips are available from the notice board outside the **Music Office** or can be downloaded from the Music School's website.

64

It is expected that Senior School boys play at a minimum of two concerts per year, and Middle School boys at a minimum of one concert per year.

65

Boys entered for music examinations will be playing at more concerts as part of their preparations.



*Senior and
Middle*
**SCHOOL
CONCERTS**
(AUTUMN AND
SPRING TERM
RESPECTIVELY)

66

This concert is primarily for orchestras and music groups in the specific divisions of the school.

67

Teachers responsible for the groups will sign them up and sufficient notice to parents will be given through the **Music School's weekly newsletter.**



The Hall

**OUTSTANDING
MUSICIAN**

68

This **annual individual music competition** takes place towards the end of the Autumn Term.

55

69

All boys are encouraged to participate and earn points for their houses. In the Middle School, heats take place during the class music lessons, after which the finalists are announced.

70

The final round normally takes place on a Friday afternoon and an external adjudicator is invited to decide on the **prize winners**.

71

In the Senior School, semi-finalists will be announced after the initial heats held during class music lessons. **Semi-finalists** in each category will compete during morning assemblies where after finalists will be announced.



72

The final round takes place **after school hours**, and an external adjudicator will be invited to choose winners and provide feedback.



Chamber
MUSIC
FESTIVAL

73

The Chamber Music Festival takes place during the Summer Term.

74

All the string ensembles, as well as the Senior School Brass Quartet and Wind Quintet, participate in this prestigious event where they have master classes with an external **Chamber Music Specialist**.

75

The Festival is concluded with a concert that celebrates this extraordinary tradition at the school.



Class
CONCERTS

76

All boys in **Years 4, 5 and 6** will have the opportunity to play a piece in the termly class concerts.

77

This is a very informal and friendly environment for boys to try out their examination pieces or alternatively play and participate for their own pleasure.

61

78

Parents are invited and encouraged to come along to these events that normally take place during the penultimate week of term. More information will be given through the Music School's **weekly newsletter**.



Music

**SCHOLARS'
INFORMAL
CONCERT**



Scholars' Informal Concert is held in the first part of the Spring Term and is the final chance for prospective music scholars to perform their pieces before their scholarship auditions towards the end of January.



Boys will also receive feedback and final advice from the music staff.



The

BIG SING



The Big Sing is an annual event where the whole school comes together for an evening of inspiring communal singing as well as a slightly competitive house singing competition.



Jazz
CONCERT

82

In the Spring Term, parents, staff and pupils come happily together as an audience for the annual **Jazz Concert in a live music venue** in Central London.

67

83

All the **Jazz Bands**, as well as some of the percussion groups, perform together with the dedicated Jazz staff. This is a concert not to be missed!



Carol
SERVICE

84

The Carol Service is one of the Chapel Choir's highlights every year.

85

Joined by professional singers, the **Chapel Choir** leads the congregation in some very fine hymn-singing and solo items during the School's annual carol service.

86

This is a very popular event attended by the both the Middle and Senior Schools. There is limited seating, so come early to avoid disappointment.



Music
EXAMINATIONS

87

External Music Examinations through the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (*piano, voice and orchestral instruments*), Trinity and Guildhall (*drum kit*) and the Registry of Guitar Teachers (*rock guitar*) are organised throughout the year.

88

Instrumental teachers normally enter boys for these examinations (*with parental consent*), but parents are welcome to contact the **Director of the Music School** if they would like to enter their son if he is taught by an external teacher.

89

Closing dates for entries will be communicated in the Music School's **weekly newsletter**.



Band
NIGHT

90

For the past six years, the **Parent's Association** and the Music School have joined forces to put together their own **Glastonbury Festival** style evening!

91

Boys in Year 7 and 8 will have some time during the last part of the Summer Term's class music lessons to form their own bands.

92

Informal bands that wish to perform at **Band Night** will have to be auditioned and will be allocated a mentor to refine their performances.



Gala
CONCERT

93

The 2020 Gala Concert will take place on Tuesday 17th March at the Royal Festival Hall.

94

The main objective of this concert is to celebrate and showcase the musical talent across all three schools at The Hall.

75

95

A variety of music groups, string ensembles and orchestras will be selected to participate in one of the highlights in the school's music calendar.



Music

TECHNOLOGY

96

Music technology is becoming increasingly important for anyone who plays an instrument.

97

On top of mastering an instrument, knowledge of music software and hardware is becoming more and more important. Not that long ago, a recording studio was run by specialists wearing white laboratory coats trying to make all the analogue equipment and reel-to-reel tape machines work. With the advent of digital equipment, music technology is now much more accessible to everyone, and the white laboratory coats are optional!

98

The Hall School Studio is shaped specifically to the school's needs. We can record ensembles or soloists, teach digitally programmed music, record speeches, presentations and plays, create multi-media for the School's website, produce CDs and DVDs of school performances, edit location recordings from any concert venue, and produce interactive accompaniments for music lessons. All of these are recorded, mixed and edited in a controlled, professional-standard environment.

78

99

The Hall has a Music School that is inclusive, successful and creative. There are a great number of boys who play instruments and take part in ensembles. The studio also means all these boys could have a recording of their performances and can take advantage of the interactive benefits.

100

However, a studio also brings in other pupils who play no instrument, particularly those with interests in computers and technology. This enables collaboration between differently talented boys, thus expanding the areas of expertise of all of them.

101

The studio is located in the heart of the **Music School**. There is a custom-designed, acoustically treated control room and two separate performance spaces.

79

102

All spaces are linked and performances are captured using the school's bespoke microphone collection, class A microphone amps and the very latest digital technology. The teaching of editing and mixing, using both software and classic hardware, is also a feature of the school's new state-of-the-art music technology suite.



Music
TOURS

103

An International Music Tour is organised for boys in the Senior School and will be held once every three years.

104

The next **Music Tour of South Africa** will take place during October 2019.

105

The boys are expected to raise money that will be donated to a noteworthy music education cause in **South Africa**.

106

The itinerary normally includes various concerts and performances, visits to schools, interaction with local musicians, learning of new musical skills (*including African drumming*), safaris and visits to important landmarks and places of historical interest.



Trips

107

As part of the class music curriculum, every year group will have a one day trip to enhance their learning experience.

108

Trips form part of the curriculum and will be subsidised by The Hall.

109

In **Year 4**, the trip will be enriching the boys' module on *Musicals*.

110

The study of the *History of Western Music* in **Year 5** will be enhanced by a museum visit with direct relevance to one of the topics studied.

111

In **Year 6**, the trip or workshop will revolve around *World Music*.

112

Year 7's trip will focus on the technical side of performing arts, or *Theatre Craft*.

113

In **Year 8**, the focus will be on *Music Technology*.



Instrument
**STORAGE AND
INSURANCE**

114

Boys may store their instruments in the **Music School storage** areas during the day, but they are encouraged to take them home when they are not needed, in order to practise.

115

The doors into the **Music School** may be unlocked by using the code between 7.30 and 9.30am and 3.30 and 5pm, but are locked at other times for security reasons.

87

116

Parents are required to make sure their son's instrument is **fully insured** on their own household policy, which should include provision for when their instrument is not at home.

117

The School cannot be held liable for loss or damage to instruments whilst on School premises.



Weekly

NEWSLETTER

118

A weekly newsletter is published on **Friday** afternoons to emphasise certain events and rehearsals, as well as everything else we would like you to know.

119

The letter is distributed electronically, via Firefly and parents are requested to familiarise themselves with the content.



Appointments

**WITH THE
DIRECTOR
OF MUSIC**

20

Parents are encouraged to make appointments to see the **Director of Music** to discuss their son's progress or any other music-related issue.

