



THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT AT RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

STAFFING

The post arises as a result of the present member of staff relocating. The successful candidate will work with the Director of Music and a strong team of 14 visiting peripatetic teachers who visit the school each week, providing tuition in the full range of orchestral and non-orchestral instruments including 4 piano teachers and 2 vocal coaches.

FACILITIES & RESOURCES

The Department is housed in a new purpose-built music block consisting of a large rehearsal space, ICT/teaching room, recording studio, instrumental store and practice rooms. We also have access to an adjacent building which houses a grand piano and drum set which also hold peripatetic lessons.

Resources include:

- 17 Mac computers running Logic X, Garageband and Sibelius Ultimate
- A fully equipped recording studio running Logic Pro X
- A full class of classroom percussion instruments
- 2 Smart Boards
- A good range of orchestral and band instruments including orchestral percussion, baritone sax and two double basses.
- Practice facilities

CURRICULUM

All Key Stage 3 pupils have over an hour of academic music lessons each week, usually taught as 2 separate 40 minute lessons. These cover skills in listening, theory, composition and performance across a wider variety of topics to lay the foundations of musical knowledge for further study.

At Key Stage 4 we deliver the GCSE EDUQAS course while in the Sixth Form we offer EDUQAS A level Music. The department also offers enrichment as part of a General Studies programme and support and guidance for students taking the Extended Project Qualification in a related area of study.

ENSEMBLES

The department encourages the school's musicians to play an active role in its co-curricular groups and aims to offer a broad range of high quality ensembles to its pupils. Groups rehearse every week with a clear progression in groups so younger pupils move up to the senior ensembles as they move up the school offering challenge and accessibility.

The school currently runs:

Chamber Orchestra

Wind Band

Music Technology Club

Big Band

Brass Ensemble

Theory Club

Junior Strings

Chamber Choir

Percussion Ensemble

Senior Girls' Choir

Man Choir

Junior/Musicality Choir

MUSIC IN SCHOOL

Music plays a central role in the daily life of the school; music is played in each assembly with live performances by our students on Fridays. A significant number of pupils have instrumental lessons in school and many are members of the ensembles listed above. The school has hosted master-classes given by musicians from Opera North and academics from Leeds University. We are fortunate to get free tickets to local concerts and many students enjoy the opportunity to hear professional musicians perform. As well as weekly lunchtime recitals, the music department hosts several concerts in school during the academic year and the choirs and ensembles take a prominent role in the school Carol Service and Commemoration Service, both in Ripon Cathedral. The choirs have recorded a disc of Christmas music and have been on tour across Europe. Many students are in county and even national youth choirs and ensembles. In recent years several students have gone on to be awarded choral or instrumental scholarships to Oxbridge and Russell Group universities. Our students are heavily involved in local competitions including Harrogate and Ripon Music festivals and Brass Band Championships. We also run a popular and student run House Music Competition each year which is fiercely fought and both Senior and Lower School Recitals.

MUSIC IN THE COMMUNITY

The department has strong links within Ripon, playing concerts for local charities and festivals and feeding its pupils into local orchestras, choirs and bands. Most recently, school ensembles have performed at the Northern Aldborough Festival, The Great Yorkshire Show, the Ripon Cathedral Festivals and fairs and at Durham University. In 2023 we invested our inaugural Organ Scholar joint with Ripon Cathedral. We also have strong links with other establishments and schools, sharing resources to involve students in masterclasses and group performances. In doing so our pupils spread the message of the quality of their work, the enjoyment they take from the subject, and the thriving musical culture that exists at the school.

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