

THOMAS MILLS HIGH SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM



Music Department

Information for Applicants

January 2025

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Music and the arts play an important part in the life of Thomas Mills High School & Sixth Form and contribute enormously to its general ethos. Music is highly regarded by pupils, staff, trustees, parents and the wider community. The school has a long-held reputation for the quality of its music provision. Numbers of pupils studying the subject at GCSE and A level are buoyant with many going on to study the subject at prestigious universities or conservatoires such as Oxbridge, Russell Group universities, The Royal Academy, The Royal Northern College of Music, The Royal College and numerous other institutions. Many Thomas Mills music alumni are working in music, some achieving success nationally and internationally.

Music is taught to all pupils at KS3 (Years 7 and 8) in twice weekly 50-minute lessons in Year 7, and weekly lessons in Year 8. The emphasis in these lessons is firmly on practical music-making. At KS4 (Years 9 – 11) pupils follow the Edexcel specification with 60 pupils currently studying Music throughout this key stage. At A level, students also follow the Edexcel specification with numbers varying from 1 to 10. There are currently 3 students each in both year 12 and year 13.

Music is taught in two large, well-equipped rooms (one with 14 Mac computers with Sibelius 7, Logic and GarageBand). The other room is a state-of-the-art room with 30 macs, again with Sibelius, Logic and GarageBand software. In addition, there are five practice rooms, a large instrument store and a music office. In July the Gingerbread Studios were opened which provide an unparalleled opportunity for recording and music production. These studios are extensively used by A level students.

Extra-curricular provision is very strong and of a high quality with the following musical ensembles rehearsing weekly this academic year: 1st Orchestra, 2nd Orchestra, Senior Choir, Junior Choir, Chamber Choir, Wind Band, String Group, Flute Choir, 'cello Ensemble, Jazz Group, String Quartet, The Knighties Singers, (a small vocal ensemble) and Vinten Voices, (a small vocal ensemble). There are a number of 'school bands'. These ensembles perform in major concerts at Christmas and Easter. There are also occasional small-scale Chamber Concerts as well as a Summer Arts Festival in July. Music tours abroad for the senior ensembles have taken place in recent years to destinations such as Prague, Paris and Tuscany. Each year there is a large-scale musical production. Recent shows have included, *Shrek*, *The Addams Family*, *Sister Act*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Band* and *Les Misérables*. All of these performances feature a live student pit band. Each year there is a school Music Competition and a Year 7 Class Singing Competition. There are close links with primary schools who are invited to attend singing workshops, and the school is a centre for Associated Board Music exams which are held three times a year. In previous years ensembles have been successful in the Music for Youth Competition appearing at the Schools' Prom and have regularly taken part in the Celebration of Schools' Music at Snape Maltings Concert Hall.

The extra-curricular work is supported by 12 peripatetic staff who teach violin, viola, cello, double bass, flute, saxophone, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, trumpet, horn, trombone, piano, singing, guitar and drums. These peripatetics, many of whom are long-standing members of staff, also conduct and direct ensembles. Some are engaged on a private basis and others from the Norfolk and Suffolk Music hub. 153 individual or group lessons are given each week, with approximately 100 children taking part in concerts at Easter and Christmas.

THE PERFORMING ARTS TEAM

Richard Hanley	Director of Music, Head of Performing Arts and Senior Teacher
Laura Peters	Head of Drama
Anna Ducker	Teacher of Music
Rebecca West	Teacher of Drama

EXAMINATION RESULTS

GCSE Music Results 2024

9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Entries	% 9-4	% 9-1
2	1		1	1	1	1	0	1	8	75	100

A Level Music Results 2024

A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	Entries	%A*-B	%A-C	%A-E
0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2			100