



BISHOP THOMAS GRANT SCHOOL

Music Department Overview

The Music Department at Bishop Thomas Grant School is a thriving and well-established part of school life, with a strong tradition of excellence in both curricular and co-curricular music. We offer a rich and varied musical experience, supporting students' creative and spiritual growth through music-making at every level.

Key Stage 3 Music

At KS3, we focus on developing a strong foundation in musicianship through practical, hands-on learning. Students gain theoretical knowledge with a clear practical focus, including:

- Vocal training and building a repertoire of songs.
- Basic and advanced keyboard skills.
- Composition and arranging in groups and individually using acoustic instruments and music technology.
- Exploring a range of musical styles including folk, classical, jazz, world, and pop.

We do not set homework at KS3, encouraging students to practice during lunch breaks or after school using the music facilities.

GCSE Music

At KS4, we offer the Eduqas GCSE Music course, known for its breadth and rigor. Students develop skills in:

- Traditional notation and music theory.
- Independent composition and performance.
- Weekly one-on-one performance lessons with a tutor.
- Regular half-termly assessments through performances.

Students are expected to practice daily on their instrument or voice.

A Level Music

At KS5, we offer Eduqas GCE A Level Music, which provides two years of intensive study and performance opportunities. Students:

- Compose using Sibelius software, with performances by peripatetic staff.
- Develop solo and ensemble performance skills, assessed by a visiting examiner.
- Receive half-hour lessons with expert tutors as part of the course.

Many of our students go on to study music at university, conservatoires, or pursue music industry careers.

Instrumental and Singing Lessons

We offer tuition in all orchestral and rock instruments, including voice. Students taking lessons are expected to sit at least one ABRSM or Rock School grade exam per year and maintain a daily practice routine, recorded in a practice notebook signed by parents.

Co-Curricular Music

Our co-curricular program is central to school life, including:

- **Choral Singing** – The Chapel Choir plays a key role in school worship.
- **Instrumental Ensembles** – Developing our orchestra and showcasing a high-level Jazz Band.
- **Student-Led Bands** – Encouraging advanced students to form rock bands and other groups.
- **Musical Theatre** – A highlight of the school year, with professional-standard productions such as *Les Misérables* and *Beauty and the Beast* put together over a six-week period.

The Music Department at Bishop Thomas Grant School nurtures talent, creativity, and a lifelong love of music.