



KING EDWARD VI FOUNDATION BIRMINGHAM

Educational excellence for our City

KING EDWARD VI CAMP HILL SCHOOL FOR BOYS

Head of Music Information for Applicants

JANUARY 2022



GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys is a selective state school; it is a member of the King Edward VI Academy Trust Birmingham, which is a group of ten schools, six of which academically select their pupils. These schools, together with two independent schools, form the King Edward's Foundation. The school moved from the inner city to its present location on the former Cartland Estate in 1956. Kings Heath is a pleasant suburb in South Birmingham with easy access to the M42, M40, M5 and M6 motorways, to Stratford and to the Warwickshire/Worcestershire countryside. In recent years, we have benefited from a new Sports Hall, Library, laboratories, classrooms and Sixth Form Common Room.



There are 960 boys on roll, of whom 327 are in the Sixth Form. The school admits 120 boys a year at the age of 11. Nearly all of the students stay on at the school to the age of 18 and proceed into Higher Education. Academic standards are very high – in 2019 the percentage of GCSEs passed at grades 8 and 9 (75%) placed the school 6th amongst state schools in the country. At A Level the percentage of exams passed at A* placed the school 9th. 19 boys have won conditional Oxbridge places this year (September 2020 entry).

Music at Camp Hill

2021 - 2022



King Edward VI Camp Hill Schools Concert in Birmingham Town Hall.

Music is an important part of life at Camp Hill

Boys are encouraged to make the most of their musical talents

Staff

Simon Palmer	Head of Department
Lorne Pearcey	Music Teacher

Supported by a team of seventeen well-qualified and experienced specialist instrumental teachers

Excellent facilities for music

An attractive purpose built Music Block houses the following

- A large very well equipped Music Room
- Music Studio
- Large Ensemble Room
- Four Practice Rooms
- Large secure Instrument Store
- Music Office
- A wide variety of instruments in excellent condition
- New Yamaha PSR-E463 keyboards
- Computers running *Sibelius*, *MuseScore 3*, *Audacity* and other music programs

Music is taught at every level

At Key Stage 3 music is taught to all boys.

- **In Years 7, 8 and 9** boys have a one-hour lesson each week.

There is a strong emphasis on practical work, with much use of instruments and the voice. Topics studied include:

Year 7

The Dimensions of music, Instruments of the Orchestra, Programme Music, A Good Tune, Staff Notation and Gamelan (music of Indonesia)

Year 8

The Blues, Variations, Music for Dance, Music for Movie Characters, and Film Music.

Year 9

Rock'n'roll, Music for Adverts, Music of past – The Concerto, Musicals and Pop Ballads.

GCSE Music is a popular option, and we use the OCR specification. Pupils are required to perform two pieces and compose two pieces, as well as write about their work. They complete a Listening Test under examination conditions.

GCSE	A*	A	B	C	D		Total
2009	10	5	5	1			21
2010	10	7	5				22
2011	8	5	4	3	1		21
2012	9	7	3	1			20
2013	3	10	6	3			22
2014	5	9	6	5			25
2015	8	9	4	4			25
2016	1	6	3	1			11
2017	5	8	4				17
New Grades	9	8	7	6	5	4	
2018	6	4	2	1		1	14
2019	7	4	3	4			18
2020	8	6	5				19
2021	7	3	3				13

A level Music is taught jointly with Camp Hill Girls' School. Boys and girls study for the OCR examinations, which include Performance, Composition and a Listening/History paper. Results are very good.

AS		A	B	C	D		A2		A*	A	B	C	D
2009		8	1	0	1					5	1	1	1
2010		6	0	1					3	5	1		
2011		4	6	1					1	2	1		
2012		9	1							3	1	2	
2013		2	1	2						2	2		
2014		3	1						1	1	1		1
2015		2	1	1					1	1	1		
2016		5							1	1		1	
2017		2	1						2	2	1		
2018											3		
2019									1	1			
2020									1	2			
2021									1		1		

Many talented pupils go on to study music at Conservatoire or University:

2007	Ross Garrod	Royal Northern College of Music (Percussion)
	Daniel Jackman	Durham University
2008	Joe Snape	Bristol University
2009	Jamie Phillips	Scholarship Royal Northern College of Music
2010	David Todd	Organ Scholarship, University College, Oxford
	Joss Brookes	Royal Northern College of Music (Cello)
2011	Rupert Cole	Bristol University
	Robert Smith	Organ Scholarship, Somerville College, Oxford
2012	David Warren	Sheffield University
	Jacob Werrin	Choral Scholarship, St David's Cathedral, Wales
2013	Ben Palmer	Leeds University
	Oliver Palmer	Choral Scholarship, St John's College, Oxford
2014	Edward Lawrence	Choral Scholarship, St Mary's Church, Nottingham
2015	Richard English	St Anne's College, Oxford
2017	Harry Atkinson	Royal Academy of Music, London
	Ludo De Ventura	Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester
	Thomas Keast	Royal Holloway College, London University
2019	Eddie Wang	Royal Academy of Music (Piano)
	Matthew Perrett	Scholarship Royal Academy of Music (Composition)
2020	Godfrey Leung	University of Birmingham (Violin, Organ & Piano)
	Cian O'Dwyer	University of Birmingham (Organ & Piano)
2021	Sam Gray	Choral Scholarship, Trinity College, Cambridge
	Evan Petrie	University of Glasgow

Of special note is Jamie Phillips, appointed Assistant Conductor of the famous Hallé Orchestra in Manchester in 2012 at the age of just 23. Jamie studied music A level at Camp Hill School for Boys, and was a leading member of all music ensembles. His conducting debut was with the school Concert Orchestra in Birmingham Town Hall in December 2008, and he went on to form a Chamber Orchestra drawn from players in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.

Instrumental Music Tuition

Instrumental lessons are available in school, and parents pay £90 per term. Boys who take GCSE or A level or who are Pupil Premium receive free lessons. Our team of well-qualified and experienced instrumental teachers give one lesson each week during school time on a rota basis. Lessons are usually individual and last either 20 or 30 minutes. We have some school instruments which are available to loan to pupils. Boys may buy a new instrument through the school and not have to pay VAT using the Assisted Instrument Purchase Scheme. The following instruments are offered.



Flute	Mr S Hay
Oboe	Miss R Dawkins
Clarinet	Mr J Meadows
Saxophone	Mr E Drew
Bassoon	Mr P Brookes
French Horn/Tenor Horn	Mrs C Butler
Trumpet/Cornet	Mrs C Butler
Trombone/Euphonium/Tuba	Mr C Hickman
Percussion	Miss L Pearcey
Tabla	Mr H Matharu
Guitars	Mr A Rose
Guitars	Miss D Palmer
Bass Guitar	Mr J Griffiths
Violin & Viola	Miss E Goble
Violin & Viola	Mr Z Georgiev
Cello	Ms E Newton
Double Bass	Mr J Walters
Voice	Miss L Markgren

Piano and keyboard lessons are not available in school, but we have many excellent pianists in the school who take lessons privately, at home. Many boys take 'grade' examinations of the Associated Board or Trinity, and excellent results are obtained. Over 90 boys took 'grade' music exams in school last academic year, and many obtained a 'merit' or 'distinction'.

Of special note is the achievement of Harry Atkinson. In his grade 8 Double Bass he not only achieved a Distinction, but gained 146 out of a possible 150 marks. He then went on to gain a ‘distinction’ in his Diploma.

A wide variety of Enrichment Activities

We work closely with Camp Hill School for Girls next door, and our large Orchestras, Bands and Ensembles are organised jointly with them. The main Orchestras and Bands are directed by the Heads of Music and Training Groups are conducted by Instrumental Teachers. Our Instrumental Teachers are experts in directing a wide variety of smaller ensembles.

Three orchestras and three bands rehearse each week, as well as many choirs and other chamber ensembles. The repertoire performed ranges from music by great composers to arrangements of popular tunes. These are some of the groups meeting this academic year:

Camp Hill Ensembles

Ensemble		Standard	Entry
Orchestras	Concert Orchestra	Grade 6 +	Open to all
	Intermediate Orchestra	Grades 4 – 6	Open to all
	String Orchestra	Grades 1 – 4	Open to all
Bands	Concert Band	Grade 6 +	Open to all
	Wind Band	Grades 4 – 6	Open to all
	Training Wind Band	Grades 1 – 4	Open to all
Ensembles	Swing Band		Invitation
	Junior Jazz Group		Invitation
	Brass Ensemble		Invitation
	Clarinet Ensemble		Invitation
	Flute Choir		Invitation
	Percussion Ensemble		Invitation
	Cello/Bass Ensemble		Invitation
	Horn Ensemble		Invitation
	Saxophone Ensemble		Invitation
	Tabla Ensemble		Invitation
	Guitar Ensembles		Invitation
	Double Reed Ensemble		Invitation

Chamber Music	String Quartets		Invitation
Choirs	School Choir		Audition
	Barbershop Group		Invitation
Theory			Invitation
Aural Training			Invitation

Enrichment activities outside school

Many boys also take part in music at a high level outside school, and this is encouraged and celebrated. We have pupils in the following groups:

The National Youth Orchestra

The National Youth Choir

Birmingham Music Service Orchestras, Bands and Choir

City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Youth Orchestra

City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Choirs

City of Birmingham Choir

Birmingham Cathedral Choir

Solihull Parish Church Choir

Solihull Music Service: Orchestras, Bands and Choir

Redditch Music Service: Orchestras & Bands.

Sandwell Music Service: Orchestras & Bands



Camp Hill has a busy concert schedule

Concerts and musical events are held both in and out of school. Here is a list of some of the events that took place in the last few years:

- Chamber Concert in the School Hall
- Christmas Concert (School Hall)
- School Carol Service in All Saint's Parish Church, King's Heath
- Carol Service for local Old Folks' Party at Hazelwell Hub
- School Choir sings with The Midlands Hospital Choir (charity event)
- School Choir sings carols at the QE Hospital
- The whole of Year 7 attend a concert by the CBSO in Symphony Hall
- Concert Orchestra performs in Birmingham Cathedral
- Teatime Concert (Junior Ensembles and soloists)
- Musical *All the King's Men* (Richard Rodney Bennett) with *Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo* (3 nights)
- Senior Concert (featuring our Year 13 leavers)
- Summer Soiree (Junior and Intermediate Ensembles)
- Solo and Chamber performances in assemblies
- Performances at the GCSE Presentation Evenings
- Solo and ensemble performances at Prizegiving
- CHAOS (Camp Hill Amateur Operatic Society) Staff Performances

Camp Hill has an excellent reputation for the quality of its drama, and every two years presents a musical for an afternoon matinée and four evening performances. Productions have included *West Side Story*, *Grease*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Bugsy Malone*, *The Boyfriend*, *Oliver*, *Oklahoma*, *Les Miserables*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Cabaret*, *Me and My Girl*, *The Hollow Crown* and *Oh, what a lovely war!*

If you would like further details of Music at Camp Hill, please contact the Head of Music:

Simon Palmer

s.palmer@camphillboys.bham.sch.uk

Further Information

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information. Camp Hill Boys is a happy, flourishing and friendly community as well as an outstandingly successful grammar school. I look forward to receiving your application.

R W Bowen
Headmaster