

Key Stage 3

All students at Key Stage 3 have Music once a week in well equipped Music rooms. During Key Stage 3 students will learn Keyboard Skills, Singing, Music ICT and Guitar and will study a broad variety of topics including vocal music, instrumental music, the blues, atmospheric music, world music, and history of music (classical and popular music).

The Music curriculum is supported by a wide range of extra curricular activities. We have The Ricards Orchestral Band (all ages and abilities), Chamber Ensemble, Year 7 Choir, Year 8 Choir, Senior Choir (year 9 – RR6), Steel Pans and a range of Instrumental Clubs. Students also have the opportunity to book practice rooms in order to further develop their musicianship out of lessons. In collaboration with the dram and dance departments we also put on a range of whole school musical productions which offer the opportunity for students from all year groups to get involved in a variety of ways. Last year Ricards Lodge produced "Hairspray" the musical, accompanied throughout by the Orchestral band, which was a great success. In addition, our choirs performed at the O2 and one of our Year 9 bands won a national competition to perform at Wembley Arena to 10,000 people and all our ensembles and many soloists performed at Summer Sounds, our summer festival which was a great success.

We offer individual instrumental music lessons to students with the support of Merton Music Foundation and a range of private peripatetic teachers.

Key Stage 4

At KS4 we offer GCSE Music. Last year 90% of GCSE students achieved A-C and 80% achieved B or above. In the course, students develop their music reading, performance skills, listening, analysis and composition. Some of the topics studied include Jazz, Classical Music, Music for dance and Film Music. Students are assessed via coursework and exam in: Performance (Solo and Ensemble – regular performances in class and then final exam), Composition (coursework), Creative Task (timed composition exam) and Listening Exam.

Key Stage 5

We currently offer BTEC Music Level 3 at Key stage 5 with a view to offering AS and A level Music next year. Last year 100% of our students achieved Distinction*-Merit. At this level students continue to develop music reading, performance skills, analysis and composition, as well as learning about the Music industry. The Level 3 Music Group regularly performs in the school and in the wider community. Students are encouraged to develop their independent learning skills keeping practice journals and being given regular opportunities to evaluate their own progress and set their own targets for achievement.