

September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Music ensembles / tuition at RGS

We would like to warmly welcome your children to the Music Department! We are really looking forward to seeing returning students and meeting those new to the school, and encouraging an enjoyment in Music irrespective of their levels of musical experience. Here are a few opportunities to make you aware of what your child can get involved in.

Extra-Curricular Ensembles

We have a bustling and vibrant array of extra-curricular music ensembles, which we highly encourage everyone to try. Please see a brief description of what we have to offer for all years:

- **Junior and Senior Choir:** open to everyone, large choirs in which we sing a range of songs of different musical styles, and perform in 3 concerts, the carol service and evensong music trips. The rehearsals for this are split into year groups and voice parts.
- **Chamber Choir:** auditioned group for all years
- **Close Harmony choirs:** Close Harmony: Years 12-13, Mini Close Harmony: auditioned Years 7-9, Closer Harmony: unauditioned, open to all years
- **Wind Bands:** for Woodwind, Brass and Percussion instruments – 1st Wind Band: Grade 4+, 2nd wind band: Grade 0-4, Swing Band: Grade 4+, Big Band: Grade 4+
- **String Ensembles:** Junior Strings: for players Grade 0-4, Senior Strings: for players Grade 4+, Guitar Ensemble: a group for Classical guitarists run by the Classical Guitar peripatetic tutor. Please email us to sign you up directly with him.
- **Brass Group:** for Brass instruments Grade 4+

Please see the weekly timetable attached at the end of this letter. Just turn up next week if you'd like to try out an ensemble!

Instrumental Tuition

You can sign up your child for instrumental lessons during school time with our team of 20 peripatetic tutors, all experienced professional musicians who offer a wide range of instruments to learn. Learning a musical instrument is a brilliant opportunity to develop your child, supporting and enhancing so many transferable skills that have a positive impact on both their academic and social experience in school. It enables them to join more of our extra-curricular ensembles, becoming part of the RGS Music community, and could be the start of a wonderful lifelong musical journey.

We would not want any child to be unable to access these opportunities for purely financial reasons. If you would find the cost prohibitive, please contact me in the strictest confidence, as there are various schemes to support the financial element of this.

Please email our Music Department Administrator, Mrs Morley-Smith (fzm@rgshw.com), if you are interested in music tuition, and we will arrange lessons for your child.

Best wishes,

Mrs Natasha Jashari RCM

Director of Music

	Registration	Breaktime	Lunchtime	After school
Monday	Senior Choir (Rm 12) (for Years 9-13)		1 st Wind Band (Rm 12) (for woodwind, brass, percussion Grade 4+) Mini Close Harmony (Rm 14) (auditioned close harmony choir for Years 7-9)	Big Band (Rm 12) (for woodwind, brass, percussion Grade 4+)
Tuesday	Year 8/9 Trebles (Rm 12) (for Years 8-9 with higher voices) Altos (Rm 14) (for Years 7-9 with lower voices)		2 nd Wind Band (Rm 14) (for woodwind, brass, percussion grade 0-4) Junior Strings (Rm 12) (for strings Grade 0-4)	Senior Strings (Rm 12) (for strings Grade 5- 8)
Wednesday	Year 7 Trebles (Rm 12) (for Year 7s with higher voices) Guitar ensemble (Rm 14) (Classical guitarists Grade 0-4)	Brass Group (brass instruments Grade 4+)	Junior Choir (Rm 12) (Years 7-9 trebles and altos combined)	
Thursday	Swing Band (Rm 12) (for woodwind, brass, percussion) Altos (Rm 14) (for Years 7-9 with lower voices)	Closer Harmony (Rm 12) (unauditioned close harmony choir for all years)	Close Harmony (Rm 12) (close harmony choir for Years 12-13)	
Friday	Senior Choir (Rm 12) (for Years 9-13)		Chamber Choir (Rm 12) (auditioned choir all years)	Chamber Choir (Rm 12) (auditioned choir all years)