

12 September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to warmly welcome your sons to the Music Department! We are really looking forward to meeting them all, and encouraging an enjoyment in Music irrespective of their levels of musical experience. Here are a few opportunities to make you aware of that your son 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:

- **Junior Choir:** open to everyone, a large choir which performs a range of songs of different musical styles. It is split into two voice types, trebles and altos which rehearse separately.
- **Senior Choir:** similar to the above, but open to everyone with a broken voice.
- **Mini Close Harmony:** an auditioned ensemble of a small group of singers with unbroken voices, with a focus on close harmony/barbershop style singing.
- **Close Harmony:** similar to the above, but for singers with broken voices.
- **2nd Wind Band:** a junior wind band for woodwind (including saxophone), brass and percussion instruments grade 0-4. We encourage pianists and drummers to have a go at percussion.
- **Junior Strings:** orchestral strings grade 0-4.
- **1st Wind Band:** the same as 2nd Wind Band but for players grade 5 and over.
- **Senior Strings:** orchestral strings grade 5+
- **Guitar Ensemble:** a group for guitarists run by the Classical Guitar peripatetic tutor. There is a small charge for this group. Please email us to sign you up directly with him.
- **Senior Brass Group:** brass players grade 5+. They perform at special events such as Remembrance and the Christmas Carol Service.
- **Swing Band:** a fun, encouraging Jazz group for musicians grade 3+. This includes trumpets, trombones, saxophones, electric and bass guitars.
- **Big Band:** an auditioned group (grade 6+) run by Jay Craig.
- **Chamber Choir:** an auditioned choir that performs at Evensongs.
- **Student run groups and bands:** we have many student run groups such as Trad Jazz and Rock bands. The Music Department can provide a rehearsal space and time for these groups.
- **Ad hoc groups:** some groups get together for special events such as the pit band for the school musical.

Extra-Curricular Timetable 24/25

	Registration	Lunchtime (<i>either bring a packed lunch or eat in the canteen first</i>)	After School
Monday	Senior Choir (Rm 12)	1 st Wind Band (Rm 12) Senior Strings (Rm14) or combined Senior Orchestra	Big Band (Rm 12)
Tuesday	Year 8/9 Trebles (Rm 12) Year 8/9 Altos (Rm 14)	2 nd Wind Band (Rm 12) Junior Strings (Rm 14) or combined Junior Orchestra	
Wednesday	Year 7 Trebles (Rm 12) Guitar Ensemble (Rm 14) Senior Brass 8:30-9 (Rm13)		
Thursday	Senior Choir (Rm 12)	Close Harmony (Rm 12) Mini Close Harmony (Rm14)	
Friday	Swing Band (Rm 12) Altos (Rm 14)	Chamber Choir (Rm 12)	Chamber Choir (Rm 12)

Dates for your diary

If your child is involved in extracurricular groups, they will get the opportunity to perform in concerts. This term we have the ***November Showcase*** which is on the evening of ***14th of November***. All of the groups above will usually be involved. The ***Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*** involves all of the vocal groups and Senior Brass. This is held in the evening of the ***9th of December*** at All Saints Church in High Wycombe.

Other performing opportunities

In addition to the larger concerts, there are other opportunities to perform at the RGS. We hold informal concerts for soloists of all abilities and chamber music in the music block, invite musicians to perform in assemblies and internal school events, and will be holding an inaugural RGS Young Musician of the Year which will have categories catered to musicians at all levels.

For our more advanced students, the ***Autumn Soiree*** on the ***10th of October*** provides a wonderful opportunity for soloists to perform to a larger audience in the Queen's Hall.

Best wishes,
Mrs Natasha Jashari
Director of Music