



# Gordon's School Music Department

## Introduction

Music is a tremendously important feature of Gordon's School. We have a thriving Music Department with two full-time staff, 15 visiting instrumental teachers and administrative help from a part-time secretary. Over 260 music lessons are taught each week. The department is housed in the Music and Drama Centre, with excellent facilities including two classrooms, a small rehearsal/storage space, office space and 6 practice rooms. We have a trolley of 25 Macbooks exclusively for departmental use running Sibelius 8 and Garageband.

The school has a Recreation Hall, which is regularly used by the department for rehearsals, concerts and other performances. In addition, the School Chapel is used as an Informal Concert venue.

## GCSE/A Level Courses

We use the AQA board at GCSE, with 60% coursework currently.

At A Level, we follow the Eduqas syllabus. The topics studied include the Western Classical Tradition and the development of the Symphony, Musical Theatre and Into the Twentieth Century.

## Examination results

In the Music Department, our results have been consistently high for many years.

	<b>GCSE</b>	<b>GCSE</b>		<b>A Level</b>	<b>A Level</b>
	<b>A*/A (9-7)</b>	<b>A – C (9-4)</b>		<b>A*/A</b>	<b>A – C</b>
<b>2015</b>	73%	93%	<b>2015</b>	No entry	No entry
<b>2016</b>	87%	100%	<b>2016</b>	0%	50%
<b>2017</b>	50%	100%	<b>2017</b>	0%	100%
<b>2018</b>	50%	100%	<b>2018</b>	22%	89%
<b>2019</b>	45%	97%	<b>2019</b>	50%	75%

The Department has held the Prince's Teaching Institute Leadership Mark since 2012 and is currently working on an Associate Department 3 year project based around improving facilities for boarders' practice.

## Extra-Curricular

Over the course of the year, there is a full range of musical activities on offer including Senior and Junior Choirs, Concert Band, Chamber Choir, Jazz Ensemble, Junior Wind Group, String Group and Under the Arches Band along with an expanding programme of chamber music. There is also a community choir, The Gordon Singers, led by a member of the music department, comprising staff, parents and members of the local community. We also have a resident organist who plays every morning for assembly, and at all Sunday Parade Services.

A unique feature of the Music Department is the Ceremonial Music incorporating the Pipe and Drum band, led by Iona Scotson, and a Military style wind band (Under the Arches Band) led by the Director of Music. On Parade days, the Pipes and Drums number sixty marching players, although more than 150 pupils can be involved with this activity during period 7 each week. The Band, which is immensely popular with pupils and parents alike, is constantly in demand for events both locally and nationally. Annual concerts currently include two evenings of Carol Services in the Christmas term, a Spring Concert or School Musical in the Spring Term and a Summer Arts Evening, as well as a rapidly expanding list of informal lunchtime concerts and evening events. There is a strong relationship between the Music and Drama Departments, which has been particularly successful over the last few years culminating in performances of *Guys and Dolls*, *The Addams Family*, *School of Rock* and most recently a hugely successful production of *Bugsy Malone*.

Over the last few years the department has enjoyed success in music competitions and are the current holders of the Surrey Show Choir title. We have also achieved much solo success in the Woking and Godalming Music Festivals and have won the choir class two years running. We enjoy taking pupils to experience live music of all genres and the successful candidate should be confident in running trips and visits.

We have developed excellent links with the Menuhin School in Cobham, attending Showcase concerts at Menuhin Hall, participating in Chamber Music Tuition Days, and Sixth Form composition workshops. We also undertake joint revision and performance opportunities with a number of local schools and run a programme of primary liaison with Holy Trinity Primary School in West End, as well as inter-generational project with our local senior care home. We have toured to the Netherlands and Austria in recent years and are travelling to Tuscany in the summer term.