



The Music Department:

We are extremely lucky to have our state of the art new-build school. The Music Department occupies a suite of 2 large classrooms, as well as 2 very well resourced practise rooms. Each classroom is equipped with a state of the art Smartboard linked to a desktop computer. The desktop is linked to a classroom speaker system. There are also standard whiteboards in each room. The department has a piano in each classroom and practise room, as well as a Bechstein baby grand piano in the main teaching area. Our main teaching spaces house full classroom percussion and keyboard sets, as well as Djembes and a Computer Suite furnished with Sibelius Ultimate.

The Music Department is a happy, popular and successful area of our school. Student engagement both curricular and extra-curricular across the Key Stages is very strong and our academic results reflect this. As well as this strong ethos of exceptional achievement we also place a strong emphasis on our extra-curricular outreach both in our school community and in our wider community. Several concerts take place each year – primarily at Christmas and in the Summer Term. We also regularly offer the opportunity for our exam students (KS4 and 5) to perform in public. Each year we come together in collaboration with the Drama Department in order to perform our Whole School Musical. Recent highlights in this area have included, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables*, *West Side Story*, *Grease*, *Mary Poppins* and *The Lion King*. The talent of our students allows us to mount productions of the highest quality and artistic integrity.

The Music Department is highly supportive of St Mary's distinctive Catholic Ethos and is regularly involved in providing music for in-school liturgies and services within our Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. Instrumental lesson uptake is high among students and we frequently promote this during lesson time.



**Music
Department**



Results:

Music is a popular and successful subject in the school and each year results are excellent. Recent highlights include:

- 57% of pupils achieved at least a Grade 7 in GCSE Music over the last 5 years
- Every GCSE Music pupil achieved at least a Grade 5 in 2022
- 63% A*/A in A Level Music over the last 5 years, and 78% A*-C. 100% pass rate over this period

Curriculum Music:

During Year 7 and 8 students receive two lessons of music per fortnight. Recent topics at this Key Stage include: Music for Special Events, Keyboard Skills, Programme Music, Movie Soundtracks and The Music of India and China.

Students continue to study Music at Year 9, receiving one lesson per fortnight. Recent topics for this Year Group have included: Popular Music, Variations, Samba, Folk Music and Developing Ensemble Skills and Music in Media.

Students at GCSE Level receive 5 lessons of Music over the course of a fortnight. We currently follow the Edexcel Specification.

Students at A level receive 9 – 10 lessons of Music over the course of a fortnight. We currently follow the Edexcel specification.

