



Music

NEWSLETTER

Open Day 2021

Achievements, stories &
events of the past year
from the Music Department

NEWS LETTER



12th October 2021

www.bexleygs.co.uk

INTELLECT, EMPATHY &
COURAGE



Music News



IN LESSON

We offer a broad ranging curriculum that looks at music from around the world, across the centuries and spans a whole range of different styles. We cover the Edexcel syllabus at GCSE and offer both standard and higher IB music courses at post-16.

EXTRA CURRICULAR

Our department runs 14 different ensembles each week, so there's something for all instruments, ages and standards!

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Each year the music department organises trips to see West End productions, concerts, gigs and on top of that, an annual music tour, usually somewhere hot and sunny!



IN LESSON

"The music lessons are interesting and interactive, making even the most challenging parts fun! As a student here, I always look forward to my music lessons whether it be playing music on the instruments or making music in the computer labs." - Deya, Year 9

The music curriculum involves a lot of different aspects of music including African drumming in Year 8, composing dance music in Year 9, and singing and aural skills in Year 7. The work we do in lessons varies so you will likely find something you enjoy! - Ruth, Year 9





EXTRA CURRICULAR

By Ruth—Year 9

I've attended choir for two consecutive years, KS3 Orchestra for one and participated in two house music events, which have drastically helped with my performance skills and have been so fun. There are over 15 music extra curriculars to get involved in, ranging from Junior Jazz to Bexley Baroque, with all clubs offering the chance to perform at concerts, competitions, or locally. The music department is welcome to anyone, regardless of experience and allows you to interact with other students keen with their musical aspirations whilst developing your own.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

By Lucas Zurdo—Year 13

I sat down, having resolved to do my best to describe the end-of-year BGS music tours, and tried to gather my thoughts, struggling desperately to find a way to encapsulate what best described these tours. I then realised I couldn't. This wasn't for lack of opinions, or specific stories that would best convey what has made these music tours my best memories of BGS; far from it, in fact. The truth was, I found myself unable to pin down to one point why I would already be looking forward to the last week of the summer term when I was starting the school year in September. It could have been the 24 hour coach trips from London all the way to somewhere halfway across Europe; it could have been the games the students and teachers invariably organised; it could have been, of course, the concerts which you have spent the school year rehearsing for, only to then sing your heart out on a stage in Slovenia, watched by a crowd of people you have never met before, but who smile and cheer as you reach the end of the song you were practicing on a rainy Monday night just a few weeks before. I cannot say for sure which of these memories, among many others, is the best way to describe what the BGS music tour is about. All I know is, when anyone who has been on one is asked for their favourite memory, they all have different answers, different anecdotes to tell. Everyone, however, shares the same fondness for our yearly treks. No one can put our feelings into words, but we all understand perfectly what "music tour" can mean.



"I always look forward to my music lessons..."





Music News

On 11th November at 11am, three of our BGS trumpeters Katie Henderson (Year 13), Daniel Faulkner (Year 13) and Aaron Josland (Year 12) performed 'The Last Post', marking the two minute silence to remember those involved in conflicts. It was a moving tribute to mark the solemn occasion and our trumpeters performed wonderfully.

Mrs Goddard, Head of Music



'Virtual Visit'

On Thursday 22nd October, Year 12 music students were delighted to have a 'virtual visit' from TV, film and games composer, orchestrator and music copyist Tristan Noon. Tristan has been working in the industry for a number of years, and was more than happy to share with us his experiences and tips for succeeding in developing a music portfolio for the media industry.

We heard about Tristan's journey from GCSE music to present day, with importance placed upon developing a portfolio of music and making the most of networking opportunities. We also gained an insight into how to work in a studio, using Logic Pro, Pro Tools and Sibelius to create music as well as the importance of business skills and time management when working in the industry professionally.

Year 12 music students were able to ask Tristan questions about his work and the industry, and were impressed at Tristan's realistic approach to working in the music industry. They were also encouraged to keep portfolios, including work from their IB classes, for future use so that they have a variety of creative work available for the future.

Thank you Tristan for giving your time freely to talk to our students.

Mrs Goddard, Head of Music





ABRSM exams

Our school hosts a number of peripatetic teachers each week with students from across the year groups having music lessons throughout the school day. We provide lessons on all strings, woodwind, brass, percussion, vocals and piano as well as theory lessons for those who wish to take the higher grades. We are immensely proud of all our students, especially when they take an exam; a huge achievement!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WHO ACHIEVED THEIR MUSIC ABRSM EXAMS IN SCHOOL - JULY 2021





Concerts

Each year the music department hosts 6 concerts, one for each key stage and one at the end of each term. The KS5 showcase is the first one in our calendar, with recitals from our IB students. The Autumn Term is rounded off with our Christmas Concert, featuring all of our 15 ensembles! The spring heralds our KS4 concert which is an opportunity for our GCSE students to perform, which is then followed by the Easter Concert at the end of term. In the summer, our KS3 students take their turn and the term is rounded off with a Jazz special, featuring Junior Jazz, Big Band and Improv Group!



CONCERTS





CONCERTS





Music Tour

Music tour is an exciting opportunity to meet new people, perform in some incredible locations and share an unforgettable experience at the end of each Academic year. Locations include Slovenia, Budapest, Lake Garda, Paris, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Salzburg and many more!



MUSIC
TOUR





MUSIC
TOUR





Productions

From the classics to the modern, our department loves a musical and we open our doors to all during auditions. Teachers and students come together each year to put on fun and memorable productions. With a large cast, crew and band each year, there's something for everyone, whether you're a singer, dancer, actor or even all three!



PRODUCTIONS?





PRODUCTIONS





Trips and Competitions

Over the course of the year, the music department takes part in a number of competitions, festivals and performances. We are proud to have been included in so many musical activities in the past and our students are keen to further their musical abilities by competition both locally and nationally.



TRIPS &
COMPETITIONS





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COMPETITIONS

