



Department Aims

DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

Everyone; pupils and staff, should have the opportunity to take part and enjoy music. It is not exclusive, it is not elitist....it is for all.

CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS

The department is currently staffed by two full time teachers and in addition six visiting peripatetic staff.

Music is taught at all Key Stages with Music Technology being delivered at KS5, a new course in its fourth year.

Music plays an important part in the life of Ryburn with traditional high profile events such as the School Carol Service and Remembrance Day Performance running alongside newer concerts such as Open Mic sessions and Battle of the Bands evenings.

Historically the school has had a successful and busy school wind band. This is still part of the

extra curricular provision but the department now also offers a Soul Band, Percussion group, Pop Choir, Brass Group, Junior Wind Band and several sessions for pupils to rehearse their own groups.

The strengths of the department are the extra – curricular provision to a large number of students. This is partly funded by the school and currently provides for well over 100 students.

The visiting instrumental staff are also very effective and often experienced professionals. These staff help with lunchtime clubs and provide tremendous support to the Hod in facilitating such a wide range of clubs.

STAFF

The department is staffed by two full time members of staff and six visiting peripatetic staff

Matthew Grimes - Head of Music

Helen Ford - Teacher of Music

Courses

KS3 CLASS GROUPING ARRANGEMENTS

In Years 7 and 8 all classes are taught in form groups and have one hour of music lessons per week.

If individuals or groups would like to further their own interests developed in class they are encouraged to come to the department at lunchtime where they can practise and extend ideas and themes developed in lesson time.

In Year 9 all pupils follow a GCSE course in performing arts. This is organised with other creative arts subjects and pupils have the opportunity to study; Drama, Dance, Music Performance and Music Technology. The table below shows an example of the carousel rotation and staff responsible for each group.

GCSE

The department follows the AQA GCSE Music specification. This is delivered through a range of performing, composing, appraising and listening activities.

It aims to develop the following skills;

- An interest and understanding of a range of musical experiences
- The ability to perform music and communicate to an audience
- The ability to perform music as a soloist and to perform within a group
- The ability to create and improvise original pieces of music
- Use of Music Technology software and hardware
- Communication and social skills through working as part of a group
- How music is created and notated
- An awareness of the social, historical and cultural influences on Music

Pupils who take this course should already play an instrument or sing or should be willing to take up an instrument as soon as they begin the course.

In addition to helping students acquire subject knowledge, this course also provides students with the opportunity to gain self-confidence and develop team-working skills. It also provides a solid foundation for progression to music related courses, including A-level Music Technology, and a career in music professions.

A-LEVEL MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

The department is equipped with a recording studio and control room and has a wide range of other equipment. We use Logic Pro and Apple Mac computers to deliver a relevant and exciting course where many of the practical tasks involve a hands on approach. Students learn about the roles of music producer and sound engineer, to recording artist and composer/arranger.

The department follows the Edexcel Specification in Music Technology. This is a highly practical course and is designed to open up a range of exciting and useful tasks to a wide range of students. It encourages students, including those who do not play a traditional instrument, to explore their musicality and create original materials using technology.

There are many important opportunities in higher education, and many career possibilities, for those proficient in handling music technology. The GCE in Music Technology has been widely accepted by higher education providers, and this Music Technology A- Level provides valuable experience and preparation for students aiming to progress to higher education in the subject. Careers in Music Technology include record producing, sound engineering and teaching.

Extra Curricular Provision

The department offers a wide variety of extra-curricular groups and tries to offer something for everyone.

The school has had a long tradition of a brass band, which eventually became a wind band. This group has morphed again into the RV Big Band and is currently attracting more members. Despite concerns nationally about instrument uptake, Ryburn's music department refuses to be beaten. Numbers are on the up and I am hopeful for the future.

Currently the Junior band is healthy and has approximately 8 members. Many are beginners who have been given a chance to play a wind instrument by the department. The step up from this is The RV Big Band which rehearses on a Wednesday afternoon.

The department now organises a Pop Choir which is open to all and runs throughout the year. This is led by Helen Ford and numbers are currently around 70. The singing teacher organises a senior chamber Choir Top Vox, this has approximately 15 members.

The percussion teacher leads a Drum Group to give the percussion students an ensemble to perform in. This group is going from strength to strength and currently numbers 12.

The department also has a popular and successful Soul Band. This ensemble is proving a hit with a wide range of children and brings together all of our instrumental disciplines; vocals, guitar, keyboards, wind, brass and percussion.

There is also a Ukulele group, run by Matthew Grimes. This is an informal group for year 7 boys. It is also a 'stealth' boys singing group.

The Department also provides six sessions for student led bands to rehearse both at lunchtime and after school providing help if needed or simply letting them get on with it. This provides a vital opportunity for our pupils as creating, managing and organising their own music is one of the most important aspects of music education.

