

MUSIC

A Level

Why study Music?

- Music is a highly respected academic A level which leads to many career opportunities in this industry. You will have the chance to combine your enjoyment of music with your studies both in and outside the classroom. This new A level specification [AQA] and its broad content are designed to make you a better performer, composer and a more informed musician.
- In addition to the specific musical skills of performing, composing and listening, students will develop their self-discipline, ability to study independently, confidence, social skills, time management and organisation.

The Music Technology within A Level Music

- You can now study Music Technology within this A Level.
- The qualification enables students to develop their sound engineering skills by producing a multi-track recording and sequenced performance.
- Either of these choices can be picked instead of solo and ensemble performances.
- The course offers the flexibility to combine any of these options

Why I study Music at Parrs Wood ~ Shauna

"As a performer I was intrigued by the amazing opportunities on offer within the EPA Faculty. Since studying music I have joined the Manchester United Foundation Choir and taken on a variety of lead roles in school shows. The Music Department has a friendly and welcoming atmosphere and the teachers are more than happy to help you if you are struggling. There are also a number of private instrumental/vocal lessons on offer, giving you an opportunity to work with professionals."



Provisional Entry Requirements

Provisionally Grade B or above in GCSE music and/ or Grade 5 theory. Must be Grade 4+ on an instrument and be able to read music.



Why study Music at Parrs Wood Sixth Form?

- Parrs Wood Sixth Form has some of the best musical facilities and performance opportunities in the country.
- It boasts a new computer suite with the latest versions of Sibelius, Cubase and Logic, as well as a state of the art recording studio available for use.
- Parrs Wood offers instrumental tuition to all students and has a wide range of ensembles to suite every type of musician.

What You'll Study

- Composition
- Solo and ensemble performance
- Music Tech as a performance option
- Set works: Popular Music [Stevie Wonder, Daft Punk, Muse]
- Set works: Jazz [Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker]
- Set works: Western Classical Tradition 1650 – 1910 [The Baroque Concerto and Romantic Piano works]
- General listening and musical knowledge
- Music theory



PARRS WOOD | SIXTH FORM

Student Achievements

- In 2016, talented performers have been involved in the RNCM Reach project's production of Cabaret
- The choir performed with the presenters on Blue Peter
- A number of talented singers are members of the Manchester United Youth Foundation Choir. They have had many televised performances including Songs of Praise and Match of the Day 2. The choir have performed at Westminster Abbey and Wembley Arena. They regularly perform in front of large stadium audiences of up to 75,000 people at Old Trafford.
- Our resident Jazz band won the Yamaha Jazz Ensemble of the Year 2012
- George Rimmer won the BBC's Young Composer of the Year in 2011



We are looking for students who:

Enjoy performing both as part of an ensemble and individually

- Are interested in developing an understanding of different genres from classical to jazz and world music to popular
- Are grade 5 standard in one musical instrument (ABRSM or equivalent)
- Are grade 5 standard in music theory (ABRSM or equivalent)
- Enjoy listening to music, reading and researching
- Would like to develop an understanding of composing in traditional and non-traditional styles
- Would like to develop theoretical knowledge and part writing skills.

Ideas for Progression

Many of our students have successfully secured places in prestigious conservatoires and universities, including The Royal Northern College of Music, The Royal Academy of Music and Birmingham Conservatoire. Students may also go on to have successful careers in the music industry working as performers, session musicians, in radio, television, music production and music journalism.

Enrichment

- Parrs Wood Sixth Form has some of the best performing opportunities available. These include performing at the Royal Northern College of Music, The Bridgewater Hall, Didsbury Arts Festival and Stockport Plaza.
- Just some of the ensembles available to join are the Big Band, String Orchestra, Concert Band, Chamber Choir, Harmony group as well as rock jazz groups. There are also opportunities to run and conduct a range of ensembles as well as gain teaching and mentoring experience.
- The show this year is Bussy Malone. Previous shows include Back to Broadway, Little Shop of Horrors and Annie.

Links and Trips

- We have strong links with the Northern Chamber Orchestra who give live performances of set works and will also perform and record your compositions.
- There are regular opportunities to hear the BBC Philharmonic and Halle Orchestra perform, as well as trips to see musical theatre productions at the Palace and Lowry.

- Possible future trips include London and New York musical theatre and jazz excursions.

Why I study Music ~ Sam

"I chose to study Music because I enjoy playing musical instruments and writing my own pieces. I feel the Parrs Wood Music Department gives me good opportunities to take part in activities such as the jazz band and big band. The lessons are friendly and relaxed, as the classes are fairly small, but we still manage to get a lot done. There are lots of talented musicians who play a wide variety of instruments, that I have the opportunity to work with on a daily basis. We also have access to a great recording studio where we can record any pieces we enjoy playing. I would highly recommend studying Music at Parrs Wood Sixth Form"



To find out more you can visit our website: www.parrswood.manchester.sch.uk/sixthform
PARRS WOOD SIXTH FORM Wilmslow Road East Didsbury Manchester M20 5PG t: 0161 446 8648 e: m.tracy@parrswood.manchester.sch.uk