



## MUSIC TALENT

Gunnersbury has a long-standing tradition of musical excellence, and music is at the heart of school life in every aspect – socially, academically and spiritually. Our Director of Music and her team are supported by visiting music teachers who offer individual tuition in piano, violin, guitar (acoustic and bass) saxophone, percussion, woodwind and voice.

The Music curriculum at Gunnersbury aims to provide a range of musical activity and experience with an emphasis on enjoyment, expression and development. Pupils extend their performing, composition and listening skills through singing, percussion and

electronic keyboard work, as well having an introduction to music notation. From the experienced Sixth Form music scholar to a beginner in Year 7, we seek to support and encourage pupils' music-making. We hope that when pupils leave Gunnersbury they will continue to pursue their music-making independently having gained sufficient skills whilst at school to enable them to sing in choirs, play in bands or orchestras or just to enjoy playing at home as a hobby.

All those who learn an orchestral instrument are encouraged to join an appropriate ensemble, such as the string, brass or wind ensemble. Most musicians will be



in more than one, allowing them to gain experience of different music, styles and instrumental combinations.

The school maintains a strong choral tradition and our Chamber Choir sing a varied and challenging programme of music. The boys make regular visits and concerts out of school and sing several times each year at Westminster Cathedral for the Guild of St Stephen and the Catenians, as well as performing at Sunday Mass in parishes across the Diocese. Our Concert Band and Jazz Band tackle both standard and contemporary repertoire and give regular concerts in school and in a variety of other local venues. Gunnersbury soloists have regular opportunities to perform at the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden.

The school hosts formal recitals and informal concerts are regularly given by pupils; joint productions with our

Drama department take place at Christmas and at the end of the summer term.

In addition, a carefully structured set of performance opportunities for boys of all gives groups and individuals the opportunity to gain performance experience, culminating in the school's annual Music Festival, which is a showcase for musicians of all abilities to debut their hidden talents or to retain past glories.

Each year the school enters pupils for Associated Board and Trinity Guildhall music examinations. Results in recent years have been outstanding with most pupils achieving distinctions and merits. The school also encourages boys to enter a range of local and national instrumental and vocal competitions, for which additional professional support is available.



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