ENGLISH MARTYRS' CATHOLIC SCHOOL – MUSIC

KEY MESSAGE: INTENTION

We aim to create the best musicians.

Music education forms an essential part of a rich and balanced curriculum; one that every child should be entitled to as part of a rounded education. Music at English Martyrs' contributes to every aspect of a child's development and creates a forum where students can use music to express themselves, communicate with their peers and be creative in a safe and accepting environment, where there is mutual respect and genuine concern for others. It fosters sensitivity and tolerance towards others, whilst building on cognitive skills, self-confidence and self-esteem. Music education develops a form of creative intelligence that can enable young people to live richer lives as adults. The Music curriculum at our school is academically rigorous, disciplined, and aims to offer breadth and depth of opportunity to all students, regardless of ability. The department aims to display and promote excellence through its teaching and co-curricular provision, allowing for a deeper wealth of knowledge and appreciation of music.

The Music Department aims to be a vehicle for demonstrating the ethos and values of the school through its leadership and involvement in the spiritual life.

We recognise that our students come from a range of different areas and postcodes where there is social deprivation. As a result, our students begin their secondary school life below the level of expected prior attainment, often not having had the opportunity to play a musical instrument or experience live music. Our Music curriculum takes these students from below expected prior attainment, to meet and exceed the expectations of the National Curriculum at Key Stage 3, through a clear progressive pathway that develops students' knowledge and understanding.

Music at English Martyrs' is life transforming and is a universal offer to all students. We appreciate that students' experience of Music in feeder primary schools is varied and often limited, and so, the Music at EMS seeks to enrich the life of our students through our work in the classroom as well as the extensive co-curricular community and wider cultural experiences. We have strong partnerships with musicians from Birmingham Conservatoire, the Leicester International Music Festival, Leicester MusicFest, Foresters Brass Band, the Bardi Symphony Orchestra, Gabrieli ROAR and the NYJO to name just a few. These organisations have given regular concerts in our Auditorium and have led masterclasses and workshops for our students, exposing our young people to new, challenging music from the Western Classical tradition and beyond. We also strive to provide a range performance opportunities outside of school such as singing Evensong at Cambridge and Oxford University Colleges and residential trips to prestigious venues like Ampleforth Abbey. We firmly believe that experiential learning is a key feature in a well-rounded musical education, and we regularly organise trips for our students to experience live music making at De Montfort Hall and Birmingham Hippodrome.

As a Music Department we aim to give students a love of music that will last a lifetime.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Key Stage 3 curriculum centres around the development and deepening of musical knowledge by introducing students to a broad repertoire of music from the Western Classical tradition to popular music and music from around the world. This declarative knowledge enables students to be sensitive to, familiar with and confident in a body of musical knowledge, procedural knowledge and vocabulary whilst equipping them with the technical skills to perform, compose and to critically analyse music using extended technical musical vocabulary.

Schemes of work in Year 8 allow plentiful opportunities for pupils to return to and consolidate learning from Year 7, extending students' ability to engage with the creative process of improvisation, composition and performance in an ensemble and at times, as a soloist. Students further develop the ability to discuss and manipulate the elements of music and extend their knowledge and use of music notation.

Y7	Y8
Singing	Jazz and Blues
Notation and Keyboard Skills	Film Music (Including Leitmotif Composition)
Songwriting (Musical Theatre)	Songwriting for the Liturgy (Candlemas)
Instruments of the Orchestra	Western Classical Music: Theme and Variations
Western Classical Music: Baroque (Vivaldi Spring)	Experimental Music
African Traditional Music	Reggae

Singing is a core part of the Key Stage 3 curriculum with many opportunities given to develop aural skills and the ability to sing in three-part harmony.

Most importantly, music at Key Stage 3 encourages the God-given talents of each student by enabling students to develop their musicianship to the full, fostering a musical community through shared music making and placing art music at the heart of the whole school liturgical celebration.

Regardless of whether students opt for GCSE or A Level Music, Music forms an integral part of the curriculum into Year 9 and beyond. Students at all year groups are actively involved in liturgical singing as part of Mass, in assemblies and in the annual Carol Services with our Organ Tuition Scheme giving students the opportunity to accompany music for the liturgy in weekly Voluntary Mass services.

Going forward, our GCSE students study the OCR syllabus and our A Level students follow the Eduqas syllabus. Both courses involve the key areas of performing, composing and listening and appraising. GCSE and A Level Music builds on the knowledge acquired at Key Stage 3 and develops students' ability to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts through the study of 'set works' and focused areas of study.

OCR GCSE MUSIC

PERFORMING	▪ Solo and Ensemble Performance ▪ Grade 4 to 5 Standard ▪ Total Duration: 4 minutes
COMPOSING	▪ 2 Compositions: 1 free composition and 1 to a given brief ▪ Total Duration: 3 minutes
LISTENING AND APPRAISING	▪ Areas of study including Rhythms of the World, Film Music, Conventions of Pop and the Concerto Through Time

EDUQAS A LEVEL MUSIC

PERFORMING	▪ Solo/Ensemble Performance ▪ Grade 6 to 8 Standard ▪ Total Recital Duration: 12 minutes
COMPOSING	▪ 1 free composition ▪ Total Duration: 6 minutes ▪ 1 composition to a brief in a style from the Western Classical Tradition
LISTENING AND APPRAISING	▪ Study of set works and other music from the areas of study: *The Development of the Symphony* (including set works Haydn Symphony No. 100 and Schubert Symphony No. 5), *Rock and Pop Music* and *Into the 20th Century* (including set works Debussy 3 Nocturnes and Poulenc Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano)

CO-CURRICULAR & EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Whilst we want students to achieve the very best examination results possible, we believe our curriculum goes beyond what is examinable. As a department, we offer a wide range of co-curricular opportunities for those students who want to develop their musical skills and abilities beyond a classroom curriculum. Individual instrumental and vocal lessons are available to all students throughout the school, and currently over 250 students at the school have lessons with specialist teachers on a weekly basis. We also have a vibrant collection of musical ensembles, which we believe, offer opportunities to a wide range of students, allowing them to collaborate with other musicians and thus develop their performance skills, understanding and love of the subject. Where possible we endeavour to expose our students to live music including visits to De Monfort Hall and West End Theatres. All students involved in co-curricular activities are given regular opportunities to perform both in school concerts including the annual Year 7 Concert, St Cecilia Concert, Christmas Carol Service, Music Soiree and Spring Concert which each feature over 200 performers. Students have also performed in prestigious venues such as Leicester, Nottingham, and York Cathedral, De Montfort Hall, and the Royal Albert Hall.

Our ensembles include:

Wind Band – a beginner ensemble for students studying wind instruments from all year groups led by Mr Leonard

Year 7 Choir – a choir of around 60 students from year 7 led by Mrs Handley

Junior Choir – a choir of around 100 students from Year 8/9 led by Mrs Handley

Senior Choir - a choir of around 100 students from Years 10-13, led by Mrs Handley

Schola Cantorum – An auditioned liturgical choir of around 40 singers from all year groups led by Mr and Mrs Gull

Flute Ensemble – a small chamber ensemble of flautists in all year groups led by Ms Conquest

Orchestra – an ensemble of around 40 players from all year groups, led by Mr Leonard

Junior Brass – a beginner ensemble for brass players from all year groups led by Mrs Gamble

Senior Brass – an advanced ensemble of around 20 players from all year groups led by Mr Tam

A **School Musical** led by Ms Sole and Mrs Handley

Jazz Band – an advanced ensemble of around 20 players from all year groups led by Mrs Gamble

String Ensemble – an intermediate ensemble of string players from all year groups led by Mrs Wain

Steel Pans – a group ensemble lesson of students from all year groups led by Ms Munroe

Guitar Ensemble – a small ensemble of guitarists from all year groups led by Mr Grimm.

IMPACT

The impact of the Music Curriculum is evident through the engagement of our students, tangible in all lessons. Key Stage 3 work demonstrates good and exceptional understanding, with students able to articulate the progress in their learning. The uptake at GCSE level is at the highest level ever with our current year 10 cohort consisting of 40 students across two classes. Our current A level cohort is 13 students across Year 12 and 13. In general, numbers at GCSE and A Level are above the national average. We are one of only a few schools to be offering A Level music locally. A high percentage of students who opt for A Level Music go on to study music at university with one student recently securing an Organ Scholarship at Cambridge University following training in our very own Organ Scholarship programme.

Instrumental and Vocal tuition at the school, has increased considerably over the last few years and retention is good, with many students continuing to learn an instrument throughout their time here.

The impact of the co-curricular provision can be seen throughout the school. EMS has a reputation for providing students with endless opportunities to perform and engage in making music to a high standard. We have over 200 students who are actively involved and committed to various ensembles. Regular concerts and masses give students the opportunity to display their talents and we regularly receive compliments from audiences regarding the level of musicality with which our students are able to perform. As a department, we firmly believe that it is the enjoyment of the students and staff alongside their commitment and enthusiasm to make music that drives the department's success.