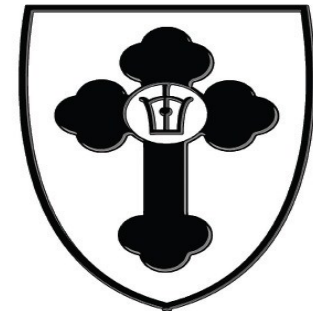


MUSIC



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**William Brookes
School**



Music

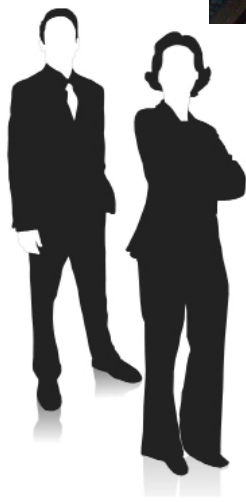
**Parents' Guide
2010 - 2011**

RATIONALE

It is our belief that music is a vital curriculum subject that fosters concentration, commitment and self-discipline. It offers the opportunity to develop the collective responsibility and team skills essential to the citizenship curriculum, and to the overall social development of our students.

FACILITIES

The department has two large teaching rooms both equipped with the latest technological Apple and PC systems. Year 7 –9 and GCSE pupils experience Music Technology in a totally 'hands on' environment. The rooms are comprehensively equipped with tuned and unturned percussion, keyboards, guitars and world music instruments. We have a number of dedicated practice rooms for student use, and an area for A level students which is equipped with 'state of the art' recording, sound design and composition facilities.



THE STAFF:

Mrs Penny Jaeger, joined William Brookes as Director of Music in September 2005. Since then she has used her extensive experience of teaching music subjects to deliver opportunities for students to succeed in GCSE, AS and A level Music Technology courses. Additionally she has created an extensive range of opportunities for students to participate in music making activities in both classical and contemporary genres.

Mr Simon Anderson joined the department as a music specialist in 2009. His focus is the modern classical; with a specific interest in the life and works of John Cage.

Shropshire Music Service tutors visit regularly to deliver individual and group tuition for a range of instruments.

Instrumental Lessons In partnership with Shropshire Music Services, the school offers instrumental lessons to students on a variety of instruments. These lessons are scheduled and taught in school time. Many students are also members of the County's Choir, Orchestras and Wind Bands, which give regular recitals.

Approach Classes are taught in mixed-ability groups and the approach is active, involving work with instruments and voices.

Students are encouraged to see music in the context of the whole spectrum of arts and to use words, images and movement to complement their music.

Concerts and Productions We hold a concert of eclectic musical mix each term and additionally a church celebration at Christmas. A full scale 'rock gig' and 'W Factor' contest are scheduled for this year. In collaboration with our dance and drama colleagues we put on a major musical production each year - Bugsy Malone in 2011.

N.B. All students staying for after school clubs can take advantage of the 17.15 bus to Broseley, Ironbridge and Madeley.

The Curriculum

Students in Years 7 – 9 All study Music and Music Technology. Their course is centred around the structure of music, and allows students to study a vast range of musical genres from Classical to Rap. Each unit of work undertaken covers the four strands of the National Curriculum: Listening, composing, performing and appraising. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to develop their creativity through a variety of media, instruments and music technology.

GCSE From Year 10, students can opt to study Music at GCSE Level. This entitles them to 4 hours of Music education per fortnight. Over the two years, the course covers a wide variety of music from the Renaissance era up to the modern popular genres. The syllabus is AQA with 50% assessed internally with 25% on each of composing and performing. Listening and appraising (25%) is assessed externally, as is an integrated study involving all three topics of composition, performance and appraisal (25%). Throughout the course, students are actively encouraged to join groups and ensembles to further their musical ability.

A level At AS Level students have the option of studying Music or Music Technology (or both!) The more traditional Music course further develops the skills learnt at GCSE through a variety of listening, composing, performing and analysing tasks. Performing and compositional techniques are developed along with analytical skills.

A level Music Technology (Edexcel) This rapidly expanding subject offers a 2-year course in sound engineering, sound design and composition using the latest music technology equipment. There is a particular emphasis on practical work with 75% of the assessment based on coursework submissions. The course focuses on sound recording techniques and midi sequencing. At both AS and A2 levels, students complete a variety of coursework tasks demonstrating their knowledge and ability in the above disciplines together with a high degree of creativity.

Extra Curricular Music

Various ensembles are established to provide opportunities for students to participate in music making:

Saxophone Group Rehearsal	Monday	13.30-14.10
Soul Band Rehearsal	Monday	15.45-17.00
School Orchestra—All players are welcome! (String/wind/brass and percussion)	Tuesday	15.45-17.00
Yr 11 GCSE Music Extra Curricular Group. An opportunity for students who find it difficult to fit Music into their curriculum studies to gain a Music GCSE qualification. In addition to developing and understanding of Music theory and listening perspectives, students have any opportunity to develop their playing skills both individually and in groups	Tuesday	16.00-18.00
School Choir—Opens access (students and staff) and performs regularly in the school and community	Wednesday	13.30-14.10
Access Music - Gifted & Talented Year 11 school musicians working towards AS Music Technology at an early stage	Wednesday	16.00-18.00
Theory - A session where students work through Associated Board examination papers with the view to sitting examinations when appropriate	Thursday	13.30-14.10
Xpress Club - students work towards a concert featuring different types & styles of bands	Thursday	16.00-17.00
Guitar Club – For any interested student who wishes to begin learning skills as a guitarist or to develop new playing techniques, supported by Yr 12 and 13 students	Friday	13.30-14.10
Gleeks – Heard of American Show Choirs? This is William Brookes all singing and dancing crew	Friday	16.00-17.00
The Much Wenlock Male Voice Choir also rehearses at the school		