



## Music

At Mount St Mary's, students are equipped with a firm understanding of the value of music through performance, aural appreciation and composition across a variety of periods, styles, traditions, and musical genres.

The breadth of study leads students to an understanding and acceptance of the validity and importance of all types of music, and respect for the role that music plays spiritually, morally, socially and culturally. We are committed to ensuring students understand the value and importance of music in the wider community and are able to use their musical skills, knowledge, and experiences to involve themselves in music in a variety of different contexts.

The fundamental elements of music are taught through every scheme of learning, as soon as students enter the classroom in Year 7, to provide them with the necessary terminology to dissect music and understand how it is created, performed, appreciated and analysed using music specific terminology.

In the classroom, students learn how to perform using a variety of instruments as well as participate in vocal activities to deepen their appreciation of the required performance skills to progress in this subject. The curriculum model is then tailored with consideration of students' areas of strength, as well as areas they can improve upon to provide tailored development to prepare them to study Music as an options subject at KS4.

Students who study music at KS4 have access to free peripatetic music tuition, throughout the length of their course, to support their in-class learning.

The practical and creative nature of music allows learners to experience and develop key attributes such as achievement, self-confidence, interaction with and awareness of others, and self-reflection. Students will also develop an understanding of music culture and history, with consideration of a broad range of 'world music' styles.

Our students are able to engage with music as a listener, creator and performer. They develop an understanding of how to further develop skills less known to them, and recognise the value of continuing the development of their musical ability outside the classroom. We focus on ensuring our students have the foundation building blocks for learning new music and the ability to find the necessary recourses for continued music learning independently.

In addition to in class learning, we also offer our students access to a wide range of extra-curricular music opportunities, from after school clubs to rehearsal spaces, with the support of a member of our performing arts teaching staff both at break/lunch time and after school. Our students have exposure to live music performance and the opportunity to perform at a wide range of events and trips both in school and around the city of Leeds.



## Drama

Drama education at Mount St Marys is designed to **empower** students with the key skills required in later life. Where it is a common misconception that Drama is intending to create actors, our aim is to embed and instil the characteristics needed to be successful in the wider world, framing students for success in further education and careers.

Our curriculum is broad and ambitious and it aims to **expose** students to a range of practitioners and dramatic styles. This will be achieved through the lessons assigned, but also through a range of performance opportunities, not only trips, workshops and **experiences** throughout the course.

Exposing students to the expectations of a professional theatre company is a key focus within the department. Students will thrive in an environment built upon support and respect when performing, thus creating a setting where students can become anything they want to be with the fear of failure removed.

Students will find themselves challenged to develop their communication, confidence, leadership and group work skills on a regular basis in order to **excel**. Learners will focus on the three key areas of the course, devising, performing and evaluation and these skills will be embedded into every lesson from KS3 upwards.

With multiple opportunities to work collaboratively within a growing Performing Arts department, Drama offers a wealth of extracurricular activities to become involved in and will allow all students regardless of background or ability the opportunity to have their moment in the spotlight.