

MUSIC AT STANBOROUGH

Music is central to life at Stanborough. Through Music lessons and extra-curricular activities we aim to develop a lifelong love of music. Students are encouraged to develop their skills in composition, performance, listening and arranging. Students have many opportunities to take part in extra-curricular music through choirs, musical ensembles, concerts and instrumental/vocal tuition, and we celebrate the energy and talent we have at Stanborough whenever we can.

Our GCSE uptake numbers and results have been praised by the Incorporated Society of Musicians (ISM) for consistently having more than 10% of each cohort take GCSE Music and achieve at least a good level pass.

We encourage our students to not just take the subject at GCSE and A-level, but also to enter National Music Competitions. Students have previously been winners in the Royal Opera House's Fanfare Competition, Music For Youth Festival and the Watford MusicFestival.

Students studying Music at Stanborough have gone on to study Music or Music Technology at such prestigious universities as Trinity Laben Conservatoire, LIPA (Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts), Leeds College of Music and University of Birmingham, with several winning choral scholarships.

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

Individual Instrumental and Vocal lessons are available to all students and take place on a rotating timetable during normal lesson time.

All teachers come from the Mid-Herts Music Centre, with which we have excellent links.

Parents can choose to sign their child up for these Instrumental or Vocal lessons at an additional cost. Students taking GCSE or A-level Music currently receive a discount on the cost of these lessons, and students receiving free schools meals can apply for funding, which may be granted at 50% or 100% of the cost.

CURRICULUM KS3

Students at Key Stage 3 develop their emerging Music skills through listening, appraising, performing and composing. Through the three years we complete twelve topics which each encompass all of these, working with a variety of instruments and group sizes, from individual work to pairs and groups of up to six students.

Students learn traditional music reading skills, by learning to read music notation rhythms and pitches, as well as explore other ways of learning such as through TAB from videos and peer to peer. The Music we listen to and explore is broad, spanning from Baroque to current day and from the UK to all over the globe.

The broad topics covered include as follows:

Year 7

Elements and introduction to music theory

The orchestra

Music to tell a story

Pachelbel's Canon in D

Carnival of the Animals

Year 8

The Blues

Reggae

Introduction to Music Technology

Bands

Year 9

Film Music

Music for advertising

Remix and Music Technology

CURRICULUM KS4

The GCSE Music course is with **OCR** and includes the following elements:

- Performing (30%)
 - ⇒ 2 performances recorded in class
 - ⇒ 1st performance—Solo
 - ⇒ 2nd performance—Ensemble
- Composing (30%)
 - ⇒ 2 compositions written in class using Music Technology
 - ⇒ 1st composition - Free choice
 - ⇒ 2nd composition—Brief set by exam board
- Appraising (40%)
 - ⇒ A listening exam where students complete questions based on musical extracts
 - ⇒ Many topics are covered throughout the course: Concerto through time, Rhythms of the World, Film Music and Conventions of Pop.

During GCSE music lessons we play, compose and appraise in a large variety of styles from the more traditional Baroque, Classical and Romantic styles, to the musical theatre, jazz, folk, rock/pop and fusion styles.

GCSE students are expected to perform in each of our concerts and to attend a weekly extra-curricular activity. It is hugely beneficial for students to be studying an instrument/voice weekly. We offer a 50% discount on individual lessons for this reason.

CURRICULUM KS5

Music

The A-level Music course is with **OCR** and includes the following elements:

- Performing (25/35%)
 - ⇒ A 6-12 minute recital performed in front of a visiting examiner
 - ⇒ Students should be of a Grade 5/6 standard at the start of the course to secure a high grade
- Composing (25/35%)
 - ⇒ A 4-8 minute composition portfolio including 2-3 compositions
 - ⇒ Students must complete one free choice composition and one based on a brief set by the exam board
- Appraising (40%)
 - ⇒ A listening and appraising 2hr 30 minute exam on the musical analysis, familiar and unfamiliar pieces, prescribed works and questions based on aural extracts.

Music Technology

This course is with **Edexcel** and includes the following elements:

- A portfolio of work, including a multi-track recording and technology based composition, composed to a brief set by the exam board
- An appraising exam covering the use and development of technology in music
- A practical exam where students use a computer to create and edit music

RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

The music department moved to a new building in 2021 with 6 practice rooms, an ensemble room, a studio and 2 fully equipped classrooms. Peripatetic lessons are held in the block with students choosing to take 20 or 30 minute lessons weekly.

Students are invited to sign into a practice room a break or lunchtime where they can work on performances or with their ensemble.

GCSE and A-Level students are prioritised for practice rooms when working towards a recording.

In addition to this, we have a recording studio, which students can use for Music Technology A-level and for recording performances and compositions at any key stage.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN MUSIC

There is a lot of extra-curricular in Music at Stanborough. These take place at various times during the school day and afterschool. They include the following:

Peripatetic lessons
Chorus
Keyboard club (coming soon)
Orchestra (coming soon)
Band Masterclass
GCSE Drop-ins and support
Open rehearsal time at lunch
House Music
School Production

We are constantly looking at increasing extra-curricular offerings at Stanborough. Students are kept informed via a weekly bulletin.

STANBOROUGH SCHOOL

Curriculum Leaflet 2025

Music

www.stanboroughmusic.com