

Student Achievement 2016

Pass rate: 100% • A*-C Grades: 84%

Music is a subject with many transferable skills. The course at St John Rigby College allows all students to achieve well and is part of an outstanding department. Music at St John Rigby College will include studies of performance and composition; alongside analytical studies of music from Classical Art Music to World Music and Film & TV Music. All students are offered individual lessons on their primary instrument with outstanding peripatetic musicians employed in the department for the study of performance practice.

Level: Level 3

Specific Course Entry Requirements:

College entry to include either: GCSE Music minimum C, Grade 5 Instrument/Voice, Grade 5 music theory or by audition (please refer to the Entry Requirements section page 24 for further details).

Although you do not need to have achieved a theory qualification, we do expect your willingness to develop your music theory knowledge through our enrichment activities.

What will I study?

Within the music course at St John Rigby College, you will study performance, composition and analysis.

Within the performance unit, you will be expected to perform a number of solo works on your first study instrument/voice. The recital expected at the end of your second year will be a minimum of a ten minutes. Weekly performance concerts, individual tuition and workshops enhance students' skill in this area.

In addition, you will be asked to compose two pieces of original music, one in conjunction with compositional briefs provided and a 'free composition' based on the style of your choice. The exam board base the briefs these around the areas of study in the syllabus. Work for this unit is supported by composition master classes, 1:1 tutorials and enrichment activities within the department.

In musical analysis you will be asked to listen to, and analyse, a range of instrumental and vocal music. You will also be required to write stylistic analyses of music and also compare pieces of music in their approaches to musical elements. There are questions

based on the analysis of unseen scores and a question based around aural dictation.

How will I be assessed?

Performance and composition are both based on practical assessment. Performance is 35% of your final grade and composition is 25% of your final grade. 40% of your final grade is assessed through the two and a half hour examination of musical analysis at the end of year 2.

Where will this course lead me?

Due to the transferable skills that music offers, it is a highly regarded course for Higher Education Institutions. Students progress to study Music and Music Technology at University and many are invited to apply for a Conservatoire for further study of this specialist subject. Through our Maestro Programme, we work in partnership with many prestigious universities as well as the Royal Northern College of Music and Birmingham Conservatoire.

What support will I receive?

Students receive a variety of support mechanisms from within the department and around the College.

All students are offered lessons on their primary instrument and are offered tutorials to assist them in their performance practice. Students are offered 1:1 tutorials to assist with composition and can speak to instrumental tutors to help with this area too. With regards to analysis, students can ask for tutorials with staff at any point and will be given the opportunity to attend regular twilight sessions. The vast array of extra curricular activities are organised by the department to support enjoyment and learning.

What is the department like?

The Music Department is housed in a new specialist Performing Arts building. There is a warm and welcoming environment where everyone is invited to feel part of the wider community.

Students are offered the Atrium Area of the new department to revise, work and socialise and can request to use the practice rooms for personal study and practice or to use the facilities for band practices etc. You will be surrounded by like-minded individuals and encouraged to make as much use of our Apple Mac suites, generous rehearsal spaces, practice rooms and recording studio. There is always something taking place, be it our weekly lunchtime performance or extra music theory workshops; you will be welcomed into our community of musicians, music technicians, actors and dancers.

Enrichment opportunities

The department offers many enrichment opportunities including a weekly lunchtime concert, Grade 5 Music Theory Group, Singing Ensemble, Concert Band, Orchestration & Arrangement classes and specialist Music Technology enrichment.

In addition to our extensive range of departmental activities, students are invited to create their own ensembles and may be invited to join the College Ensemble for the annual College Musical where they will play for a range of professional standard shows. Further more, the department organises an annual residential, concert visits and trips to industry related venues (e.g. London O2 Arena Trip).

Head of Department

David Wall

Tutors

James Gresty
James Ellwood





St John Rigby College

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St John Rigby College reserves the right to make changes including courses offered, course content and entry requirements at any time.

