



MILLFIELD
PREP SCHOOL

Music



Nurture, Challenge, Inspire

Welcome

Welcome to the Music Department. We hope your child will enjoy being a part of music here at Millfield Prep. You and your child are assured of a warm welcome from myself as Director of Music, our skilled team of specialist academic, instrumental and vocal staff, the Music Department office, and from us all at our regular events.

Mrs Sturges, Director of Music

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Learning and Growing

Individual Instrumental and Vocal Lessons

Individual music lessons last for 40 minutes and timetables for lessons are displayed on the main noticeboard in the Music Department. We can help out with all the arrangements or any questions if you or your child comes to see us. Alternatively you can get in touch with our Music Secretary, at kew.j@millfieldprep.com.

Year 2 pupils with individual instrumental lessons will be taught in the Pre-Prep building and a timetable for lessons in a fixed slot will be arranged by the Music Secretary.

Learn with a Friend

'Learn with a Friend' scheme is available for all instruments and voice, and also works on a rotational timetable. This is where two pupils share a lesson in the same 40 minute slot.

The scheme is a great way to get your child started on an instrument or with vocal coaching as, of course, new ventures are more fun with a friend.

Trial lessons and notice periods

Pupils at Millfield Prep have the opportunity to receive one free lesson on as many instruments as they would like to try. If you wish to book ongoing instrumental and/or vocal lessons for your child, please complete the Instrumental Form found on the Music Department page of the website Parent Area. A term's notice in writing is required to cease lessons however the first 5 lessons are classed as introductory and are exempt from the usual notice period.

Please contact our music Secretary, at kew.j@millfieldprep.com for more information.



Building confidence

Instrumental Experiences

Year 2 Violin Programme

Every pupil in Year 2 is issued with a violin for the year. They learn in their class groups with violin specialist Rachel Thornton.

Year 4 Orchestra Project

This annual project begins from the second week of the autumn term. During their class music lesson, all pupils in Year 4 have the opportunity to try orchestral instruments in small groups with specialist visiting teachers.

From there, teachers and children choose their instrument and in subsequent weeks learn in small groups. They work towards a performance at the Summer Concert.

Year 6 Ukulele Groups

In individual class lessons in Year 6 all children are given the opportunity to learn the ukulele and perform in concerts throughout the year.

Regular Performance Opportunities

Cushion Concerts

With tea and biscuits provided, this is a very informal setting for pupils to perform their pieces or even try them out for the first time. These concerts run once a term. Pupils perform as soloists (with accompaniment if required) or duos, with the support of their parents and peers.

Tea and Music Concerts

With tea and cakes provided, this is the next step for more confident pupils (Grade 2 upwards and Years 7 and 8) to perform soloist, duets and with groups and ensembles. This is an excellent opportunity to run through pieces before exams.



Highlights and Headlines

Rock and Pop Concert

In addition to the productions, concerts and music events, many pupils form vocal bands to audition for the Rock and Pop Concert. Each year the Concert is based upon a theme and selected acts perform with a professional band backing and fully staged with an atmospheric lazer lighting display. Parents and older boarders are invited to attend this hugely entertaining evening.

Spring and Summer Concerts

In spring and summer, large scale ensemble, choir and orchestra concerts are held. In recent years themes have included 'Millfield at the Movies', an evening complete with cinema screen

showing clips of favourite movies for which the ensembles, orchestras and choirs provided the sound tracks, whilst the audience enjoyed popcorn and hot dogs.

Digital Sound

The Art, ICT and Music Departments' collaboration provides a platform for pupils to perform on their instruments or voice, while their peers interpret these pieces as art using robots. The resulting artworks from these events are proudly displayed around the school.





International Artists

The links between Millfield Prep and Senior Schools mean that our pupils can benefit from free tickets to attend concerts in the Millfield International Concert Series and take part in the visiting international artist workshops. Recent collaborations have included a workshop with the Singing Children of Africa choir at the Senior School.

Saturday Breakfast Masterclasses

Masterclasses are workshops focussing on performing and strengthening technical and presentation skills. Parents and pupils are invited to a buffet breakfast followed by a series of drop-in masterclasses through Saturday morning run by guest artists. Sessions have included piano, voice, violin, rock and pop, brass and wind.

Wells Cathedral Christmas Choral Celebration

Every year on the last day of the autumn term, Millfield Prep's Christmas Service is held in Wells Cathedral. Music is an integral part of this service and each year the school's Chamber Choir and Junior Choir perform as part of the service.

The whole school including staff, pupils and parents join in with singing carols and listening to a short talk by the school chaplain.

Musicals

We stage many musicals throughout the year with solo and group vocal opportunities and pupil and professional based bands or pit orchestras. Recent productions have included Year 8's: *Mary Poppins*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *West Side Story*, *Spittlebury* and *Bugsy Malone*.

The Junior Department performances have included: *Santa on Strike*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Gimme Gimme Gimme* and *Macbeth*.

Year 7 host a splendid annual competitive Battle of the Sets and Year 6 have staged *The Highwayman*, *The Last Monster in Scotland*, as well as the stage classic *The Wind in the Willows*.



Taking Part

Being in the choir or ensemble is, of course, a great way to get to know and become a part of our musical community build existing friendship and make some new ones. Working towards a concert and taking part gives a great sense of achievement, excitement and belonging.

Activities which run in the department are as follows:

Senior Choir

Junior Choir

Orchestra

Senior Rock Band*

Junior Rock Band*

Jazz and Blues Band*

Percussion Ensemble*

Wind Band

Brass Group

Introduction to Guitar

Guitar Ensemble*

Oboe Group*

Flute Group*

Music Extension Group (the Edgarley Ensemble)*

Theory Club

Aural Group

* = ensembles which are by invitation only

Details of when these activities are run and how to sign up are in the Music section of the Parent Area on our website.

Practice

Pupils who receive lessons have the opportunity to sign up for practice slots: before school 8.00-8.25am and morning break 10.20-10.40am. It is compulsory for boarding pupils to sign up for at least two practice slots a week, which will be done within the first few weeks of term in conjunction with their individual teachers. Boarding houses and group tutors are informed to provide gentle reminders and encouragement. As well as monitoring attendance, the department's Graduate Music Assistant will guide pupils during their practice sessions with hints and tips.

Encouraging regular practice



Music Scholarships

Music Scholarships for Millfield Prep

Applications for Music Scholarships are welcomed. Please note that successful pupils will be required to sing in the choir and take an active role in the life of the Music Department.

The audition procedure includes playing two contrasting pieces, vocal and aural tests.

For enquiries please contact Fiona Gordan in Admissions at admissions@millfieldprep.com or call +44 (0) 1458 832446.

Music Scholarships for Millfield

Potential candidates will be offered the opportunity to attend the Music Extension Group (Tuesdays 4.00-5.00pm) which prepares them for the scholarship audition in late January each academic year.

Forms need to be completed and sent to Millfield School Admissions Office before 1 December.

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I sign my child up for music lessons?

Forms can be downloaded from the Music Department page in the Parent Area of the website, the Parent Portal, or collected from the Music Secretary.

How long are the lessons and when do they take place?

Lessons last for a full school lesson (40 minutes) and usually take place in place of a normal school lesson, but works in rotation to ensure that pupils do not miss the same lesson weekly. There are limited slots (which may be fixed) available over lunchtime, before school, and occasionally after school.

How much do individual music lessons cost?

For details regarding fees please see the Instrumental Form on our website.

Where is the Music Department?

The school's Music Department is adjoined to the main school building, and can be entered from the Junior Department, the pick-up entrance opposite Hollies House and by the Junior playground. The Music Secretary's office is located on the downstairs corridor, opposite the Recital Hall.

My child is a boarding pupil. Can he/she still practise in school?

Yes, practice sign-up sheets are located on the doors of all practice rooms.



A variety of ensemble opportunities

Music Department Staff

Director of Music

Assistant Director of Music
Music Technician
Music Secretary

Eleanor Sturges

Jonathan Hall
Glynn Haddock
Jules Kew

Percussion Specialists

Percussion
Drums

Jeremy Little
Mark Dobson

Wind and Brass Specialists

Flute, Oboe and Bassoon
Clarinet and Saxophone
Brass
French Horn

Jane Finch
Julia Holmes
Jo Sykes
Alison Wilmshurst

Piano Specialists

Piano
Piano
Piano
Piano

Carolyn Doorbar
Joshua Abbott
Anna Ashton
Cheuky Chan

Voice Specialists

Singing
Singing
Singing

Mark Lawson
Eloise Routledge
Siona Stockel

String Specialists

Violin and Viola
Violin
Cello
Cello
Double bass
Harp
Guitar
Guitar

Rachel Thornton
Alison Wilmshurst
Lucy Scotchmer
Roland Palmer
Claire Whitson
Siona Stockel
Glynn Haddock
Martin Kolarides





Useful Contacts

For **Music Department** enquiries contact the Music Secretary on +44 (0) 1458 837527 or kew.j@millfieldprep.com

For **Admissions** contact Fiona Gordon on +44 (0) 1458 832446 or admissions@millfieldprep.com



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