

# WELCOME

TO THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT · 2025-2026



SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

# Where to find us

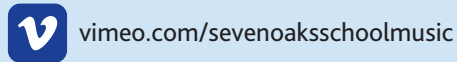
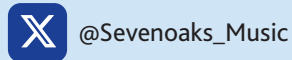
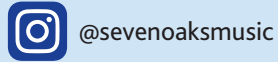
## SOCS

Under Co-curricular/Music

## Website

[www.sevenoaksschool.org/music](http://www.sevenoaksschool.org/music)

## Social media



## On the school campus

The Music department is based in The Space.

## Via email

Contact details for all staff can be found at the back of this booklet.

## Via phone:

+44 1732 467706



# Welcome

Welcome to Music at Sevenoaks School.

This booklet will give you a taste of what is on offer to every student at Sevenoaks School and you will get a feel for the ethos of the department.

We know that participating in music has a significant positive impact on students' wellbeing and mental agility. It also helps students cultivate many soft skills which are now considered vital to the wider world – and all the while they are developing a lifelong skill in a field which they enjoy, with their friends. Students who engage with music and invest in the consequent opportunities over their time at Sevenoaks will be rewarded with a love and appreciation of music that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Music at Sevenoaks is centred upon performance. In a school year there are approximately 50 concerts and performances in a wide range of musical styles, from baroque chamber ensembles to choral and orchestral concerts, jazz clubs and musical theatre.



Mr Christopher Dyer, Director of Music



Mr Thomas Harvey, Assistant Director of Music



Mrs Suzy Parkin, Music Administrator

# The Musical Year



Each year we perform a selection of the following:

- Music at Sevenoaks concerts, which involve our larger ensembles.
- Platform concerts, where students present solo or chamber music, in an informal setting.
- Charity concerts organised by the students.
- Year group concerts, informal concerts for each year to showcase their talents.

All concerts are open to everyone and are free, unless they are for charity, in which case there may be a small donation requested for entry.

A typical musical year in the Pamoja Hall and Recital Room involves:

## Michaelmas Term

- The Big Gig
- Historical Keyboard Concert
- Informal Concert
- Music at Sevenoaks Choral Concert
- Music at Sevenoaks Orchestral Concert
- Music Award Holders Recital
- Several Solo Platform Concerts
- Sevenoaks SingOff
- Crash into Christmas
- Christmas Carol Service

## Lent Term

- Music at Sevenoaks Choral Concert
- Music at Sevenoaks Orchestral Concert
- Music Award Holders' Recital
- Music Showcase
- Musicals for a Cause
- Three Chamber Music Platforms
- Brass Platform
- Piano Platform
- String Platform
- Woodwind Platform
- Sevenoaks Swings
- Workshops or masterclasses with visiting musicians

## Summer Term

- Charity Concert
- Discovering Diverse Voices
- Jazz Club
- Jazz Musicians' Platform
- Music at Sevenoaks Summer Concert
- Music Award Holders' Recital
- Open Musicians' Platform
- Songwriters' Platform
- Talent Show



### **Attending concerts**

All our concert details, dates and times can be found on the school calendar and tickets can be bought via the school website What's On pages or The Space website.

### **Concert videos**

For those unable to attend, we film every concert in school and share the footage on the Music Vimeo account.

### **Concert Dress Code**

Lower School students generally wear school uniform. Middle and Upper School students should wear all black for all formal concerts in the Recital Room and the Pamoja Hall. Black skirts should be plain and fall below the knee and not be obviously patterned. Tops should cover the shoulder. Alternatively, students may wear black open-neck shirts and black trousers.

## The Music Co-curriculum

The Music department runs a busy and thriving programme of activities outside the academic curriculum, including the following large ensembles:

- Symphony Orchestra (older students).
- Foundation Orchestra (younger students).
- Wind Band
- Sevenoaks Strings
- Big Band
- Jazz Band

The following choirs exist for both classical and contemporary vocalists:

- Sennocke Consort
- Choral Society
- Chamber Choir
- Senior Girls' Ensemble
- Chorus
- Lower School Singers
- Junior Chamber Choir

Smaller ensembles and clubs include chamber music, jazz, composition, songwriting and contemporary music.

## Individual Music Lessons

Sevenoaks School offers music tuition on all standard orchestral instruments as well as in piano, organ, harp, recorder, saxophone, guitar (classical and electric/bass), percussion and voice. Alexander Technique lessons are also available. If you wish your child to start an individual music lesson, please contact the department administrator, Mrs Suzy Parkin, for more information.

Instrumental lessons are usually 30 minutes in length. Fees for 2025-26 are £45 inclusive of VAT for a half-hour lesson (£1215 for 27 half-hour lessons) and are charged to your next school bill. The hire charge for use of musical instruments is £66 per term.



The school offers free tuition in the following instruments for beginners in their first term at the school: French horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, oboe, bassoon, double bass, organ, bass guitar and harp.

Sixth Form students take their music lessons in free periods or outside of class time, as far as possible. Students in Year 11 and below will need to miss a part of an academic lesson at a time which they agree with the instrumental teacher in the previous lesson. Great care is taken to avoid clashes and conflicts with academic tests. Music lesson times are located on SOCS and are a commitment once the lesson time is agreed between teacher and pupil.

Every student receives two reports per year at the same time as their academic report. These will give parents and students an indication of their level as well as a positive indication of their achievements, what they have been working on and what they have recently mastered, as well as an indication of what they now need to do to move their playing level on and increase their enjoyment.

Notice to stop instrumental lessons is requested by email by half term in order for lessons to cease at the end of that term.



## Musical Instruments

Instruments brought into school must be named.

Shared instrumental lockers are provided for all students, who each have their own key.

Sharing instruments is not allowed. Instruments must be returned to their lockers after use.

The school has a small stock of instruments that may be hired, subject to availability.

These instruments are not suitable for advanced players, and are usually hired for a maximum of one school year.

Please make sure that your child takes their instrument and music home in the holidays. A small amount of practice during the long holidays is a good idea.

## Music Examinations

The school provides examinations for students regularly throughout the year, subject to the examination uptake being sufficient for the boards to send us an examiner. We expect to make entries through The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (late September, early December, late January, early March and mid-June), Trinity College London (towards the end of each term) and the London College of Music (end of May). A fee is payable, which is charged to your school bill. The school provides an accompanist for exams taken in school at these times.

Most examinations take place live, in front of an examiner. However, the opportunity does exist to take exams remotely. More information on these exams is available on request.



## Our Expectations...

### Of ourselves

- To provide a varied and high standard programme of groups, rehearsals and concerts that are generally open to every student in the school.
- To have excellent and inspiring teachers, groups and music-making.
- To enable opportunities for student growth and challenge.
- To communicate rehearsals and performances efficiently and suitably in advance.

### Of students

- Punctual attendance and a positive attitude.
- Honesty, cooperation and communication (in advance please!)
- A commitment to their ensemble or group until the next performance.
- To sustain a regular practice schedule. A little and often is better than large amounts of time once or twice only during the week.
- Pride with that which is worthy, endeavour and perseverance with that which is problematic, and a willingness to move on when it hasn't quite worked out – yet!

### Of parents

- Support and encouragement of students in their pursuit of music-making, so they attend rehearsals and commitments. Learning an extensive piece of music (such as an orchestral or choral piece) takes time and dedication, but is always worth it.
- Communication with your child about their musical development (and please attend their concerts if you are able).
- Checking that your child has brought their musical instrument home in the holidays.
- Communication with the department about your child, if you feel necessary.

Should there be matters arising over the course of the year which need resolving, please email or call Mrs Parkin, and she can put you in contact with the necessary people.

We look forward to welcoming you to any of the musical events at Sevenoaks School.



## FAQ

### What do I do if...?

#### **My child's instrument is missing**

Contact the department administrator, Mrs Parkin, who will help your child to find the instrument. Check that the instrument is named.

#### **My child does not know when the next lesson is**

Ask them to look on SOCS. If they cannot find it, ask Mrs Parkin, who will advise further.

#### **I think my school bill is inaccurate**

Email Mrs Parkin who will ask the music teacher to verify the number of lessons charged for.

#### **My child seems to be getting no work**

In the first instance, ask to see the music notebook, or target sheet. If this still leaves cause for concern, contact the relevant music teacher on the email at the end of this document.

#### **My child does not seem to know what to practise**

It is best to email the music teacher but copy the email to Mrs Ashwell and to your child's form tutor, who will discuss the matter with your child as well.

#### **I did not receive an instrumental report with my last school report**

Contact your child's form tutor.

#### **I am not satisfied with the progress being made**

In the first instance, contact the music teacher with your concerns. If you are not happy with the matter, you should then contact Mrs Ashwell, who will investigate further.

#### **How do I request lessons of a length other than 30 minutes, once a week?**

You should contact Mrs Parkin, who will inform the relevant teachers and ask them to discuss this with you. To receive more than 30 minutes, a student needs to have reached a reasonably advanced level.

## Music Staff List

Mrs Suzy Parkin	SMP	Music Administrator
Mr Christopher Dyer	CHD	Director of Music
Mr Thomas Harvey	TEH	Assistant Director of Music
Mrs Kathryn Ashwell	KAA	Joint Head of Vocal and Instrumental Studies
Ms Diane Day	DSD	Joint Head of Vocal and Instrumental Studies, Teacher of Music
Miss Lucy Eccleshall	LJE	Teacher of Music
Mr Simon Palmer	SXP	Teacher of Music
Mr Chi-Hang Chang	CHC	Graduate Music Assistant
Miss Phoebe Skinner	PGS	Graduate Music Assistant

## Visiting Music Staff and Instrumental Staff

Mrs Kathryn Ashwell	KAA	Piano	BMus (Hons) MMus
Mr Robin Ashwell	RXA	Viola	BMus (Hons) PGDip
Mr Robert Ball	RRB	Percussion	BMus (Hons) RCM
Mr Nicholas Beston	NEB	Head of Jazz and Contemporary Music	BMus (Hons)
Mr Geoffrey Boynton	GXB	Percussion	DipRCM ARCM
Miss Jessica Broad	JZB	Singing	BMus (Hons) PGDip
Mrs Catherine Brooker	CZB	Cello	LRAM (Teaching/Perf)
Mrs Lauren Bullard	LAB	Double Bass	BMus (Hons) (GSMD)
Mr Daniel Burrowes	DSB	Cello	BA MMus US Artist Certificate
Mrs Carolyn Cabrera	CMC	Piano	DipRCM ARCM
Ms Miranda Chan-Whyte	MYC	Piano	BMus (RCM) ARCM
Miss Chiao Ying Chang	CYC	Piano	BMus (Hons) MMus PGDip
Ms Rebecca Coulthard	RXC	Classical Guitar	BMus (Hons)
Mr David Cuthbert	DJC	Flute	BMus (Hons) (RAM) PGDip (RAM)
Mrs Natasha Dobie	NGD	Singing	BA (Hons) CertEd LTCL
Mr Matthew Down	MBD	Trumpet	BMus
Miss Laetitia Federici	LDF	Piano	MMus Dip (GSMD)
Miss Alison Gent	AAG	Flute	
Mrs Mairi-Louise Guzman	MGA	Violin	BA (Hons) PGCE
Mr James Hall	JDH	Singing	BMus MPerf (RCM)
Mrs Jane Hanna	JXH	French Horn	GRSM (Hons) DipOS ARCM LRAM
Mr Anthony Harlow	ADH	Guitar	BA (Hons) BA BSc (Hons)
Mr Andrew Harper	AGH	Clarinet	BMusPerf (Hons) PGDip LRAM



Mrs Jacqueline Hendry	JYH	Bassoon	DRSAM ARCM
Mr Alex Ho	AWH	Piano	BSc MMus (RCM) DipPP (RAM) LRAM
Ms Ildid Jones	ILJ	Oboe	BMus (Hons) PGDip
Mrs Jenny Maslin	JXM	Singing	BA (Hons) PGCE DipABRSM EFP MISM
Mrs Christa Owen	CUO	Alexander Technique	STAT qualified
Mr Jamie Rogers	JXR	Organ	MA DipRAM
Mr Andrew Saunders	AJS	Piano	BMus (Hons) MA DipABRSM LRAM
Mr Paul Smith	PAS	Piano	BMus PGCE ARCM LRAM
Mr Jean-Michel Sutcliffe	JMS	Guitar	BMus (Hons) TCM
Mr Lewis Turner	LXT	Guitar	FLCM LLCM PTTLES
Mr Eric Wang	HXW	Violin	BMus MMus MMP
Mr Tau Wey	TTW	Head of Keyboard	MA PGDip LTCL
Mr Tom Williams	TAW	Singer/Songwriter	MA (Oxon)
Mr Tomos Xerri	ETX	Harp	MMus BMus LTCL
Mrs Alice Yelf	AMY	Tuba/Euphonium	DipRCM (Teaching & Perf)

## Email addresses

To contact a member of staff, use the initials shown followed by @sevenoaksschool.org.  
For example, to contact Mr Dyer, email: [chd@sevenoaksschool.org](mailto:chd@sevenoaksschool.org)



# SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

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