



ST RICHARD REYNOLDS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

ST RICHARD REYNOLDS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
ST RICHARD REYNOLDS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

VIDETE BONA DOMINI

About the Music Department

St Richard Reynolds has both a Primary School (one form entry) and High School (six form entry) and is growing year-on-year to become a 4-18 school. Therefore our music staff are in the enviable position of delivering an all-through musical curriculum that develops throughout primary and secondary ages. The College's Music Specialism means pupils and instrumental staff benefit from extra support; the department comprises two music teachers (Miss Firman and Miss Williams), along with Miss Brimacombe as Music Specialism Support who works to develop the musical opportunities for our students. Miss Brimacombe also teaches piano and singing lessons; both are heavily over-subscribed.

The music provision is broad and celebrates many different styles of music, with teaching that draws on many approaches including those of Kodaly, Dalcroze and Musical Futures. Pupils at KS3 receive a weekly singing assembly, participate in sung Mass and sing within class music lessons (Year 7 receiving 2x music lessons per week). The department runs six choirs, a College Orchestra, Jazz Band and an Advanced Wind Ensemble. The College delivers approximately 10-15 concerts per year, ranging from instrumental recitals to larger scale concerts. The College performed 'Oliver' in 2016 and there is an annual Year 2 musical and Year 3 Passion Play. The music department runs trips approximately every two-three weeks; recent trips have included singing the Messiah at the Albert Hall, performing at the Rose Theatre, hearing chamber music at the Cadogan Hall and seeing *Wicked*. The department is constantly seeking new and varied opportunities for its students. Pupils have benefitted from a visiting professional string quartet, a gospel workshop, recording session at the Roundhouse Theatre and a trip to observe the Westminster Cathedral choirboys at rehearsal. All Year 3 pupils learn a string instrument and will continue learning their instrument throughout primary school to develop their technique and use their string playing to explore and understand other aspects of the music curriculum.

The College has strong links with its core feeder schools; pupils from feeder schools have performed with our primary students at the Rose Theatre, attended composition workshops at St Richard Reynolds, and more recently, joined forces with Year 7 and 8 pupils at the College to sing the gallery chorus for Britten's *St Nicolas*. Alongside teaching at St Richard Reynolds, Miss Firman and Miss Williams deliver all music teaching at St Elizabeth's, a core feeder school for the College.



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