

PERFORMING ARTS AT WADDESDON

Drama and Music are at the heart of our school life. From the wonderful music in morning assemblies to the outstanding annual school show, the Performing Arts are enjoyed by students both in formal curriculum time and in extra-curricular activities. A school without Music and Drama is a school without a soul. This vacancy provides the opportunity for the right candidate to work as part of a dynamic Performing Arts Department, teaching Drama across the curriculum from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 5 and contributing to the extra-curricular events and activities.

Both departments make an extremely valuable contribution to the social and cultural life of the school. This post will provide an exciting opportunity to build on the successes of the past and help shape the future for our young people through Drama and the Performing Arts.

Drama

Drama is a thriving subject area within the school and is extremely popular with students. Well supported and highly valued by the schools' Leadership & Management Team,



the department offers enthusiastic support for extra-curricular projects throughout the year. The regular production of school shows and the organisation of theatre visits make this a busy, vibrant department. Students respond positively to the high expectations that are set and this is reflected in their hard work and successes. All students in Year 7 and Year 8 have one lesson of Drama per week and are taught in form groups. Students make their GCSE choices at the end of Year 8 and Drama is a popular option, attracting many students each year. Two or three GCSE groups follow Eduqas Drama in Years 9, 10 and 11. At Key Stage 5, Edexcel Drama and Theatre Studies is also a popular course, appealing to students with an interest in the theatre and drama who wish to develop their knowledge and skills at A Level. Several students continue their interest at university and drama school.

Facilities include a purpose-built drama studio, fully equipped with a lighting and sound system, and a dedicated section of the school hall. The hall is equipped with an excellent lighting system, operated from a Zero 88 'Fat Frog' lighting desk, and the school owns a flexible staging system, making it possible to build a full stage with conventional proscenium arch, a theatre in the round, or any other configuration desired.

The Drama Department works very closely with the Music Department to achieve high standards of performance. The school production encourages impressive levels of participation, attracting casts and crew of up to 150. As interest in both Dance and Music is strong, the school has focused on musical theatre in recent years, with past shows including 'Cats', 'We Will Rock You', 'Oliver!', 'Guys and Dolls', 'High School Musical Junior', and most recently, 'Mary Poppins Junior'. Though standards are high, the culture of student involvement makes Drama a very inclusive subject across the school.

Music

Music attracts a wide range of talented musicians and singers and is a vital element of the school. Studying Music at Waddesdon provides pupils with the opportunity to express themselves through performing and composing activities, as well as develop their knowledge and appreciation of a range of styles. We believe that music learning is at its best when young people are making music, and when their existing passion for music is reflected and built upon in the classroom. As a Champion School for Musical Futures, we strive to engage all young people in meaningful, sustainable musical activities. We offer a varied approach to music education and employ a range of practical activities to give young people experience in both practical music making and music technology.

As with Drama, all students in Year 7 and Year 8 have one lesson of Music per week and are taught in form groups. Students make GCSE choices at the end of Year 8. At least one group follows OCR GCSE Music in Years 9, 10 and 11. At Key Stage 5, we offer the Pearson Level 3 BTEC in Music. The BTEC course helps to prepare students for life as a musician and gives a wider range of students the opportunity to pursue their musical talents and ambitions. The summer 'WaddFEST' music event has established itself as a yearly fixture and is organised by the Sixth Form students as part of their course. Performance is richly integrated into school life through other events including Christmas concerts, the Big Gig, and regular performances in assemblies. The Music team also play a vital role with Drama in the whole-school show.

The Music Department is well resourced with sufficient keyboards, ukuleles and tuned/un-tuned percussion for all Key Stage 3 students to have their own instrument for classroom music. The Department also has a large selection of electric and bass guitars and students can also work in practice rooms



equipped with drum kits. Music Technology is taught in a specialist room with iMac computers and during lessons pupils have access to several programs including Logic, GarageBand, Sibelius and MuseScore. Plans to build a recording studio are underway. Pupils have performed in several venues over the last few years including Jokela High School, Finland, Porvoo Cathedral, Finland, Stewkley Church, The Finnish Church, London, St Michael at the West Gate in Oxford, Quanton Church, Waddesdon Church, Waddesdon Village Hall and Waddesdon Village Primary School.

The department works closely with The Buckinghamshire Music Service to offer lessons to students both during the school day and up to 5.00pm in school. These include drums/percussion, brass, woodwind, strings, guitar, piano/keyboard lessons and voice. Included in the department's suite of extra-curricular activities are: Funk Band, A Cappella Vocal Group, Samba Band & Worship Band. The school and wider community benefit greatly from the high standard of performance and enjoyment found in making music at Waddesdon.

