



Some things  
for you to know...

# **The Music Department**

King Edward VI School  
2016-2017

## **Here is a quick guide to musical opportunities on offer to you at King Edward VI School:**

**Big Band** - is run by Miss Fouracre and Mrs Robinson. This popular band is on the look out for brass and sax players, pianists and percussionists. If you are into playing jazz styles and can read music then come along. Have a listen on a Thursday after school or have a chat with Miss Fouracre or Mrs Robinson if you think this could be for you.

**Chamber Ensembles** - over the course of the year there will be various high-quality chamber groups formed. Players are often booked to provide music for special occasions in and around Bury and for school concerts and events. These groups are mainly formed from our A Level and GCSE performers; speak to Mrs Robinson if you would like to play a part!

**Ex Silentio** - This is the longest standing choir and they have a lot of prestigious performance opportunities, not least the Regional and National Festivals of Music for Youth and St Paul's Cathedral, of late. It is open to all voices (Soprano, Treble, Alto, Tenor and Bass) and the choir sings a very broad repertoire. Entry is by audition; these will be advertised via the tutor bulletin. Please come along to a rehearsal to find out more from the choir's Musical Director, Mr Hayes.

**Jazz Group – Etymology** – this group is usually formed of, and run by, our more experienced 'jazzers'. They play regular high level gigs in and out of school and have taken part in the Regional Festival of Music for Youth Finals several times. Please see Mrs Robinson if you would like to become involved.

**Symphony Orchestra** – Conducted by Mrs Robinson, Symphony Orchestra plays a range of 'real' orchestral repertoire, and regularly performs in several world-class venues. If you play a stringed instrument at grade three or above then you are welcome to play in the school orchestra. The wind, brass and percussion players tend to be picked from our more experienced players - please do come and ask Mrs Robinson about this if you would like to be considered. Orchestra meets once a week on Tuesdays from 3.45-5pm.

**Open Mic Nights** – these are relaxed after school sessions that happen once a term to give anyone and everyone a chance to try out their favourite songs in front of a smaller audience. Bring a guitar, bring a backing track, bring your mates and perform whatever you want to...there may even be some performances from your favourite teachers!

**Band Jam** – if you are a rock guitarist, drummer, bassist, keyboard player or singer and would like to form a band then please come and make yourself known to Miss Fouracre. She will arrange for you to have some rehearsal space, time and equipment. This applies if you have formed a band already – she’s looking forward to hearing you.

**Wind Band** – this is for all wind and brass players, a pianist and also some percussionists. It doesn’t matter how long you have been playing – you will be looked after! The wind band is expertly run by Mrs Dexter Mills and they play a wide range of music including bluesy/jazzy numbers, film scores and well-known classics. They rehearse on Mondays after school from 3.45-4:30pm.

**Music Tech Club** – for anyone interested in composing or performing electronic music. This club happens on a Monday lunchtime and is run by Mr May, the school’s music technician. The club is open to anyone interested in having a jam on synthesisers, or creating some tunes on the departments Apple Mac computers. All abilities welcome!

**The Kingettes** – an all-girl group working in close harmony, The Kingettes perform modern classics in a variety of styles. If you are interested in performing in a small group and as a soloist, speak to Miss Fouracre to arrange an audition. The Kingettes is open to students in years nine and above.

**Eddie’s Instruments** – if you can make a noise on your instrument, come along! Eddie’s instruments is a fun ensemble for string, wind and brass players. We perform pieces in all sorts of styles, with a range parts suitable for beginners through to more experienced players. Bring your instrument and join us, no audition, just turn up.

**Eddie’s Voices** – come and sing with a big friendly choir who are full of life! Eddie’s voices perform pieces in a range of styles, and the group is open to all students in Year 7, 8 and 9. No need to audition, just bring your loudest voice!

## **Ensemble Attendance**

In order for our ensembles to be consistently successful, and to maintain high standards attendance must be high. Here at King Edward VI School members of our ensembles are dedicated and they commit to regular attendance. Weekly registers are kept, and if you need to miss a rehearsal for a valid reason (e.g. medical appointment) you must notify your ensemble leader either in person or via email at least **24 hours** in advance. If your attendance falls below 90% your ensemble leader will meet with you to discuss the reasons behind this, and work with you to find a solution.

# Extra-Curricular Timetable

	<b>Lunchtime 1:30 – 2:15pm</b>	<b>After School 3:45- 5pm</b>
Monday	<p>Music Tech Club <i>Mr May – B11</i></p> <p>Boys Vocal Group <i>Mrs Maclachlan – Crush Hall</i></p> <p>Little Band <i>Mrs Robinson - PAC</i></p>	<p>Wind Band <i>Mrs Dexter-Mills – Crush Hall</i></p> <p>Oliver! Vocals (Sept – Dec) <i>Miss Fouracre – PAC</i></p>
Tuesday	<p>Eddie’s Voices <i>Miss Fouracre - Crush Hall</i></p> <p>Accompaniment Skills workshop <i>Mrs Maclachlan - PAC</i></p>	<p>Symphony Orchestra <i>Mrs Robinson - PAC</i></p>
Wednesday	<p>Ex Silentio <i>Mr Hayes &amp; Mrs Maclachlan – Crush Hall</i></p> <p>Oliver! Soloists (Sept – Dec) <i>Miss Fouracre – PAC</i></p> <p>World Rhythms (Jan – July) <i>Miss Fouracre - PAC</i></p>	<p>Oliver! Band (Sept – Dec) <i>Miss Fouracre – PAC</i></p>
Thursday	<p>Eddie’s Instruments <i>Mrs Robinson – PAC</i></p> <p>The Kingette’s <i>Miss Fouracre - Crush Hall</i></p>	<p>Big Band <i>Miss Fouracre, Mrs Robinson PAC</i></p> <p>Advanced Strings <i>Mr Hird – Crush Hall</i></p>
Friday	<p>Theory Clinic <i>Mrs Robinson &amp; Mr Hayes – B3</i></p> <p>Band Jam <i>Miss Fouracre – Crush Hall</i></p>	<p>GCSE Music Booster biscuit class (Jan – June) <i>Mrs Robinson – B3</i></p>

## Concerts:

Throughout the school year the Music Department holds a series of concerts, ranging from chamber concerts and recitals to large-scale concerts featuring all of our ensembles. We are also fortunate enough to be regularly invited to perform in festivals, concert series and competitions around the country, and each year several new and exciting opportunities are offered to our ensembles. At the beginning of each term a letter containing details of that term's performance opportunities will be sent home and given out to ensemble members. This letter will have a reply slip attached for you to indicate your availability, and this represents a **firm commitment** to each concert or event.

If you would like to perform a piece in a concert, either as part of an ensemble that you have put together or as a soloist, see Mrs Robinson or Miss Fouracre in the music office and talk to us about your idea.

You are able to earn merits from playing in concerts. As long as your attendance in your ensemble has been regular, you will be awarded **10** merits per ensemble that you perform in. For example, if you perform in three school concerts in a year, and play in two ensembles in each (with good rehearsal attendance) you could earn **60 merits**.

## Dress code for concerts is ALL BLACK:

**Ladies:** black blouse or shirt tucked into a black skirt or tailored trousers. Black school skirts may be worn with black tights and black shoes. Alternatively ladies may wear a black knee-length or full-length dress, or equivalent top and skirt. Straps should be shoulder width (no spaghetti straps or visible underwear) and necklines should be suitably modest.

**Gentlemen:** black shirt (short or long sleeved) tucked into black tailored trousers with black shoes. Alternatively gentlemen may wear a black or dark grey suit with a white or black shirt. Ties are not necessary unless specified for particular events.

**Please note:** drainpipe / skinny trousers or leggings are not suitable for concert dress.

Some concerts or event may require school uniform to be worn; when required parents and ensemble members will be informed in the termly letter.

A small stock of black blouses and shirts in a range of sizes are held in the music office; these can be borrowed at a cost of £1 per concert. We ask that these are returned laundered. If you are interested in borrowing one for a concert please see Mrs Robinson.

## Concert Dates (so far):

<b><u>AUTUMN</u></b>	
Open Evening – <i>Orchestra, Big Band and Ex Silentio, Eddie's voices, Eddie's Instruments</i>	<b>Thursday 13 October</b>
Sixth form lunchtime recital, St Edmundsbury Cathedral	<b>Friday 14 October</b>
School's Remembrance Service, St Edmundsbury Cathedral – <i>Ex Silentio / Orchestra only</i>	<b>Friday 11 November</b>
Autumn Concert – <i>all ensembles</i>	<b>Tuesday 8 November</b>
Christmas lights switch on	<b>TBC (21 November last year)</b>
Sixth Form Open Evening – <i>Big Band, chamber ensembles, Etymology</i>	<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November</b>
Production – Oliver! – <i>cast and band</i>	<b>w/k commencing 5<sup>th</sup> December</b>
Christmas Celebration, St Edmundsbury Cathedral – <i>all ensembles</i>	<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>

<b><u>SPRING</u></b>	
Showcase – <i>GCSE students, Years 10 and 11</i>	<b>Tuesday 7 February</b>
Sixth Form Recital / Chamber Concert	<b>Tuesday 21 February</b>
Celebration of Schools Music Snape Maltings – <i>orchestra</i>	<b>TBC – second week of March</b>
Spring Concert – From Abbey Road to the Abbey Gate, An Evening with The Beatles – <i>all ensembles</i>	<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b>

<b><u>SUMMER</u></b>	
Bury Festival Choir – <i>Year 9 singers</i>	<b>TBC (16<sup>th</sup> May last year)</b>
Summer concert – <i>all ensembles</i>	<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July</b>
Dance show – <i>selected soloists</i>	<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July</b>

## **Instrumental / Singing lessons:**

If you have lessons in school it is expected that you take part in at least one ensemble, and that your attendance at lessons is regular (90% plus). If you need to rearrange your lesson for a valid reason (e.g. for an exam) then you must do this with your teacher **one week** in advance. If you need to miss your lesson altogether due to a valid reason (e.g. a school trip) then you must still notify your teacher **one week** in advance. If you do not, then you will lose the lesson and your parents will still be charged (with the exception of school notified illness).

If you miss a lesson without valid explanation your parents will be notified within 24 hours. If you miss two or more lessons in a term without valid explanation a meeting will be called and your lessons may be stopped.

It is very important that you are on time for your instrumental lessons. Please make sure you leave your subject lesson at least five minutes before the start of your instrumental / singing lesson. If you have not arrived within five minutes of the start of your lesson you will be sent for via the reception runners.

If you ever have any questions or queries about your instrumental / singing lessons, or need help in any way, do not hesitate to come and speak to Mrs Robinson in the music office, or email her on [LT@King-Ed.Suffolk.Sch.Uk](mailto:LT@King-Ed.Suffolk.Sch.Uk).

## **Looking after your and our instruments:**

At the start of term you will be told the codes for the two cupboards in the Music Department. These are kept locked so it would be sensible not to let others know the codes! We also advise that you make sure your instruments are insured.

The guitars and pianos in the department are generally available for music students to use but they must be treated carefully and be put away in their cases. Please remember that the music department is not a dining room!

**Above all - you are very welcome in the Music Department.**

**Come along and get involved in as many ensembles as you can.**

**We look forward to meeting you.**