



Music: Our DNA

Head of Department: Ms Breckon

At Bolingbroke we believe that all pupils are musical, and it is our purpose to teach, train and support these skills. As a result, our approach centres around **inclusivity**: the idea that every pupil has the best musical opportunities whatever their background. Our ever-changing teaching adapts to music that is relevant and real to the pupils of day, and encourages key skills of teamwork, leadership and independence.

Curriculum

The Music curriculum at Bolingbroke strives to give pupils a rounded experience of three key areas through a wide variety of musical cultures:

- *The Music Critic*: **Listening and Appraising** (developing pupils' listening skills through analysing music, as well as evaluating their own and others' work)
- *The Artist*: **Performance** (focusing on both solo and ensemble skills in both informal and formal settings)
- *The Writer*: **Composition** (creating music independently and in groups, through both performance and music technology)

Whether pupils are studying Key Stage 3, GCSE or A Level Music, these three strands are continually developed. We aim for this broad, stimulating curriculum to be both challenging and enjoyable for **ALL** pupils, and to equip them with the skills to succeed in further music education should they choose that path.

Instrumental Lessons For All

- In addition to our classroom Music curriculum, every Year 7 pupil at Bolingbroke receives group tuition in **Brass, Woodwind, Guitar or Voice**, as part of their weekly timetable. This unique scheme is completely **FREE** and enables **ALL** pupils to access a new musical instrument.
- Instrumental lessons give children the opportunity to:
 - dedicate themselves to a new skill (they try all 'pathways' before committing to one)
 - promote self-confidence through regular performance opportunities
 - learn how to practice effectively and independently
 - develop teamwork and leadership in ensemble work
- **ALL PUPILS** who receive these lessons take part in the Year 7 concert in the Summer Term, a culmination and celebration of all they have learnt that year.
- Pupils also have the chance to pay for instrumental tuition on a wider variety of instruments as part of our Instrumental Lesson Programme (ILP).

Extra Curricular Opportunities

- **Peripatetic lessons (ILP)**

- At Bolingbroke, we offer a peripatetic lesson programme delivered by a team of trained professionals that enables pupils to have access to tuition on the following instruments: trumpet, trombone, horn, violin, viola, cello, flute, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, oboe, voice, guitar, bass guitar, keyboard, drums.
- Pupils who sign up to these lessons receive ten 25-minute lessons (delivered during the normal school day) throughout the term. These lessons are timetabled carefully so that pupils don't miss too much of the same class throughout a term.
- These lessons can be taken up as solo lessons (1 to 1 tuition), or can also be taken up as group lessons (maximum 3 pupils of similar ability in a group) for a cheaper price.
- Music lessons at Bolingbroke are a way for pupils to:
 - further their tuition on an instrument previously studied (e.g. at Primary School, or in Year 7 lessons)
 - prepare for performances (Bolingbroke holds a number of concerts during the academic year)
 - improve their ability to practice independently (a very transferable skill)
 - take an ABRSM Grade exam (a qualification recognised by all education institutions)

- **Extensive enrichment programme**

- Our **extensive enrichment programme** offers pupils the opportunity to further their musical learning in a wide range of activities. Our gifted and talented pupils also have the opportunity to mix with other talented musicians as part of the 'FUSION' or 'ONE VOICE' initiatives run by ARK Schools.
- **Enrichments currently offered**
 - Senior Band - Junior Band – Woodwind Ensemble – Brass Ensemble - Guitar Ensemble - Rock School - African Drumming - Senior Choir - Bolingbroke Choir - Boys' Choir - Bolingbroke Belles A Cappella – Theory/Aural Class - KS4 Club - Sight Reading - Keyboard Club – Music Tech Club
- Music at Bolingbroke Academy is highly regarded in the community and our students are frequently invited to exclusive music events, such as performing at the switching on of the Christmas lights on Northcote Road. This year selected pupils took part in a very special new music project, 'Awake', where they met with and performed to individuals in local dementia wards.

- **Concert performances** are held every term, both in the school building and at venues in the local community.
- **The Musical Production** takes place every year in the Spring Term, and brings together the school's musicians, actors, artists and more in a fantastic sense of community. Previous productions include Bugsy Malone and Hairspray. The band is a mix of pupils and staff and is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to play West-end level music alongside professionals.
- **D of E** sessions on Friday afternoons explore selected areas of music in more detail, such as keyboard, ensemble (e.g. Jazz and Funk band) or music technology skills.
- **The Scholar and Apprentice Programme** is a prestigious scheme that identifies gifted and talented musicians at Bolingbroke and enables them to develop their musicianship further. Scholars and apprentices are given numerous performance and leadership opportunities throughout the year, including their own dedicated concert, and are mentored by a dedicated member of Music staff. Some scholars develop their leadership further by mentoring apprentices.