



# Music Department DNA

## **Courageous**

Pupils demonstrate courage through frequent performance opportunities both inside and outside of lessons. Risk-taking is embedded into our culture and we encourage bravery and celebrate effort as much as outcome. Performance opportunities range from in-class showcases, to regular concerts at the Academy and in local churches, to large-scale Ark and borough-wide performances in prestigious venues such as The Barbican and Royal Festival Hall, and everything in between!

## **Compassionate**

We teach compassion through celebrating music of many different cultures, developing pupils' awareness and appreciation of diversity through listening, performing and composing music from all around the world. We strive for people from all backgrounds to be represented in all we do, both in curriculum lessons and in wider opportunities. Having a diverse curriculum gives the students a breadth as well as a depth of knowledge, and an ability to appreciate music of other cultures, particularly those they may not be familiar with. Music is a safe space for students to take risks and express themselves openly whilst exploring their creativity and musical interests. We are encouraging of and compassionate towards one another's endeavours.

## **Community**

Music is integral to the way the school and its wider community come together. We have an extensive enrichment programme consisting of a number of school ensembles who are celebrated in regular concerts and assemblies, but also in the wider community. Whether it be singing at Clapham Junction station at Christmas, performing at a local care home, or Open Mic Nights at a local café, Bolingbroke has many longstanding links with the wider community through Music that we aim to continue. The annual school production epitomises community collaboration, linking all the Creative Arts alongside staff and parent volunteers, as well as our feeder primary schools who are invited to watch the matinee. We have strong links with our alumni, with a gap-year Music Technician, as well as many alumni returning to perform with the school production band, as well as coming back to support our annual music events.

## **Empowering Excellence**

Through Music we teach pupils to become independent learners and to take initiative and responsibility. Our instrumental lessons enable pupils to have 1:1 and small group tuition on a range of instruments with our highly skilled Music Tutors, with the opportunity to take music exams if they wish to. Our incredible Year 7 Instrumental Lesson Programme provides the opportunity for every Year 7 to learn an instrument for free, enabling pupils to dedicate themselves to a new skill, promote self-confidence through regular performance opportunities, commit to practising effectively and independently, and develop teamwork and leadership in ensemble work.

In class, we develop pupil leadership through frequent paired and group work, along with daily lunchtime and after school practice slots, whereby a number of soloists and ensembles have the opportunity to rehearse independently. Our most prestigious scheme demonstrating musical excellence and leadership is the Music Scholar and Apprentice Programme, which identifies gifted musicians and enables them to develop their musicianship and leadership further through a number of opportunities, including numerous performances, trips and visits, their own dedicated concert, and planning and delivering pupil rehearsals. Apprentices are mentored by a dedicated Scholar throughout the year.