

## **MUSIC MAKING AT SHREWSBURY**

We aim to give as many pupils as possible the opportunity to partake in the rich musical life of the school. There is something for all tastes, and starting a new school is a wonderful time to begin a new instrument or take up one that has been put to one side.

### **SINGING**

For those wishing to sing we offer several choirs, including the Chamber Choir and Chapel Choir, as well as the annual House Singing Competition and the opportunity to take part in one of the school's music theatre and productions. We believe in positive encouragement. We have a fine choral and solo singing tradition and are keen for more pupils to enjoy using their voices in whatever style they choose.

### **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

We hope to have as many pupils as possible actively playing in an ensemble. Making music in a group is fun, and we will endeavour to find the right standard for each individual. We hope you will soon fit in and enjoy being part of the various musical teams. Next year we will be running the following ensembles:

Symphony Orchestra, String Ensembles, Concert Band, Big Band, Jazz Band, Chamber Choir, Chapel Choir, String Quartets, Clarinet and Sax groups, Brass Ensemble, Percussion Group, Flute Ensemble, Junior Choir.

In addition, pupils also devise and run their own groups, and are able to rehearse using the excellent facilities within the Maidment Building where the Music School is housed. Pupils also run and perform in a series of Open Mic nights which encourage composing and performing in a contemporary styles.

### **TUITION**

Now is a good time to start a new instrument or take up an old one! Tuition can be arranged in all orchestral instruments and also on percussion, piano, organ, guitar (classical, electric and jazz), jazz piano and harp. We have four singing teachers; voice lessons are arranged on an individual basis. Coaching in Music Theory is also available by arrangement with the Music Faculty.

**We offer new pupils the chance to have one trial lesson free of charge on the instrument of their choice.** If you would like your son or daughter to benefit from this scheme, do please indicate on the form which instrument he or she would like to try, or contact Mrs Oliver direct.

All lessons are taught on a one to one basis and, during the year, our instrumental teachers will provide a complete course of at least 30 lessons. Pupils come for tuition both during academic lessons and at other times of the day or early evening. However, we do our best to ensure that only one 40-minute period is missed from any academic subject per half term, thus minimising the amount of academic work they might have to catch up on. In the large majority of cases lessons in academic time works perfectly well and should not be seen as a reason for not having lessons at Shrewsbury.

***Written permission is required for the commencement of music lessons and one full term's notice in writing is required by email to Mrs Oliver if a pupil wishes to discontinue lessons.***

### **PRACTICE AND ATTENDANCE**

Regular practice is essential to the enjoyment of playing and singing. Pupils are encouraged to practice either in the Music Faculty or boarding house.

Regular attendance at lessons is also absolutely vital, and we will let parents know when, and if, problems arise in this regard. If a pupil misses two lessons in a row we will let you know as a matter of course and hope that you will help reinforce the importance of regular attendance.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Contact between yourselves and the Music Faculty is essential to your son's/daughter's enjoyment of music. If you ever have queries regarding his/her musical studies here, please contact Stephen Williams (Director of Music) or Shelley Oliver (Music Department Administrator). We also encourage teachers to contact you, as appropriate, concerning your son's/daughter's progress. Do also feel it is appropriate to contact them directly.

We also look forward to welcoming you to some of the wonderful concerts, competitions and events on offer.