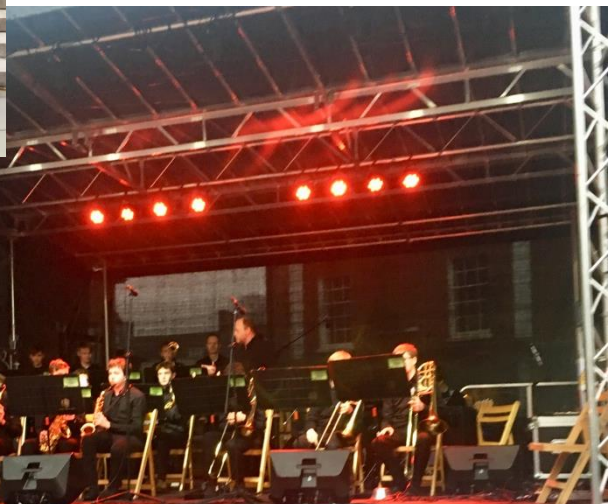
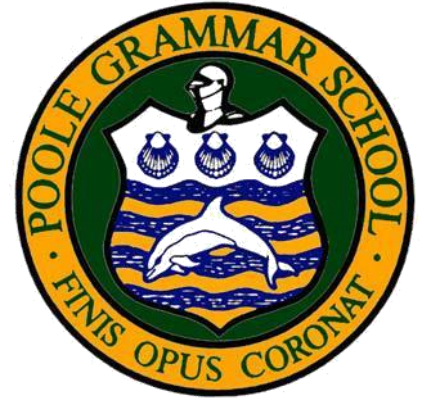
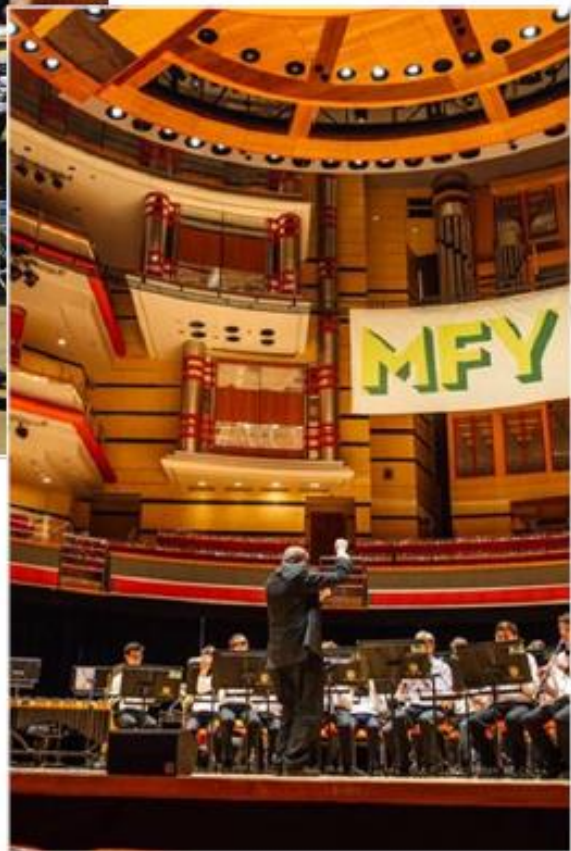


# Poole Grammar School Music Department 2023 - 2024







Dear New Students and Parents,

I am writing to inform you of the musical opportunities for your son in the Music Department here at Poole Grammar School. We normally have a very busy programme of activities, with many students in every year group involved in music making to a high standard. But we don't want music to be for the select few; we want it to be accessible, engaging and inspiring for all!

The Music Department has purpose-built accommodation in the Ashley Thorne Building, opened in 2010. Facilities include two music classrooms, two large music studios, five small practice studios and a recording studio. In addition, the Cleave Hall is a large multi-purpose performance space, shared with the Drama Department.

Many performances take place throughout the year at school and in the community. In the summers of 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2018, we were delighted that the PGS Concert Band, Senior Percussion Ensemble and Big Band were invited to the National Festival of Music for Youth, performing at Birmingham Conservatoire, the iconic Birmingham Symphony Hall and Birmingham Town Hall. Shortly before lockdown, the PGS Big Band played for the Christmas shoppers in Wimborne Square, for the switching-on of Christmas lights in December 2019. Now that things are back up and running after the pandemic we are setting our sights on new possibilities for the coming academic year!

There are many great opportunities for music-making in the school and we look forward to supporting your son's future musical progress. I do hope your son will enjoy the musical opportunities here.

I ask you to supply information to me at Poole Grammar School by completing the online Instrumental Tuition form. I am particularly keen to have accurate information regarding Instrumental Tuition, so that I can make the necessary staffing arrangements in good time.

Even if your son is not a specialist musician, his musical development is important to us. It is very useful for us to see students' previous musical experience so that we can give appropriate classroom opportunities, in addition to the extra-curricular ensembles. Please complete the online form for our Music Ensembles if you want to register an interest.

With many thanks and best wishes.

**N Bluck**  
**Head of Music Dept.**  
[bluckn@poolegrammar.com](mailto:bluckn@poolegrammar.com)



## Autumn Term 2023

### Arts Showcase

In September, the Music, Drama and Art departments will join forces to present an Arts Showcase. This is a great way to feature some of the talent here at Poole Grammar and inspire new students to get involved in arts activities.

### PGS Autumn Concert

Preparations for the Autumn Concert will take place in extra-curricular sessions during the Autumn Term. This concert will showcase the work of all our PGS Ensembles. This will include our re-launched PGS Voices. All parents and friends are most welcome.



### Poole & Parkstone Grammar Schools – We Will Rock You

We alternate the running of a major musical show, every other year, with Parkstone Grammar School. We take the lead this autumn with a production of We Will Rock You. This show features an array of Queen songs, spun around a futuristic storyline. It will feature a full cast and band – watch out for those guitar solos!

### Battle of the Bands

Following its enormous success last year, we will be holding another Battle of the Bands later in the autumn term. This will be preceded by an enormous amount of practice coming from the rooms of the Music Department. Tensions will build and aspirations will rise until the bands are finally unleashed onstage for that epic moment!

### Poole Schools' Music Association Christmas Concert

Musicians from Poole Grammar School join forces with students from Poole Schools to present an evening of festive music at Poole's Centre for the Arts, in the Lighthouse Concert Hall. We are looking forward to returning to this venue following the pandemic.

### PGS Christmas Festival Service

A regular event in our calendar is the annual Christmas celebration. PGS Voices, the Parent Staff Association Choir and instruments lead the music in a service of readings and carols at a nearby church (venue tbc).



## Spring & Summer Terms 2024

A variety of musical events takes place throughout the year, including workshops for students, joint concerts with Parkstone Grammar School and plenty of informal music-making around the Music Department!

## Music Ensembles

Those students having music tuition at the school also make a contribution to one or more ensembles, as appropriate. However, students having tuition out of school are equally welcome to participate in PGS Music Ensembles.

**Big Band** - Trumpeters, Trombonists, Saxophonists, Rhythm Section (drums, bass, piano, guitar) Grade 4 upwards

**Brass Ensemble** - Brass players, Grade 4 upwards.



**GCSE Workshop** - A weekly lunchtime session devoted to the support of students taking GCSE Music

**Jazz Band** - Wind & Brass players, Grade 2 upwards, plus rhythm section.

**Joint Concert Orchestra\*** – wind, brass, string and percussion players, Grade 2/3 upwards.

**Joint Orchestra\*** – wind, brass, string and percussion players of higher standard. Grade 4 upwards

\* Both these ensembles currently run at Parkstone Grammar School, so our students go down the road after school on a Tuesday to join forces with theirs, to work on a range of enjoyable music repertoire.

**Music Theory Club** - A free weekly lunchtime support session for those wanting to improve their understanding of Music Theory.

**Percussion Ensemble (Junior)** - Any percussionists and keyboard players.

**Percussion Ensemble (Senior)** - Percussionists and keyboard players, grade 5 upwards.

**PGS Voices** - All welcome.

**PSA Voices** - All adult singers, parents and friends, are invited to come and sing. No previous experience is necessary, just enthusiasm and commitment. Some long-standing members of the PSA Voices have sons who left the school some time ago! A great opportunity to become part of the Music community at Poole Grammar School.

**Saxophone Ensemble** - Saxophonists, Grade 4/5 upwards.

All students are encouraged to participate fully in the musical life of the school, through membership of one or more of these Ensembles. Regular attendance is expected as a commitment – so that Music Department staff can help students achieve the highest standards.

**Music Studio Bookings** - There are plenty of opportunities for students to get involved in informal music making in the Music Department; depending on Music Tuition in progress at any time, some of the Music Studios may be available to book at lunchtimes and after school.

## Instrumental/Vocal Tuition

We have an excellent offering of instrumental and vocal tuition, with very experienced (and friendly) staff.

Tuition is offered to pupils on the following instruments:

**Keyboard instruments - Piano, Keyboard, Organ**

**Strings - Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass**

**Woodwind - Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Saxophone**

**Brass - Trumpet, Cornet, Horn, Trombone, Tuba**

**Guitar - Classical Guitar, Electric Guitar, Bass Guitar**

**Percussion - Drum Kit, Orchestral Percussion**

**Voice**



Lessons are of 20 or 30 minutes duration and given on an individual basis. There are 30 lessons per year. Music Theory tuition is offered free, as a lunchtime activity.

### Music Tuition Fees (2023-2024)

12 x 20-minute lessons - £180 / 12 x 30-minute lessons - £240 (Autumn Term)

10 x 20-minute lessons - £150 / 10 x 30-minute lessons - £200 (Spring Term)

8 x 20-minute lessons - £120 / 8 x 30-minute lessons - £160 (Summer Term)

Prices will be reviewed on an annual basis and may be subject to change.

If you would like your son to have musical instrument lessons, please click the link below to register as soon as possible. This will allow us time to get the necessary staff in place. There is also a link to see our Terms and Conditions – Rolling Contract.

[Link to Tuition Registration Form](#)

[Link to Terms and Conditions – Rolling Contract](#)

Once your son's music tuition arrangements have been confirmed, the school Finance Office will invoice you for payments to be made via ParentPay. Those students registered for Free School Meals are eligible for a reduction in music tuition fees through the Pupil Premium. Please ask the Finance Department for details via email: [Finance@poolegrammar.com](mailto:Finance@poolegrammar.com).

**Instrumental Hire** may be available, please contact the Music Administrator for details.

**IMPORTANT - PLEASE ask expert advice, BEFORE buying any instrument.** Our Music Tutors here are happy to offer advice on this, if you wish, when they meet your son for lessons.

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**For more details about the music department please contact Neville Bluck, Head of Music:**  
[bluckn@poolegrammar.com](mailto:bluckn@poolegrammar.com).

**For more details about instrumental/vocal tuition please contact Karen French, Music Curriculum Support:**  
[PGS\\_Music@poolegrammar.com](mailto:PGS_Music@poolegrammar.com).