

Homework expectations for pupils and parents – Music

The Music Department supports the principles and guidelines contained within the Tring School Home Learning Policy.

At **KS3** there is no regular formal homework requirement. The greatest proportion of lessons are of a practical nature and by setting homework along these lines we would be putting many students who do not have access to a musical instrument in a disadvantaged position.

However homework will be set at key points throughout key stage 3 to reinforce and embed classroom learning. This will be clearly labelled in schemes of work so that it is set consistently across the year group but will be tailored to meet the needs of all students. Homework will relate specifically to the aural and appraisal area of the specification and will often focus on the reinforcement of notation skills or of key features of a particular area of music studied during listening lessons.

At **KS4** homework is a regular requirement as part of the both the GCSE course and the new BTEC course and will be frequently set. Homework will target the three main areas of the specifications.

- In performance this will include regular practise and preparation for performances on the individuals solo or ensemble instrument. This will be monitored by the use of detailed practise diaries.
- In composing students will be asked to develop compositional ideas or rehearse final performances of their composition. Much of this is time consuming work and students may need to use the school facilities particularly when accessing the software programme 'Sibelius' which is available both in the learning centre and B23.
- Listening and appraising homework will often take the form of extended research work or the embedding of key facts and features from curriculum time.

At **KS5** homework is an essential requirement of both the AS / A2 course and the new BTEC course and will be frequently set. Homework will again target the three main areas of the specifications.

- In performance this will include regular practise and preparation for performances on the individuals solo or ensemble instrument. This will be monitored by the use of detailed practise diaries.
- In composing students will be asked to develop compositional ideas or rehearse final performances of their composition. Much of this is time consuming work and students may need to use the school facilities particularly when accessing the software programme 'Sibelius' which is available both in the learning centre and B23.
- History, listening and analysis homework will most often take the form of extended research or extended examination style essay answers. Throughout the course students will be asked to complete listening exercises independently and work in timed conditions for homework tasks.

Use of specialist equipment

The department will operate a booking system for the use of specialist equipment during mornings and evenings.

The equipment is available to book at the following times

Monday – Friday: 8am and 8:30am

Tuesday: 5pm to 6:30pm

Wednesday: 5pm to 6:30pm

Any student wishing to book the specialist equipment must book this directly with Mrs Wood and sign into and out of the department at the music office for these sessions.