

The music department at St. Philip Howard Catholic Voluntary Aided Academy occupies one classroom and four practice rooms in the main building.

The department is well resourced with keyboards, tuned and un-tuned percussion, guitars and drums (including African drums).

We also have a set of laptops equipped with 'Sibelius' to support GCSE composing tasks.

The curriculum is based around half-termly units and covers themes and styles such as:

- Gamelan
- Melody writing
- Tonality
- Chords
- Ragtime
- Compound time
- Gospel
- Ground bass
- 5 time
- Singing
- Musical structure
- The baroque period
- Samba

The majority of the classroom work is practical so that students discover musical styles and techniques as performers and composers. This is supported by listening activities where students can identify the same techniques in recorded music.

Students who have instrumental lessons obviously have an advantage in classroom music, but the classroom course is so wide ranging that instrumentalists will gain much from it, and students with limited musical experience are catered for.

The GCSE course follows the AQA specification and is designed to develop composing and performing skills and widen listening skills. It lays the foundation for further musical training but is complete in itself to equip young people who would like to pursue music as a hobby.

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Trumpet/cornet
- Piano
- Drum-kit
- Guitar

The instrumental teachers are self-employed, and details about costs and arrangements are best answered by the instrumental teacher.

If your child is interested in learning to play a musical instrument we will pass on details of the instrumental teacher to you so that you can make contact directly.