



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Guide for musicians and those wishing to get involved
in music at Caterham School

2025/2026



Music at Caterham School celebrates tradition and inspires creativity

The Music Department is a busy and vibrant department at Caterham School. We host a number of concerts of all types; Chamber and soloist recitals, Musical Theatre Evenings, choral performances including services, large-scale orchestral concerts, informal and intimate Live Lounge acoustic sessions and much more. Choir tours abroad and around the UK, trips to performances, a range of visiting masterclasses and participation in community events, competitions and charity events add to the opportunities on offer. Additionally, we actively promote the creation of new music and support musical composition and the art of sound recording and engineering.

Please visit www.caterhamschool.co.uk/co-curricular/music/ for a wealth of information about the Music Department in general.

FOR EXISTING MUSICIANS

Individual music lessons: Visiting Music Teachers (VMTs) will publish lesson times in advance on SOCS. If a pupil is required to miss an academic lesson, they should let their academic teacher know in-person or via email with at least 48 hours' notice. Pupils are withdrawn from their normal timetabled academic lessons on a rotational basis. Sixth Form pupils, any pupils receiving tuition on more than one instrument or pupils already missing class time for study support will where possible, have their lessons in free periods, lunchtimes or before/after school. These fixed lesson slots are limited and therefore cannot be offered to pupils unless they meet these criteria. The same applies to those pupils who learn an instrument and have LAMDA lessons. If a pupil is unable to attend a music lesson due to exams, sports events, trips, etc. or any other planned absence, they should please let their VMT know at least 24hrs in advance. As per the contract you have agreed with the VMT, without the required notice parents may be charged for lessons missed. Reports are written annually.

Musical instrument insurance: It is strongly advised that parents take out insurance for their child's instrument. This may be possible as part of home insurance policies (but this should be confirmed). For specific musical instrument insurance providers such as [Allianz](#) will offer specialist cover.

Instrument storage: All instruments must be stored in the storage room in the Dance Studio (ground floor of the Performing Arts Centre). Pupils must not leave instruments in corridors or classrooms. They should see a member of the music team to be given the code for the storage room. Pupils' instrument cases and music folders should always be clearly labelled with their name and tutor group.

Ensembles and rehearsals: The Music Department runs a busy schedule of rehearsals throughout the school week offering a full range of vocal and instrumental ensembles.

Inclusive Ensembles / Groups: We encourage pupils of all standards and abilities to participate in ensemble playing and singing. There is an expectation that members of all ensembles are committed, attend rehearsals regularly, and hold a high standard of rehearsal etiquette.

Auditioned / 'Invitation Only' Ensembles / Groups: there are particularly high expectations with regards to attendance, punctuality and preparation. Maturity towards the rehearsal etiquette and performances as well communication with the ensemble leader is also expected. Pupils may ask to audition for these ensembles, or they may be invited to do so, with or without an audition. Details of the audition will be sent to individuals in advance. Pupils may be expected at additional rehearsals that may take place at weekends or evenings in preparation for performances. Pupils in choirs may be invited to participate in trips and concert tours abroad. Ensemble leaders reserve the right to review a pupil's place in the ensemble based on attendance and/or progression.

Music priority: Ensemble rehearsals take priority over other activities at the following times:

- Monday after school
- Thursday lunchtime
- Monday-Friday before school

If a pupil is a member of an ensemble that rehearses during these times and a clash arises, they should speak to a member of the music team.

CO-CURRICULAR SCHEDULE

	Inclusive Ensembles	Auditioned/ 'Invitation Only' Ensembles	
Instrumental Ensembles	Flute Choir Monday 12.55pm – 1.30pm (Fairmanner Room) Minimum standard: approx. Grade 4 Leader: Miss Goodsir (VMT)	Zheng Piano Trio Monday 8.00am – 8.40am (Wilberforce Hall) Leader: Mr Hall	Instrumental Ensembles
	Symphony Orchestra Monday 4.00pm – 5.30pm (Humphreys Theatre) Minimum standard: Grade 5 Leader: Dr Brammeld	First Year Trio Monday 8.00am – 8.40am (Fairmanner) Leader: Dr Brammeld	
	Lower School Orchestra Monday 4.00pm – 5.30pm (Dance Studio) Mixed repertoire including classical and film. Open to all 1 st and 2 nd year orchestral musicians. Leader: Mrs Richards	String Quartet Monday 1.20pm – 2.00pm (Fairmanner Room) Leader: Mrs Richards	
	Saxophone Ensemble Wednesday 12.55pm – 1.45pm (Fairmanner Room) Mixed repertoire Minimum standard: approx Grade 4 Leader: Dr London (VMT)	Clarinet Quartet Monday 1.30pm – 2.10pm (Fairmanner Room) Leader: Dr Brammeld	
	Swing Band Thursday 1.30pm – 2.10pm (Fairmanner Room) Jazz/Blues/Swing Minimum standard: approx. Grade 4 Leader: Dr Brammeld	Amadeus Piano Trio Tuesday 8.00am – 8.40am (Fairmanner Room) Leader: Dr Brammeld	
	Film Orchestra Friday 12.55pm – 1.45pm (Humphreys Theatre) Concert orchestra instrumentation Minimum standard: Grade 5 Leader: Mrs Richards	Bridge Piano Trio Tuesday 1.30pm – 2.10pm (Fairmanner Room) Leader: Dr Brammeld	
		Consort Thursday 1.15pm – 2.10pm Friday 4.00pm – 5.45pm (Dance Studio) Strings, limited woodwind/brass and continuo. Baroque & Early Classical repertoire Leader: Mr Hall	

CO-CURRICULAR SCHEDULE

	Inclusive Ensembles	Auditioned/ 'Invitation Only' Ensembles	
Vocal Ensembles	Vocalpoint Wednesday 12.55pm – 1.45pm (Wilberforce Hall) Upper voices Mixed repertoire (pop, musical theatre, film) Leader: Mr Assen	Chamber Choir Monday 4.00pm – 5.45pm Friday 8.00am – 8.40am (Wilberforce Hall) Mixed Voice Choir (SATB) Sacred / Classical Leaders: Mr Assen / Mr Hall	Vocal Ensembles
	Close Harmony Thursday 8.00am – 8.40am (Wilberforce Hall) Lower/changing voices Mixed repertoire (pop, musical theatre, film) Leader: Mr Assen	Vocal Group Tuesday 12.55pm – 1.45pm (Wilberforce Hall) Small vocal ensemble Mixed repertoire (jazz, folk, pop, sacred, classical) Leader: Mr Assen	
Other	Performance Practice Monday 12.55pm – 1.45pm Thursday 8.00am – 8.40am (Wilberforce Hall / Dance Studio) Coaching for concerts/confidence building Leader: Mr Hall	ETS Wednesday 8.00am – 8.40am Thursday 12.55pm – 1.45pm (Wilberforce Hall) Upper-Voice Choir (chapel choir) 1 st -3 rd Year - Sacred / Classical Leaders: Mr Assen / Mrs Flanagan	Other
	Music Theory Session Friday 8.00am – 8.40am (Fairmanner Room) Leader: Dr Brammeld	Music Coursework Tuesday 4.15pm – 5.30pm Thursday 4.15pm – 5.30pm (Music Technology Suite) GCSE and A Level music pupils Leaders: Department staff	
	Music Theory Drop-in Friday 12.55pm-1.30pm (Fairmanner Room) Leader: Dr Brammeld	Academic Support Wednesday 1.30pm – 2.10pm Friday 1.30pm – 2.10pm (Music Technology Suite) GCSE and A Level music pupils Leader: Mr Hall	

- ❖ All ensembles/groups are open to pupils of all years unless otherwise specified
- ❖ If you are interested in one of the Auditioned / 'Invitation Only' ensembles you should speak to the member of staff (leader) in charge.

CONCERTS

In general, evening concerts at Caterham School begin at 7.00pm with rehearsals on the day taking place after school from 4.00pm. Occasionally, rehearsals will begin earlier in the afternoon. Pupils are usually expected back at the concert venue at 6.30pm when refreshments are served to parents/guardians/families. If pupils require dinner before an evening performance, it is usually possible to book this on Wisepay, by midday, the day before the performance at the latest. For some events, dinner will be provided.

Normally, concert dress is smart, 'all-black' appropriate for formal concerts: plain black long-sleeved shirts and plain black trousers/skirts/dresses of an appropriate length (not bare shoulders). Shoes should be smart black and worn with black socks or tights. Should this dress code differ, pupils will be informed with plenty of notice. Hair should always be tidy and presentable.

We regularly use St John's Church in Caterham as an extension of our facilities. Parents may be asked to drop off/collect from the church and arrangements may differ from a normal 'in house' rehearsals or concerts. On occasion, pupils may walk to/from St John's Church.

Further information about concerts and events will be emailed to pupils and parents nearer the time and will include specific details.

Signing up for concerts: Invitations for pupils to perform in forthcoming concerts and events are usually announced in the school's weekly newsletter- please look out for these announcements. Once a month, an informal concert (Twilight Concert) is held in the Wilberforce Hall at 5.15pm. This is open to performers of any age or ability. A sign-up sheet for the forthcoming term's concerts is displayed outside the music office.

OTHER INFORMATION

Practice rooms: If pupils wish to practise their instrument during the school day, they should check with a member of the music team to find an available room. Boarders have an allocated practice time where they have access to the practice rooms, which is 4.00 – 6.00pm, seven days a week (excluding exeats and holidays). There is a code of conduct clearly displayed in each room and pupils must adhere to this.

Music Theory: Should a pupil need to have theory support in preparation for an exam, the department is pleased to offer sessions for grades 1-5 on Fridays (see schedule). In addition, some VMTs will offer individual theory lessons charged at their usual lesson rate. For advice on entering theory exams (online) please contact Dr Brammeld (Head of Instrumental Music).

Music exams and accompanying: Should a pupil wish to take an Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) or Trinity Musical Theatre music exam in school, the VMT will apply on their behalf. Should a pupil who learns outside school wish to take an exam in school, please contact Mrs Clark (Music Administrator), who may be able to arrange this for you. Official certificates from the exam boards can be requested and will incur a charge which will be added to your school bill. Should the exam require an accompanist, a VMT will be able to provide this at a charge and rehearsals will be arranged accordingly.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Should you wish to contact a member of the music staff directly, please use the following addresses:

Mr Adam Assen, Director of Music
adam.assen@caterhamschool.co.uk

Mrs Helena Richards, Assistant Director of Music
helena.richards@caterhamschool.co.uk

Mr Tristan Hall, Head of Academic Music
tristan.hall@caterhamschool.co.uk

Dr Chris Brammeld, Head of Instrumental Music
christopher.brammeld@caterhamschool.co.uk

Mrs Sara Clark, Music Department Administrator
sara.clark@caterhamschool.co.uk

Music Enquiries: music.enquiries@caterhamschool.co.uk | Telephone: 01883 335039

FOR THOSE WISHING TO GET INVOLVED IN MUSIC

All pupils can benefit from the many wonderful experiences that being a musician can offer and it is well proven that music is excellent for general wellbeing.

There are many ways to get involved in music for example:

- Learning a musical instrument or learning to sing: submit a [form \(available from the website\)](#) Almost all instruments are taught here at school. Some instruments may be available to hire (at a charge)
- Being a member of one of the many instrumental ensembles or choirs
- Attending concerts that run throughout the year
- Participating in House Music/House Song
- Creating or joining a band
- Making use of our recording facilities
- Writing songs, composing music for film

Please visit <https://www.caterhamschool.co.uk/co-curricular/music/> for additional information on what the Music Department has to offer.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Information and details of concerts are regularly shared on our social media platforms. We can be found on Instagram and YouTube and use the tags @caterhammusic.

