



ST EDMUND'S COLLEGE MUSIC SCHOOL



Schola Cantorum performing in Madrid



Senior Musicians with our College
accompanist: *Hertford Parish Church*

Music is central to the life at the College and is an integral part of our daily educational and liturgical routine. The Music School seeks to ensure every student's musical experience and contribution is valued, with a curriculum accessible to all through performance, the appreciation of music, composing and music production.

Extra Curricular Music

The musical life of the school is enhanced by the extra-curricular activities that take place outside normal lessons. The school has a large choir (Schola Cantorum), a Senior Choir, Orchestra, Jazz Band, Guitar Ensemble, String Ensemble and a number of Wind groups. We also run a Sixth Form Music Society, Music Technology club and Rock Band. We hold a number of concerts, recitals and contribute to Mass and other services throughout the year. Our Live Lounge series, which takes place in the College Coffee Shop, celebrates acoustic performances in a more relaxed environment. We regularly tour with the Choir and Orchestra, examples being a tour to Madrid in 2017 and singing with graduates from St Edmund's, Oxford in Pontigny Abbey in France. We have just completed our 450th anniversary celebrations, which included a Summer Music Festival where our Rock group performed alongside professional artists on the main stage and in the acoustic tent. Schola were central to the success of the College 450th Masses, held at Westminster Cathedral and in Douay, France. Our annual productions at the Broxbourne Theatre, have included *Hairspray*, *Les Miserables* and *Starlight Express*. In 2018 we had students go on to study at the Purcell Specialist Music School (violin), The East London Music Academy (drumming) and an organ scholarship at Cambridge University. We have a number of students who have achieved Diploma standard.

Our 450th Anniversary Summer Festival 2018



Resources and Rooming

The Music School is an historic building, fully refurbished in 2017. It boasts a large Recital room, which also acts as a classroom and rehearsal space. The Recital room has Steinway Grand piano, as does the school hall. There is a second classroom and an A Level Music room, both fitted out with PCs running Sibelius and Cubase Pro9 software with USB audio and midi interfaces. We have a recording studio, (installed in 2017) with a vocal/ instrumental booth and connection into a larger recording space. There are a number of peripatetic teaching rooms, with over 200 students receiving instrumental vocal tuition each week. We are fortunate to have small classes timetabled in the lower school and are resourced with a range of band instruments, enough for every student to learn independently. We teach the AQA Specification at GCSE and A Level.

Central to the College is a large Pugin Chapel, providing a beautiful setting for Mass, Morning Prayers and concerts, such as the Carol Concert. The Schola Cantorum perform a Requiem each year with students taking solo parts. Our Classical vocal teacher and College accompanist provide invaluable support and additional leadership of this large choir, as required.