



**DIXONS CITY
PERFORMING
Arts**

The background of the cover is a photograph of a school performance. A large group of students in white shirts and dark trousers are performing on a stage. A teacher or adult is also visible, gesturing towards the students. The stage is lit with blue and purple lights. In the foreground, the silhouettes of an audience are visible, some holding up phones to record the performance.

Performing Arts Prospectus 2025/26

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Music Staff

Polly Johnston— Head of
Performing Arts, Drama
Teacher



Joshua Hart— Head of
Music



Tamsin Rafnsson, Teacher of
Music, Director of Music for
Dixons Academies Trust



A Note from the Head of Department

At Dixons City Academy we have a wide range of groups and ensembles ranging from beginners and intermediate to advanced performance levels. In addition to this many of our ensembles and soloists participate in local and national external Performances,

Each year the department receives funding through the Academy Trust. This, coupled with the parental contributions we receive annually, enables us to provide a Peripatetic Service of exceptionally high standards.

The music department is housed in 'A' block where we have three large classrooms adequately equipped with technology which can be utilised in lessons, including up-to-date music composing software and Interactive Whiteboards. In addition to this, we have six smaller practice rooms where our peripatetic staff teach throughout the week and a state of the art Performing Arts Theatre where we host our concerts and performances.

There are lots of opportunities available for students to participate in the music department and with nearly 140 involved, we feel it is essential for you to know what is on offer as you venture into your life at the Academy. To that end, this prospectus has been designed as an introduction to the Peripatetic Service in the Academy and should provide you with all the essential information you require whilst considering whether or not you would like to take up instrumental lessons including; how to register for lessons and extra-curricular music activities, Information on concerts and on the Peripatetic Staff.

Our commitment is not just to the individual peripatetic lessons but also to the delivery of high quality ensemble musical experiences that equip our students with valuable life skills as well as the essential music making skills required of a professional musician.

I hope you will find the prospectus interesting and informative and that it will help you and your child in the selection of an instrument.

Joshua Hart— Head of Music

The Peripatetic Service

A peripatetic music teacher is a person who is an expert in one instrumental area. Generally, these include Brass, Guitar, Voice, Keyboard, Percussion, Strings and Wind Instruments. The person is often a freelance professional musician who travels to different schools and colleges to teach a selection of students the instruments which fall into their expertise.

The lessons provided at Dixons City Academy cover:

Brass (Trumpet / Cornet / Trombone/ Euphonium)

Saxophone

Flute

Clarinet

Electric Guitar and Electric Bass

Drums

Strings (Violin / Cello)

Keyboard / Piano

Singing

Musical Theory

These lessons are provided by the same visiting peripatetic teacher on a weekly basis.



Meet the Peripatetic Teachers

Jane Bryan CT ABRSM, LRSM – Flute and Theory of Music Tutor

As well as teaching the flute and theory of music at Dixons, I also teach at Bradford Grammar School and Malsis Independent School. I have been teaching for over twenty years and previously worked at Woodhouse Grove School, Ilkley Grammar School, Beckfoot and Salt Grammar Schools. I am currently principle flute with the Yorkshire Wind Orchestra and also work as a freelance musician for various local ensembles. I also teach privately at home and I teach at St John Fisher Catholic High School in Harrogate.



Dave Brons BA. (Hons) – Guitar and Bass Tutor

Dave Brons teaches modern rock guitar, or "stunt guitar", as he likes to call it. He composes and tours with the B3 Guitar Virtuoso group. He also runs a Guitar tuition Youtube channel and the "Guitarist Survival" Blog.

For full details of Dave's music and news go to www.davebrons.com



Meet the Peripatetic Teachers

David Hogan – Clarinet/Brass Tutor

At DCA I teach clarinet and brass as well as direct ensembles and deliver tutorials in composition for GCSE students. In addition to this, I write musical arrangements for the school's bands, especially any show band, the concert band and smaller ensembles. I am a brass and woodwind specialist and teach, record, and perform on a broad range of instruments. Recent teaching posts include the University of Huddersfield in which I tutored composition and conducting. I regularly perform throughout the UK and Italy with a variety of musical acts and groups.



Alison Rignall BMus. (Hons) LRAM – Violin Tutor

Since I was appointed tutor of violin at the Academy in 2011, I've built up a thriving group of violinists in the department. I have been teaching the violin for over twenty years with experience of teaching from beginner to degree level. I am also the upper string tutor at Bingley Grammar School. Also, I have a busy performing career, being a member of the Ariana String Quartet and I play freelance with various professional orchestras.



Meet the Peripatetic Teachers

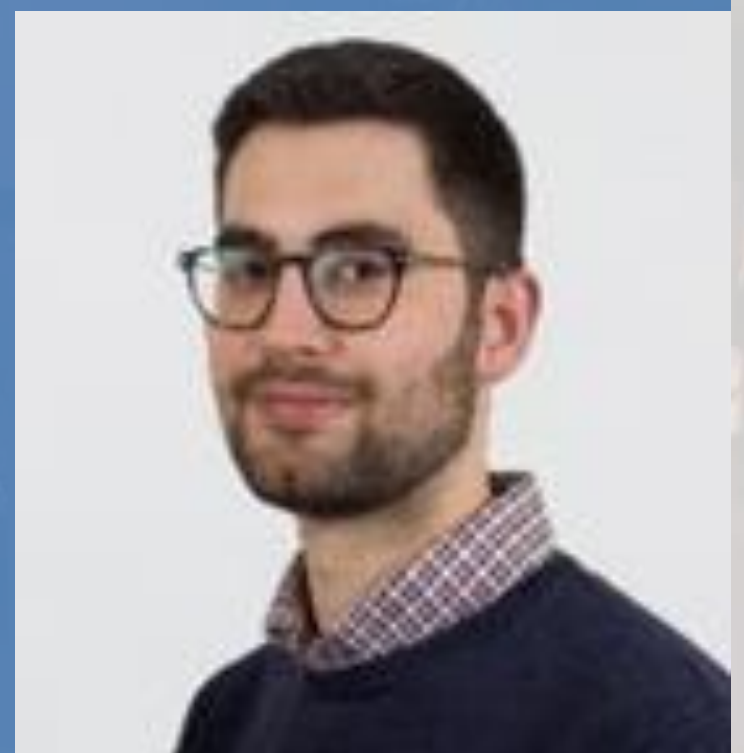
Tom Durrans - Drum Tutor

I have enjoyed playing the drums for over 20 years, and love teaching different styles such as rock, metal, pop, funk, and jazz from beginner to advanced. I have experience playing in numerous bands. My original band has played many venues / festivals, these include selling out the Leeds and Newcastle 02 Academies as well as having success on radio and Spotify. My function band currently plays many weddings and events up and down the country.



Kosmas Kostoulas BMus MMus - Piano / Keyboard Tutor

I teach Piano and Keyboard from beginner to advanced level at DCA as well as being a piano tutor at the Bloxham School, Dixons McMillan Academy and the Aura Music Academy. Last but not least, I also have a busy performing career often performing solo music in concerts and playing in ensembles. My teaching style focuses on a spherical approach to music and includes various music genres from classical to rock and jazz. I deeply believe that every student should be given the opportunity to express themselves through music.



Meet the Peripatetic Teachers

Bethany Gregory BA.(Hons) – Vocal Coach

I am an ex-DCA student and now an experienced singing teacher working all over Yorkshire. I trained in Professional Musical Theatre performance and graduated with a first class degree. I regularly work as a professional vocalist in the North, with my most recent credit being Principal Vocalist in “The Annual Yorkshire Christmas Spectacular.” I am a lecturer of Voice at Leeds Conservatoire, providing voice training to the BA Musical Theatre and Acting students, and the MA Musical Theatre students. I prepare training performers for the professional musical theatre industry upon graduation. I am the Principal of Upstagers Academy in Ilkley, providing extensive triple threat musical theatre training to young people for the last 3 and a half years.



Student Standard	Time allocated per week (Individual lessons)	Parental contribution per term
Beginner to Grade 3	20 minutes	£73.00
Grade 4 & 5 or GCSE Music Student	30 minutes	£86.00
Grade 6	40 minutes	£100.00
Grade 7 or 8	50 minutes	£110.00
Theory Students	30-minute group lesson	£30.00

In addition to the above individual lessons, we also offer some paired lessons. This would mean that you would share a lesson with someone of a similar standard and could also potentially work on duets. Obviously individual lessons are going to help a student progress faster on an instrument because they will get more individual attention and the lesson really can be tailored specifically to their needs; the paired lessons may be suitable for new starters who are unsure of whether they will settle into lessons and would like to minimise the initial cost of lessons until a time when they feel they have fully settled into lessons and would like to make faster progress.

Beginner to Grade 3	Paired 20-minute lesson	£45.00
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It is recommended that once students are working towards Grade 5 or GCSE that they consider switching to individual lessons. This can be discussed with their peripatetic tutor or the Head of Department.

Paired lessons will be subject to the availability of another student of a similar standard to pair up with. If this is not possible then the student may have an individual lesson of half the usual length or may have a full length lesson every alternate week for the price of a paired lesson until a suitable partner is available e.g. 20 minutes every other week.

Financial Support and Free Lesson Provision

We want to make sure that the music tuition is available for as many students as possible and if you wish your child to undertake a peripatetic lesson but might struggle with the financial commitment, please call the school office to discuss options such as instalment payments. Students who are also recipients of Free School Meals or other funding, such as Pupil Premium, can also receive financial support towards lessons. Under this provision, we will supply weekly paired lessons, a free instrument and access to participating in high quality ensembles. In order to maximise the outcomes from this provision we would expect all students accessing these lessons to show the appropriate attitude towards lessons. This will include regular attendance at lessons, regular practice at home and attending an ensemble as and when indicated by their tutor that they are ready to do so. This expectation will be monitored by the Head of Department and failure to meet the desired level of attendance and practice or an unwillingness to participate in ensembles will result in withdrawal of the free lesson provision.

Performing Arts Placement lessons

If a student has a place at DCA through a successful Performing Arts Placement audition, they are entitled to one free paired instrument lesson on a woodwind or brass instrument. These students may then choose to upgrade their lesson from a paired to an individual lesson at half the usual price listed in the table above (e.g. £36.50 to upgrade their free paired 20-minute lesson to an individual 20-minute lesson). A single additional instrumental or singing lesson beyond this will be charged at the discounted rate as seen above. Any further will be charged at full price. This free lesson is provided under the agreement of regular attendance from the student as usual and will be rescinded if the student is not meeting the stated expectations (see section on Attitude to Lessons later in this booklet.)

Extra-Curricular Music

It is recommended that, if a student is learning an instrument, then they should attend the ensemble appropriate to their particular instrument once the tutor feels that the student is at a suitable ability level to participate. It is suggested that all vocal students will attend a vocal ensemble at school.

These ensembles are run by our music staff and peripatetic tutors and includes: Guitar Group, Wind Group, String Group, RnB Group, Soul Band, Concert Band, Choir, Samba Band and Musical Theatre Group.

These activities take place during Morning Meetings, at Lunchtimes, and after school between 3.40 pm and 5.00 pm. These groups incorporate students from each year group within the Academy. These have proved extremely popular and beneficial to the students. Firstly, it increases the student's confidence on their instrument and secondly it allows students from all years to come together and benefit from ensemble work as opposed to solo work. Additionally, it trains the students for the major concerts and shows which are held throughout the year.

Owning Your Own Instrument

Due to the high cost of lessons at present, the Academy only has a small selection of free instruments for students to use and these are reserved firstly for students taking GCSE Music, or who have a Performing Arts placement, then they might be provided to students receiving financial support such as Free School Meals or other Pupil Premium funding.

There are many ways around owning an instrument. Buying a new instrument from a music shop can prove costly, and can be a potential waste of money if your child later decides they aren't enjoying playing that instrument and stops lessons. However it can be a great investment for your child if they are dedicated to learning music as a quality instrument to practise on is a great benefit to their progress.

Second-hand instruments are a cheaper alternative and can often be found advertised in local newspapers, or online through such sites as eBay or Facebook marketplace. If you are lucky some instruments are often sold at a significant bargain so it is worth checking regularly.

Another alternative is hiring / renting an instrument from a music shop. Each shop offers different terms and conditions but this can be a great option for a new musician to discover what instruments they will enjoy playing. Some music shops offer contracts that allow you to purchase the instrument after a certain amount of rental time allowing for a cheaper purchase.

If you have fully decided that you would like to buy or hire an instrument, I would strongly advise discussing this with the appropriate peripatetic tutor or speaking with the music staff for advice and support with this decision.

If you would like to apply for the use of a free school instrument, please make it known at the time when you sign up for lessons so that we can let you know whether we currently have one available or not.

Purchasing of Music Resources

As the students learn their particular instrument, they will need various different books and music to assist in their studies. Since it would be impossible for the Academy to provide the great variety of books required, it is the Academy Policy that if a student learns an instrument then they must purchase their own music with which to study. The tutor for the particular instrument will give guidance on the most appropriate books and music to buy.

Lesson Timetables

Students will always have their peripatetic lesson on the same day of the week – except in rare circumstances where a tutor might not be available that day for one week. However, as the lessons happen mostly within the Academy teaching day, the peripatetic lessons are organised on a rota system so that their lesson will be at a different time each week. This ensures that your child does not miss the same curriculum lesson regularly.

The department will attempt to have the timetable for the following term available to view on the department noticeboard in the last week of previous term so students can plan ahead. However, lesson times can change for a variety of reasons so we would always advise a student checks the timetable both at the start of a week and also at the beginning of the day of their lesson in case of last-minute adjustments.

It is the responsibility of the student to know their lesson time and leave their classroom early enough to not miss any of their peripatetic lesson.

Requests to change the timetable due to a clash with an important subject lesson such as an assessment or group project, or due to a planned authorised absence, can be accommodated if someone in the music department or peripatetic tutor is informed at least three days in advance – as early as possible allows the greatest chance for a change to be Facilitated.

Attitude towards Lessons

Due to the high cost to the Academy and parents for these lessons, it is expected that students who are privileged to have a lesson adopt the appropriate attitude. There is often a waiting list of students who would be happy to take up a lesson if the opportunity arose and a student who is not demonstrating a satisfactory attitude towards their lessons will lose that opportunity to allow for another student to benefit.

If your child does have lessons, it is required that they undertake a certain amount of personal practise as set by the specific tutor. Obviously, instrumental practise should not dominate the student's life, but regular daily practise is essential to progress. The amount of time devoted to this practise varies according to the instrument being studied. The tutor will advise the students on the most appropriate amount of time to be spent in practise.

When your child is timetabled for a lesson, then it is their responsibility to turn up on time with the correct equipment and books.

Students are also to ensure that they know at what time their ensemble begins and turn up at the correct place, on time.

Note: All lesson allowances are awarded at the Head of Department's discretion.

Since the students miss essential curriculum work when they leave class for their peripatetic lesson, it is an expectation that they catch up with any missed work and complete any of the homework that has been set.

If the student fails to meet the above requirements, or if a teacher within the Academy is not sufficiently satisfied that missed work and homework is being completed, then I will review the privilege of the instrumental provision.

Missed Lessons

We try our best to offer the opportunity for instrument or singing lessons to as many students as we can. With this in mind, a student who is persistently late or misses lessons without a valid reason as discussed below will be taken off the peripatetic lesson timetable to make an opportunity available for other interested students. This will ensure that the most enthusiastic and committed students will be receiving lessons and we believe this is the fairest to the large number of students awaiting the limited opportunity to have a music lesson.

Following one or two missed lessons, a member of the music department will contact home through MCAS to investigate the reason for their absence. Further absences without legitimate reasons, several missed lessons in consecutive weeks or constantly arriving late to lessons will eventually result in the termination of the agreement between the music department and parents and the student will not be scheduled for any further peripatetic lessons.

If you know in advance that your child will be unable to attend a music lesson e.g. due to a trip out of school, a dentist appointment etc., please write a note which your child should give at least three days in advance, to either their peripatetic tutor or Mr Hart. If your child is off school ill, please state that they have a music lesson when you inform the Academy of their absence.

If a timetabled lesson does not go ahead under the following circumstances, every effort will be made to provide an additional catch-up lesson. This may occasionally require attending a peripatetic lesson on a different day of the week from usual or having two lessons in the same day.

1. If their peripatetic teacher is absent from the Academy due to unforeseen circumstances (such as illness or transport problems)
2. If the Academy is closed for a Bank Holiday or planned Staff Training (Inset) day

Lessons will not be made up if the student does not turn up without having given prior notice, or if the peripatetic teacher is present on a day when the student is absent, as follows:-

1. If a student is absent from the Academy due to illness or bad weather (in the case of the latter if the school is open but the student does not attend).
2. If a student is absent from the lesson due to a school trip, family holiday or medical appointment and has not informed the Music Department with at least a week's notice.

With reference to point two, it is possible for lessons to be rearranged in advance if the peripatetic teacher concerned is advised as soon as possible, at least the week before. Under these circumstances, I would expect the student to attempt to swap their lesson with another student of the same instrument so that they don't miss a lesson. If there are any difficulties in swapping lessons, students should see Mr Hart or any member of the music department staff to assist them with this procedure.

It will not be possible for peripatetic staff to re-arrange lessons at short notice due to circumstances beyond their control, such as if the Academy is closed due to an emergency situation (e.g. adverse weather conditions). With reference to this we guarantee 31 lessons per year, but your child may receive up to 33 lessons if there are no such circumstances as mentioned above.



Music Theory Lessons

The aim of these classes is to provide students with support for their instrumental lessons as well as help them work towards achieving their music theory awards. Students are unable to progress further than Grade 5 Associated Board practical in their instrument, unless they have achieved a Grade 5 theory qualification – this is an Associated Board requirement.

Music theory lessons are optional and are currently run by Miss Bryan on Wednesdays after the school day. Theory lessons are available to students in all year groups.

How to Terminate Lessons

If your child decides to stop their music or theory lessons, we require notice at least three weeks before the end of term, in writing if possible. This will allow us to contact other student's parents on the waiting list and then offer them the lesson, enabling them to have plenty of time to purchase or hire an instrument. Additionally, if you do not notify us at least three weeks before the end of a term you are likely to receive a request from the school office to pay the fee for the following term.

Examination

The students are encouraged to take external examinations on their instruments, although these exams are not compulsory. They are fully trained for these exams by their teacher during the lesson time. When entering students for exams teachers consider the repertoire offered by different exam boards and the interest of the students.

If students take an examination, parents must meet the cost of the exam. The cost of exams varies as the level increases and usually changes each year. Current exam prices are visible on the relevant exam body website or can be provided on request from the department. In addition, parents must meet the cost of the accompaniment fees. This is where a student who learns perhaps the Flute, needs a pianist to accompany. The cost per student of accompanist fees varies according to the level of Grade.

Instrument	Associated Board	Associated Board– Jazz	Trinity/ Guildhall	Rock School
Clarinet	✓		✓	
Saxophone	✓	✓	✓	
Flute	✓		✓	
Piano	✓	✓	✓	✓
Keyboard			✓	
Tenor Horn	✓		✓	
Cornet	✓		✓	
Trumpet	✓		✓	
Trombone	✓		✓	
Electric Guitar				✓
Acoustic Guitar	✓			✓
Bass Guitar				✓
Voice	✓		✓	
Violin	✓			
Cello	✓			
Drums/Percussion	✓			✓

Concerts and performance opportunities at the Academy

The Music department stages a wide variety of performances each year to give Students in all year groups the opportunity and experience of performing in assorted styles and different settings. This can range from smaller scale sharing of GCSE work to a small audience in the drama studio through to KS3 concerts just for Year 7 and 8 students or full-scale, whole school concerts and musicals staged in the Lord Kalms Theatre to packed audiences. We also provide music for the whole school assemblies twice per year in the sports hall.



Concerts and performance opportunities at the Academy



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CITY
ACADEMY

**Scan Here to
Buy Tickets**



OR

Visit– ticketsource.co.uk/dixonsca

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Department Technician – Cameron Ware

The Reprographics Team for publishing this booklet.

I hope that this document has been of use. Please do not hesitate to contact either myself or any of my colleagues if you have any questions.

We all look forward to meeting you.



Joshua Hart

Head of Music, Dixons
City Academy



Tamsin Rafnsson

Teacher of Music, Director of Music
for Dixons Academies Trust

If you have any questions regarding anything about this prospectus please email

performing_arts@dixonsca.com