



# The King Alfred School

Performing Arts Info  
& Calendar 2025-26



# STAFF LIST

## Drama

**Lucy Hall, Director of Drama**

lucyh@kingalfred.org.uk

**Rob Messik, Director of Phoenix Theatre**

robertm@kingalfred.org.uk

**Lynne Sasson**

lynnnes@kingalfred.org.uk

**Tammy Cornish**

tammyc@kingalfred.org.uk

**Jacquelynn Poole**

jacquelynnp@kingalfred.org.uk

**Matt Cargill**

matthewc@kingalfred.org.uk

**Frances Smith**

frances@kingalfred.org.uk

**Phoebe Cselko**

instrumentallessons@kingalfred.org.uk

Key Stages 4 & 5, A level, UAL

Key Stage 5, A level, UAL

Key Stages 3 & 4, UAL

Key Stage 3, LAMDA

LAMDA

Theatre Technician

Dance

Performing Arts Administrator

## Music

**Neven Vangelov, Director of Music**

nevenv@kingalfred.org.uk

**Dan Aarons**

daniela@kingalfred.org.uk

**Nell Buckingham**

nellb@kingalfred.org.uk

**Camilla Ovenden**

camillao@kingalfred.org.uk

**Richard Wade**

richardw@kingalfred.org.uk

Key Stage 3, GCSE & A level Music, UAL

Key Stage 3, GCSE, A level Music Technology, UAL

Key Stages 3 & 5, GCSE & A level Music, UAL

Lower School Music Specialist

A-level Music

# INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

Visiting Music Teachers (VMTs) offer lessons to students in Year 2/3 and above (instrument dependent). Our VMTs are listed below, along with the lessons they offer.

**Lydia Aoki:** piano

**Sophia Russell-Belgrave:** piano

**Joe McGrail:** piano

**Rick Simpson:** piano

**Daniel Broad:** singing

**Sarah Carter:** singing

**Christina Gill:** singing

**Nell Buckingham:** singing

**Robert Greenfield:** guitar

**David Quirke:** guitar

**Maciek Pysz:** guitar

**Nick Marangoni:** drum kit

**Jack Backer:** drum kit

**Jay Davis:** drum kit

**Sam Warner:** trumpet,

trombone

**Leo Richardson:** clarinet,  
saxophone

**Hannah Lang:** flute,  
recorder, music theory

**Richard Wade:** violin, viola,  
music theory

**Helena Švigelj:** cello

Lessons are typically 35 minutes long and charged in advance (fees below). With the agreement of parents or guardians and availability of suitable lesson times within the VMT's timetable, lessons can be of a shorter or longer duration to suit the student's needs.

The VMTs aim to deliver a minimum of 30 lessons spread evenly over the academic year. Students in public examination years are taught off timetable (e.g. before/after school, during break/lunch or during a study period); all other lessons rotate weekly.

To sign up for instrumental lessons, please complete a registration form at the online link below. Students are then added to our waiting list, and we will reach out to share availability **(please keep in mind that demand is often high and waiting lists can be long)**. Please note, Lower School students with two or more co-curricular lessons a week may need to liaise with their class teachers and/or Lower School Head Karen before committing to additional lessons.

After students are allocated from the waiting list, the VMTs operate their own timetables and make arrangements for lessons directly with parents and students using Involve Education, a music management software for teachers, students and parents that collates all information, such as scheduling, timetables, lesson feedback and practice notes. Involve Education also sends reminders for upcoming lessons, as well as lesson feedback and practice notes via email.

**Registration form:** [kingalfred.org.uk/instrumental-lamda-lessons/](http://kingalfred.org.uk/instrumental-lamda-lessons/)

**All other enquiries:** [instrumentallessons@kingalfred.org.uk](mailto:instrumentallessons@kingalfred.org.uk)

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS	
Hourly rate	£63.20
35-minute lesson	£36.87
35-minute lesson in pairs	£24.67
35-minute lesson in threes	£17.99

MUSIC THEORY (30-MIN CLASSES)	
Grades 1 & 2	£6.76
Grades 3 & 4	£7.31
Grades 5 & above	£8.46
Small group (4+ students)	£12.68

# LAMDA

Our LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) teachers, **Tammy Cornish** and **Jacquelynn Poole**, offer lessons in both the Performance and Communications LAMDA syllabi, including Acting, Verse and Prose, Speaking in Public, Devising, Mime, and Musical Theatre. Students from Reception to Year 13 can take exams from Introductory to PCert. LAMDA grades 6-8 are also accredited with UCAS points.

Lessons are taught in 35-minute, fixed weekly sessions, either individually, in pairs, or in groups of up to four students. The aim is to spread sessions evenly throughout the academic year, and students in public examination years (11 & 13) are taught off-timetable. Instrumental lesson fees apply (see page 3).

To sign up for LAMDA, please complete a registration form at the online link below. Students are then added to our waiting list, and we will reach out to share availability (**please keep in mind that demand is often high and waiting lists can be long**). After students are allocated from the waiting list, Tammy and Jacquelynn operate their own timetables and make arrangements for lessons directly with parents and students.

**Registration form:** [kingalfred.org.uk/instrumental-lamda-lessons/](http://kingalfred.org.uk/instrumental-lamda-lessons/)

**All other enquiries:** [instrumentallessons@kingalfred.org.uk](mailto:instrumentallessons@kingalfred.org.uk)

# CO-CURRICULAR CLUBS

We offer a wide range of activities to suit performers of all ages and abilities. Below is a timetable of the weekly Drama & Music co-curricular activities offered at KAS.

**Please note:** students involved in these activities can pick up a lunch pass from the Music/Drama office during break time so they do not have to wait in line for lunch.

	CLUB	TIME	TEACHER	ROOM
MON	KAS Bellas	Break: 11 - 11:25am	Nell	Music Room
	Orchestra	Lunch: 1:30 - 2:10pm	Richard & Neven	Drama Studio
	Rock Band	Lunch: 1:30 - 2:10pm	David & Jack	Music Room
TUES	Chamber Ensemble	Break: 11 - 11:25am	Richard	Seminar Room
	Music Tech Club	Lunch: 1:30 - 2:10pm	Dan	Music Room
WED	Baby Bellas	Break: 11 - 11:25am	Nell	Music Room
	Jazz Band	Lunch: 1:30 - 2:10pm	Leo, Sam & Neven	Music Room
	Jazz Choir	Lunch: 1:30 - 2:10pm	Nell	Drama Studio
THURS	Middle School Choir	Lunch: 1:30 - 2:10pm	Neven	Music Room
	Rock Bands	After School: 4pm	Rob	Music Room



# OPPORTUNITIES TO PERFORM

## Upper School

- The **Middle School** and **Senior School Shows** are highlights of the year. Last year, we staged *Sister Act Jr* and *The Ballad of Raggedy Alice*, a new musical created by KAS staff.
- Two annual concerts – **Axe Monsters** for school bands and **Unplugged** for electro-acoustic music – showcase Upper School musicians. Both events provide the ideal preparation for students to perform at KASonbury, the school's summer music festival.
- The **Christmas and Spring Concerts** showcase selected soloists and Upper School choirs and ensembles, and are arranged by the Director of Music.
- **KASonbury** is a festival-style, whole-school celebration organised by KASparents. Information about this event will be published during the Spring Term.
- Termly **Soloist Concerts** showcase musicians who are experienced performers with repertoire prepared to a high standard. Students must be nominated by either a VMT (for students who learn at KAS) or a parent/guardian (for those who take lessons externally).
- **Workshops** are available for selected students in Lower and Upper Schools.
- **ISTA (International Schools Theatre Association) Drama Residential Trips** for Middle School and GCSE years.

## Lower School

- Summer Term's **Hammerhead concert** for budding Lower School bands is typically held the day before KASonbury.
- The **Lower School Spring Concert** showcases Lower School musicians.
- **Seasonal Songs Concerts** for the whole of Lower School in combined year groups.
- **Watford Festival** offers Year 6 Choir a unique opportunity to sing in a competition with other North London schools.
- **Peripatetic Concerts** are organised by students' instrumental and singing teachers.
- **Big Sings**, an event for infants.
- **Lower School Callovers** provide a weekly platform for children to practice performing in an informal and encouraging setting.



# GRADED MUSIC EXAMS

KAS students can be entered for graded music exams, with the fees (detailed below) charged in arrears to the student's termly bill. For students who take lessons at the school, the VMT is responsible for consulting with parents or guardians and making the exam entry.

## ABRSM

**Practical graded music exams** are offered to students from Grades 1 to 8, as well as a pre-Grade 1 Initial Grade for some instruments. These take place in person on the school site. There is usually one exam day each term (dependent on interest).

**Music Theory exams** at Grades 1 to 5 are delivered online and at Grades 6 to 8 as paper-based exams. Online exams are booked through the school and are sat externally, usually at home, outside of school hours.

Online **performance grade exams** are recorded exams, which are equivalent to practical grade exams. These can be recorded remotely and submitted at any time via the school. For students taking lessons at school, VMTs are responsible for rehearsing, recording and submitting performance grade exam recordings.

Please liaise with your child's VMT regarding specific exam arrangements.

For general exam enquiries or support, email [instrumentallessons@kingalfred.org.uk](mailto:instrumentallessons@kingalfred.org.uk). Please also get in touch for information regarding **Rockschool** exams.

GRADE	Practical Exam Fee	Performance Exam Fee	Music Theory Exam Fee
Initial Grade	£53	£48	—
Grade 1	£59	£53	£41
Grade 2	£67	£61	£44
Grade 3	£78	£69	£48
Grade 4	£85	£76	£53
Grade 5	£92	£83	£57
Grade 6	£107	£96	£62
Grade 7	£116	£103	£66
Grade 8	£137	£122	£68

## UCAS

Students with ABRSM qualifications at Grades 6 to 8 benefit from UCAS (University and Colleges Admission Service) points as set out below, which can be used as part of a UK university or college application. Rockschoo's exams in Electric Guitar, Acoustic Guitar, Bass, Drums, Vocals, Piano and Keyboard, and Music Production also equate to UCAS points.

	Grade 6			Grade 7			Grade 8		
	PASS	MERIT	DIST.	PASS	MERIT	DIST.	PASS	MERIT	DIST.
<b>Practical</b>	8	10	12	12	14	16	18	24	30
<b>Theory</b>	4	5	6	6	7	8	8	9	10

# DIARY DATES

## Upper School

### Autumn Term

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Upper School Show auditions	Fri 5 & Mon 8 Sept	Drama Studio
Upper School Show rehearsals begin	Weds 10 Sept	Drama Studio
UAL (Music) workshop with Jack Baker	Tues 30 Sept	Phoenix Theatre
LAMDA exams	Sun 12 Oct	Drama Studio / Black Box
Y11 UAL (Performing Arts) Devising	Tues 14 & Weds 15 Oct	Phoenix Theatre
Upper School Show half-term rehearsals	Mon 20 - Weds 22 Oct	Phoenix Theatre
Shakespeare & Song	Tues 4 Nov	Drama Studio
Soloist Concert	Weds 5 Nov	Phoenix Theatre
Axe Monsters	Thurs 6 Nov	Phoenix Theatre
LAMDA exams	Sun 16 Nov	Phoenix Theatre
Upper School Show rehearsals	Sat 22 & Sun 23 Nov	Phoenix Theatre
Upper School Show dress rehearsal	Mon 24 Nov	Phoenix Theatre
Upper School Show: <i>Guys &amp; Dolls</i>	Tues 25 - Thurs 27 Nov	Phoenix Theatre
Jazz Concert	Weds 3 Dec	Phoenix Theatre
ABRSM exams	Fri 5 Dec	Drama Studio
Christmas Concert	10 Dec	Phoenix Theatre

# DIARY DATES

## Upper School

### Spring Term

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Y12 UAL (Performing Arts) Clowning	Weds 21 Jan	Phoenix Theatre
GCSE Music concert	Weds 28 Jan	Phoenix Theatre
Y13 UAL (Performing Arts) Devising	Weds 4 Feb	Phoenix Theatre
Unplugged	Weds 11 Feb	Phoenix Theatre
ISTA Festival	Thurs 12 –Sun 15 Feb	Info to follow
Soloist Concert	Tues 24 Feb	Phoenix Theatre
MT Showcase	Mon 2 Mar	Phoenix Theatre
Y11 UAL (Performing Arts) Final Major Project (FMP)	Thurs 12 & Thurs 19 Mar	Phoenix Theatre
Y13 UAL (Performing Arts) presentations	Mon 24 Nov	Old Library
Spring Concert	Tues 25 Mar	Phoenix Theatre
ABRSM exams	TBC	TBC

# DIARY DATES

## Upper School

### Summer Term

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Y12 UAL (Performing Arts) Contemporary Play	Weds 15 Apr	Phoenix Theatre
Y12 Theatre Studies Devised	Weds 22 Apr	Phoenix Theatre
Y10 UAL (Performing Arts) Plays	Weds 6 & Thurs 7 May	Phoenix Theatre
Middle School Show rehearsals	Mon 11, Fri 15 – Sun 17 May	Phoenix Theatre
Middle School Show dress rehearsal	Mon 18 May	Phoenix Theatre
Middle School Show (title TBC)	Tues 19 & Weds 20 May	Phoenix Theatre
Soloist Concert	Weds 3 June	Phoenix Theatre
UAL (Performing Arts) Project Week	Mon 15 – Fri 20 June	TBC
Y13 UAL (Performing Arts) FMP dress rehearsal	Mon 22 June	TBC
Y13 UAL (Performing Arts) FMP show	Tues 23 & Weds 24 June	TBC
ABRSM exams	TBC	TBC
KASonbury	TBC	School Field
UAL moderation	Weds 1 – Fri 3 July	



