The King Alfred School

Performing Arts Info & Calendar 2026-27











STAFF LIST

Drama

Lucy Hall, Director of Drama lucyh@kingalfred.org.uk	Key Stages 4 & 5, A level, UAL Level 2 & Level 3
Rob Messik, Director of Phoenix Theatre robertm@kingalfred.org.uk	Key Stage 5, A level, UAL Level 2 & Level 3
Lynne Sasson lynnes@kingalfred.org.uk	Key Stages 3 & 4, UAL Level 2 & Level 3
Tammy Cornish tammyc@kingalfred.org.uk	Key Stage 3, LAMDA
Jacquelynn Poole jacquelynnp@kingalfred.org.uk	LAMDA
Sarah O'Keefe saraho@kingalfred.org.uk	LAMDA
Matt Cargill matthewc@kingalfred.org.uk	Theatre Technician
Frances Smith francess@kingalfred.org.uk	Dance
Amy Ratcliffe amyr@kingalfred.org.uk	Performing Arts Administrator

Music

Neven Vangelov, Director of Music nevenv@kingalfred.org.uk	Key Stage 3, GCSE & A level, UAL Level 3
Dan Aarons daniela@kingalfred.org.uk	Key Stage 3, GCSE, UAL Level 3
Nell Buckingham nellb@kingalfred.org.uk	Key Stages 3 & 5, GCSE & A level, UAL Level 3
Camilla Ovenden camillao@kingalfred.org.uk	Lower School Music Specialist
Richard Wade richardw@kingalfred.org.uk	A level

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

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

SINGING
Daniel Broad
Sarah Carter
Christina Gill
Nell Buckingham

GUITAR
Robert Greenfield
David Quirke
Maciek Pysz

PIANO
Lydia Aoki
Sophia Russell-Belgrave
Joe McGrail
Rick Simpson

DRUM KIT
Nick Marangoni
Jack Baker
Darren Beckett

CLARINET & SAX **Leo Richardson**

FLUTE, RECORDER & MUSIC THEORY **Hannah Lang**

VIOLIN, VIOLA & MUSIC THEORY **Richard Wade**

CELLO **Helena Švigelj**

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/
All other enquiries: instrumentallessons@kingalfred.org.uk

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS	
Hourly rate	£65.73
35-minute lesson	£38.34
35-minute lesson in pairs	£25.66
35-minute lesson in threes	£18.70

MUSIC THEORY (30-MIN CLASSES)	
Grades 1 & 2	£7.03
Grades 3 & 4	£7.60
Grades 5 & above	£8.80
Small group (4+ students)	£13.20

LAMDA

Our LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) teachers, **Tammy Cornish, Jacquelynn Poole** and **Sarah O'Keefe,** 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, Jacquelynn and Sarah operate their own timetables and arrange lessons directly with parents and students.

Registration form: kingalfred.org.uk/instrumental-lamda-lessons/
All other enquiries: 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 (Singing)	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 (Singing)	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-accoustic music – showcase Upper School musicians. Both events provide the ideal preparation for students to perform at KAStonbury, 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.
- **KAStonbury** 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 KAStonbury.
- 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**. 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. Rockschool'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.
Practical	8	10	12	12	14	16	18	24	30
Theory	4	5	6	6	7	8	8	9	10

DIARY DATES

Upper School

Autumn Term

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Upper School Show Auditions	Fri 4 Sept	Drama Studio
Upper School Show Rehearsals Start	Mon 7 Sept	Drama Studio
Y11 UAL (PAPA) Devising	Tues 13 Oct	Phoenix Theatre
Axe Monsters Concert	Thurs 15 Oct	Phoenix Theatre
Upper School Show Rehearsals	Thurs 29 & Fri 30 Oct	Phoenix Theatre
Y13 UAL (PAPA) Shakespeare & Song	Weds 4 Nov	Drama Studio
Soloist Concert	Thurs 5 Nov	Phoenix Theatre
SitzProbe	Sun 15 Nov	Phoenix Theatre
Upper School Show Rehearsals	Sat 21 & Sun 22 Nov	Phoenix Theatre
Upper School Show Dress Rehearsal	Mon 23 Nov	Phoenix Theatre
Upper School Show: *Big Fish*	Tues 24 – Thurs 26 Nov	Phoenix Theatre
Jazz Concert	Weds 2 Dec	Phoenix Theatre
ABRSM exams	Fri 4 Dec	Drama Studio
Christmas Concert	Weds 9 Dec	Phoenix Theatre

DIARY DATES

Upper School

Spring Term

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Y12 UAL (PAPA) Clowning	Weds 20 Jan	Phoenix Theatre
Year 11 GCSE Music Recording Sessions	Weds 27 & Thurs 28 Jan	Phoenix Theatre
Y13 UAL (PAPA) Devising	Weds 3 Feb	Phoenix Theatre
Unplugged Concert	Weds 10 Feb	Phoenix Theatre
Y12 & Y13 UAL Musical Showcase Rehearsals	Mon 22 Feb	Phoenix Theatre
Y12 & Y13 UAL Musical Showcase	Tues 23 & Weds 24 Feb	Phoenix Theatre
Classical Concert	Weds 3 Mar	Phoenix Theatre
Y13 Theatre Studies Exam	Weds 9 & Thurs 10 Mar	Phoenix Theatre
Y11 UAL (PAPA) Final Major Project (FMP)	Tues 16 - Thurs 18 Mar	Phoenix Theatre
Y9 LAMDA Public Speaking Exam	Tues 23 & Weds 24 Mar	Drama Studio / Black Box
Spring Concert	Weds 24 Mar	Phoenix Theatre

DIARY DATES

Upper School

Summer Term

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Y12 UAL (PAPA) Contemporary Play Rehearsals	Mon 12 Apr	Phoenix Theatre
Y12 UAL (PAPA) Contemporary Play	Weds 14 Apr	Phoenix Theatre
Y12 Theatre Studies Devised Exam	Weds 21 Apr	Phoenix Theatre
Y13 UAL Musical Performance	Weds 28 & Thurs 29 Apr	Phoenix Theatre
Y10 UAL (Performing Arts) Plays	Weds 5 & Thurs 6 May	Phoenix Theatre
Soloist Concert	Weds 12 May	Phoenix Theatre
Middle School Show Rehearsals	Mon 17 & Fri 21 – Sun 23 May	Phoenix Theatre
Middle School Show Dress Rehearsal	Mon 24 May	Phoenix Theatre
Middle School Show (title TBC)	Tues 25 & Weds 26 May	Phoenix Theatre
Y12 & Y13 UAL (PAPA) Project Week	Mon 14 – Fri 18 Jun	Phoenix Theatre
Y12 & Y13 UAL (PAPA) Final Major Project (FMP) Dress Rehearsal	Mon 21 June	Phoenix Theatre
Y12 & Y13 UAL (PAPA) FMP Show	Tues 22 & Weds 23 June	Phoenix Theatre
KAStonbury	Sat 3 Jul	School Field
UAL PAPA moderation	Weds 30 Jun – Fri 2 Jul	Phoenix Theatre


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