



Warwick
Schools
Foundation



**Specialist
music provision**



Music at Warwick Schools Foundation

Music education for gifted and ambitious young instrumental musicians

A complete choir-school-style education, centred on the musical life of one of England's most beautiful historic churches

At the heart of the Warwick Schools Foundation's musical provision is a commitment to providing specialist musical education of the highest quality to the most able young musicians.

The Foundation's senior schools provide a specialist musical education which matches the provision at England's specialist music schools, but with the added advantage that pupils can benefit from attending a school offering holistic excellence, where music is not the only specialism on offer.

There are two main pathways for ambitious and talented young musicians:

- Chorister
- Virtuoso



Warwick
Preparatory
School



WARWICK
JUNIOR SCHOOL



THE
KINGSLEY
SCHOOL



King's High
School



WARWICK
SCHOOL



Specialist pathway

CHORISTER

The chorister pathway is a specialist choral education offered across the Foundation schools. The performing life of our choristers centres on the musical life of the Church of St Mary, Warwick, with its deep heritage of church choral music in the Anglican tradition.

Choral music-making is supported by the new King Henry VIII Choral Awards which enable gifted young people to live full performing lives as choristers at the Foundation schools.

Our schools have multiple choirs, enabling choristers to play a leading role in a range of ensembles.

Typically, a chorister will also have at least one instrumental specialism, taught by one of our specialist instrumental teachers.

The Chorister pathway lays a very strong foundation for choral scholarships at Oxford, Cambridge and other universities where choral scholarships are available.

What is special about the Chorister pathway at Warwick Schools Foundation schools?

It combines holistic, innovative independent schooling with the full chorister experience in one of England's most beautiful historic churches.





Specialist pathway

VIRTUOSO

The Virtuoso pathway is an instrumental specialism, taught on-site by specialist music teachers, a number of whom also teach at some of England's most prestigious music colleges.

The Virtuoso pathway provides music education at the highest level, for pupils capable of entry to top conservatoires or selective music degrees at top universities, regardless of whether they choose to study music when they leave school.

Pupils following the Virtuoso pathway benefit from professional collaboration with the Foundation's resident orchestra, the Orchestra of the Swan, a chamber orchestra of virtuoso musicians. Unlike many orchestral 'residency' programmes, the residency of the Orchestra of the Swan is actual, with the orchestra's headquarters sited on the Foundation's Myton Road campus. The Orchestra of the Swan provides an integrated music education programme, which includes specialist masterclasses and public performances.

Virtuoso pathway pupils can have their compositions performed by the Orchestra of the Swan, as well as having opportunities to learn and practise conducting skills. Across the Foundation's senior schools, a tiered sequence of ensembles & orchestras support progression to the highest, pre-conservatoire levels of performance. These include a Foundation Symphony Orchestra, Wind Orchestra, String Ensemble, and Percussion Ensemble, all made up of pupil performers.

Dedicated Foundation staff pianists (accompanists) support top instrumental pupils in their performances and assessments.

An exceptional range of chamber music and jazz ensembles provide opportunities for Virtuoso pupils to perform advanced, specialist repertoire. These include a Foundation Symphony Orchestra, Wind Orchestra, String Ensemble, and Percussion Ensemble, all featuring pupil players, and all mentored by specialist music staff.



Virtuoso pupils are encouraged to enter national competitions, and are successful in them.

Top level performance opportunities are complemented by the highest levels of tuition in composition.

A unique Advanced Musicianship Programme provides weekly extension sessions for Virtuoso pathway pupils.

Bespoke timetables for Virtuoso pathway pupils to allow music specialisms to be nurtured in the context of a world-class, all-round academic provision.

Pupils from all three Foundation senior schools enjoy access to shared specialist facilities, ensembles and music-making opportunities.

The Virtuoso pathway provision is comparable to the specialist education on offer at England's specialist music schools.

There is a network of connections to music conservatoires. A number of Virtuoso pathway pupils can attend weekend junior conservatoire programmes in London and Birmingham.

What is special about the Virtuoso pathway at Warwick Schools Foundation schools?

It combines a specialist music experience taught by some of the best specialists in the country with an academically balanced, holistic curriculum, including opportunities to participate in first-class sport. The orchestral residence adds a uniquely inspiring dimension, as The Orchestra of the Swan is resident on the Foundation's Myton Road campus.



Key music facilities and provision at the Foundation Schools

- **Warwick Hall** – a large specialist performance venue.
- **King's Hall and the Rosconn Auditorium** – (acoustically flexible) are specialist performance venues on the Myton Road campus.
- **Bridge House Theatre** – theatre and jazz performance venue.
- **Individual music departments** – specialist and general music education, all with their own Directors of Music and specialist staff.
- **A fleet of pianos, organs and other instruments** available, with extensive, dedicated practice facilities.
- **Partnership with The Orchestra of the Swan** – a classical chamber orchestra in residence, whose headquarters are on the Myton Road campus.
- **Choral music in the Anglican church tradition** performed throughout school term at the Church of St Mary, Warwick.

For more details, please contact **Stuart Thompson**, Foundation Director of Music.

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Warwick Schools Foundation is a UK registered charity number 1088057
Registered office: Warwick School, Myton Road, Warwick CV34 6PP

warwickschoolsfoundation.co.uk/our-schools