



## 'Specialist Music' Admissions Information for Parents

**Please note: This provisional admissions policy is subject to further consultation and to confirmation of Ada Lovelace CofE High School being allowed to open in 2018.**

12 places within Ada Lovelace CofE High School are made available for students applying for a place in Year 7 in September 2018 and with an identified natural aptitude for music. The application process is designed to test a child's natural ability to hear and discriminate differences in:

- Pitch
- Rhythm
- Chords
- Melodies

As such, a child can be awarded a 'Specialist Music' place based on musical aptitude, irrespective of any prior instrumental or vocal tuition.

### **How to Apply:**

1. Complete the Specialist Music Admissions application form online by 12 midnight on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017. Parents applying for a place under this criterion are reminded that they may also submit the general application form to the school by the general admissions closing date. Please do not enclose any music proficiency certificates as previous musical experience is not relevant to the application process.
2. All applicants will be invited to attend **Round One** on the stated date(s).
3. Your child's score will be issued together with news as to whether they have been invited to attend **Round Two** of the process.
4. Your child's Round Two score will then be added to their Round One score and a list of final results, in descending order, will be compiled. Those ranked in places 1-12 will be notified on National Offer Day (early March) that they have been offered a music place.
5. Those not offered one of the 12 aptitude places can still be considered against our general admission criteria for a place if a general application has also been submitted.

**Though this is not a condition of admission, students admitted to Ada Lovelace CofE High School under a Specialist Music Place will be expected to:**

1. Make an active contribution to the school community through commitment to our extra-curricular rehearsal and performance programme.
2. Make outstanding musical progress across all three disciplines of performing, composing and listening as a result of both the Music College curricular and extra-curricular programme.
3. Learn either a String, Woodwind or Brass instrument (including guitar) as either a first or second study instrument.

The application process is as follows:

Date	D
<p><b>By midnight 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017</b></p>	<p>Complete Music application form online.</p>
<p><b>14<sup>th</sup> October 2017 2-3pm</b></p>	<p><b>Round One:</b> Unseen listening test designed to assess students' ability to discern and discriminate between different pitches, rhythms, chords and melodies. This test will be carried out in the Twyford Performance Centre under exam conditions in one hour. <b>This is marked out of 60.</b></p>
<p><b>17<sup>th</sup> October 2017 (time to be agreed with the school)</b></p>	<p><b>Round Two:</b> The highest scoring students will be invited to come into school for a second formal assessment within the Music College. They will be given a series of aural tests during which time they will be required to clap or play back various rhythms and pitches using classroom instruments. They will also listen to some recordings and identify the instruments being used. This will take approximately 20 minutes. <b>Marked out of 40.</b></p>
<p><b>20<sup>th</sup> October 2017</b></p>	<p>Second round candidates informed of their position on the ranked list. Those numbered 13 or below who wish to apply to Ada Lovelace CofE High School under the other criteria should submit their application <b>by the general admissions closing date.</b></p>
<p><b>June/July 2018</b></p>	<p>Interview with the Music Department on Induction Day to identify exact package to be selected.</p>

**Expectations of those students admitted on a Specialist Music Place:**

<p><b><u>Extra-curricular commitment</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership of choir</li> <li>• Membership of ensemble appropriate to instrument/voice from choice of options within Music College extra-curricular programme</li> <li>• Incremental increase in commitment year-on-year</li> <li>• Attendance at a weekly early morning Music Scholars Musical Skills session</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compulsory sessions equate to 2 – 2.5 hours' per week</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Instrumental Tuition commitment*</u></b></p> <p>Students may select:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Free small group tuition (available for the duration of Year 7 only)</li> <li>2. Discount on individual tuition</li> </ol> <p>A progress report for each student will be completed and a copy given to the Music College by students' tutors, whether in receipt of tuition through North Twyford instrumental programme or privately.</p> <p>All students will be expected to enter and pass annual practical exam on their instrument through ABRSM, Rockschool or Trinity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students with no previous musical experience will be enrolled on a small group tuition programme for strings, woodwind or brass.</li> <li>• Students already learning piano, drums, or vocals will be able to apply for discounted individual or free small group tuition on a second instrument within North Twyford instrumental programme.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Curriculum</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 7+8 – Additional challenge within differentiated curriculum to bridge gaps in musical learning and extend current level</li> <li>• Year 9 – Enrolment on elective music, accelerated music course available</li> <li>• Year 10/ 11 – Enrolment on GCSE course</li> <li>• Year 12/13 – Enrolment on A-level Music course, subject to meeting minimum entry requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students enrolled on 'Specialist Music' place would also be expected to take on a leadership role within their curriculum lessons.</li> </ul>

\*further information regarding this will be given to students who are successful in gaining a place.

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **Does my child need to be able to play a musical instrument?**

*No. Application for places is open to **all** students but, should your child gain a 'Specialist Music' place, they will be expected to learn a String, Woodwind or Brass instrument either individually or in a small group.*

### **Will my child be expected to sing?**

*Yes. Round Two of the application process will involve some aural tests which will require your child to sing short phrases in response to the teacher's direction. All 'Specialist Music' students will be expected to sing in one of the three school choirs.*

### **My child has already passed a number of practical exam grades on their musical instrument, will this help my application?**

*No. The application process takes no account of previous musical experience although this information is always useful to us should they be offered a place.*

### **My child has instrumental lessons outside school, should I continue with these?**

*We are able to offer tuition on Strings, Woodwind, Brass, Drums, Piano, Keyboard, Voice, Guitar (Acoustic, Electric and Classical), Bass Guitar and Theory. It is up to you whether you decide to receive tuition through us or privately and this will be something that will be discussed further at your child's induction interview should they be successful. All children enrolled on a 'Specialist Music' place will be expected to learn either a String, Woodwind or Brass instrument as a first or second study instrument.*

### **My child is involved in lots of musical activities already, what commitment will they need to show to Ada Lovelace?**

*Students enrolled on a 'Specialist Music' place will be expected to commit to a minimum of two to two and a half hours' per week of wider musical learning within the Music College. This will include a Music Scholar Musical Skills session, membership of one of the choirs and at least one other activity.*

### **My child has a Special Educational Need. Will they be given a concession during the application process?**

*If you feel that the school needs to be informed of any special educational need or disability that may affect the testing process, please let us know so that any necessary arrangements can be made. Your child's current school will need to provide full details of the level of support currently provided during assessments so that we are able to make arrangements as deemed appropriate.*