

Prospectus  
2023—2024



Chetham's  
School of Music

The Oglesby Atrium





**At Chetham's you will find big smiles, a welcoming atmosphere, a daily creative buzz, high academic standards, incredible history and heritage, superb teaching and performance spaces, a cosmopolitan city location, different backgrounds and personalities – and of course, music!**

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**“It's easy to follow your child's timetable and activities on Stream (an online platform that all parents can access) and to stay in touch with staff. This was hugely beneficial to my experience as a parent as I felt very connected to the school.”**

*Parent*

**“It's one of the best schools in the world. If you love music, you will love it”**

*Alice, 16*

**“I enjoy walking in the corridor and hearing snippets of great music I might never have discovered”**

*Alicja, 16*



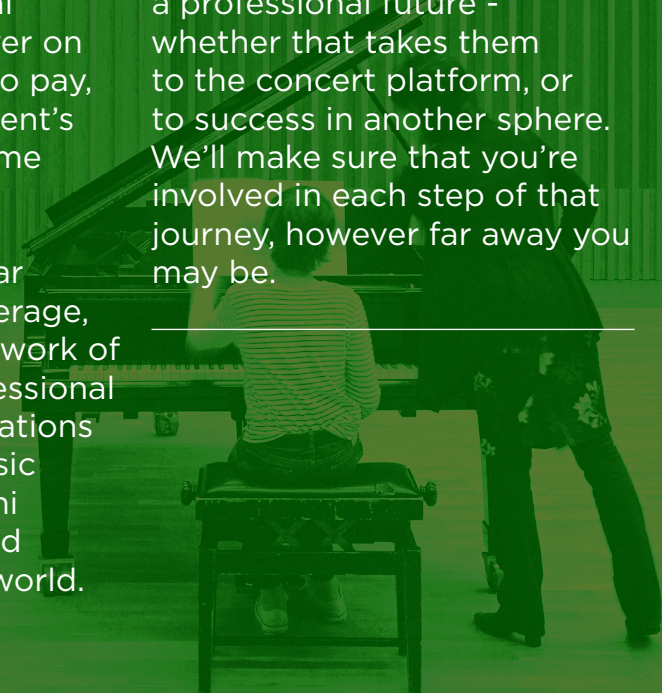
**Chetham's School of Music is the largest specialist music school in the UK and is the only one based in the north of England, with equally 'excellent' musical and academic results. Our 330 students are bonded by a passion for music, making it a truly unique place to live, learn and make connections. We believe in the power of music and creativity to unite people and transform lives, and we are committed to educating and inspiring the next generation of musicians and thinkers.**

Entry to the School is based solely on musical ability or potential, never on background or ability to pay, thanks to the Government's Music and Dance Scheme and other bursaries.

Our academic results far exceed the national average, while musically our network of partnerships with professional orchestras and organisations extends across the music industry, and our alumni populate orchestras and ensembles across the world.

Based in the heart of Manchester, Chetham's state-of-the-art New School Building includes an acoustically designed concert venue, The Stoller Hall, offering priceless opportunities for student performances and professional concerts.

Parents, we promise to do the very best for your child, musically, academically, and socially. We'll guide them to new challenges as people, as learners and as players. We'll watch over them as they make new friends, discover a new city, and move towards a professional future - whether that takes them to the concert platform, or to success in another sphere. We'll make sure that you're involved in each step of that journey, however far away you may be.





**A friendly, caring school community**  
**Outstanding academic results**  
**State-of-the-art facilities**  
**A world-class music education**

Voted one of the best schools in the north of England by Talk Education: **“The school plays an important role in the city’s hugely vibrant cultural community.”**

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**Nicola Smith & Tom Redmond**  
Joint Principals  
**Malcolm Edge**  
Chair of Governors

**Chetham’s School of Music**  
Long Millgate  
Manchester  
M3 1SB

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Find us on social media:  
@chethams



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# Music



**At Chetham's, music is at the heart of all we do.**

Every student receives individual lessons in first and second study instruments, in addition to ensemble rehearsals, structured practice time and academic music classes.

From day one, life at Chetham's helps every musician to find their own musical pathways, to develop as a performer and professional, and potentially to go on to a hugely successful career.

Students apply to Chetham's as members of one of eight musical departments. In a community steeped in music, there are always opportunities for students to explore new instruments, join a jazz improvisation class, or try their hand at composition.

Every student's week is individually timetabled to support both musical and academic interests.



**“We knew the standard of playing would be good, obviously, but we will never forget the first time we heard Violetta strings play – a revelation!”**

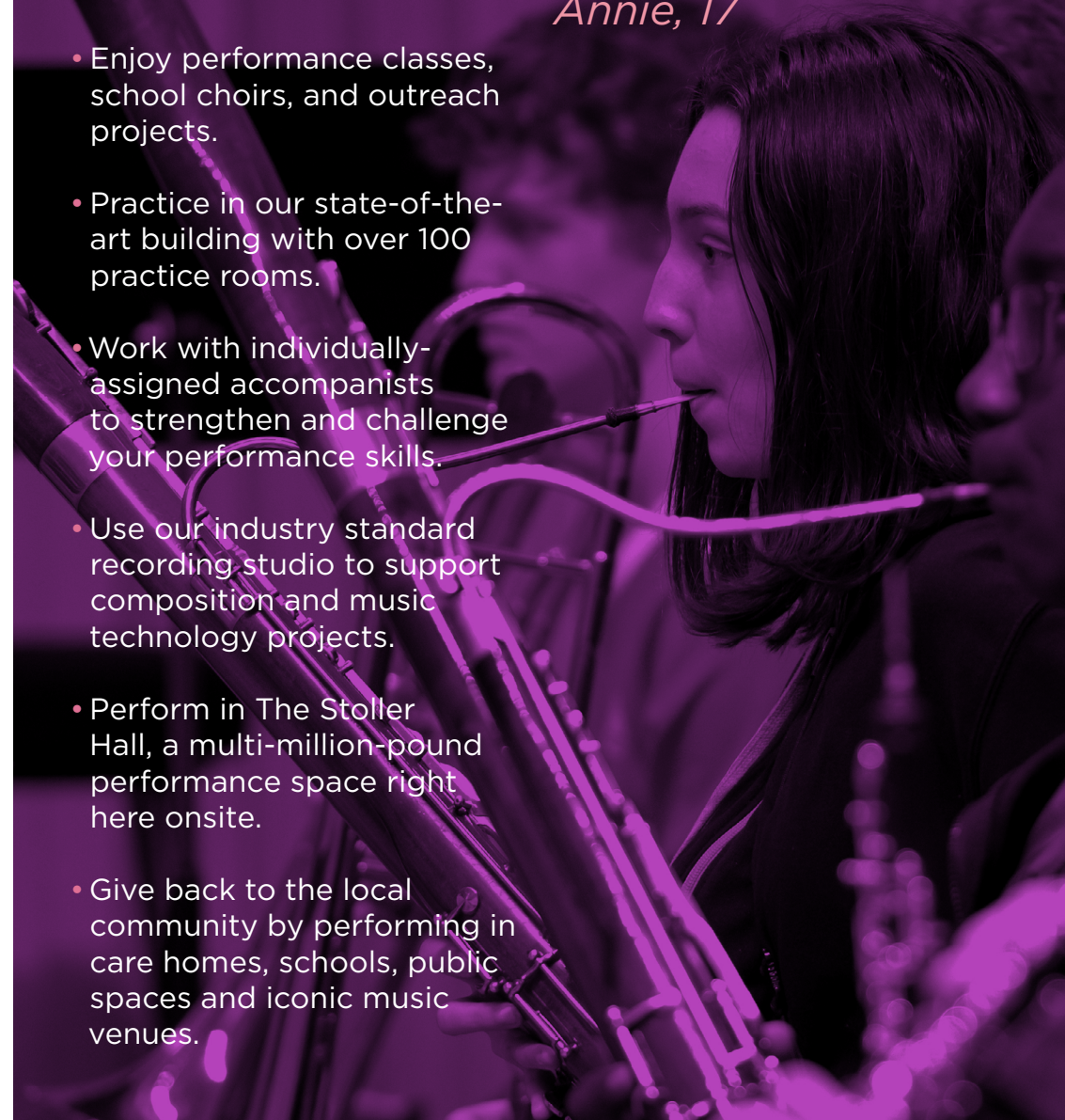
*Parent*

**Amazing experiences await you at Chetham's!**

- Play in a vibrant year-round concert programme.
- Learn from some of the world's leading musicians and tutors.
- Enjoy performance classes, school choirs, and outreach projects.
- Practice in our state-of-the-art building with over 100 practice rooms.
- Work with individually-assigned accompanists to strengthen and challenge your performance skills.
- Use our industry standard recording studio to support composition and music technology projects.
- Perform in The Stoller Hall, a multi-million-pound performance space right here onsite.
- Give back to the local community by performing in care homes, schools, public spaces and iconic music venues.

**“The most amazing thing about music at Chet's is that it's a passion shared by every single person at our school”**

*Annie, 17*





## Former Chetham's students play throughout the world:

**Sir Stephen Hough** is considered one of the country's leading pianists and polymaths.

**Peter Moore** (trombone) and **Jennifer Pike** (violin) both won the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition aged 12. Saxophonist **Alexander Bone** was the first ever winner of the BBC Young Jazz Musician competition.

**Max Beesley** played drums for Take That and Jamiroquai, before becoming a successful actor.

**Roger Wright** became the Director of the BBC Proms and Aldeburgh Music.

Cellist **Guy Johnston** received a BRIT Award for young classical performer.

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## Key Music Staff at Chetham's School of Music:

**Tom Redmond**  
*Joint Principal*

**David Chatterton**  
*Assistant Principal*  
*Head of Brass, Percussion*  
*& Jazz*

**Marcus Farnsworth**  
*Head of Vocal*

**Belinda Gough**  
*Head of Woodwind*

**Nicholas Jones**  
*Head of Strings*

**Sam King**  
*Head of Academic Music*

**Murray McLachlan**  
*Head of Keyboard*

**Jeremy Pike**  
*Head of Composition*



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# Academic Study

**Students achieve excellence at Chetham's thanks to a superb academic education alongside an unparalleled music programme.**

Students' success is born of small class sizes, a motivated teaching team, and a school community which encourages hard work and high achievement.

Although there are no academic criteria for entrance, Chetham's students regularly celebrate outstanding results at GCSE and A-Level before progressing to leading conservatoires and universities across the world.

**"We nurture the students and help them to be the best that they can be"**  
*Staff Member*

**"The standard of teaching and the small class sizes mean that lessons are tailored to individuals and each student can really thrive."**  
*Parent*

- Study at one of the top schools in Manchester for consistently excellent results
- Follow the British National Curriculum and work towards GCSE/iGCSE and A-Level courses
- Work in small classes, allowing for more 1-to-1 time with teachers
- Experience inspiring modern facilities
- Enjoy local and international trips to support classroom learning
- Progress to a leading university or conservatoire



## How We Compare

### GCSE Results 2023

94%

**Chetham's  
School of Music**  
Grades 9-4

68%

**National  
Average**  
Grades 9-4

55%

**Chetham's  
School of Music**  
Grades 9-7

22%

**National  
Average**  
Grades 9-7

### A-Level Results 2023

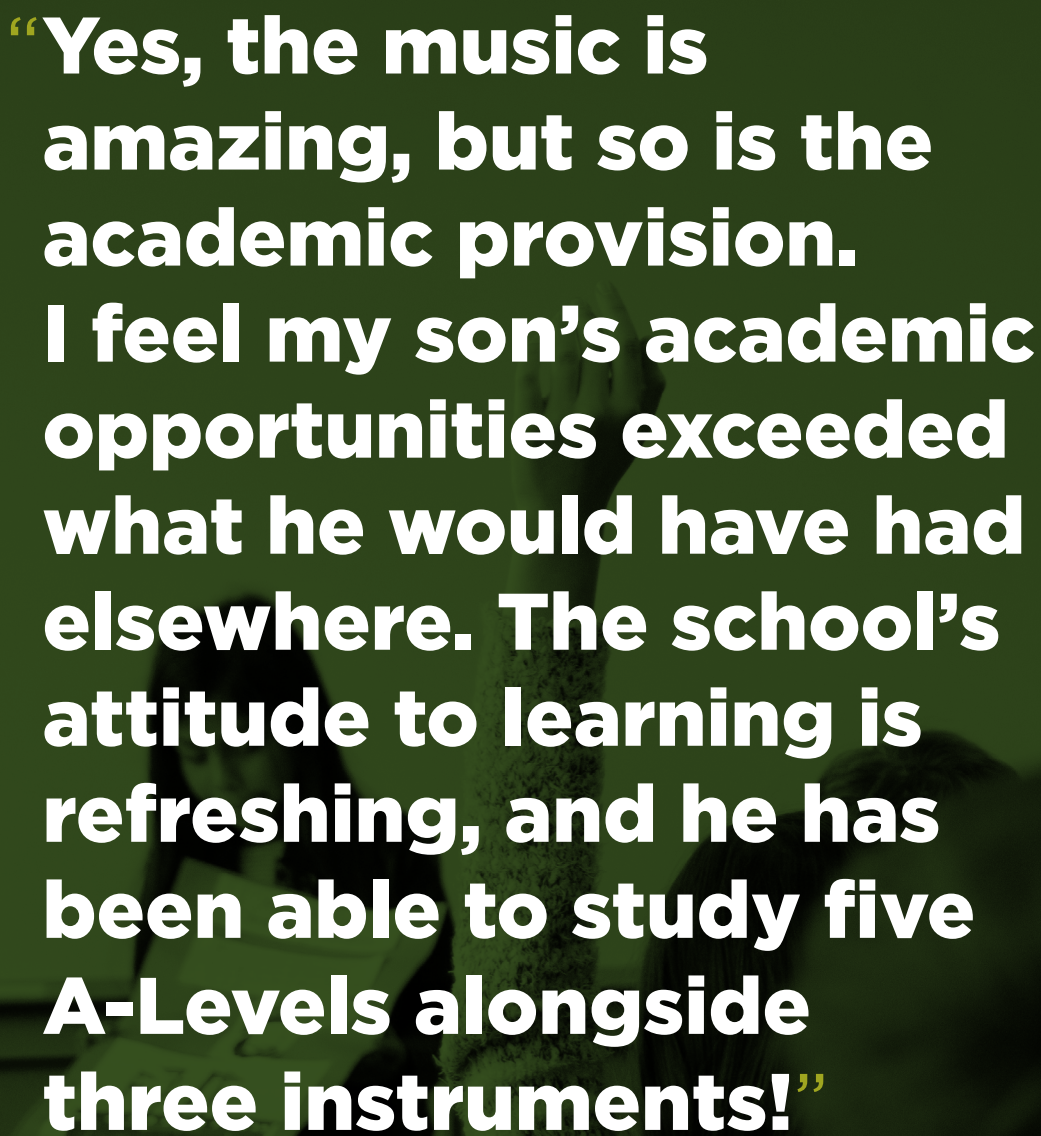
26%

**UK Average for  
A\*-A grades**

42%

**of Chetham's A-Level  
students received  
A\*-A grades**





**“Yes, the music is amazing, but so is the academic provision. I feel my son’s academic opportunities exceeded what he would have had elsewhere. The school’s attitude to learning is refreshing, and he has been able to study five A-Levels alongside three instruments!”**

*Parent*



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A portrait of a young woman with long, dark, wavy hair and black-rimmed glasses. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred indoor setting with warm lighting. A dark blue curved banner is at the bottom.

# Wellbeing



**At Chetham's, student wellbeing and happiness is always our first priority.**

Studying at Chetham's means becoming part of our community, where we support others and create an atmosphere of warmth and friendliness.

For the majority of our 330 students, Chetham's is a home as well as a school, with experienced and dedicated teams of house staff. Whether you're a boarding or day student, pastoral care and support is wrapped around every aspect of school life.

**"He was surrounded by a group of friends before we'd even finished unpacking his things. Those same children are still his friends today"**

*Parent*



Our safeguarding procedures are rigorous, individually assigned tutors provide academic mentoring, and teachers always make time to see students if they need individual support.

Chetham's is also a truly international community with students from across the UK and around the world. This diversity encourages a natural awareness and acceptance of different views, beliefs and cultures, united through music.

There is a warm and friendly atmosphere and a real sense of community within the School.

**"I think the best thing about Chetham's is the overwhelming sense of community. I don't think I'll ever forget the warm and welcoming environment I've always felt here!"**

*Alicja, 16*





- **Live and study in the heart of Manchester - one of the most vibrant cities in Europe**
- **Never be bored, with student and staff led activities every day**
- **Spend time with your family, with a free weekend every three weeks**
- **Talk to your personal tutor for individual help and advice**
- **Thrive in a small, friendly school community, where you'll always receive the attention you deserve**



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# Lower School

# What is a music school?

It's a place where everyone loves music and enjoys playing an instrument. At music school, you'll learn all the subjects you normally would at any other school, like maths, science and English, but you also get to do at least two hours of music every day, including lessons, concerts, singing and more!



## Fun!

You'll usually be busy during the school days, but when you do have free time there are always fun things for you to do.

There are clubs almost every day after school, like baking, crafting, and our very own 1st Chetham's Scouts group.

At the weekends, you can sign up to go out on fun trips like playing mini golf, visiting water parks, and loads more fun activities.

Plus, Victoria House has a big common room complete with board games, DVDs, crafts, and computers, so you'll find it hard to get bored!



## Learning

In Year 4 and 5, you'll be learning together in one classroom taught by Miss Tomlinson in Junior Class, so you won't need to worry about finding your way around school for every lesson.

As you get a bit older and join Year 6, you'll be in a new class taught by Mr Wong and start working towards going into Key Stage 3.

From Year 7, you'll start having different teachers for each subject as you begin Key Stage 3.



## Music

When you start at school here, you'll be assigned teachers for each of your instruments who you will have individual lessons with each week, and you'll have lots of time to practice in your daily timetable. We even have Practice Assistants to help you.

You'll make music with other young people just like you, and you'll even get to perform in concerts. Our Lower School Orchestra features all orchestral instruments, while Violetta is just for string players. You'll also be part of a small ensemble for your instrument group, like a piano duo or a string quartet, so you'll always have opportunities to make music with friends.

## Boarding

If you choose to board with us in Lower School, you will join Victoria House, which is just for children like you, aged 8-13.

You'll share a room with two or three other children in your year, so you'll always be surrounded by friends.

You'll be looked after by a friendly team of House Staff. They'll always be on hand to help you with whatever you need and keep in touch with your parents too.



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## Key Lower School Staff

**Andrea Price**

Head of Lower School

**Beth Nichol**

Joint Head of Victoria House

**Leanne Cody**

Joint Head of Victoria House

**Cecily Tomlinson**

Year 4 & 5 teacher

**Matthew Wong**

Year 6 teacher



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# Middle School



# **You've got the talent, You've got the commitment. Let us help you to shine.**

**As a teenager, you're choosing friendships, clothes, identity. You're choosing subjects for GCSE and A-Level, which hobbies you're going to take seriously, and even what you might want to do in your future.**

Now we're inviting you to choose a school as well. We'll do our best to help you make that choice. Some of what you need to know will be in here. You'll find out more when you visit us for Open Days or auditions.

Please ask us questions. Audition us! Make sure we've got what it takes to help you grow into the adult you want to be.



**“What surprised me? How quickly I settled in and made friends - how quickly I loved the place”**

*Ben, 15*

## **Independence**

We're based right in the centre of Manchester - an exciting city full of things to see and things to do. From Year 9 onwards, you will be allowed to go out into Manchester in groups with your friends after school and at weekends.

## **Boarding**

As a boarding student, you will live in either New College House or Millgate House, open to students from Year 9. Most Middle School dorm rooms will accommodate four students, which means that you will always have the option to be around friends. The boarding houses offer optional activities to take part in most days but also give you the space to be a bit more independent if you prefer. There's always an adult around if you need a grown up, too.

## **Learning**

You'll learn just like in any other school, choosing GCSE options in Year 9 and sitting exams in Year 11. Alongside that, you'll spend 2-3 hours making music every day - including individual lessons, rehearsals, choirs, and music theory classes.

## **Music**

Chetham's Sinfonia is our orchestra for students in Middle School, which plays three concerts a year and has recently performed pieces including The Firebird and music from Harry Potter! Dependent on your instrument, you might also join Big Band, Chamber Choir, Guitar Ensemble, Saxophone Choir, Serenata Strings, and many more ensembles in each department. With daily Lunchtime Concerts and weekly performance classes, you can perform with your chamber group or accompanist when you have a new piece ready to share.

**“I’ve just started my second year at Chetham’s and it’s been amazing! I’ve made a great set of friends and all the teachers are lovely - if you’re struggling or concerned about anything, they’re always there to help. They want you to be as happy as you can possibly be.**

**At Chet’s the days are a bit longer than a normal school, but because you are doing what you love, they fly by. What I find brilliant is that all the teachers and students love music as much as I do!”**

*Katie, 13*

**“Before joining Chetham’s, I was naturally worried about fitting in. But, by the end of the first day I met so many nice people, I quickly made lots of friends! Since we have so many different orchestra and chamber music lessons, we get to know people from across different years. So there is always someone to say hello to in the hall! When we’re not in lessons, we play outside, go to the library and hang out in our common room, where the fantastic house staff are always around if we need them!”**

*Kristina, 12*

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## **Key Middle School Staff**

**Ambrose Henderson**

Head of Middle School

**Siobhan Kay**

Head of New College House

**Darren Ledson**

Head of Millgate House



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**Sixth  
Form**



**In Chetham's Sixth Form, you'll make memories that will last forever.**

Step into a world filled with music, with other young adults just like you, people who share the same passions as you.

You'll live right in the centre of Manchester, a city to explore, with a dedicated team of staff to support you and help you when you need it.

Our academic team will support you through your A-Levels. We strive to strike the perfect balance. We promise to provide you with a well-rounded academic education which will prepare you for Higher Education, alongside an equally world-class musical education.

**"My teacher is fantastic and always finds a way to make the lessons interesting and engaging"**

*Annie, 17*

Musically, you'll get the chance to play as a soloist and in ensembles with friends. You'll get to improvise, compose, and perform!

You'll work with some of the world's best musicians and learn to make music to a professional standard. We'll help you learn to take responsibility for your performance, your equipment and your time.

When you leave us, you may choose to go to a leading university or a brilliant conservatoire. You might choose to study music. You might not. Whatever you decide, we hope you'll leave us with an incredible range of options for your future!



Year on year, our exam results are outstanding, regularly achieving 100% pass rates and more than 70% A\*-B. We will help you achieve the best you can achieve. Our students go on to study at the very best conservatoires and universities in the UK and abroad, many with multiple scholarship offers.

Whatever route you take when you leave us, Chetham's will give you an experience that will make you stand out from the crowd.

And when you have a moment, there's a whole city on your doorstep, with something new to hear or see every day, and a brand-new group of friends to share it with you.

**"The ability to work with others who share the same passion is exhilarating. With high class teachers with the upmost dedication for their students, we're able to thrive"**

*Isaac, 17*







## Key 6th Form Staff

**Julia Harrison**  
Head of 6th Form

**Siobhan Kay**  
Head of New College House

**Darren Ledson**  
Head of Millgate House



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# Fees & Funding



## Around 90% of Chetham's students receive full or partial funding through the Department for Education

What matters at Chetham's is musical potential, not background or ability to pay. We are one of nine schools within the UK Government's Music & Dance Scheme, designed to enable young, talented musicians and dancers to receive full time education and training at a specialist school irrespective of parents' financial means.

If you are offered a place at Chetham's and qualify for the Music and Dance Scheme, your parents will be asked to provide their income details to the Bursar who will then calculate what their annual contribution to the fees will be. As a rough guide, if your parents earn less than £20,000 per year they will pay only £582 a year towards your boarding fees and education. If your parents earn over £200,000 a year then they will be asked to pay full fees. Everyone in between has to contribute on a sliding scale, shown on the back page of this leaflet.

This scheme does not apply to Choristers or overseas students, except for EU students aged 16 and over. Choristers should speak to Manchester Cathedral about the support available towards their fees. Please visit our website for full details of eligibility, or speak to us about financial support for students not included in the scheme.



## Fees from 1 September 2023

MDS Students (set by DfE)	per annum	per term
<b>Day Student</b>	<b>£27,408</b>	<b>£9,136</b>
<b>Boarding Student</b>	<b>£35,375</b>	<b>£11,792</b>

UK & Overseas Students (non-MDS pre 09.18 entrants)	per annum	per term
<b>Day Student</b>	<b>£27,408</b>	<b>£9,136</b>
<b>Boarding Student</b>	<b>£35,375</b>	<b>£11,792</b>

Overseas Students (non-MDS post 09.18 entrants)	per annum	per term
<b>Day Student</b>	<b>£30,369</b>	<b>£10,123</b>
<b>Boarding Student</b>	<b>£39,709</b>	<b>£13,236</b>

Choristers	per annum	per term
<b>Day Student</b>	<b>£10,764</b>	<b>£3,588</b>
<b>Boarding Student</b>	<b>£18,729</b>	<b>£6,243</b>

## Parents' annual contribution to fees for music and dance scheme aided students

Relevant income (£ per annum)	Day Student	Boarding Student
<b>£10,000</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>£20,000</b>	<b>£333</b>	<b>£567</b>
<b>£30,000</b>	<b>£1,443</b>	<b>£1,809</b>
<b>£40,000</b>	<b>£2,553</b>	<b>£3,279</b>
<b>£50,000</b>	<b>£3,678</b>	<b>£4,938</b>
<b>£60,000</b>	<b>£5,028</b>	<b>£6,846</b>
<b>£70,000</b>	<b>£6,549</b>	<b>£8,766</b>
<b>£80,000</b>	<b>£8,160</b>	<b>£10,776</b>
<b>£90,000</b>	<b>£9,771</b>	<b>£12,855</b>
<b>£100,000</b>	<b>£11,379</b>	<b>£14,964</b>
<b>£120,000</b>	<b>£14,601</b>	<b>£19,185</b>
<b>£140,000</b>	<b>£17,820</b>	<b>£23,406</b>
<b>£160,000</b>	<b>£21,039</b>	<b>£27,624</b>
<b>£180,000</b>	<b>£24,261</b>	<b>£31,845</b>
<b>£200,000</b>	<b>£27,480</b>	<b>£36,066</b>



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# International Students

## **Across the school, more than 20 languages are spoken by students of 16 different nationalities.**

Every international student receives one to one support with English language and study skills.

A friendly, diverse boarding environment means students quickly fit in and pick up English from new friends.

Many staff are also from overseas - we recruit the best musicians and teachers, wherever they can be found.

**“The way in which the pupils support each other across year groups and across the school is exceptional. The school spirit is very strong”**

*Parent*

## **Applying from overseas**

Admission is purely on musical potential and there are no academic entry requirements. However, it is important that Chetham's can provide a suitable course for your needs, both academically and musically.

International applicants are therefore also asked to provide details of current educational achievements and the subjects they would like to study at Chetham's. Evidence of fluency in both written and spoken English is also required.

## **Visas**

If you are a non-UK student, it is likely that you will need to have a visa to study at Chetham's. The School is a Highly Trusted Sponsor and if you are eligible we will be able to provide a sponsorship number for you to use when applying for your visa.

## **English Language Skills**

Students in the Sixth Form must be able to demonstrate competency in English language at or above CEFR level B1.

If English is not your first language, you will receive support from the Compensatory Education team whilst studying at Chetham's. Through one-to-one sessions, staff will assess your English language ability, and support you in developing grammatical and communication skills, and overcoming differences in understanding arising from linguistic or cultural divides.

Students are offered support to prepare for the International English Language Test System (IELTS) which is usually a requirement for university or conservatoire entrance.

## **Guardians**

Every student whose parents live or work outside the UK must have a guardian. Students will usually visit this guardian for short breaks such as Free Weekends or in case of illness; and the guardian may respond on behalf of parents to educational or medical issues requiring urgent attention.

## **Funding for international students**

Students with non-UK passports may be eligible for a grant through the Music and Dance scheme if they have lived in the UK for a prescribed period of time. Students with UK passports, but who live abroad, may or may not be offered a grant depending on their residential status.

Students living outside the EU and with non-EU passports are not eligible for an MDS grant and are classed as fee-paying students.



