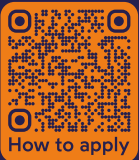


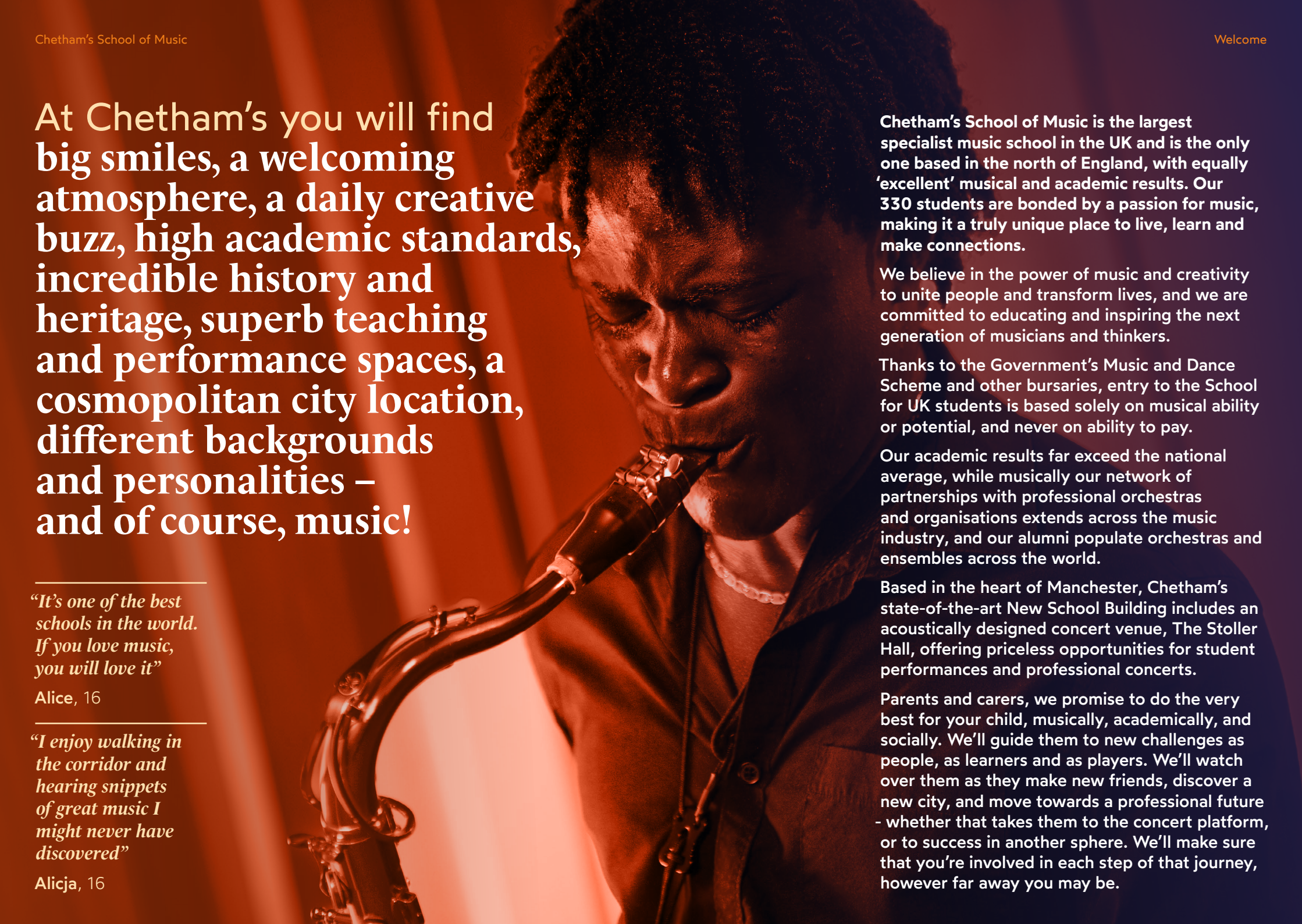


Chetham's
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Prospectus
2024/2025



How to apply



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!

“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.

Thanks to the Government's Music and Dance Scheme and other bursaries, entry to the School for UK students is based solely on musical ability or potential, and never on ability to pay.

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 and carers, 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 with **outstanding** academic results and **state-of-the-art** facilities offers students **a world-class** music education.

We received a glowing report from the Independent Schools Inspectorate following an inspection in 2024, and were 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”

Nicola Smith & Tom Redmond

Joint Principals

Malcolm Edge

Chair of Governors

Chetham’s School of Music

Long Millgate

Manchester M3 1SB

hello@chethams.com

chethams.com

0161 834 9644

Find us on social media: @chethams



Chetham’s

Music



Chetham's
SCHOOL OF 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 and to develop as a performer and professional. Many will go on to have hugely successful careers.

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

Chetham's alumni excelling around the world.



Emily Davis is the Leader of the Hallé Orchestra.



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



Peter Moore (trombone) and **Jennifer Pike** (violin) both won the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition aged 12, whilst 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.



Esther Abrami won first prize at the Vatelot Rampal violin competition.



Guy Johnston (cello) received a BRIT Award for young classical performer and is a BBC Young Musician of the Year award winner.



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



Thangam Debonnaire is a former Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Amazing experiences await you at Chetham's!

Key Music Staff at
Chetham's School
of Music:

Tom Redmond

*Joint Principal/
Director of Music*

Marcus Farnsworth

Head of Vocal

Belinda Gough

*Joint Head of
Woodwind, Brass
& Percussion*

Dr David Thornton

*Joint Head of
Woodwind, Brass
& Percussion*

Nicholas Jones

Head of Strings

Dr Owen Cox

*Assistant Head
of Strings*

Dr Sam King

*Head of Academic
Music*

Dr Murray McLachlan

Head of Keyboard

Dr Jeremy Pike

Head of Composition

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 on site.

Give back to the local community by performing in care homes, schools, public spaces and iconic music venues.

Academic Study



Chetham's
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Our students have the opportunity to **fulfil their future aspirations, both musically and academically**, thanks to an outstanding academic education and an unparalleled music programme.

Students' success is born of small and medium sized classes, 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.

- 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 smaller 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

“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

The Independent Schools Inspectorate highlighted our balanced curriculum and effective careers guidance as **“a significant strength.”**



“At Chetham’s you are surrounded by like-minded people, who all share a passion, but who are also all individuals who have something unique to bring to the table”

Alexei, Alumni

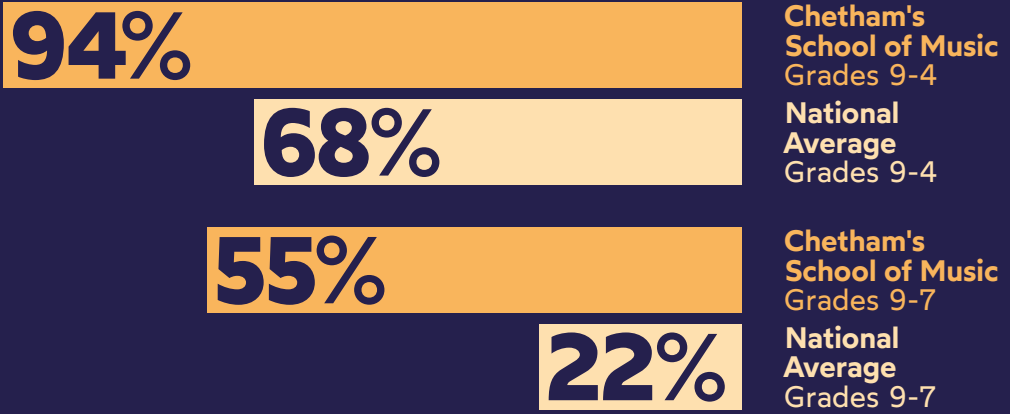


“The standard of teaching and the small class sizes mean that lessons are tailored to individuals and each student can really thrive”

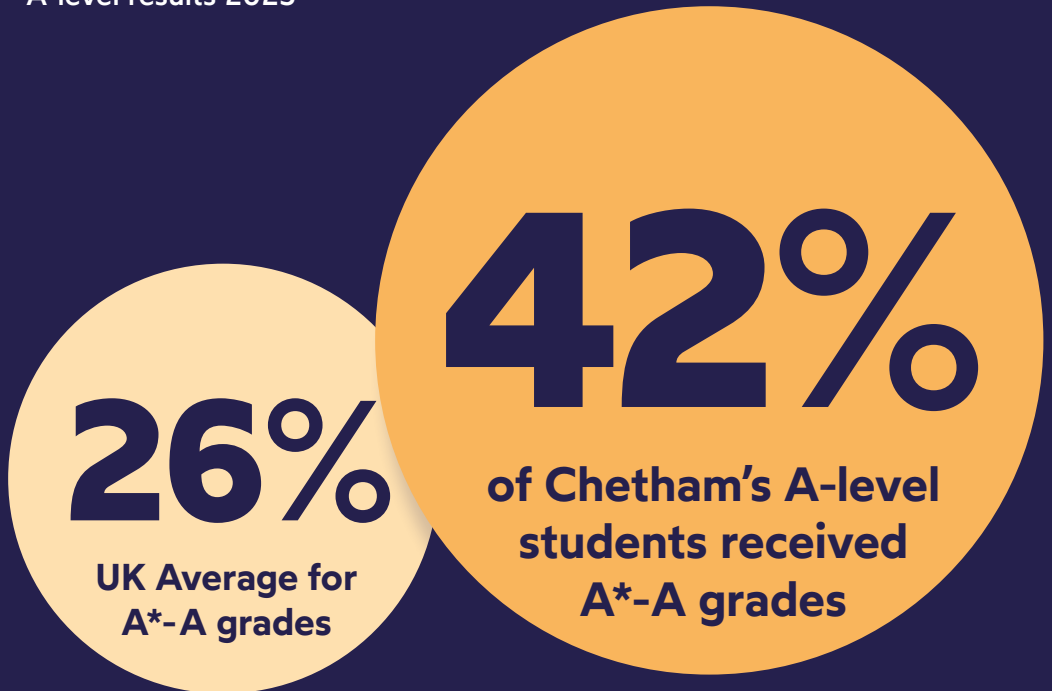
Parent

How do we compare?

GCSE results 2023



A-level results 2023



Wellbeing



Chetham's
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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.

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.

“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

- 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.





Lower School



Chetham's
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

A music school is 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!

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.

Victoria House

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.



Learning

Y4 + Y5

Miss Tomlinson

Year 4 and 5 are taught together in Junior Class. It's only one classroom so you won't need to worry about finding your way around school for every lesson.

Y6

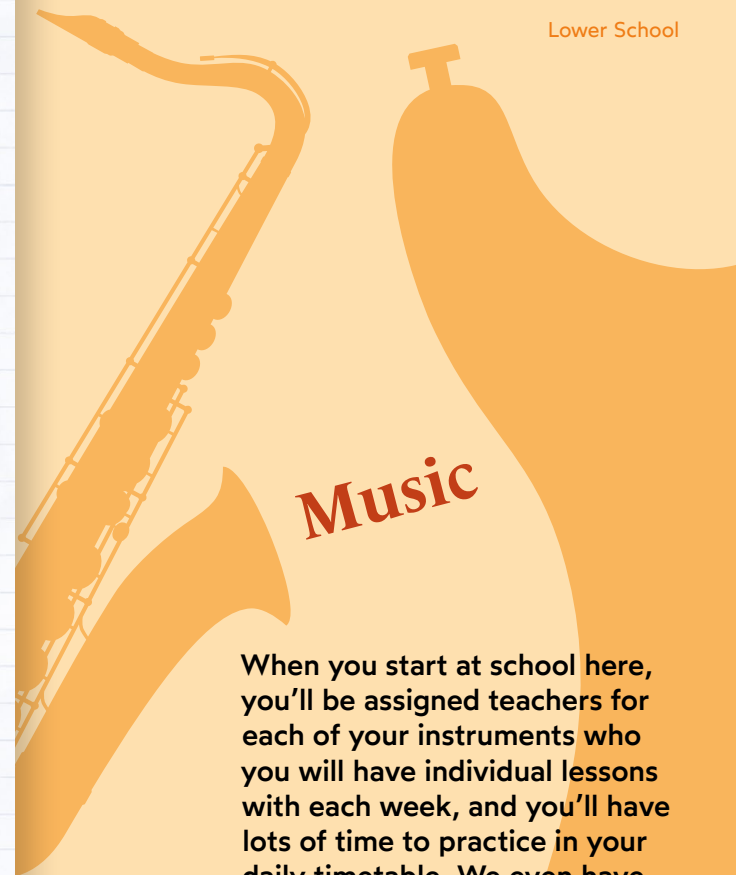
Mr Wong

As you get a bit older and join Year 6, you'll be in a new class taught by Mr Wong and begin preparing for Key Stage 3.

Y7

Different teachers

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.

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!



Middle School



Chetham's
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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.

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 Philharmonic 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.

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

Ben, 15

“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

Sixth Form



Chetham's
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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

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!

“My teacher is fantastic and always finds a way to make the lessons interesting and engaging”

Annie, 17

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

Isaac, 17

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.





Fees and Funding



Chetham's
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

What matters at Chetham's is musical potential, not ability to pay.

Around 90% of Chetham's students receive full or partial funding. 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 your child is offered a place at Chetham's and qualify for the Music and Dance Scheme, you will be asked to provide your income details to the Finance Director who will then calculate what your annual contribution to the fees will be. As a rough guide, if you earn £20,000 per year you will pay only £567 a year towards boarding fees and education. If you earn over £200,000 a year then you be asked to pay full fees. Everyone in between has to contribute on a sliding scale, shown opposite.

This scheme does not apply to Choristers or overseas students. 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 2024

MDS Students (set by DfE)	per annum	per term
Day Student	£28,506	£9,502
Boarding Student	£36,792	£12,264
Overseas Students (non-MDS)	per annum	per term
Day Student	£32,193	£10,731
Boarding Student	£42,093	£14,031
Choristers	per annum	per term
Day Student	£10,872	£3,624

Parents' annual contribution to fees for Music and Dance Scheme aided students

Relevant income (per annum)	Day Student	Boarder
£10,000	£0	£0
£20,000	£333	£567
£30,000	£1,443	£1,809
£40,000	£2,553	£3,279
£50,000	£3,678	£4,938
£60,000	£5,028	£6,846
£70,000	£6,549	£8,766
£80,000	£8,160	£10,776
£90,000	£9,771	£12,855
£100,000	£11,379	£14,964
£110,000	£12,990	£17,076
£120,000	£14,601	£19,185
£130,000	£16,209	£21,294
£140,000	£17,820	£23,406
£150,000	£19,427	£25,515
£160,000	£21,039	£27,624
£170,000	£22,650	£29,736
£180,000	£24,261	£31,845
£190,000	£25,869	£33,954
£200,000	£27,480	£36,066

International Students



Chetham's
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Across the school, **more than 40 languages are spoken by students of 16 different nationalities.**

Chetham's is a truly international community. Around 10% of our students have joined us from overseas, and over forty languages are spoken across the School.

This diversity, both within school and in the wider community across Manchester's vibrant city centre, encourages a natural awareness and acceptance of different views, beliefs, and cultures.

Applying from overseas

We warmly welcome applications from all over the world.

If your application progresses to an interview with our audition panel and you are not yet confident about conversing in English, please try to have someone with you who can help the conversation to flow, as this should be an enjoyable opportunity for you to ask as well as answer questions.

Admission is based primarily on musical potential, yet we offer a very strong academic programme which all students follow. You will follow the UK system of GCSEs or A- Levels. Non-UK Resident applicants are asked to provide details of current educational achievements and the subjects they would like to study at Chetham's.

“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

“Everyone here has come from different countries, but we all do the same thing here – music! We all sing together in a choir, we give concerts together, we hang out, we have fun. That's why I love it here”

Oleksii, 18

Visas

If you are a non-UK student – or an EU student without settled or pre-settled status – it is likely that you will need to have a visa to study at Chetham's.

The School has a Student Sponsor license and if you are eligible, we will be able to provide a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies sponsorship number for you to use when applying for your visa.

If you are aged up to and including 15 you will have to apply for a Child Student visa. This also applies if you are 16 or 17 but will be primarily studying at GCSE level.

If you are 16 or 17 and will be studying A levels, you can choose whether to apply for a Child Student visa or a Student visa.

If you are 18 you must apply for a Student visa.

English Language skills

Students who plan to apply for a Student visa must be able to demonstrate competency in English language at or above CEFR level B1. For more information, please visit the UK Border Agency website or contact the School.

If English is not your first language, you will receive support from the Compensatory Education team and English Departments whilst studying at Chetham's. Through small groups - or one to one sessions at an extra charge - staff will assess your English language ability, support you in developing grammatical and communication skills, and help you to overcome 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 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. The Guardian needs to be within two hours drive of Manchester. We recommend that the Guardian is either a close family member or certified Guardian through an accredited agency.

Bursaries for overseas students

Each year we have a very small number of bursaries that we award to exceptional students from overseas. The amount of funding is determined by the School and is for one year only. Overseas bursaries are based on parental income which will need to be provided.

Short visits and summer schools

Students applying from overseas may be able to arrange short residential stays in school as a trial boarder, helping them to make a final decision about studying at Chetham's. During these visits you will get to know fellow students and the school day, meet pastoral staff, and take part in the music and academic programme. Trial visits generally last no more than one week and should be arranged with the Auditions Administrator, usually after a successful Main Audition.

Funding for international students

(including EU residents)

Overseas students are not eligible for the Music and Dance Scheme. Information about fees can be found in the Fees & Finance document ([QR code below](#)).

