



As you move into the Sixth Form we expect you to be taking a lead role in the musical ensembles and activities. This pack gives a little detail on how that could look and what you can do to prepare to take such a lead role which also then feeds into leadership roles<sup>1</sup> in performing arts and in the wider school.

## Instrumental ensembles

You could research pieces for the ensemble which you would like to perform, as a Sixth Form student it is expected that you will be involved in discussions and suggestions for repertoire.

♫ Taking a lead role in an **acoustic/orchestral instrument group** e.g.:

Brass group

Clarinet group

Flute choir

Guitar group

Saxophone group

String quartet

relies on you being up to speed with your instrumental practice. You should also consider practising ensemble playing using some of the online resources. You could type in 'playalong & your instrument name' into YouTube and see hundreds of video with sheet music to play in a virtual ensemble (e.g. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H\\_VUrEygk84](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_VUrEygk84)).

♫ Taking a lead role in a **popular/jazz ensemble** e.g.:

Fake jazz band

Trad jazz band

Rock band

Soul band

is slightly different as you may have to learn a style as well as rehearse your instrument. It may well be that you are not yet familiar with certain techniques (using effects pedals effectively on guitar, adding lip gliss on a saxophone note or using a wah-wah mute etc.). Research the style you are interested in joining.

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<sup>1</sup> Performing Arts Prefects are appointed in Year Twelve and School Prefects and Heads of School are appointed at the end of Year Twelve based on student leadership and engagement. Likewise school colours and prizes reflect student involvement.



Try to learn a technique from video tutorials or during your one-to-one lessons with your instrument teacher. Here is one from searching 'soul guitar technique tutorial' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qgKWz0ZYb4>



Taking a lead role in a **large instrumental ensemble** e.g.:

Concert Band

Senior Orchestra

Swing Band

relies on you being up to speed with your instrumental practice. You should also consider practising ensemble playing using some of the online resources. The repertoire will depend on the ensemble; Concert Band play a mixture of film, television themes and show tunes as well as some light music. Senior Orchestra play pieces by 'classical' composers and usually one more popular or film composition per concert. Swing Band play Big-band music as well as arrangements of pop and rock in a Big-Band style.

To get a feel for the Big-Band style try this link to *Welcome to the Jungle* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQzXX64OIUw> or *Money Can't buy me love* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GiY-JwG\\_VQU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GiY-JwG_VQU) or perhaps try Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band.

## Vocal/Choral ensembles

You could research pieces for the choir which you would like to perform, as a sixth form student it is expected that you will be involved in discussions and suggestions for repertoire and if you have ideas this can be useful. It is vital you keep practising pieces in the style you are aiming to be involved in. Search for part-singing exercises such as ChoirParts on YouTube



Taking a lead role in an **vocal/choral group** such as:

Barbershop (boys)

Girls' Choir

Grove Singers (full choir)

Otto Voci (chamber choir)



**Woodhouse Grove School**

**Music Department: Co-curricular prep for Sixth Form**

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The Barbershop style is on show with the Kings Singers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNTnieh-F9U> and one of our OG's has taken his talents to "The Techtonics" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2bWTriC9oE&feature=youtu.be> Girls' Choir covers a similar style but in a higher register (perhaps check out The Puppini Sisters or The Swingles for examples). Girls' Choir and Barbershop often perform one item together each concert.

Grove Singers tend to deliver most of the chapel service repertoire (so sacred music by composers like Stopford, Chilcott, Rutter, Wilcocks and occasionally the big guns like Bach, Handel, Mendelssohn etc.). Recent performances have included *Lead me, Lord* by Wesley <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nlwxEKdIQw> and there is this BBC backing track set for each vocal line of Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1J7-DJIA1FY&list=PL81543B4927C4A3A7>

Otto Voci is an occasional group of unaccompanied senior singers who perform more difficult repertoire for special occasions it forms when there is a need for it. Recent performances have included items like *Locus Iste* by Bruckner <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQRYwe4KDDQ>, *The Crown of Roses* by Tchaikovsky and *The Silver Swan* by Gibbons <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8kUIKE10-E>