MALVERN
COLLEGE

GUIDE

Performing Arts

Tomorrow's role models, shaped today.

Welcome

Welcome to the Performing Arts Department at Malvern College. Whether you are joining us as a pupil or supporting one as a parent, we are delighted to welcome you into a vibrant, creative, and ambitious community where the arts are very much at the heart of school life.

The Performing Arts at Malvern offer pupils a rich and varied experience across music, drama, and performance. Our aim is to provide opportunities that inspire creativity, encourage collaboration, and develop confidence - whether pupils are taking their first steps on stage or pursuing excellence at the highest level. From large scale concerts and productions to intimate recitals, workshops, and masterclasses, we strive to ensure that every pupil can find a meaningful way to engage.

We believe that participation in the performing arts plays a vital role in a young person's education. Alongside developing technical skill and artistic understanding, pupils learn discipline, resilience, teamwork, and the confidence to communicate ideas with clarity and conviction. These qualities extend far beyond the rehearsal room and stage and support success across all areas of school life.

Our department is supported by a dedicated team of specialist teachers, visiting music teachers, and professional practitioners, all of whom are committed to nurturing individual potential while fostering a strong sense of ensemble and community. We are proud of the high standards our pupils achieve, but equally of the inclusive and supportive environment in which they do so.

I hope this handbook helps you to understand the breadth of opportunities available and answers any initial questions you may have. We look forward to working with you and sharing many memorable performances over the coming years.

James R K Ramm
Director of Performing Arts

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Teaching Team:

Noriko Tsuzaki
James Topp
Rachel Snow
Andrew Hooley
Katie Leaver
Jonathan Helm
Guy Locke
Katherine Harper
Sue Hill
Tim Sidford
Anne-Marie Kok
Toby Bolch
Julian Turner
Natasha Gale
Michael Phillips

Department Structure

Performing Arts

James R K Ramm
Director of Performing Arts

Keith Packham
Head of Drama

Jonathan Brown
Head of Choral and Chapel Music

Joanna Gray
Head of Academic Music

Katie Powell
Performing Arts Manager Designate

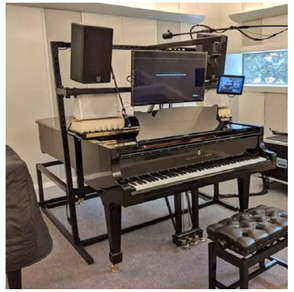
Leanne Cook
Speech & Drama Teacher

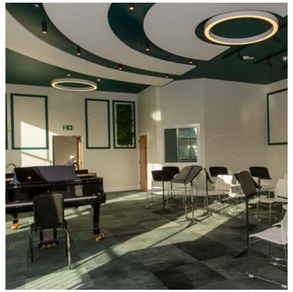
James Houlbrooke
Dance Instructor

Contact:

james.ramm@malverncollege.org.uk
keith.packham@malverncollege.org.uk
jonathan.brown@malverncollege.org.uk
joanna.gray@malverncollege.org.uk
katie.powell@malverncollege.org.uk
leanne.cook@malverncollege.org.uk
james.houlbrooke@malverncollege.org.uk

Music





All-Steinway School

Malvern College is proudly an All-Steinway School, a prestigious accolade given by Steinway & Sons to schools who demonstrate a commitment to excellence and an unparalleled educational experience. These beautiful instruments inspire pupils to realise their full musical potential and prepare them for performance at a professional level.

There are 30 Steinway pianos at the College, including an upright piano in each of the 11 Houses and numerous practice pianos in the Music School. In total there are eight grand pianos in teaching and performance spaces, with two gold standard performance grand pianos, including our showcase concert grand – a spectacular nine foot 'Model D', destined for recitals in Big School, the College's main performance space.

Music Ambassadors

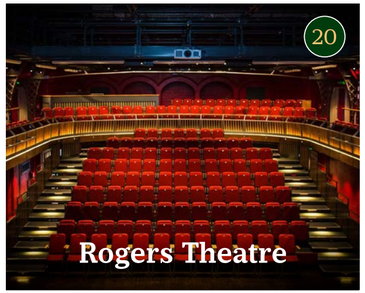
The position of Music Ambassador is a prestigious leadership role awarded to a musically outstanding and highly committed Upper Sixth pupil. The role is central to fostering excellence, enthusiasm, and a sense of community across the Music Department, acting as a bridge between pupils and staff.

Meet the Ambassadors:

- Georgia C
- Isaac M
- Trevor Y
- Clara G
- Agnes M
- Lotti W

As part of their commitment to the Music Department, they act as a key point of contact for pupils, helping to drive improvement and engagement. They also serve as the prefects on duty during evening practice sessions and play an important role in leading and organising concerts and musical events throughout the year.

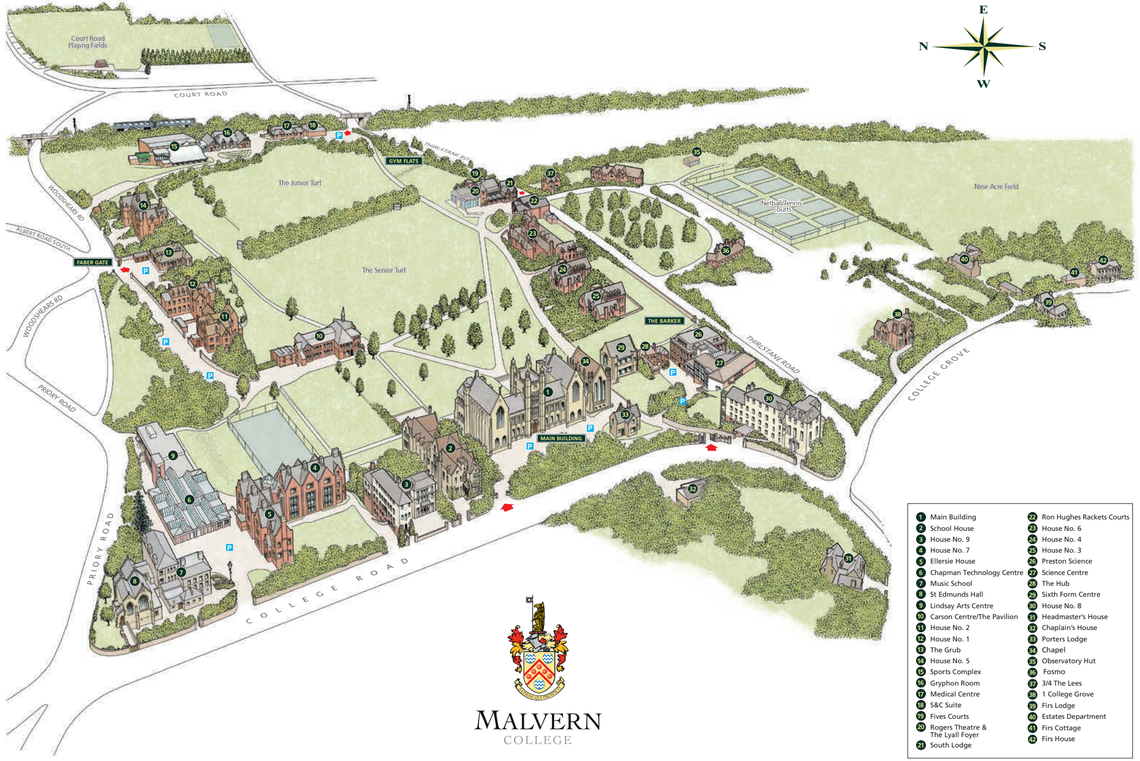
Where can I find Music?



Music school opening times

The Music Department is open on weekdays from 7am to 9:15pm. In addition, the department is open on Saturday mornings until lunchtime and again on Sundays from 2pm to 5pm.

If pupils would like access to the department outside of these hours, they are welcome to make a request, and we will endeavour to accommodate this wherever possible.



Music

Ensembles and Opportunities

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning (7:30am-8:15pm)	Music Practice	Music Practice	Music Practice	Music Practice	Music Practice
Lunch (1:35pm-2:05pm)	Studio Session (recording)	String Quartet Piano trio	College Choir (1:35pm-2:45pm)	Echoes of Ella (female jazz)	Studio Session (composition)
Afternoon (from 4:30-6pm)	Sinfonia (orchestra) 4:30pm-5:30pm Percussion ensemble 5:30pm-6pm Brass ensemble 5:30pm-6pm	Senior Chamber Ensemble 5pm-5:45pm	Eddie's Big Band 5pm-6pm String Orchestra 5pm-6pm	Junior Orchestra 4:30pm-6pm (prep school at 4:30, FY/Remove at 5pm)	Boys singing 5pm-5:30pm Girls singing 5:30pm-6pm Theory class (grade 5 theory) Band Open Session 5pm-6pm
Evening (from 6pm)	Live Lounge Band 7:15-8pm Musical 7:15-8pm	Chamber Choir 6:15pm-7:15pm			
Evening 7:15pm-9:15pm	Music Practice	Music Practice	Music Practice	Music Practice	Music Practice

Timetabling of Lessons

Lessons are scheduled on a weekly basis.

- In most cases, lessons may take place during academic time. However, we operate a rota system to ensure that pupils do not miss the same academic subject more than twice within a half term.
- For pupils in the Sixth Form, lessons are always scheduled during free periods, ensuring there is no impact on academic teaching time.

To support organisation and clarity:

- Timetables are prepared and shared at the end of each week for the following week.
- You will receive your lesson timetable:
  - Via Microsoft Teams (in your Music teacher's Team)
  - On personal SOCS page

Attending and Managing Lessons

All lessons take place within the Music School, and pupils are expected to arrive promptly and prepared.

If you need to request a change to a lesson time - for example:

- a medical appointment, or
- a scheduled academic test or commitment

Please contact Mrs Powell as soon as possible to arrange an alternative. Please note that it is very difficult to rearrange lessons without at least 48 hours' notice, so early communication is essential.

Absence from Lessons

If you are unable to attend a lesson:

- Please inform both your teacher and Mrs Powell (via email or Teams) as soon as possible
- This includes absences due to illness or unforeseen circumstances

If you are aware in advance that you will miss a lesson due to:

- school trips,
- fixtures, or
- other commitments

Please notify us early so that we can arrange a suitable alternative time wherever possible.

If you have any questions or need assistance with timetabling, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Powell, or visit her in person.

She is available in the office from 8:30am – 5pm, Monday to Friday, and is always happy to help.

Mrs Powell
katie.powell@malverncollege.org.uk

Exams

ABRSM and Trinity Music exams

The Music Department hosts face-to-face Associated Board of the Royal School of Music (ABRSM) exams twice a year - in the Autumn and Summer Terms, usually in December and May. Your teacher will advise when they think you are ready to be entered for an exam.

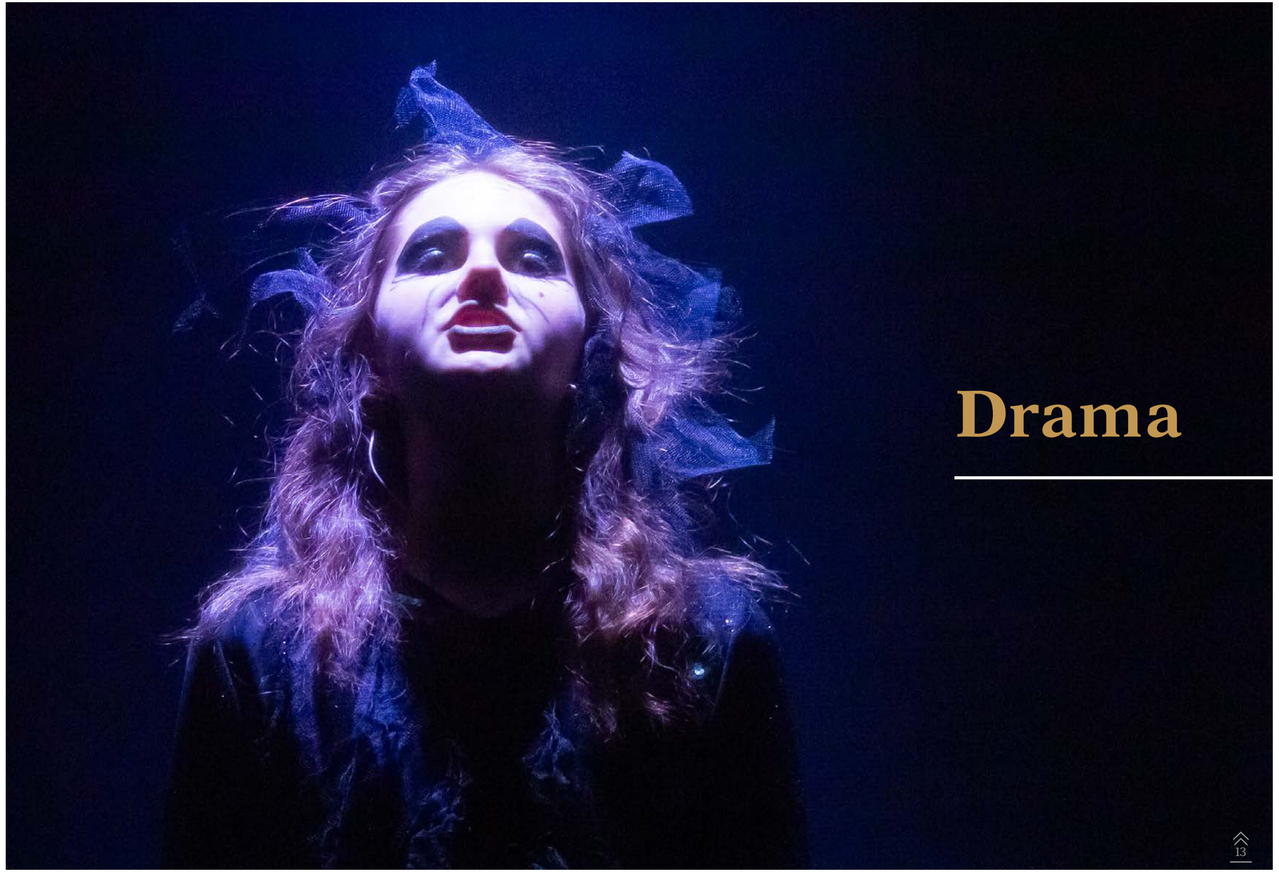
As well as face-to-face exams, it is possible to take ABRSM and Trinity exams digitally. The same syllabus is followed for both face-to-face and digital exams, with exam pieces being recorded and then submitted via the ABRSM and Trinity websites for the digital option. Exams being submitted digitally can be recorded and submitted at any point during the academic year.

Music Theory

Music Theory is an activity that encourages the increased understanding of printed music. Theory classes are available for preparation for the ABRSM Grade 5 exam. There is no charge for these lessons.

Grade 5 Theory is required for pupils wishing to take ABRSM practical exams for Grade 6 and above.

- Classes are organised by arrangement and take place each Friday, 5pm – 6pm.



Drama

Drama

Activities and Opportunities

Discover your spotlight with our brand-new pupil-led Drama Society! Whether you love acting, directing, writing, or working behind the scenes, this vibrant community is the perfect place to unleash your creativity, build confidence, and make lasting friendships. Run entirely by pupils, the society offers exciting opportunities to shape performances, share ideas, and bring bold productions to life. Join us and be part of something inspiring - your stage is waiting!

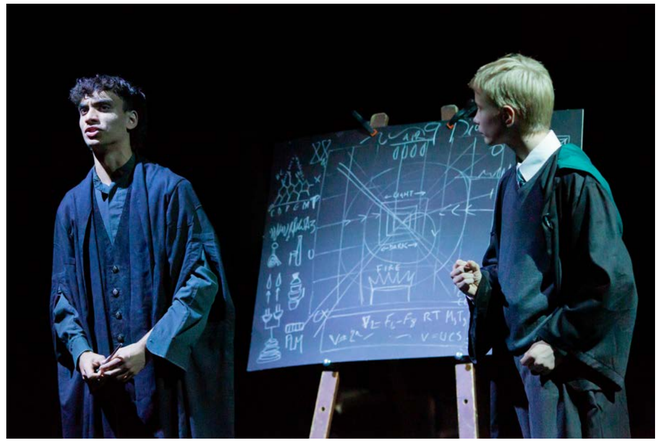
One of the highlights of the Performing Arts calendar is the whole school musical, a vibrant and much-anticipated production that brings together pupils, staff, and the wider school community. Staged in the Rogers Theatre, this event showcases the creativity, dedication, and talent of pupils across all year groups.

The school musical offers a truly inclusive opportunity for involvement, extending far beyond those performing on stage. Pupils can take part as actors, singers, dancers, musicians, or work behind the scenes in areas such as lighting, sound, set design, costume, stage management, and marketing. This collaborative process allows participants to develop a wide range of skills, from artistic expression and teamwork to leadership and technical expertise.

Rehearsals foster a strong sense of community, as pupils work towards a shared goal, building confidence and forming lasting friendships along the way. The professional-standard facilities of the Rogers Theatre provide an inspiring environment in which pupils can experience the excitement and discipline of live performance.

Performing Arts Scholarships

We have an extensive scholarship programme at Malvern College. Key details for this can be found on our Scholarships web page **here**.



The final performances are a celebration of months of hard work, offering audiences an evening of high-quality entertainment while highlighting the richness and diversity of the school's performing arts programme. For many pupils, the whole school musical becomes a memorable and defining part of their school experience.

Drama rehearsals take place throughout the year in preparation for a variety of performances, including plays and the whole school musical. To minimise impact on academic work and other activities, these sessions run post-supper on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Rehearsals are supportive and inclusive, offering pupils the chance to develop their skills, confidence, and teamwork.

If you have any questions about Drama, please contact Mrs Powell, who will be happy to help or direct you to the appropriate member of staff.

Mrs Powell
katie.powell@malverncollege.org.uk

Instrumental and LAMDA Programme

Our programme of one-to-one instrumental, singing, and Speech & Drama lessons is a popular and enriching part of life at the College, offering pupils a wide range of specialist options tailored to their individual interests and aspirations.

In instrumental and vocal lessons, pupils can study a broad range of disciplines, working with expert visiting music teachers to develop technical skill, musical understanding, and performance confidence. Whether preparing for graded examinations, auditions, or simply learning for enjoyment, these lessons provide a highly personalised approach that allows each pupil to progress at their own pace.

Alongside this, pupils may also choose to pursue Speech and Drama, selecting from the following disciplines, studied either individually or in shared lessons:

- Musical Theatre
- Public Speaking
- Acting
- Devising Drama
- Shakespeare

These areas offer an excellent opportunity to build confidence, creativity, and strong communication skills within a supportive, individualised setting. All aspects of oral communication can be explored, with lessons carefully structured to meet each pupil's needs. Some pupils choose to focus on acting and textual interpretation, while others work on developing vocal presence and effectiveness in public speaking.

A particularly popular option is Musical Theatre, where pupils combine singing and acting skills. We offer both Trinity Musical Theatre examinations and LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) qualifications, providing recognised accreditation alongside their studies.

Across both music and drama, pupils have regular opportunities to perform, whether in informal recitals, full concerts, or local events such as the Worcester Competitive Arts Festival. These experiences are an invaluable part of developing confidence and stagecraft.

Once enrolled, it is expected that pupils will continue their lessons throughout their time at the College. However, should a pupil wish to discontinue, one term's written notice from parents is required, to be submitted no later than the start of the pupil's final term.

Starting Instrumental and LAMDA lessons

Lesson Organisation and Expectations

Individual instrumental and vocal lessons form a central part of musical life at the College. These lessons are carefully scheduled to ensure that pupils receive consistent, high quality tuition while maintaining a sensible balance with their academic commitments. Our aim is to provide a system that is both structured and flexible, allowing pupils to make strong musical progress without undue disruption to their wider studies.

Dance

Activities and Opportunities

From September 2026, former Malvern pupil and professional dancer and choreographer James Houlbrooke joins Malvern College as Dance Instructor, bringing an exciting and innovative dance programme to the school. Dance is open to pupils of all abilities, including complete beginners, and offers a welcoming environment in which to learn, create and perform. Pupils can explore a wide range of styles including ballet, contemporary, jazz and street dance, developing technical skills alongside creativity and artistic expression. Through rehearsals, workshops and performance opportunities, pupils will improve coordination, strength, flexibility and musicality while building confidence and enjoying the energy and freedom of movement. Dance forms an exciting part of Malvern's wider performing arts programme and celebrates diverse cultural influences through movement and performance.

Dance encourages pupils to challenge themselves, embrace new styles and techniques, and build resilience through regular practice and collaboration. Whether working individually or as part of a group, pupils will develop communication skills, self-awareness and teamwork while learning to perform with confidence. Exposure to a variety of dance genres helps pupils appreciate different cultural traditions and artistic influences, broadening their understanding of the performing arts. The programme promotes discipline, ambition and wellbeing while fostering an inclusive environment where dancers of all abilities can thrive, take creative risks and celebrate personal achievement.

When can I do Dance?

Dance sessions take place throughout the week as part of the co-curricular programme.

Where will Dance take place?

Rogers Theatre, Lyall Foyer, St Edmund's Hall and Sports Hall.

What else should I know about Dance?

No previous dance experience is required. Sessions are inclusive, enjoyable and challenging for all abilities, with opportunities to learn new skills, perform in front of audiences, explore different cultures through dance and work collaboratively with others.

Performing Arts Scholarships

We have an extensive scholarship programme at Malvern College.
Key details for this can be found on our Scholarships web page **here**.

AUTUMN 2026
September

VMT CONCERT AND PARENT CONFERENCE
11 September, 7pm
Tia Tanna Room

PIANO MASTERCLASS, WORKSHOP FOLLOWED BY PIANO CONCERT
16 September
Tia Tanna Room
4:30pm – Masterclass and Workshop
7pm – Piano Concert

CHORAL EVENSONG WORCESTER
22 September
Rogers Theatre
Prep School Arts Day

UNPLUGGED CONCERT
23 September, 7pm
Rogers Theatre
Contemporary music concert building bands and solo artist culture

LIVE LOUNGE
24 September, 10:30am
The Grub
Chilled vibe down at The Grub during break. House band and relaxed opportunity for pupils to perform without pressure

PETER PAN – *THEATRE FACTORY*
26 September
Rogers Theatre

AUTUMN 2026
October

MUSIC MAKERS
2 October, 7pm
Tia Tanna Room
Traditional informal music concert with solo and chamber ensemble performances as well as LAMDA pieces and sketches

HOUSE SINGING RUN-THROUGHS
7 October, 6:45pm
Big School

HOUSE SINGING COMPETITION
9 October, 8:30am
The Downs Malvern

HOUSE SINGING FINALS
11 October, 7pm
Malvern Theatres
Highlight of the musical calendar. Pupil-led and of top quality music with whole house representation, a great way to end the term on a high.

VMT CONCERT AND PARENT CONFERENCE
12 October, 7pm
Tia Tanna Room

HARVEST FESTIVAL
16 October, 11:45am
The Downs Malvern

DNA COLLEGE PLAY
14 October, 7pm
Rogers Theatre

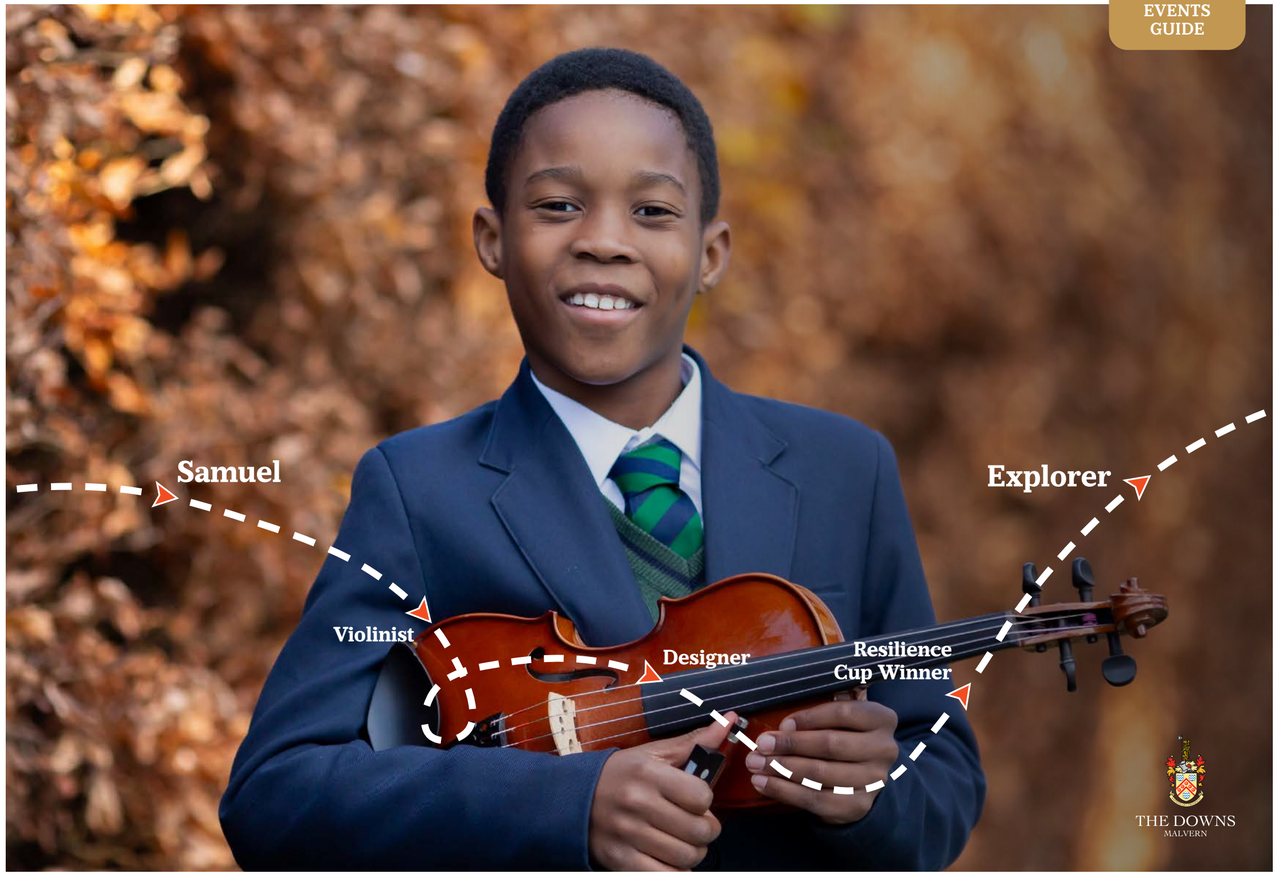
AUTUMN IN MALVERN: PETER DONOHOE
16 October, 7:30pm
Malvern Theatres

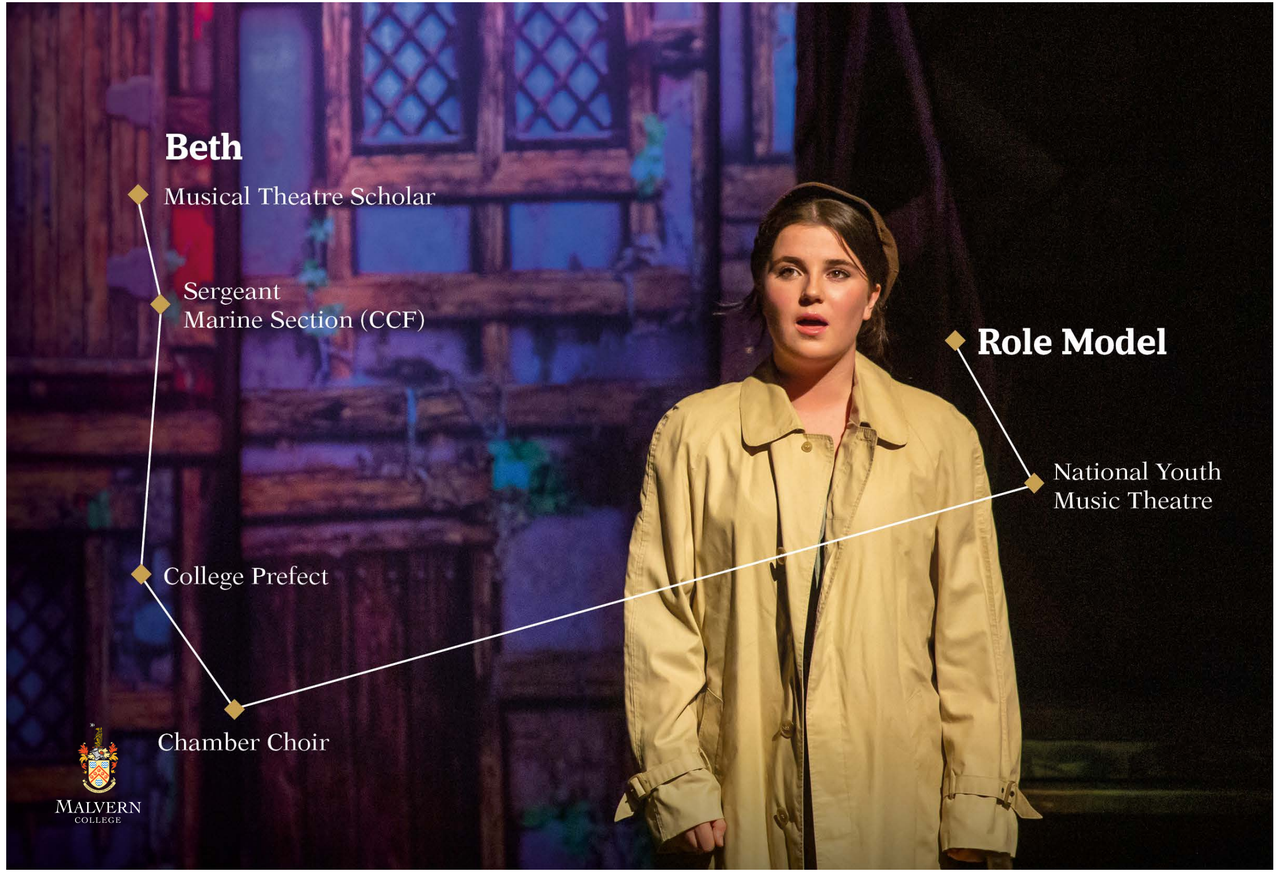
AUTUMN IN MALVERN: I MUSICANTI
17 October, 3pm
Malvern Theatres

NEWIES – *THEATRE FACTORY*
17 – 18 October
Rogers Theatre

The Downs Malvern Event

External Event





AUTUMN 2026
November

MUSIC MAKERS
6 November, 7pm
Tia Tanna Room
Traditional informal music concert with solo and chamber ensemble performances for junior performances with string quartet masterclasses during the afternoon

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE
8 November, 10am
Malvern College

THE DOWNS MALVERN REMEMBRANCE SERVICE
9 November
Malvern College

16+ MUSIC AND DRAMA SCHOLARSHIP ASSESSMENTS
10 November, All day
Tia Tanna Room and Rogers Theatre
Music scholarship auditions for prospective students

MICHAELMAS CONCERT
13 November, 7pm
St Edmund's Hall
Back by popular demand, the Michaelmas Concert celebrates the diverse range of music on offer at Malvern College. Workshops throughout the afternoon culminate in this special evening of musical excellence

INFORMAL CONCERT
17 November, 6pm
The Downs Malvern

LIVE LOUNGE
19 November, 10:30am
The Grub
Chilled vibe down at The Grub during break. House band and relaxed opportunity for pupils to perform without pressure

CHANDOS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT
22 November, 3pm
Big School

THE ADDAMS FAMILY *COLLEGE MUSICAL*
26 - 27 November, 7pm
Rogers Theatre
The Addams Family musical, with music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa and a book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice

The Downs Malvern Event

External Event

AUTUMN 2026
December

ABRSM EXAMS
2 December, All day
Tia Tanna Room

WINTER GLOW – STRINGS AND BRASS
4 December, 5:30pm
A highlight of the String Orchestra's calendar, the orchestra will be performing for visitors at the event at the Three Counties Showground

IET CHRISTMAS TALK RING RING: *THE STORY OF THE TELEPHONE*
7 December

PRE-PREP NATIVITY
8 December, 5:15pm
The Downs Malvern

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE
(Pupils and Staff)
8 December, 5pm
College Chapel

COLLEGE CAROL SERVICE
(Parents, Pupils OMs and Malvern community)
9 December, 7:30pm
College Chapel

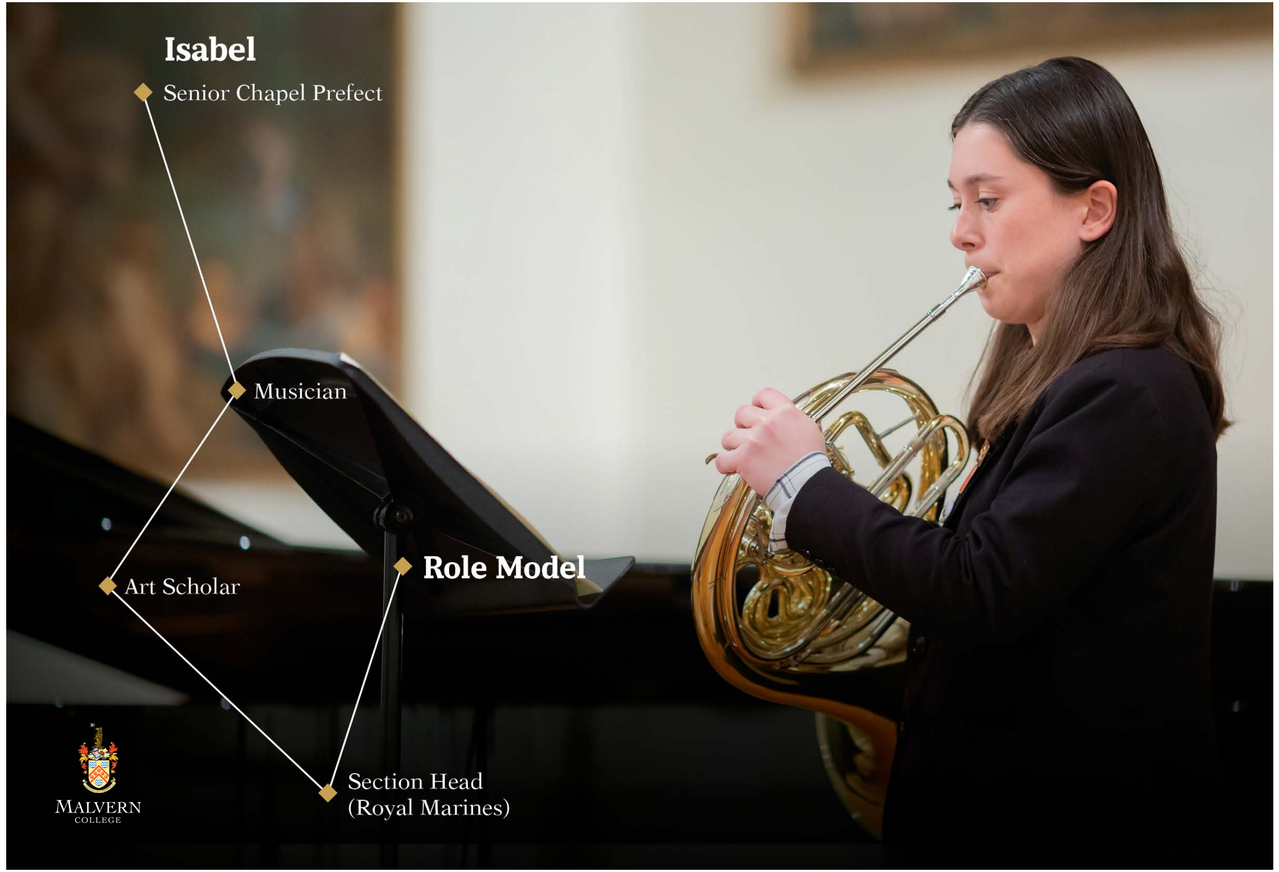
HOUSE CAROLS
10 December, 5:15pm
The Downs Malvern

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
10 December, 5:30pm
College Chapel (pupils-only event)

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
11 December, 9am
The Downs Malvern

CAROL SERVICE
(The Downs Malvern pupils, familes and friends)
11 December, 12pm
Chapel, Malvern College

The Downs Malvern Event
External Event



SPRING 2027

January

13+ DRAMA SCHOLARSHIP ASSESSMENT

9 January, All Day
Rogers Theatre
Drama scholarship assessment for prospective students

COMPOSITION MASTERCLASS WITH AARON KING

11 January
Music School
Film composer and OM Aaron King will work with our GCSE and A Level students in composition

WINDSOR EVENSONG

20 January
St George's Chapel

LIVE LOUNGE

21 January, 10:30am
The Grub
Chilled vibe down at The Grub during break. House band and relaxed opportunity for students to perform without pressure

13+ MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP ASSESSMENT

25 and 26 January, All Day
Tia Tanna Room
Music scholarship assessment for prospective students

MUSIC MAKERS

29 January, 7pm
Tia Tanna Room
Traditional informal music concert with solo and chamber ensemble performances

SPRING 2027
February

LUNCHBOX CONCERT
4 February, 1pm
Great Malvern Priory
30 minute recital of solo and small ensemble performances in the magnificent Malvern Priory

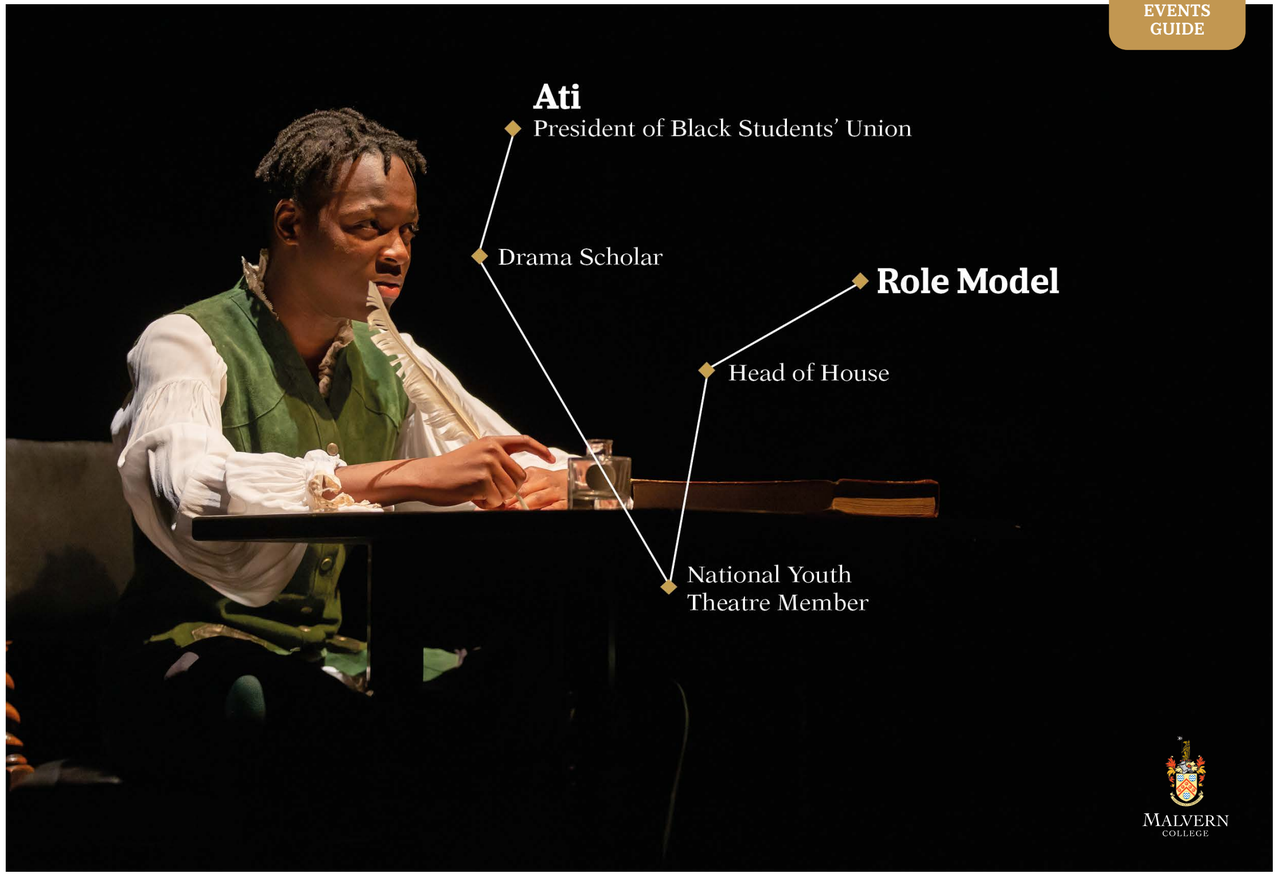
HOUSE DRAMA COMPETITION
5, 6 and 7 February, 7pm
Rogers Theatre

YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR AUDITIONS
Commencing 8 February
Music School
Auditions for the coveted Malvern Young Musician of the Year

MFC ST JOHN PASSION
13 February
Great Malvern Priory
With members of the College Choir

PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE
25 February, 7pm
Rogers Theatre

JAZZ NIGHT
26 February, 7pm
St Edmund's Hall
An evening of jazz with professional musician Charlie Bates and his award-winning combo



SPRING 2027
March

YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR FINAL
1 March, 7pm
Big School
The final to determine the Malvern Young Musician of the Year

LIVE LOUNGE
5 March, 10:30am
The Grub
Chilled vibe down at The Grub during break. House band and relaxed opportunity for students to perform without pressure

SPRING CONCERT
10 March, 7pm
Great Malvern Priory
An exciting new concert that brings together musicians from the local area, combining forces to produce an impressive array of performance

CONCERTO CONCERT
19 March, 7pm
Big School
Join the very best musicians as they perform challenging repertoire accompanied by a professional orchestra

COMMEMORATION SERVICE
20 March, 11:35am
Chapel
A service of commemoration led by the College Choir and Chamber Choir

SUMMER 2027

April | May | June | July

April

UNPLUGGED CONCERT

29 April, 7pm
Rogers Theatre
Contemporary music concert building bands and solo artist culture

May

MUSIC MAKERS

5 May, 7pm
Tia Tanna Room
Traditional informal music concert with solo and chamber ensemble performances

PREP CHORAL EVENSONG

15 May, 7pm
College Chapel
Performance of evensong with Prep Schools

MFC AND COLLEGE CHOIR C MINOR MASS

16 May
Great Malvern Priory
Joint venture of the Malvern College Choir and the Malvern Festival Chorus for a performance of Mozart C Minor Mass at the magnificent Priory

ABRSM EXAMS

18 May, All Day
Lyon Room

FOUNDATION YEAR PLAY

26 May, 7pm
Rogers Theatre

June

MUSIC FOR A SUMMER'S EVENING

16 June, 7pm
St Edmund's Hall
Traditional informal music concert with solo and chamber ensemble performances

LIVE LOUNGE

17 June, 10:30am
The Grub
A relaxed opportunity for pupils to perform at The Grub during break with the College House band

SIX THE MUSICAL

17–18 June, 7pm
Drama Scholars, Speech & Drama, Musical Theatre & Dance pupils

PIANO MASTERCLASS AND CONCERT

23 June, 4:30pm – Workshop,
7pm – Concert
Tia Tanna Room

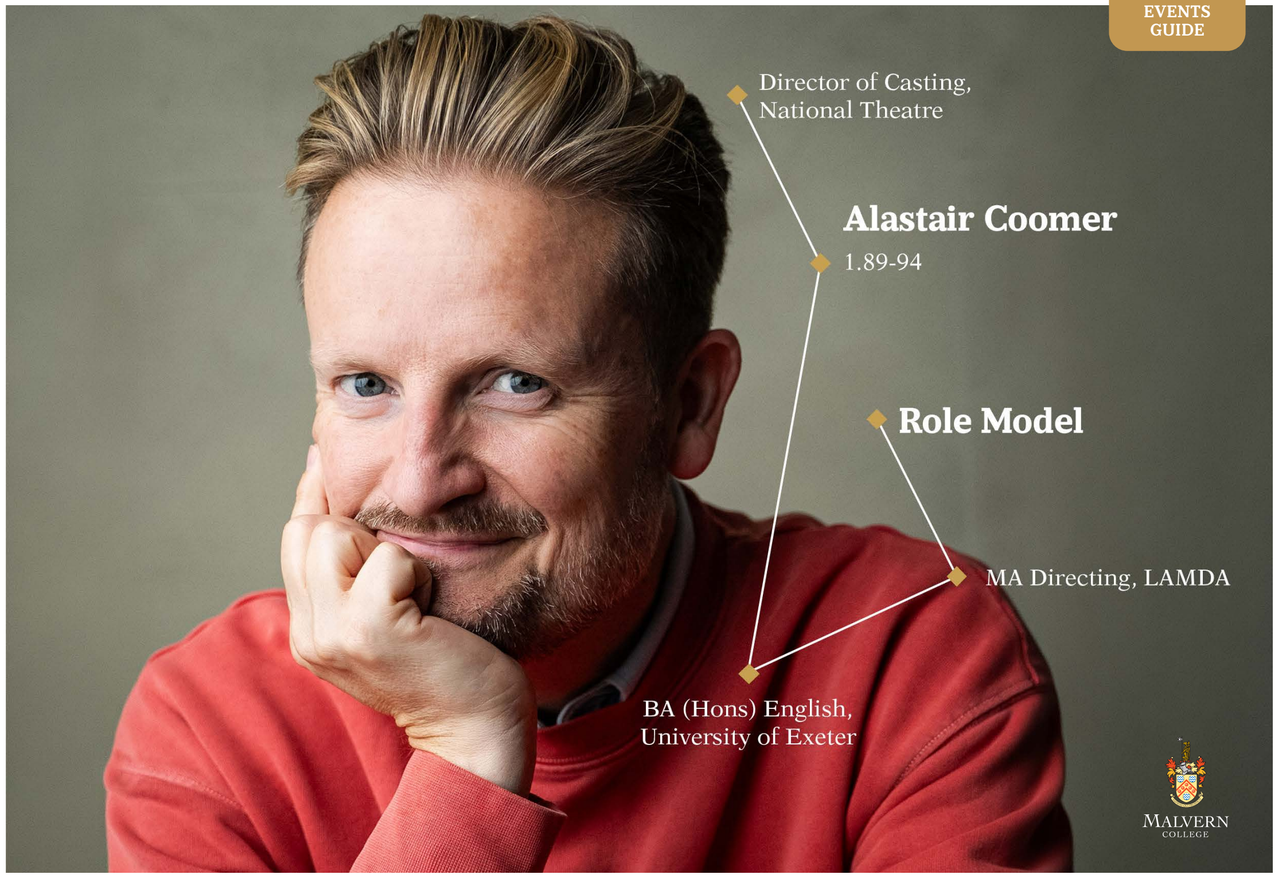
July

SUMMER JAM

1 July, 5:30pm
Fun on the Junior with music and games to celebrate the end of term

PRIZEGIVING JAZZ BAND

2 July
Speech Day and Prize Giving



MALVERN
COLLEGE

Tomorrow's role models,
shaped today.

Malvern College, College Road, Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 3DF, UK
t: +44 (0)1684 581 500 | e: admissions@malverncollege.org.uk
www.malverncollege.org.uk

September 2026