



c/o The Bursar
Royal Grammar School
Amersham Road
HIGH WYCOMBE
Buckinghamshire
HP13 6QT

CMA Auditions Policy

Please note that the ensemble names are changing in September 2019, as indicated below.

- Auditions are held in May each year. These are for the top three orchestras - Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonic Orchestra (previously Senior Orchestra) and Sinfonia (previously Junior Orchestra) - and the top three bands - Concert Band, Symphonic Wind Band (previously Senior Wind Band) and Academy Wind Band (previously Junior Wind Band).
- The auditions help us to place everyone in the right ensemble, and they include playing a short piece chosen by the candidate (without accompaniment) and some sight reading appropriate for the ensemble/s to which they are applying. Please note there may not be time to hear the entire piece.
- Everyone who is in or would like to apply for the above ensembles should take part, even if they wish to remain in their current ensembles.
- We will always do our best to place everyone in the most appropriate ensemble: the list below may be helpful as a guide for the standards normally expected for each instrument.
- Each audition should last no more than five minutes and should be a positive, encouraging experience for all taking part.
- The audition is the most important part of the process determining the appropriate ensemble but other factors such as age and experience, previous attendance and reliability, as well as availability of spaces in each group are taken in to consideration.
- Just before the audition, instrumentalists fill in an audition sheet to indicate which ensembles they are already in and which ones they wish to apply for. It is also helpful if they write down the name and composer of the short piece they are going to play.
- We do not give the result to the candidate at the audition, but it is helpful for everyone to know beforehand that they will either stay in their current ensemble or be promoted to the next. Nobody will move down a group.
- After the auditions, the results are reviewed and a draft list is circulated to all ensemble leaders for checking. The Principal and Vice Principal then review all the results before they are finalised.
- The results are emailed out to all those who auditioned as soon as possible, usually just before the penultimate week of our term when they are displayed during CMA sessions.
- Please refer any questions to Sally Stafford at sally.stafford@chilternmusicacademy.org

Orchestras

| Instrument | Sinfonia Sat 10:15-11:30 | Philharmonic Orchestra Fri 6:00-7:30 | Symphony Orchestra Fri 6:00-7:30 | String Orchestra Fri 4:45-5.45 |
|-------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| violin | 4-5 | 6-7 | 7-8+ | 6+ |
| viola | 4-5 | 6-7 | 7-8+ | 6+ |
| cello | 4-5 | 6-7 | 7-8+ | 6+ |
| Double bass | 4-5 | 5-7 | 6-8+ | 5+ |
| flute | 4-6 | 6-8 | 8+ | n/a |
| oboe | 4-6 | 6-7 | 7-8+ | n/a |
| clarinet | 4-6 | 6-7 | 8+ | n/a |
| Bassoon | 4-5 | 6-7 | 6-8+ | n/a |
| Trumpet | 4-5 | 6-7 | 7-8+ | n/a |
| French Horn | 4-5 | 6-7 | 6-8+ | n/a |
| Trombone | 4-5 | 6-7 | 7-8+ | n/a |
| Tuba | 4-5 | 6-7 | 7-8+ | n/a |

Bands

| Instrument | Academy Wind Band Sat 11:45-13:00 | Symphonic Wind Band Fri 7:45 – 9:15 | Concert Band Fri 7:45 – 9:15 |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Piccolo | 4-6 | 6-8 | 8+ |
| Flute | 4-6 | 6-8 | 8+ |
| Oboe | 4-5 | 6-7 | 7-8+ |
| Clarinet | 4-6 | 6-8 | 7-8+ |
| Bassoon | 4-5 | 5-6 | 6-8+ |
| Alto Saxophone | 4-5 | 6-8 | 7-8+ |
| Tenor/Baritone Sax | 4-5 | 6-7 | 7-8+ |
| Trumpet/Cornet | 4-5 | 6-8 | 7-8+ |
| French Horn | 4-5 | 6-7 | 7-8+ |
| Trombone | 4-5 | 6-7 | 7-8+ |
| Euphonium/Baritone | 4-5 | 6-7 | 7-8+ |
| Tuba | 4-5 | 6-7 | 7-8+ |
| Double Bass | 4-5 | 5-7 | 6-8+ |

Jazz and Chamber Music

- General suggested grades for the Jazz Band and Big Band are 4-6 and 6-8+ respectively.
- The Clarinet and Saxophone Choirs and Brass Dectet usually have members of Grade 6+.
- Woodwind and String Chamber music is available to players of Grade 4+ (Saturdays) and Grade 6+ (Fridays.)