



Brentwood School



Specialist Music Programme



The Specialist Music Programme will rigorously train, assess and inspire auditioned musicians in individually-tailored pathways, as part of the wider school curriculum, and is aimed at those who are seriously considering a career or future in music.



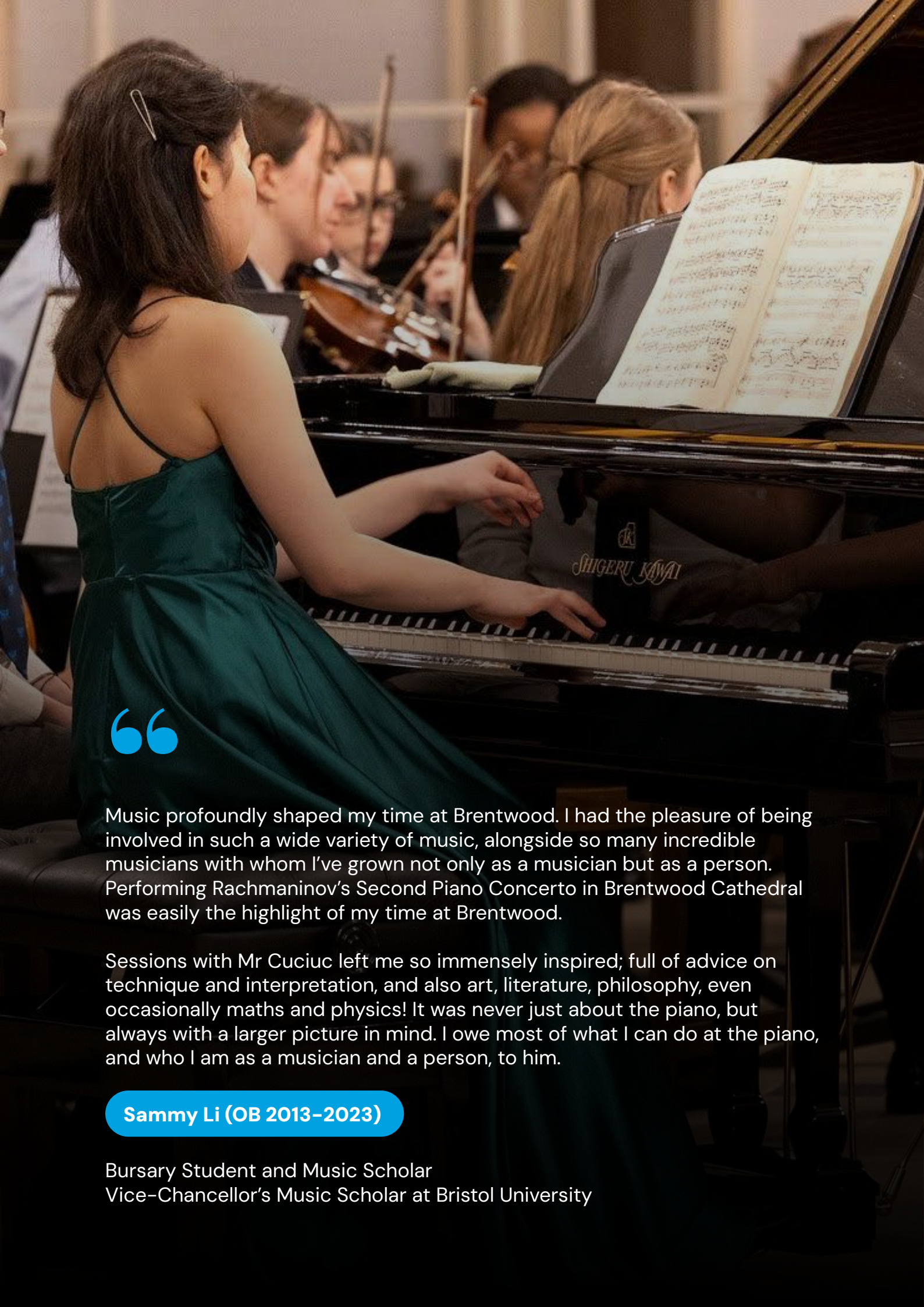
The launch of our Specialist Music Programme represents another step towards delivering our vision to be known locally, regionally, nationally and internationally as a centre of best practice. Our high-achieving musicians will benefit from a programme that recognises their talent and ambition while maintaining the range and balance that comes with being part of a thriving mainstream school. No longer will talented musicians need to decide between a mainstream or specialist school – they can genuinely have the best of both worlds here at Brentwood.

Michael Bond – Headmaster



My life has been transformed by the nurture and guidance I have received from renowned teachers in the great European musical tradition and inspiring the next generation to fulfil their artistic potential has become my passion. Brentwood has a long history of musical excellence and we are determined to continue this with a programme providing training of the highest quality. We aim to equip students with the musical, cultural and interpersonal skills required for a lifetime of exceptional music making and I am thrilled to play my part in leading the Specialist Music Programme.

Grig Cuciuc – Artistic Director of Specialist Music



Music profoundly shaped my time at Brentwood. I had the pleasure of being involved in such a wide variety of music, alongside so many incredible musicians with whom I've grown not only as a musician but as a person. Performing Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto in Brentwood Cathedral was easily the highlight of my time at Brentwood.

Sessions with Mr Cuciuc left me so immensely inspired; full of advice on technique and interpretation, and also art, literature, philosophy, even occasionally maths and physics! It was never just about the piano, but always with a larger picture in mind. I owe most of what I can do at the piano, and who I am as a musician and a person, to him.

Sammy Li (OB 2013–2023)

Bursary Student and Music Scholar
Vice-Chancellor's Music Scholar at Bristol University



To inspire and enable talented young musicians to achieve their artistic potential in a nurturing musical environment



The wealth of opportunities available has allowed me to participate in ensembles performing music from Dvořák's Cello Concerto to Snarky Puppy's Lingus. The encouragement to pursue my passions allowed me to develop my skills as an arranger and have my arrangements performed by choirs, the Big Band and the Symphony Orchestra. My time at Brentwood has expanded my musical horizons far beyond anything I could have imagined and music has become my greatest joy and something that will remain a part of my life for ever.

Sophia Assitzoglou (OB 2017–2024)

Bursary Student and Music Scholar
Vice-Chancellor's Music Scholar at Durham University



I was lucky enough to have an amazing music education at school, starting with learning the trumpet at the age of nine, playing in orchestras and ensembles, singing in the choir, and learning the theory and history of music. I could not have wanted for more, and it has become my lifelong passion as a result. I am proud to be Chairman of Governors at a school where music is at the heart of the School's identity and culture. This programme allows exceptional musicians from around the world access to the very best possible music education and I am truly excited to see the results of this venture.

**Lord Black of Brentwood (OB 1971–1981)
Chairman of Governors**

Lord Black of Brentwood is among the country's most active advocates for arts education. Since 2017, he has served as the Chairman of Council for the Royal College of Music after eight years on the College Council and as a major benefactor to their scholarship fund. Lord Black serves as a Trustee of the Mayor of London's Fund for Young Musicians and is a patron of the Hanover Band.



I have had the enormous privilege of being Director of Music at Brentwood School for the past decade and am immensely proud to have seen the department grow from humble beginnings to recognition as one of the finest bastions for musical education in the United Kingdom.

At the heart of the Brentwood School Music Department is a shared joy and camaraderie at making excellent music together, a sense of belonging, an understanding that everyone's journey is different, a determined work-ethic and most of all, a huge sense of fun.

The Specialist Music Programme is the logical next chapter for the future development and continued success of Brentwood Music and, as a proud Old Brentwood myself, I can only look at the inaugural students enrolled on the programme with the utmost jealousy.

Florian Cooper (OB 1995–2009) – Director of Music

Life without music is unthinkable. Music without life is academic. That is why my contact with music is a total embrace.

Leonard Bernstein

Brentwood School

Welcome to Brentwood School, one of the UK's leading independent day and boarding schools for boys and girls aged 3 to 18, with a rich history spanning nearly 500 years.

Located in the heart of Brentwood, our campus is surrounded by 75 acres of playing fields and gardens. Our values – Virtue, Learning and Manners – were first penned in 1622 and are at the heart of everything we do. They guide our core purpose in helping young people discover and develop their talents with both self-assurance and humility.

We prepare our students for a fast-paced and ever-changing world. They will need to solve problems we don't even know about (in addition to those we do) and many will take on jobs that don't yet exist. Our students are active participants in this journey and distinguish themselves as kind and enterprising young people who always strive to be the best version of themselves.

Despite our deep roots, we embrace innovation. In September 2024, we launched a Specialist Music Programme, providing rigorous training and assessment for aspiring musicians within the school curriculum. In September 2025, we will open the doors to a state-of-the-art sector-leading boarding house. The fully-accessible house, which has been years in the planning, will be subdivided into three main sections; a girls' and boys' boarding house, a central shared facility including new dining and communal areas and an outdoor courtyard and dedicated landscaped social space. Single bedrooms on the upper floor will offer a home-from-home for boarding students featuring cutting-edge university-style accommodation with light and airy private ensuite rooms.

Wellbeing is at the heart of a Brentwood education; happiness, purpose and an ability to use setbacks as learning opportunities are all ingredients of a successful education. These virtues help our students excel academically, in the arts and in sports. They work hard, achieve great success and carry forward the leadership skills and values instilled at Brentwood.

That's what makes us Brentwood.



The music tuition at Brentwood School is incredible because of the amount of detail that we go into, in performance and theory. There are so many master classes, one-to-one sessions and group ensembles. Next year, I will be taking my trumpet playing to Boston, getting involved with jazz at Berkley, as well as releasing music on streaming services to become a jazz artist, while I study cinematography at Emerson College.

Ore Fashesin-Souza (OB 2013-2024)

Bursary Student and Music Scholar,
Member of Junior Guildhall & the National Youth Orchestra



To enthuse young musicians with a life-long love and understanding of the arts

Music at Brentwood

Brentwood School Music Department sits in the top tier of independent schools. Students benefit from an incredible range of multi-genre performing opportunities. It is not unusual for a Brentwood musician to perform as a concerto soloist in an evening of baroque music, sing evensong and improvise in a jazz band in the same week.

The Music Department is a supportive family where we celebrate each other's success and take great pleasure in making music together. Our musicians gain coveted places at leading conservatoires in the UK and abroad, scholarships at prestigious universities, significant competition prizes and places in internationally renowned ensembles.



Our music provision is – without exaggeration – amongst the very best in the UK and in many ways well beyond what is usually expected in schools, even those with a long history of leading the way with music education.

Michael Bond – Headmaster



In 2019 Brentwood School became one of 14 All-Steinway schools allowing our pupils to practice, rehearse and perform on some of the finest instruments available. Our pianists also benefit from masterclasses with Steinway Artists and performance opportunities at Steinway Hall.

Brentwood impressed me by its determination to make music at the highest possible level. Students are thirsty to learn, and their performances stand out through their ambition, perseverance, and creativity.

Florian Mitrea – Professor of Piano, Royal Academy of Music

In 2020 the school began a partnership with the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Junior Guildhall run a satellite school at Brentwood, many of our musicians are leading members of their Barbican-based programme and we benefit from shared resources, masterclasses and performances.

The Junior Guildhall-Brentwood partnership is unique, and central to the success of our students. We are proud to partner with such an outstanding international school with extraordinary music at its heart!

Rosie Whitfield – Head of Junior Guildhall

- Over 70 annual performances
- Annual national and international summer music tours
- Wide range of ensemble, chamber and choral music
- Over 40 weekly rehearsals
- Exceptional student leadership opportunities
- Excellent academic music results
- Three major performing spaces with full AV capabilities
- Fully-equipped recording studio with live room
- Exceptional, large team of full-time music staff





Joining Brentwood in the Sixth Form opened my eyes to what I could achieve as a musician. I was supported by inspirational teachers who gave me the opportunities that have enabled me to pursue a career in professional music. Performing in dozens of concerts to so many audience members will be the abiding memory of my time at school.

Luca Orasanu (OB 2022-2024)

Bursary Student and Music Scholar

To equip those considering a career in music with the skills to gain places in world-leading music institutions



STEINWAY

**To offer a range of high-profile,
developmental performance
opportunities tailored to the student**



Mr Cuciuc has been an incredibly influential figure in my musical journey. His artistic vision, boundless generosity, and kind spirit have profoundly inspired me. As a mentor, he has not only guided me to become a better guitarist and musician but also a better person. His impact on my life goes beyond music, and I am deeply grateful for his unwavering support and guidance. Any young musician would be incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to learn from Grig.

Tom Hodgkinson (OB 2012-2023)

Music Scholar at Kunst-Universität Graz
Essex Ambassador for Culture



Grig Cuciuc

Artistic Director of Specialist Music

Since his debut as a soloist with the National Chamber Orchestra of Moldova at the age of 15, Grig has performed as a soloist with orchestras including the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London, Kings Chamber Orchestra, the National Philharmonic of Moldova and the Moldovan National Youth Orchestra.

Grig has given recitals and chamber concerts across the UK, Russia, Europe, Central America and the Middle East and performed solo in halls including Cadogan Hall in London, Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza, Murmansk Philharmonic in Russia and Christ Church in the Old City of Jerusalem. Grig has appeared as a conductor with orchestras in the UK and Italy and regularly directs Kings Chamber Orchestra.

Much in demand as an educator, Grig has given masterclasses in the UK, Europe and Central America and is currently the Artistic Director of Specialist Music at Brentwood School. Previously, he taught at Junior Guildhall and Whitgift School where he helped set up the Whitgift International Music Competition. More recently, Grig has been invited to collaborate on artistic research on Schubert at the Edvard Grieg Academy, Bergen.

During his musical studies, Grig was awarded a DipRAM for an outstanding MA final recital at the Royal Academy of Music, having previously gained a First Class degree from the Royal College of Music. In his development, Grig has benefited from the Auer, Galamian, Ysaÿe and Yankelevich traditions, having been taught by Maciej Rakowski, Anne Shih, Clio Gould, Remus Azoitei and Tamara Kaftanat.

Grig is fluent in several European languages and plays on a fine 1780 Nicolo Gagliano violin.

Specialist Music Programme

A specialist programme at Brentwood School for the most talented, capable and ambitious musicians.

Alongside the strong academic focus and exceptional co-curricular opportunities all students at Brentwood have, as part of the programme, you will receive:

- An individually-tailored programme of technical and musical study
- High-level coaching in performance, chamber music and musicianship
- Extended lessons (one hour per week) on your first-study instrument
- Access to performing opportunities and support in preparing for them
- Mentorship and guidance on musical opportunities including local/national competitions, music scholarships at universities and applying for conservatoires

There is an ambitious expectation of regular performance and rigorous assessment with regular opportunities to review progress.

Performance opportunities including:

- Regular performance and masterclasses
- Annual concerto competition
- Lunchtime recitals in Brentwood Cathedral and venues in London
- Evening recitals in the Memorial Hall, Brentwood School
- Concerts in conjunction with Guildhall School at Milton Court Concert Hall
- Chamber music collaborations with professional musicians

A yearly programme of assessment including:

- Technical exam (e.g. two etudes and scales as appropriate to the level)
- Chamber music performance exam (e.g. a substantial movement from a piano trio)
- End-of-year repertoire recital exam (e.g. a varied programme of different styles)

Bespoke timetables will include the following timetabled sessions alongside traditional curricular and co-curricular commitments:

- One-to-one lessons and coaching sessions
- Increased time for individual first-study tuition and coaching sessions with members of the department
- Chamber music
- Assigned, bespoke chamber groups with regular coaching
- Musicianship classes (to include: aural, theory, musical history/context classes and electives relevant to the individual)
- Supervised practice sessions

Students on the programme will participate fully in the life of the school and there is the expectation that academic success will go hand-in-hand with musical success. Many of the most successful musicians at Brentwood are also high-achieving academically, and in other co-curricular areas.

The programme imposes no restrictions on academic choices at GCSE or A Level/IB (save that Music should be an option choice) and Brentwood School caters for all academic interests.



To deliver a complementary musical and academic education of the highest quality



My time at Brentwood School has been shaped by the warmth, friendship, laughter and memories I've found in the Music Department. The happiest moments of my week are the hours I spend rehearsing and performing with my friends. The support I receive from the truly inspirational staff has given me opportunities I didn't think were possible.

Anna R

Current Member of the Specialist Music Programme

A holistic school experience

Founded in 1557, Brentwood School boasts nearly 500 years of tradition and heritage. It is uniquely placed between tradition and innovation, serving a large community while focusing on the nurture and development of each individual.

The Specialist Music Programme at Brentwood School is a small group of gifted musicians within a much wider Performing Arts family and a school with Virtue, Learning and Manners truly at its heart. **We offer:**

- A rich and ambitious curriculum catering for everyone's intellectual curiosities
- World-class facilities for the provision of outstanding sport and a vast array of co-curricular activities
- A national reputation in a wide range of co-curricular activities, with particular specialisms in Sport, Chess, Outdoor Education, CCF and the Performing Arts
- Outstanding pastoral care and sector-leading wellbeing provision
- A diverse student body with complete integration between day, flexi- and full-boarding pupils
- A rich offering of activities, sporting and cultural excursions during the week and at weekends
- A strong moral foundation built on a Christian ethos, with the Victorian Chapel at the heart of school life
- A focus on charity and service through volunteering in the community, fundraising and an engagement with social issues
- Access to a thriving wider-school community of parents, staff and Old Brentwoods through the Brentwood School Foundation and an active Careers Department

Brentwood School is one of the only co-educational schools following the diamond model. From Year 7 until the Sixth Form, boys and girls are taught separately, which allows us to encourage freedom of expression and create space for individual identity within the classroom whilst maintaining and developing social integration beyond it.

We believe in developing broad horizons and keeping a wide subject base for as long as possible to emphasise depth of understanding and creative thinking.

In the Sixth Form, we are flexible and can support most combinations of options to suit your strengths or areas of interest because we design the timetable around your choices. We offer three pathways in the Sixth Form: A Levels, IB and BTEC catering to the strengths and preferences of individual students.

That's what makes us Brentwood.

Boarding at Brentwood



We offer full and weekly boarding for 13 to 18-year-olds in a new state-of-the-art boarding house, where experienced houseparents ensure the best possible care for all our boarders. Brentwood School benefits hugely from our boarders' rich mixture of backgrounds – we are a truly international community.

We are currently transforming our boarding facilities, building a state-of-the-art boarding house that will be subdivided into three main sections; a girls' and boys' boarding house and a central shared facility, which includes new dining and communal areas and an outdoor courtyard and dedicated landscaped social space.

Brentwood School is located in the town centre and is close to London, the exciting capital of England, steeped in history with its iconic sightseeing spots and attractions, theatres and top restaurants, which are just 23 minutes away.

Brentwood has excellent transport links and access to main airports. With buses, trains and the Elizabeth Line, connecting 40 stations to Heathrow airport, our location is ideal for travel.



We aim to provide boarders with a structured, but relaxed and welcoming environment where they can grow into young adults with a strong feeling of self-worth, maturity, and academic rigour.

Brian Hays

Boarding Recruitment Manager

haysb@brentwood.essex.sch.uk

01277 243273

To imbue students with the confidence to be the musical leaders of tomorrow



As a boarder, being part of House Music and the Symphony Orchestra was a great way to bond with other musicians in the school. In House Music, I was able to work with the boarders in our house to create amazing music. On top of that, participating weekly in the Orchestra gave me chances to perform different types of orchestral music with the school.

Siyao L

Current Sixth Form Boarder

Enquiries and Application

For more information about the course and the application process please, in the first instance, contact Florian Cooper, the Director of Music by email: fac@brentwood.essex.sch.uk

We will be happy to arrange an in-person or online conversation, a visit to the school and to provide further details of the application process.

The best way to gain an insight into the School, the Music Department and the Specialist Music Programme is to come and visit. Come and see the School in action, watch one of the 70 concerts each year and speak to students and staff to see what makes Brentwood such a special place.

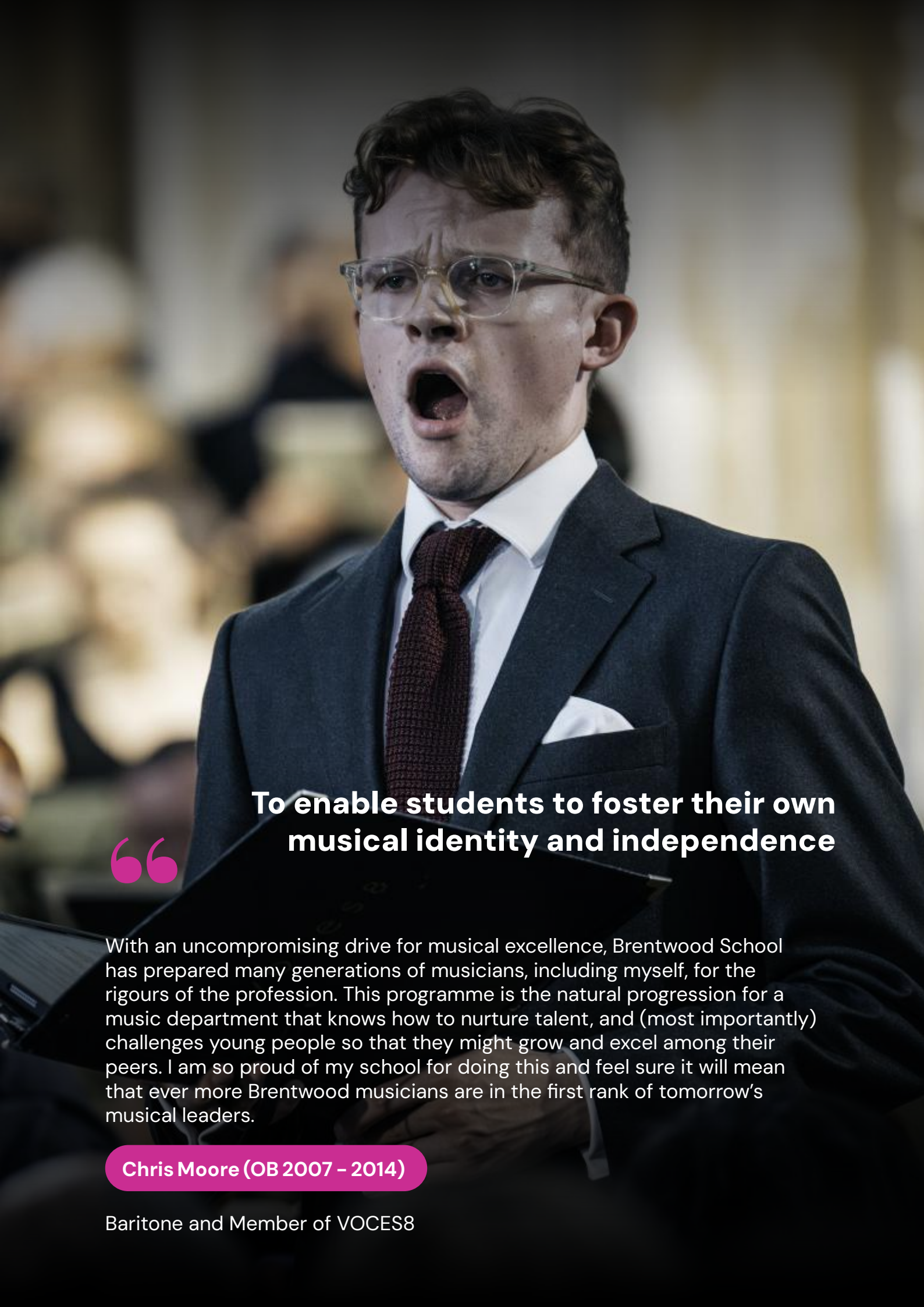
You can find more information about the school on the Brentwood School website: brentwoodschool.co.uk

Scholarships and Bursaries

Brentwood is a school where students flourish and apply themselves to develop their full potential during their formative years in education. We provide a range of awards in order to support students who would thrive at Brentwood.

We are committed to providing means-tested bursaries, which allow talented and ambitious young people the opportunity to benefit from the outstanding education we offer within and beyond the classroom, but whose family circumstances would mean coming to Brentwood would not be possible on financial grounds. Bursaries are available up to and including 100% of tuition fees.

Scholarships, worth 10% of fees, are also available, recognising academic potential as well as talent in Art (16+), Chess (11+) and Dance, Drama, Music and Sport (11+ and 16+).

A young man with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a dark grey suit, white shirt, and brown tie, is captured in a moment of intense performance. He has his mouth wide open as if singing or shouting into a microphone. The background is blurred, showing other people in a dimly lit setting, possibly a concert hall or school assembly.

To enable students to foster their own musical identity and independence



With an uncompromising drive for musical excellence, Brentwood School has prepared many generations of musicians, including myself, for the rigours of the profession. This programme is the natural progression for a music department that knows how to nurture talent, and (most importantly) challenges young people so that they might grow and excel among their peers. I am so proud of my school for doing this and feel sure it will mean that ever more Brentwood musicians are in the first rank of tomorrow's musical leaders.

Chris Moore (OB 2007 - 2014)

Baritone and Member of VOCES8



VLM

Virtue Learning Manners