



# MEET THE TEAM



Mrs. Stafford – Head of Department, curriculum leader, co-ordinator of extra-curricular activities, show and performance leader, sound and lighting technician.

Mrs. Stafford is a music educator with over 15 years teaching experience. She graduated with Honors from Liverpool University in 2006, with a Bachelor of Music degree which includes Music Technology and Drama and Theatre Studies, and has worked in a variety of roles across the arts before entering classroom teaching in 2009.

During her time in the industry, Mrs. Stafford has worked as a professional vocalist, musical director and sound engineer. She has spent time in Los Angeles working in film and has TV experience in the UK. She has attended and participated in numerous workshops and events ran by organisations such as the Liverpool Empire Theatre, The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Pineapple Dance Studios in London, and maintains good connections with these institutions.

In her career as a teacher, Mrs. Stafford has worked as a classroom practitioner and as a freelance arts educator for a number of different settings. Mrs. Stafford specialises in Voice and Woodwind but also plays a number of other instruments including piano and guitar.

Inspiring students to achieve their best is at the heart of her practice and she has been fortunate enough to prepare many children for auditions, which have lead to careers in the arts. Mrs. Stafford is thrilled to see many of her past students now attending further education at institutions such as Bird, Laine, Royal Academy of Music and Birmingham Conservatoire and performing with established arts organisations across the UK.



Mrs. Madden – Head of Faculty for Expressive Arts, SLT, Director of Learning, music teacher, task master.

Mrs. Madden graduated from the National University of Ireland with a degree in music many years ago. She has completed her Masters in Education, PGCE and National Qualification for Senior Leadership. Since then Mrs. Madden has spent time in education as a music teacher, head of music departments, leading arts faculties and most recently as a director of learning within the senior leadership team. Since joining Bedford High School, the Expressive Arts Faculty has gone from strength to strength, becoming a flagship example of creativity within education in the arts.





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Youtube – Bedford Arts

Soundcloud – Bedford High School Music





Anna Corcoran – Vocal Tutor, Piano Tutor and leader of Year 8/9 Choir and our Advanced Singers

Singer songwriter Anna Corcoran, originally from Formby Merseyside, graduated from Goldsmiths college in 2005, with a Bachelor of Music degree. She is currently studying for her MA Voice Pedagogy: Professional Practice with Voice Workshop University of Wales, Trinity St David. Alongside her own performances, Anna is a highly experienced vocal coach, choir director and arranger, specialising in pop and jazz vocals. Her choral arrangements of popular classics have been performed nationwide by children's choirs in theatres and concert halls including Queen Elisabeth Hall, Royal Festival Hall and The Sage Gateshead.

In 2013 Anna was nominated for Female Artist of The Year at The Liverpool Music Awards.

In 2016 Anna released her debut album [Easier Than Falling](#) featuring her stand out single '[The Show](#)' which received national radio play on BBC Radio 2 and BBC 6 Music. A live performance of The Show also featured in BBC One Drama 'Moving On - Madge' featuring Hayley Mills.

A short hiatus after Anna's daughter arrived preceded the release and tour of Easier Than Falling and the years that followed have seen Anna become an acclaimed session musician, composer, choir director and vocal coach.

Anna regularly performs with UK Americana artist [Robert Vincent](#) and has featured on all three of Robert's studio albums, *Life in Easy Steps*, *I'll Make The Most of My Sins* and *In This Town You're Owned*.

In 2020, Anna was invited to perform on a charity single curated by legendary broadcaster Whispering Bob Harris celebrating 60 years since the release of *Stand By Me*. Fellow collaborators included Mark Knopfler, Rick Wakeman and Roseanne Cash.

In Jan 2021, Anna was announced as the winner of UK Instrumentalist of The Year at the Americana Music Awards UK. This nomination was following her performances on AMA double award winner [Robert Vincent's](#) album [In This Town You're Owned](#) and [Laura Marling's](#) Grammy and Mercury Music Prize nominated [Song For Our Daughter](#). Both albums were produced by award winning producer [Ethan Johns](#).

During the national lockdown in 2020 Anna performed a series of 'Live From Home' Gigs on Facebook Live. These live broadcasts raised over £3000 for charities including Refuge, Show Racism The Red Card and The Hygiene Bank.



Seb Caddick – Drum Tutor, Rock Band leader for Year 9 and Advanced Rock band and Music Tech Club Leader.

Seb studied Music at the University of Nottingham and plays a variety of instruments including bass, keyboard, vocals and drums. Seb has nearly 10 years of teaching experience in a variety of settings and has a wealth of performance experience, both as a solo act and as part of a band. We are delighted to have him as part of the music department team at Bedford High.



Luke Keigher – Rock, Pop, Jazz and Classical Guitar Tutor and rock band leader for year 8 and KS4

Luke trained at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester and loves to inspire young people to embrace music with all the rewards it can bring. Luke has extensive experience recording and publishing numerous songs, managing commercial studio recording sessions and performing at numerous engagements with a number of bands he has formed since being in Manchester. Luke has been working as a guitar teacher for a number of years, helping students of all abilities get started on guitar, work towards exams or prepare for auditions. Luke is proficient in playing a wide repertoire across many genres, we are thrilled to have him working with us in Bedford Music Department.

# Instrumental Lessons at Bedford

At Bedford we firmly believe that all our pupils should have the opportunity to develop skills that will enhance their chances at success later in life. Numerous scientific studies have shown that one of the best ways to develop a young person's brain and enhance their academic skills is to learn a musical instrument. There are proven links between the study of a musical instrument and rapid progress across the curriculum, particularly in English and Maths and so we are delighted to be able to offer the opportunity to study a wide range of instruments here at Bedford High.

We currently offer lessons in woodwind, strings, piano, drums, brass instruments and vocal coaching. If you are unsure whether we have an instrument on offer, please let us know which instrument your child is interested in and we will inform you if we cannot facilitate lessons.

Lessons take place during the school day on a rotation. Pupils will receive an email with their lesson time each week from their teacher.

Instrumental lessons are offered alongside curriculum lessons and there is a small fee for this provision however, we do have access to funding to support families if finances are a barrier to students accessing this opportunity.

If you would like more information about instrumental lessons at Bedford, please feel free to take an instrumental letter from just outside the music classroom (U19).

# Extra Curricular Clubs In Music

## Singing



We have a number of choirs available for students to join this year. These are mainly ran during lunchtimes and completely free of charge.

## Year 7 Choir

Our year 7 choir is for our first year students only and focusses on performance skills and relationship and team building. We have a mixed approach to repertoire for year 7 choir with staff introducing students to new material and students choosing material they would like to work on. All year 7 students are welcome at this club and we encourage new starters to come along at any point. Our year 7 choir mainly performs pop music and is lead by Mrs. Madden.

## Extra Curricular Clubs In Music



### Year 8/9 Choir

Our year 8/9 choir is for our more experienced singers and focusses on performance skills and developing harmony work. All year 8 and 9 students are invited to join this session. Our Year 8/9 choir is lead by Miss Corcoran.

### Advanced Singers

This session takes place on a Wednesday after school and is for our experienced singers of whom study voice at GCSE or are planning to specialise in vocal studies in their future. Students are invited to this session and work on a variety of advanced songs in multiple parts.



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## Extra Curricular Clubs In Music

### Rock Bands

We have a number of rock bands available for students to join this year. These are mainly ran during lunchtimes and completely free of charge.



### Year 7 Rock Band

For our year 7 instrumental students who are interested in playing music with their peers. Year 7 rock band is a great way to meet other students in the year group and learn how to work together to create music. Year 7 Rock band takes place on a Thursday lunchtime and is completely free of charge for students to attend.



### Year 8 Rock Band

This session is for our year 8 students who attended rock band throughout year 7. Our year 8 rock band works on a more advanced repertoire and are becoming more accomplished on their chosen instruments.

## Extra Curricular Clubs In Music



### Year 9 Rock Band

Our year 9 rock band comprises of students interested in opting for GCSE music at the end of KS3. These students play a range of instruments and work together to perform songs they enjoy as well as music suggested by staff.



### Advanced Rock Band Sessions

This club takes place in three different time slots throughout the week, Tuesday and Wednesday after school and Thursday lunchtimes. This club is ran for our advanced musicians in our GCSE classes and our more able musicians from KS3. Students are invited to attend and work on more difficult songs suggested by staff. A Spotify list is also available for this club so pupils can suggest songs they wish to work on as well.

## Extra Curricular Clubs In Music

### Music Technology Club



We run 2 sessions of Music Technology Club, one for Year 7 and one for year 8 and 9 together, during lunchtimes. This club is for students interested in making music using computers and working with DJ decks and other music technology. All students are welcome at these sessions.

### Woodwind Groups



We currently have 2 sessions for our woodwind players to attend and play together, one for our year 7 beginners and one for our year 8 and 9 experienced players. In this club, the students learn how to work together as a team to create a performance.



### Extra-curricular Clubs in Music Autumn 2021

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Break Time					Woodwind Group Yr 8 and 9 U19
Lunch time		Rock Band Yr 8 U19	Choir Yr 7 U20 Rock band Yr 7 U19 Choir Yr 8 and 9 U19 Rock band Yr 9 U20	Music Tech Club Yr 7 U20 Woodwind Group Yr 7 U19 Music Tech Club Yr 8 and 9 U20 Advanced Rock band Yr 8/9 U20 Rock Band Yr 10 and 11 U20	
After school		Rock Band Yr 10 and 11	Advanced Singers U19 Advanced Rock Band U20 GCSE MUSIC Period 6 U19		



For examples of previous GCSE student compositions and performances please check out our Soundcloud;

Bedford High School Music

