My time at the RCM Junior Department was a crucial part of my training as a young musician. I loved having the opportunity to make music at a high level with other young people and my collaboration with such fellow students as John Lill played a large part in shaping my musical future.

Julian Lloyd Webber, RCMJD alumnus
The Royal College of Music Junior Department (RCMJD) offers advanced musical training to talented young musicians between the ages of 8 and 18. Founded in 1926, the RCMJD has nurtured distinguished alumni including Julian Lloyd Webber, Michael Collins, Clemency Burton-Hill and John Lill.

Since its inception, the RCMJD has evolved to meet the musical needs of our students and adapted to the changing educational and musical landscape. We provide a programme designed to prepare you for musical life in the 21st century, working to make you a happy, successful, healthy and entrepreneurial young musician who can meet the ever-changing demands of the profession.

Students travel to the Royal College of Music each Saturday from all over Britain for a tailor-made programme of individual instrument, voice or composition lessons; chamber music, orchestral and choral training; and general musicianship. Our teachers are all professional performers or composers and we offer the highest standards of tuition and coaching. Every Saturday the RCM buzzes with musical energy and purpose.

The standard of music-making at the RCMJD has always been exceptionally high. Our students take part in more than 100 internal and external concerts per year at major venues including Cadogan Hall, the Royal Albert Hall, Ronnie Scott’s and Wigmore Hall. Many students are members of leading ensembles including the National Youth Orchestra, National Children’s Orchestras and National Youth Choirs of Great Britain, and our young musicians enjoy significant success in national and international competitions. Michael Collins, RCMJD alumnus, was a finalist in the very first BBC Young Musician Competition in 1978, and RCMJD students have dominated the competition in recent years.

If you want to make the most of your musical ability, we are here to help you. We are committed to nurturing potential and offering a warm, creative yet disciplined environment in which you will flourish. Please read through the following prospectus to find out how you could be a part of the Royal College of Music Junior Department.

Miranda Francis,
Head of Junior Programmes
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RCMJD ONLINE

Find out more about the Royal College of Music Junior Department at www.rcm.ac.uk/junior
WHAT WE OFFER

The Royal College of Music Junior Department (RCMJD) is a specialist, term-time only, Saturday school offering advanced training to musicians aged 8–18. You will combine your studies here with your general education at your chosen weekday school.

We offer tuition in the following:

- Bass trombone
- Bassoon
- Cello
- Clarinet
- Composition
- Conducting
- Double bass
- Flute
- French horn
- Guitar
- Harp
- Harpsichord
- Jazz piano
- Jazz saxophone
- Mini-bass
- Oboe
- Organ
- Percussion
- Piano
- Recorder
- Saxophone
- Trombone
- Trumpet
- Tuba
- Viola
- Violin
- Voice

CURRICULUM

Our core curriculum consists of the following:
- First study lesson (45 minutes minimum)
- Chamber music (60 minutes)
- Musicianship (60 minutes)
- Orchestra (60–120 minutes)
- Choir (60 minutes)

In addition to the core curriculum, you may opt to take the following:
- Second and third study lessons (minimum 30 minutes per instrument)
- Alexander Technique (30 minutes paired lesson)
- Aural class (30 minutes)

Unless otherwise explicitly agreed with the Head of Junior Programmes in advance, you are expected to take part in all elements of the core curriculum.
Chamber Music is a core element of the RCM Junior Department programme. We have more than 70 chamber groups each year.

Chamber Music is at the heart of our educational and performance programme for every musician at the RCMJD. We offer one of the finest chamber music programmes for young musicians in the UK, with all of our students taking part in at least one chamber ensemble and many students being members of two or more. All chamber ensembles receive tuition every Saturday with our highly accomplished and experienced team of tutors, many of whom are members of renowned chamber ensembles.

There are weekly performance opportunities in our Performers’ Platform as well as a dedicated Chamber Music Day every year, with side-by-side workshops, recitals and masterclasses for chamber groups with internationally acclaimed visiting ensembles. Recent visitors include the Heath Quartet and New London Chamber Ensemble in 2015 and the Chilingirian String Quartet in 2016. Another highlight of our programme is the Chamber Music Competition, the prize for which is to perform in our Young Artists’ Concert at Wigmore Hall.

Leandro Silvera,
Head of Chamber Music
JAZZ

We offer a wide variety of classes and encourage our younger students to combine both jazz and classical elements in their curriculum to give a thorough grounding in each style. We hope that this will enable you to make an informed decision if you wish to specialise in jazz at a later point.

INDIVIDUAL JAZZ LESSONS

We currently have two specialist jazz musicians who are teachers at the Royal College of Music Junior Department and they offer lessons in jazz improvisation to students on any instrument and of any age.

JAZZ IMPROVISATION CLASSES

These classes are designed for students who would like to try their hand at jazz improvisation but who have little or no previous experience of it. Classes are configured depending on age and experience, if necessary.

JAZZ ENSEMBLES

We have three jazz ensembles currently running at the RCMJD. Our Junior Jazz Ensemble, run by Sara Dhillon, is formed of students who have some experience of jazz improvisation and our Senior Jazz Ensemble, a big band conducted by Mornington Lockett, is one of our flagship ensembles for our most advanced players. Both ensembles have had the opportunity to perform at world-famous venues such as Ronnie Scott’s Jazz Club and the 606 Jazz Club. We also run a small Dixieland jazz band.

We have an ever-expanding jazz programme which is going from strength to strength. No matter your instrument, there are countless opportunities to explore this marvellous music.

The wider musical skills a developing musician can gain from studying jazz are invaluable regardless of your musical background. The ability to improvise, to spontaneously create music from a given chord progression, to develop your ear so you are responding in the moment to your fellow musicians and the sheer joy of playing some wonderful and inspiring compositions are all wonderful experiences. Playing in this style can also equip you with a greater empathy and musical rapport which you can bring to other musical environments.

Whether or not you continue to study jazz beyond your lessons here, there is a freedom that comes from playing this remarkable music and you can experience that first-hand here at the RCMJD in a nurturing and encouraging environment.

Sara Dhillon
jazz piano teacher
HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE

Our baroque and recorder ensemble teachers are among the UK’s leading players and teachers of historical music. We cover a vast, varied repertoire from the 17th and 18th centuries, including Bach, Vivaldi, Telemann, Rameau and Castello, as well as works by lesser known composers.

ENSEMBLES

Most baroque ensembles consist of two or more melody instruments with basso continuo – usually harpsichord or chamber organ and cello or bassoon. We also encourage larger scale projects and recently explored Bach’s Brandenburg Concertos.

All groups gain a real insight into different European styles, making historically informed decisions on bowing, ornamentation, phrasing and vibrato. There are also opportunities to take part in baroque dance workshops.

BAROQUE INSTRUMENTS

Players of recorder, flute, oboe, bassoon, violin, viola, cello, harpsichord and organ can all take part in historical performance sessions. Pianists can play the harpsichord and learn the necessary skills. Projects have also included works with singers and brass players.

String players are given a baroque bow to borrow and take home. Recorder ensemble participants, in addition to the baroque classes, have the use of a wide range of instruments, electronic equipment and the opportunity to work with RCMJD composers and to collaborate in senior college recorder events.

You will work in a mature, informal and supportive environment. Historical performance ensembles offer a chance for real personal input and individual expression, as well as the opportunity to make stimulating and exciting chamber music at a very high level.

I love Baroque Ensemble because I have been privileged to work with some enthusiastic and enormously talented fellow students. Baroque Ensemble has encouraged me to listen more intently to others and to perform with people as a family. It has enlightened my playing and I feel all the richer for it.

Elodie, age 16, violin
MUSICIANSHIP

All students take part in musicianship classes, which help to increase perception and knowledge of music and encourage creative responses to it. These classes provide a thorough grounding in listening skills, aural, contextual awareness and active performance, and they support all other elements of the curriculum.

All students are required to take ABRSM Grade 6 Theory or Practical Musicianship and afterwards may choose to take a class in any of the following:

- ABRSM Grades 7–8 Theory
- ABRSM Grades 7–8 Practical Musicianship
- Composition class
- Improvisation class
- Conducting class
- Sixth form class (designed to support A-level Music)
- Pre-conservatoire class (for students in Year 13 intending to continue their musical studies as undergraduates at the Royal College of Music).

AURAL CLASSES

Our aural classes are intended to provide support in developing general aural skills. They may also supplement the training for ABRSM exam aural tests that you would receive in your individual study lessons during exam preparation. Training is usually in groups, though occasionally one-to-one tuition is also available. There is currently no charge for aural classes.

ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE

The Alexander Technique works by helping you to identify and prevent the harmful postural habits (how you stand, sit or move) that contribute to, or may be the cause of, stress or pain. Paired classes are offered free of charge and demand is high, so there may be a waiting list.
For seven years, my Saturdays have been occupied by the RCMJD, and not once have I considered doing anything else with the first half of my weekend. An average Saturday will start at around 7.15am in order for me to commute to London, and will continue until 6.30pm, when I get home.

Not only is the atmosphere in the building on a Saturday buzzing, but the range of ensembles I have been involved in has broadened my musical horizons and awareness. Knowing that every week my knowledge will be expanded further is what I really enjoy.

Conducting was a really different option that I was offered at the RCMJD. In order to gain even more from my experience as a musician, I opted to take the class. In doing so I feel like I have been allowed to explore new areas that I wouldn’t have expected to when I first started.

My aspirations have always been to attend music college. This has been greatly helped by the RCMJD and the amount they have supported me in my musical progression since starting here seven years ago.

Sam, age 17, trombone

Sam’s Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>Conducting class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Chamber Choir rehearsal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11am</td>
<td>Trombone lesson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12pm</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30pm</td>
<td>Symphony Orchestra rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.30pm</td>
<td>Jazz improvisation class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>Brass Dectet rehearsal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4pm</td>
<td>Senior Jazz Ensemble rehearsal</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sam, age 17, trombone
COMPOSITION & CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

At the Royal College of Music Junior Department we believe composition helps to provide vital insights into music-making of all kinds. We offer a unique environment in which composers are surrounded by instrumentalists and singers of the highest quality and are mentored by teachers who are professional composers in their own right.

You are encouraged to perform your own and others’ new pieces in a series of well-attended concerts in the RCM’s concert halls and at external venues such as the National Portrait Gallery. New partnerships are being forged with senior college students and staff and we have developed opportunities for selected RCM Postgraduate Fellows to play through and perform RCMJD student pieces, providing valuable experience in the contemporary music workshop environment. Recordings of these top-quality performances have helped our composition students when applying for competitions, courses and grants.

Visits from eminent living composers are an exciting part of our programme. RCMJD alumnus Mark-Anthony Turnage (pictured left with RCMJD student Sam) has recently worked with young composers on a project based on his work *This Silence*, which was performed alongside the resulting student compositions in a memorable concert with the composer present. Our young composers have also won the BBC Proms Inspire competition and many have gone on to study composition at leading universities and conservatoires.

The most vital experience for a young composer is to hear their work rehearsed and performed. The RCMJD provides rich opportunities for this to happen under expert guidance.

Simon Speare, Head of Composition and Contemporary Music
At the RCMJD I enjoy playing in lots of different ensembles, especially in orchestra. It has been an exciting challenge but I have worked towards gaining the leader’s position in the second violins; there are so many amazing violinists here! In addition, I am part of the Under 13 National Children’s Orchestra of Great Britain. I have been an NCO associate for three years and I also play in the South London Youth Orchestra.

One of the things I have learnt in life is to be organised, so I always start my school or RCMJD work as soon as I receive it; that helps me to do everything on time. I devote lots of time to practising for Saturdays. When I grow up I would like to teach the violin and piano and be a soloist, a composer, in string quartets and in an orchestra.

Betania, age 13, violin and piano

Betania’s Timetable

<table>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>Musicianship class</td>
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<tr>
<td>10am</td>
<td>String Orchestra rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>11am</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.45am</td>
<td>Violin lesson</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.30pm</td>
<td>Treble Choir rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.30pm</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Piano lesson</td>
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<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>String quartet rehearsal</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
ORCHESTRAS

The Royal College of Music Junior Department has five orchestras which perform in concerts throughout the year in both the RCM’s wonderful performance spaces and at external venues.

Places are allocated according to the student’s age, orchestral ability and progress. All orchestras have a team of tutors who are leading professional orchestral musicians to assist in full rehearsals and sectionals.

Visiting conductors regularly work with our orchestras on a range of projects. Recent visitors include Peter Stark, who conducted Stravinsky’s *The Rite of Spring* at Cadogan Hall, and internationally respected conductor Vladimir Ashkenazy who worked with the RCMJD Symphony Orchestra in 2015.

The RCMJD orchestras are:
- String Orchestra
- Symphonic Wind Orchestra
- Sinfonia
- Symphony Orchestra
- Chamber Orchestra
I was 14 when I joined the RCMJD as a first study singer. I enjoy my individual lessons with experienced teachers in a relaxed environment and I am learning so much. I love singing in the Chamber Choir and Parry Voices as well as performing in concerts. I am also able to compose music and listen to it being performed. The RCMJD is a great way to meet many talented musicians and make new friends!

I get up at 7am every Saturday and get home at about 6pm. At first I found it quite tricky to manage school work and JD. However, I then organised my time and am now able to devote as much attention to my academic life as I do to my music. Coming to the RCMJD every Saturday helps relieve some of the stress of school, not only during Alexander Technique classes, but also when listening to the orchestras rehearse.

Vivek, age 16, voice and piano

Vivek’s Timetable

9am  Composition class
10am Chamber Choir rehearsal
11am Parry Voices rehearsal
12pm Break
12.30pm Alexander Technique session
1pm Lunch break
1.45pm Piano lesson
2.30pm Singing lesson
3.15pm Break
4pm Singers’ repertoire class
CHOIRS

Choral singing is an integral part of the Royal College of Music Junior Department curriculum for all students. It develops aural awareness, vocal technique and general musical perception, as well as being an important part of the social fabric of the RCMJD.

We have a wide range of choirs catering for varying ages, voices and abilities:
- Training Choir
- Treble Choir
- Concert Choir (boys’ and girls’ choirs)
- Senior Choir
- Girls’ Choir
- Chamber Choir
- Parry Voices

Our choirs have performed alongside senior college musicians in the RCM’s Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall, the Carpenter’s Hall and at the Royal Albert Hall in the Music for Youth Schools Prom, as well as in the Royal Albert Hall’s Elgar Room.
You are encouraged to make the most of the many performance opportunities that are on offer to you at the Royal College of Music Junior Department.

PERFORMERS’ PLATFORM
Each week a Performers’ Platform provides opportunities for you to perform solo or ensemble works in front of an informal audience, with an accompanist if required. Experienced tutors give performance feedback as well as tips and advice on techniques. This is a very valuable experience, particularly if you are preparing for an exam or competition.

INTERNAL CONCERTS
We hold more than 20 concerts at the Royal College of Music each year where all students have the chance to perform. These concerts include our orchestras, choirs and ensembles, as well as several contemporary music concerts featuring compositions by RCMJD students.

EXTERNAL CONCERTS
As well as the large number of internal concerts that are held each year, there are also performance opportunities in some of London’s most exceptional venues, including the Royal Albert Hall, Cadogan Hall and St John’s Smith Square. We also hold an annual Young Artists’ Concert at Wigmore Hall, which features some of our leading solo performers and the winners of our Chamber Music Competition.
INTERNAL COMPETITIONS

We have a wide range of competitions which are available for you to take part in from Year 7 upwards, including:

Hugh Bean Violin Competition
Barbara Boissard Junior Concerto Competition
Angela Bull Competition
Teresa Carreno Piano Competition
Chamber Music Competition
Marjorie Humby Competition
Peter Morrison Concerto Competition
Gordon Turner Harp Competition
Gordon Turner Competition
Joan Weller Composition Competition
John Wills Writing Competition

EXTERNAL COMPETITIONS

You are encouraged to take part in external competitions, subject to the agreement of your teacher and with prior permission from the RCM Junior Department.

In recent years, our students have enjoyed success in many high-profile external competitions, including:

BBC Young Musician
Beethoven Junior Intercollegiate Piano Competition
Royal Over-Seas League Music Competition
Jaques Samuel Junior Departments Piano Festival
MINI-BASS COURSE

The mini-bass course is our pioneering scheme for double bass beginners aged 8–10. Established in 1985 by Caroline Emery, in association with the Yorke Trust, this exciting initiative allows you to learn the double bass on specially designed instruments in individual lessons and small groups.

The mini-bass course consists of the following:

- Mini-bass lesson (30 minutes minimum)
- Bass Group (60 minutes)
- Choir (60 minutes)
- Orchestra (60 minutes, once required level has been achieved)

In addition, mini-bass students may opt to take the following:

- Second study lesson (30 minutes minimum)
- Musicianship (60 minutes)

Like the rest of the RCM Junior Department, the mini-bass course takes place between 9am and 5pm on Saturdays during term time. The mini-bass course will not fill all those hours and timetables will be kept as compact as possible for our youngest students.

A fully insured instrument is provided for practice at home.
Before joining the mini-bass course I played violin. My mum encouraged me to take up the mini-bass as she is also a bass player. My lessons with Caroline are exciting and fun because not only is she interested in me as a player, but also as a person.

I wake up at 6am on a Saturday but I don’t mind because I really look forward to my lessons and meeting my friends. In Bass Group I get a chance to play bass with lots of other people, including my best friends, and this helps me to develop my aural and ensemble skills.

After a year I took up the mini-bassoon, although I have now moved on to the short-reach bassoon and I love the sound it makes. I have also joined the Symphonic Wind Orchestra and a wind quintet. The whole day is amazing! I really enjoy all of my lessons and spending time with my friends.

Annabella, age 10, mini-bass and bassoon

Annabella’s Timetable

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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>Bass Group class</td>
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<tr>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Musicianship class</td>
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<tr>
<td>11am</td>
<td>Training Choir rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>12pm</td>
<td>Mini-bass lesson</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.30pm</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.30pm</td>
<td>Bassoon lesson</td>
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<tr>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Wind quintet rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>Symphonic Wind Orchestra rehearsal</td>
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</table>
The Royal College of Music Junior Department has been nurturing young musicians for more than 90 years and many of our students have gone on to have successful international careers in music.

RCMJD alumni include:

Michael Collins, clarinettist
Henry Baldwin, Co-Principal Percussionist of the London Philharmonic Orchestra
Julian Lloyd Webber, cellist
Clemency Burton-Hill, violinist, broadcaster, journalist and presenter on BBC Young Musician
Mark-Anthony Turnage, composer
Emily Beynon, Principal Flute of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra
John Lill, pianist

Junior Department was something I really loved doing because it’s such a wonderful place to learn, make new friends and to be totally immersed with people who are passionate about music.

Martin James Bartlett,
RCMJD alumnus
APPLYING

This section takes you through what you need to think about when applying to the Royal College of Music Junior Department.
VISIT DAYS

Visiting the Royal College of Music Junior Department is a friendly and informal way to get to know more about what we do before applying for a place.

Joining us on one of our Visit Days will give you the opportunity to observe rehearsals, classes and informal performances, tour the building and speak to current RCMJD students and parents.

Several Visit Days are scheduled during the Autumn and Spring Terms. Booking is essential as there are a limited number of spaces available for each day.

Doors open at 9am and booked students can dip into the various activities that interest them. A timetable of activities will be sent to you a few days before the visit. Visit Days finish at 5pm.

Dates for our Visit Days are published on our website in September each year. Find out more at www.rcm.ac.uk/junior
The Royal College of Music’s location is the envy of the musical world. We are situated directly opposite the Royal Albert Hall in one of London’s most attractive and vibrant areas – South Kensington.

The RCM is a ten-minute walk from South Kensington station.
HOW TO APPLY

Entry is by audition in February–April for entry in September the same year. This is our only audition period, though we may offer auditions outside this period in exceptional circumstances.

The closing date for applications is 1 March for entry in September of the same year.

Applications open in January and can be made using our online application form, a link to which can be found on our website. An audition fee will be required. For further information visit www.rcm.ac.uk/junior/howtoapply

We do not wish for the cost of the audition to prevent anyone from auditioning for the RCM Junior Department. If you have any concerns about this please contact us at jd@rcm.ac.uk

APPLICATIONS FOR THE MINI-BASS COURSE

Applications for the mini-bass course should be made in the same way as the full programme, putting mini-bass in the first study field. If you currently play an instrument, note this in the second study field.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

All elements of the curriculum as well as all written and spoken correspondence are delivered in English. It is therefore essential that all students and parents have a good grasp of both written and spoken English.

ACCESS

We welcome applications to the Junior Department from everyone and aim to provide as much support where necessary to make this possible. If you have any concerns about the audition process or if you have any specific requirements, please email jd@rcm.ac.uk and we’ll be happy to help. For information about financial support see page 32.
AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

The audition may be a one or two-stage process. You will be advised of specific requirements at the time of application. You should be prepared for:

- First study*: two short contrasting pieces
- Second and third study* (if you have one): one short piece per instrument
- Sight reading on your first study instrument only
- Aural tests
- Musical and general discussion

*Composers will be required to submit scores in advance.

You will need to use our official accompanist and will have time to rehearse with them before your audition. The decision of the audition panel is final and we regret that we are unable to enter into correspondence about results.

AUDITIONS FOR THE MINI-BASS COURSE

For those applying for the mini-bass course, we will schedule an audition in the same way as those applying for the full RCMJD programme, however, the audition will be more informal. You will be given musical awareness tests to assess your sense of pitch and rhythm and those who already play an instrument will be asked to play something to the audition panel.

AUDITION RESULTS

Results are sent directly to your parents as soon as possible after the audition period.
FEES & BURSARIES

FEES

Fees are payable in advance and may be paid annually or termly. A full term’s notice is required if a student wishes to leave the RCM Junior Department. Current fees are available online at www.rcm.ac.uk/junior/feesandbursaries

At extra charge, individual lessons may be extended in 15-minute blocks. Alexander Technique and aural classes are offered free of charge.

BURSARIES

It is our intention that students who are successful at audition should not be prevented from attending through financial hardship. Those needing support may apply for a bursary from the RCM Junior Department.

Bursaries are means-tested and allocated according to financial need by an independent committee. Parents wishing to apply should request more information by ticking the appropriate box on the application form.

A list of supporters of our bursaries can be found at www.rcm.ac.uk/juniorbursaries
How amazing do I have to be to join the Royal College of Music Junior Department?
Entry is subject to audition. Your current ability and potential, the number of places available for each instrument and suitability for the course are all taken into consideration. You don’t need to have taken exams, but as a general rule, if you are age 11 or younger your first study should be at least Grade 5 level and if you are older than 11 we will expect you to be more advanced. Our sixth formers are usually post-Grade 8 standard.

On instruments often started at a later age, particularly viola, bassoon, horn, trombone, tuba, harp, organ and double bass, a lower level of attainment may be acceptable. On our most popular instruments (currently violin and piano) the students to whom we offer places are often at a significantly more advanced level. Your current teacher or a professional musician who has seen and heard you perform is the best person to advise you as to whether you are ready.

I don’t play the piano either as a first or second instrument. Does that matter?
No, though we’d encourage you to take it up as keyboard skills are always useful to every musician. We’d advise you to have lessons locally before moving your lessons to the RCMJD when you’ve become more advanced.

I’m great at my first instrument but I’ve only just started my second instrument, will this disadvantage me at audition?
Not at all. It is potential we’re looking for, and it’s the first instrument that we care the most about so don’t let that worry you. Well done for being adventurous and trying something new.

I only play one instrument. Can I still come to the RCMJD?
Of course! We might encourage you to play an additional instrument if you want to but it is not a requirement and will not compromise you at audition if you do not. Situations in which we might encourage a second instrument (depending on age and development) are:

- Piano – first study pianists may be encouraged to play an orchestral instrument so that they may take part in orchestras.
- Composition – first study composers may be encouraged to play an instrument to allow them to take part in ensemble activities.
- Singers – first study singers are particularly encouraged to learn piano.
I don’t read music and only play, sing and compose by ear. Can I still come to the RCMJD?
Reading music is a very important skill for musicians of every style and level. If your playing, singing or composing is exciting and musical then it shouldn’t be a problem at audition, but we would expect you to learn to read music at the earliest opportunity and be keen and hard-working enough to do so.

Is the RCMJD only for people who want to go on to study at a conservatoire?
Absolutely not. While most of our students do go on to study music at conservatoires or university, recent graduates of the RCMJD have enjoyed a variety of different courses and careers, such as engineering, languages, medicine and even rocket science! Our aim is that by the time you leave at age 18, you will be of a standard that allows you to apply successfully to a conservatoire if you want to.