

Higher Education

CSMC students will be offered bespoke support in preparing for auditions and interviews, including expert guidance on making university and/or conservatoire applications. This support is enhanced through a complimentary advice audition with audition panel members at the RNCM, providing invaluable experience and feedback.

We are delighted that in recent years Sandbach School music students have gone on to study at the RNCM, Royal Academy of Music, Royal College of Music, Royal Welsh College of Music, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Leeds College of Music, and Huddersfield, Salford and Keele Universities. This exciting new collaboration will ensure that we continue to invest in future generations and enable students to fulfil their musical potential.

Career Opportunities

Studying music at a university or conservatoire can not only lead to a career in performing, composing, conducting and teaching, but in arts management, publishing and, amongst others, recording too. Working towards a degree can also be an incredibly diverse experience, encompassing a variety of practical and academic approaches to the study of music, as well as helping you to develop highly-desirable skills in areas such as self-management, teamwork, problem-solving, and communication. Rather than limiting your career prospects, a music degree opens doors to a wide range of fulfilling careers both within and outside the arts.



'The wealth of opportunities at Sandbach School within the Music department, gave me a truly inspirational start to my musical career. Concerts found us playing alongside some of the UK's top session musicians; tours led us to the Edinburgh Fringe, Boston, New Zealand and Singapore, and time spent rehearsing with like-minded, passionate and creative peers has created memories, friendships and connections to last a life time. Since leaving Sandbach School I have graduated from the Royal Northern College of Music as a saxophonist and currently gig professionally around the country with pop and function bands, poets, DJ and sax sets, and most recently as the lead alto saxophone player with the Hacienda Classical project with Manchester Camerata at numerous venues across the UK including Leeds Arena and Royal Albert Hall. Having been in charge of music at Knutsford Academy I'm delighted to now be giving something back to Sandbach School as a teacher within the music department.'

Jamie Sharp



I chose to join the specialist course because its specifically designed to help those wanting to pursue music at a professional level.

The standard of music at the school is exceptional, and I've been able to take advantage of the amazing ensembles such as Big Band and Brass Phatts. These groups have also encouraged me to partake in different styles of music, such as the areas of jazz, choral and show music.

It's been great having a connection with the RNCM, not just receiving fantastic one to one lessons but also partaking in workshops at the college. This has given me a real insight into what life as a music student would be like and has further encouraged me to pursue this as a career.

Finally, the atmosphere among the students on the course is really special. We all have common goals, and everyone is supportive of each other. Whenever someone succeeds at an audition, or plays well in a recital, everyone in the department is genuinely happy for each other, which is a great environment to develop in as a musician.

Ella Coleman – Bassoon



I applied for the Specialist Course, wanting to expand my musicianship and learn valuable skills for the musical world. Having experienced the incredible music department whilst attending Sandbach School, I knew that this course would provide me with these essential skills. I have found many aspects of my overall musicianship have improved, such as transposition, aural skills, as well as developing my playing to a higher standard.

The opportunities we get from the course are great too, as my lessons at the RNCM have helped me develop the techniques I requested to work on, and the chamber sessions allow us to explore different styles of music we wouldn't otherwise have access to. The help that I have received preparing for music college auditions, from the RNCM and Sandbach School have been invaluable.

I would absolutely recommend the course to anyone thinking of a future in music!

Paddy Bloor – Trombone