



MARLING SIXTH FORM *Downfield Road*

Marling Diamond: MUSIC

Ideal For Aspiring Musicians

Whether you want to play, compose or conduct, Marling Sixth Form is a great place to study says Stephen Parker.

'I aim to be conducting my own music at the Proms by the age of 30 - I believe my future aims are ambitious, but I am confident that I will make it. Teachers at the school helped me to reach where I am; the music department is incredibly supportive and Marling Sixth Form is an ideal place to be for any aspiring musicians with higher academic targets.'

Stephen Parker
Music Conservatoire Student



Music At Marling

Marling School has a thriving music department, based in its own music hall with recording studio and practice rooms. Unlike many schools and colleges, it is able to offer both music and music technology at A Level and students go on to study at a range of specialist colleges and conservatoires.

Beyond the classroom, students have the opportunity to learn many instruments and to develop their skills performing in Big Band (see top right), Downfielders joint senior choir and senior string ensemble. Each year the music department also showcases the talents of its musicians and soloists at popular Spring and Christmas concerts.

A team of visiting teachers offer lessons for a wide range of instruments, including acoustic/electric guitar, bass, brass, drum kit/percussion, piano/keyboard, ukulele, upper/lower strings, woodwind and voice. Sixth form students can opt to have music tuition during their independent study periods to avoid missing A Level lessons.

Marling School's **Big Band** (pictured above) play each year at the famous Cheltenham Jazz Festival, entertaining the audience with their lively jazz. The 22-piece, 1960s-style swing band has been performing for 11 years and continues to go strong. New members are always welcome.

Downfielders are a traditional folk group of between 10 and 12 musicians who perform at many local events, from dance competitions to folk festivals. They appear each year at Chippenham Folk Festival (pictured below left) and have been playing as a group for over 20 years.



'When I joined Marling Sixth Form, I was amazed by the standard of the music department and was heavily involved with it during my time here. In addition to the academic work of the A Level music course, the department offered an astounding breadth of opportunities in its extra-curricular activities.

For the past nine years, I had a predominantly classical training, but the diverse array of musical experiences offered at Marling allowed me to develop my enjoyment and understanding of all types of music. I had the chance to participate in groups such as the Downfielders Folk Ensemble, amongst others. In addition to performance, the music department gave me the opportunity to lead orchestral rehearsals for the school production of 'Oliver!' as one of the musical directors.

The staff are consistently supportive, are always willing to help, and regularly create new chances for involvement wherever possible.'

Liam Fleet