



Nottingham Girls' High School - Parent Testimonials

"Since my daughter started at NGHS during lockdown, the **opportunities related to music** have been **endless and extremely beneficial**. She has been encouraged to join various groups with differing musical styles and take part in music activities out of school. Her **confidence has grown** and her love of music has **truly blossomed**. **Her music teacher has such passion, energy and enthusiasm** it is easy to see how it transfers to the girls. They aren't just encouraged to try new instruments but also new experiences whether that's performing on stage, travelling abroad to play or helping younger girls within the school. As parents, it's wonderful to see so many opportunities available and have the teaching staff know what she is capable of and believe in her. **I don't think there is a school out there who could offer anything close to this music department.**"

Year 7 Parent

"My daughter's interest in music started in the Junior School where she was encouraged via the "Da Capo" programme and in music lessons to try a variety of instruments. She became involved in several bands through singing, playing the trumpet and ukulele which gave her the **opportunities to visit amazing places** (Disneyland Paris) and also to **pass on her love of music to others** via hosting radio shows, visiting children in hospitals and the elderly in care home environments. She is now in Senior School and involved in 7 different music clubs ranging from a rock band to a chamber choir and from a brass ensemble to a symphony orchestra. The **staff at the school are fantastic** and go out of their way to seek out performance opportunities for the girls - **music doesn't stop in the classroom** and my daughter has been fortunate to be able to go on residential and sing at community events representing the school. The concerts I attend are not the usual "school concerts"; the **talent on display is breathtaking** and the number of girls playing a vast array of instruments is amazing. The music department takes the time to get to know the girls extremely well and therefore are able to encourage them to **step outside their comfort zones** without it seeming too scary. She is now starting her GCSE and I know with the great support and care available from the team she will be **well prepared for the exams.**"

Year 10 Parent

“The music education at NGHS is exceptional. It has shaped my daughters’ experiences and made their life at the junior school extremely happy. I am so excited to follow their journey through the senior school where the opportunities multiply.

Music features in every aspect of school life, from the joyous singing in assembly, as a tool in maths lessons to the private tuition and vast range of clubs and music groups. So many schools have sadly had to cut their music provision- NGHS just goes from strength to strength and music remains at the forefront.

The junior school Da Capo programme gives the youngest children a chance to try everything from the cornet to the viola. **At every stage they are given opportunities to perform and share their learning.**

All pupils are encouraged to learn an instrument and the **enthusiasm is infectious.** Many go on to learn a second and then a third. The wide range of possibilities (harp, bassoon and bass guitar just to mention a few!), with **expert teachers** means that the school has **fantastic orchestras and offers an extraordinary range of music groups** so that every child can be included. Mr Rolfe and his team know the girls well and music parts are tailored so that everyone can join in, even the most inexperienced. **Older musicians and music scholars take on roles inspiring and mentoring younger girls.**

The girls might be on stage playing with a rock band, funk band, jazz band or folk band, mastering classical music or tackling challenging three-part choral work with great skill (something that most primary schools wouldn’t even attempt) . There are ukulele groups, flute choirs, percussion groups and a large symphony orchestra to name a few of the opportunities on offer. The expectations are high and **every year the girls show that the sky’s the limit.** They are lucky to have a wonderful new auditorium to play in, with state of the art sound technology. External musicians are invited in regularly to inspire and teach and there are wonderful visits to the concert halls in Nottingham too.

The opportunities to perform are vast and the **girls learn about teamwork, responsibility, resilience, making mistakes, hard work and concentration.** It fills them with confidence. They can see the joy their music brings their parents, and everyone from shoppers whilst out busking, residents of a nursing home and younger girls in the school. They regularly use their music out in the community to raise money for various local charities.

Music is known to improve academic performance, **but at a time when girls’ mental health is at the forefront of every parent’s mind I will remain grateful for the way it makes my daughters’ buzz with happiness and pride.** Whether or not the girls go on to a career in music, their lives will be infinitely richer for the experiences they have been given.”

Year 4 and Year 7 Parent

"We would like to extol the virtues of the NGHS music department.

Right from their start in the reception class, **music fills the girls' school days**. All the girls are encouraged but never pushed into playing and singing, with such **fun and contagious enthusiasm that performing in public becomes normal, never scary**. Whether it is at one of the many formal concerts, or at the open-mike events, or busking in Nottingham for Christmas the girls have many wonderful opportunities to perform. By Year 6 it seems that **most of the girls play at least one instrument, and many go on to become multi-instrumentalists**.

This continues through to the senior school where there is a **plethora of clubs and ensembles that will suit all tastes in music** from Classical, through Rock and Pop, to Swing and Jazz to name but a few.

The **standard of musical tuition is extremely high and is equally diverse**, with all orchestral instruments (from Bassoon through to xylophone) catered for in addition to fantastic opportunities in more contemporary instruments.

It doesn't end there, music composition and production are also very much on the agenda.

But **the one thing that makes music so great at NGHS is the staff**. They know and understand every girl and support and nurture them. They help many girls become very talented musicians, but perhaps more importantly **they always manage to keep making music fun.**"

Year 7 Parent

"NGHS provides a wonderful academic education where the girls are nurtured and encouraged to achieve their potential. In addition the school offers an excellent enrichment curriculum with a wide range of opportunities.

The music enrichment at NGHS is absolutely superb! It is very diverse and offers opportunities for the girls to play their instruments as part of a full orchestra, smaller bands / quartets and also pop / rock bands. As voice is also treated as an instrument, the girls have a range of choirs to join and they also sing with the various bands. **The music staff are simply wonderful**. They give up so much of their own time to facilitate events where the girls can perform to an audience. **They know each girl's musical talents individually and the music staff are always willing to go that extra mile** to both encourage and support their students.

The music enrichment at NGHS is exceptional as **it provides so much more than a typical private school**. We are both delighted and grateful that our two girls benefit from this music provision and we always feel so proud watching them and their peers perform. A huge thank you to the wonderful and talented music department at NGHS!"

Year 8 Parent

"Currently we have two daughters who are benefitting greatly from the music department at NGHS, they are both in a situation where they are being supported at every level of their music journey. Our daughter in Year 2 is being exposed to such a wide range of musical instruments, musical thinking, terminology through the Junior School's Da Capo programme; which **we cannot recommend highly enough** to any parents joining NGHS; private percussion lessons, choir and timetabled weekly curriculum music lessons. This allows our daughter to experience music in so many different forms and with a range of different expert staff. Having this range of weekly classes has firmly cemented music as a favourite subject and a subject that will continue to be an interest throughout her school career.

Our eldest daughter has just transitioned from Yr 6 to Yr 7 and with her she has taken her love of music theory, bands and music lessons. Our daughter also takes with her the title of 'Music Scholar', something that she has great pride in. **NGHS girls experience music and learn music in a way that is unique to the individual girl**, no one girl will experience the same learning journey as they are exposed to so many different styles of music, teaching and opportunities.

Our daughter has been encouraged to not only pursue music in school but also out of school, and this has led to our daughter performing in professional musical theatre productions in theatres in Nottingham, auditioning for and successfully achieving two Musical Theatre Associate positions and she also has a very busy pantomime season ahead of her. The staff have encouraged and supported her love of musical theatre, dance and drama not only during term time in lessons, but also by turning up to support dance and musical theatre performances outside of the school day; **I cannot imagine many schools having such involved, encouraging teachers that are genuinely interested in each individual girl and their own musical journey.**

Before our girls joined NGHS I never imagined music lessons and the Music Department of a school becoming **such an important part of our family life**. All of the additional school music concerts, charity busking sessions and musical productions are added into our family calendar first and nothing displaces them. **This is a testament to the care, dedication, and absolute love of music that the music department teachers instil into the girls** at NGHS, from nursery, right through the school. We cannot wait to see the levels to which our daughters rise in their musical education, when backed by **a music department that truly does put the individual girl at the centre of their philosophy.**"

Year 2 and Year 7 Parent

"We have been very grateful for all of the opportunities that our daughter has had throughout her time at NGHS. She has been at NGHS since reception and we are very happy with her progress at school, and music and the department has been a central part of this. From the start of her musical education when **the entire year group had access to the Da Capo initiative encouraging them all to take up an instrument and supporting them with this**, there has been a sense of **inclusivity and pride** in music at NGHS. There is access to a huge and diverse range of opportunities in a wide range of musical settings.

Highlights have included the opportunity to do a foyer recital at the Royal Concert Hall, outstanding school concerts both classical and modern at the school's own world class venue in The Space, the opportunity to join a range of ensembles, many bands and classical chamber and orchestral music, the workshop with top folk violinist Sam Sweeney, the band days at Binks Yard and Rough Trade, charity events such as busking and performing at care homes. The list could go on for ever. You and your team are incredibly inclusive and actively reach out to the whole range and spectrum of abilities and know and nurture every girl musically. And we know there are hours and hours of behind the scenes work that go into running these groups and putting on such excellent concerts - you always go the extra mile. Thank you for everything you and the team do for our daughter and the girls musically, it is much appreciated."

Year 11 Parents