



Instrumental Tuition: Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What tuition is available?

A. All woodwind, brass and string instruments, voice, piano, organ, electric and classical guitar, drum kit, percussion, jazz piano, jazz saxophone and jazz clarinet.

Q. Who can have lessons?

A. Any students in the school whether they be beginner, intermediate or advanced. Though there is a cost for these lessons, in cases of financial hardship, there is sometimes help available to pay for these.

Q. How do I pay for them?

A. The teacher will invoice you every term. You should pay them directly, within three weeks of the start of term.

Q. Do you offer keyboard tuition?

A. No. Those wishing to learn about chords and improvisation should consider jazz piano. It is possible to have classical piano lessons with use of a high-standard electronic keyboard at home, otherwise try a music shop in your area for teachers advertising keyboard lessons.

Q. When are the lessons scheduled?

A. Lessons are given throughout the school day in the music practice rooms. (It is not possible to schedule all 240+ 30-minute weekly lessons at lunchtime or after school.)

Q. Will my son miss the same lesson every week?

A. No. Lesson times should vary every fortnight, so as not to disadvantage any student in any subject.

Q. How do the students know when and where to go?

A. Students need to check the timetables outside the music classroom to find out when their lesson is. Teachers specify the lesson times on their timetables a week in advance and usually teach in the same practice room.

Q. How do I start lessons?

A. Application forms are available from Music Department staff (Mr Price, Mrs Attwood and Mr Blew) or to print from the school website.

Q. Will I need to have my own instrument?

A. Yes. The only way to make progress on learning an instrument is to do regular practice, even if it is only a little at a time. Instruments can often be hired through BYMT or local music shops, if you do not wish to purchase your own straight away. In the case of the organ, we encourage students to make a connection with a local church for access to an instrument outside of school time.

Q. My son already has lessons with a teacher outside of school. Will he be able to participate in the school's ensembles?

A. Yes! We encourage all musicians to be involved in playing or singing in at least one group.

Q. What are the benefits of learning a musical instrument?

A. There is a lot of scientific research into the very many potential benefits of learning an instrument. Some studies link learning music to developing both sides of the brain, others with positive mental health. In our own experience however, we find that music develops:

- enjoyment of a worthwhile pastime
- social and collaborative skills
- performing skill, confidence and self-esteem
- musical appreciation and knowledge of repertoire
- fine motor and rapid-response skills
- self-discipline

These are all valuable points of interest on an application form for universities and professional careers.

Q. You've convinced me it's a good idea, but I'm worried about the adjustment in routine. When should he start?

A. We advise giving this a go as early as possible. While everything is new for a Year 7 student, there is no better time to get started on the exciting challenge of learning an instrument. It becomes part of the regular routine this way and it is easier to schedule it in, rather than trying to find time later on, which might never happen in actuality! They also have a longer period of time over which to develop their skills, reach more advanced levels and gain access to the senior musical ensembles.