



Instrumental Tuition
Information Booklet
2017 - 2018



Abbey Grange
Music Department



INTRODUCTION

At Abbey Grange we believe that tuition on an instrument is a really valuable addition to a student's education, not only for the obvious musical reasons but also for the additional benefits and experiences which the learning of an instrument brings, such as working as a team, perseverance, creativity and simple enjoyment!

In partnership with selected freelance musicians we offer an extensive peripatetic tuition programme in the following areas which will be available according to demand:

- Upper Strings Violin and viola
- Lower Strings Cello , Double Bass
- Woodwind Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophones, Bassoon
- Brass Trumpet, Cornet, Trombone, Horn,
- Guitar Classical, Electric and Bass
- Percussion Drum kit, Orchestral Percussion
- Keyboard & Piano Electronic Keyboard and Piano Lessons
- Singing GCSE and A Level prioritised

Tuition in additional brass and woodwind may be available if required. Please indicate on the Application Form if you wish to receive lessons in these areas.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

We expect students who sign up for music tuition to pay for and complete a full year of tuition. This is in order to ensure that we can maintain our staffing levels appropriately.

Abbey Grange subsidises the cost of instrumental lessons but we ask for a contribution of £255 per year (payable in termly instalments of £85). Payment for tuition fees must be made via ParentPay. Your log in details will be forwarded to you via email.

Where a family qualifies for Free School Meals, no contribution will be expected (for **tuition in one discipline**) but please indicate this on the Application Form. The cost will also be waived **for tuition in one discipline** for those students studying Music at A Level and Year 11 GCSE music because Performance is a compulsory element of each course. Due to budget cuts we can longer provide free music tuition to students studying Year 9 or 10 GCSE Music, but we are able to provide **half-price tuition in one discipline** to these students. Please indicate on the application form if your son/daughter studies Music at GCSE or A-Level.

WHAT ABOUT AN INSTRUMENT?

We usually find that children who have been learning instruments for some years tend to have their own instrument by the time they start secondary school. If your child does not have their own instrument, it may be possible for you to hire an instrument from Abbey Grange for a small termly charge. If we do not have access to the instrument required we can provide you with details of external organisations that have a more extensive range of instruments for hire. Please note that any damage caused to instruments belonging to Abbey Grange will be charged for.

HOW IS PROGRESS MONITORED?

Attendance registers are kept by Peripatetic staff. Students are expected to notify the teacher in advance if they are unable to attend a lesson. Attendance will be monitored by Mr Lewis, the Department Technician, who will contact parents in the event of persistent absences. This correspondence is carried out via email, thus a functioning and regularly checked email address **must** be provided as part of the music lesson application process.

A minimum of 33 lessons will be made available to students during the course of the academic year. This takes into account the fact that in some weeks it will not be possible to offer a lesson due to school trips or exams etc. If lessons are missed due to the student's absence or sickness this may result in fewer than 33 lessons being provided. Refunds cannot be provided for individual lessons missed, although in the case of persistent absence for medical (or other valid reasons) refunds may be available. Please contact our finance department if you would like to discuss this.

Work set by the teacher should be written in the student's planner. This enables parents to monitor progress and serves as a reminder of what to practise between lessons. Peripatetic teachers will set targets for each term, writing a full report for parents at the end of the Summer term.

CAN EXAMINATIONS BE TAKEN?

Abbey Grange continues to achieve high pass rates in Associated Board, Rock School and Trinity-Guildhall Practical examinations. Teachers will normally recommend students for exams and parents will be informed of this together with details of fees or practice sessions. Consent forms for grade exams are emailed out via our main office, and for this reason please make sure that you have provided a functioning and regularly checked email address to our main office. Due to the quick turnaround needed when entering students for exams, all consent forms must be returned and payments made by the dates specified on correspondence. Failure to do so may result in students being withdrawn from entry for exams.

HOW DOES THE SCHEME WORK?

Pupils are normally taught in small groups of two or four, or on occasions taught individually. Tuition takes place during the school day on a rota basis and pupils are expected to excuse themselves from normal timetabled lessons in order to attend. It may be necessary to catch up on work missed. Some lessons may be at break or lunch time. Occasionally, students may be timetabled for lessons in fixed slots at break or lunchtime. A-Level & GCSE students have priority in these cases, but please contact the music office if you feel this may be beneficial to your son/daughter.

On the day of the lesson students should:

- Leave their instrument in one of the practice rooms before school starts. **Instruments should not be left in the Music Corridor or unattended as the Academy cannot accept responsibility for loss.**
- Check the noticeboard outside the Music Room to find the time of the lesson.
- Ask permission from the subject teacher if part of timetabled lessons need to be missed. We will endeavour to ensure that the same lesson is not repeatedly missed.
- Attend their instrumental lesson at the time stated on the rota. Let the teacher or staff in the Music Department know if there are any problems.
- Collect instruments from the practice rooms at the end of the day.

All instruments brought into school should be covered by your household insurance policy and clearly labelled with your name, address and form.

HOW DO I ENROL MY CHILD?

Complete the form enclosed in this brochure and return it to staff in the Music Department. A place will be confirmed early in the first term.

Please note that we cannot guarantee a place for everyone who applies – we are always oversubscribed in some areas!

