

Music: Instrumental Lessons Information Sheet 2021

A number of instrumental teachers come to the school to offer tuition. A written contract to provide instrumental lessons is made between the teacher and the parent. These are self-employed teachers for whom the school provides a room in which to teach. Lessons are arranged by the music department to begin at the start of the academic year, or whenever they are requested: payment and lesson times are then arranged directly between teacher and parent. All subsequent contractual arrangements are made between teacher and parent and we encourage both parties to regularly communicate regarding lessons, progress and preparation for concerts and exams.

1. Application

If you wish to apply for your daughter to take either individual or shared music lessons, please complete the online application form by **1 June 2021**. Junior School girls starting in the Senior School in September do not need to re-apply if already having music lessons.

2. Instruments and Fees

Girls may have piano, flute, oboe, clarinet, recorder, saxophone, bassoon, trumpet, trombone, baritone, euphonium, tuba, French horn, violin, viola, 'cello, double bass, voice, guitar, harp, organ, harpsichord, orchestral percussion or drum kit lessons in school.

The orchestras especially need pupils to learn underlined instruments and we offer one trial lesson on each of up to two different underlined instruments. After those lessons, if a pupil wishes to pursue their studies further, we offer subsidized tuition – a reduction of 50% - for the first five lessons. This arrangement is for the benefit of beginners only on any underlined instrument.

From the beginning of the school year in September 2021, the tuition fee will be **£290** for ten 40-minute lessons in the Senior School each term. For shared lessons, if available and only in the initial stages, the fee is **£155**. In the Junior School, fees are **£216** for ten 30-minute lessons each term and **£118** shared. Please note that tuition in piano cannot be given as a shared lesson. It is recommended that shared lessons are to be sought only in the first term of a girl's instrumental journey and their provision is conditional on the School being able to find a 'lesson partner' to share with. Voice tuition is only available for girls in Year 7 and above.

3. Ensembles, contribution and expectation

In order that girls stay focused and motivated to practise, we expect that girls who have instrumental or vocal lessons should participate in school ensembles/choirs as soon as they are of a sufficient standard. There is a very wide variety of groups to suit all abilities and interests – if girls wish to find out more about any ensemble, they should speak to their teacher or a member of the department. For those who wish to participate in a cappella groups, it is mandatory that they regularly sing with the appropriate Choir – Junior Choir, for example, for those in Year 7 and 8.

4. Payment of Tuition Fees

Payment via cheque or BACS transfer should be made payable to the teacher on receipt of the invoice sent by them to parents at the beginning of each term. **We ask that you kindly settle bills within two weeks of receipt in order to maintain continuity of lessons.**

5. Discontinuation of lessons

A complete term's notice in writing is required to discontinue lessons and should be given by the end of the first week of any term. Failure to do this will make you liable for the next term's fees. Parents should write to both the teacher concerned and the Director of Music, Mr Robert Patterson, on r.patterson@put.gdst.net. The only exception

to this is when girls wish to discontinue an instrument within the first month of taking it up – in this case, only the first half term's fees are payable.

6. Lesson Rotation

Girls in Years 4-9 will find that their teacher rotates the music lessons throughout **all periods** of the school timetable, as well as times that fall outside of academic lesson time. **We cannot make exceptions to this**, as every exception reduces the rotational opportunities of other girls' timetables. Special concessions for fixed times are made for girls learning two or more instruments in school. For girls in Year 3, timetabling is arranged between the instrumental teacher and the form tutor. In Years 10 and above, music lessons will be given in study periods, lunch breaks, or before and after school.

7. Liability through absence of a pupil or teacher

If a teacher is absent, lessons missed will be made up in vacant weeks in the term or, if this is not possible, a refund will be given. If a girl is absent from a lesson through illness or any other reason **with less than 48 hours' notice** the lesson is forfeit and the fee for it will be due. Teachers will avoid examination weeks (summer exams at KS3, mocks and public exams at Year 10-13) and will try to give 13 or 14 lessons in the long Christmas term and correspondingly fewer in the other terms. We would expect that parents and teachers of girls in Year 11 or 13 should discuss in good time, but certainly by the end of the Spring term, the number of lessons to be offered in the Summer term. For the sake of continuity, music lessons can carry on into exam study leave, but by negotiation.

8. Theory Lessons

Group tuition for Grade 1-5 theory is available and free of charge, although the usual costs for theory exams are payable. Girls are taught in small groups by members of the music department and the Associated Board examination for this takes place on 5 different dates during the year.

9. Music Examinations

Examinations can be taken at school at the end of any term. We offer exams with the ABRSM and Trinity. Details of fees and how to apply will be sent by the music office to all parents at the start of each term.

10. Using a School Instrument

We do have some instruments that can be used by those beginning tuition. Details of this scheme are available from the music office and we ask for a small termly contribution (£30) towards maintenance and ongoing costs to keep the scheme operational. Parents will be notified of this in due course. **All instruments must be added to your Home Contents insurance policy in case of loss or accidental damage.** Agreement forms are available on request from the music office.

11. Personal Instruments

All personal instruments brought into school must be added to your Home Contents insurance policy (all risks section) in case of loss or damage away from home. The Trust's insurance policy does not cover personal items.

Please ensure that **ALL** instruments, whoever owns them, are clearly and securely labelled with the girl's name and address.

For any further information please contact:

Mr Robert Patterson, Director of Music – r.patterson@put.qdst.net

Miss Hannah Elleray, Performing Arts Administrator – h.elleray@put.qdst.net