

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT TUITION AT ALCESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Learning a musical instrument is very popular in the School and we are able to make introductions to expert tutors in a wide range of musical instruments:

<u>STRINGS</u>	<u>WOODWIND</u>	<u>BRASS</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
Violin*	Flute	Trumpet/cornet	Drum kit
Viola*	Clarinet/Saxophone	Trombone	Electric/bass guitar
Cello	Oboe	Euphonium	Classical/acoustic guitar
Double bass		Baritone	Piano
		French Horn	Voice
		Tuba	Jazz/pop saxophone
			Jazz/pop piano

*indicates a County Music Service teacher

All Year 7 students are encouraged to join the Instrumental Programme in the School. Even if students have little apparent aptitude for serious musical study, students will derive considerable benefit from instrumental lessons or ensemble groups in broader and social terms.

It must be noted that for some instruments, especially drums and acoustic guitar, there are limited vacancies this coming September so application forms should be handed in as early as possible. **You should also specify on the form if you require acoustic, classical or electric guitar lessons, or jazz/pop or classical piano.**

Lessons

Lessons are given on a weekly basis during term time by visiting music teachers. Students will receive tuition in either a 30-minute or 20-minute lesson. There will be a minimum of 30 lessons provided over the school year; the number of lessons per term will vary depending on how long the term is. Each student is given a time that rotates on a weekly basis throughout the school day. This rota is to avoid regular absence from any particular subject. The timetable is displayed in the Music Department entrance.

Unfortunately instrumental lesson times cannot be re-arranged to accommodate students' preferences, nor can a student have a regular time. It is the student's responsibility to inform the Director of Music or instrumental teacher of any clash in commitments so that a lesson may be re-arranged and money is not wasted. This might happen in the case of a school trip, medical appointment, test, or examination.

Instruments

If the student is learning with a County Music teacher (*) then these can be borrowed from the County Music Service at first in many circumstances, allowing your child to try out the instrument. The student is expected to maintain the instrument carefully and to pay for any accidental damage. General repairs are not charged to students. In order to provide a wide variety of specialist instrumental teaching, most of our peripatetic music teachers are independent. **For these teachers students will be required to have their own or a hired instrument. The school does not organise instrumental hire for students. Please contact the Director of Music if you are finding it difficult to hire an instrument.**

Payment

The lessons will be offered at the following rates:

20 minutes = £10.50 per lesson

30 minutes = £15.75 per lesson

This works out at approximately £115.50 / £173.25 per term. A formal agreement between the teacher and yourself will be provided for your acceptance. Fees must be paid on receipt of invoice. Lessons cannot start until payment is made. If a student is absent *without* informing staff, the lesson missed must still be paid for. Invoices and contracts are issued either by the visiting independent teachers or by the school for County Music teachers (payable on ParentPay at the beginning of each term).

Please contact the Director of Music, in strictest confidence, if you require financial assistance with music tuition. Students who receive the Pupil Premium will have their lessons paid for using this fund.

Participation

Every instrumentalist is encouraged to develop the skills needed for playing music with others and reap the social rewards making music can bring. The principal aim of these groups is to consolidate the work of our visiting staff and prepare students for public performance both at school and, when selected, with County Music Service and other National Ensembles. All students receiving tuition in school will be expected to take part in these activities when they have achieved the required standard for entry. Many musicians spend several lunch times and evenings in the Department rehearsing with one group or another. Conscientious practice and regular attendance are expected.

The Music Department runs a number of ensembles for students which include:

- Young Voices
- String Group
- Senior Choir
- Wind Group
- Rock Band
- Orchestra
- Big Band
- Soul Band
- Composition club
- Folk Group

Ending Tuition

Teachers are employed on a termly basis, so adequate notice is necessary to avoid difficulties. Should you wish to end tuition at the end of a term, please give written notice to the Director of Music before the half term break. Notice after this will result in full payment being requested for the following term.

Reports

Written reports will be provided each year. Parents may also speak to their child's music teacher direct to discuss progress or any concerns, and the teacher's contact details will be supplied. Whilst the teacher will make every reasonable effort to improve the knowledge and ability of the student, they cannot be expected to improve unless he/she fully co-operates with the teacher and follows the practice advised. Parental support is essential.

If you wish your son/daughter to receive instrumental tuition please complete and return the attached form to the Director of Music. Thank you.