



Homefield School Music Department

Instrumental Music

All boys start to learn the recorder from the 3rd year and there opportunities for pupils to play tuned percussion and keyboards during class lessons from the Upper 4th onwards.

There are a number of small groups for percussionists and string players of various standards. Able instrumentalists can join the following lunchtime groups, regardless of where they take lessons. (Grades are approximate)

Orchestra - Grade 3+

String Orchestra - Grade 1 & 2

Guitar Ensemble – Grade 2+

Jazz Orchestra - Grade 3/4 +

Wind Band - Grade 1-3

Concerts

Junior Department

All of the boys perform in the annual Christmas concerts and Year 1 & 2 perform a musical play in the Summer Term. Additionally, the Third form boys give a music concert for parents at the end of the spring term where they sing play their recorders and instrumentalists perform solos.

Senior Department

All of the boys perform in the annual Senior Christmas Concert and the end of Year Senior Concert, either playing instruments or singing. Additionally, every Year group gives a concert for parents where every boy will perform in some capacity.

Singing

Singing is an integral part of the classroom curriculum and all of the boys sing hymns in assemblies and participate in year group choirs or whole school items.

There is a chamber choir for the more able and keen singers. They rehearse repertoire in two or more parts and represent the school at external events such as the Prep Schools evensong at St John's School – Leatherhead.

Individual Instrumental lessons

The music department organises a team of nine self-employed instrumental music staff who give lessons at school on rotation timetables. If you would like your child to start individual music lessons in September please read the following information and complete the attached slip. You will receive a contract to sign from the teacher at the start of next term along with any information that you will require for purchase of instruments etc, if a space is available. If there are no spaces available, I will suggest alternatives or put the boy onto a waiting list.

Individual Instrumental lessons 2011/2012

Cost - Lessons will be £175 for ten 30-minute lessons.

Percussion equipment approx £120

New clarinets are approx £300, Trumpets, Horns & Trombones - £200

Violins - £70 (School can lend cellos)

Keyboards suitable for beginner piano for 1st year of lessons - £150,

Digital pianos - £1300, Acoustic pianos - £3000+ (£500 ish 2nd hand).

Timetable

Lessons take place throughout the school day on a rotation timetable so that pupils will miss a different time each week. **(Please note - children will miss academic subjects on this rotation, it is not normally possible to make special arrangements for particular children unless they have identified special needs.)**

Options

- 1st Year + Violin, (Viola), Cello
- 2nd Year + Piano, percussion (If academic work is all fine)
- 3rd Year+ Clarinet, Saxophone, Flute or Singing, Trumpet, Trombone, Horn, Tuba, Guitar, Bass guitar.
(All depending on the size of boy!)

Things to Consider – if lessons are going to be worthwhile!

Do not feel pressured into starting your child too early, if pupils take lessons before they are ready, they can easily become frustrated and lose interest. I advise that children should only take piano in the 2nd Year or violin in the 1st Year if they are coping well with the curriculum, as missing lessons can be very disruptive for some pupils.

Daily practice is essential! –

Five times per week for ten minutes is a minimum at the start!

Does your child do all of their homework without a fuss?

- If the answer is no, do you want the added stress of ensuring that they do their instrumental practice.

Is your child happy to miss their favourite lesson or break from time to time to have an instrumental lesson?

C/o: Andy Meyers (To be passed on to the appropriate teacher)

I would like.....(Year Group Sept 2011)

to take lessons.

He has not played an instrument before./He has learned the for years
(Please delete as appropriate)

Date / / Parent/guardians name (Please print).....

e-mail..... Phone number.....

Address.....

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