



## Instrumental Music

All of the boys learn the recorder in class music lessons from Year 3 and there are opportunities for pupils to play keyboards and in percussion ensembles during music class lessons from Year 5 onwards. There are a number of small groups for percussionists and string players of various standards and more able instrumentalists are invited to join the following lunchtime groups, regardless of where they take their lessons.

(Grades are a very approximate guide - boys move ensembles when vacancies occur)

**Year 3 String Orchestra**

**Year 4 String Orchestra**

**Orchestra - Grade 3+**

**Percussion Ensembles**

**Chamber Music Ensembles - Grade 5+**

**Wind Band - Beginners - Grade 2**

**Jazz Orchestra - Grade 3+**

**Guitar Ensemble - Grade 1+**

**Composers Ensemble - Years 7 and 8**

## Concerts

### Lower School

All of the boys perform in the annual Christmas concerts and Year 1 and Year 2 perform a musical play in the Summer Term.

### 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 timetabled year group choirs and whole school items.

There is a chamber choir for the particularly able singers that rehearse repertoire in three parts from notation. The Chamber Choir represents the school at external events such as the Charterhouse Choral day where boys have performed repertoire including selections from the requiems by Mozart and Fauré.

## Individual Instrumental Lessons

A team of eight self-employed instrumental music staff 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 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 2021/2022

**Cost – The instrumental teachers set their own hourly rate for lessons. The teachers have informed me that they will be charging £210 for ten 30-minute lessons.**

Percussion equipment approx. £120

New clarinets are approx. £300, Trumpets, Horns and Trombones - £250

Violins - £70 (School can provide small violins and cellos to borrow)

Keyboards suitable for beginner piano for 1<sup>st</sup> year of lessons - £150,

Digital pianos - £1300, Acoustic pianos - £3000+ (£500ish 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

Year 1	Group Violin or Group Cello
Year 2 +	Strings, Piano, Percussion (if academic work is all fine)
Year 3 +	Clarinet, Saxophone, Flute, Trumpet, Trombone, Horn, Tuba, Guitar, Bass guitar, Double Bass (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 Year 2 if they are coping well with the curriculum, as missing lessons can be disruptive for some pupils. Many parents assume that piano is the easiest option - it's a great instrument, but it has the disadvantage that players are not involved in group music making and reading two lines of music can be quite difficult for many children.

## 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?



To: Head of Music (to be passed on to the appropriate instrumental teacher)

Date / /

**(This form is for new requests - Please do not send me this form if your son is already taking instrumental lessons at Homefield - Instrumental lessons will continue until you give notice to stop.)**

I would like..... (Year Group Sept 2021) .....

to take ..... lessons

Any instruments previously studied? Yes / No

Details .....

Name of Parent or Guardian (Please print).....

e-mail address .....

Phone number.....