

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS

The School arranges lessons with visiting teachers in the following instruments:

Violin / Viola	Cello / Double Bass
Flute	Clarinet / Saxophone
Oboe / Bassoon	Brass
Acoustic guitar / Bass guitar / Electric Guitar	Voice
Percussion (Drums)	Piano/Keyboard

Although the music service is able to provide some string, brass and woodwind instruments, students are generally advised to provide their own instrument. It is suggested that advice is gained before purchasing instruments as some 'bargain' instruments can be next to worthless.

Tuition normally takes place individually and lessons are charged at three 11 week terms per academic year: £146.66 for 11 lessons of 20 minutes (total annual cost £440.00), £220.00 for 11 lessons of 30 minutes (total annual cost £660.00). As an alternative, a 15 minute lesson may be available: £110.00 for 11 x 15 minute lessons (total annual cost £330.00).

The Music Service commits to deliver 33 lessons during the academic year usually, but not necessarily, split into three 11 week terms (this depends on how the calendar falls in any one year).

Once the number of students requesting lessons is known, the School arranges teachers' hours, which are contracted for the full school year and we are now asking for a commitment to a full year's tuition. If a student wishes to discontinue lessons, it may be possible to transfer your costs by offering your place to a student on a waiting list, but charges will apply for the full academic year if a replacement is not available. Most of our instrumental teachers are co-ordinated by the County Music Service.

Places are allocated on a 'first come first served basis' and no place will be allocated until a parent has submitted an application form agreeing to the conditions and a place becomes available.

**By signing the provision of music lessons form you are accepting financial liability for the cost of the lessons for the whole of the Academic Year.**

To avoid students missing the same subject each week, tuition is mainly arranged on a rota basis although not all of the time. Timetables and instructions to students are regularly placed on the notice board in the Practice Rooms corridor. **It is emphasised that students are responsible for excusing themselves from academic lessons and, as a courtesy to those teachers, permission should be sought at the previous lesson or at the very beginning of the lesson they will need to leave; they will not be collected by their music teacher as in Primary Schools.** We, therefore, ask parents to help ensure that students know when to attend and to encourage regular practice at home.

We also believe that membership of ensembles at School and elsewhere is helpful in the development of the player and do expect students taking subsidised lessons in school to attend at least one of our ensemble groups. We do not recommend that students take lessons in more than two instruments.

**Students should be aware that all instrumental music lessons require commitment and a real willingness to practice. Any student who feels unable to put in this extra effort should not apply.**

Invoices for music lessons are issued three times during the year, October 2020, January 2021 and May 2021. Payment should **only** be made on receipt of these invoices issued, and payment should then be sent to Miss Claire Reynolds, Finance Officer. We have the facility for you to use parent pay on-line payment method, however there is a card transaction fee charged for using this service at a rate of 1.275% for each transaction, so this charge will need to be added to your payment amount. No payment should be made directly to the teacher. Alternatively, we offer payment by monthly standing order or you could set up a monthly bank transfer, please contact Miss Claire Reynolds for further details.

If you wish to pay by standing order or bank transfer the following amounts would be payable:

- 20 minute lessons £44.00 per month commencing in September 2020 for 10 months.
- 30 minute lessons £66.00 per month commencing in September 2020 for 10 months
- 15 minute lessons £33.00 per month commencing in September 2020 for 10 months

If you wish to pay by standing order or bank transfer please contact Miss C Reynolds in the Finance Office [creynolds@bishopstopford.com](mailto:creynolds@bishopstopford.com)