

**Droitwich Spa High School
Music Department**



**Guide to
Peripatetic
Instrumental
Tuition**

Learning to play an instrument can bring rewards that last a lifetime, and with devoted study, the skills learnt during instrumental lessons can provide a pastime that will give pleasure for many years.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Irrespective of academic ability, learning to sing or play a musical instrument has a wide range of benefits to a child's emotional well-being and wider educational development including:

- Boosting confidence
- Providing positive focus
- Increasing concentration and memory skills
- Improving behaviour
- Developing co-operation and teamwork
- Supporting development of skills in other areas such as language and maths

There is also an increasing amount of research supporting the claim that those children learning a musical instrument achieve better grades in public examinations (GCSE/ A Levels) and that the difference between those students that do study an instrument and those that do not significantly increases the longer the instrument is studied for.

At Droitwich Spa High School, we have a team of specialist Peripatetic Instrumental Teachers from Severn Arts, who offer tuition in the following areas:

Strings	Woodwind	Brass	Guitar	Others
Violin	Recorder	Trumpet	Acoustic	Piano
Viola	Flute	Tenor Horn	Electric	Keyboard
Cello	Oboe	Euphonium	Bass	Drum Kit
Double Bass	Saxophone	Baritone	Ukulele	Percussion
	Clarinet	Tuba		Steel Pans
	Bassoon	French Horn		Voice
		Trombone		

Lessons take place in the Music Department, every week for 35 weeks during the full academic year.

Lesson usually last for 20 or 30 minutes each, and where possible are arranged on a rota basis so that students do not have to miss the same lesson every week. Students will not be taken out of a core subject (English & Maths without prior consent from parents). If a teacher is available during a break time, priority for this time is given to BTEC and GCSE students.

WHAT EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ARE ON OFFER?

The Music Department offers the opportunity for students to participate in ensembles and perform in concerts in and around the local community. Students who receive instrumental tuition are required to join one of these ensembles and take part in Music Concerts at Christmas and in the Spring Term (rehearsals will usually be held at lunchtime). This is an excellent way of developing their music skills in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. Activities currently on offer include:

- Chamber Orchestra
- School Play Band
- Jazz Band
- Ukulele Group
- Madrigal Choir
- Voices for Youth Choir

ADVANTAGES TO LESSONS WITH SEVERN ARTS?

- All Severn Arts staff undergo enhanced DBS checks and undergo safeguarding training every three years.
- All Severn Arts staff work to National Teacher Standards (as do all DSHS teaching staff).
- In the event of long-term staff absence Severn Arts will provide cover to ensure that your child's lessons are not disrupted.
- Your child will receive a practice diary which will allow you to monitor your child's progress and communicate with the instrumental teacher. You will also receive an annual report from your instrumental teacher.
- Having lessons through the service will open up opportunities to take part in regional ensembles and performance opportunities that would otherwise not be available.
- Access to quality instruments that are serviced and repaired regularly on site by Severn Arts.
- Competitive prices compared to other services in the region and in line with teaching rates set by the Musicians Union.

SOME COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

- Children don't need an individual lesson to make better progress – Your child's instrumental/vocal teacher is best placed to assess which type of lesson will sustain attendance, enjoyment and achievement.
- Not all children will want to (or should be) working towards an exam in music. There are many other musical "end points" including concerts, making a recording, learning a particular piece, joining an ensemble etc... which can motivate individuals more than an exam.
- Always take advice from your child's teacher regarding practice – learning how to sing or play an instrument is complex and requires the skill of a specialist teacher.
- Likewise, children learning string instruments may practice differently from those learning brass or woodwind due to the differing physical demands of the instruments. Trust and dialogue with your child's teacher will help you to monitor and sustain their progress.
- "My child wants to give up" ... or do they? So did most music teachers when they were young players! Normally this requires a change in direction, a new piece, changing the skill level or reassessing the learning in some way.

WHAT ARE THE CHARGES?

The current charges to parents per term from September 2021 will be:

- £75 per term 2021 for small group tuition (2-4 students – 20 minute lesson)
- £112 per term 2021 for small group tuition (2-4 students – 30 minute lesson)
- £150 per term 2021 for individual tuition (20 minute lesson)
- £224 per term 2021 for individual tuition (30 minute lesson)
- £40 per term for 2021 group tuition (30 minute lesson) ***Steel Pans only.***

Please do not hesitate to contact the department if you have any queries regarding your child's suitability for a particular instrument or length of lesson.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

For those children who are eligible there are some assisted places available e.g. for those eligible for Free School Meals. Please tick the relevant box on the request form if you wish to be considered for an assisted place. The finance office will then contact you to confirm if your child is eligible for an assisted place and if they require any paper work from you.

Only one application per child can be accepted. Second instruments are subject to the normal termly charge.

WHAT ABOUT INSTRUMENTS?

The school currently has a limited stock of instruments, please enquire directly with a member of the music staff if you wish to borrow a school instrument. For those students having lessons on Drum Kit and Piano, the music department has practice rooms that can be used by arrangement with music department staff.

Severn Arts have a much wider selection of instruments that can be hired for a small termly fee. This can be arranged directly with them and details are available on their website;

<https://www.severnarts.org.uk/pupils/services/instrument-hire/>

WHERE CAN INSTRUMENTS BE STORED?

There are instrumental storage areas available in the music block. Students are asked **not** to leave instruments in the department overnight.

Please ensure that the instrument is included on your home contents insurance (including instruments borrowed from school) and that your son/daughter's name and form is **clearly marked**

on or inside the case. Unfortunately, the school cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage to instruments owned or borrowed by students.

WHAT DO I DO NOW?

Please detach and complete the request form (or print and complete if you have an electronic copy) and return it to Mr Arkell in P6 as soon as possible, so that we can arrange the correct number of teaching hours.

Before the end of the academic year (September 2021 for new students joining us) a formal contract will be issued to each student. Please read it carefully, sign and return it immediately so that tuition can be arranged. Please also make sure that you include a current email address at the bottom of the request form as we will use this to contact you with information about your child's instrumental lessons during the academic year.

Signing the contract is a commitment to lessons for the rest of the academic year. You will then be sent an invoice, which should be paid within seven days (VIA PARENT PAY).

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR CHILD'S TUITION CANNOT COMMENCE UNTIL THE FORMAL CONTRACT IS SIGNED AND RETURNED AND PAYMENT HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY THE FINANCE OFFICE.

If you prefer to spread the payments please contact the schools finance office directly to arrange this.

If it has been agreed that you are eligible for financial assistance, then this will be calculated automatically by the school and deducted from your invoice for lessons. Should you wish to terminate the contract, **a 1/2 term's written notice** must be given to Mr Aitchison via the e-mail address below. Failure to provide a full terms noticed many mean that you are still charged for tuition that you child does not receive.

instrumental.tuition@droitwichspahigh.worcs.sch.uk

TO SECURE A PLACE FOR YOUR CHILD IN THE SUMMER TERM, THIS FORM SHOULD BE RETURNED TO MR AITCHISON IN P9 BEFORE July 1st 2021 OR TO THE INSTRUMENTAL TUITION EMAIL ADDRESS BELOW.

Please contact me if you have any queries:
Mr M Aitchison (Head of Music)

instrumental.tuition@droitwichspahigh.worcs.sch.uk

****Please retain this booklet for your future reference****

Request for Instrumental Tuition

(Please return the request form to Mr Aitchison – Head of Music – P9)

Name of student: _____

Tutor Group (September 2021): _____

Year Group (September 2021): _____

Instrument: _____

I wish my son/daughter to have musical tuition and I am prepared to pay:

- £75 per term 2021 for small group tuition (2-4 students – 20-minute lesson)
- £112 per term 2021 for small group tuition (2-4 students – 30-minute lesson)
- £150 per term 2021 for individual tuition (20-minute lesson)
- £224 per term 2021 for individual tuition (20-minute lesson)
- £40 per term for 2021 group tuition (30-minute lesson) **Steel Pans only.**

I would like to apply for financial assistance.

I would like to borrow a school instrument (*subject to availability*)

Please tell us if your son/daughter has had instrumental tuition previously

Approximate level (beginner, grade 1 etc.) _____

Previous Instrumental Teacher: _____

Signature: _____ (*parent/guardian*)

Please print name: Mr/Mrs/Miss _____

Address: _____

Daytime Tel No: _____ (*in case of queries*)

Mobile: _____ (*or alternative contact No.*)

Email: _____ (**BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE**)



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