

Top tips for success- PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

With your help we can maintain a quality instrumental service. We want to provide an efficient and effective lessons to as many students as possible. These tips are designed to achieve this: please do read them before you sign up for lessons and please do go through them with your child.

Regular practice is the key to success: please encourage your child to commit to this.

We rely on you to supply instruments, sheet music or tutor books for your child. Please remember to arrange insurance cover for any instrument brought into school.

Please pay fees by the date stated on the bill. We regret that students will not be able to start lessons until we have received payment.

We will ensure that you and your child receive an annual report in the summer term: do go through this with your child.

Please let us know as early as possible in writing if your child wants to stop learning an instrument. We can give refunds of fees with four weeks' notice. But we hope that all students see through their course of lessons.

Instrumental teachers will rotate lessons to avoid hitting the same school lesson and students themselves need to make sure this happens. Timetables will be issued at the beginning of each term. If pupils foresee any problems with their lesson times (e.g., mock exams, etc.) then they should liaise directly with their instrumental teacher to arrange a mutually convenient time for the lesson.

Please would you write a separate note for your child if he/she misses an instrumental lesson: this will avoid instrumental teachers following up absence unnecessarily.

Please help us to develop students' personal responsibility by encouraging them to keep a regular check on their lesson time and to maintain regular attendance.

Instrumental tuition at Fitzharrys School

FITZHARRYS Music



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



In October, the Music Department will be able to offer the following instrumental lessons to pupils:

Bass guitar
Electric/acoustic/classical guitar
Drum kit
Piano/Keyboard
Voice (online ONLY)

Pupils will apply for any of these lessons using the standard application form.

The instrumental teacher will invoice parents/ guardians directly. Forms MUST be returned to Ange Davis in student services who will forward the details and payment on to our instrumental teacher. Forms would usually need to be returned BEFORE September, however due to lockdown restrictions this was not able to be the arrangement. Pupils will therefore need to return the form AS SOON AS IS POSSIBLE. Lessons will not commence until the school is in receipt of payment. We hope to accommodate all children requesting lessons, but this cannot be guaranteed so please do NOT purchase any instruments until your child has received confirmation that lessons can be provided.

All lessons will be charged at the same rate. For October 2020 this will be 30 individual lessons for £360 per annum and parents/guardians have the option to pay in instalments. We will be unable to offer group instrumental lessons at this time due to distancing guidelines. We will endeavour to be able to offer these in the future. Each instrumental lesson will be 20 minutes long.

In case of local or national lockdown, instrumental lessons will be able to be taught online. If the parents/ guardians decide not to have lessons online, for example if the pupil is learning the drum kit, instrumental lessons will be postponed and recommenced when the lockdown period is over. If all 30 lessons have not been offered by the end of the academic year the balance will be refunded. We recommend that lessons continue if a lockdown is in place as it will ensure pupils continued progress on their instrument(s).

The music department has a specific risk assessment for instrumental lessons following current national Covid-19 guidelines. The room and any instruments used will be cleaned using the approved school sanitising products in between use by different pupils to ensure safety.

In our Music Department we are committed to ensuring that all pupils regardless of financial circumstances have the necessary support to be able to receive instrumental tuition. We are running this scheme at no profit to the school in order to keep instrumental lessons affordable and accessible.

Pupils should check their instrument timetable by the Music room on the morning of their lesson, noting the time in their student diary. It is the student's responsibility to keep a regular check on their lesson time and to maintain regular attendance. Students should let their instrumental teacher know, in advance, if unable to attend due to a trip etc. It would be helpful if parents could make specific mention of an instrumental lesson if telephoning in to report sickness. Lesson times will be rotated each week to ensure that pupils do not continue to miss part of the same lesson each week. It is the pupil's responsibility to speak to their classroom teacher at the START of their lesson to ask to be excused from that lesson to go to their instrumental lesson. The school has a policy to allow children to be excused from normal lessons to attend their music lessons provided that they keep up to date with all their work.

It is preferred that most lessons are completed by June, this is because the final term of the academic year always tends to be very disrupted due to the exam period and external trips/ events being arranged for lower years. We want to ensure that all pupils have every opportunity to receive their 30-lesson entitlement. If the instrumental teacher is ill or has not timetabled instrumental lessons for a particular week due to other engagements, lessons will be rescheduled to ensure all 30 lessons will still be delivered.

Parents should note that it is their responsibility to insure any musical instrument brought into school. The school cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage to a pupil's instrument.

The following instrumental families will continue to be offered and taught by employees of Oxfordshire Music Service:

Brass (Trumpet, Trombone etc.)
Woodwind (Flute, Clarinet etc.)
Strings (Violin, Cello etc.)

Pupils apply to the music service directly for these instrumental lessons. Further details & an application form can be sought from the Music Department or Oxfordshire Music Service. Email: music.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk

The instrumental teacher will be expected to communicate with the Director of Music so that the most convenient arrangements can be made regarding when and where the tuition will take place. Queries from parents regarding lessons taught by Oxfordshire Music Service will be forwarded directly to the teacher, or Stewart Attwood (point of contact for OMS) as whichever is most appropriate.