



Sandy Secondary School



Music Instrumental Tuition

2021-2022



Instrumental Music Tuition 2021-2022

At Sandy Secondary School, we are always delighted when a student wants to take the opportunity of learning a musical instrument, or wishes to take their playing further. We believe that this is the opportunity to explore a lifelong interest in Music.

Benefits

Adults often remark “I wished that I had learnt to play at school” and it is true that starting playing at KS2 or KS3 is the ideal but, in truth, playing music is good for you whatever age you are! Some students will, after studying GCSE Music, want to take A level Music and see where their talents lead them but for many students it is an excellent hobby because:

- learning to play will alert a quickening of the perceptive faculties through exercises, particularly in concentration
- it encourages correct breathing and good posture
- it is a vehicle for self-expression and self-discipline
- musicians have to work to public deadlines and are encouraged to regularly review their progress. Performance work accelerates progression.
- where appropriate, musicians use examinations to increase their rate of progression

Ensembles

At Sandy Secondary School, we are committed to ensemble playing for as many students as possible. Group music making is particularly valuable because;

- it is a social activity
- it requires team work and fosters leadership
- it prepares for regular performances that engender self confidence
- it is an active and creative aspect of musicianship
- it stimulates imagination and aesthetic appreciation

Wider Benefits

Music making in terms of wider educational benefit;

- brings great personal satisfaction
- it engenders “delayed gratification” as students realise that regular practice does bring results and that positively engaging with challenge brings increasing satisfaction
- some students find a sense of belonging in the school environment in Music
- confidence grows through music making and can be a platform for wider academic success

Tuition Termination

In order to recognise the commitment shown by our instrumental tutors we will require a **term of notice** for lesson cancellation. If a student leaves **before half term** there may be a further charge to cover the unwanted instrumental time that has been booked for the remainder of the term.

Absence

If an instrumental teacher is absent, the missed lesson will be made up by the teacher over the course of the academic year.

We expect **students to be proactive** with regards to **known absence**. If they know they are going to miss a lesson due to e.g. planned absence from school, subject test or formal examination, **it is their responsibility** to seek to rearrange their lesson. The instrumental tutor needs to be informed a week in advance in order to rearrange the lesson. If this is not possible, students should speak to Mr Mullaly. **We will always try to help, but with short notice this may not be possible.**

For **unexpected absences** the tutor is on site prepared to teach and such lessons cannot reasonably be made up. The instrumental tutor will contact you if your child has missed more than two lessons and seek to find out if there are particular reasons for this.

Ways to encourage good lesson attendance:

- students should regularly check the Music Department notice board
- students should put their lesson times in their planners
- once the rota has stabilised at the start of term, lesson cards will be issued
- some students need to get a friend to remind them of their lesson times
- students should remember to pack their instrument and music the night before school



Communication

Parents/guardians are encouraged to write their main email address on the application form on the last page of the brochure. This can be passed on to the tutor who will then be able to communicate with you during the year. This is particularly important as tutors are now responsible for invoicing directly. Parents/guardians have appreciated in the past being able to communicate directly with the tutor through email.

Instrumental Storage and Insurance

The instrument storage cupboard is situated in the Music Department but this can only be classed as **semi-supervised**. During school hours, students continuously need access to the store for their lessons. Therefore the store is only locked at the end of school each evening. Although the department is secured, we would prefer that students take their instrument home to practise after instrumental tuition.

We cannot, as a school, accept responsibility for any loss or damage whilst on school premises. It is critical that parents/guardians insure their child's instrument under their **home contents policy**. Please make sure that your child's name and tutor group are attached to the music case to aid identification.

Student Happiness

It is really important that students enjoy their lessons, with their instrumental tutor. It is of course natural that students respond to different styles of teaching/learning and individual staff differently. Instrumental lessons are more fulfilling when:

- the student is preparing for lessons by daily practice—beginners 15 minutes per day minimum
- the student has clear targets to work to besides a personal passion for music

Should your child not be enjoying their lessons please contact Mr Mullaly and we will seek to resolve the situation as quickly as possible.

FAQ's

Can we apply for instrumental tuition part way through the school year?

Yes, we are always delighted that more students want to play and instrumental lesson applications are therefore flexible.

Will my child miss the same lesson every week and what about missed work?

We do all that we can to maximise the time between missing the same lesson on the rota. This of course depends on the number of students a particular tutor has. Students need to catch up as much as they can from a reliable peer in their class including any homework that is set. To exit a subject lesson, students should leave five minutes before their instrumental lesson begins. All Sandy Secondary School staff understand that students do need to leave their lesson from time to time. Staff will have access to the instrumental timetable.



How do I sign my child up for instrumental lessons?

Please complete the attached application form for instrumental lessons and return it to Mr Mullaly. This can be done via email (gmullaly@sandysecondaryschool.com) or by passing this on to Student Reception.

Are group lessons available?

Yes. Depending on availability, group lessons may be available if we can match your child with another student who is working at the same level, who also requests a group lesson. Group lessons are at a discounted rate and may be a more affordable option.