

Music Instrument Tuition 2021/22

at

Woodrush High School
an Academy for students aged 11-18



**Information Guide
&
Terms and Conditions**

Introduction

At Woodrush High School, we believe that learning to play a musical instrument can be an extremely valuable, enriching and rewarding experience. Therefore, we are committed to giving all our students the best possible opportunities in terms of instrumental and vocal lessons.

This booklet has been written to give information to parents and students who are interested in the provision of instrumental and vocal tuition at Woodrush High School.



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If, having read the following information and agreed to the Terms and Conditions, you would like your child to receive instrument lessons, please fill in the forms at the back of the document and return to Woodrush High School, for the attention of Ms Onacko or Mrs Coughlin as soon as possible.

Instrument lessons available at Woodrush

We are pleased to be able to offer a wide range of instrumental lessons for our students. The current provision is detailed below, but can change in response to the demand for lessons.

Instrument

Brass (Trumpet / Trombone / French Horn / Tuba)

Clarinet

Saxophone

Drumkit

Guitar / Electric Guitar

Flute

Keyboard / Piano

Violin

Voice

The teachers

All instrument lessons are taught by a team of peripatetic music teachers whose time is bought in privately by the school. Our team of highly trained peripatetic teachers visit the school once a week to teach their instrument.

Extra - Curricular activities at Woodrush High School

At Woodrush, we aim to offer all students a wide range of opportunities to participate in extra-curricular activities. These range from choirs to mixed instrumental groups, from band practice to our Woodrush Voices Choir. We actively encourage students to become involved in these activities to further their musical skills and development, for them to enjoy making music with fellow students, and for their own pleasure and enjoyment. When learning to play an instrument, the importance of and enjoyment of playing alongside other musicians cannot be emphasised enough.



The Lessons – How, When and Where

Where ?

Lessons are taught in one of the practice rooms within the Music Department.

When ?

Lessons are taught over 33 weeks of the school year.

Students having instrument lessons will need to come out of their usual school lessons, unless their instrument lesson falls in a lunchtime or after school. We try very hard to ensure that students do not miss the same lesson each week by rotating the times of the instrument lessons every half term. However, this is sometimes impossible if an instrument teacher is only in school for a short time.

If an instrument teacher is absent at all during the year, the time will be made up by that teacher in the weeks remaining at the end of the term or year.

How ?

The instrument timetables are displayed on the Music Department noticeboard and students are responsible for finding out, in advance, the time of their lesson each week. They are also responsible for catching up with any work and homework that has been missed from their usual subject lesson.

Instruments do not need to be carried around school all day. Pupils can leave their instruments in the Music Room store cupboard in Mu1 and collect them before their lesson.

Lesson Fees and Payment

The instrument fees are as follows (per lesson) :

Type of lesson	Price per lesson
30 mins individual tuition	£16.00
15 mins individual tuition	£8.00
30 mins paired tuition	£8.00

Bills are sent out in advance of the lessons starting and payment can be made to Woodrush High School on Parent Pay, or via paypoint (a letter needs to be requested from the finance office for this). A delay in payment could mean a delay in your child starting their instrument lessons. The lessons are taught for 33 weeks of the school year and the number of lessons each term will vary according to the school calendar. However, in order to simplify the payment system, we divide the annual cost over the six equal payments.

Fees are set by the school according to whether pupils receive 15 minute or 30 minute lessons.

In some cases, the type of lesson may be chosen by pupils and parents but in most cases it is dictated by the standard of the pupil and his / her rate of progress on the instrument. For example, beginners can easily be taught in groups of 2, whereas more experienced students who are working towards exams may require more individual tuition.

Attendance and Absence

Pupils must attend their weekly instrument lessons. If a student knows in advance that they are going to be absent from a lesson, they should try to inform the teacher. Lessons can be rearranged by the Head of Music if they coincide with tests etc. If a student's absence from lessons becomes a concern, the school will contact parents. If a student misses more than 3 lessons in a term, we reserve the right to withdraw their instrument lessons. Please note that we cannot offer refunds to parents for pupil absences. If an instrument teacher is absent at all during the year, the time will be made up by that teacher in the weeks remaining at the end of the term or year.



Notice to Stop Lessons

We require a full term's written notice from parents, if a student wants to stop lessons. This must be given at the start of a term, to take effect from the following term. This is essential as we have to give sufficient notice to the instrument teachers when making changes to our provision.

Instruments and Instrument Hire

Parents wanting their child to learn an instrument have several choices when it comes to owning or hiring an instrument. You can :

- Choose to buy your own instrument (new or second-hand)
- Hire an instrument from the school with the option to own the instrument at the end of the hire period.
- Organise to hire an instrument yourself (many music companies offer this service, and in many cases the amount you pay to hire the instrument is then taken off the full amount if you decide to purchase it at a later date).

Charges to hire an instrument from the school are :

- £15.00 per half term for a brass or woodwind instrument
- £7.50 per half term for a string instrument

You may continue payments until the full cost of the instrument is covered, and then you will own the instrument.

Pupils and parents are responsible for buying their own music and items such as rosin, reeds and new strings.

Pupils having drumkit, guitar or keyboard lessons are able to use the school instruments for their lessons. All other lessons require students to use their own instrument. Practice rooms are available for students to book on specific lunchtimes and after school for students to do individual or small group practice.

Communication with Parents

Discussions can take place with the Head of Music in the calendared parents' evenings. If, in the meantime, you have any concerns about your child's progress, please feel free to write or phone the school.

And finallyPractice Makes Perfect

Each week, the instrument teacher will give the student practice to do before the next lesson. This practice is essential if progress is to be made.

Parents, please note – practising is a noisy business ! The sounds that students produce on their instrument may not sound 'musical' to other members of the family for quite a while. Try to be encouraging, and patient !



Any other questions ?

We hope you have found the information in this booklet useful. If you would like any further information or have any questions relating to instrument lessons at Woodrush High School, please do not hesitate to contact the Head of Music, Mrs Coughlin, at the school.

If, having read all the information and agree to the Terms and Conditions, you would like your child to receive instrument lessons, please fill in the forms at the back of the document and return to Woodrush High School, for the attention Ms Onacko or Mrs Coughlin as soon as possible.

Terms and Conditions of Instrument Lessons

In order for students to gain the most from the lessons, there needs to be a shared commitment between pupil, parents and teachers. Therefore the following terms and conditions apply :

The school will :

1. Aim to accommodate all pupils that wish to learn an instrument.
2. Ensure that school instruments are available for hire and long-term purchase.
3. Inform parents if students are causing concern with regard to their instrument lessons.
4. Ensure practice rooms are available at certain breaks and lunchtimes.
5. Provide opportunities for pupils to play in ensembles.

We ask that students :

1. Check the timetable in advance to know their lesson time.
2. Attend every lesson when they are present in school.
3. Take care of the instrument at all times.
4. Do the practice set by their teacher
5. Catch up on any school work missed through their instrument lessons.
6. Liaise with the Head of Music if they need to change their lesson time.
7. Take part in one of the school's extra-curricular music activities.
8. Sanitise hands on entry to the practice space
9. Remain 2m apart from the teacher at all times
10. Wear a mask when entering or leaving the practice room.

We ask that parents / carers :

1. Respond promptly to invoices for fees to be paid.
2. Give at least one term's notice, in writing, if their child wishes to stop lessons.
3. Ensure that hired instruments are looked after.
4. Encourage students to attend lessons promptly, practise regularly and attend an extra-curricular activity

Music Instrument Tuition Contract: Woodrush High School

Pupil's name _____ Form _____

Which instrument do you require lessons on ? _____

Have they had lessons on this instrument before ? _____

If yes, how long have they been learning the instrument ? _____

Have they passed any exams on the instrument ? _____

Is your child currently taking GCSE or BTEC Music? _____

Is your child a Pupil Premium student? _____

Please indicate by ticking one of the options below, which type of lesson you would prefer:

- A 30 minute, individual lesson each week at the cost of £16.00 per lesson
- A 15 minute, individual lesson each week at the cost of £8.00 per lesson

Please tick one of the following :

- I have my own instrument
- Please organise for me to hire an instrument from the school at the charges outlined in the booklet.
- Please organise for me to hire an instrument from the school at the charges outlined in the booklet, which I would like to purchase in time.

Please note if your child is taking GCSE/BTEC music or for Pupil Premium students - 50% of the cost will automatically be taken off the price of the lessons.

I _____ (print parents' / carers name) have read the attached document and agree to the Terms and Conditions regarding Music Instrument Lessons at Woodrush High School. I agree to pay the specified fees and will give at least one term's written notice if my child wishes to give up lessons.

Signed _____ (parent / carer)

Date _____

Address _____

Contact tel. number _____

Email _____