



Instrumental / Singing Lessons at WHS Autumn Term 2025

A number of Visiting Music Teachers (VMTs) come to the school to offer tuition. A written contract to provide instrumental/singing lessons is made between the VMT and the parent. These are self-employed teachers for whom the school provides a room in which to teach. Lessons are arranged by the music department to begin at the start of the academic year, or whenever they are requested: payment and lesson times are then arranged directly between VMT and parent. All subsequent contractual arrangements are made between VMT and parent and we encourage both parties to regularly communicate regarding lessons, progress and preparation for concerts and exams.

1. Application

If you wish to apply for your daughter to take either individual or shared instrumental/singing lessons, please contact the Music Administrator to request an online application form. Forms will be available in the summer term 2025. Pupils in Y6 WHS Junior School going into Year 7 in September do **not** need to re-apply if lessons are continuing with the same teacher.

2. Instruments and Fees

Pupils in Year 1 can start instrumental lessons in the spring term (cello, piano and violin only); pupils in Year 2 can have lessons in cello, flute, piano and violin. For all other year groups, we offer lessons in bassoon, cello, clarinet, bass clarinet, bass guitar, double bass, drum kit, flute, French horn, guitar, oboe, orchestral percussion, piano, piccolo, saxophone, singing, trombone, trumpet, tuba, ukulele, viola and violin

Fees for the academic year 2025/26 will be published in the Summer Term 2025. As a guide the fees for 2024/25 lessons are priced at £335 for 10 lessons per term of 35 minutes each. Fees are payable in advance directly to the VMT.

A complete term's notice in writing to the VMT is required to discontinue lessons and should be given by the end of the first week of any term. Failure to do this will mean that you are liable for the next term's fees.

3. Ensembles, contribution and expectation

In order that pupils stay focused and motivated to practise, we expect that pupils who have instrumental or vocal lessons should participate in school ensembles/choirs as soon as they are of a sufficient standard. There is a very wide variety of groups to suit all abilities and interests – if pupils wish to find out more about any ensemble, they should speak to their teacher or a member of the department.

4. Lesson Rotation

For pupils in Years 1-10, instrumental lessons are rotated around the academic timetable, throughout **all periods**, as well as times that fall outside of academic lesson time. VMTs will try to ensure that pupils do not miss the same academic period more than once per half term. **We cannot make exceptions to this**, as every exception reduces the rotational opportunities of other pupils' timetables. Special concessions for a fixed time lesson slot outside of the academic timetable (where possible but not guaranteed) are made for pupils learning two or more instruments in school. Pupils in Year 11 and above will have their lessons scheduled outside of their academic timetable i.e. in study periods, lunch breaks, or before and after school. Instrumental lessons are not permitted to be scheduled during Games/PE.

5. Liability through absence of a pupil or teacher

If a teacher is absent, lessons missed will be made up in vacant weeks in the term or, if this is not possible, a refund will be given. If a pupil is absent from a lesson through illness or any other reason **with less than 48 hours' notice** the lesson is forfeit and the fee for it will be due.

6. Music Examinations

Examinations can be taken at school at the end of any term. We offer exams with ABRSM and Trinity. Details of fees and how to apply will be sent by the music office to all parents at the start of each term.

7. Using a School Instrument

We do have some instruments that can be used by those beginning tuition. Details of this scheme are available from the music office and we ask for a small termly contribution towards maintenance and ongoing costs to keep the scheme operational. Parents will be notified of this in due course. **All instruments must be added to your Home Contents insurance policy in case of loss or accidental damage.** Agreement forms are available on request from the music office.

8. Personal Instruments

All personal instruments brought into school must be added to your Home Contents insurance policy (all risks section) in case of loss or damage away from home. The Trust's insurance policy does not cover personal items.

Please ensure that **ALL** instruments, whoever owns them, are clearly and securely labelled with the pupil's name.

Rare Instrument Scheme Autumn Term 2025 (Year 7 only)

The idea behind this scheme is that students are able to have a term of subsidised lessons to learn a rare instrument – such as the French Horn, Trombone, Oboe, Bassoon, Double Bass, Viola or Trumpet. This should be for a **new** instrument - i.e. an instrument they have not played before. This scheme is limited to Year 7 students. The scheme allows students to have a real attempt at learning a new instrument for a term to see if they would like to continue lessons at the usual peripatetic rates.

We have seen some real success with this scheme, with some students starting a rare instrument in Year 7 and reaching diploma level playing by the time they leave Wimbledon High. The winner of our Young Musician of the Year Competition 2025 is an Oboe player who started learning the Oboe in Year 7 on the Rare Instrument Scheme!

Lessons take place on a 1-to-1 basis and are taught by our excellent visiting music teachers. Instrument hire is available separately either by WHS (P-Bones) or discussed with the music teacher. This programme is only open to Year 7 students for the Autumn term. The student will receive a term's worth of lessons at no cost, however there may be costs associated with instrument hire. Spaces are very limited and are allocated on a first come first served basis.

Please discuss this exciting opportunity with your child and complete the Rare Instrument application form, indicating which instrument your daughter would be interested in learning. We will contact you further to confirm your place on the scheme.

Forms for Instrumental Lessons and the Rare Instrument Scheme will be available in the summer term 2025. For further information, please contact our Music Administrator sue.brownrigg@wim.gdst.net