

May 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are writing to you ahead of September to re-advertise the musical provision we have at WHS with 26 visiting music teachers in school every week giving lessons in nearly every orchestral instrument and voice. Any student in any year group is welcome to apply for lessons with one of our visiting music teachers – and I would particularly draw your attention to the rare instrument scheme which is explained further below. We do hope students might be tempted to pick up an instrument as they start the new academic year, whether it be part of the rare instrument scheme or otherwise. Once you have completed either form, Sue Brownrigg (Music Administrator) and I will allocate students to visiting music teachers, and we will then be in touch to help set up lessons. We have also included information about ABRSM/Trinity exams below, which students can sit through the school every term, and a brief summary of ensembles which your daughters may wish to participate in.

Visiting Music Teacher lessons

We have 26 visiting music teachers (VMTs) here at Wimbledon High. Lessons are held during the school day – with any student who has one music lesson a week missing one academic period a week. This period is rotated every week so that students do not miss the same period in a day more than once in a half-term. Any student who learns more than one instrument in school will have their second instrumental lessons time fixed outside of the academic timetable where possible. Most VMTs have availability to start lessons in September, however if there is no availability, you will be placed on a waiting list which will be consulted when spaces become available.

To sign up for instrumental lessons, please complete this [this form](#)

Rare Instrument Scheme

We are excited to announce that we have a limited number of spaces for the Rare Instrument Scheme in September. The idea behind this scheme is that pupils are able to have one full term of lessons, completely free of charge (lessons are paid for by the school), to learn a rare instrument i.e an instrument they have not played before, including the Double Bass, French Horn, Trombone, Oboe and Bassoon, with the student then deciding after half-term in that first term whether they wish to carry on with lessons for future terms. This scheme allows students to have a real attempt at learning the instrument for a term to see if they would like to continue lessons at the usual visiting music teacher rates. All lessons after the first term will be charged to the parent/guardian as normal. We have seen lots of 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.

These 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. Spaces are allocated on a first come first served basis.

The Rare Instrument scheme started in September 2015 with many students learning the Saxophone and Double Bass, many of whom have performed in major WHS concerts. It has since gone on to include students learning the oboe, viola, trombone, and bassoon, with us appointing new visiting music teachers to teach these instruments.

Please discuss this exciting opportunity with your child and complete the Rare Instrument application form below, indicating which instrument your daughter would be interested in learning. We will contact you further to confirm your place on the scheme. To sign up to be considered for this scheme please complete [this form](#)

ABRSM/Trinity Exams

We host ABRSM exams every term in the church next door – and these are organised through Wimbledon High School. Students who have their instrumental/vocal lessons inside or outside of school can apply. Those that learn in school will be entered by their visiting music teacher following a conversation with the student and parents. Those students that learn outside of school should register interest in taking an exam by emailing Sue Brownrigg directly.

We will always email all senior school students who take part in our various music ensembles to advertise these exams every term. We have recently also started running Trinity Exams through the same centre, though Trinity exams do require a large enough sign up for Trinity to send an examiner. As with ABRSM, please contact the Music department if you might be interested in signing up your daughter for an exam.

Co-curricular Ensembles

We actively encourage all students who learn a musical instrument, whether in or out of school, to be involved in our huge variety of musical ensembles. There are ensembles to cater for all standards of musician, and we are particularly keen that those playing orchestral instruments play regularly in a relevant group. Those playing at Grade 6+ standard are welcome to join Concert Orchestra, those playing around Grade 3-5 are encouraged to join String Ensemble if they play a string instrument, or Swing Band if they play a woodwind or brass instrument. For students performing at Grade 7 or 8+, ensembles such as Sinfonia (our chamber orchestra) and Big Band can be auditioned for in September. Students can sign up for un-auditioned ensembles via SOCS in September and further details about all our musical groups will be sent out nearer the start of next year.

We look forward to welcoming your daughters in September, and please do get in touch if you have any questions in the meantime.

Best wishes,



William Ford
Director of Music