

May 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are really looking forward to welcoming your daughters to WHS in September. I wanted to write to you with a few points of guidance ahead of September.

### Co-Curricular Ensembles

We have attached our 'Music at WHS' booklet to this correspondence, which should give you a good sense of what is going on musically at Wimbledon High School. Please do also visit our website (<https://www.wimbledonhigh.gdst.net/seniors/music/>) which features some videos of recent performances. There is a fantastic range of musical opportunities for all students, and we do hope students will apply themselves with enthusiasm to these groups. There is guidance on whether each group is auditioned, open to all, or has an advised grade that will help students see which group is suitable for their standard of playing. Students can sign up for these groups when they start in September, via our SOCS co-curricular programme for open groups; and via a Microsoft Form (which will be sent to them in September) to audition for the selective groups. Please do encourage your daughters to talk to anyone in the music department or elder students if they are unsure whether to sign up for a group/to audition for a group.

### Instrumental lessons

We have also attached some information about instrumental 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 instrumental 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. For any student who learns more than one instrument in school, we will endeavour to have their second instrumental lesson time fixed outside of the academic timetable wherever possible. Most VMTs have availability to start lessons in September, if there is no availability, you will be placed on a waiting list which will be consulted when spaces become available.

### Rare Instrument Scheme

We are excited to announce that we have 5 spaces for the Rare Instrument Scheme in September. The idea behind this scheme is that pupils are able to have five 1-1 lessons completely free of charge with our excellent visiting music teachers (lessons are paid for by the school), to try out 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 by the fifth lesson, 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 5 weeks to see if they would like to continue lessons at the usual visiting music teacher rates. All lessons after the five lessons 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.

This programme is only open to **Year 7 and Year 8 students**. Each Rare Instrument Application will be reviewed and considered by the music department before allocations are made for the term. Application forms for the Rare Instrument Scheme will be available in September 2026.

### **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 that learn outside of school should register interest in taking an exam by emailing Sue Brownrigg directly. We have recently also started running Trinity Exams through the same centre. These 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.

Best wishes,



William Ford  
Director of Music

If you have any queries or questions, please find our contact details below:

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