



# MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL

FOUNDED BY WILLIAM OF WAYNFLETE, 1480

*From the Head of Instrumental Music, Mr John Mann MA*

## MUSIC TUITION

at

### Magdalen College School

We believe that the chance to learn an instrument is a very important part of the educational experience of every boy and girl. Many pupils arrive at MCS already learning an instrument; others find the change to a new school a good opportunity to take up an instrument for the first time, or indeed take up a second instrument. If your son or daughter currently learns an instrument and is happy with their teacher, then we would encourage them to continue with that teacher – he or she will still be welcome to take part in all the music activities within the school. If he or she wishes to learn an instrument in school, then we would be pleased to organise lessons (or advise which instrument would be most suitable).

The Music Department has an expert team of over 38 visiting staff to meet a large demand for instrumental tuition. Tuition upon all the major keyboard and orchestral instruments is offered, as well as singing, guitar, saxophone, bass guitar, drum kit, percussion and harp.

Individual music lessons are organised on a rotation basis, in which the pupil misses a different academic period each week. This system works well. Any problems that are encountered are quickly dealt with as much to the individual pupil's benefit as is reasonably possible. Sixth form pupils attend their lessons during private study or other non-academic time. A minimum of one full term's notice in writing is required if tuition is to be ceased. Full details concerning the conditions under which tuition is administered are given overleaf.

The department has some of its own instruments for hire and may offer a period of free tuition upon these to deserving candidates. Standard instrument hire is £25 per term. Junior School pupils have their own schemes designed to provide experience on the violin and other instruments. If a purchase needs to be made then guidance should be sought from the staff at MCS.

Tuition may be requested using the detachable slip provided.

**Please return this to the Music Administrator.**

Lessons are available in the following:

Violin	Flute	Trumpet	Classical Guitar	Singing
Viola	Clarinet	Trombone	Bass Guitar	Piano
'Cello	Oboe	French Horn	Percussion	Organ
Double Bass	Bassoon	Tuba	Drum Kit	Recorder
Harp		Saxophone		

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me: John Mann ([jmann@mcsxford.org](mailto:jmann@mcsxford.org)) or Mrs Nicola Dance, Head of Junior School Music: [ndance@mcsxford.org](mailto:ndance@mcsxford.org)

John Mann  
Head of Instrumental Music  
September 2019



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## Terms and Conditions

**Requesting tuition.** Tuition may be requested at any time during a pupil's school career. This should be made in writing to the Head of Instrumental Music by parents. Where the request cannot be immediately accommodated, the pupil's name will be put onto a waiting list and he/she will be offered tuition at the earliest possible opportunity.

**Cancelling tuition.** A full term's notice must be given in writing to the Head of Instrumental Music for ceasing tuition. In practice this means that due notice should be received before the start of the term at the end of which the pupil stops. Fees are liable to the teacher in lieu of the appropriate notice.

**Frequency of tuition.** Tuition will normally be given on a weekly basis. The number of lessons given in each term may vary according to the length of the term, the number of teaching days available and the pupils' other commitments. In some terms, therefore, he or she may receive 12 lessons and in others 8, but the intention is to provide 30 lessons over the course of a full school year.

**Fees.** The cost of music tuition is currently £32.60 per 40 minute lesson. Lessons are charged in arrears at the end of each term, as are any additional costs for music, reeds, strings, exam entry etc.

**Timetabling:** Timetables are devised and administered by the Head of Instrumental Music and the Music Administrator and are displayed in the lobby of the Music School, on the school intranet and individual lessons are shown on the Parent Portal. Pupils are advised to check these regularly since it is often necessary to make adjustments. For pupils below the Sixth Form timetables normally operate on a rotational basis. At this level, pupils will not normally be favoured with personalised timings. However, pupils are encouraged to discuss with the Director of Music any problems that arise. Given sufficient notice (at least 24 hours), the timetable can normally be rearranged to help the individual avoid clashes with academic exams, sporting fixtures, important tests, and the like. Sixth formers receive tuition during their study periods or other free time. Pupils wishing to change a lesson should see the Administrator in person. Changes in lesson times are communicated to pupils via their school email account.

**Junior School:** J1 pupils are given experience on string, brass and woodwind instruments during class music lessons and parents may wish to request instrumental lessons following these trials. Pupils in the Junior School have a timetable sent to their classrooms at the end of each week giving timings of their lessons for the following week. Copies are also posted in the entrance to the Junior School, on Firefly and individual lesson times are shown on the Parent Portal. Instrumental teachers will meet JS boys in at the JS Reception for their lessons each week. There are no fixed lessons for Junior School boys unless they learn more than one instrument, in which case one set of lessons may be fixed outside academic lessons if possible.

**Absence from lessons.** The pupil will not be charged for any lesson for which the teacher is not present. Pupils are liable for the cost of any lessons that they miss, be it through illness or another commitment. Where a missed lesson is the fault of neither party then the school will bear the cost.

**Parent-teacher contact.** Direct contact between parents and instrumental teachers is encouraged, although the Head of Instrumental Music and the Head of Junior School Music should be kept informed of any developments. JS parents are warmly invited to observe a lesson and meet the instrumental teacher as advertised in the JS Journal during the course of the academic year. An instrumental report is issued at the end of each term.

**Insurance.** Pupils who borrow a school instrument are responsible for its care and safety. Instruments will be supplied in good working order and are to be kept in good condition. Any damage, other than 'fair wear and tear', must be reported to the Head of Instrumental Music immediately and will be charged. Parents are advised to take out all-risks insurance cover because they will be liable for loss or damage. In order to insure the instrument you will need to provide the insurance company with the serial number and approximate value. This information will be provided by the instrumental teacher or Music Administrator.

**Storage.** Pupils may safely leave their instruments in the locked instrument store in the department. The school insurance does not cover an instrument unless it is under lock and key in the music department. All instruments and cases must be clearly named.



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## **INSTRUMENTAL / SINGING LESSONS APPLICATION FORM**

**This form must be returned to the Music Administrator**

Name of Son/Daughter ..... Year group.....

Instrument .....

(Delete items below as necessary)

1. Does your son/daughter own his/her own instrument? Yes / No
  
2. If available, my son/daughter wishes to hire a school instrument Yes / No  
 If there are no school instruments available, you will need to make arrangements to buy or hire your own.  
 The Music Department can advise you on this.
  
3. I accept the conditions regarding:
  - (a) Lessons during school time
  - (b) Fees
  - (c) Absence from lessons
  - (d) Notice of stopping lessons
  - (e) Insurance of school instruments
  
4. My son/daughter already plays this instrument.  
 He/she is Grade ..... standard.

Name of Parent .....

Telephone .....

Email .....

Signature of Parent ..... Date .....