

20 September 2022

To: Years 7-11 Parents/Carers

Dear Parent/Carer

Instrumental lessons – please read and keep this letter for reference

I am delighted to confirm that we are able to offer your child the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument with instruction from a specialist music teacher.

Lessons are timetabled on a weekly basis during the school day, with students leaving their normal subject lesson for 20 minutes to see their instrumental teacher. These are rotated where possible to prevent clashes with the same subjects each week.

The cost of tuition is £110 per instrument (including singing) per term.

Students are encouraged to take part in at least one of the numerous musical activities provided at school.

I would be grateful if you would complete the attached application form and then make a payment on our online payments system, WisePay. Details of which can be found within this pack. Students do need an instrument of their own to enable them to practice at home, and advice can be given on hiring or purchasing an appropriate instrument.

I am sure that your child will enjoy the thriving musical life of the school.

Yours faithfully



Dale Timbers
Head of Music

Instrumental Music Tuition

At Taverham High School we are delighted that your child has expressed a desire to learn to play a musical instrument and hope that they continue to pursue this interest in music not just whilst at school, but throughout their lifetime.

Why learn?

The benefits of learning to play an instrument hardly need to be spelled out, but please allow mention of just a few:

Music will hopefully become a passion for life. How many times have you yourself said, "I wish I had had the opportunity to learn whilst at school"? Perhaps it could even lead to a career. The music industry is vast contributing at least £5 billion to the UK economy and that is by the estimates of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport; the creative and cultural economy contributes even more.

Learning to play will alert a quickening of the perceptive faculties through exercises, particularly in concentration. It encourages correct breathing and good posture and it is, like any other language, a vehicle for self expression and self discipline.

Students benefit academically in that the skills and knowledge gained from a peripatetic lesson may benefit their curriculum work.

Group music making is a social activity which not only encourages working together as a single body, but also fosters qualities of leadership. As an active and creative hobby, it stimulates both imagination and aesthetic appreciation.

Learning an instrument improves the capacity of your memory, it refines your time management and organisational skills, enhances your coordination. It teaches you perseverance, sharpens your concentration, teaches you cultural history, creates a sense of achievement, fosters self expression, teaches you discipline and promotes social skills. It can promote happiness in your life and for those around you.

As you can see, playing a musical instrument has many benefits and hopefully that will motivate you to keep on practising and always hold music in high esteem. Whenever you come across challenges as a musician, think about the end results and always remind yourself of all the great reasons you love to play. I'll leave you with an inspiring quote by jazz saxophonist and composer Charlie Parker who once said, "Music is your own experience, your thoughts, your wisdom. If you don't live it, it won't come out of your horn."



About your lessons

1. Instrumental tuition is provided weekly for 30 weeks per year by dedicated peripatetic music teachers. (This can in fact work out more lessons depending on how many weeks constitute a term).
2. Instrumental lessons take place throughout the school day, throughout the week. Instrumental lessons are 20 minutes and will normally take place on the same day each week (although there may be some exceptions). All lessons rotate, ensuring no child misses the same lesson twice within the same term. With this in mind, parents and students do not need to fix lessons in break and lunch times, and are kindly requested not to make such arrangements, as this reduces the amount of time through which other students' lessons can rotate. The price paid is for students to receive 10 lessons a term equating to 30 lessons over the course of the year. However, most students end up receiving more lessons than this as some terms contain 13 weeks. Students are not charged for these additional lessons received as this evens out over the course of the year with whole school events which may impact on an instrument lesson.
3. It is the responsibility of each student to check the time of their instrumental lessons. Timetables are displayed on the notice board outside the music room (PA1). All staff at Taverham High are aware that students receive instrumental tuition and grant permission for them to leave timetabled lessons at the appropriate time.
4. It is important that you practise regularly or your progress will be very limited. A useful guideline for practising is 10 -15 minutes per day for beginners ranging to 30 + minutes for more advanced students. Regular practise is very important. It is far better to do a little most evenings, than to do half an hour the night before a lesson.
5. Once you have achieved a basic standard on your instrument, you will be encouraged to take part in at least one of the many ensembles/groups that we have on offer, such as orchestra, wind band, jazz band, singers, rock bands etc. Learning to play with others is an important element of your musicianship as well as being rewarding and enjoyable.
6. **NB.** To cancel music lessons, notice must be given in writing a term in advance (as we have to book our specialist music teachers' time in advance). Please email finance@taverhamhigh.org and they will inform the Music Department.

Finally, we aim to encourage children to develop a love of music through their chosen instrument. Whichever instrument you choose to study, you are assured of the highest quality of teaching and every opportunity to perform and shine.



Instrumental Lessons – Student Profile

Student's Name:	Tutor Group:
Instrument:	
Parent/Carer: Name and Address of Parent/Carer:	
Telephone Number: Mobile Number:	
Previous Experience: (include length of time playing/grade, any ensemble/group played in)	



Acceptance Proposal

Name of Student: **Tutor Group:**.....

I would like to accept the offer of instrumental tuition on behalf of my child and am prepared to offer regular support and encouragement towards them learning the instrument and pay the tuition cost of £110 per term.

As I am sure you are aware the school now accepts debit card and credit card payments online through WisePay and we are therefore no longer able to accept payment by cheque. WisePay can be accessed through the link at the top right of our website. Letters were sent to all parents with instructions on how to register and included usernames and password. If you need another copy, please contact the Finance Office at school.

I understand that a term's notice to discontinue lessons must be given, in writing, to the Finance Office.

I understand that the school cannot accept any liability for loss or damage to your instrument.

Signed:(Parent or Guardian) Date:

Please sign and return this copy to the school.

