

16 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

## **Music Instrument Lessons, Application & Payment**

We are pleased to announce that Autumn Term music instrument lessons will commence the week starting Monday 20 September at Isleworth & Syon School. Just in case your son/daughter/ward has not shared the necessary information regarding these opportunities, we have provided all essential details below.

Students can apply and pay for music instrument lessons using the school website and Scopay (the school's online payment platform) from September 2021. We have improved the process of applying and paying for lessons to be more efficient and to encourage more students to take up the exciting opportunity of music instrument tuition.

Please read the following information and the Frequently Asked Questions on the next page carefully **before** applying for your son/daughter/ward's lessons online if they are interested.

### **The Instruments Offered**

Tuition is currently available on the following instruments:

- Strings: Violin & Viola
- Woodwind: Clarinet, Saxophone, Flute
- Brass: Trumpet & Trombone
- Piano
- Drums
- Acoustic Guitar/Electric Guitar/Bass Guitar
- Voice

Should a student wish to learn an instrument not listed, please see the Subject Leader: Music for more details.

### **The Teaching Team**

Hounslow Music Service (HMS) currently provides the school with a team of peripatetic instrumental teachers who visit the school to teach students on a weekly basis.

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## The Cost

The Music Instrument Tuition charge is for 10 lessons per term (3 terms per year) at a cost of:

30 MINUTES (INDIVIDUAL)	20 MINUTES (INDIVIDUAL)	30 MINUTES (PAIRED – 2 STUDENTS)	30 MINUTES (GROUP – 4 STUDENTS)
10 lessons (£200 per term)	10 lessons (£135 per term)	10 lessons (£100 per term)	10 lessons (£50 per term) Not available for piano or drums

These fees do not cover costs of sheet music, examination entry fees and other incidentals such as reeds, strings, drum sticks etc.

## How to Apply

To apply, please visit [www.isleworthsyon.org/music](http://www.isleworthsyon.org/music). On the 'Music Instrument Lessons' tab, you will see this letter, below which is an 'Apply Now' button. Clicking the button will take you to Scopay, where you can order your lessons. Please make sure that you select a quantity for each item (1 = 1 set of 10 lessons), and then 'add to basket'.

The deadline for making Autumn Term payments is **Sunday 19 September 2021**. If this deadline is missed, lessons may not be guaranteed until the Spring Term.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### WHEN WILL LESSONS TAKE PLACE?

Instrumental lessons take place throughout the school day. Lessons rotate from week to week so that the same curriculum subject is not missed two weeks running. It is the student's responsibility to catch up on any work missed in their subject lesson due to attending instrumental tuition. Timetables will be emailed electronically and will also be posted on the instrument lesson classroom door.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Piano Lessons	Guitar Lessons	Woodwind Lessons	Brass Lessons	Drum Lessons

### CAN LESSONS HAPPEN BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL?

No. Should a student wish to have instrument lessons out of school hours, we will have to refer your request to Hounslow Music Service for consideration in their Saturday school.

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### **WHAT WILL BE LEARNED/STUDIED?**

During instrumental tuition, students will progress from their starting point to be able to play solo/small ensemble, as well as being prepared for entry for public graded music examinations and ensemble work.

### **DO STUDENTS HAVE TO BRING THEIR OWN INSTRUMENT?**

All brass, woodwind and string instrument students should bring their own instruments. Pianos and drum kits will be available in lesson rooms. It is preferable for guitar students to bring their own instrument to lessons. Instruments can be dropped off on the morning of the lesson in the assigned music instrument lesson classroom. You can also hire instruments from Hounslow Music Service by contacting 0203 3253142.

### **HOW DO PARENT/CARERS LEARN ABOUT STUDENT PROGRESS?**

Instrumental teachers provide a music diary to record what has been achieved and what needs to be practiced for the following lesson. Instrumental teachers can communicate with parents / carers in this diary regarding sheet music and books that may need to be purchased and also about any exams that may need to be taken. All instrumental teachers provide the student with an annual report in the Summer Term.

### **WHAT HAPPENS IF A LESSON IS MISSED?**

If a lesson is missed due to an examination or school trip, students will be expected to inform their instrumental teacher in advance to re-arrange a different time. In the case of the instrumental teacher being absent or the school having an INSET day, the lesson will be rescheduled to another week. There are 10 lessons a term so there should be plenty of time to make up the lessons. In all other circumstances, lessons will not be rescheduled. The school does not reimburse lessons missed through non-arranged student absence.

### **HOW MUCH DAILY PRACTICE IS NEEDED?**

Daily practice is a crucial part of learning to play a musical instrument. Practice needs to be thorough and focused on what the teacher has identified. The following is recommended:

- **Beginners** - 15 minutes a day
- **Grade II** - 25 minutes a day
- **Grade III** - 30 minutes a day
- **Grade IV** - 35 minutes a day
- **Grade V** - 40 minutes a day
- **Grade VI** - 45 minutes a day
- **Grade VII** - 50 minutes a day
- **Grade VIII** - 60 minutes a day

Parents/carers have a vital role in supporting students to establish good habits regarding their practice at home.

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## WHEN CAN STUDENTS APPLY FOR LESSONS?

Music instrument lessons can be applied for before the start of each term as set out below:

- Payment by **Sunday 19 September** for lessons starting in **Autumn Term 2021**
- Payment by **Friday 7 January** for lessons starting in **Spring Term 2021**
- Payment by **Friday 15 April** for lessons starting in **Spring Term 2021**

Should you wish to enquire about any further information please contact Mr McKeever (Music Subject Leader) on [musicinstrumentlessons@isleworthsyon.org](mailto:musicinstrumentlessons@isleworthsyon.org).

Yours sincerely,



**Mr D McKeever**

Assistant Curriculum Leader - Subject Leader: Music