



DAME ALICE OWEN'S SCHOOL

Music Department

A Guide to Instrumental Lessons



Director of Music: Mr S Werner B.Mus., B.A

Dear Parent / Carer

We are delighted that your child is learning a musical instrument and we hope he/she will gain many hours of pleasure from playing music. This booklet sets out some of the information you may need to support your child and also outlines the musical opportunities available at Dame Alice Owen's School.

Lesson Timetabling

Some three hundred pupils receive specialist instrumental lessons in a wide variety of disciplines. Instrumental lessons for pupils in Years 7-11 are taught during school time in thirty-minute sessions on a rota timetable ensuring that pupils do not miss the same lessons each week. Lesson times are clearly displayed on the Music notice board upstairs in the Music Block. It is the pupil's responsibility to check the weekly times of his/her lesson and to catch up with any work missed. Lesson times will be displayed well in advance ensuring pupils are always able to give their subject teacher a minimum of **24 hours' notice** of their music lesson. All pupils are entitled to thirty three lessons per year at an average of eleven per term (school terms can vary quite considerably in length).

At the end of the Summer Term the attendance registers are checked to ensure that all pupils have received the correct number of lessons. Sometimes there is a shortfall owing to teacher absence and in this case a credit will be made the following term.

Participation in educational activities in or out of school may mean a lesson has to be missed. Providing that at least two weeks' **written** notice is given to the instrumental teacher every effort will be made to re-arrange these lessons so that the pupils do not forfeit tuition.

Payment

Your child's instrumental teacher will send a bill to you approximately half a term before the lessons are scheduled to begin in order to provide ample time for you to produce payment. If payment is not received before the end of the term then the following term's lessons will not be given.

If you wish to discontinue instrumental lessons, a **full half a terms written notice in writing** should be sent to the Director of Music as stated clearly on the Agreement for Individual Music Tuition form. The billing system will serve as a reminder that either payment or written notice is due.

Insurance

Security is important. If possible, your child's instrument case should always be locked. Always ensure that your child's name and address is firmly attached on, and in, the instrumental case.

We strongly recommend that you ascertain the approximate value of your child's instrument from his/her teacher and add it to your home contents insurance policy.

Instruments must be kept in the appropriate instrument store room in the Music Block:

Store room No.1 (downstairs) - percussion

Store room No.2 (upstairs) - violins, violas, cellos & amplifiers

Store room No.3 (upstairs) - woodwind, brass & guitars

There is limited locker space in store room No.2 for instruments no bigger than a violin. A £5 deposit secures a key which is repaid when your child leaves school. Store rooms Nos. 2 & 3 are accessible only with a key available from Mr Bean at a cost of £4.00.

School Instruments

The school owns a stock of musical instruments. In the case of a child not owning their own instrument, the school is happy to loan an instrument, if available, at a termly rental of £25.00. This is to cover the inevitable cost of servicing and repairs. This facility is designed principally for pupils in the lower school. Pupils in the upper school (with certain exceptions) would be expected to have their own instruments. If you prefer, your local high street music shop will also rent you an instrument. It is important that school instruments are insured whilst they are in your care as the school insurance covers them only whilst they are on school property.

Pupils lent school instruments will be expected to contribute to extra-curricular music at the appropriate times.

Practice and Performance (How you can help)

Regular practice is the key to learning to play a musical instrument and teachers will advise the optimum duration and regularity of practice periods. We recommend that pupils use a Practice Notebook in which teachers or pupils can enter weekly details of practice to be undertaken.

Parents will then have a clear idea of which music their child should be practising and for how long it should be rehearsed.

As with homework, parents can provide support and help. Encouragement to practise is most important and listening to the practice session is helpful, even if you feel unable to contribute other than the occasional 'well done'.

It is beneficial to be in contact with the teacher, particularly if your child is experiencing difficulties. The frustration of learning to play an instrument can be considerable but this can be eased if parents, teacher and child recognise the problems and decide on a course of action.

We are in daily consultation with your instrumental teacher and can monitor progress closely and notify you if there are any problems.

Direct contact with your child's teacher is always a good idea. In the first instance contact Mr. Bean on 01707 622868 and this will be arranged.

Instrumental reports are sent out once every academic year. Please take every opportunity to support your child, be this at home, school, or any other venue.

Similarly, taking your child to hear 'live' music can have a stimulating effect. The Music Department organises several school concerts and recital evenings each term.

Practice Rooms

Due to the large amount of instrumental teaching and curricular group work taking place in school, the availability of practice rooms is limited. It is very important that pupils ask permission from a member of the music staff if they wish to use a free room. Priority will be given to pupils studying GCSE and A-Level courses.

Music Placement

Pupils at school on a music place will be expected to contribute in at least three extra-curricular activities per week for their entire period at school and also to participate in school chamber concerts.

Practical & Theory Examinations

Many of the instrumental tutors encourage their pupils to take instrumental examinations via one of the recognised boards of music. Theory lessons are available at the Music Centre on a Saturday morning. Application forms for Associated Board practical exams are available from the Music office. Examiners visit the school three times a year (October, February and June).

Ensemble Playing

Ensemble playing is one of the most rewarding parts of being a musician. Please encourage your child to join one or more of the many ensembles at School. The Music Department currently provides the following extra-curricular activities:

Second Band
Concert Band
Musical Production

Junior Choir
Junior Chamber Choir
Senior Mixed Choir
Senior Chamber Choir
Close Harmony Group

Junior Strings
Senior Strings
Second Orchestra
Chamber Orchestra
Symphony Orchestra

Junior Brass Group
Brass Ensemble
Trombone Ensemble
Trumpet Ensemble

Saxophone Quartet A
Saxophone Quartet B
Wind Quintet
Junior Percussion Ensemble
Senior Percussion Ensemble

Junior Flute Ensemble
Senior Flute Ensemble (Flautissimo)
Acoustic Guitar Ensemble
Junior Soul Band
Senior Soul Band

We hope your child will work hard to exploit his/her musical talents and enjoy music here at Dame Alice Owen's School and indeed as a lifetime activity.

Dame Alice Owen's Music Department

The Music Department consists of the following staff:

Mr S Werner, Ms M Jenkins, Mr M Grimstead, Miss N McNally, Mr R Pepper, Mrs J Brady, Mr B Abelman (Music Technician), Mr B Bean (Head of Instrumental), Mrs M Dibden (Music Dept. Admin.) and a team of visiting instrumental teachers:

Bernard Bean - Head of Instrumental & Saturday Music Centre

STRINGS

James Widden *Head of Strings* - Violin and Viola
Kristian Borring - Electric and Bass Guitar
Joe Niesyto - Acoustic Guitar
Lynn Selwood - Cello and Double Bass

WOODWIND

Neil Crossley - Clarinet and Saxophone
Victoria Crowell - Bassoon, Clarinet and Saxophone
Nicki Hooke - Flute and Theory
Janna Hüneke - Flute
Ben Marshall - Clarinet, Oboe and Saxophone

BRASS

Bernard Bean *Head of Brass* - All Brass
Lance Kelly - All Brass

PERCUSSION

Scott Wilson *Head of Percussion* - Drum Kit and Percussion
Dan Earley - Drum Kit and Percussion
Neil Rowland - Drum Kit and Percussion

PIANO

Robert Thompson - *Head of Piano*
Alice Pinto

SINGING

Katrina Makepeace-Lott *Head of Singing*
Esther Mallett
David Sheringham

The Department buildings comprise: Concert Hall, Studio, 3 Classrooms, Library, Computer room, 3 store rooms, 6 practise rooms, office and music staff room.

Potters Bar Music Centre - Saturday morning

Music continues on Saturdays at Owen's at the Potters Bar Music Centre from 8.00am - 1.00pm. The Music Centre is open to children from all local schools as well as from Owen's and specialises particularly in beginner groups (brass, woodwind and strings) for children from local primary schools. A full prospectus may be obtained from Mr Bean in the Music Department office.

B. Bean
Head of Music Centre

September 2014

**Music Department Extra-Curricular Activities
2014-15**

Monday

8.40am	Junior Flute Ensemble	Studio
1.00pm	Senior Flute Ensemble (Flautissimo)	M3
	Senior Chamber Choir	Studio
	Second Band	E.G.H.
4.00pm	Senior Strings	Studio
	Concert Band	E.G.H.

Tuesday

1.00pm	Trombone Quartet	M1
	Acoustic Guitar Ensemble	M3
	Close Harmony Group	Studio
	Junior Strings	E.G.H.
4.00pm	Brass Ensemble	M1
	Musical Production	E.G.H.

Wednesday

1.00pm	Junior Brass Group	M1
	Wind Quintet	M3
	Junior Percussion Ensemble	Studio
	Senior Mixed Choir	E.G.H.
4.00pm	Senior Soul Band	Studio
	Second Orchestra	E.G.H.

Thursday

1.00pm	Saxophone Quartet A	M3
	Junior Choir	Studio
	Chamber Orchestra	E.G.H.
4.00pm	Junior Soul Band	Studio
	Musical Production	E.G.H.

Friday

1.00pm	Trumpet Ensemble	M1
	Saxophone Quartet B	M3
	Junior Chamber Choir	Studio
	Senior Percussion Ensemble	E.G.H.
4.00pm	Symphony Orchestra	E.G.H.