



BEXLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to be able to offer your child the opportunity to learn an instrument at Bexley Grammar School. Listed below are the Tutors available to teach for the academic year beginning September 2023:

<i>Mrs Ballard – violin, viola, theory</i>	<i>Ms Woodhurst – cello</i>
<i>Mrs Lockhart-Knight - flute</i>	<i>Mr Cooper – clarinet, oboe, sax, singing, piano</i>
<i>Mr Crocker – trumpet, trombone, French horn</i>	<i>Mrs Holmes - singing</i>
<i>Mr Andrew – piano</i>	<i>Mrs Lloyd – singing, piano, music theory</i>
<i>Mr Ross – acoustic, electric, bass guitar</i>	<i>Mr Pack – drum kit and percussion</i>
<i>Mr Jones – acoustic, electric guitar</i>	<i>Mrs Cliburn - piano , theory</i>

25 minutes lessons are available on an individual weekly basis (£155 per term for 10 lessons), or an individual lesson every other week (£77.50 per term for 5 lessons). Our experience is that lessons every other week mean that progress is very slow indeed, and students often give up. If you can afford it, a lesson once a week will pay far more dividends; your child is able to get into a routine and remember to attend a lesson every week, is likely to practice more regularly, and far more progress is made. If your child is more advanced than Grade 1, then I would strongly recommend a weekly lesson. All of our teachers are DBS checked and are used to working with young people in a friendly, safe and creative environment.

All of our instrumental teachers are taking every precaution to ensure rooms are Covid safe, teaching in rooms that are well ventilated and maintaining social distancing as well as ensuring a clean environment before and after every lesson.

To apply, please click on the [hyperlink here](#), read the terms & conditions carefully and fill out the online application form. Once a teacher is allocated, they will be in touch regarding timetables, and an invoice will be issued in the first lesson of the term / by email prior to the first lesson. This should be paid within two weeks otherwise the teacher may stop your child's lessons until payment is received. Please do not send payment prior to receiving the invoice.

As is the case in all schools, music lessons take place throughout the school day during lesson time. Please note: times for lessons for students in Years 7 are rotated so that your child does not miss the same lesson too frequently. A fixed lesson time at break or lunch is not possible, as these slots must be kept for exam students in years 10-13. The instrumental teachers are very understanding about the nature of schools and that it is not always possible to attend a lesson because of trips/exams. If the teacher knows about this in advance, they can reschedule the lesson. Obviously, if your child misses a lesson without informing the teacher, there is very little they can do to reimburse you. **May I remind you that the notice required for discontinuation of lessons is half a term and that this must be done in writing, otherwise half a term's fees will be due in lieu of notice.**

As part of the development of their musicianship, students are encouraged to take part in curriculum extension activities.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs E. Goddard
Head of Music



Bexley Grammar School

Instrumental Lessons: Terms and Conditions 2023-2024

Teacher / student commitments

- The instrumental teacher is committed to teach at least 30 lessons a year (this could be more at their discretion, but will be no less), which are spread evenly throughout the year.
- If a student misses a lesson of their own volition (i.e. forgets to arrive, doesn't look at the timetable in time), the teacher is under no obligation to make up the lesson.
- If a student can inform a teacher of a school trip / test with enough notice for the teacher to swap lessons around (i.e. one week), then it is reasonable to expect the teacher to do so.
- Any lessons missed by the teacher, for whatever reason, will be made up at the end of term or refunded in full.

Fees

- Fees must be paid in by the 3rd instrumental lesson of the term. If they are not, the teacher reserves the right to withhold lessons until fees are paid.
- If there is a problem with paying the full amount immediately, please contact your child's instrumental teacher directly to arrange alternative arrangements so that lessons can continue (i.e. regular smaller payments spread out over the term).

Stopping lessons

- **Music tuition will continue automatically from one academic year to the next unless cancellation notice is received.**
- If your son or daughter wishes to cease their instrumental lessons, **one full half a term's notice must be given in writing to the instrumental teacher, or the next half term's fees will be payable in lieu.** For clarity, if a parent were to give notice in the third week of the October half term, the students' lessons would cease at the end of the autumn term.
- **The peripatetic music teacher has the right to discontinue lessons in the case of a student's persistent poor attendance or late payment**

Membership of BGS Ensembles

- BGS has a busy programme of instrumental ensembles and choirs, and we strongly encourage all students who benefit from instrumental lessons in school to participate in a school ensemble. It not only serves as an extra opportunity to practice, but offers a valuable opportunity to develop aural and ensemble skills, and make new friends!
- If your child is studying GCSE or IB Music, it is a requirement of the course to be a member of a BGS extra-curricular ensemble.
- Please encourage your child to join an appropriate group, and to talk to their music teacher if they want to know more about any of our groups.