



Richard Hale School

Learning a Musical Instrument

A huge number of students enjoy playing musical instruments at Richard Hale School and everyone is welcome to join in. Each year over 1 in 3 students in Y7 take up the offer of instrumental lessons when they start the school. No previous experience is necessary, though our team of experienced tutors will also develop the skills of those who already play. We are pleased to be able to offer tuition on:

Strings	violin, 'cello
Woodwind	flute, clarinet, saxophone
Brass	trumpet, horn, euphonium, trombone, tuba
Guitar	classical acoustic, electric, bass
Percussion	drum kit
Piano	keyboard, piano
Singing	voice

Considerations in choosing which lesson best suits your child

15 minutes individual – for new players up to grade 1

20 minutes individual – for new players up to grade 3

30 minutes individual – for grade 3 students and above

How are lessons organised?

All lessons take place in the Music Department. The times change each week so that students do not miss the same curriculum lesson two weeks running. On most occasions students will only miss part of one lesson once every four weeks. Teaching staff at RHS are used to and supportive of this arrangement. Some lessons are before school (8.00am), at lunchtime, and after school (to 4.30pm), should these times be suitable for the student.

Each student is given a practice book which we would like parents to look at regularly.

Lesson times are on display in the Music Department in advance of their lesson. Students are responsible for remembering their own lesson times, though of course we support with this, especially in the early stages. They are also emailed each week to parents and put on the students' Google Classroom.

To allow new students to settle in, lessons for Year 7 start in the third week of the first term.

Lesson Payment

Payment is to be made on-line for the relevant amount a term in advance. These cover the cost of eleven lessons per term. If the term is shorter than this, lessons will be added to the next term to ensure boys receive the number of lessons paid for, up to a maximum of 33 lessons per year.

Free lessons are available for pupils who are entitled to free school meals. There are also subsidies available if parents are entitled to certain benefits. Enquiries about this are dealt with in the strictest of confidence and we will be able to advise you on how to complete the simple application to the county council.

Lesson costs 2021-22

15 minutes individual – £115.50 per term

20 minutes individual – £154 per term

30 minutes individual – £231 per term

Terminating lessons

Six teaching weeks written notice is required from parents if they wish to stop their child's lessons. This is necessary because such changes affect music tutors' working hours and financial arrangements. The written notification should be handed directly into the music office or sent by email to sarah.lynn@richardhale.co.uk

Absence from instrumental lessons

Unfortunately, we are unable to refund the cost or make up missed lessons if students are unwell, forget their time, have detentions or are on family holidays. In cases of long term illness or injury we will try to postpone lessons as soon as we can, but we do need to be notified of the problem as soon as possible. If students miss lessons as a result of planned school activities (e.g. exams or school trips) we will ensure lessons are made up or credit provided.

Parents and students are advised to contact the Music Department directly as soon as possible if they cannot attend a lesson, for example if they have an exam in a subject. We will always do our best to rearrange lessons but advance notice is required.

Purchasing an instrument

There is no point in having lessons without an instrument to practice on. The school does have a collection of instruments for loan. These are available for all and are loaned out free of charge. Please contact us to see if we have an instrument available. Pupils who borrow school instruments must take responsibility for them and look after them at all times.

The Herts Music Service also provides an excellent instrument purchase scheme; for further details please contact sarah.lynn@richardhale.co.uk

Students taking instrumental lessons will be asked to purchase music at various stages. This will be recommended by their instrument tutor.

Extra-curricular work & Performance in concerts

Students are encouraged to take part in organised concerts, but they will only be asked if they are performing well and working hard. They do not have to play if they do not feel confident, though most students usually take part. We normally have at least sixty performers at concerts, and sometimes up to 300. Almost all students come back for more! All students are welcome to take part in our extensive extra-curricular bands and choirs, including pupils who have lessons out of school. We run bands/choirs for all abilities and instruments/voices. All extra-curricular groups are offered free of charge.

Practical examinations

While we do not insist on students taking practical exams, there are many benefits in doing so. As well as providing bench marks to record progress, higher grades now add points to students UCAS

scores for university. For these reasons we always encourage students to enter for exams when their instrumental tutor advises.

Aural lessons and accompanied rehearsals for examinations

We provide additional lessons to support listening tests and accompanist rehearsals when students are entered for practical examinations. This support is provided by the school and there is a small additional fee. We will write to parents when their child is taking an exam with the details of these sessions.

Reports and feedback to parents

Instrumental teachers provide termly written reports for parents to outline the student's progress. In addition, Music Department staff have a keen and sustained interest in these lessons and intervene and support where necessary.

And finally ...

Playing a musical instrument is **very** rewarding and can establish a hobby for life, but like any worthwhile skill it takes patience, practice and determination. We are keen to help all students succeed and are very proud of the rich musical heritage of the school. We would love your son to be part of it!

Please feel free to contact Philip Camm, Head of Music, to discuss anything to do with music at RHS. Telephone 01992 583441 or e-mail pca@richardhale.co.uk

Applying for lessons

Please complete the online form at:

<https://forms.gle/5W7xSgHL1cnQtd256>

Applications should be completed by 31st July