



September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Musical Instrument Tuition at HMS 2020-21

If your child has received musical instrument tuition at first school, they will be able to continue tuition on the same instrument at HMS. If your child would like to start playing a musical instrument, we have a wide range of musical instrument tuition available (see list below). Once the term commences, instrument teachers will arrange for trial lessons to be available, in order to help children, choose the instrument that suits them. We also hope to host a musical instrument demonstration evening in the autumn term to help your child choose the correct instrument and give you a chance to talk to the peripatetic teachers.

The majority of our peripatetic teachers are contracted on a self-employed basis. This allows for a greater level of flexibility and communicating directly with the teacher has been a huge benefit. Contracts are arranged between parents and the instrument teacher in advance of lessons starting and all fees are paid directly to the teacher. Please note that some instruments can be over-subscribed. Teachers will try to re-arrange their hours (if possible) to accommodate new starters. However, we have on occasion had waiting lists for some instruments.

The cost of tuition (based upon a shared half-hour) will be approx. £8.00 - £10.00 per lesson. It is common practice for lessons to be paid termly but always in advance of lessons starting. Children are allowed 30mins out of their timetabled lessons but can only learn to play one instrument in school time. Shared lessons will be in groups of two or three max. Individual lessons can be paid for and the cost should be negotiated with the instrument teacher, as some individual lesson costs can vary.

All of these fees are in line with the Northumberland County Music Service Rate, which is £8.50 per group lesson. Pupils wishing to learn to play the drums will pay for their lessons using the Northumberland County Music Service Direct Billing Scheme. Details of this will be given to parents of current and prospective drum pupils in September 2020.

Lesson times will rotate on a weekly basis to prevent pupils missing the same curriculum lesson two weeks running. All instrument teachers provide timetables to be displayed in school and our head of music, Mr Holdsworth will help all pupils with the new routines here at HMS.

NB It is common for parents to be concerned that the cost of lessons at HMS is a lot higher than the cost of previous lessons at First school(s). All of our teachers are highly qualified and several still perform professionally. The majority of them are local to the Hexham area and are highly commended for their teaching. All teachers teach to exam standard and all children will have the opportunity, when ready, to take recognised examinations with either: the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music; Trinity & Guild Hall; or, Rock School examination boards.

It is easy for us to pass on your contact information to the relevant teacher but we need your signed permission to do so.

If you would like your child to continue their tuition, or to start to play a new instrument at HMS, please complete the survey on this [link](#). By completing this form you give permission for Hexham Middle school to give your contact details to the relevant music tutor to enable them to contact you directly. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact us 01434 602533.

Tuition offered at HMS:

Upper Strings	Violin & Viola	Miss C Howes
Lower Strings	Cello and Double Bass	To be confirmed
Woodwind	Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Saxophone	Mrs A Francomb
Brass	Trumpet, Cornet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium & Tuba	Mr D Hignett
Guitars	Classical or Rock-style, or Bass Guitar	Mr R Dudley
Piano	-	Mrs C Caris
Drums	-	Mr J Hammond
Vocals / Singing	-	Mrs B Hignett

Note: Drum Tuition fees will be paid directly to the NCC Music HUB as mentioned above. All fees must be paid in advance of pupils commencing their tuition

Yours faithfully

Mr Holdsworth