



# ***Individual Music Lessons***

***2019—2020***

**A Guide for Parents**

**Please read this document before applying for  
individual music lessons  
An application form is enclosed**

# MUSIC DEPARTMENT STAFF

**Mrs CLARE ROWNTREE, BMus (Hons)**  
**Director of Music**

Individual violin and viola lessons,  
Class Music, Recorders, Orchestra, Jazz  
Group, String ensemble coaching,  
Music Theory, Choirs,  
Accompaniment, Music Department  
administration

**Mr MARK ARNOLD**

Individual guitar and ukulele lessons

**Mrs FIONA BROCKHURST, ARCM**

Individual brass lessons  
Brass ensemble coaching

**Miss TARSHA COLE, LRAM ARCM Hons Prof.RAM**

Individual singing lessons

**Mr ROBERT HARVEY, BMus, ARCM**

Individual piano lessons,  
Chamber Music, Rock Groups,  
Orchestra, Creative Music, Bass Guitar,  
Accompaniment.

**Mr JONATHAN HILTON-KING**

Individual percussion lessons  
Percussion ensemble coaching

**Mr MARTIN INGS, MA, ARCM**

Individual brass lessons  
Brass ensemble coaching

**Mrs KATE KEATS, GTCL, PG Performance**

Individual cello lessons  
String ensemble coaching

**Mr JIM LOVELL**

Individual guitar lessons

**Mr JAMES RAWLINSON, DipABRSM**

Individual woodwind lessons

**Mr RICHARD ROWNTREE, BMus (Hons)**

Individual singing and piano lessons,  
Senior Choir and Vocal Ensembles

**Mr JOHN RADFORD, BA, PGCE**

Individual piano lessons  
Ballet Accompaniment

# Individual Music Lessons at Forres Sandle Manor

We look forward to welcoming your child to the Forres Sandle Manor Music Department. Perhaps I could take this opportunity to answer a few frequently asked questions and to clarify a few points and policies on which you might be uncertain. There is a lot of information here but please take the time to read it fully.

## 1. What has my child got to gain from learning an instrument?

Everything! The benefits from having instrumental or singing lessons are enormous and include developments in:

- Co-ordination (both mental and physical)
- Listening skills
- Confidence
- Speech and language
- Problem solving
- Individual and collective achievement
- Teamwork
- Aesthetic appreciation
- Intellectual and artistic skills
- Study skills
- Attention span
- Self-motivation
- Self-discipline
- Self-analysis and self-evaluation.

Extensive research now shows that learning an instrument enlarges the brain in certain key areas and promotes greater learning across the curriculum.

Not bad for starters!

**Other Benefits:** Instrumental teaching is not regarded as an isolated activity within the school. Much purpose is given to the initial instruction on an instrument as it can lead to opportunities for additional experiences in the many school ensembles, holiday courses, area, county and possibly national orchestras, bands and choirs.

Children are encouraged to play an instrument and to take part in the many musical activities of the school. There is an orchestra, senior choir, junior and senior string ensembles, brass ensembles, wind ensembles, jazz group, rock groups and a lively programme of other chamber music, all having opportunities to perform regularly at school and in the community.

## **2. How do I go about getting lessons for my child?**

Once you have read this document, simply fill in the attached form, sign it to show your agreement of the terms and policies and return it to the Director of Music.

## **3. What instruments can my child learn?**

Most children learn an instrument at Forres Sandle Manor, many learn two and some more. Tuition can be arranged on any orchestral instrument as well as piano, keyboard, recorder, saxophone, acoustic guitar, electric guitar, bass guitar, drum kit, percussion and singing.

## **4. How will my child know which instrument to choose?**

You may have an instrument in mind for your child, they may have a strong yearning to learn a particular instrument or sometimes what a friend is learning can affect your child's choice. The music staff at FSM will also be able to help in suggesting choices of instrument. As a general rule, children seem to succeed on the instrument they keep requesting.

There are many criteria to take into account – physical characteristics, size, facial and dental structures, co-ordination etc. Most instruments are designed for adults to play and this must be borne in mind in the early days. Some instruments come in smaller sizes for tiny hands (such as the violin or 'cello) but many don't. A trombone or French horn, for instance, would pose obvious problems for the very young beginner.

There is also a well-known test of musical ability called 'The Bentley Test.' This measures the ability of children to make four types of judgements considered fundamental to being successful at music. Children are tested in Years 4, 6 and 8. Results in this test have conclusively shown over the years what types of instrument would or would not be suitable to particular children. It doesn't, of course, show whether the child will practise or not, or whether they even like music!

## **5. Can my child try an instrument before committing to lessons?**

All the music staff will be pleased to give trials on their instruments if required. Once an instrument is chosen they will be happy to give advice on how to hire or purchase good quality student instruments.

## **6. Will I have to buy an instrument straightaway?**

Not necessarily. FSM has a stock of some instruments for hire. Most good music shops operate a hire scheme so that you can acquire a good quality instrument, but not pay out a lot of money until you are sure there is going to be sufficient commitment from your child.

## **7. When should my child start learning?**

This is a very common question and there are no hard and fast rules. It is not easy to recommend a minimum starting age as there are as many considerations to take into account as there are for choosing the right instrument (many of them overlapping).

Children of the same age can vary enormously in size and shape. Some have well-developed co-ordination early on, in others this takes longer to develop. For most wind and brass instruments it is best to wait until the front teeth have appeared and settled around the age of 7. String players can start earlier as there are especially built instruments in smaller sizes.

It is worth bearing in mind that the school operates a recorder scheme in Years 1 and 2 whereby every child learns these instruments as part of the curriculum, and an optional string scheme (violin or cello) for children in Year 2. These foster and encourage musicianship, performing skills, intonation, articulation, tone production, interpretation, reading of notation, listening skills and ensemble awareness. Whether or not your child continues with the recorder or violin, they will have learnt skills that will be of assistance to them once tuition on the chosen instrument is started.

Many children struggle with the piano if they attempt to start too soon and parents should be aware of the dangers of pushing their offspring down this road at a very young age. Those that wait until 8 or 9 often find they catch up over one term with what has taken others 3 years to achieve. This is due to the fact that they are mentally and physically more able to cope with the instrument. Obviously there are exceptions and a child who will benefit from an early start should be given the support and opportunity to do so. Therefore we are happy to discuss individual cases as to the suitability of commencing piano lessons in the lower years.

## **8. How can I help at home?**

Encourage your child to practise regularly. Make a place for the child to practise with a music stand available. Pianists will need a piano, which is tuned regularly, or a good, touch-sensitive keyboard with full-size keys.

All children will be given a music practice book in which their week's work will be written. It is helpful if parents refer to this and make sure their child is practising what they are supposed to, not just playing the bits they like or find easy! Many parents correspond with the teacher via these books and with support at home and at school, the child will have the best chance of success.

## 9. **But I'm not musical!**

This is definitely not a drawback! Extensive research has shown that, second only to regular practice, parental support is the most important factor in the success of musically gifted children. Children from a non-musical background often feel 'special' if they are the musical one in a family, and so become even more determined to succeed.

## 10. **How much will lessons cost?**

Fees are set by the school and based on an hourly rate. The current charge for individual music lessons is £180 per term. In addition, many children will be entered for music exams, either ABRSM, Trinity Guildhall, RockSchool or London College of Music. Entries will be made at the teacher's discretion and the examination fee will appear on your school bill (see 22). There is an option to hire some instruments through school subject to availability. See appendix 2 'Instrument Hire costs'.

## 11. **How do I pay?**

All lessons are paid for in arrears and tuition fees are added to the end of term school bills.

## 12. **How many lessons will my child receive?**

We aim to give thirty lessons per year, calendar permitting and if there are enough teaching weeks in the academic year, but there will not necessarily be ten per term. More lessons will often be given in the long autumn term and the balance made up over the following terms. If necessary a teacher may schedule extra lessons to help with preparation for a special event such as an examination or a scholarship. In this case parents will have the option to take more than thirty lessons over the course of the year and fees will be adjusted accordingly.

## 13. **How long are the lessons?**

Lessons are thirty minutes in length. Sometimes more advanced pupils, on the advice of their individual teacher and the Director of Music, opt to receive two thirty minute lessons each week in order to cover technical and musical demands.

## 14. **When do the lessons take place?**

Music lessons are timetabled during class periods, breaks, games sessions and before or after school depending on the availability of the teacher.

**IMPORTANT:** Deciding to learn a musical instrument may mean missing other school commitments, often other timetabled lessons. Individual music lessons offer countless advantages, but you may feel the disadvantages of

missing other lessons outweigh them. It is not always possible to guarantee that children will not miss specific lessons, but every effort is made to look at the needs, strengths and weaknesses of each child.

#### **15. Who will teach my child and can they change teachers?**

The school will allocate your child to an instrumental teacher and this is given careful consideration to ensure the best possible pairing. It is unusual for a pupil to change teachers, such changes being made only under exceptional circumstances and entirely at the discretion of the Director of Music.

#### **16. Practice**

No child will make a success of their instrumental studies unless they put in a regular time commitment. Practice is the number one factor for improvement followed closely by parental support. A system of music 'credits' awarded by the teacher for regular practice and achievement helps to motivate the pupils. Certificates are awarded as certain goals are reached and an end of term prize is given to the pupil with the most music credits.

Children who fail to practice or who show little commitment will be asked to cease tuition to make way for another. Parents are asked to ensure their children understand this commitment.

The Director of Music and boarding staff run morning music practice sessions before breakfast which boarders can sign up for. All children are welcome to come and practise in the music department at break times and after school when they don't have an activity.

#### **17. Additional Music Charges**

The Director of Music does a weekly music order for tuition and examination books that are requested by teachers on a pupil's behalf. The cost of these books is added to the end of term school bills, as are the costs of replacement strings, new reeds, rosin, practice books etc that teachers issue during the course of each term. If parents would prefer to purchase musical resources themselves and not incur additional charges on their end of bill, they should notify the Director of Music as soon as possible.

#### **18. What if my child wants to cease tuition?**

At least one clear half term's notice is required in the event of someone wishing to discontinue music lessons. This notice is required in writing and should be sent to the Director of Music not later than the end of half term in advance of the term in which lessons are to cease. In default of such notice one full term's music fees may be charged.

**19. What if my child is ill?**

Unfortunately, if a child misses a lesson through illness or is absent for a reason beyond the school's control, the cost of the lessons will be carried by the parent.

**20. What if the teacher is absent?**

In this case, the lessons will be rescheduled or the cost carried by the teacher.

**21. What about school trips?**

If these appear in the school calendar or the teachers are given at least four weeks notice, the teachers are obliged to reschedule the lessons or carry the cost of the missed lesson. If the school arranges a trip at short notice, the teacher will try to reschedule but if unable to do so, the school will carry the cost of the missed lesson.

**22. Will my child get the chance to perform?**

Most definitely! Class music lessons are generally practical. There are a number of informal concerts scheduled each term, a Christmas performance, a summer concert, Lower and Upper School productions, the annual school carol service, concerts in the community, external music festivals and an in-house music competition. Most events are listed in the school calendar and parents and friends are most definitely encouraged to attend.

**23. Will my child be entered for examinations?**

Many children are entered for music exams with the various boards as part of their learning programme. Parents will be notified of any impending examination so that they can help with, and monitor, preparations. Candidates are entered in good faith and are expected to practise regularly in order to achieve the necessary standard by the time of the exam. Very occasionally candidates will be withdrawn so that they do not have a negative experience in which case no refund will be given.

I hope this document has given you an insight into what is an extremely committed, professional, exhilarating and busy department! If you decide to apply for music lessons then I thank you for your vision in providing for a musical education in the knowledge that it will enrich your child's life. Please make sure you agree and understand all the policies in this document, complete and sign the attached application form and return it to the Director of Music.

Thank you for your time.

Clare Rowntree BMus (Hons)  
**Director of Music**



## **DECLARATION AND APPLICATION FORM FOR MUSIC LESSONS**

Before completing this form, please make sure you have read the document 'Instrumental Music at Forres Sandle Manor' and are in agreement with the contents, especially Numbers 10 to 20.

**Name of child**.....

**Date of Birth**.....**Form**.....

**Address**.....

.....**Postcode**.....

**Telephone Number**.....

**Email Address** .....

**Please arrange lessons in**.....**(instrument)**

**Commencing**.....**Term 20**.....

**Previous experience on instrument**.....

.....  
(please attach any information or reports from previous teachers if applicable)

**Does your child have their own instrument?**.....

**Do you wish to hire a school instrument?**.....  
(subject to availability)

### **DECLARATION**

I have read and agree to comply with the document 'Instrumental Music at FSM'.

**Signed**.....**Date**.....

## **Instrument Hire Charges**

| <i><b>Instrument</b></i> | <i><b>Fee (per term)</b></i> |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Piano*                   | £5                           |
| Drums*                   | £5                           |
| Guitar                   | £5                           |
| Oboe                     | £35                          |
| Flute                    | £30                          |
| Clarinet                 | £30                          |
| Alto Saxophone           | £35                          |
| Tenor Saxophone          | £35                          |
| Trumpet/Cornet           | £30                          |
| Trombone/Euphonium       | £30                          |
| French Horn              | £35                          |
| Violin/Viola             | £30                          |
| Cello                    | £35                          |

\* THERE IS A £5 CHARGE TO ALL STUDENTS WHO LEARN THE DRUMS AND PIANO TO HELP TOWARDS THE COST OF MAINTAINING THESE INSTRUMENTS.

## Appendix 1

| <b>INSTRUMENT</b> | <b>APPROX. COST OF GOOD 'STUDENT' INSTRUMENT (NEW)</b> | <b>EXTRAS</b>                   |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| FLUTE             | £500   | Cleaning/maintenance            |
| OBOE              | £800   | Cleaning/maintenance reeds      |
| CLARINET          | £400   | Cleaning/maintenance reeds      |
| BASSOON           | £3,000   | Cleaning/maintenance reeds,     |
| ALTO SAXOPHONE    | £500   | Cleaning/Maintenance reeds      |
| FRENCH HORN       | £1,000   | Cleaning/maintenance            |
| TENOR HORN        | £800   | Cleaning/maintenance            |
| TRUMPET           | £400   | Cleaning/maintenance            |
| CORNET            | £400   | Cleaning/maintenance            |
| TROMBONE          | £500   | Cleaning/maintenance            |
| EUPHONIUM         | £1,000 to £2,000                                       | Cleaning/maintenance            |
| Eb BASS           | £2,500   | Cleaning/maintenance            |
| DRUM KIT          | £500 upwards   | Sticks/Drum Heads               |
| VIOLIN            | £150   | Strings/Bow re-hairing, rosin   |
| 'CELLO            | £600   | Strings/Bow re-hairing, rosin   |
| DOUBLE BASS       | £900   | Strings/Bow re-hairing, rosin   |
| PIANO             | £2,500   | Tuning and maintenance          |
| RECORDER          | £10 (plastic)  | Cleaning equipment              |
| ACOUSTIC GUITAR   | £120   | Strings                         |
| ELECTRIC GUITAR   | £150   | Strings/Amp/Leads/Effect pedals |