



# Homefield Preparatory School

FOUNDED IN 1870

**Music Department**

[tfitzgerald@homefieldprep.school](mailto:tfitzgerald@homefieldprep.school)

Dear parent/ guardian,

## Timetable

Lessons take place throughout the school day on a rotation timetable so that pupils will miss a different time each week. **(Please note - children will miss academic subjects in this rotation, it is not normally possible to make special arrangements for particular children unless they have identified special needs).**

For the added benefit that playing an instrument provides, please see the following helpful video:

[https://www.ted.com/talks/anita\\_collins\\_how\\_playing\\_an\\_instrument\\_benefits\\_your\\_brain?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/anita_collins_how_playing_an_instrument_benefits_your_brain?language=en)

## For the younger years instrument options are as follows:

- Year 1** Group Violin, Group Cello or Piano (paired if needed). **NO SECOND INSTRUMENTS AT THIS AGE.**
- Year 2 +** Strings, Piano, Percussion (if academic work is all fine)
- Year 3 +** Clarinet, Saxophone, Flute, Trumpet, Trombone, Horn, Tuba, Guitar, Bass guitar, Double Bass (Depending on the size of boy!)

## Things to consider if lessons are going to be worthwhile!

Do not feel pressured into starting your child too early, if pupils take lessons before they are ready, they can easily become frustrated and lose interest. **I advise that children should only take piano in Year 2 if they are coping well with the curriculum, as missing lessons can be disruptive for some pupils.** Many parents assume that piano is the easiest option - it's a great instrument, but it has the disadvantage that players are not involved in group music making and reading two lines of music can be quite difficult for many children.

## Individual Instrumental Lessons 2024/2025

**Cost – The instrumental teachers set their own hourly rate for lessons. The teachers have informed me that they will be charging £240 for ten 30-minute lessons.**

Percussion equipment approx. £120

New clarinets are approx. £300, Trumpets, Horns and Trombones - £250

Violins - £70 (School can provide small violins and cellos to borrow in the first instance)

Keyboards suitable for beginner piano for 1<sup>st</sup> year of lessons - £150,

Digital pianos - £1300, Acoustic pianos - £3000+ (£500ish 2<sup>nd</sup> hand)

Electronic drum kit 350 Acoustic drum kit - £450

## Individual Instrumental Lessons

A team of eight self-employed instrumental music staff give lessons at school on rotation timetables. If you would like your child to start individual music lessons, please read the following information and complete the attached slip. You will receive a contract to sign from the teacher at the start of next term along with any information that you will require for purchase of instruments if a space is available. If there are no spaces available, I will suggest alternatives or put the boy onto a waiting list.

# Daily practice is essential!

## Five times per week for ten minutes is a minimum at the start!

Does your child do all of their homework without a fuss?

If the answer is no, do you want the added stress of ensuring that they do their instrumental practice?

Is your child happy to miss their favourite lesson or **break** from time to time to have an instrumental lesson?



To: Miss Tracy Fitzgerald (to be passed on to the appropriate instrumental teacher)    Date :    /    /

**(This form is for new requests - Please do not send me this form if your son is already taking instrumental lessons at Homefield - Instrumental lessons will continue until you give contracted notice to stop.)**

I would like..... (Year Group Sept 2024) .....

to take ..... lessons

Any instruments previously studied?    Yes / No

Details .....

Name of Parent or Guardian (Please print).....

e-mail address .....

Physical/Postal address (for invoicing)

House number: .....

Street: .....

Town: .....

Post Code: .....

Phone number.....