



Homefield Preparatory School

FOUNDED IN 1870

Music Department

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Instrumental Music

As part of the curriculum all boys learn the Ocarina from Year 2, Recorder from Year 3 and the Ukulele and Keyboards from Year 5 onwards. There are a number of small groups for Brass, Woodwind, Percussionists and String players of various standards. More able instrumentalists are encouraged to join the following morning and lunchtime groups, **regardless** of where they take their lessons.

Junior Orchestra (Beginners – Grade 2)

Senior Choir (Year 4-8)

Percussion Ensembles

Senior String Quartet

Chamber Choir

Junior Choir (Years 2 and 3)

Senior Orchestra (Grade 2+)

Guitar Ensemble (Grade 1+)

Year 3 Beginner Clarinet & Jsax group (summer term)

Concerts

Upper School

All of the boys have the opportunity to join ensembles that will perform in the annual Senior Christmas Concert and the Summer Ensemble Concert, either playing instruments or singing. All boys taking lessons through the instrumental teachers at school will have the opportunity to perform at the annual Peri prom concert series in the Spring term.

Singing

Singing is an integral part of the classroom curriculum, and all boys sing songs in assemblies and participate in timetabled year group choirs and whole school items.

There is a chamber choir for the particularly able singers that rehearse repertoire in three parts from notation. The Senior Choir represents the school at external events such as the Sutton Music Festival, and the Charterhouse Choral day where boys have performed repertoire including selections from the requiems by Mozart and Fauré.

Exams

Boys will have the opportunity to take their ABRSM and/or Trinity practical exams in-house during May of each year. Sign up for the exams will happen in January of each academic year.

Individual Instrumental Lessons

A team of eight self-employed instrumental music staff give lessons at school on rotation timetables. If you would like your son 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 your son onto a waiting list.

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 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 1st year of lessons - £150, Digital Pianos - £1300, Acoustic Pianos - £3000+ (£500ish 2nd hand)

Timetable

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

Options

Year 1 Group Violin, Group Cello, or Piano

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 son too early, if boys take lessons before they are ready, they can easily become frustrated and lose interest. I advise that boys should only take piano in Year 2 if they are coping well with the curriculum, as missing lessons can be disruptive for some boys. 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.

Daily practice is essential!

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

Does your son do his 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:.....

Postcode:

Phone number: