

**KING HENRY VIII
PREPARATORY SCHOOL**



**MUSIC
HANDBOOK
2016-17**



KING HENRY VIII PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

There is a very strong music tradition at King Henry VIII Preparatory School and there are many opportunities for children to develop their musical talents. Music lessons are taught by a music specialist from Nursery upwards and these weekly sessions allow the children to explore composition, listening skills, music history and music appreciation. We expect all children in Years 3 and 4 to participate in our choirs. Children in Year 3 have a half hour session with one of our music specialist teachers every Thursday morning at 10am; children in Year 4 should attend choir practice at Hales at 8am on Wednesday mornings. There are also voluntary choirs available in Years 2, 5 and 6.

In addition to their classroom music and singing, a large number of children learn solo instruments in school. We have a great number of very talented peripatetic visiting music teachers who deliver high quality tuition during the school day. Children who learn solo instruments (either in or out of school) also have the opportunity of joining one of the many extra-curricular music clubs and groups which take place before, during and after school. There are also solo performance opportunities in concerts throughout the year at both Hales and Swallows.

We should like to take this opportunity to invite you to apply for your child to receive tuition **from September** on any of the below instruments. **Please check the attached list to see if your child is eligible for that instrument before applying as not all instruments are available to children of all ages.**

Piano, violin, viola, cello, double bass, flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, recorder, trumpet, trombone, French horn, tuba, cornet, euphonium, acoustic guitar, electric guitar, bass guitar, drum kit, orchestral percussion and singing. (if there is a demand for it, we may also be able to offer harp and/or bassoon, although there are not currently teachers of these instruments employed at the school)

Please be aware that this letter is directed towards children wishing to **begin** learning these instruments. **If your child is already at the School and receives tuition on a specific instrument, then there is no need to fill in the accompanying forms, unless he/she wishes to learn an additional one.** If your child is in year 3 and taught Mrs Harriss (Woodwind) or by Mrs Harris (Cello) then they will be having a change of teacher next year as these staff do not work at the Hales site on these instruments. Please contact Miss Sainsbury directly to discuss their options regarding this.

If you have any questions about individual music tuition, then please contact Miss Sainsbury by email: sainsburyj@khps.co.uk. Attached are some answers to frequently asked questions, along with the list of instruments available, and also details of the music clubs and groups which children who play an instrument can expect to join.

Yours sincerely

Miss Sainsbury, Director of Music and Performing Arts

Instruments Available for individual tuition at KHPS

<i>Year group</i>	<i>Instruments offered</i>	<i>• Additional information</i>
<i>Reception</i>	Piano	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many children are not quite ready to begin playing an instrument until they are a bit older than this – but if your child is very keen, we may be able to arrange piano lessons. Please talk to Miss Sainsbury
<i>1</i>	Piano	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please apply using the form at the back of this booklet. • Availability all year. • It is essential that your child has a piano / keyboard with weighted keys if your child learns the piano.
	Recorder / fife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available (usually after Christmas), by application using form at the back of this booklet. Lessons are usually in pairs / threes.
	Violin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available all year, as individual lessons, or in pairs / threes. • Instruments available for hire.
<i>2</i>	Piano	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As year 1
	Recorder / fife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons usually in pairs / threes. • You will need to purchase an instrument.
	Violin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As year 1
	Cello	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons usually in pairs / threes. • Instruments available for hire.
<i>3</i>	Piano	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As year 1
	Recorder / fife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please apply using form at the back of this booklet. Some availability during the year.
	Violin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As year 1
	Cello	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As year 2
	Cornet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there is enough demand, we will run a ‘brass club’ for beginner brass players in year 3. Please apply using the form at the back of this booklet.
	Drums / flute / acoustic guitar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are sometimes slots available for year 3 pupils to learn these instruments. Please contact Miss Sainsbury directly if you are interested.
<i>4, 6 and 6</i>	All instruments mentioned in opening letter are available: <i>Piano, violin, viola, cello, double bass, flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, recorder, trumpet, trombone, French horn, tuba, cornet, euphonium, acoustic guitar, electric guitar, bass guitar, drum kit, orchestral percussion and singing. Bassoon and harp possible - contact Miss Sainsbury.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All these instruments are available as individual lessons. Please apply using the form at the back of the booklet. • If there is enough demand, we will continue to run brass lessons in small groups. Please apply using the format the back of this booklet. • Year 3 pupils who have already applied need not apply again.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Please note – Children who have already applied for lessons following the demonstration session in year 3 need not re-apply using this booklet.</i> 		

Details of Music Clubs and Groups at Hales

(These are the groups which have run during 2015-16 There may be some changes to days / details during 2016-17, but this gives you an idea of the huge number of activities available)

MONDAY	
<i>Jazz Band</i>	
Held:	At lunchtime (12.30), in the music room, with Miss Sainsbury.
Outline:	If you've reached, or are near to reaching grade 1 on your instrument, and you'd like to learn jazz – this is the club for you. We need clarinets, saxophones, trombones, trumpets, a drummer, a bass player and a keyboard player. (drummers, bass players and keyboard players...talk to Miss Sainsbury before signing up).
<i>Percussion Ensemble</i>	
Held:	After school (4-5pm), in the music room, with Mr Wagstaff.
Outline:	For those of you desperate to make music of the loud variety – come along and learn all about intricate rhythms and how to keep time with others. Mainly for those already learning percussion, but sometimes availability for novices too.
TUESDAY	
<i>Brass Group</i>	
Held:	In the morning before school (8am)
Outline:	A chance to improve your skills on your brass instrument, with Miss Bassett. The group has played at prestigious events such as the Christmas Concert at Coventry Cathedral and Prize Giving.
<i>Wind Band</i>	
Held:	At lunchtime (12.10) in the music room, with Miss Bassett. Bring your packed lunch with you and eat at the end of rehearsal.
Outline:	A great opportunity to play with other brass and woodwind players. Lots of chances to perform during the year. There is space in this group for two percussion players. Please see Miss Sainsbury if interested in percussion. Otherwise – open to all wind players.
<i>Saxophobía (The Saxophone Group)</i>	
Held:	At lunchtime (12.40) in PR4 – the practice room next door to the music room, with Mr Martin.
Outline:	The coolest crew in school! If you're a saxophonist, even if you've only had a few lessons, Mr Watson will get you playing the coolest jazz tunes around – and teach you how to improvise too!
WEDNESDAY	
<i>Year 3 and Year 4 Choir</i>	
Held:	Before school (8am) in the hall, with Miss Sainsbury (or at Swallows with Miss Bawcutt). COMPULSORY FOR ALL YEAR 4 pupils.
Outline:	The success of our Christmas Cathedral concert depends on the commitment of <i>all</i> of our Year 4s – so come and enjoy some early-morning games and singing with Miss Sainsbury.
<i>String Orchestra</i>	
Held:	At lunchtime (12.40) in the music room, with Mr Kennedy
Outline:	Essential for all string players (excluding guitar). This club will give you the opportunity to practise and improve your playing skills, and it's so much fun to play with other instrumentalists!

THURSDAY	
<i>Chamber Choir – The ‘SS JAM!’</i>	
Held:	Before school (8am), in the music room, with Miss Sainsbury
Outline: final group.	A smaller choir available to Year 4,5 & 6, where the emphasis is on improving vocal skills and singing unaccompanied. The first two rehearsals in September will be open to all, as an opportunity to find out if this is the right club for you. Auditions will then be held to determine the members of the final group.
<i>King Hal’s Singers</i>	
Held:	At lunchtime (12.30) in the hall, with Miss Sainsbury.
Outline:	For Years 5 and 6 , this is the most prestigious choir in school, and members have the opportunity to sing in all the concerts during the year. NO AUDITIONS!!! ALL ARE WELCOME!!!
<i>Orchestra</i>	
Held:	After school (4-5pm) in the music room, with Miss Sainsbury and Mr Kennedy.
Outline:	All string players who have reached Grade 1 standard should be in orchestra. Woodwind, percussion and brass players will be invited once they are of a suitable standard. If you learn a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument outside of school and are interested in joining orchestra then please see Miss Sainsbury to find out if you’re of an appropriate standard.
FRIDAY	
<i>Guitar Ensemble</i>	
Held:	Before school (8.15am) in the music room, with Miss Palmer.
Outline:	This club is for guitar players who have already grasped the basics, and are now ready to play in a group. Your guitar teacher will tell you when you are ready to begin playing in this club. If you learn guitar outside of school and would like to join – please see Miss Sainsbury.
<i>Clarinet Choir</i>	
Held:	Before school (8.15am) in the music room, with Mrs Pandya
Outline:	For clarinet players – a chance to improve your skills. This club has given members the chance to play music of a very high standard in the past.
<i>Flute Choir</i>	
Held:	At lunchtime (12.10) in the music room, with Miss Jones
Outline:	Open to all flautists. A chance to play together and make beautiful music!
<i>Rock Band</i>	
Held:	At lunchtime (12.40) in the music room, with Mr Ross.
Outline:	The line-up of Rock Band is usually: 2/3 guitars, 1 bass, 1/2 percussion players, 1 pianist on keyboards, 2 singers. If there is more demand than places, auditions will be held. This band is offered to year 6s initially, and opened up to other year groups if there is a need. Talk to Miss Sainsbury if you’re interested.

Music Clubs at Swallows:

We currently run two instrumental clubs at Swallows: String Group and Woodwind Group. Details of these will be released to children who play appropriate instruments, during the year.

FAQs

What's the point of having individual lessons – don't they learn music in the classroom?

As much as Miss Sainsbury would love to teach violin, flute, trombone and drums all at the same time in her weekly music lessons, this just isn't possible! The classroom music we teach consists of listening, performance, composition, theory and appreciation work, which the children greatly enjoy but which cannot compare to the one-to-one tuition given by our hugely talented team of peripatetic music staff. If your child is keen on music, then individual lessons are a worthwhile expenditure.

When will lessons take place?

Lessons take place on a rotation system across the school day. For example, if a teacher works in the school on a Monday from 9am until 3pm, then your child's lessons would take place at a variety of different times each Monday. Once your teacher is allocated, he or she will contact you to say which day lessons will take place. **We do not offer lessons that take place solely at lunch times or after school.**

So, do lessons happen during class time in school?

Yes. Music lessons last half an hour, so there will be a maximum of half of another lesson missed in a week, and the same lesson should not be missed every week.

But can't my child have lessons at the end of the day, or in break and lunch times?

No. We have a policy whereby lessons take place during the school day on a rotation basis. Only children learning a second instrument are permitted to have 'fixed slots' in breaks, lunches and after school.

How will my child catch up on work they've missed?

We find that children are very good at asking the teaching staff what they have missed and we also recommend that they ask a 'buddy' in the class to make some notes for them on any key points / homework etc. Staff are always happy to discuss any missed work with children and we do not generally find that there is any problem with this.

How much do lessons cost?

This depends on the teacher, but as a rough guide, a course of 10 half-hour lessons at national recommended rates will cost somewhere in the region of £145 - £180.

Are the music staff employed by the school?

Our visiting music teachers (VMTs) are self employed, and the contract to deliver lessons lies between the teacher and parents. Payment goes directly to the VMT, as does the required notice to stop lessons. This scheme helps to ensure good communication between parents and instrumental teachers. It is a good idea to keep in regular contact with your child's teacher, by email, phone or through a practice diary. There is also a chance to meet your child's teacher face-to-face at school during our 'consultation week', and instrumental report cards are given out in the Lent Term. More details about this will be released nearer the time.

How much practice time does learning an instrument use?

The value of parental support and encouragement at home should never be underestimated, particularly when the initial novelty of playing an instrument has worn off! Pupils who are receiving individual tuition should practise every day, rather than long, irregular sessions. The golden rule is 'little, but often'!

Do I need to own my own instrument?

Not necessarily! The school has a number of orchestral instruments available for hire for the nominal charge of around £28 per term. Pupils are able to use these for a term or two whilst they decide if that particular instrument is for them. The instrumental teachers can also advise on the hire and purchase of instruments.

If my child learns an instrument outside of school time, will they miss out on clubs, groups and performances?

Absolutely not! Every musician is highly valued, and it makes no difference where the lessons take place. If lessons at home are more convenient for you, then the school are fully supportive of this. We would ask that your child makes Miss Sainsbury aware of any instruments learnt outside of school so that they can be fully included in clubs and groups. You would also need to contact Miss Sainsbury directly if your child wishes to be considered for playing in one of our concerts.



Application form for individual instrumental lessons at King Henry VIII Preparatory School

Please complete and return this application form to Miss Sainsbury. She will then ask the Head of Instrumental Music (Mr Kennedy) to contact you and make arrangements for the lessons to commence. He will be able to advise you further on details of teachers, and length of waiting lists etc.

Pupil's name: _____ Form: _____

Address:

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

I would like my son/daughter to receive tuition on the (instrument): _____

Do you already own this instrument? **YES/ NO***

**delete as applicable*

Parent's signature: _____ Date: _____

Please make sure that you have read the FAQs on the previous page before applying for lessons, particularly noting the way in which lessons are scheduled during the school day. Peripatetic staff will not be able to accommodate requests for lessons to take place outside of school hours, or during break and lunch times unless it is a second instrument.

For school use only: Teacher details: _____

Received: _____ Details passed to teacher: _____





Application for a place in a Brass Club – Year 3/ 4

The Brass Clubs are for beginners **in year 3 or 4** who would like to learn a brass instrument in a group. They take place during the school day, and are a good opportunity for the children to start out on their instruments before committing to individual lessons.

Please complete and return this application form to Miss Sainsbury by the start of term. She, or the brass teacher, will contact you to confirm details of the sessions.

Pupil's name: _____ Form: _____

Address _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Cost: Approx. £75* per term.

**This may have to change depending on the number of children who sign up to the groups.*

This includes the provision of an instrument, and music for the first term. After one term, you will be contacted to discuss whether you would like lessons to be continued – these will be offered on an individual basis.

For school use only: Teacher details: _____

Received: _____ Details passed to teacher: _____

