July 2022

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL

A SCHOOL LIKE NO OTHER

INSTRUMENTAL AND CHORAL MUSIC AT CH

At CH we aim to offer as wide a variety of music lessons and ensembles as possible, so as to encourage every pupil to find and nurture their musical talent. We teach around 600 instrumental lessons per week, with many of our pupils learning two or even three instruments. We also have a great many ensembles and choirs so that everyone who wants to can get involved.

This booklet aims to provide all the necessary information for instrumentalists and their parents/guardians:

- Part 1 (pages 2-5) is a list of questions frequently asked by **pupils**, and the answers.
- Part 2 (page 6 onwards) is designed to give **parents and guardians** the necessary information.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me or any member of the team, via music@christs-hospital.org.uk.

Alex Hodgkinson
Director of Music

INSTRUMENTAL AND CHORAL MUSIC

INFORMATION FOR PUPILS
ABOUT LESSONS AND ENSEMBLES

On which instruments do we offer lessons?

Strings	Wind	Brass	Keyboard	Percussion
Cello	Bassoon	Euphonium	Organ**	Tuned/orchestral
Double Bass	Clarinet	French Horn	Piano	Drum kit
Guitar*	Flute	Trombone	Jazz Piano**	**Voice**
Harp	Oboe	Trumpet		Classical
Violin	Saxophone	Tuba		Jazz/pop
Viola				

* *classical/acoustic, electric guitar or bass guitar offered.*

** *for organ and jazz piano you must be at least grade 5 piano*

If you would like lessons on an instrument not currently offered, please contact us.

How should I choose an instrument?

If you are keen to take up an instrument but are not sure which one, perhaps have a look at the list of ensembles (on page 5) and see if there are any you aspire to be a part of. You can then choose an instrument to enable you to do this. Heads of Sections are always willing to help people try instruments before they commit to lessons. Learning less common instruments (e.g. trombone, horn, oboe, bassoon) increases the likelihood of playing in major ensembles.

Do I need to own an instrument, or can I borrow one from school?
Some pupils have their own instruments, but many borrow school instruments. These are provided free of charge (depending on availability) on condition they are well looked after.

How can I apply for a music scholarship?
Music scholarships are awarded at 13+ (Yr 9 entry, internal and external) and 16+ (Yr 12 entry, internal and external). There is a short and relaxed audition where we look for talent, commitment, and potential. Please contact us for further details.

How often should I practise?
As much as your timetable allows! It's always best to practise for short periods regularly, rather than one long session a week. Pupils in the Second and Third Forms (Yrs 7 and 8) are required to attend two half-hour supervised practice sessions per instrument per week. The Music School is open throughout the school day, in the evenings, and at weekends; pupils come in and practise whenever they can.

How does the lesson timetable work?
Those in the Second Form, Third Form, LE, and UF (Yrs 7-10) have lessons during the school day. This is on a rota, meaning the same subject is not missed more than twice per term. Those in the GE, DG, and GR (Yrs 11-13) have their lessons outside of academic commitments.

What performance opportunities are available?
There are many, from regular performances by the Band and the Chapel Choir, to formal evening concerts, to informal Lunchtime Concerts. There is no obligation for non-scholars to perform, but all are encouraged to do so.

Do I have to do music exams?
There is no obligation, but often pupils find these a good way to focus their learning. It is entirely up to you, in consultation with your teacher.

Can I learn more than one instrument?
Yes, and lots of pupils do!

The Music Department is much bigger and busier than the one at my last school; what should I do if I need help?
There is a lot going on at CH and it sometimes it can seem like you have to be in several places at once. The most important thing is to communicate. If you find you have accidentally missed a lesson or rehearsal, or you're not sure which room you're meant to be in, do ask any member of staff. We in the Music School are all very friendly and helpful. Your Houseparent and Tutor will also be able to help.

Can I learn the organ?
Absolutely. There are several organs at CH, and organ lessons are provided for free of charge. We expect pupils to have Grade 5 piano.

CHOIRS & ENSEMBLES

How can I join an ensemble?
Most are by invitation, following a recommendation by your instrumental teacher once you have reached the required standard. If you are keen to join a particular ensemble, please talk to your instrumental teacher.

How can I join a choir?
There are many choirs here, some that require an audition and some that don't. All are welcome, and we encourage everyone to give it a go! Once you are here, speak to your music teacher or listen out for information.

How can I join the Band?
Membership of the Band is by invitation. Those in the Band tend to be at least Grade 5 on any woodwind or brass instrument, or drum kit. This can vary depending on need: the standard for more popular instruments (e.g. flute) may be higher, and certain minority (e.g. bassoon, trombone etc.) instruments may be lower.

MAJOR ENSEMBLES		For who?
Choirs	Chapel Choir	Open to 03 (Yr 8) and above.
	Gospel Choir	Older year groups.
	Schola Cantorum	Advanced. By invitation.
Orchestras	Symphony Orchestra	Advanced. By invitation.
	Intermediate Orchestra	02-GE (Yrs 7-11) By invitation.
	Training Band	02-03 (Yrs 7-8). By invitation.
	Chamber Orchestra	By invitation.
Bands	The Band	Advanced. By invitation.
	Big Band	Advanced. By invitation.
	Training Band	02-LE (Yrs 7-9).

SMALLER ENSEMBLES			
Brass	**Strings**	**Woodwind**	**Choirs**
Brass	Guitar	Saxophone	Various for lower year groups
Junior Brass	GE Strings	Flute	Junior Schola
Tuba Quartet	LE Strings	Double Reed	
Brass Quintet	03 Strings	Clarinet Quartet	
Bugle Band	**Jazz**	**Percussion**	**Other**
Trombone	Senior Jazz	Various	Theory
	Trad Jazz		
	Dixieland Band		

Other ensembles may be formed throughout the year as and when required and available.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TUITION

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

COMMUNICATION

Should you have any questions or wish to raise any concerns, please do contact us at any time. In the first instance it is best to direct any correspondence to the relevant Head of Section. Our Heads of Section are very experienced and are able solve issues quickly and effectively.

All email addresses are *[Teacher's Initials]*@christs-hosptal.org.uk).

- **Keyboard:** Robert Thompson (RJT)
- **Woodwind & Percussion:** Tim Carter (TMC)
- **Singing:** Verity Bramson (SVMB)
- **Strings (including guitar):** Emily Marsden (EJM)
- **Brass:** Steve Titchener (ST)

Additional useful contacts are:

- **Music School Administrator:** *tbc*
- **Director of Music:** Alex Hodgkinson (PAJH@...)

Any member of the music staff will be pleased to help and can be contacted at any time. We will return the communication as soon as we are able.

SIGNING UP FOR MUSIC LESSONS

Please complete the online **Music Lesson Request** form, which grants permission for the music lessons to commence and relevant fees to be charged. In the case of some instruments, there may well be a waiting list for lessons. Once the form has been received, the Music Department Administrator or Head of Section will be in touch with further details (e.g. teacher, lesson time, room etc.).

INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

Although pupils tend to acquire their own instruments, in many instances the school undertakes to provide an instrument of good quality for use throughout a pupil's school career. Please note that we do not have any electric or bass guitars currently available for loan. Instruments are currently loaned to pupils free of charge on condition that they are cared for and well maintained. The cost of replacement or any insurance excess and/or the cost of repairing any damage will, if deemed appropriate by the Director of Music, be charged to parents. Strings, reeds, mouthpieces and music are also currently provided, free of charge to parents, by the school. However, if these are damaged or lost by the pupil, they will be charged for. If a pupil brings their own instrument to school, it must be insured privately and the school will not be responsible for any loss or damage.

LESSONS AND TIMETABLING

We offer one-to-one tuition for 35 minutes per week with one of our skilled and professional specialist teachers. Pupils receive 30 lessons per year in total. Those in the Second Form, Third Form, LE, and UF (Yrs 7-10) have lessons during the school day. This is on a rota, meaning the same subject is not missed more than twice per term. Those in the GE, DG, and GR (Yrs 11-13) have their lessons outside of academic commitments. The flexibility of the timetable depends on the individual teacher; some are here 7-days-a-week, others perhaps just one day. We endeavour to work around the pupil's other commitments as far as we are able.

Pupils can find the times of their lessons in three ways:

- Timetables are displayed on a notice board in the Music School.
- The forthcoming week's music lesson times are published in boarding houses every weekend.
- Notifications are read in House Roll Call the evening before the day of the lesson by way of reminder.

Should the pupil be confused about the timing of their lessons, there are a great many people who can help. They can see or contact their instrumental teacher, and member of the music staff, or their Houseparent or Tutor.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUMENTS

Many pupils learn more than one instrument. In the case of those in 02, 03, LE, and UF (Yrs 7-10), one of their instrumental lessons will be during the school day on a rota, but the other(s) will be ‘fixed’ (i.e. at the same time each week) outside of academic commitments.

FEES AND SCHOOL-SUBSIDISED TUITION

Please see page 13 for the current list of fees for instrumental tuition.

For those studying Music academically (GCSE, Pre-U, or IB levels), the school covers the cost of tuition on one instrument. Music Scholars are entitled to gratis tuition on one instrument as part of their award. Those pupils who receive free music tuition on one instrument may also learn a second instrument and the fees for this will be charged according to parental income. If a pupil decides to opt for more than two instruments, full fees will be charged for the third instrument.

Where a pupil is not taking any of the above-mentioned academic music exams, up to two instrumental lessons will be available and fees will be charged according to parental income. If a pupil decides to opt for more than two instruments, full fees will be charged for the third instrument. Those liable for fees are invoiced termly, in arrears.

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Our Music Scholars are the backbone of the Department. They are given specialist coaching and performance opportunities and are expected to be at the forefront of music life at the school, both as solo performers and in terms of contribution to ensembles. Scholars also enjoy trips to concerts and social events. As well as a fee remission, Scholars have lessons on one instrument paid for by the school. For further information such as requirements and deadlines, please see the school website or contact the Admissions Department.

ABSENCE

If a pupil misses a lesson, they will be contacted by the relevant Head of Section or the Director of Music in order to explain why. Should illegitimate absence be persistent, the Director of Music may write to parents in order to terminate the lessons. In the case of legitimate absences (e.g., illness), instrumental teachers will endeavour to re-timetable lessons where possible.

TERMINATION OF LESSONS

Lessons may be terminated by the Director of Music at any time if a pupil ceases to show aptitude or application, evidence of which is given in written reports.
Lessons may also be terminated by parents, by writing to or emailing the Director of Music. At least **half a term's notice** must be given so that teachers' and room timetables can be adjusted accordingly. Music fees will continue to be charged for at least half a term after notice is given – i.e., if notice is given *before* half term then fees will be charged to the end of that term; if notice is given *after* half term, then fees will be charged to half term of the following term. If notice is given during a holiday period, fees will be charged until the next half term/end of term. Please note that once started lessons will continue each year until notice is given.

PRACTICE

There is a practice expectation for all pupils in receipt of instrumental tuition; there is no doubt that an advanced sense of self-discipline from the pupil is required. Duration and frequency will depend on the individual, and will be discussed with the teacher. The Music School is open every day throughout the day, and at periods in the evenings; pupils are encouraged to come in and practise whenever they have the opportunity. Pupils in the 02 and 03 (Yrs 7 and 8) are required to attend two half-hour supervised practice sessions per instrument per week.

REPORTS FROM INSTRUMENTAL TEACHERS

Parents and guardians will receive a full report on their child's progress in instrumental lessons at the end of each term. Please email the relevant Head of Section (see **Communication** above) should you wish to with to make contact between these reporting times.

MUSIC EXAMS

The school holds music exams (ABRSM and Trinity) at the end of every term. There is no compulsion for any pupil to take music exams – many pupils prefer to progress without jumping these hurdles – but for many they can provide a useful and motivating goal.

Should the teacher and pupil feel that the time is right to sit an exam, the pupil will be registered for the exam through the school. Parents are required to pay for ABRSM and Trinity music examinations; parental agreement is sought for this near the beginning of the term in which pupils are entered. A piano accompanist is provided for each examination candidate where necessary, and they will arrange adequate time to rehearse in preparation for the examination. Additional opportunities available to support the preparation of music exams include mock exams with a member of the music staff, as well as regular aural training sessions.

MUSIC THEORY

Pupils taking ABRSM exams are required to have passed Grade 5 Theory before they can progress to Grade 6 and beyond on their instrument. The school offers various weekly theory sessions, and exams are arranged through school. Parents are required to pay for ABRSM theory exams; parental agreement is sought for this near the beginning of the term in which pupils are entered.

PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT

A piano accompanist will be provided for any exam, concert or other performance as necessary. The pupil and their accompanist will communicate to arrange adequate rehearsal time prior to the performance.

ORGAN LESSONS

Organ lessons are provided free of charge for any pupil who shows an interest. We recommend that the pupil has Grade 5 piano before starting the organ. Please contact us for further details.

CHOIRS AND ENSEMBLES

There are a great many number of opportunities for pupils to perform in choirs and ensembles, from the Chapel Choir and the Band to smaller groups. Pupils can express interest in joining ensembles to their instrumental teacher or another member of the music staff at any time.

All pupils are encouraged to sing, be it in the congregation in Chapel, as part of the whole-school House Singing Competition, or, for more specialist singers, as a member of one of our renowned choirs. All in the Third Form (Yr 8) and above are welcome to join the Chapel Choir. Second Formers have their own dedicated group, the Junior Choir, and there are several specific choirs for younger year groups. For more advanced singers in older years, the Gospel Choir and Schola Cantorum – both auditioned groups – provide challenging opportunities for singers of the highest standards.

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

We aim to offer all of our pupils a range of so performance opportunities, from informal Lunchtime Concerts to more formal evening recitals. The most able musicians in the top year of the school will be offered the chance to play a concerto with the Symphony Orchestra towards the end of their time here. Our ensembles perform regularly, both in school and at exciting external events.

JUNIOR CONSERVERTOIRES

Some of our most talented pupils have successfully auditioned for the junior conservatoires in London (recently the Royal Academy and Guildhall). This is something we encourage and support, and in some cases have been able to assist with travel expenses. It is of course very convenient to have a direct train to London right on our doorstep!

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES OUT OF SCHOOL

We regularly perform out of school; at least twice a year in London, more locally (e.g. Chichester Cathedral), and abroad. We ask that parents make music teachers aware of any non-school events in which they wish their child to participate.

Music Charges	**Termly**
For parents on a full bursary	£0
For parents paying fees up to £338 (per term before any scholarship or grant)	£115
For parents paying fees £339-£715 (per term before any scholarship or grant)	£173
For parents paying fees £716-£1,108 (per term before any scholarship or grant)	£230
For parents paying fees £1,109-£1,435 (per term before any scholarship or grant)	£288
For parents paying fees of £1,436 or more (per term before any scholarship or grant)	£344

(Charges above are per instrument for 30 x 35-minute lessons per year)

Music Charge includes the cost of providing some music for each student's personal use.