

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Form \_\_\_\_\_

***A Guide to Having Instrumental and Vocal Lessons at  
Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls***

**2024-25**



My instrument is: \_\_\_\_\_

My instrument teacher is: \_\_\_\_\_

***Details of my first lesson:***

- Day / Date \_\_\_\_\_
- Time \_\_\_\_\_
- Practice Room Number \_\_\_\_\_

## Who is my instrumental teacher?

Our instrumental teachers are employed by Services for Education Music Service (S4E – formerly called Birmingham Music Service) and are expected to be:

Mr Dharni	Sitar and tabla	<a href="mailto:gurdeep.dharni@servicesforeducation.co.uk">gurdeep.dharni@servicesforeducation.co.uk</a>
Ms Sidhu	Cello	<a href="mailto:kate.sidhu@servicesforeducation.co.uk">kate.sidhu@servicesforeducation.co.uk</a>
Mr Straw	Guitar	<a href="mailto:andrew.straw@servicesforeducation.co.uk">andrew.straw@servicesforeducation.co.uk</a>
Mr Taylor	Brass	<a href="mailto:david.taylor@servicesforeducation.co.uk">david.taylor@servicesforeducation.co.uk</a>
Mrs Kunda	Voice	<a href="mailto:joanna.kunda-jedynak@servicesforeducation.co.uk">joanna.kunda-jedynak@servicesforeducation.co.uk</a>
Mrs Taylor	Clarinet	<a href="mailto:delyth.taylor@servicesforeducation.co.uk">delyth.taylor@servicesforeducation.co.uk</a>
Ms Handy	Violin and viola	<a href="mailto:lydia.handy@servicesforeducation.co.uk">lydia.handy@servicesforeducation.co.uk</a>
Mrs Rossi	Flute	<a href="mailto:nicole.rossi@servicesforeducation.co.uk">nicole.rossi@servicesforeducation.co.uk</a>
Ms Jones	Percussion	<a href="mailto:bethan.jones@servicesforeducation.co.uk">bethan.jones@servicesforeducation.co.uk</a>
Mr Tattam	Bassoon	<a href="mailto:richard.tattam@servicesforeducation.co.uk">richard.tattam@servicesforeducation.co.uk</a>
Ms Lord	Oboe	<a href="mailto:penelope.lord@servicesforeducation.co.uk">penelope.lord@servicesforeducation.co.uk</a>
Ms Marklew	Saxophone	<a href="mailto:zoe.marklew@servicesforeducation.co.uk">zoe.marklew@servicesforeducation.co.uk</a>
Ms Yates	Violin	<a href="mailto:charlotte.yates@servicesforeducation.co.uk">charlotte.yates@servicesforeducation.co.uk</a>

## When will my lesson be?

Lesson times are usually rotated each half term so it is very important that you get into the habit of checking your times as they may change.

You will be added to an instrument 'Team' which you can check on your school Microsoft Teams account. To access the instrument timetable go to Files / Class Materials and the timetable will be there as word document.

Please keep checking this regularly, some of the groups will change in the first few weeks of term (as your instrumental teacher meets you and decides who to pair you with). Also there can be last minute changes (e.g. teacher absence), so keep checking!

## Instruments and Storage

You **must** label the instrument clearly and have at least one of the school address stickers on it, even if it your own instrument. We also recommend you personalise the instrument (e.g. a teddy key ring!) so you can recognise it easily.

You will need to bring in your instrument to school on the day of your lesson (or if you need it for a music extra-curricular activity), **keep it with you during the school day**, bring it to your lessons and the take it home with you on the same day. The only instruments we are able to store in the day are cellos and large brass instruments (e.g. tuba, French horn, tenor horn, euphonium).

If you don't own an instrument you will be loaned one by Services for Education. Please ask your parents to ensure they have covered it on their home contents insurance policy because if it is lost or damaged they may be asked to pay for a replacement. Consumable items (e.g. strings, reeds) must be brought by your parent / carer.

## Music Lessons During School Closure (e.g. snow days)

In the event of school being closed (e.g. snow days etc.) Services for Education are able to offer online lessons and encourage as many students as possible to take advantage of this. Parent / carers should e mail their child's Services for Education teacher (see email addresses on page 2) at the earliest opportunity. The teacher will then send out an agreement form in an e mail. Lessons will be delivered by teachers using the S4E Teams platform (not the school Teams account), and lessons can only take place if a parent / carer is present throughout the lesson.

## How Do I Go about Attending My Lesson?

- Your teacher should be able to see that you are in a music lesson when they take your register but it would still be courteous to let them know in advance.
- Leave five minutes before your music lesson time and make your way down to the practice room. After your lesson make sure you catch up with any work missed or homework set.
- If your lesson is during morning registration please make sure you go to the school office (reception) to get your register mark.
- If your lesson is at lunchtime you might want to consider bringing a packed lunch on that day. We can also supply lunch passes, see us in advance.
- Wherever possible your lesson time will change each half term so you don't miss too many of the same class lesson in the year.

## What happens if I know I have an assessment and cannot attend at my scheduled lesson time?

If you have an assessment or test at the same time as your music lesson then the priority is the attendance of your music lesson (as it is a 'paid for' activity). Please speak to your class teacher in advance and arrange for a different time to take your assessment. You need to do this at least **two school days** in advance of the lesson.

## Pairing

For your first lesson I may have put you in a group based on the information your parents gave me on the instrumental lessons reply form (e.g. how long you have played, approximate standard etc.) Your teacher will assess you over the first few lessons and might decide to change your pairing. Please remember that this may take a few lessons as they only see you for a short space of time each week. S4E teacher decisions about groupings are final.

## Music Exams

- Many of our teachers enter their students for instrumental / vocal examinations (using ABRSM, Trinity or London College of Music examination boards). They will advise you on what you need to do to prepare for the exam, and how to go about getting an accompanist if you need one.
- It is the music teacher's decision as to whether a student should be entered for an exam and which board will be used (ABRSM, Trinity, London College etc); it is not the school's decision. If your parents wish to ask about your readiness for an examination please contact the instrumental teacher directly by using the e mail address in the front of this booklet. Please remember to request permission from school to attend your examination in the same way as any other absence.
- Entries are made by the instrumental teacher or through Services for Education, not by the school.
- Please note – it is unrealistic to expect a teacher to enter a student in the Autumn Term of Year 7 as they will have only met once or twice by the exam board entry deadline.

## Extra-Curricular Music in School

We expect all students who have instrumental or singing lessons to be involved in at least one Music department extra-curricular activity, ideally something related to the instrument they are learning.

These will be advertised in September but are expected to be...

- Brass Ensemble (Monday 12.50-1.10pm)
- Gospel Choir (open to all, Thursdays 8.30-9.10am, Music Room)
- Chamber Choir (for more experienced singers, Mondays 8.30-9.10am, Music Room)
- Sinfonia (orchestral instrumentalists approximately Grade 4 upwards, Tuesdays 12.45-1.25pm)
- String Orchestra (violins, violas and celli from those with a little experience up to approximately Grade 3, Mondays 12.50-1.20pm, Music Room)
- *Rosettes* Swing Band (brass, wind and percussion beyond approximately Grade 4, Thursdays 12.45-1.25pm Music Room)
- Flute Ensemble (Wednesday lunch, 12.50-1.20pm, Music Room)
- Clarinet Ensemble (Friday 12.50, Practice Room 3)
- Saxophone Ensemble (Friday 12.50-1.10pm, Practice Room 2)
- Rock Band (Friday 12.50-1.20pm, Music Room)

## How can my parents communicate with my instrumental teacher?

- For general questions for your instrumental teacher (e.g. music exam entrance, pupil groups etc.) please contact the teacher directly by using the teacher's Services for Education e mail address (see page 2 of this booklet)
- For questions about lesson timings, complaints or specific concerns about instrumental music lessons please contact Mr Collet (Head of Music) [cco@suttcold.bham.sch.uk](mailto:cco@suttcold.bham.sch.uk)
- For queries about payments please contact Mrs Briguglio in the school's Business Office [sjb@suttcold.bham.sch.uk](mailto:sjb@suttcold.bham.sch.uk)

## Area and Central Ensembles

In addition to school groups many of our students play in ensembles organised by Services for Education. Some of these are open entry and others are by audition.

If you would like more information about ensembles please ask your instrumental teacher. Alternatively visit the Music Service page on the Services for Education website

[www.servicesforeducation.co.uk](http://www.servicesforeducation.co.uk)

If you have any questions please ask Mr Collet or Ms Stamoulis

*Mr Collet (Head of Music)*

[cco@suttcold.bham.sch.uk](mailto:cco@suttcold.bham.sch.uk)