



Pate's Grammar School



Music at Pate's

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Our Music Department

Welcome to Pate's Music! Music is regarded as an important activity in the school, and we have a flourishing and welcoming department with dedicated practice rooms and performance spaces.

All students in Years 7-9 have class Music lessons in performing, composing, listening and appraising. Students may then choose in Year 10 to embark upon a course leading to GCSE Music in Year 11, or A Level Music in Year 13, and some students go on to read Music at universities and colleges.



Co-Curricular Music Opportunities

In addition to Music offered in the curriculum, many ensembles meet during Lunchtimes and after school. Our co-curricular programme provides students with plenty of opportunities to rehearse, perform and learn about different styles of music. We hope that there is something for everyone, whatever their ability or instrument.

Students are encouraged to sign up for music groups in September. Students who take individual instrumental lessons in school are expected to participate in at least one co-curricular music activity. We offer an excellent range of opportunities, including:

Group	Entry requirements
Vox	Year 7-9 boys' choir
Voces	Year 7-9 girls' choir
Senior Vocal Group	Open to all
Percussion Group	Open to all
Guitar Club	Open to any guitarists
World Rhythms	Open to all
Year 7 Orchestra	Open to Year 7 instrumentalists
String Group	Open to Year 8-13 string players
Wind Band	Open to Year 8-13 wind, brass, percussion players
Brass Band	Apply to Mr Pilkington-Crowe

By Audition	
Chamber Choir	Year 11-13, by audition
Symphony Orchestra	Year 10-13, by audition Grade 7+ strings, woodwind, brass, percussion
Big Band	By audition with Mr Banfield
Jazz Orchestra	
Year 8 & 9 Rock n Pop group	By audition with Mr Gardner
Year 10 & 11 Rock n Pop group	

Private Instrumental and Singing Lessons

Tuition is available in the following instruments, provided by our peripatetic teachers:

Singing	Violin	Flute	French Horn
Piano	Viola	Oboe	Trumpet
Classical & Electric Guitar	Cello	Clarinet	Trombone
Bass Guitar	Double Bass	Jazz Clarinet	Euphonium
Drum Kit	Harp	Bassoon	Tuba
Orchestral Percussion	Organ	Saxophone	Tabla

With the exception of students in the Sixth Form who are taught in their private study periods, all students are taught on a rota basis. This involves missing part of normal school lessons, although care is taken to ensure that disruption is kept to a minimum. Lunchtime lessons are prioritised for GCSE and A Level Music students.

Most lessons are 30 minutes' duration, although from Grade 5/6 standard, teachers may suggest a longer lesson to fit everything in.

Tuition Fees

Prices are set by the individual teachers. As a guide, most teachers charge around £20 per half hour. You will form a contract with the individual teacher and liaise directly with them for payment and progress reports.

Fees are payable termly at the beginning of each term, on receipt of the bill from the teacher. There are normally 30 lessons over the course of one academic year. Students will normally receive more lessons in the first two terms and fewer in the Summer Term. Bills may vary each term to account for the variation in the number of lessons.

- In the cases of Year 11 and 13 students, the full quota of 30 lessons is reached before Study Leave begins. Students should liaise with their teacher in the event of any issues arising.
- At least one half-term's notice is required **in writing** if a student wishes to cease their private instrumental/singing lessons, although this may vary according to the contract with the individual teacher. Parents/carers will be given one term's notice of any increase in fees.

- Payment details will be sent with the invoices.
- Timetables will be available on SOCS (our co-curricular platform). Students should ask their subject teacher politely in advance for permission to miss part of their lesson.
- If a child is likely to miss their instrumental/singing lesson because of a school trip, or some other reason, their parent/carer must inform the teacher a week in advance so that they can rearrange the lesson time. **If sufficient notice is not given, the teacher will still charge for the missed lesson.**

Instrument Hire

A supply of orchestral instruments is available for hire directly from the County, via Colwell Arts Centre. **Instrument Hire Forms can be downloaded [here](#).**

Ensemble Playing

The fastest progress comes when individual practice and lessons are allied with ensemble playing. To this end, it is expected that all students who have lessons in school will take part in some kind of ensemble – this includes choirs as it develops intonation, rhythm, pitch and other general musical skills.

We will encourage Year 7 to sign up for co-curricular ensembles in September. We will decide on the exact groups once we have all the names in, but this year, Year 7 musicians have enjoyed:

Vox	World Rhythms
Voces	Brass Band
Year 7 Orchestra	Guitar Club
Percussion Group	

Please remember: instruments should be clearly named and insured.

What to Consider when Choosing an Instrument to Learn

What kind of music do you like?

Next time you're listening to your favourite style of music, listen out for instruments that pop up again and again. Perhaps you might like to learn one of these? Don't choose an instrument because your friend plays it; think about what **you** would like to learn!

What kind of ensembles would you like to play in?

Different instruments lend themselves to different performance settings, as follows:

Orchestra: string instruments, woodwind instruments, brass instruments, orchestral percussion.

Choir: voice.

Jazz Band: saxophone, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, piano/keyboard, drum kit, electric guitar, bass, voice.

Rock/Pop Band: piano/keyboard, electric guitar, electric bass, drum kit, voice.

Brass Band: brass instruments, orchestral percussion.

How will you get your instrument from A to B?

A flute is considerably easier to carry around than a double bass or a harp! Will you be able to fit a larger instrument in your car? Would you like to be able to cycle or walk to school with your instrument in tow? All things worth thinking about – but if you want to play a bigger instrument and think the effort is worthwhile, go for it!

A word on the piano

Piano is a really useful instrument to learn because it requires you to read two different clefs, which helps with theory, and gives you a useful understanding of chords, which helps with composition and harmony studies. You can also accompany yourself singing. However, when it comes to ensemble playing, pianists will be limited at first, because the piano is not an orchestral instrument and bands usually only need one pianist. Consider learning the piano alongside another instrument.

**If you really can't decide, orchestras are always on the
lookout
for bassoonists, French horn and viola players - here
at Pate's, and further afield!**

Support your Child's Practice and Progress

Quiet! Students need quiet to practise effectively. It may seem obvious, but practising in a room with the television on or other children playing is no good. Students need to practise in an environment where they can clearly listen to what they are doing.

Space. Ideally one where you can overhear what is going on! Students with large instruments will obviously need more room. String players need plenty of room to bow effectively.

Time. It is impossible to learn an instrument without regular practice. The amount of time depends on the standard of the student, however the most important requirement is regularity - 5 minutes of well-targeted practice a day is better than half an hour once a week. Brass and wind players in particular will suffer if they do not play **every** day as the muscles creating the embouchure will get out of shape. As a rough guide, beginners should practise for 15 minutes a day, up to Grade 5 for 30 minutes a day, and beyond that, an hour a day.

Make it as easy as possible! Often getting an instrument out of its case can be a barrier to practice. Brass and wind instruments can happily live on a stand at home so that they are straight to hand and ready to go. Similarly, keeping a music stand up at all times is a help.

Listen out! If you never hear your child playing their instrument, then they can be making no progress. However, they should not just be playing through their pieces over and over again. You should also hear technical exercises, scales and careful, slow practice on the tricky parts of their piece. If time is short, 5 minutes on 2 difficult passages would be good. If there's no practising, you are probably wasting your money!

Communication. Please check that your child knows what they should practise each week – their teacher will have written instructions in a notebook or on their music. Teachers will have given you either an email address or a phone number; they want your child to make the best progress possible, so please don't wait - if your child has any issue, contact the teacher.

Please note: you will need to buy music for your child (easily available online); it needs to arrive in time for when it is required/the teacher asks for it.

Make sure the instrument comes home every weekend and every holiday!

Applying for Instrumental or Singing Lessons

To register for lessons, [please click this link to complete the application form](#).

Once you sign up, we send your details to the relevant music teacher. They will base their teaching next year on the information received. **It is therefore really important that you only sign up if you are sure that you would like your child to have lessons.**

If the teacher contacts you, please reply even if only to say you have changed your mind. Remember that email from new addresses may arrive in your junk mail.

**We look forward to hearing from you,
and sharing your journey with Pate's Music!**

