



## **Welcome to Aylesbury High School Music Department!**

Music is an integral part of life at Aylesbury High School and a wide variety of music making activities is available to all. We are fortunate in receiving an enthusiastic, highly talented intake of girls who contribute keenly to musical events and who also take responsibility for organising many ensembles.

Co-curricular music includes several ensembles which rehearse weekly, some of which are joint with the boys from Aylesbury Grammar School: Jazz Bands, Symphony Orchestra, Junior String Ensemble (Good Vibrations), Chamber Choir, Chamber Orchestra, Percussion Ensemble, Steel Pans, Rock Bands and more! In some years, tours abroad are also arranged.

A joint music club takes place each week with the students from the Park School, a local Special Needs school, who subsequently take part in our summer and winter concerts.

Senior students are responsible for organising the House Music Festival in which each House presents a short concert, reflecting the enthusiasms and musical strengths of their members. There is an adjudication and celebratory concert.

The concert schedule includes recitals, a Christmas concert, a Winter Concert & Carol Service at St Mary's, the House Music Festival, a Joint Choral/Orchestral Concert with AGS, a Summer Showcase and various performances at local homes, hospitals and churches throughout the year.

### **Music Tuition**

Aylesbury High School actively encourages as many girls as possible to receive instrumental tuition as part of enriching their education; a considerable number of the girls take up this opportunity. Lessons are given in our dedicated music practice rooms during the school day. These tutors are not employed by the school, but work on the school premises during school time under a formal agreement having undergone the requisite safeguarding checks. If you would like your daughter to receive instrumental music lessons from September, please complete the enclosed form and return it to the school along with your other paperwork.

We will allocate students fairly between tutors and pass the completed form to the relevant tutor. The tutor should contact parents directly during the summer to confirm arrangements for September, and thereafter all administration of lessons, fees etc will be a matter for the parent to discuss with the tutor. Parents will need to contact the tutor directly to discuss matters of tuition but if there are problems, then Mr Warner is the point of contact at AHS.

## The AHS System

As is common practice in secondary schools, girls will miss part of a normal lesson but we minimise the disruption by rotating the lessons around different times during the day or week wherever possible, and we limit the number of music lessons for pupils in Years 7 to 11 to two sessions per week to prevent excessive disruption to other studies. Please note, it is not possible to arrange a set weekly lesson time (e.g. during a particular subject lesson or lunchtime) for Year 7 to 11 students. Year 12 and 13 students should arrange their lessons during a study period. Students will not be allowed to take lessons within school with other tutors not listed or organisations except by prior arrangement with the Headteacher.

It is your daughter's responsibility to check the instrumental lessons timetable on the website (found in the Music section of the Student Homepage) the week before each lesson to confirm the time, and then to notify the Pastoral Support Assistant for her year which classes she will have to partly miss so the register can be marked. They should copy in their classroom teacher to give them at least 24 working hours notice that they will be missing some of the lesson. The student must also arrange with the relevant teacher or her friends to pick up any set work she may have missed and finally check the website timetable before school on the morning of her lesson in case there has been a last minute change.

Once girls reach the appropriate standard we expect that they will join at least one of the school's ensembles which practise together at lunchtimes. These are very popular and are where the joy of music creation really comes into its own.

## Costs

Individual instrumental lessons are not funded by the government so this option is provided at a charge to parents. We have agreed the following pricing structure with all of the tutors:

30 minute individual lesson	10 lessons per term	£170 per term
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Some tutors may be happy to teach either a group session or a shorter 20 minute lessons, and these would be charged at:

20 minute individual lesson	10 lessons per term	£115 per term
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30 minute shared lesson for 2	10 lessons per term	£90 per term
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A full list of the tutors and their offer is given on the next page. Pupils will not be able to start lessons until their parent has completed the digital application form and submitted it to Mr Warner.

Please note that the contract for lessons is entirely between you, the parent, and the tutor and the School will not enter into any dispute over fees.

### Notice to Cease, Continuation Next Year and Exam Years

You should give your tutor at least a half term's notice to cease lessons or you may be liable to pay the following term's fee. The tutors will assume that unless otherwise told a student will continue with their lessons the following year so, if this is not the case, notice should be given before the summer half term holiday.

In Years 11 and 13, students sometimes opt to stop lessons during their summer term to concentrate on their exams. The tutors will assume that students will be continuing lessons unless the correct notice to stop is given.

Instrument	Current Tutors	Lessons offered
Clarinet	Mrs Hazel Hellewell	Individual lessons, 30 minute sessions
Flute, Saxophone & piano	Mr Christopher Gater	Individual lessons, 30 or 20 minute sessions
Flute	Ms Rachel Dimmond	Individual or group lessons, 30 or 20 minute sessions
Oboe, Bassoon & Piano	Ms Marian Baker	Individual lessons, 30 or 20 minute sessions
Brass	Mr Steve Kitchen	Individual or group lessons, 30 or 20 minute sessions
Violin, Viola & Piano	Mrs Elizabeth Stahlmann	Individual lessons, 30 minute sessions
Violin & Viola	Mr Tom Horn	Individual or group lessons, 30 or 20 minute sessions
Cello & Piano	Mrs Jane Wheeler	Individual or group lessons, 30 or 20 minute sessions
Piano	Rev Susan Fellows	Individual lessons, 30 minute sessions
Classical Guitar	Mrs Paula Child	Individual lessons, 30 minute sessions
Acoustic & Electric Guitar	Mr Simon Rawling	Individual lessons, 30 or 20 minute sessions
Percussion (Drum Kit & Orchestral Percussion)	Mr Cameron Sinclair	Individual lessons, 30 minute sessions
Voice & Piano	Ms Felicity Davies	Individual lessons, 30 minute sessions

## **Other Information**

### **Instrumental Purchase**

The school is able to purchase instruments on behalf of parents taking tuition in school time, thus saving VAT. For more information see [this document](#)

### **Examinations**

Students may be entered for Associated Board Examinations and Guildhall Examinations. Exams generally attract an additional fee.

### **Contact Information**

For further information or advice regarding music tuition, timetables etc, please contact Mr Mark Warner, Director of Music ([mwarner@ahs.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:mwarner@ahs.bucks.sch.uk) or 01296 388222). Tutors should provide parents with their direct contact information and to facilitate this, we will provide the tutors with your email address or telephone number from our records when requested.