



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: MUSIC CENTRE

Q: WHAT MUSICAL INSTRUMENT CAN I LEARN AT ST WILFRID'S?

Any instrument you like! We will always endeavour to find a tutor for any instrument, so long as there is sufficient demand for it. Currently, pupils at St. Wilfrid's are learning the following instruments:

Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone (Alto and Tenor), Trumpet, Trombone, Drum kit, Electric and Acoustic Guitar, Piano, Keyboard, Voice (Pop, Classical and Musical Theatre).

Q: HOW MUCH DO MUSIC LESSONS COST?

This varies depending upon the length of the individual music lesson (15 / 20 or 30 minutes).

Q: WHO WILL TEACH ME A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

We have a dedicated, well-qualified and enthusiastic team of visiting instrumental and vocal teachers. They all deliver bespoke and high-quality individual music lessons.

Q: WILL I BE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE A MUSIC EXAM ON MY INSTRUMENT?

Absolutely! We regularly have students who take the prestigious ABRSM exams on their chosen instrument. St Wilfrid's has an excellent track record with ABRSM entries, with students frequently achieving Pass with Merit and Pass with Distinction. Drummers are also encouraged to take the Rock School or Trinity exams. Taking an exam on your chosen instrument is beneficial in so many ways: it gives you an end goal and a focus for your practise; it sharpens and improves your technique as you work through the demanding technical exercises; you are introduced to a wide variety of musical genres as you progress through the different grades; if you manage to achieve Grade 8, then this can look great on your UCAS application!

Q: MUSIC LESSONS CAN BE EXPENSIVE. CAN I RECEIVE ANY FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE SCHOOL TO ASSIST WITH THE PAYMENT OF MUSIC LESSONS?

We are passionate about pupils having music lessons and we will 'pull out all the stops' to ensure that finance is not a barrier to starting tuition. There are various funds in school to help parents / carers with music lessons. All you need to do is write into school explaining your circumstances and we will do our very best to help where we can.

Q: WHEN DO MUSIC LESSONS TAKE PLACE?

These take place during the school day and where possible are scheduled on a rotation basis to avoid missing the same lesson every week.

Q: I DO NOT HAVE MY OWN INSTRUMENT - CAN I BORROW ONE FROM SCHOOL?

In recent years, the Academy has invested significantly in building up a stock of high-quality orchestral instruments. We have a wide range of woodwind, brass and string instruments which can be borrowed free of charge.

Q: WILL MUSIC LESSONS STILL TAKE PLACE WITH THE CORONAVIRUS STILL PREVALENT IN SOCIETY?

Yes, they will. Following a robust risk assessment of the music teaching rooms, all lessons will be taking place for the foreseeable future. We have fully embraced Zoom technology, so in the event of pupils having to self-isolate lessons can still continue.

Q: WHERE CAN I RECEIVE FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE MUSIC CENTRE?

If you have any further questions, please email Mr. King (Music Centre Administrator) at TKing@saintwilfrids.com

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: **MUSIC CURRICULUM**

Q: WHAT ARE CLASS MUSIC LESSONS LIKE AT ST WILFRID'S?

We aim to make all of our curriculum lessons fun, challenging, engaging, stimulating and accessible. We want our students to be open-minded and listen receptively to all types of music, from the Renaissance to Rap. We have fully embraced iPad technology and regularly use these in lessons.

We are passionate about introducing students from Year 7 to the language of music, and, as such, learning about musical notation and theory through the integrated processes of listening, performing and composing is at the heart of all that we do.

We want all St Wilfrid's students to:

- become fluent in reading and understanding music in any form;
- develop a love for performing on any instrument, in any genre and in any context;
- enjoy the creative challenge of composing new music using either a musical instrument, iPad technology, or computer software (such as Sibelius).

Ultimately, music is about so much more than dots on a page. 'Mr Holland's Opus', a film starring Richard Dreyfus, tells the story of Glenn Holland, a Music teacher in an American High School, who imparts his love and passion for the subject to his students. At a crucial point in the film, he reminds one of his music students that:

"Playing music is supposed to be fun. It's about heart, it's about feelings, moving people, and something beautiful, and it's not about notes on a page."

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: EXTRA CURRICULAR MUSIC

Q: WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES TAKE PLACE IN THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT?

We have a wide range of fun and stimulating musical activities which take place during the week in the Music Department. The Academy's flagship ensemble is the SATB Choir, which rehearses regularly and provides music for the Academy's regular acts of worship in Blackburn Cathedral. A ceilidh band has recently formed and regularly practises, performing a variety of toe-tapping and lively folk pieces. The String teacher rehearses and directs the String Ensemble, which performs regular at concerts and sometimes in the Cathedral. The Brass Consort rehearses every week and helps to lead the Academy's corporate acts of worship in Blackburn Cathedral. Other groups form throughout the year, including a Rock Band and a Year 7 Choir.

Q: CAN MY SON / DAUGHTER PERFORM IN A CONCERT?

We encourage as many students as possible to perform in our concerts, as it enables them to grow in self-confidence, demonstrate and display their musical skills and talents, and, most of all, to have fun. There are major concerts at the end of each term, as well as more informal concerts dotted throughout the year, such as 'Music in the Library'. We encourage beginners and more experienced performers in the Academy to participate in all of these concerts.