



**SIR WILLIAM
BORLASE'S
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

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The Peripatetic Instrumental and Vocal Service

Introduction

Welcome to instrumental and singing lessons at Borlase. Our peripatetic music service is a vibrant and highly valued part of School life. This booklet shares our expectations of private music lessons at School, and gives you an introduction and overview of the service. Please read it with your child before they start their lessons, and refer to it throughout your contract. The 'Frequently Asked Questions' section at the back of the booklet gives some of the commonly raised queries during the first year of lessons.

Private instrumental and vocal tuition is encouraged at all levels of the School. All students at Key Stage 3 (Years 7 & 8) receive an hour's classroom music lesson per week as part of their curriculum, and Music is a very popular option at GCSE and A Level. However, private music tuition in a particular instrument or voice provides specific skills and increased confidence. Our extensive range of musical ensembles gives Borlase students the opportunity to share and develop their skills together, forging friendships and creative partnerships that continue long after they have left the School. Our peripatetic staff play a vital role in such a learning environment.

As part of their induction programme in September, all new Year 7 students take part in a series of workshops and performance run by the Performing Arts departments, including Music. Many of the practicalities of taking peripatetic music lessons will be covered with the students in person then.

Contacting us

If you cannot find the answer to your query in this booklet, we are always happy to respond to individual questions. Please email parents@swbgs.com, marking the email 'Peripatetic Music Lessons: NAME OF STUDENT'

I look forward to welcoming you in person at one of the many concerts and musical events throughout the coming year.



Mr S Miall
Director of Performing Arts and Music

Our Peripatetic and Singing Staff

We currently offer tuition in over 16 separate instruments (including singing), provided by 15 teachers. We adapt to the needs of our pupils so where there is sufficient demand, we will work to provide lessons in school.

In recruiting our teachers we insist that not only should they be expert teachers, but that they are actively working as players. We think this is an important ingredient in ensuring that our students become accomplished performers as well as players, and this is borne out by the excellent contribution the students make to our school concerts and productions.

Brass	Mr Simon Davie/Mr Robert Vanryne
Clarinet/Cello	Mrs Sue Cossins
Classical Guitar/Acoustic Guitar	Mr David Young
Electric Guitar/Bass Guitar	Mr David Shannon
Flute/Saxophone	Mrs Emma Walker
Harpsichord and Organ	Mr Hugh Robson
Percussion	Mr Mark Vincent
Piano	Mr John Bailey/Mrs Jean Garrett/ Mrs Minor Atabek
Singing	Mrs Gilly Ross/Mrs Leonie Cormack-Cook
Violin/Viola	Mrs Marilyn Vanryne/Mrs Minor Atabek

Our teachers use a variety of teaching methods to ensure excellent progress. For many students, grade exams (Associated Board, Trinity-Guildhall, Rockschooll etc.) structure development. Others will respond better to a more 'repertoire' based programme, or a mixture of both approaches. Your child will be able to discuss these approaches with their new teachers.

Ensembles

Our peripatetic staff are fully supportive of the school's efforts to increase the opportunities available for ensemble playing experience.

The individual staff members speciality skills enable us to offer ensemble experience tailored to the student's need. Several of our peripatetic staff run ensembles within the school, to which any student is welcome, not just those learning with that member of staff.

Currently offered in response to student needs are:

Youth Orchestra, Jazz Band, Clarinet Collective, Brass Ensemble, Flute Choir, Saxophone Ensemble, 'Youth Voices' - a Mixed Vocal Group, *Forte e Fiero* (Y7-9 girls' Choir), *Cambiata* (Y7-9 boys' Choir), Rock Club, Classical Guitar Ensemble.

In addition, advanced younger students may join senior ensembles.

These include: Senior String Orchestra, Concert Band, Symphony Orchestra, Jazz Orchestra, *Madriguys* (Boys, lower 'broken' voices).

A Junior Musical Production, featuring students from Years 7-9, takes place every two years. Recent productions have included *Beauty and the Beast*, *Guys and Dolls* and *The Wind in the Willows*.

Peripatetic Teaching Rooms

The school has invested in the provision of five peripatetic teaching rooms, each with a piano and appropriate equipment. These rooms are also available to students for private practice and rehearsal, providing they have been granted permission from a member of the Music Department.

Instruments

Our students bring their own instruments to school (except piano, organ, harpsichord, and percussion). Teachers will give advice on the hire or purchase of instruments. Students can purchase instruments through our Assisted Purchase Instrument Scheme if they have lessons or use the instrument in school. This allows them to pay the net amount, saving the VAT element of the bill. Please speak to Mrs Moorley in the Finance Department about this.

Instrument Storage

All instruments, other than guitars, should be stored in the large instrument storage cupboard which is to be found in the Recital Room (above the Old Gym). Guitar storage can be found by Music Rooms 3 & 4. All students will receive further details as to how to find these rooms in September.

It is essential that students remember to take their instruments home at the end of the day of their lesson or rehearsal. The school cannot be held responsible for instruments left overnight or over the weekend. All instrument cases should be clearly labelled with your child's name. A luggage tag is ideal for this. Although more expensive, I would also advise hard cases for cellos and guitars.

Lessons

Parents are offered 20 minute or 30 minute lessons for their child, in an instrument or voice of their choice, as indicated on the application form.

We ask our peripatetic teachers to provide 30 lessons over the year (except for Years 11 & 13 who only have 26 due to study leave for public exams). Peripatetic staff can divide these lessons across the three terms as they wish, however they most commonly undertake 11 or 12 in the Autumn term, 10 or 11 in the Spring term and 8 in the Summer term. Payment is for lessons provided, not for lessons taken. With the support of the Headteacher and staff, and in common with most secondary schools, lessons take place throughout the school day on a double rotation system. This means that students should not miss part of the same lesson in any half term (this is dependent on the number of students taught by a given teacher).

It is expected that students notify class teachers if they have a peripatetic music lesson at the beginning of a lesson, and that they catch up on missed classwork and homework instructions. Lesson times are posted on the noticeboard outside the peripatetic music rooms and emailed to parents, at least 1 week in advance. We appreciate your support in reminding your child of their times. With so many students taking lessons, it is vital that your child notifies their peripatetic teacher as early as possible of any tests, coursework assessments, trips or other academic curriculum priorities on the day of their scheduled lesson.

Sixth formers, where possible, must have their lessons timetabled during their free study periods or during break and lunchtimes.

The Contract

We have developed a contract to support the teaching agreement between parents and peripatetic teachers. This has been very successful in ensuring the smooth running of the service, to the satisfaction of all concerned. In particular it has helped to motivate and retain our superb staff, which has to be good for the students. Please read this document carefully.

Practice

Structured practice at home is vital to nurturing young talent and developing musical skills. Your child's new teacher will advise on how to practice. Some general tips:

- Half an hour per day is recommended minimum. This does not have to be in one sitting. Indeed, some of the best practice is done in 2 or 3 shorter slots during the day. Try scales with breakfast!
- Always set a focus for practice. 'Just playing' is always fun, but can be much more effective if you concentrate on dynamics, rhythm etc.
- Just as in learning to read, it is so important that parents and other family members take an interest in a student's musical progress. Ask them to explain what they learnt in their lesson that week, or even get them to teach it to you!
- Be patient! Learning a musical instrument is not easy.

Fees

Every four years we conduct an audit of other schools, music centres and other music providers, to ensure that our fees remain competitive. Current fees are detailed in the contract.

The school runs a special fund to ensure the instrumental or voice education of any pupil whose parents require assistance in meeting payments. For further information on this, please contact Mrs Das in the Finance Office.

Administrative Support

The peripatetic music staff undertake their own administration, including: invoicing, timetabling and answering student/parent queries. However, the school provides support to our teachers in the form of: curriculum and exam liaison; providing INSET training and recruitment and organisation of new students.

We will also support our staff in instances of repeated lesson absence and non-payment of fees.

Assessment for Learning

There are several ways in which progress is marked and communicated to parents:

- teachers' own records
- termly orders to parents
- annual reports to parents
- examinations as appropriate
- participation in school ensembles, etc.

A report is also sent to parents for every new pupil after one term of learning. Following this report, the parent is able to withdraw their child from classes if they wish, without incurring additional fees.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I find out my child's lesson time

Lesson times are posted on the notice board in the Old Gym Foyer outside the peripatetic music rooms at least one week in advance. Timetables are also emailed to parents (and often students as well) on a weekly basis. It is your child's responsibility to check this time regularly as there may be some last minute unavoidable changes. It should also be noted in the homework diary or google calendar.

What if my child needs to change their time for a class test, trip, or other academic commitment?

Students should discuss this with their teacher as soon as possible, who will make every effort to switch slots with another student. They will not be able to do this on the day of the lesson.

How can I support my child if they are struggling to remember to attend their lesson?

There is so much to remember for new students to the school, and missed lessons must be paid for. Your child will know to look at the notice board a week in advance. These strategies have helped students to get into good habits:

- Ask them to write the time down in their homework planner or google calendar a week in advance, so you can check and remind them to bring in their instrument.
- Ask them to tell their class teacher at the beginning of a lesson that they will be going to their music lesson at a given time.
- Ask them to tell their time to a friend, who can remind them before their time.

How should I inform my child's teacher of planned absence from School?

Any general planned absence should first be addressed in writing to the Headteacher. Please also let the school office know specifically about peripatetic lessons in writing (addressed to the relevant peripatetic music teacher) at the earliest opportunity. This will help them in planning their lessons. Students should advise their teacher of any forthcoming trips or lessons that mean they will be unable to attend a lesson.

What happens if my child is unwell and cannot attend school on the day they have their lesson?

Please read p.5 of the Contract. Teachers will endeavour to make up lessons missed by genuine, explained reasons such as illness, as their schedule allows. This is at their own discretion. Please follow the guidance for reporting illness to the school in the Student Planner.

What happens if my child forgets to attend a lesson?

Please read p.5 of the contract. Students should make every effort to check, record, and remember their lesson time, since lessons missed in these circumstances cannot be made up. Forgetting an instrument is not seen as a genuine excuse, since teachers would be able to cover aural and theory work.

My child is not making as much progress as I expect. Why might this be, and how can I support them?

There are any number of reasons for slower progress. Sometimes the student is not practising enough, or in the right way. See the guidance in this booklet on good practise habits. Sometimes even good students can seem uncharacteristically demotivated by their musical studies. Try talking to them about whether they have appropriate goals. Do they need a break from grade exams? Perhaps they need the challenge of a grade exam? Are they playing with other musicians and varying their musical activity? Tell them to speak to Mr Miall or their music teacher about joining one of the school's ensembles, or consider joining a county or national ensemble. If you have any concerns, it is appropriate to contact the peripatetic teacher through the School Office and discuss these with them further.

I want to stop my child's music lessons. How much notice should I give?

We would always hope to resolve any concerns or worries before this point, so please contact us at parents@swbgs.com to arrange to speak to Mr Miall. If you decide that it is in your child's best interests to stop lessons, please read carefully p.6 of the contract:

If you wish to discontinue your child's lessons **one full half-term's notice must be received in writing.** This means notice must be given, at least, **by the final working school day of the previous half term or term.** E.g. in order for lessons and payment to stop at the end of the second Autumn Half Term, notice must have been given, at the latest, by the final working school day of the Autumn Half Term.

Can I adjust my child's invoice if they have not attended several lessons?

No. Your payment is for lessons provided and not for lessons taken. If a pupil misses more than 2 lessons in a term, parents will be notified via email. Please read the guidelines about missed lessons on p.5 of the contract.

Peripatetic Music Teaching Staff Biographies

The Music Department at Borlase is very proud to have a team of well qualified and experienced peripatetic staff, who are also all professional musicians in their own right. Some of our peripatetic music staff also undertake wider roles within the department including running extracurricular ensembles. For further information about their qualifications and expertise please read their individual biographies below.

Mr J Bailey: Piano

John Bailey FRSM MMus (Jazz), has worked professionally as a jazz and classical pianist, musical director, session musician, accompanist, arranger and composer for the last 20 years. Since moving to London and completing his training at Guildhall School of Music he has worked internationally as a performer in a wide range of musical genres including classical recitals and various jazz and tango music ensembles. John currently teaches Piano in a number of schools in the London area.

Mrs M Atabek: Violin, Viola, Piano

Minor is passionate about teaching violin and piano and is also an accomplished performer with experience of playing in professional orchestras and quartets. She is from Istanbul where she taught and worked in Istanbul University State Conservatoire, undertook her MA in Violin Performance in Istanbul Technical University MIAM and played in various professional orchestras. She has been living in the UK since 2008, working for Berkshire Maestros for many years and currently works in schools in the Berkshire and Buckinghamshire areas. Minor specialises in teaching young learners, ABRSM, Trinity and performance preparation and also teaches pupils from all age and levels. She loves charity work and runs free online music and instrument classes for primary school aged children who need music education in Turkey.

Ms L Cormack-Cook: Voice

Leonie graduated from University of Nottingham with a First in Music & German, where she held a choral scholarship and spent a year singing at the Augustinerkirche whilst studying in Vienna. After training as a secondary school teacher of Music and German, and while teaching part time, she continued her vocal studies with Marie McLaughlin and trained with English National Opera on their Opera Works programme in 2011. Before taking time off with her young family, Leonie performed extensively as a soprano soloist in Oratorio, Opera and Film. Leonie now combines teaching singing and leading children's choirs with a career in the field of mental health, and is currently studying MSc Psychotherapy.

Mrs S Cossins: Woodwind, 'Cello

Sue studied Clarinet at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London, and plays Clarinet and Cello for numerous societies in the area. She is principal Clarinet of the Slough Philharmonic orchestra.

Mr S Davie: Brass; Director, Borlase Jazz Bands

Having been a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, Simon went on to study at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and Goldsmith's College, University of London. His teaching career has seen him hold the position of Director of Music at a number of secondary schools. In recent years Simon has stepped out of the classroom and is now focused on instrumental teaching and conducting in a number of schools in the High Wycombe and Marlow area, including the Chiltern Music Academy.

Mrs J Garrett: Piano; School accompanist

GGSM(Hons) Lond; ARCM: PGTC: LBCA: FISM: Certificate of Advanced Studies GSMD

Conservatoire trained, Jean has performed professionally in concert halls in the UK, across Europe, Iceland and the USA working alongside top international string, woodwind players and singers. Jean is a very experienced teacher and coach.

Mrs G Ross: Voice; Director, Cambiata Boys' Choir

Gilly has worked extensively as a professional soprano with various conductors in London for many years. As an educator she has given master classes, helped form and train choirs and been thrilled to be involved in training young people, helping them to realise their dreams, teaching at Borlase for 20 years and others in the area. Gilly is married to harpsichordist and organist Alastair Ross; together they formed and recorded with their own group, Concerto Delle Donne, and ran a children's choir for 8 years in which their four boys, now all musicians, sang.

Mr D Shannon: Electric Guitar, Acoustic Guitar, Classical Guitar

Dave has been teaching electric, acoustic and classical styles of Guitar for over 10 years, ranging from complete beginner all the way through to diploma level. When he is not teaching he also enjoys working as a composer and session guitarist, as well as performing with a couple of the UK's leading function bands and accompanying original creative artists.

Mrs M Vanryne: Violin, Viola

Marilyn studied at Amersham Music Centre, Guildhall School of Music and Drama and The Royal Academy of Music. Leader of the Slough Philharmonic Orchestra for the past 30 years, she also plays in the St John's Chamber Orchestra and has been leader of the Misbourne Orchestra and Crendon Chamber Orchestra. In the past, Marilyn has coached the upper strings for Buckinghamshire County Youth Orchestra and conducted Elementary Strings and Youth Strings at Amersham Music Centre. She often leads for local Choral and Operatic Societies and currently teaches at 3 local grammar schools.

Mr R Vanryne: Brass; Director, Brass Ensemble

Robert began playing the cornet at the age of 9 completely by accident when his brother was given one to try out. After a number of years with Trevor Steventon at the High Wycombe Music Centre, Robert went on to do a BMus at Royal Holloway College, London University, then postgraduate performance studies on the trumpet with Michael Laird at the Royal College of Music. For most of his working life Robert has specialised in the performance Baroque music and has taught at both school and at conservatoire level. When he's not performing or teaching, Robert also makes trumpets in a workshop at the bottom of his parents' garden.

Mr M Vincent: Percussion

Born in Reading, United Kingdom, Mark started drumming at the age of 4 then took up private lessons through the Berkshire Music service from 7 years old. At the same time as also taking piano and recorder lessons, drumming quickly turned into a deep rooted passion for Mark. Mark is best notably known for drumming with The Arusha Accord. With multiple releases on Basick Records, the band has toured extensively throughout the UK and across Europe, having gained fans worldwide with their virtuosic and extremely technical sound. Mark was able to stretch his potential even further by graduating in 2015 with a 2:1 BA (Hons) in Music from Oxford Brookes University, where his gift to move between genres fluently with different projects and musicians was strengthened and used to its best ability. Among these were the musical theatre productions of RENT, Spring Awakening, Footloose and Rock of Ages. Mark's ethos for teaching stems from creating a solid framework to firstly build strict technique, a musical ear and a strong inner sense of pulse. Lessons are tailored to each pupil's needs and aspirations. For those wishing to study drum kit grades, all exam boards are welcomed including Rockscool, Trinity Rock & Pop, and Trinity College.

Mrs E Walker: Woodwind

BMus Hons PGCE LLCM (P) ALCM (TD) – Flute and Saxophone

Emma is a graduate of The London College of Music where she studied flute, piccolo and saxophone. She enjoys playing all styles of music and has performed in venues such as The Royal Albert Hall, The Royal Festival Hall and St John Smith Square in London. Emma is a respected woodwind teacher in Buckinghamshire working for Buckinghamshire Music Trust and coaching players for the County Youth Orchestra. She has previously worked at the London College of Music Junior College and as a classroom music teacher at a secondary school in West London.

Mr D Young: Acoustic Guitar, Classical Guitar

David has been a professional guitarist and guitar teacher for over 25 years. He produced a number 1 classical guitar album of Beatles music by Carlos Bonell and spent 7 years as one of the guitarists in the Queen musical "We Will Rock You" in London's West End. David's own original band Space Elevator's 2018 album reached the top 20 of the official UK rock chart. He also spent 5 years as the classical guitar specialist teacher to third year degree students at The Institute in London.

