



Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you regarding a change to our payment process for Individual Music Lessons. Unfortunately, we are no longer in a position where we can continue to subsidise Individual Music Lessons. As of September 2020 we will be charging a revised fee for Individual Peripatetic Music Tuition. This decision has not been taken lightly and purely serves to cover the cost of our visiting music tutors. We still remain cheaper than most other providers and are committed to continuing to provide excellent, personalised music lessons for your children.

At present, lessons are conducted via video call. We will be following government guidelines on social distancing measures and are in the process of developing a policy which ensures we can continue to provide Individual Music Lessons and extracurricular provision in a safe and meaningful way.

Protected areas:

Instrument hire will remain free and we will **not** be charging for extracurricular clubs such as; Swing Band, Orchestra, Samba, Choir etc. **It is an expectation that your child attends an ensemble relevant to their instrument.** These groups are vitally important for developing ensemble skills and providing a platform for students to work with each other in new and challenging ways.

The Performing Arts are an extremely important aspect of student development and it remains a high priority for the school to continue provision across the Arts. **We would not want cost to become a barrier to your child's involvement in Music at Sydenham School.** Students in receipt of **Free School Meals** will be exempt from charges and students who are eligible for **Pupil Premium** funding will be charged at a reduced rate of 40%.

The cost of music lessons for individual tuition at Sydenham School

Fees from September 2020 for a term of, on average, **10 lessons** for all individual instrumental lessons at school (please note that some terms are longer than others therefore students may receive more than 10 lessons):

| Instrument | Individual lesson |
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| Individual – 25 minute lessons Woodwind, strings, drums, guitar, drums, singing, piano, brass etc. | £137 per term (£13.70 per lesson on average) |
| Shared – 25 minute lessons Woodwind, strings, drums, guitar, singing, piano, brass etc. | ½ rate for 2 sharing - £68.50 (£6.85 per lesson on average) |



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| Students in receipt of Pupil Premium – individual 25 minutes | £53.50 per term (£5.35 per lesson, on average) |
| Students in receipt of Free School Meals – individual 25 minutes | Free |
| Hire/maintenance of instrument | Free |
| Extracurricular clubs e.g. Samba, choir, jazz band | |

Please note that students in receipt of **Free School Meals** will **not** be charged. When we are arranging lessons please let us know that you are eligible for this concession. Payment for lessons will be due during the first week of a new term (different rules apply for September) and the total cost for, on average, 30 lessons across the year is £411. Each lesson is approximately £13.70 (dependent on the number of weeks in any given term). As some terms are longer than others we work on a basis of, approximately, 10 lessons per term.

The Music department is committed to working closely with families to support our young musicians and we hope to return to face to face lessons as soon as it is safe to do so. In the meantime, we continue to offer weekly, live, video lessons with your child's Peri teacher. Please contact Ms Durban (CL Performing Arts & PE) on e.durban@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk for further information.

If you have any questions regarding the changes detailed above, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Yours Sincerely

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| Ms E Durban | Ms C Finch |
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