

**GREAT THINGS
EXPECTED**



SWPS MUSIC DEPARTMENT

**PARENT/CARER GUIDE
TO
ONE-TO-ONE MUSIC LESSONS**



**SIR WILLIAM PERKINS'S
SCHOOL**

A message from the Director of Music...

Welcome to the Music Department here at SWPS. Music is a fundamental part of human emotion and expression and I strongly believe that each and every student should have the opportunity to learn a musical discipline.

Learning a musical instrument as a child not only boosts memory capacity, pattern recognition and fine motor skills, but it also develops a child's social skills, resilience and responsibility, while being a vehicle for self-expression and self-achievement. And it is never too late to start learning.

In addition to their one-to-one lessons, any student who learns an instrument would be welcomed (and encouraged!) to attend one of our numerous co-curricular groups, which offer an invaluable opportunity to build a sense of friendship, belonging and discipline.

This booklet sets out some useful information about one-to-one peripatetic lessons and includes details of some of our co-curricular groups. Hopefully, you will find the answers to any immediate questions below, but should you have any queries regarding music at SWPS, please do not hesitate to contact me at srobertshaw@swps.org.uk.

Sophie Robertshaw
Director of Music

General overview of peripatetic lessons

Peripatetic teachers aim to offer thirty lessons of 35 minutes over the course of one academic year. This often works as ten lessons per term but may vary in accordance with term dates and weeks per term. Lessons are priced at £27.50.

Timetabling

Timetables are created by each peripatetic teacher. Lessons are timetabled throughout the school day on a rotational basis. Students should check their lesson time in the appropriate Microsoft team, excuse themselves from their lesson or activity and attend their one-to-one peripatetic lesson at the appropriate time.

Students in Years 7-9 are timetabled throughout the school day on a rotational basis.

Students in Year 10 are also rotated throughout the school day. Should a student in Year 10 have more than one peripatetic lesson (including LAMDA), then one of these lessons will rotate throughout the day, and the other lesson(s) will be in a fixed slot (during a non-academic lesson, lunchtime, before or after school slot, or a free period).

Students in Years 11-13 (inclusive) are timetabled in a fixed slot (during a non-academic lesson, lunchtime, before or after school slot, or a free period).

Application process

On completion of the application form, a student will be allocated to one of our peripatetic teachers. Once allocated, we will send an introductory email to both yourself and the peripatetic teacher. From then on, you will have direct contact with your child's peripatetic teacher. The peripatetic teacher will send you their contract, which you will need to sign and we will then add your child to a SWPS Microsoft Team. Here they will be able to view their timetable, contact the peripatetic teacher if required, and check for general notices.

Contracts, payment and notice periods

Individual peripatetic teachers are responsible for sending out their own contracts. Please ensure you have read, understood, and signed the terms and conditions of the contract before commencing lessons. Should the student wish to terminate lessons, please adhere to the notice period given in the individual contract, informing both the peripatetic teacher and the Director of Music. Please note: one-to-one lessons are a contractual agreement between peripatetic teacher and parent/carer only.

Examinations

Peripatetic teachers may recommend students take examinations as and when is appropriate. SWPS is an ABRSM examination venue. Examination entry forms will be circulated amongst the peripatetic teachers each term. Strict deadlines for exam entry will apply.

Reports

Peripatetic teachers are not required to send written reports home. Should you wish to inquire as to the progress of your child, please do contact the peripatetic teacher in the first instance. Should you have any queries or concerns, please address these to the Director of Music.

Insurance

The School's insurance does not cover personal instruments and these should be insured through your own insurance company. The department has a purpose-built instrument storage room but cannot accept responsibility for any damage to instruments belonging to students. Instruments must be taken home at the end of the week and during holidays.

Instrument Hire

The department has several instruments available to hire. If this is of interest, please indicate this on your application form and the Director of Music will be in touch to advise further.

Co-curricular Clubs

Below is a list of some of our co-curricular clubs on offer here at SWPS. This list is not exhaustive, and we are always looking for ways to involve students in musical performances around the school.

Melba Choir

A choir for those students in Years 7-9. This group is a welcoming, non-auditioned group who sing music from any and all genres.

Vox Choir

A choral group for those students in Years 10-13. This group is also non-auditioned and performs at our large, set-piece events such as the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

Jarvis Orchestra

A training orchestra designed for any instrumentalist working at a beginner up to Grade 3-4 level. If your child can play at least one note on their instrument, we want to see them in Jarvis!

Symphony Orchestra

Our large Symphonic Orchestra consists of approximately 50 students playing at Grade 5 and above level. This group is by audition/invitation only.

Chamber Orchestra

An exceptional instrumental ensemble working at Grade 8+ level, for our music scholars and those at Key Stage 4 and 5 with an advanced level of performance.

Flute Choir

An advanced flute group for those instrumentalists working at a Grade 5 and above level. This group allows students to explore our selection of more specialist instruments such as the alto flute and piccolo.

Swing Band

Our Swing Band is open to those instrumentalists wishing to explore a big band/swing or jazz style, often performing at school events and playing those big band show tunes!

Atrium Beatz

This is our half termly, informal performance opportunity where any student is able to sign up to perform to the SWPS community during a lunchtime. This can be any performance, any style and by any group of students!



ADMISSIONS DEPARTMENT: 01932 574900 OPTION
3 BURSARY / FINANCE: 01932 574900 OPTION 2

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