



THE FRIENDS OF
CAMPBELL COLLEGE
PIPE BAND

Handbook Campbell College Pipe Band



Bandmaster's Welcome

Welcome to Campbell College
Pipe Band!

If you are reading this your son has expressed and interest in joining the the wonderful world which is music and marching with CCPB. We are here to help your son get the best experience possible during his time with us.

My name is Grahame Harris. I am an Old Campbellian and current Bandmaster for the school pipe band. It is my job to organise all aspects of practice and performance for the boys, engaging with them on a weekly basis to ensure that a continuous learning approach is sustained and they develop their musical talents.

This handbook is designed to give you some information about the band and let you know how it all works. There are many aspects to a pipe band which you may not be familiar with and the commitment level, as with any musical instrument, can be quite high. However, if your son perseveres, he will develop a lifelong passion and have the opportunity to travel the world playing music.

So, without further ado, let's dive in!



History

Campbell College Pipe Band was founded in 1909 by members of the Cadet Force and is currently one of the oldest active pipe bands in Northern Ireland.

The first instruments and uniform were donated by a local army section who also supplied a piping tutor to come in and teach the junior boys. Since then there have been many iterations of both uniforms and instruments, however the one thing that remained constant was the devotion of members and a pride in being able to represent their school.

For the first number of years, the band performed only at ceremonial school occasions such as Speech Day. In 1937 they played at Ravenhill, and in 1942 paraded through Portrush. These slightly more high-profile events lead to an invitation for the band to lead the V-E Day parade in Portrush on 8 May 1945.

A defining moment in the band's history came on 1 June 1951, when the College was granted a Royal Charter by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth (latterly HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother) and Princess Margaret. Members had the opportunity to perform for the Royal entourage in the turning circle on a beautiful summer's day, under the command of Drum Major S.S. Johnston.

Many other auspicious occasions were to follow including many annual inspections and Lord Mayor's Shows. In 1995 the band attended its first battle fields tour in France and Belgium, playing during the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate on 5 April and later playing at The Ulster Tower, Thiepval.

For the 800 or so pupils that have played over the years, there is a satisfaction in knowing that they have been given an opportunity that few other gentlemen of their age have had. They have developed lasting friendships and excelled at their instrument, working in a team to produce wonderful music. Long may it continue!



What We Do

We perform at over 20 events each year and regularly provide senior members for solo performances at various events.

Some highlights from the last few years include:

- Belfast International Tattoo, SSE Arena
- NI Centennial Tattoo, Carrickfergus Castle
- Commonwealth (CPA) Conference, Stormont

Whilst the big events are always exciting, we believe it is equally important to give back to our local community. Each year we visit the residents of care homes in close proximity to the college to provide them with entertainment and interaction with a younger generation.



ACF Pipes & Drums

For those aged 12 and over, monthly trips to Edinburgh are available to play with the Army Cadet Force Pipes and Drums in Redford Barracks. They usually take place over a weekend with boys leaving on a Friday night and returning on Sunday night.

It is freely available to CCPB members and those attending will get the opportunity to play at Edinburgh Castle and may even meet the King at Balmoral!



International Tours

International tours are biennial and focused on historical education in addition to performance. For our most recent tour we travelled to the beaches of Normandy and visited the graves of several Old Campbellians to pay our respects.





Ver Sur Mer, July 2023

How to Join

There are six disciplines within the Pipe Band and so six different paths to becoming a member:

- Drum Major
- Bagpipes
- Bugle
- Bass Drum
- Tenor Drum
- Snare Drum

If your son is interested in any of the above disciplines then the first step is to decide which type of tuition will be right for them. If you are unsure where they should start, please contact the Bandmaster to discuss their options.

Regardless of your son's age or previous musical experience, our team of tutors is here to help.



Available Tuition

Band Practice

Tuesdays 15.30 - 17.30

Band practice incorporates beginner lessons for **Drum Major**, **Bass Drum** and **Bugle**. Other disciplines focus on more advanced topics such as musical performance in a group, instrument maintenance, uniform maintenance, marching drill and deportment.

Open Class

Wednesdays 15.00 - 17.00

Our open class provides beginner lessons for **Bagpipes**, **Bass Drum**, **Tenor Drum** and **Snare Drum**. The class can be viewed as a drop in session for supervised practice where beginners mix with more advanced students. As it is a classroom environment, the actual time a tutor will spend with any individual may vary each week depending on the numbers attending.

Private Music Lessons

Once per week

30 minutes

Private music lessons are available for **Bagpipes**, **Snare Drum** and **Bugle**. Lessons are conducted either individually or in small groups and operate on a rotating timetable throughout the school day to minimise the time missed from any one subject. If you would like to sign up for lessons, hard copy forms are available from your son's music teacher or you can sign up via the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/N8J9LXaDxP>

Please note that the cost of Private Tuition is invoiced in advance for blocks of 10 lessons by the relevant tutor in accordance with the School's Music Tuition Policy.



Costs

**Practice Chanter/
Drum Pad & Sticks**
£45*

Practice Chanters or Drum Pads and Sticks are a one off, upfront purchase. They are your son's to keep even if they decide not to continue with the instrument.

CCF Membership
£100* *pa starting in Year 10*

This is charged through Parent Mail and gives your son access to an instrument and uniform. It also lets them fully participate in band activities such as external performances, band camps or trips away.

Private Music Lessons
£150* *for 10*

All private instrumental tuition within school is charged at a set rate, regardless of instrument, and this rate is determined annually by the Music Department.

** Prices are correct as of 09/2023*

No Cost

Pipe Band Uniform

Uniform is provided except shoes. Any black shoes are acceptable, however most members like to wear patent shoes.

Instruments/Equipment

All instruments/equipment not listed above are provided. This includes: Bagpipes, Drums, Bugles, Maces, Instrument Cases, etc.

Tuition

Band practice and our open class are completely free to attend.

ACF Pipes & Drums

All costs associated with activities and trips for the ACF are covered.

Uniform and Instrument Maintenance

At a cost of £4,000 per member, equipment is expensive. Care should be taken to ensure it is maintained properly. Please keep the following in mind:

Do not lend!	Your son has signed for each item and is responsible for any damage beyond reasonable wear and tear. Anyone that needs to borrow for any reason should do so through the Drum Major or Bandmaster.
Storage	Find a place at home where their instrument and uniform can stay when not in use. Ensure uniform is always dried and stored as soon as it's taken off and instruments are stored in their case when not in use.
Room temperature	Keep instruments at approximately room temperature (don't leave it in the car overnight or on a very hot day). Avoid leaving it next to a radiator or beside a window that receives a lot of direct sunlight; equally your garage or utility room may be too cold.
Pets	Horse hair and ostrich feather smell amazing to cats or dogs and leather straps are wonderful to chew... Keep uniform and instruments away from pets of all sizes!
Rain	As a CCPB Member, sometimes you will have to play in the rain. On those unfortunate occasions, remove excess water from items with a cloth and leave to air dry at room temperature before storing.
Instrument cases	We provide a padded case that is designed to protect the instrument from knocks and scrapes - use it!

Friends of CCPB

The Friends of Campbell College Pipe Band are a group of former pupils, parents and friends set up to support and fund raise for CCPB. This culminates in an annual Burns' Night each January where the band plays, haggis is served and a foot stompin' ceilidh ends the night.

Meetings are held roughly four times per year with an agenda focussing on arrangements for upcoming events. In addition, the Bandmaster is often on hand to give a brief report of how the band is doing and answer any questions.

For more information, please contact Andrew Gildea and if you haven't already, please like and follow us on [Facebook!](#)

Andrew Gildea, FoCCPB Secretary
friendsofcampbellpipeband@gmail.com
07729 421 432

Where to See Us

Throughout the year there are quite a lot of events involving CCPB. Here are a few annual performances that can be a great place to see the band in action:

Year 8 Induction

What better way to start your journey in big school than with the skirl of the pipes! It's an emotional moment for parents and boys alike as they take their first steps into the college through the middle of the pipe band.

OC Hallowe'en Ball

Marching through the throng of guests, we announce dinner and lead everyone to their seats. The Hallowe'en Ball takes place in October on the last Friday of term.

Burns' Night

We start the night in Central Hall as everyone arrives and conclude the dinner with a rousing rendition of Auld Lang Syne. Burns' Night takes place on the Friday closest to 25th January each year.

Speech Day

Once the prize ceremony is over, we play as everyone comes out on to the lawn for strawberries and cream. For those in Year 14, this will be their last performance with the band and so it's always a special occasion. Speech Day takes place in the last week of June.

Rank Structure

Bandmaster

By appointment of the Headmaster to oversee all Pipe Band activities

Drill Instructor

Bagpipe
Instructor

Tenor & Bass
Drum Instructor

Snare Drum
Instructor

Bugle Instructor

By appointment of the Bandmaster

Pipe Major

Drum Major

Bugle Major

Awarded annually to a Sergeant

Responsibilities include: leading relevant corps at practices/events

Pipe Sergeant

Drum Sergeant

Bugle Sergeant

Awarded annually to a Corporal

Responsibilities include: leading corps if no relevant Major present, solo performances

Pipe Corporal

Drum Corporal

Bugle Corporal

Awarded to Lance Corporals upon repertoire completion

Responsibilities: Up-to-date repertoire/drill knowledge, high standards of uniform/instrument maintenance and cleanliness

Lance Corporal

Awarded to a Private upon participation with the band at practice

Private

All learners start here

Progression

Piper

Beginner

Learning scales and exercises on practice chanter

Novice

Learning three tunes competently on practice chanter; most often Rowan Tree, Minstrel Boy and then Wings

Adv. Beginner

Learning three tunes competently on bagpipes

Intermediate

Learning to play CCPB repertoire competently on bagpipes; able to attend band practices

Advanced

Can play the full CCPB repertoire competently on bagpipes; awarded CCPB uniform!

Drummer

Beginner

Learning basic exercises on drum pad

Novice

Learning 4/4 variations competently on drum pad

Adv. Beginner

Learning more advanced rhythms on drum pad

Intermediate

Learning to play CCPB repertoire competently on drum; able to attend band practices

Advanced

Can play the full CCPB repertoire competently on drum; awarded CCPB uniform!

Drum Major & Bugler

The progression for Drum Majors and Buglers is currently less defined and so merit is assessed by the Bandmaster on an individual basis. As above CCPB uniform is awarded to those who can competently integrate and participate with all aspects of the band's performance.

Colours Criteria

Major and Minor Colours will only be awarded to those that adopt a sustained and committed approach which complements all of the informing principles that underpin the award.

Major Colours

Be in receipt of Pipe Band uniform for at least four full years. The Pipe Major, Senior Drum Major, Bugle Major and Leading Drum Sergeant may automatically be awarded Major Colours provided they have been an active member of the band for more than one year.

or

For achieving a standard of excellence in their chosen instrument. This may include, but is not limited to: selection for the National Cadet Pipes & Drums, attaining Level 6 PDQB examination standard or equivalent, featuring highly in competitions either solo or as part of a band.

Minor Colours

Be in receipt of Pipe Band uniform for at least three full years. The Pipe Sergeant and Senior Bass Drummer may automatically be awarded Club Colours provided they have been an active member of the band for more than one year.



External Activities

Throughout the year there are many events and activities for those with an interest in piping or drumming. Here are just a few:

Blackthorn Pipers' Society

The BPS organise an 'open-pipe night' where pipers of any level are welcome to have a tune. Soup, tea and buns are available in the Discover Ulster Scots Centre on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from September to April.

More information can be found on the BPS [Facebook](#) page.

Smallpipe Sessions

A session for players of smallpipes, whistles and other percussion. It takes place in the Discover Ulster Scots Centre each month.

For more information contact the Discover Ulster Scots team, 028 9023 1113

Pipe Band Competitions

Throughout the summer there are competitions across Northern Ireland and Scotland, culminating with the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow. To take part, your son should become a member of a competing pipe band outside of school.

A complete list of pipe bands can be found here: www.rspbani.org




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