

Music Tuition at Ashville College

Dear Parents,

Learning an instrument is a very positive addition to your child's education with numerous documented advantages. Here at Ashville, we are happy to be able to offer tuition in a variety of instruments and have a great wealth of talent amongst our peripatetic music teachers.

All pupils in Years 3 and 4 enjoy small group instrumental tuition in their class Music lessons, with specialist staff, and the loan of school instruments. Across the two years they will have the chance to learn four instruments across strings, brass, and woodwind. For many parents this is a good opportunity to judge their child's musical aptitude and interests, however it is certainly possible for pupils to start learning an instrument at an earlier age. Of course, the younger the child is the more they will rely on parental support with their out of lesson practice.

Lessons in Years 1 and 2

A range of instruments are available in Years 1 and 2: violin, piano, singing, and, in some cases, flute, and clarinet, all given by specialist teachers. If you are interested in your child learning an instrument while they are in Years 1 and 2 then please discuss this with any member of the Music team or contact the Music Administrator (music@ashville.co.uk).

At this stage the length of lesson should suit the age, ability, and concentration level of the pupil. Charges for these lessons are related to the more usual 30-minute lessons given in the Prep School and Senior School, at a rate of £307 per term. Those selecting piano lessons must have either an acoustic piano or a weighted-key electric piano, and not an electric keyboard. In addition, Suzuki violin lessons are available in small groups in Years 1 and 2; this method requires parental involvement in tuition, and the charge for the sessions is divided between the families participating.

Pupils will be expected to practice for at least 10 minutes 4 times a week in order to make satisfactory progress. A limited number of all these instruments are available to hire from the school for a fee of £55 per term. Beyond the first term of lessons a full term's notice is required in writing to the Director of Music for music lessons to be discontinued.

Lessons in Years 3 – 6 and beyond

All lessons will be individual (except for the Suzuki groups mentioned above) and will last for 30 minutes.

Pupils in the Prep School can opt for lessons in brass, strings, woodwind, percussion, piano, guitar, and singing. All instruments are available to pupils in the Senior School.

Taking a musical study is a three-way process involving the teacher, the parent, and the pupil. At Ashville pupils have access to a superb group of visiting teachers who will do all they can to ensure good progress from week to week. Pupils must do regular daily practice between lessons. Without progress through practice, interest will wane very quickly. Parents can involve themselves by organising the daily practice routine. Music practice is no different from homework which is there to ensure continued progress and interest. Daily practice will produce progress, and progress will lead to greater enjoyment.



Charges: Individual lessons cost £307 per term of 10 lessons (30 lessons in a full year). Additional expenses include the purchase of music, instrument hire/purchase, exam and festival entry fees, and fees for an accompanist. The small number of school instruments can be hired at a cost of £55 per term. Discontinuation of lessons requires one full term's notice in writing to the Director of Music after the first trial term.

Scholarships: Scholarships for talented musicians are available at entry to Year 7, Year 10, and the Sixth Form. More details are available from the Director of Music.

Rotation: Lessons will be given during school hours with pupils being withdrawn from class lessons on a rotating basis so that no individual subject is regularly missed, or online via Teams, if, for example, government guidelines reduce our available teaching spaces. Pupils in Years 10 and 11 are given priority for lunch time slots, with Sixth Form pupils having lessons in free periods wherever this is possible.

Examinations: Pupils can be prepared for examinations if appropriate. Many of our students take ABRSM exams at school and we generally run an exam session each term. Our teachers also have experience of preparing students for Trinity and Rock School exams. Points are now awarded towards university applications based on music exams passed at Grades 6, 7, and 8 in recognition of the skills developed over many years of dedicated study.

The main music ensembles at Ashville are as follows:

Choirs	Years 1 and 2	Choir	Non-selective
	Years 3 and 4	Piccolo Choir	Non-selective
	Years 5 and 6	Junior Choir	Non-selective
	Years 3 - 6	Boys' Choir	Non-selective
	Years 7 - 9	Elmfield Singers	Non-selective
	Years 10 - 13	The Old 10ers	Selective
	Years 9 - 13	Ashville Singers	Non-selective
Instrumental ensembles	Years 3 - 6	Highly Strung	Non-selective
	Years 3 - 6	Junior Air Band	Non-selective
	Years 3 - 6	Guitar Ensemble	Non-selective
	Years 7 - 13	Improvisation Band	Non-selective
	Years 7 - 13	Drum Line	Non-selective
	Years 7 - 13	Ashville Rocks	Non-selective
	Years 7 - 13	Ashville Orchestra	Selective
	Years 7 - 13	Folk Band	Non-selective
	Years 7 - 13	Concert band	Non-selective
	Years 7 - 13	Senior String Ensemble	Non-selective
	Years 10 - 13	Soul Band	Selective

If you would like your son or daughter to start music tuition at Ashville, please return the form below to the Music Administrator, either as a hard copy or by email to music@ashville.co.uk so that pupils can be allocated a suitable teacher and lessons can be timetabled accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Hall, Director of Music



Music Tuition at Ashville College 2026-27

Please return to the Music Administrator
either as a hard copy or
by email: music@ashville.co.uk

Application form to start music lessons

N.B. Pupils currently taking lessons need not complete this form.

Pupil's name: _____ Form or Year Group: _____

Date of birth: _____

Home telephone number: _____

Email address: _____

Instrument(s) you wish to learn at school: _____

Choose from:

Strings: violin, viola, cello

Woodwind: flute, oboe, clarinet, *saxophone

Brass: trumpet/cornet, French horn, trombone, **euphonium

Others: piano, singing, percussion, ***classical organ, classical and electric guitar, and individual theory lessons

*Saxophone only from Year 6, **Euphonium only from Year 5, ***Organ only after Grade 5 on piano

Are you a boarder or a day pupil? Boarder / Day pupil

Have you had lessons before? Yes / No

For how long approximately? _____

What is the most recent grade taken and approximately what mark was obtained?

Grade: _____ Mark: _____ (Pass / Merit / Distinction)

Do you have your own instrument? Yes / No

If not, do you require some help in obtaining an instrument? Yes / No

Do you wish to hire an instrument from school if one is available? Yes / No

I would like my son/daughter to take music lessons at Ashville starting as soon as possible.

I understand that **a full term's notice is required** in writing to the Director of Music (after the first trial term) in order to stop lessons.

Signed: _____ Date: _____