



June 2021

Dear Parent

Music Lessons at Westholme

Learning to play a musical instrument has always been regarded as an important and enjoyable part of a good education and at Westholme, a large number of pupils choose to have lessons on a musical instrument or voice. In addition to work in class music lessons, separate tuition is offered in school on woodwind, brass, piano, stringed instruments, guitar, drums and voice. Most pupils benefit musically, socially and educationally from these lessons and those who already have piano lessons often take up a second, more sociable, orchestral instrument.

Individual music lessons last 20 or 30 minutes and are timetabled at a different time each week so that your child can come out of a different class lesson each time. It is possible to take more than one individual music lesson in school but we try to ensure that only one class lesson is missed per week and some lessons are available before or after school. Most pupils have little difficulty in copying up missed work and most parents find music lessons at school more economical and easier to organise than evening lessons. These lessons are entirely optional but we do expect that all pupils having individual music lessons will also gain the extra advantage of participating in school orchestras, bands and choirs. More advanced pupils can pay for a double lesson if desired. Lessons are organised in sets of 10 (£130 for 20-minute lessons and £195 for 30 minutes per week) and any notice to cancel should be given in writing to the teacher by the 5th lesson of any series. All personal instruments should be adequately insured and names and addresses should be shown clearly inside and outside the instrument case.

Please note: parents will be directly invoiced by the assigned self-employed peripatetic Music Teacher. The School will provide assistance with setting fees, timetabling, premises, classrooms and access to equipment; however, the School cannot act as an agent in relation to invoicing or payments.

All instruments require a good general intelligence and a willingness to practice diligently, but stringed instruments may require these qualities more than the other instruments and the more extrovert nature may be more suited to brass instruments. The more expensive instruments to purchase are, of course, more rare and anyone who plays the Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Bassoon, French Horn, Trombone or Tuba is always in great demand. For this reason, the School has one of each of these larger instruments, which pupils may borrow for up to one year before deciding upon an expensive purchase. We have a strong relationship with "The Music Cellar" in Preston, and would recommend looking at their website if considering the purchase of an instrument. It is always worth ringing them and saying that you are learning at Westholme to find different purchase.

If you have any questions regarding learning an instrument, then please do not hesitate to contact me at holtb@westholmeschool.com. If you can return the reply slip by **Friday 21st August** or as soon as possible, we will provide you with all the necessary paperwork before term begins.

Yours sincerely

Mr B Holt
Director of Music

Please return to the Director of Music, Westholme School, Wilmar Lodge, Meins Road, Blackburn, BB2 6QU
by Friday 20th August

Music Tuition for New Pupils

I would like my child in Form _____(if known) to have
tuition on (please state name of instrument(s) / voice)

*20 minutes per week

* 30 minutes per week

*I will provide an instrument

*Please consider my child for the free loan of one of the larger instruments
(*Please delete as appropriate)

Students may wish to take lessons in more than one subject and will be charged accordingly. Please note: a maximum of 2 Music/LAMDA lessons per week is allowed to ensure students are not missing too many academic lessons. Therefore, students wishing to study both disciplines can only have 1 lesson of each per week. Parents will be directly invoiced by the assigned self-employed peripatetic Music Teacher, the School will provide assistance with setting fees, timetabling, premises, classrooms and access to equipment; however the School cannot act as an agent in relation to invoicing or payments.

By completing this form, you are indicating that you would like your child to undertake Music Lesson(s). The School will provide your contact details as below to the assigned self-employed peripatetic Music Teacher.

Approximate Standard (Beginner; Grade 2 etc.)

Signature of Parent

Telephone Number

Email Address

Peripatetic Music Teachers:

Mrs Jacqueline Bennett - Woodwind

Mrs Susan Eames – Singing and Piano

Mr Rabin Joseph – Drum Kit

Mrs Clare Lewis - Piano

Mr Benjamin Millest – Brass and Piano

Mrs Kathryn Parkinson – Singing

Mr Jonny Hoyle – Violin and Viola

TBC – Cello, Double Bass

Mrs Lynn Threadgold - Woodwind

Mr Paul Topping – Classical Guitar, Electric Guitar, Bass Guitar and Piano