

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Instrumental and vocal Lessons at Etonbury Academy**

I am writing to invite your son/daughter to take up instrumental lessons at Etonbury Academy. We currently use Inspiring Music, Central Bedfordshire Council's Music Service, as well as private teachers for guitar and some keyboard/piano lessons.

Research into Music has shown it to have many wide-reaching benefits:

- Speech
- Social Skills
- Maths
- Self-confidence
- Self-expression
- Intellectual development

We can currently offer the following instruments at Etonbury Academy:

**Strings:** Violin, Cello, Guitar,

**Woodwind:** Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone,

**Brass:** Cornet, Trumpet, Trombone,

**Percussion:** Drum kit,

**Others:** Keyboard, Piano, Singing.

For Inspiring Music the lesson costs include 33 lessons per academic year (pro rata if started during the year), a specialist teacher and a planner for recording practice notes. For most violin, cello, woodwind and brass instruments the loan of an instrument for approximately two years is also included in the price, subject to availability. The private guitar and keyboard/piano teachers charge per lesson and will provide a minimum of 33 lessons per academic year. Please note that instruments are not provided for keyboard, piano, guitar and drums and you will, therefore, have to provide a suitable instrument.

Group lessons are offered subject to the availability of another pupil of a similar ability. Lessons take place during normal lesson time and break and lunchtime although, where possible, lessons are on a rota basis to avoid the same subject being affected every week. If there is not enough time available to accommodate your child his/her name will be placed on a waiting list and you will be contacted if a space becomes available during the year.

If your child is eligible for free school meals you may qualify for a reduction of up to 50% on your music tuition invoices with Inspiring Music. Please refer to the Inspiring Music website



([www.inspiringmusic.co.uk](http://www.inspiringmusic.co.uk)) for further details. If you would like your child to have lessons with a private teacher (guitar, some keyboard/piano lessons) but would encounter financial difficulty with this the school may be able to help subsidise lessons. Please contact Mrs Hardy, in the first instance, if you would like to discuss this further.

Please be aware there may be other financial implications. These might include tutor books, exam fees and other sundries, such as cleaners and reeds. Please also be aware that it is your responsibility to ensure that instruments are fully insured both at home and at school – this is usually covered under general House Insurance but it is worth checking this.

<b>Inspiring Music Lessons</b> * NB. These are the rates as at April 2017, they may rise for September 2017.	Termly fee paid by direct debit	Termly fee paid by other payment methods
Group Lesson (20 minutes)	£92.00	£95.00
Individual Lesson (20 minutes)	£138.00	£143.00

<b>Guitar Lessons AND Private Piano/Keyboard Lessons</b>	Per lesson (minimum 33 lessons delivered over the academic year). Lessons are invoiced half-termly.
Group Lesson (30 minutes)	£9.00
Individual Lesson (20 minutes)	£10.00
Individual Lesson (30 minutes)	£14.50

Saturday Morning Music School is an Inspiring Music activity held at Biggleswade Academy (formerly Holmemead Middle School) in Biggleswade during term time. It currently costs £81.00 per term (when paying by Direct Debit) for full membership or £54.00 per term (when paying by Direct Debit) for part membership. Saturday Morning Music School is open to all pupils, regardless of whether they have other private tuition or not, and covers a wide range of groups including a Rock Group, String Group, tuition on recorders, keyboards and guitars and theory lessons. There is also a 50% discount for the first term's tuition for new Music Centre students with the voucher in the Inspiring Music practice planners as well as a 50% discount for pupils who are entitled to free school meals. For further information, please look at Inspiring Music's website, [www.inspiringmusic.co.uk](http://www.inspiringmusic.co.uk).

Learning to play an instrument is a demanding process and we hope that you will encourage and support your child to practise regularly during the week between lessons so that he/she can make good progress. Should the time ever arise when you wish your child to discontinue lessons, please be aware that half a term's notice in writing is required by all teachers.

The Academy has a variety of extracurricular musical groups and we believe that an essential part of learning to play an instrument is to be part of a larger group of musicians. With this in mind the school have invested in providing peripatetic teachers to run the Wind

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band and String group at no charge to the students and we have created a program of choirs and ensembles. We would, therefore, expect that your child would join one of these groups when they become capable of doing so. There is no charge and no need to audition at this stage for the extra-curricular activities.

There is a joint BEST choir incorporating students from the local schools, including lower schools. This is open to all pupils. There is also a joint BEST orchestra incorporating students from Etonbury, Robert Bloomfield Academy, Henlow (Church of England) Academy and Samuel Whitbread Academy. There is a charge for these groups (currently £10 per term), to cover the cost of repertoire and the director's fee and rehearsals take place at Samuel Whitbread Academy.

Pupils in Year 5 learn to play the recorder as a way into reading and writing staff notation and developing an understanding of a variety of musical concepts. Pupils will be welcome to use their own instrument or borrow an Academy instrument. I will write to you with further details in the Autumn Term.

If your son or daughter is interested in being considered for instrumental lessons, please complete and return the attached reply slip to Etonbury Academy.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E Hardy  
Head of Music



To Mrs Hardy:

**Instrumental and Vocal Lessons at Etonbury Academy**

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We would like my/our son/daughter to participate in instrumental lessons at Etonbury Academy.

First choice instrument: \_\_\_\_\_ group / individual lesson

Second choice instrument: \_\_\_\_\_ group / individual lesson

My child is:

a beginner, starting for the first time.

already having lessons.

(If so, please state the length of time learning/approximate standard.)

\_\_\_\_\_

Is this with Inspiring Music or a private teacher? – If so please name

\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian\*

\*By signing this you are also giving consent for your e-mail address and phone number to be shared with the peripatetic teacher who teaches your child.