

April 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

Instrumental Lessons at Etonbury Academy 2016/2017

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, some keyboard/piano and violin.

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 violin, keyboard and piano teachers charge per lesson and will provide a minimum of 33 lessons per academic year. The private violin teacher can provide a violin for you to hire at an additional cost of £20 per term. Please note that instruments are not provided for keyboard, piano, guitar and drums and you will, therefore, have to provide a suitable instrument. N.B. If your child already has violin lessons with an Inspiring Music teacher at lower school the lessons will continue with Inspiring Music in September unless you specifically request a change.

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) for further details. If you would like your child to have lessons with a private teacher (guitar, some keyboard/piano and violin lessons) but would encounter financial difficulty with this the school may be able to help subsidise lessons. Please contact Miss Barnett, 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.

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Inspiring Music Lessons	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

Guitar Lessons AND Private Piano/Keyboard/ Violin Lessons	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.

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 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. We would, therefore, expect that your child would join one of these groups when they become capable of doing so. We have a Wind Band and String Group which pupils are invited to join when they reach a suitable standard. Choir and keyboard club are, of course, open to all pupils. There is no charge and no need to audition at this stage for the extra-curricular activities.

There is a joint BEST choir, run by Miss Tabert, 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. Pupils are invited to join when they reach an appropriate standard. 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 by Wednesday 6th July. If your child currently has instrumental lessons with an Inspiring Music teacher at their lower school, these will continue at Etonbury Academy in September. Please will you note this on the reply slip attached.

Yours sincerely

Miss R Barnett
Music Subject Leader

To Miss Barnett:
Instrumental Lessons

Child's name: _____

Current Lower School: _____ / Class: _____ (for current Y5-7 pupils)

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?)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Parent/Guardian