



Archdiocese of Birmingham
St. Mary's Catholic Academy
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Dear Parents/Carers,

Extra- Curricular Instrumental Lessons

This letter contains information for **extra-curricular** instrumental lessons with a specialist teacher. To register interest in lessons starting from September 2024, or to continue small group lessons please complete the form on Scopay.

From September there are spaces available for learning the following instruments:

Violin, Viola, Cello with Mrs Amison

Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, with Mrs Farrington

Trumpet / Cornet, Trombone with Mr Farrington

Lessons are 20 minutes in small groups and there will be a minimum of 35 lessons per year. Where a teacher misses a lesson, they will make every effort to catch up time missed in the scheduled catch-up weeks. If a child misses a lesson, this will be caught up if at all possible, but there is not an obligation on the teacher to do this.

There is an annual charge of £100 for instrumental lessons, which equates to less than £3 per lesson, thanks to the continuing school subsidy. Lessons for children in receipt of free school meals are fully subsidised. Payment is due by 1st October and there is an option to pay by standing order of £10 per month for 10 months, from October to July, payable on the 1st of the month.

Your child will need an instrument to learn and practise on, which can be loaned from school or the City Music Service. If you are thinking of buying an instrument for your child, please contact Mrs Amison as there are various schemes to assist in purchasing new instruments, and she can advise on what size or quality to look for in a second-hand instrument.

For school violins, the loan fee is £20 per year paid on Scopay.

City Music loan woodwind and brass instruments for £25 per year paid through their own online payment service.

You may be asked to provide books and small consumables such as rosin, reeds or valve oil. There are some pre-loved books available to borrow from school, just ask your child to check with Mrs Amison if the correct one is available. As your child progresses there is the option to be assessed for ABRSM medals and exams. These have payable fees. If you have trouble in meeting any fees, please contact Mrs. Amison, via the school office, as there may be support available, depending on circumstances and your child's level of achievement.

Thank you for all your patience and encouragement at home, especially the positive praise you give every time your child practises. Parental support and regular practice is essential to overcoming the challenges in creating initial sounds, setting the foundation for future progress and success.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Rathbone

Principal

