



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Mary's Catholic Academy

Principal: Mrs S Rathbone BA (Hons) NPQH,

Ford Green Road, Norton-le-Moors, Stoke on Trent, ST6 8EZ

Telephone 01782 234820 Fax 01782 236523

Email: office@stmarysnewman.co.uk

www. www.stmarysstoke.co.uk.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Extra- Curricular Instrumental Lessons

This letter contains information for optional **extra-curricular** instrumental lessons with a specialist teacher. This is open to children who will be in Key Stage 2 in September 2026.

This is separate from Year 4 Class instrument lessons (violin / clarinet / brass) which are offered to all year 4 children as part of their music curriculum. Year 4 children can begin a second instrument if they wish to learn flute, saxophone, viola or cello, as well as their class instrument.

To register interest in extra-curricular lessons starting from September 2026, or to **continue** current small group lessons please complete the form below and return to the school office.

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, Baritone (looks like a mini tuba), Trombone with Mr Farrington

Lessons are 20 minutes long in small groups and there will be a minimum of 35 lessons per year. Where a teacher misses a lesson, they will arrange to reschedule the time missed in the 2 scheduled catch-up weeks. If a child misses a lesson, this will be caught up if possible, but there is no obligation on the teacher to do this. Some lessons for older students may fall outside of the school day up to 4pm. Timings will be advised in September once the groups are formed.

There is an annual charge of £150 for instrumental lessons, which equates to less than £4.50 per lesson and thanks to the continuing school subsidy, the charge is unchanged from last year. Lessons for children in receipt of free school meals are fully subsidised. Payment is due by 1st October or you can pay by a standing order of £15 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 practice 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



St Gabriel
the Archangel

Catholic Multi-Academy Trust

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 Arbor.

For Woodwind and brass instruments your teacher will advise on loan charges, if applicable.

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; please ask 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, but support is available for those on free school meals.

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

Please complete the form below and return it to school by 17th July.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Rathbone
Executive Principal

Child's name _____

My child would be interested in learning/continuing to learn the _____.

I wish to pay the lesson fee of £150 via;

☐

Arbor full payment by 1st October 2026

☐

Via standing order, commencing 1st October 2026

Signed _____ Date _____