

Instrumental Lessons

Dear families,

While Music lessons in your child's timetable are diverse and explore a wide range of instruments and genres, some students will want to spend time learning specific instruments.

Sarum Academy facilitates instrumental lessons for students from Year 7 to Year 13, regardless of prior ability. Students could be absolute beginners picking up a pair of drumsticks for the first time, or may have performed to large audiences – lessons are high-quality and deep progress will be made. These lessons happen during the Academy day, and are between 15-30 minutes long.

Instrumental lessons are hugely beneficial to students. The advantages it gives people are:

- **More opportunities to train memory** through remembering pieces of music, where notes are on the instrument and understanding the structure of the instrument.
- **Develops tenacity** by sticking with a large-scale undertaking where progress isn't as instant as we might expect from other endeavours.
- **Increases co-ordination** by developing the physical strength and dexterity needed to play the chosen instrument.
- **Better concentration** by structuring practice and rehearsal in order to make the best use of time.
- **Improved confidence** through experiencing the success of learning new songs and techniques, and performing to friends, family and larger audiences

I know from my own experience in school as a child that my guitar lessons were the highlight of my week. Speaking to parents now, I can't count how many times I've heard 'I wish I could play an instrument' or 'I should have never quit lessons'.

We currently offer lessons for drums, guitar (electric, classical and bass), flute, piano and clarinet. We will expand this as the need from students expands.

Cost

In a perfect world, all students would be having these lessons as standard. However, we know that the largest reason that this doesn't happen is cost. At Sarum Academy, we are fortunate enough to be able to take advantage of the generous subsidies available through Wiltshire Music Connect. These are applied for by the Academy on your behalf.

The following table outlines the subsidies available, and the price ranges as a result of these:

Subsidy Category	Percentage Subsidised
None	0%
Pupil Premium or SEN	70%
Looked After Child	100%

There are specific calculations for each student (based on length of lesson, teacher price, etc.), but as an example: a student that is Pupil Premium or SEN would pay £2.80 rather than £9.33 for a 15-minute lesson.

These subsidies are subject to the availability from Wiltshire Music Connect, and the price will be confirmed with you before lessons are finalised. We are nearing the cap on the money we claim, so this won't always be available and will be first come, first served.

Further Details and Application

In order to start the application process for instrumental lessons, or if you have any questions, please email dominic.corcoran@sarumacademy.org.

Kind Regards

Dominic Corcoran
Team Leader for Music