



2024-25

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Instrumental and Vocal Tuition at Trent College

Music is embedded into the life of Trent College, and to that end, we offer a wide range of opportunities for musicians of all styles and abilities. If you would like to arrange instrumental or vocal lessons for your child, please complete the online registration form as soon as possible.

<https://forms.office.com/e/tNcaHsHDn2>

The Music Department has live music at its heart. Whether beginning their musical journey or continuing down a well-trodden path, Trent pupils take part in school-based and external ensembles, large or small, which perform to a high standard whilst maintaining a key sense of fun. There are orchestras, choirs, bands and much more to enjoy, and plenty of scope to further musical horizons. Performance opportunities are regular, and for all pupils, whatever standard.

Which instruments are offered?

- Strings: violin, viola, cello, double bass, harp,
classical guitar, electric or acoustic guitar, bass guitar
- Woodwind: flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone
- Brass: French horn, trumpet, cornet, trombone, tuba, euphonium
- Other: singing, piano, jazz piano, percussion, church organ (grade 4 piano required)

How do I choose?

Our music teachers are happy to advise anyone who would like to start learning an instrument for the first time. Children normally continue instruments they are already learning.

We are keen to recruit pupils across all instrumental disciplines. There is a waiting list for some instruments, so you might wish to consider a second option with which to start your journey; the Director of Music is happy to provide guidance, and some minority instruments may be eligible for financial assistance in the first instance.

Staying motivated

Performing regularly and playing in ensembles are the best ways for students to make progress and stay motivated. The Music Department puts on regular concerts that provide performance opportunities for all, and these are a necessary part of enjoying an instrument: there is no substitute for an audience's appreciation of your playing! The importance of regular, thorough and targeted practice is also paramount. Many students find examinations an important tool in making progress or goal setting, and Trent provides opportunities for students to take ABRSM, TLC, LCM and Rockscool examinations through the year (chargeable as per current rates).

How much do music lessons cost?

The cost of one term of Standard tuition is £286.00 (Standard tuition consists of 900 minutes per year, arranged as 30 lessons per year lasting 30 minutes each). Advanced tuition is offered on a teacher's recommendation, the cost of which is £475.00 per term. This consists of 1500 minutes per year, arranged over 30 weeks, the lessons will consist of 30 x 30-minute lessons plus an extra 20 x 30-minute lessons across the year (either as one-hour lessons, or two 30 minutes per week). Extra top-up lessons can be added towards the end of the year if require. The fee for tuition does not include sheet music, instrument hire or replacement consumables such as valve oil, strings, rosin, reeds, drumsticks, guitar leads.

When does music tuition happen?

Lessons take place throughout the day, across other lessons or activities, on a rotation basis to minimise disruption to learning. Students in Years 11 – 13 have fixed lesson times to avoid academic lessons in examination subjects; this is not possible for other year groups. Students are expected to liaise with their academic teachers to ask permission to miss their lesson **at least 24 hours** in advance of the music lesson. Lesson timetables are published well in advance, so there should be no excuse for unavoidable clashes with good planning and organisation.

Obtaining instruments and insuring them

We have some of our own instruments available for hire (see attached form). Many music shops offer a hire-purchase scheme where hire payments contribute to the purchase cost if you later decide to buy.

Instruments should be insured: the Music School has plenty of storage, but we cannot accept any responsibility for loss or damage occurring at Trent. Similarly, any accessories such as guitar leads and drumsticks should be stored securely – they are left at the owner's risk.

Missed lessons

If students miss music lessons without good reason and notice (at least 24 hours), we will email them to let them know. For all pupils, including those in receipt of a Scholarship or Exhibition, the lesson will be charged at the full price, since the teacher's time cannot be rescheduled at short notice.

If a student misses more than one lesson in a term, an email is sent to parents explaining this, and the student's tutor will be informed. If a student misses multiple lessons in one term, they will be asked to discuss their attendance with the Director of Music. We reserve the right to give a full term's notice that the tuition will cease (although this can be reversed if things dramatically improve).

If a teacher misses a lesson for any reason, the lesson will be credited or rearranged.

Stopping lessons

A full term's notice is required in writing to the Director of Music. The deadline for that term's notice is always 6.00pm on the Friday of the first week of the term.

Yours faithfully



Mr Nick Parrans-Smith
Director of Music