

CLAIRES COURT

Senior Girls

Instrumental tuition



At Claire's Court we aim to foster a supportive and exciting environment with music making at its centre. The atmosphere of inclusive, purposeful music making in the school is greatly respected and the majority of students choose to become involved in the wider musical life of the school as well as in weekly class lessons.

Instrumental and vocal tuition is first class, delivered by visiting professionals. There is a programme of ensembles and extra-curricular activities that supports curriculum work. There are a large number of performance opportunities available including concerts, school productions, showcases, inter-house competitions and community events, often in conjunction with the Senior and Junior Boys.

RESPONSIBILITY ♦ RESPECT ♦ LOYALTY ♦ INTEGRITY

Instrumental/vocal tuition

We have a team of skilled professionals who support the music department in offering instrumental and vocal lessons. The following instruments are available to learn:

Piano	Flute	Clarinet
Violin	Cello	Double Bass
Trombone	Trumpet	Tuba
Classical Guitar	Rock Guitar	Recorder
Voice	Contemporary Voice	Saxophone
Drums		

Further Details

For more information and advice about musical activities, please feel free to contact Dan Gravett, Director of Music dng@clairescourt.net or please telephone the School Office on: 01628 327500.

Frequently asked questions

How long are lessons?

Lessons are normally 30 minutes long though arrangements may be made for younger pupils to have a 20 minute lesson. It is expected that each term will consist of 10 lessons, amounting to 30 lessons per year.

When do lessons take place?

Most of the instrumental/vocal lessons run on a rotation during the timetabled school day. This ensures that students do not miss the same lesson each week. Effort is made to ensure that there are some fixed lessons in lunch times, before school or free periods for students in Years 10-13.

How much do they cost?

Lessons are between £15-21 per 30 minute lesson as set by each member of staff.

How do I pay for lessons?

Peripatetic teachers send an invoice at the start of each term. Payment should be made directly to the teacher.



Frequently asked questions continued

Will I be charged for a lesson if my child is absent from the lesson?

Students are expected to attend all lessons and to check their scheduled lesson time on the noticeboard in advance. Staff also send a timetable home via email. Peripatetic teachers are entitled to charge for scheduled lessons and are under no obligation to make up lessons missed by students. This is also in the case of scheduled lessons missed through short-term illness.

The school does inform teachers of trips and activities involving whole year groups but if parents are aware of an additional school activity then they should contact the teacher directly to notify them. Where possible, peripatetic teachers will attempt to make up the missed lesson at some point over the course of the term or issue a refund for the missed lesson.

How do I give notice to cease lessons?

When lessons begin, a contract is signed with the instrumental teacher. This will set out their terms and conditions. It is expected that a term or half a terms' notice will be given in writing if lessons are to stop. Please check the individual contracts for the exact duration.

What about grade exams?

Students have the opportunity to work towards grade exams (normally ABRSM) if they wish. These are held termly within school. Whilst these are not compulsory, they provide a focus for practice and sense of achievement.

How much practice should be done?

Music is a discipline and as a result, regular practice is required for improvement. Teachers will advise parents and recommend an appropriate amount of practice, but an approximate guide per day is: Beginners: five to 10 minutes; Grades 1-3: 20 minutes; Grades 4-5: 30 minutes; Grades 6+: one hour plus.

What is the best age to start?

Some instruments require a level of physical maturity before they can be undertaken. Here is a rough guide of advised times to start different instruments:

- Violin/Viola/'Cello 5+ (smaller sized instruments are available)
- Piano 6+ (two lines of music to be followed simultaneously)
- Drums 7+
- Flute, Clarinet 9+ (front teeth established, braces can be a problem)
- Singing 9+
- Guitar 6+
- Saxophone 10+ (a heavy instrument requiring adequate physical strength).

Frequently asked questions continued

What extra-curricular opportunities are available?

Claire's Court offers a diverse mix of extra-curricular activities designed to provide opportunities for all, those who play an instrument and those who simply love joining in. Activities available:

Claire's Court

Junior Girls:

Ensemble
Songbirds Choir
String ensemble
Ocarina group

Claire's Court Senior Girls and Sixth Form:

Senior Girls Voices (Years 7-13)
Harmony Choir (Years 9-11)
Ensemble
Senior Show Ensemble (Joint with SB)
Rock School
Music Technology Club
Music Theory Club
ABRSM Aural Club
Chamber music groups eg Wind Quartet
Songwriting



What is the Year 4 instrumental project?

In Years 2 and 3, girls learn the recorder. In Year 4 they are given the opportunity to learn either the violin, cello or flute in small group lessons. These are provided in an extra 30 minute slot run each week before school. Girls are loaned an instrument by the school and the only charge is £7 for the music book. They are then given the opportunity to play in an ensemble in lesson time and perform in the Junior concerts.

Can I hire an instrument?

Expense can be a factor when choosing an instrument. Some companies run a hire to buy scheme. Please contact the music department if you want advice regarding this.





Celebrating our Diamond
Anniversary in 2020

**Celebrating 60 years of inspiring minds and
creating bright futures at Claiores Court.**



Claiores Court

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