

Music at AHS

Music is an integral part of life at Aylesbury High School and a wide variety of music-making activities are available to all. We are fortunate in receiving an enthusiastic, highly talented intake of students who contribute keenly to musical events and who also take responsibility for organising many ensembles.

Co-curricular music includes several ensembles which rehearse weekly, some of which are joint with students from Aylesbury Grammar School: Choir, Jazz Band, Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Junior String Ensemble (Good Vibrations), Chamber Choir, Percussion Ensemble and more! On some years, tours abroad are also arranged.

Senior students are responsible for organising the House Music Festival in which each House presents a short programme of musical items, reflecting the enthusiasms and musical strengths of their members. There is an adjudication and celebratory concert.

The concert schedule includes recitals, a Christmas concert, a Carol Service at St Mary's, the House Music Festival, a Joint Choral/Orchestral Concert with AGS, a Summer Showcase and our large-scale school musical, as well as various performances at local homes, hospitals and churches throughout the year.

Music Tuition

Aylesbury High School actively encourages as many students as possible to receive instrumental tuition as part of enriching their education; a considerable number of the students take up this opportunity. Lessons are given in our dedicated music practice rooms during the school day. The tutors are not employed by the school, but work on the school premises during school time under a formal agreement having undergone the requisite safeguarding checks. If you would like your child to receive instrumental music lessons from September, please complete this [Google Form](#) which you can also find on the Year 6 page of the website.

The relevant music tutor will contact parents directly during the summer to confirm arrangements for September, and thereafter all administration of lessons, fees etc. will be a matter for the parent to discuss with the tutor. Parents will need to contact the tutor directly to discuss matters of tuition but if there are problems, then Mr Warner is the point of contact at AHS.

The AHS System

As is common practice, music lessons are timetabled during the school day on a rotation to prevent students missing the same school lessons each week wherever possible, and the number of music lessons for pupils is limited to two sessions per week to prevent excessive disruption to other studies. Please note, it is not possible to arrange a set weekly lesson time (e.g. during a particular subject lesson or lunchtime) for Year 7 to 11 students. Year 12 and 13 students should arrange their lessons during a study period. Students will not be allowed to take occasional lessons within school with other tutors not listed or organisations except by prior arrangement with the Headmistress.

It is the student's responsibility to check the instrumental lessons timetable on the website (found in the Music section of the Student Homepage) the week before each lesson to confirm the time, and then to notify their class teacher if they will be missing part of their lesson. The student must also arrange with the relevant teacher or her

friends to pick up any set work she may have missed. They should also check the website timetable before school on the morning of her lesson in case there has been a last minute change.

Once students reach the appropriate standard we expect that they will join at least one of the school's ensembles which practise together at lunchtimes. These are very popular and are where the joy of music creation really comes into its own.

Costs

Individual instrumental lessons are not funded by the government so this option is provided at a charge to parents. The following pricing structure has been agreed with all the tutors, and this is reviewed annually:

30 minute individual lesson, 10 lessons per term, £205 per term

It is sometimes possible for a teacher to teach more than the 30 lessons if time permits, so this is the minimum number of lessons that your daughter should receive.

Pupils will not be able to start lessons until their parent has submitted the form. Please note that the contract for lessons is entirely between you, the parent, and the tutor and the School will not enter into any dispute over fees.

Notice to Cease, Continuation Next Year and Exam Years

You should give your tutor at least a half term's notice to cease lessons or you will be liable to pay the following term's fee. The tutors will assume that, unless informed otherwise, a student will continue with their lessons the following year; if this is not the case, notice should be given before the Summer half term break.

In Years 11 and 13, students sometimes opt to stop lessons during their summer term to concentrate on their exams. The tutors will assume that students will be continuing lessons unless the correct notice to stop is given.

Instrument	Current Tutors
Clarinet	Mrs Hazel Hellewell
Flute, Saxophone & Piano	Mr Louis Dunham
Percussion (Drum Kit & Orchestral Percussion)	Mr Cameron Sinclair
Violin, Viola & Piano	Mrs Elizabeth Stahlmann
Violin & Viola	Mr Tom Horn
Classical Guitar	Mrs Paula Child

Acoustic & Electric Guitar	Mr Rai Scalia
Piano	Rev Susan Fellows
Oboe, Bassoon & Piano	Ms Marian Baker
Voice & Piano	Ms Felicity Davies
Voice & Piano	Mrs Warner
Voice & Double Bass	Ms Jess Price
Cello & piano	Mrs Wheeler
Brass	Mr Steve Kitchen

Instrumental Purchase

The school is able to purchase instruments on behalf of parents taking tuition in school time, thus saving VAT. Please contact Reception for further information on 01296 383222.

Examinations

Students may be entered for Associated Board Examinations and Trinity Examinations, and other boards at the discretion of the instrumental teacher. Exams attract an additional fee.

Contact Information

For further information or advice regarding music tuition, timetables etc, please contact Mr Warner, Director of Music (mwarner@ahs.bucks.sch.uk or 01296 388222). Tutors should provide parents with their direct contact information and to facilitate this, we will provide the tutors with your email address or telephone number from our records when requested.