



# Samuel Ryder Academy

## Education for a changing world

April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Re: Instrumental/Singing Lessons with Hertfordshire Music Service**

Research shows that pupils who learn a musical instrument develop many personal skills, such as confidence, self-esteem, team work and concentration. These skills benefit other subjects too and can help your child raise attainment across the board.

Our music lesson programme offers many opportunities for students to learn and develop their musical talents during school time. We have many students currently learning a wide range of instruments with a team of instrumental teachers who visit the department each week from the local **Hertfordshire Music Service**. As a thriving, busy Music Department at Samuel Ryder Academy we can offer students the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument or take part in voice teaching.

Currently we have teachers coming into school teaching students in primary (from Y3) and secondary in the following:

**Woodwind - Flute, Clarinet and Saxophone**  
**Brass - Trumpet and Trombone**  
**Strings - Violin and Viola**

**Guitar and Bass**  
**Drums**

**Piano**  
**Singing**

In order to start lessons, parents now need to register and sign up through the **HMS Direct Billing** system, which can be accessed here: <http://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/register>. You can see the different time and grouping options here and the prices for each. All invoices and payments are now dealt with directly with the Music Service, and once you are registered students are then added to the teacher's timetable. Timetables and other communications are sent out via Edulink, and full details about expectations for lessons are attached below.

For **Piano/Guitar and Drums** students are able to use our instruments in school, but we strongly recommend you have an instrument at home so students can practise. For other **woodwind, brass and string** instruments, these can be hired from Herts County for an annual fee, in addition students can use the **assisted purchase scheme** through Herts Music Service to purchase one. As part of their instrumental lessons many of our students work successfully towards Associated Board and Trinity music grades. For many years, Hertfordshire Music Service has provided a Remission of Fees Scheme to enable those children who qualify for Free School Meals and other benefits to access tuition provided by the Music Service. For enquiries regarding this, please contact [www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/remission](http://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/remission). Please note that it is the choice and responsibility of parents to proceed with this if they wish to do so.

Students learning an instrument are actively encouraged to take part in the many extra-curricular ensembles the Music Department offers. If you would like your son/daughter to begin lessons, I would encourage you to sign up using the link above as soon as possible. Should you have any questions regarding instrumental lessons, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Your faithfully

*A King*

Mr A King  
**Head of Music**

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Company Number: 07697132

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## **INSTRUMENTAL/SINGING LESSONS WITH HERTFORDSHIRE MUSIC SERVICE - FURTHER INFORMATION**

Timetables will be sent out as PDF documents via Edulink before the start of the new term.

Please be aware that changes are inevitable and therefore students should always check the most up to date version of the timetable, which will be posted on the **Music Department Notice Board or in Primary (outside the Primary Music Room)**.

If a teacher is absent we will endeavour to inform students and parents **via Edulink**, and also our HMS teachers have your contact details.

**In Primary**, the teachers will collect students from lessons, as they are usually in the same classrooms all day. Lessons will take place in the **Primary Music Room**

**In Secondary**, students must make their own way to their lessons will take place in one of the **Music Practise Rooms**. Students are expected to make a note of their times each week as lessons will be rotated. Teachers are unable to collect students from classrooms as this causes this and subsequent lessons to run late.

All lessons are now applied for and billed directly with Hertfordshire Music Service so all queries regarding payments and numbers of lessons should be communicated with them.

Full information about the procedures and guidance for safe instrumental teaching as set out by the Hertfordshire Music Service, being adhered to by our peripatetic teachers and by the school, can be found here:

<http://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/schools-covid-update/>

Some key points relevant to students having lessons:

- Pupils must bring in their **own** instruments, instruments will not be able to be borrowed/shared (with the exception of piano and drum kit).
- Pupils must also have their own practice book and their own music.
- Any shared large equipment (stands/drum sticks/pianos) will be cleaned between each lesson.
- Pupils will not be breaking our current year group bubbles. Students must not enter the room when another pupil is finishing a lesson but must wait outside for the teacher to let them in. Shared lessons will only be taught with students in the same year group bubble.
- Pupils must wash their hands before and after their lesson.

Students are responsible for providing, and bringing their instruments to school on the day of their lesson. They may be stored in the music department cupboard / primary music room with their name and year/form clearly labelled on the case. Instruments must be insured by parents. Samuel Ryder Academy can take no responsibility for instruments lost or damaged whilst on school site.

For enquiries about **hiring of instruments, remission of fees** for students eligible for Free School Meals or families on low income, please visit [www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk](http://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk).