



September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Instrumental Tuition at West Kirby Grammar School

We are delighted to be able to offer students the opportunity to learn a musical instrument here at West Kirby Grammar School. Whether they are a complete beginner or already have some experience, instrumental tuition provides far more than just musical ability, it builds skills for life.

Why Learn a Musical Instrument?

Extensive research has shown that students who learn a musical instrument enjoy enhanced executive function skills, including improved focus, memory, and flexibility. According to the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report 2025, key future-ready skills such as analytical thinking, resilience, leadership, and social influence are all fostered through music learning.

Cambridge Assessment's researcher Tim Gill looked into this by using data from the National Pupil Database to investigate whether having formal music tuition is associated with better GCSE results. Four different music qualifications were used to identify students who took part in formal music tuition prior to taking their GCSE exams. These were: GCSE Music, VRQ Certificate in Performance for Music Practitioners, Graded Music (practical) and Graded Music (theory).

The results of the study mean that a student who typically takes 9 GCSEs would expect to get one grade higher in 1 or 2 of their other subjects if they studied GCSE music, or one grade higher in at least 3 subjects if they achieved a graded music qualification of grade 4 or above.

MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) reports that learning a musical instrument leads to stronger, deeper, and longer lasting cognitive development. This is also backed up by the research done by the British Psychological Society which has shown that learning a musical instrument reduces stress by lowering cortisol levels, slowing heart rate and breathing, and helps students approach academic challenges with greater calm and focus. It also states the benefits of musical training on cognitive skills are evident even decades later in life, even if students eventually stops playing.

Instrumental Tuition at West Kirby

We offer tuition in all orchestral instruments, as well as piano, saxophone, guitar (electric, acoustic and bass), voice and drum kit. (A full list of instruments can be found on the instrumental music sign-up form.)

Lessons take place during the school day on a rotating timetable, to minimise disruption to any one subject. While students may miss part of a lesson from another subject, the benefits of learning an instrument, including improved concentration, time management, and academic confidence, far outweigh this minimal time lost.

Students will need their own instrument. These can be either purchased or hired. You can hire instruments from Edsential at the cost of £36 a term. Please contact music@edsential.co.uk for further details. If you need help deciding where to buy an instrument please do not hesitate to get in touch.

If your child/ward would like instrumental tuition this half term then the form should be completed by **4:00pm on Friday 12 September**. You will then be contacted directly by the instrumental teacher. Students can sign up for



lessons at any point during the academic year, although they may need to wait until the start of the next half term, depending on teacher availability. Places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, and you will be informed if a space is not immediately available. Pupil Premium students should contact the music department for further information.

Lesson Fees

- **Individual 30-minute lesson:** £18 per week
- **Group lessons:** Available only for guitar and only if a suitable pairing can be made. £9 per week.

Terms and Conditions

- Lessons run during the academic year.
- Students will need to purchase or hire their own instrument.
- Any lessons missed due to tutor absence will be deducted from the next invoice or made up within the term.
- Lessons are billed in advance and teachers will invoice parents directly. While the school facilitates lessons, the contract is between the parent/carer and the instrumental teacher.
- Lesson dates/timetables will be sent to you by the instrumental teacher. Timetables will also be displayed in the music corridor.
- If you wish to discontinue lessons, half a term's notice is required, or full payment for that period must be made.
- Instrumental teachers will enter students for external music examinations whether this is ABRSM, Trinity, RSL, LAMDA etc. Parents will need to pay for these exams in advance. NB Grades 6-8 all carry points towards University Entrance. A Grade 8 distinction on any instrument could be awarded 20 points. An A* at A level would be 56 points so music exams are rewarded and do support university entrance.

Ensemble Participation

Students receiving instrumental tuition are strongly encouraged to join one of our weekly ensembles. Being part of a group supports emotional wellbeing, fosters friendships, and significantly accelerates musical progress. Students learn from one another, and being part of a musical community enhances both confidence and commitment.

Throughout the school year students will be able to get involved in many different performances/concerts both in school and wider afield. In July the school band travelled to Ypres, Belgium. They performed at a range of venues including participating in the Last Post Ceremony at Menin Gate. The hope is for the band and choir to tour again this academic year.

Please use the following link to access the electronic sign-up for:

[INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC SIGN-UP FORM](#)

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me: cgilbert@wkgs.net

Kind regards,

Mrs C Gilbert
Head of Music