



August 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Instrumental Tuition at West Kirby Grammar School

We are delighted to offer instrumental, vocal and music production tuition to students at West Kirby Grammar School.

It is never too late to start learning a musical instrument. Whether your child has always wanted to learn, is looking for a new challenge, or would like to return to an instrument after a break, we warmly encourage them to get involved. Our experienced team of specialist teachers can support students at every stage, from complete beginners through to Diploma level.

If your child would like to begin lessons in the w/c Monday 7 September please complete the electronic sign-up form by **Friday 28 August** using the link below. Students can start lessons throughout the academic year, subject to teacher availability.

[INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC FORM](#)

Why Learn a Musical Instrument?

Learning a musical instrument provides far more than musical skills. It develops confidence, resilience, creativity and self-discipline, whilst also supporting academic achievement and wellbeing.

Extensive research has shown that students who learn a musical instrument develop enhanced executive functioning skills, including improved concentration, memory, organisation and cognitive flexibility. According to the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report 2025, future-ready skills such as analytical thinking, resilience, leadership and social influence are all strengthened through music education.

Cambridge Assessment researcher Tim Gill analysed data from the National Pupil Database to investigate the relationship between formal music tuition and GCSE performance. The study found that students receiving formal instrumental tuition achieved significantly stronger outcomes across their wider GCSE studies. A student taking nine GCSEs could typically expect to achieve one grade higher in one or two additional subjects through studying GCSE Music, or one grade higher in at least three subjects if they had achieved a Grade 4 or above practical or theory music qualification.

Research from MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) has also demonstrated that learning a musical instrument promotes stronger, deeper and longer-lasting cognitive development. Further research from the British Psychological Society has shown that musical training reduces stress by lowering cortisol levels, slowing heart rate and breathing, and helping students approach academic challenges with greater calm and focus. Importantly, many of these cognitive benefits continue well into adulthood, even if a person later stops playing.

Instrumental Tuition at West Kirby

We offer tuition on all orchestral instruments, together with piano, keyboard, saxophone, guitar (electric, acoustic and bass), drum kit and music production. A full list of available instruments can be found on the online sign-up form.

Lessons take place during the school day on a rotating timetable to minimise disruption to any one subject. Although students occasionally miss a small part of a lesson, the benefits of learning a musical instrument—including improved concentration, organisation, time management and academic confidence—far outweigh this minimal disruption.



Students are welcome to begin lessons at any point during their time at West Kirby Grammar School, there is always an opportunity to start something new. Depending on teacher availability, students may begin immediately or at the start of the next half term. Places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, and families will be informed if a waiting list is in operation by the instrumental teacher.

Pupil Premium families should contact the Music Department directly for further information regarding financial support.

Lesson Fees

- **Individual 30-minute lesson:** £18 per week
- **Group lessons:** Available for guitar where suitable pairings can be made (£9 per week)

Terms and Conditions

- Lessons take place during the academic year.
- Lessons missed due to tutor absence will either be made up or deducted from the following invoice.
- Lessons missed due to student absence are chargeable unless alternative arrangements have been agreed directly with the instrumental teacher.
- Parents should inform the instrumental teacher of any planned absences or educational visits.
- Lessons are invoiced in advance by the instrumental teacher. Whilst the school facilitates the programme, the contract is between the parent/carer and the instrumental teacher.
- Lesson timetables will be issued by the instrumental teacher and displayed within the Music Department.
- Half a term's notice is required if lessons are to be discontinued, otherwise payment for that period remains due.
- Instrumental teachers will prepare students for external examinations where appropriate (ABRSM, Trinity, RSL, LAMDA and others). Examination fees are payable by parents. Grades 6–8 also carry UCAS tariff points towards university entrance. For example, a Grade 8 Distinction attracts 20 UCAS points.

Ensemble Participation

Students receiving instrumental tuition are strongly encouraged to become involved in one or more of our thriving musical ensembles. Performing with others develops confidence, teamwork and leadership, whilst also accelerating musical progress. Students learn from one another and become part of a vibrant musical community.

There are numerous opportunities to perform throughout the year in school concerts, community events and overseas tours. In 2025, the Joint Band travelled to Ypres, Belgium, performing at a variety of venues including the internationally renowned Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. Our next European tour is planned for July 2027, providing another exciting opportunity for students to perform abroad.

Whether your child is an experienced musician or has never played an instrument before, we would be delighted to welcome them into the Music Department. It is never too late to discover a new passion, develop a lifelong skill and become part of our musical community.

Please use the link below to complete the electronic sign-up form.

[INSTRUMENTAL TUITION FORM](#)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Music Department cgilbert@wkgs.net.

Kind regards,

Mrs C Gilbert
Head of Music