MARLING
SCHOOL

Instrumental Music Tuition Information for Parents 2026/27

Raising Aspirations, Inspiring Excellence, Succeeding Together

AIMS

It is the intention to provide an Instrumental Tuition Scheme that:

- offers instrumental tuition to as wide a range of students as possible
- reflects the different needs of students who are at different stages of learning and experience

INSTRUMENTS OFFERED

		Teacher
Brass		Mr Phillip Storer
Drums		Mr Nicholas Twilley
Drums & Percussion		Miss Daisy Davis
Guitar	acoustic / electric	Mr Tristan Watson
	bass	Mrs Saffron Young
Singing & Piano		Mr Seb Field
Piano		Mrs Lyndsay Wyer
Piano		Mrs Lisa Stoten
Singing & Piano		Mrs Vicki Field
Strings (upper)	violin / viola	Mr Jonathan Trim
Strings (lower)	cello	Ms Caroline Simpson
	double bass & bass guitar	Mrs Saffron Young
Theory		Mrs Lyndsay Wyer Mrs Saffron Young
	flute	Mrs Debbie Davis
	Saxophone/Clarinet	Ms Alice Cubbin
	Oboe, Bassoon and Recorder	Mr Liam Fleet

The above is a comprehensive list of all peripatetic instrumental staff from Marling School.

Instrumental Teaching Staff

Brass – Philip Storer B.A. (Hons), L.R.S.M.

Phil started playing cornet at the age of seven in the junior band of the Salvation Army Gloucester, progressing through his grades to eventually study music at Sheffield University under Major Peter Parkes. He was taught cornet/trumpet by Roger Webster and Maurice Murphy (London Symphony Orchestra). Phil has performed with many brass ensembles including Halle Orchestra Grimethorpe Colliery, Brighouse and Rastrick, James Shepherd Versatile Brass and most recently has recorded CDs for the Cory Band conducted by Philip Harper. Phil perpetually aims to make his lessons enjoyable and accessible to all his musicians, allowing his students to harness their true potential through progressing at their own pace on their journey to musical enjoyment. Phil is happy performing and teaching anything from Jazz to Classical and contemporary music. Phil's workshops have taken him to many parts of Europe - most notably Lithuania and Poland.

Contact Details:
M: 07990 947217
E: philip.storer@yahoo.co.uk

Singing & Piano - Mr Seb Field

Seb Field has taught in Gloucestershire schools for 20 years. As well as Marling and Stroud High, Seb currently teaches at The King's School, Gloucester. He offers tuition in singing (all grades) and piano (to Grade 5).

He teaches a wide range of styles including pop, musical theatre, classical and traditional, and is familiar with all major exam boards. Seb believes in a collaborative approach, working with both pupils and parents to ensure lessons are not only productive, but enjoyable too.

As a performer, Seb has sung with several leading choral societies across the UK and worked with ensembles such as the John S Davies Singers and The Proteus Ensemble. Alongside his wife Vicki, he is a member of the professional vocal consort Gaudeamus. Together they run the GLOW Music Festival and a number of choirs and recital series.

Contact Details:
E: sfieldmusic@gmail.com

Drums – Nicholas Twilley

Nicholas studied Music and Contemporary Art at Oxford achieving a Masters in 2002. He has worked alongside Freddy Mercury and recently played by invitation for Robert Plant. Nicholas teaches students from beginner level to performance, emphasising confidence, imagination, inventiveness, and authority.

Contact details:
M: 07915056624
E: theartinlistening@gmail.com

Drums & Percussion – Daisy Davis BMus (Hons)

Daisy first started playing the drums at the age of 11 and was quick to progress through the grades, achieving grade 8 distinction five years later. Growing up in Gloucestershire, Daisy was a member of many of the county youth music ensembles, including Five Valleys Music Centre, Gloucestershire Youth Wind Orchestra and

Gloucestershire Youth Orchestra, where she started playing orchestral percussion. She attended Marling school for sixth form and during this time began having orchestral percussion lessons. She achieved grade 8 distinction in orchestral percussion at the start of Year 13. After finishing her A Levels, Daisy went on to study orchestral percussion performance at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Here she studied percussion with multiple players from the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, including Toby Kearney and Matt Hardy, and drum kit with Dan Hayward and Malcolm Garrett. She graduated from RBC with first-class honours. Since graduating, Daisy has been teaching drum kit and percussion around Gloucestershire. As well as teaching at Marling, she also teaches at another local grammar school and an independent school and works for Gloucestershire Academy of Music.

From 2023-2024, Daisy was part of the first ever cohort on the London Symphony Orchestra Pathways Scheme and was mentored by the co-principal percussionist of the orchestra, Sam Walton. During this time, she performed a duet with Sam at a conference event at LSO St Lukes and performed alongside LSO players at the Trafalgar Square concert. Daisy has a particular passion for musical theatre and has played in several amateur musical productions. She also played percussion with National Youth Music Theatre in the European Premier of Tuck Everlasting. She has performed at Birmingham Symphony Hall multiple times with the CBSO Youth Orchestra, the RBC Symphony Orchestra and with Flowers Band, with whom she has freelanced.

Daisy has a passion for teaching, opting to study Further Pedagogy while at Conservatoire. She has experience as a student mentor for the National Children's orchestra and the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Junior department. She also has workshop leading experience and has delivered percussion workshops to students at Wells Cathedral School, Shirelands CBSO Academy School and Love Music Trust. Daisy is enthusiastic about the power of music education. She strongly believes it is important to be able to offer lessons to students wanting to learn for enjoyment, often as an outlet from other studies, rather than just pushing students to take graded exams. However, she is highly familiar with multiple exam syllabuses (Rock School, Trinity Rock and Pop, and Trinity College) and is confident taking students through the grades should they want to. Daisy's teaching methods are adaptable, and she tailors lessons to suit a particular student's needs and interests. Having been to music college she is familiar with, and experienced in, a wide range of styles and genres. Her friendly and empathetic demeanour is at the heart of every lesson.

Contact Details:
E: daisydavis213@gmail.com
M: 07544045874

Guitar (acoustic, electric) – Tristan Watson

Tristan graduated from Leeds College of Music in 2000 with a degree in Jazz. He has been teaching in the county for 14 years to all ages and levels and also performs professionally across the UK. Tristan is an accomplished guitarist and composer and top Jazz guitarist Femi Temowo (from the Amy Winehouse and Soweto Kinch Band) described him as an inspiration. Tristan is extremely versatile in playing acoustic, rock and jazz guitar and tailors lessons to individual students aspirations and ability. Exams are available in acoustic and rock grades but Tristan believes playing for pleasure can be equally as valuable. Tristan is dedicated to inspiring his students and raising their musical awareness and technique through the study of the guitars repertoire be it blues or contemporary pop/rock. He creates a positive and patient teaching environment that enables the student to reach their full potential.

Contact details: 01453 886893 / 07736 368991
tristan.watson@hotmail.co.uk

Singing & Piano – Vicki Field BA(Hons), DipMus,MISM

Vicki Field is an experienced teacher of singing and piano. She is skilled in a wide variety of styles, from classical and folk to jazz, pop and rock, and works with students from all starting points. She has an excellent record of results across all the main exam boards and their requirements.

In addition to her work at Marling and Stroud High, Vicki teaches at Ribston Hall High School in Gloucester. She is active in the city as a vocal animateur, recently leading singing projects with local primary schools for the Jubilee and the GLOW Music Festival, which she co-directs with her husband Seb. She also directs the Ecclesiastical Insurance Staff Choir and the City of Gloucester Community Choir, both of which play an active part in the city's civic life.

Vicki directed Gloucester Cathedral Junior Choir for 12 years and previously led the Cathedral Outreach Project and Junior Voices concert series. She has delivered workshops across the UK, including both Liverpool cathedrals.
As a soprano, she has performed with several leading choral societies in the South West and sings with professional groups such as Gaudeamus, The Proteus Ensemble, and the John S Davies Singers.

Contact details:
E: vfieldmusic@gmail.com
M: 07812 669870

Violin / Viola - Jonathan Trim BMus

Jonathan has many years' experience of teaching violin and viola in Gloucestershire, including Marling and Stroud High School, with success with pupils ranging from beginners to post grade 8 level. He also conducts the joint Senior Orchestra and the Senior String Ensemble for both schools. He studied Music at Birmingham University and studied violin and piano with leading musicians including Jeremy Ballard and Piers Lane. Jonathan has played in and led orchestras in the South West and has coached violins for the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain for the past few years.

Jonathan also conducts Stroud Symphony Orchestra and Capriol Chamber Orchestra and composes orchestral music which has been performed by various ensembles. He directs string workshops in Gloucestershire and beyond including the annual Big String and has worked with renowned soloists including Michael Bochmann, Tasmin Little and Nicola Benedetti. He has worked with young musicians for many years in county ensembles and is currently conductor of the Gloucestershire Youth Orchestra.

Jonathan is comfortable with playing and teaching a wide variety of styles ranging from classical to jazz, popular and folk. Emphasis is given in lessons to developing technical skills and musicianship within an enjoyable and supportive framework, using the exam syllabus where appropriate for each student. Several of Jonathan's pupils continue violin and music studies at university or Music College and beyond. Above all Jonathan hopes to foster a life-long love of music making and music playing in his students.

Contact details: 01453 731522 / 07710 426545
jontrim@btinternet.com

Cello – Ms Caroline Simpson

Caroline has gained many years' experience of teaching the cello to students of widely varying ages and abilities and believes in making lessons accessible and enjoyable for anyone who wants to learn. She has a BA (Hons) degree in music, a PGCE in instrumental teaching and an ATCL cello performance diploma which she passed with distinction. Caroline has also studied Music Therapy, gaining a diploma in this from Bristol University and believes strongly in the therapeutic nature of learning an instrument and making music. A long standing member of the European String Teachers Association (ESTA), Caroline regularly attends summer schools, chamber music courses and workshops. These help her to remain current and become a better and more informed string teacher and player. She plays in several local ensembles, and enjoys performing solo repertoire with piano accompaniment. Caroline aims to help people play with ease and confidence whether they are taking exams or playing on their own or in ensembles and teaches and plays with an awareness of Alexander technique. She is interested in people and the craft of cello playing and will suggest and source music which stimulates and motivates students to develop their expressive/technical skills in a progressive way. She encourages students to play with and without printed music and also to improvise.

Contact details: 01453 760086 / 07435 569589
carolinesimpsoncello@gmail.com

Double Bass / Bass Guitar /Theory – Saffron Young

Saffron is an enthusiastic teacher offering lessons on Double Bass and Bass Guitar from beginner to Grade 8, as well as theory. She tailors her lessons to suit the musical development of the individual, offering a wide range of repertoire from classical and orchestral, to current popular music, and most styles in between. She is able to prepare students for the performance aspects of GCSE and A-Level courses, as well as for ABRSM, Trinity and Rock school grade exams, and offers music theory lessons for ABRSM Grade 5.

She has been teaching in Gloucestershire for 10 years, having previously taught in London for 15 years. Saffron is involved with many group projects, including tutoring on "Bandit", the Cotswold Music Tutors Jazz Course, Gloucestershire Youth Jazz Academy and Five Valleys Music Centre and shares the running of a community Big Band. Saffron is an experienced and versatile performer. After studying at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, she performed in numerous West End shows over 17 years, including The Lion King, We Will Rock You, Les Miserable, Guys 'n' Dolls, Mamma Mia, Phantom of the Opera and many others. TV and radio credits include 'Goldeneye', breakfast TV with Michael Ball, 'Top of the Pops' with Seal, 'Woman's Hour' with Ivy Benson, and 'Jazz Notes' with Chrissy Lee. She is an experienced jazz and big band performer and has performed with the BBC Big Band, The Glen Miller Orchestra and has toured extensively with Helen Shapiro, Russell Watson and G4 and numerous theatre shows.

Contact details: (email only) saffyoungmusic@gmail.com

Piano / Music Theory – Lyndsay Wyer
BA (Music & Maths); LGSM (Piano); DipABRSM

As a very experienced piano teacher with excellent results, Lyndsay has been teaching at Marling and other Gloucestershire schools for over 25 years. Lyndsay prepares pupils for both the ABRSM (generally grades 1-5) and Trinity College (all grades) exam boards and will help with all areas of exam preparation, as well as the exam entry. Lyndsay also really enjoys just exploring music with her pupils irrespective of whether they chose to take exams. We look at many different styles and genres of music, using sheet music, chord sheets and the huge amount of resources which are available online. This will be from classical and jazz style pieces through to pop, musicals and video game music.

Lyndsay is very proactive in designing schemes of work to suit each pupil, and also liaises closely with students to see what their aims are and what they would like to be playing. She is also keen to communicate as often as is needed with parents/guardians and will keep them informed of any significant achievements or concerns.

All lessons are conducted in a relaxed and happy atmosphere, with plenty of laughter included in the hard work.

email: lwmusic14@gmail.com
mobile: 07903 750548

Piano - Lisa Stoten
BMus, MMus, LTCL, UTLM

Lisa brings over 25 years of experience in teaching piano, accompanying, and class music instruction. She has worked with students in various schools across London, the South East, and the South West of England. Currently, she is a Music teacher at Marling School, where she teaches Key Stage 3, GCSE, and A level lessons. Her passion for the piano began at age 10, when she played her grandmother's piano during a summer holiday visit from South Africa to Scotland. Upon returning home, she started piano lessons and never looked back. Lisa earned both a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Music degree, majoring in Piano Performance. She feels incredibly fortunate to have had the opportunity to study with esteemed piano teachers and concert pianists worldwide, including Fabio Bidini, Dorian Leljak, and Lamar Crowson. Lisa strives to inspire students of all abilities to discover the vast potential of the piano, promoting well-being, enjoyment, achievement, and self-expression.

Contact details: lisastotenteachespiano@gmail.com

Flute – Debbie Davis B.Ed (Hons)
Debbie is an experienced teacher who, after gaining a Bachelor of Education degree with first class honours, spent thirteen years as a classroom teacher, specialising in Music. Her love of inspiring students to make music led her to focus on instrumental teaching, and in 2007 she joined the Gloucestershire Music Service. Debbie's approach to teaching is flexible, depending on the needs of the student, but her lessons are always relaxed and friendly. She develops sound technique and good musicianship from the very first lesson, whether students wish to take exams or not. For students that do want to take exams, Debbie is happy to work with ABRSM and Trinity College syllabuses, in classical or jazz flute. Debbie enjoys teaching all abilities from beginner to grade 8 and above. Debbie provides opportunities for her students to attend ensemble sessions which can either lead to performances at school concerts or ensemble performances for GCSE and A level. She also encourages her students to perform solo at informal concerts wherever possible. Debbie is an able pianist and prefers to accompany her own students in concerts and exams, as it helps them to feel confident. In her spare time Debbie enjoys playing flute and piccolo in local orchestras, which include Gloucestershire Symphony Orchestra, Stroud Symphony Orchestra, Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra and the Cheltenham Cantilena Orchestra.

Contact details: 07818 676859 DebbieandLeeDavis@gmail.com

Saxophone – Alice Cubbin

Classical and Jazz (also Pop/Rock) Saxophone (all sizes), Jazz/Improvisation (to students experienced in other instruments) – Alice Cubbin BMus (Hons), ISM, CMT

As an experienced teacher and instrumental workshop leader Al has been teaching in the South West for nearly 20 years. With a BA(Mus) she graduated top of her class in the teaching, jazz performance and composition programmes.

A passionate teacher Al mentors students from beginner level to graduate standard; having always wanted to work in teaching she is passionate about music education. She believes in covering a wide range of music from classical to jazz, that enjoyment of music is the route to success, and that all students will benefit form the opportunity to perform with others, whether just as a duet with a parent or friend or as part of a band or orchestra.

She has worked professionally as a musical theatre orchestral musician and has been lucky enough to study under some of the country's best saxophonists. Al has had commercial success playing in the horn sections of various bands and has been a member of acclaimed Jazz Factory based at Wiltshire Music Centre where she has run a saxophone technique focus class. As a composer she has written numerous works with performances ranging from Bath Guildhall to the Birmingham Arts Festival and Shrewsbury Folk Festival amongst others.

Contact:
M: 07988 883586
E: alcubbin.music@gmail.com (email preferred).

Oboe, Bassoon and Recorder - Liam Fleet

Liam Fleet is a bassoonist, oboist and recorder player specialising in historically-informed performance. As a freelance player, he has performed with some of the country's leading period instrument ensembles including the Musical and Amicable Society, Instruments of Time and Truth and Ensemble La Notte. He is also a founding member of both the English Wind Consort and the Perula Collective, chamber ensembles specialising in playing Renaissance and Baroque repertoire (respectively) on period instruments. Since November 2022 he has been a committee member of the British Double Reed Society and has an administrative role in organising the annual Gloucestershire Double Reed Day.

Liam graduated with first-class honours from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, where he studied historical bassoon with Andrew Watts and modern bassoon with Nikolaj Henriques. During this time he also pursued studies in contrabassoon with Gareth Twigg, historical oboe with Gail Hennessy, modern oboe with Jenni Phillips and recorder with Annabel Knight. He also studied at the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague with Wouter Verschuren, Donna Agrell and Bram van Sambeek as part of the Erasmus+ programme in 2022. A passionate advocate for all things double reed, Liam is an active instrumental teacher in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, working to inspire the next generation of bassoonists, oboists and recorder players to reach their full musical potential.

Contact:
M: 07880807619
E: liam.bassoon@gmail.com

INSTRUMENTAL TUTION SCHEME

During the academic year a minimum total of 30 lessons will be available. Lessons are normally 30 minutes long and are offered either individually or in groups of two but there are some variations depending upon the choice of instrument and individual circumstances; these have to be agreed with the individual teacher. The choice depends equally upon:

- educational need
- the pressure on teaching time
- parental choice

The lessons are divided into three modules. However, because of the different length of the terms, the autumn term will consist of approximately 12 lessons, the spring term 10, and the summer term 8. For all instrumental staff, **arrangements will be made in direct negotiation between parent and instrumental teacher**. This means that within a 40-week academic year the effect of unforeseen events such as school closure or teacher absence should not affect the availability of the 30 lessons offered.

CHARGES

Please contact instrumental staff direct to enquire about their charges for tuition.

In cases of financial hardship, please see 'Bursaries' section below.

OTHER COSTS (Examinations)

The school will continue to enter your son for ABRSM, Rock School and Trinity Guildhall practical examinations, as appropriate, when instructed by his instrumental teacher. Additional charges will apply and notification of these will be provided prior to entry for examinations.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR LESSONS?

All students may apply for lessons directly with the teaching staff and wherever possible their request will be met. However, it must be realised that neither teaching time nor teaching space is limitless, and where lessons are oversubscribed, instrumental staff may need to place a student on their waiting list. Other factors such as the size of a student's hands may affect the choice of instrument and teachers will advise a student if they are likely to encounter difficulties in pursuing their choice. Teachers may consider teaching in groups of three in special circumstances, but this will need to be agreed with the instrumental teacher concerned.

PROVISION OF INSTRUMENTS

It is the responsibility of the student/parent/guardian to provide an adequate instrument to learn on; if the request is for piano lessons then ready access to a piano / suitable keyboard at home is essential. Instruments may be hired from the Gloucestershire Music Service at Colwell Arts Centre (Gloucester), but parents/guardians and students would be well advised to seriously consider purchasing their own instrument. Should you need to return an instrument for repair or no longer require the instrument, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to arrange for its return to Colwell Arts Centre. For further information and a Gloucestershire Music Instrument Hire application form, please contact Miss Bryony Swinger.

There are now many schemes offered by music shops that are of a hire-and-buy nature and which do not attract interest charges. Details are available from the Music Department if you wish to consider this course of action.

EXPECTATIONS

Attendance
In preparing instrumental timetables allowance will be made for known school events that appear on the school calendar. It is obviously not possible to foresee every school visit or informal test that takes place during the school year. However, as students are informed about these in time to prepare themselves, it is assumed that they also have time to **inform instrumental teachers** as well. Wherever possible an alternative time will be arranged but this may not always be feasible unless a gap has arisen elsewhere. Students are not to arrange lesson swaps with another student without informing their instrumental teacher.

Absence from a lesson on the part of the student will **not** normally be made up, but absence on the part of the teacher will normally be made up or a refund will be made at the end of the year. Any long-term absence due to illness should be discussed with the teacher immediately.

Attendance registers for instrumental lessons will be kept by teaching staff. If there are two consecutive, unexplained absences, or if the pattern of their son's attendance is causing concern, parents will be contacted directly by the instrumental teacher concerned so that the best possible course of action can be pursued.

Preparation
The expectation is that a student will attend their instrumental lesson with their instrument, music and having practised regularly. If a student is not properly equipped or prepared, they will be sent back to their curriculum lesson where their time can be more profitably spent. By looking at the timetables posted in the music block and their own individual copy of the timetable, students will be able to see in advance when their lessons are. Students should keep staff informed if there is a clash with an important event such as a test in a curriculum subject so that alternative arrangements can be made. **It is also expected that students will support school extra-curricular musical activities** in order to maximise their progress and experience.

All classwork missed due to an instrumental lesson must be made up and homework collected. It is the students' responsibility to find out what work or homework has been missed due to their attendance at an instrumental lesson. The student must make sure that this missed work or homework is completed. If a student is told not to miss an academic lesson due to GCSE Controlled Conditions or an important assessment, the student must check to see if their instrumental lesson clashes. With sufficient notice it may be possible to change the instrumental lesson and arrange a swap with another student. Please contact either the instrumental teacher direct or the Head of Music.

Reports
An instrumental report will be issued by the appropriate instrumental teacher direct to parents at the end of the academic year.

Contact information: Bryony Swinger BZS@marling.school