

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

September 2024



BASSINGBOURN
VILLAGE COLLEGE



Instrumental Music Tuition

Here at Bassingbourn Village College we are dedicated to providing the highest quality music tuition available. Alongside our bespoke general music and music technology course we offer one to one instrumental lessons which give students the opportunity to grow and learn in a nurturing and enjoyable atmosphere. The benefits of instrumental tuition is far reaching and very often have a positive effect on other subjects, particularly Maths and English.

Instrumental tutors

We are very fortunate to have some of the finest instrumental tutors in the region working with us and pride ourselves on the quality of the lessons provided, which are structured, informative, friendly and enjoyable. Lessons are regularly observed to ensure that the quality of teaching and learning is consistently high. In addition, parents are provided with a progress check each term and a written report in July.

We offer lessons in: Piano, Electric and Acoustic Guitar, Bass Guitar, Flute, Saxophone, Clarinet, Voice, Brass, Drums, Singing and Strings

Practice

Learning an instrument requires patience and practice! It is crucial that your child practises and we ask you to support us in encouraging your child to do so for at least 20 minutes every day. Your child's instrumental tutor will provide a weekly update of what was worked on in the lesson and what should be practiced the following week.

How Lessons Work and Pricing

We undertake to provide 30 lessons over the academic year. Instrumental tuition takes place within the school day on a rota basis. We seek to provide a reasonable rotation to avoid repeatedly missing the same lesson, whilst working within the time that each instrumental tutor is at the college. All of our tutors are professional music tutors and as such set their own charges for lessons (the average cost is £155 for 10 lessons). The tutor will provide you with a contract to sign and will usually ask that payment is made a term in advance of lessons starting.

It is the student's responsibility to catch up with any work they have missed including any homework that has been set. All BVC staff understand that students do need to leave their lesson from time to time. Students should exit their subject lesson no more than 5 minutes before their instrumental lesson.

We aim to accommodate any student that applies for instrumental lessons. However, if a particular instrument is over subscribed, your child will be placed on a waiting list and as soon as a place becomes available, you will be informed.

Additional Costs

Instrumental tutors may request that students purchase music for their lesson. In addition, ABRSM and Rock School exams are held annually at the college and any exam will incur

additional costs. A list of exam fees can be found on the relevant websites. A further fee may also be charged where appropriate to cover the cost of an accompanist.

Absence

If an instrumental teacher is absent, the missed lesson will be made up by the teacher over the course of the academic year. The tutor guarantees to teach your child thirty lessons over the academic year.

We do also expect students to be proactive regarding known absence. If they know they are going to miss their instrumental lesson due to an educational visit, subject test or formal examination, it is their responsibility to rearrange their lesson. The instrumental tutor should be informed a week in advance in order to rearrange the lesson. If this is not possible, students should speak to Mr Cowlan. We will always try to arrange an alternative time but with short notice, this may not be possible.

Unexpected student absences such as illness cannot be rescheduled at a later date. The tutor is on site, prepared to teach and such lessons cannot be made up under the thirty lessons per academic year agreement.

Students should regularly check the Music Department notice board and put their lesson times in their planners. A copy of the timetable will also be e-mailed to parents.

Parents will be contacted by Mr Cowlan if your child has missed more than two lessons and seek to find out if there are any particular reasons for this.

Ensemble activities

There are numerous extracurricular activities that students can be involved in and we encourage all instrumentalists to participate in our various concerts during the year. We also expect students to participate in our lunch time and after school music activities, which all aim to provide a fun and relaxed atmosphere for students to learn more and practice in.

Bassingbourn Village College offers the following ensembles:

	Lunch Time 12:30-12:50	After School 3:45-4:45
Tuesday	Outstanding Musician Programme	
Wednesday	School Band	Music Tech catch up

We also encourage student led ensembles and will support students wishing to start their own instrumental ensemble.

Purchasing/Hiring Instruments

Students can purchase or hire instruments from any music shop, although parents have found the following music shops to be very helpful: Wood Wind and Reed, Cambridge Piano Forte Centre, Ken Stevens Music & Instruments

Your child's instrumental tutor will of course be able to give advice on the purchase of an instrument. We are unable to hire out instruments to students.

Instrumental storage and Insurance

Students may leave their instruments in room 23 (music classroom) or the practice room that they have their lesson in. Instruments are semi supervised during school hours. Students should take their instruments home at the end of the school day.

As a college, we cannot take responsibility for any loss or damage of instruments whilst on school premises. Parents should ensure their child's instrument is insured. Please make sure that your child's name and tutor group are attached to the music case to aid identification.

Tuition Termination

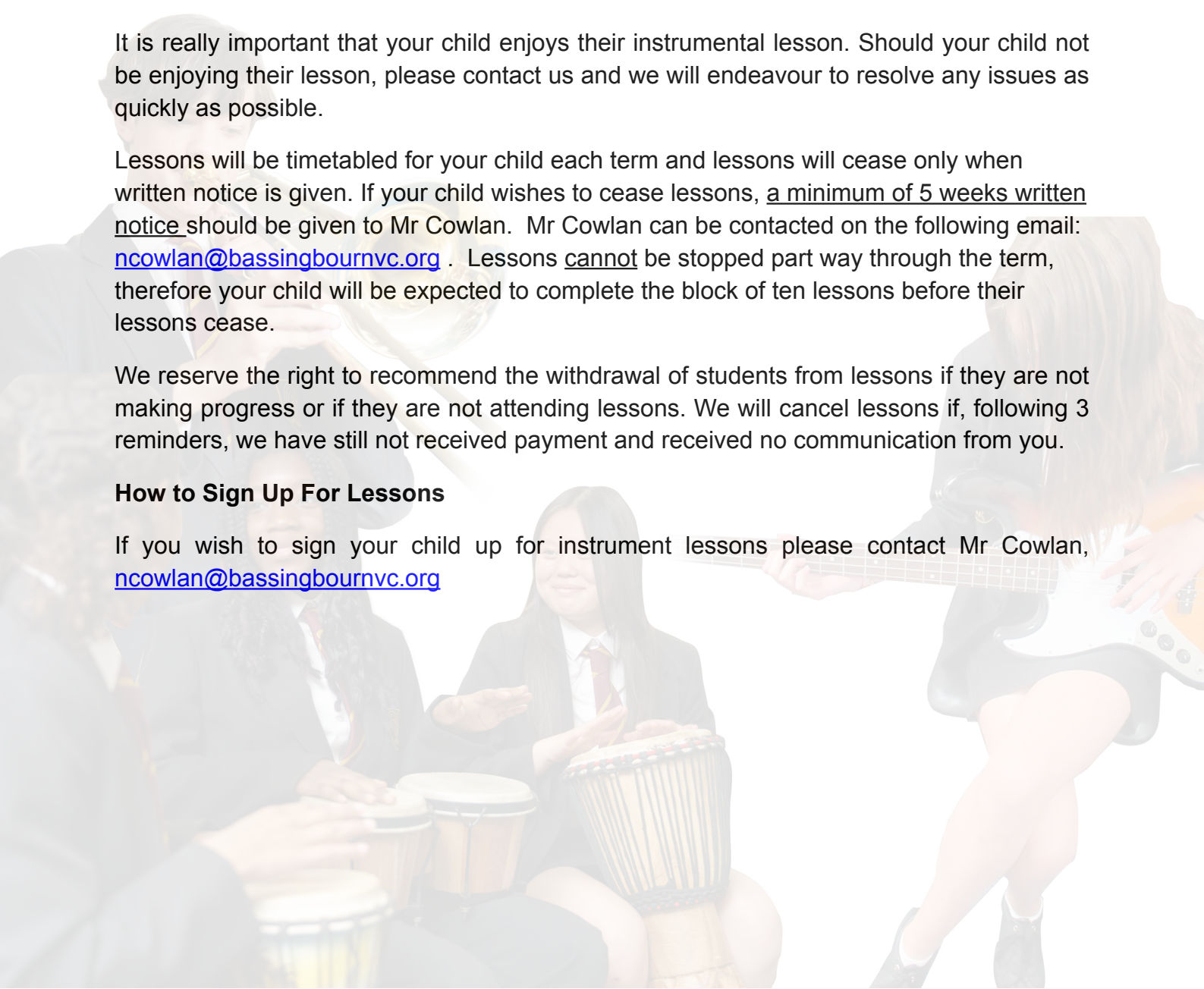
It is really important that your child enjoys their instrumental lesson. Should your child not be enjoying their lesson, please contact us and we will endeavour to resolve any issues as quickly as possible.

Lessons will be timetabled for your child each term and lessons will cease only when written notice is given. If your child wishes to cease lessons, a minimum of 5 weeks written notice should be given to Mr Cowlan. Mr Cowlan can be contacted on the following email: ncowlan@bassingbournvc.org . Lessons cannot be stopped part way through the term, therefore your child will be expected to complete the block of ten lessons before their lessons cease.

We reserve the right to recommend the withdrawal of students from lessons if they are not making progress or if they are not attending lessons. We will cancel lessons if, following 3 reminders, we have still not received payment and received no communication from you.

How to Sign Up For Lessons

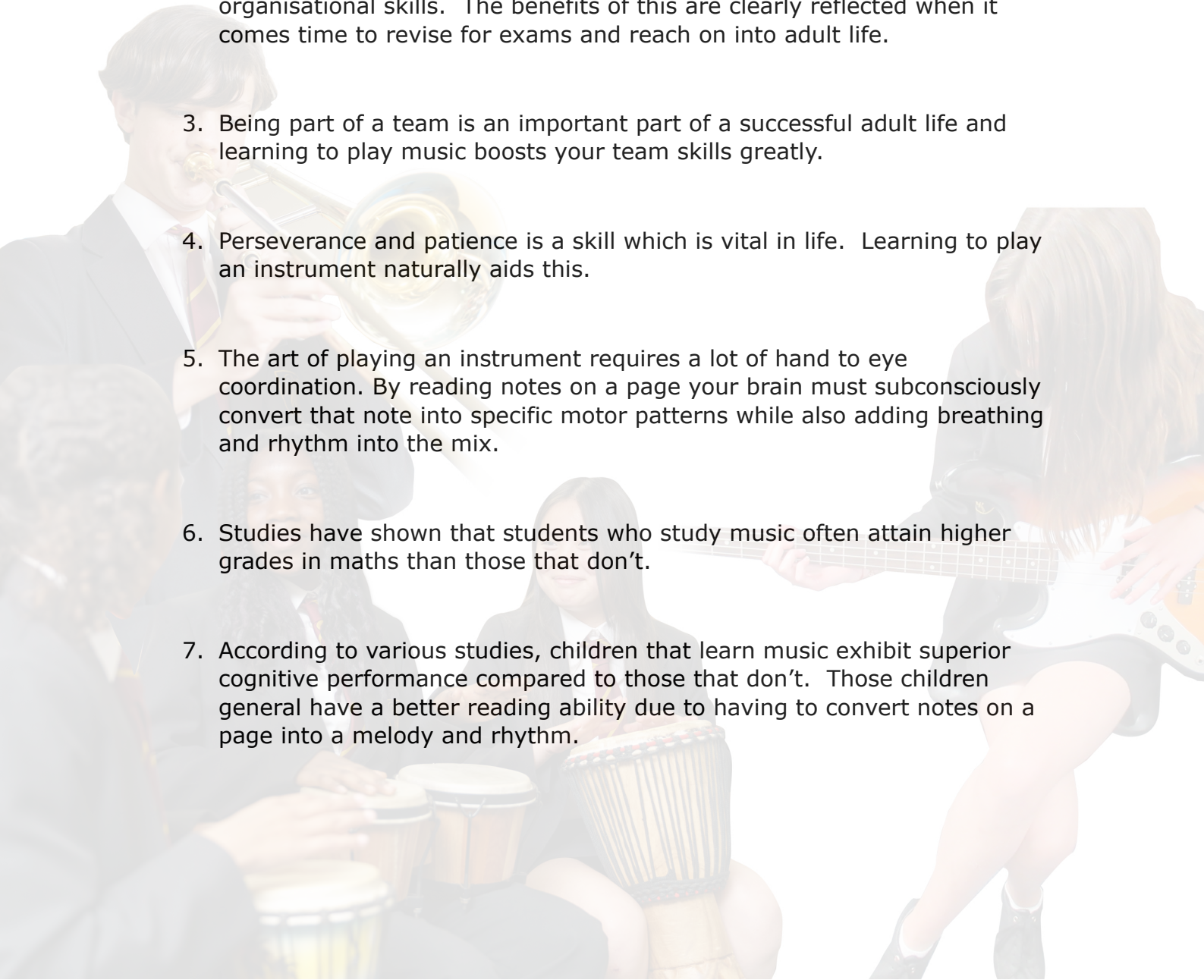
If you wish to sign your child up for instrument lessons please contact Mr Cowlan, ncowlan@bassingbournvc.org



Benefits of Learning an Instrument

Learning an instrument comes with many benefits which stay with you for a lifetime. You'll never find someone regretting learning an instrument, but most people regret not learning one. Below is a brief list of just some of the benefits...

1. Research has shown that learning an instrument can increase your memory and stimulate your brain. A study found that learning an instrument increased the special-temporal skills by 34% compared to those not learning. The Telegraph Online states that "regularly playing an instrument changes the power and shape of the brain". When learning to play an instrument the parts of your brain that control motor skills, hearing, storing audio information and memory actually grow and become more active.
2. Learning an instrument promotes better time management and organisational skills. The benefits of this are clearly reflected when it comes time to revise for exams and reach on into adult life.
3. Being part of a team is an important part of a successful adult life and learning to play music boosts your team skills greatly.
4. Perseverance and patience is a skill which is vital in life. Learning to play an instrument naturally aids this.
5. The art of playing an instrument requires a lot of hand to eye coordination. By reading notes on a page your brain must subconsciously convert that note into specific motor patterns while also adding breathing and rhythm into the mix.
6. Studies have shown that students who study music often attain higher grades in maths than those that don't.
7. According to various studies, children that learn music exhibit superior cognitive performance compared to those that don't. Those children general have a better reading ability due to having to convert notes on a page into a melody and rhythm.



8. When learning an instrument you are focussing on various aspects at the same time (rhythm, pitch, coordination etc..), which enhances your ability to concentrate.

9. Relaxation is vital to healthy life and wellbeing. Learning an instrument gives a unique sense of relaxation and “escape” from every day life. As a child works towards important exams this relaxation becomes vital.

