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The West Bridgford School

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Welcome to Performing Arts at The West Bridgford School

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Performing Arts Department at the West Bridgford School is a thriving hub of activity and learning both across the curriculum and extra-curricular. This letter is to make you aware of the extra-curricular provision available for your child both ensembles and one-to-one tutoring.

At West Bridgford we have a comprehensive offering of instrumental, vocal, theoretical and LAMDA lessons. Learning an instrument or LAMDA is a huge part of developing the resilience, independence and cultural understanding and awareness of a child. Grades in music and LAMDA exams are excellent qualifications for the CV not to mention that obtaining grades 6+ awards UCAS points for application to university. Year 7 is definitely not too late to start learning. Below are some frequently asked questions surrounding the organisation and management of one-to-one lessons.

HOW ARE THE LESSONS PAID FOR?

The instrumental teacher will invoice the Parent/Carer before the lessons are due to start – the contract that is signed is between the Parent/Carer and the particular Instrumental teacher, not the school, but the Performing Arts Department are very involved in the implementation of the lessons.

HOW WILL I KNOW WHEN/WHERE MY CHILD'S LESSON IS?

Lessons happen on a rotation basis throughout the school day, this is to ensure that the same lesson is not missed more than once in a short space of time. The teacher will email the timetable to the Parent/Carer a week before, any known clashes such as with fixtures need to be communicated well in advance. There is also a written timetable posted in the Music Department for the student to look at and check their time.

WILL MY CHILD GET INTO TROUBLE FOR COMING OUT OF A LESSON FOR MY MUSIC/LAMDA LESSON?

Of course not. The office makes a note on registers of when lessons are so that this will not be a surprise to the teachers. Our teachers are very supportive of music/LAMDA lessons. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they catch up on work missed and make themselves aware of any homework in the case of the end of the lesson being missed. Catching up on the work that has been missed will develop your organisation and self-confidence.

One-to-one lessons are available in the following disciplines:

- **Strings:** Violin, Viola, 'Cello, Double Bass, Acoustic Guitar, Classical Guitar, Electric Guitar and Bass Guitar.
- **Woodwind:** Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Oboe and Bassoon
- **Brass:** Trumpet, Trombone, Horns (Tenor, Baritone), Euphonium, Tuba (French Horn subject to request).
- **Percussion:** Piano, Keyboard, Drum Kit (Orchestral Percussion subject to request).
- **Voice:** Popular, Musical Theatre, Classical
- **Other:** Music Theory, Jazz, Composition
- **LAMDA:** Solo Acting, Solo Musical Theatre, Shakespeare, Speaking Verse and Prose, Public Speaking.

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IF MY CHILD HAS MUSIC/LAMDA LESSONS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL, CAN THEY STILL PARTICIPATE IN SCHOOL ENSEMBLES AND GROUPS?

Yes of course, it is our vision to have as many students as possible participating within the extra-curricular life of West Bridgford School. We currently have many students participating in ensembles and groups that access their lessons outside of school. For extra-curricular activities students do not need to sign up to these – just turn up!

Day	Time	Ensemble/Group	Room	Requirements
Monday	8.30-8.55am	Y7 Choir	Mu1	No requirements needed, just yourself and enthusiasm! The choir sings songs mostly Pop and Musical Theatre in 2-parts and is only open to Y7 students. This runs after <i>October Half Term</i> .
	3-3.30pm	Flute Choir	Stevie Wonder	Must play flute and be approximately Grade 1+.
Tuesday	8.15-8.55am	KS3 Orchestra	Mu2	Students must be learning an orchestral instrument (strings, woodwind, brass percussion). There is no required standard as the music is arranged for the students involved so it doesn't matter if you're a beginner or grade 8!
	3-4pm	Jazz Band	Mu1	Any instruments are welcome; approximate standard should be 2 years of learning or grade 3. Students should also be able to read notation.
	3-4pm	KS3 Drama Club	Theatre	No requirements needed, just yourself and enthusiasm!
Wednesday	8.30-8.55am	Choir	Mu1	No requirements needed, just yourself and enthusiasm! The choir sings songs mostly Pop and Musical Theatre in 3-parts across all 7 years of the school.
	6.30-8pm	Symphony Orchestra	Theatre/ Toot Hill School	A joint schools project with Toot Hill School which started in September 2022. This has been set up to develop a strong Classical initiative at the schools. Whilst the orchestra is by invitation, if your son/daughter is grade 4+ on an orchestral string instrument and you are interested, please contact Mr Deans at jdeans@wbs.school
Thursday	8.30-8.55am	String Orchestra	Mu1	Any orchestral string player who is approximately grade 3+.
	8.30-8.55am	Training Strings	Mu2	Any orchestral string player from beginner to grade 3.
	3-4pm	Rock School	Mu2	Anyone who plays guitar, bass, keys, drums or vocals is welcome to attend. Students will then be placed in a band on arrival of a similar standard and musical interests.
	3-4pm	Concert Band	Mu1	Anyone who plays a woodwind or brass instrument from grade 4+. Concert Band only runs in Week 2.
Friday	8.30-8.55am	Brass Ensemble	Mu2	Any brass player of any ability. The music will be arranged specifically for the ability of the performers.

We have an extensive extra-curricular programme at West Bridgford, some of these are after school and run until 3-4pm and some take place during tutor time; for these groups students register directly at the ensemble rather than attending line up first. Above is a table of groups that year 7 are able to access with instrumental requirements. There will be notices in September informing students the exact start date for each of these.

We also run two musicals a year, the KS3 Musical which runs from November to March and the whole School production which runs from April to October. Our whole school production for this year is already in progress, we will be performing *The Addams Family* in October 2025 so the first show opportunity will be the KS3 production. Please be sure to get tickets to come and watch the show in October!

If you would like your child to have lessons in school, please complete the attached agreement and return it to the school; either on paper or a virtual copy via email. It will be sent to the appropriate tutor who will be in touch ready to start promptly in September. There is no deadline to completing the form however please be aware that spaces fill up on a first come first served basis and once the instrument is full, a waiting list is in operation.

Kind Regards
Mrs. J Seymour
 Head of Performing Arts