



BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL

# MUSIC DEPARTMENT INFORMATION PACK

*Senior School*

2023-24

# Music Department Staff

## Director of Music

Mr Richard Dawson  
[rjd@barneyschool.org.uk](mailto:rjd@barneyschool.org.uk)

## Teachers of Music

Miss Anna Dias  
[ad@barneyschool.org.uk](mailto:ad@barneyschool.org.uk)

Mr George Ford  
[gef@barneyschool.org.uk](mailto:gef@barneyschool.org.uk)

Mr Matt Gooch  
[msg@barneyschool.org.uk](mailto:msg@barneyschool.org.uk)

## Visiting Music Teachers (VMTs)

Mr John Bradford	<i>Drum Kit &amp; Orchestral Percussion</i>
Mr Peter Coulson	<i>Singing</i>
Mr Mick Donnelly	<i>Clarinet, Saxophone &amp; Flute</i>
Ms Sue Ferris	<i>Flute, Clarinet &amp; Saxophone</i>
Mr Nigel Fletcher	<i>Piano</i>
Mr Chris Hibbard	<i>Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba &amp; Cornet</i>
Ms Jo Keithley	<i>Cello</i>
Mr Nicholas Lawrance	<i>Violin &amp; Viola</i>
Dr Antonina Lax	<i>Piano</i>
Ms Penelope Randall-Davis	<i>Singing</i>
Mr David Ratnanayagam	<i>Piano &amp; Organ</i>
Mr Mick Shoulder	<i>Guitar, Bass Guitar and Double Bass</i>
Mr Andy Yeadon	<i>Piano, Guitar &amp; Drum Kit</i>



BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL

## **Music Department Individual Music Lessons – Terms & Conditions 2023/24**

Our online application form for Individual Music Lessons can be found here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/oUtcV3jHWC>

1. Completion of the Individual Music Lessons Application Form constitutes an agreement that will last for the duration of a pupil's time at the school unless cancelled in writing (see below). This includes pupils who move up from the Prep School to the Senior School.
2. Lessons currently cost £22 per 30 minute lesson. This figure is reviewed each academic year. The cost of these lessons is either added to the school bill at the end of each term, or an invoice will be sent to the parent/guardian by the Visiting Music Teacher each term.
3. No part of the fees for music tuition can be refunded in the event of the pupil missing lessons through illness, injury or other unforeseen circumstance. A Visiting Music Teacher may try to make up the lesson, but this is not always possible and not expected of the Visiting Music Teacher. If a pupil cannot attend a lesson for whatever reason, the parent/guardian or pupil should inform the Director of Music or Visiting Music Teacher at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled lesson time. Where a pupil is in school but unable to play their instrument due to injury (e.g. sprained wrist) they are still expected to attend lessons and can work on aural and theory.
4. Where possible, all pupils receive 30 lessons per year, with the exception of pupils in Year 11 and Year 13 who normally only receive 25 lessons per year (due to public examinations and study leave).
5. All individual music lessons take place in the Music School at a time set by the Visiting Music Teacher. These times are displayed each week in good time via the Practice Pal app, our music lesson platform accessible by all pupils and parents. Any changes to the timetable will be published on Practice Pal and shared with the pupils in good time.
6. Individual music lessons are rotated throughout the school day to ensure that portions of different lessons are missed each week and the system is fair for all pupils. Fixed lessons before or after school, or in Supervised Study periods, are only permissible for Year 11 and Sixth Form pupils. Pupils should not miss games for individual music lessons.
7. As far as is possible, Visiting Music Teachers will avoid scheduling music lessons during trips, tests, sporting activities and other school commitments provided that they are published in the school calendar.
8. Pupils that take individual music lessons in school are expected to participate as fully as possible in the life of the music department by playing/singing in the relevant ensembles that are on offer. This, in turn, helps pupils to get the most out of their lessons by taking the skills they learn from their lessons and applying them to other forms of music-making.

9. The notice period to terminate individual music lessons is half a term, and notice of cancellation should be given before the end of the term/half term period preceding the term/half term in which the pupil wishes to cease lessons. The dates for these are:

- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023 (lessons will end on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023)
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023 (lessons will end on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024)
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (lessons will end on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024)
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 (lessons will end on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024)
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (lessons will end on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024)
- Notice to cancel lessons in advance of the 2023/24 academic year must be given by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023.
- Notice to cancel lessons in advance of the 2024/25 academic year must be given by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

When notice is given, it is also possible to instruct in writing:

- a) For the pupil to continue to attend individual music lessons until the 'lesson end' date.

Or

- b) For the timetabling of lessons to cease immediately – the remaining lessons must still be paid for, but the pupil stops attending lessons immediately.

To cancel lessons, parents/guardians must complete and return the cancellation form, which can be found here: <https://forms.office.com/e/eb79hzJLv1>

10. A change from one teacher to another of the same instrument is considered to be a cancellation followed by a re-start of lessons, and thus condition 9 (above) applies.
11. A secure storage cupboard for instruments is available opposite the Music School, which pupils are asked to keep instruments in (the code for the storage cupboard is available from the Director of Music). It is important that all instruments are labelled and adequately insured with fully comprehensive cover.
12. The Music Department offers an instrument hire scheme for various instruments, whereby pupils can hire a good-quality school instrument for up to a year. The cost for this is £24 per term for 'small instruments' and £36 per term for 'large instruments' and these are listed below. We also have a small number of drum kits for hire, which cost £45 per term. The cost for these will be added to the school bill each term. If this is required, please indicate this on the Individual Music Lesson application form.

<b>Small Instruments (£24 per term)</b>	<b>Large Instruments (£36 per term)</b>
Violin	Cello
Viola	Double Bass
Flute	French Horn
Clarinet	Trombone
Oboe	Euphonium
Alto Saxophone	Tenor Saxophone
Trumpet/Cornet	Baritone Saxophone
	Bassoon
	Guitar
	Bass Guitar

13. The entering of pupils for accredited practical music exams is normally decided between teacher and pupil, but communication will be made with parents in good time to confirm this decision. The boards we use for exams are ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music), LCM

(London College of Music) and MTB (Music Teachers Board). Exam fees will be added to the school bill.

I am very happy to speak to parents/guardians about individual music lessons, or about music in general. To get in touch, please email [rjd@barneyschool.org.uk](mailto:rjd@barneyschool.org.uk)

**Director of Music**

Mr Richard Dawson

[rjd@barneyschool.org.uk](mailto:rjd@barneyschool.org.uk)



BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL

## **Music Department Ensemble and Music Activity List**

### **Brass Ensemble**

The Brass Ensemble is directed by Mr Hibbard and is aimed at junior players, giving them an opportunity to gain experience of playing a wide range of music from classical through to the lighter and more jazzy styles. Open to all ages but aimed at players of all brass instruments up to Grade 3 to 4. It is an ideal group to join before joining the Wind Band.

### **Chamber Choir**

Directed by Mr Dawson, this auditioned choir features some of the most experienced singers at Barney, performing in all the School's major concerts and making appearances further afield. Singers of roughly Grade 5 standard and above are welcome to audition for this exciting and hard-working ensemble. The group usually sings more secular repertoire in a broad range of styles, including musical theatre and a capella.

### **Chapel Choir**

One of Barney's largest and most popular ensembles, the Chapel Choir is open to all pupils that love singing and want to work hard. No audition is required, but members must be committed. In return, there are numerous amazing opportunities on offer, including singing at local Cathedrals (including Durham, York Minster, Newcastle etc.), singing at the famous Barney Nine Lessons and Carols and at the Bowes Museum. Tours more further afield have included St Paul's Cathedral and Liverpool Cathedral as well as trips overseas.

### **Composition Club**

Interested in learning how to compose your own music, or just needing a space in the week to catch up on your composing with some advice? Composition Club is the club for you!

### **Big Band**

Open to saxophonists, trumpet and trombone players, drummers and percussionists, guitarists and pianists. The group rehearses a variety of jazz, and feature heavily in concerts and events throughout the year!

### **Junior Chamber Choir**

If you are in Years 7 or 8 and love singing, this is the group for you! We sing a range of music from pop classics to musical theatre, classical to a capella and more. All singers in Years 7 to 8 are welcome in this fun and hard-working choir.

### **Junior Orchestra**

Junior Orchestra is open to all instrumentalists from beginner level up to around Grade 3/4 standard. A must for many instrumentalists in Years 7 and 8!

### **Music Tech Club**

Interested in Music Production and making and recording music using technology? This is the perfect club for you! Open to everyone, no matter your experience.

**Rock & Pop Bands**

Interested in forming your own band? Mr Yeadon will help you with this! Explore a range of music and develop your ability to play with other musicians.

**Senior Orchestra**

The Senior Orchestra is for those instrumentalists a little further on in their playing, and is for those of roughly Grade 4/5 standard or above. Repertoire is varied, from classical music to film music and much more!

**Saxophone Ensemble**

The Sax Ensemble, directed by Mr Gooch, is the ensemble for more senior saxophonists. The group play regularly at concerts and other school events, and gives pupils the opportunity to play other saxophones including the Soprano Sax and Bari Sax.

**Theory Club**

Theory Club prepares pupils for forthcoming ABRSM Theory examinations. To progress to Grade 6 ABRSM practical, Grade 5 Theory is necessary and aural is very much part of the ABRSM syllabus for all grades. This club is also useful to prepare pupils for taking GCSE Music.

**Wind Band**

The Wind Band is run by Mr Dawson, and is open to all year groups. There are no auditions but pupils should be of a minimum Grade 3 standard and be willing to commit themselves to a group which plays a wide variety of music from the film classics to popular music.

**Wind Ensembles (Junior, Intermediate and Senior)**

Run by Ms Ferris, our small Wind Ensembles give pupils the opportunity to learn important Chamber Music skills and perform a wide repertoire. There are ensembles for all abilities, so get involved!