



**Barnard Castle School**  
ESTD 1883

# **MUSIC DEPARTMENT INFORMATION PACK 2026/27**





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## **Music Department**

### **Individual Music Lessons – Terms & Conditions 2026/27**

Our online application form for Individual Music Lessons can be found here:  
[\*\*Barnard Castle School - Music Lesson Application Form 2026/27\*\*](#)

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 £25.68 per 30 minute lesson (inclusive of VAT). 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, unless otherwise agreed following the above procedure.
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 Involve app, our school calendar system accessible by all pupils and parents. Any changes to the timetable will be published on Involve 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 must not miss headspace (Barney's PHSE sessions) 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 via Involve.
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.



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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:

- **Friday 16th October 2026 (lessons will end on Wednesday 16th December 2026)**
  - **Wednesday 16th December 2026 (lessons will end on Friday 12th February 2027)**
  - **Friday 12th February 2027 (lessons will end on Wednesday 24th March 2027)**
  - **Wednesday 24th March 2027 (lessons will end on Friday 28th May 2027)**
  - **Friday 28th May 2027 (lessons will end on Saturday 3rd July 2027)**
- Notice to cancel lessons in advance of the 2026/27 academic year must be given by **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2026**.
- Notice to cancel lessons in advance of the 2027/28 academic year must be given by **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2027**.

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.

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 £30 per term for small instruments' and £45.60 per term for 'large instruments' and these are listed on the next page. We also have a small number of drum kits for hire, which cost £57.60 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.

Small Instruments (£30 per term)	Large Instruments (£45.60 per term)
Violin Viola Flute Clarinet Oboe Alto Saxophone Trumpet/Cornet	Cello Double Bass French Horn Trombone Euphonium Tenor Saxophone Baritone Saxophone Bassoon Guitar Bass Guitar



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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 the following:

- ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music)
- MTB (Music Teachers Board)
- LCM (London College of Music)
- Trinity (Trinity College London)

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





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**Music Teaching Staff**

**Mr Matt Lowe** *Director of Music*

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

**Mr George Ford** *Assistant Director of Music and Head of Academic Music*

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

**Miss Sarah Beecroft** *Teacher of Music and Prep Music Lead*

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

**Mr Oscar Gorman-Tysoe** *Teacher of Music and School Accompanist*

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

**Visiting Music Teachers (VMTs)**

**Ms Victoria Barbe**

*Voice*

**Mr Peter Coulson**

*Voice*

**Mr Mick Donnelly**

*Woodwind*

**Ms Sue Ferris**

*Woodwind*

**Mr Nigel Fletcher**

*Piano*

**Mr Chris Hibbard**

*Brass*

**Mr Nick Lawrance**

*Upper Strings*

**Dr Antonina Lax**

*Piano*

**Mr David Ratnanayagam**

*Piano*

**Mr Michael Shoulder**

*Guitar (Acoustic, Electric, Bass, Ukelele)*

**Mr Charlie Smith**

*Drum Kit and Orchestral Percussion*

**Mr Andrew Yeadon**

*Rock and Pop (Guitar, Bass Guitar, Drum Kit, Piano)*

## **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.

## **Chamber Choir**

Directed by Mr Ford, 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.

## **Junior Jazz Orchestra**

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

## **Senior Jazz Orchestra**

For those instrumentalists who are working at Grade 3/4 standard upwards. All Woodwind, Brass and Strings are welcome, with further opportunity for Rhythm sections players (Drum Kit, Bass Guitar, Guitar, Keyboard)

## **Jazz One**

This audition-only ensemble provides opportunity for instrumentalists wanting to play at a higher level. Those players who are at roughly Grade 5 level are encouraged to audition, and will enjoy a range of performance opportunities throughout the academic year.

## **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.

## **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!

## **Percussion Ensemble**

Percussion Ensemble is open to all players who are excited to explore the world of tuned and untuned percussion. Run by Mr Bradford, you will have the chance to play Xylophones, Snare Drums and much more!