



# Instrumental Lessons



## An Information Booklet

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@UCCMusicNicklin

## Instrumental Lessons at Uppingham Community UCC

At Uppingham Community College, we are very proud indeed of our long and successful music tradition, offering students the chance to experience many different styles and genres of music through encouraging participation in various groups and seasonal ensembles. Some of our ensembles lead students to play an active part in our local and wider community, as well as being an integral part of UCC life.

A central part of this is the instrumental and vocal tuition that we offer weekly and involves many students learning to play from a wide range of instruments.

### Tuition is offered in:

Flute/Piccolo	Cornet/Trumpet	Vocals
Clarinet/Saxophone	Euphonium/Baritone	Piano/Keyboard
Oboe	Tuba/Trombone	Acoustic/ Electric Guitar
Recorder	Violin/Viola	Drum Kit/Tuned Percussion
Bassoon	'Cello/Double Bass	Graded Music Theory Lessons
Spanish Guitar	Ukulele	Cuban tres

### How do the lessons work?

Students are withdrawn from their timetabled lessons to attend these sessions. Wherever possible, every effort is made to ensure that the lesson times operate on a rota basis, so that the students do not miss the same school lesson every week.

It is the responsibility of students themselves to look at the notice board outside the Music Room to check their lesson time for that day and to remember to bring their instrument and sheet music.

If students forget to bring either their music or their instrument (or both!) they should still attend the lesson at the correct time as it is always possible for the teacher to cover much needed skills such as theory or aural training, even without an instrument. Occasionally, there may be a problem with college tests, exams or special visits, in which case the student should inform their instrumental teacher two weeks in advance and see Miss Nicklin, *Head of Music*, at least 24 hours in advance so that a swap may be arranged with another student.

If a student forgets to turn up for their lesson, please note that it is not always possible to send for them – it is their responsibility to attend punctually.

### How long are the lessons?

Lesson lengths vary according to the standard of the player and some students can be taught in groups.

We usually find that instrumentalists in the early stages of their musical training gain a tremendous amount from being taught in small groups. Their peers provide them with motivation, and moral support. It also gives the teacher an opportunity to play ensemble pieces, providing an extra element of fun and sometimes a competitive dimension.

As students progress, the more concentrated nature of an individual lesson becomes more appropriate and the lesson length extends as the student achieves higher standards.

### Is there any opportunity to play in a musical group?

A very important part of musical tuition is playing with other people in some kind of ensemble. This experience brings in a whole new dimension to playing the instrument, as new skills are required. It is an essential part of aural training, as it is possible for the student to hear notes sounding together in harmony, rather than just a single part. It improves the recognition of rhythm, both aurally and written down, plus students gain the discipline of having to keep in time with other players as well as following a conductor. As a result, students experience a much wider repertoire of musical styles and genres, enjoying the opportunity to play different kinds of music.

By performing on a regular basis, in and out of UCC, instrumentalists and vocalists learn a whole range of skills; organisation, programme planning, stage management, how to dress appropriately for formal occasions, the importance of punctuality and commitment, and how to present oneself with confidence.

Above all, the students benefit from the camaraderie engendered by belonging to a team who all share a love of making music, as well as having lots of fun in the process!

The **UCC Wind Band**, **Uppingham Stars' Choir**, **Rockschool**, **Recorder Ensemble** and **Sing-a-Solo** are some of our '**regular**' **extra-curricular** activities that take place at break and lunchtimes as well as after school throughout the year. Other musical and performing arts activities are '**seasonal**', just as rugby and cricket are in sport and are arranged according to the needs and enthusiasms of our students. Some examples of this have been **Brass Ensemble**, **Big Band**, **Flute Choir**, **Clarinet Ensemble**, **String Quartet** and **Strings Ensemble**. For guitarists, vocalists, kit and keys players, the Rockschoo! is an after school group run weekly, providing opportunities for students to form rock bands and play contemporary music.

### How much do the lessons cost?

Lessons usually cost from £12 per 20 minute lesson, but the costs do vary depending on which teacher you have. The instrumental or vocal teacher will contact parents/carers directly and will require payment in advance for lessons.

### How do I sign up for lessons?

Simply fill in the attached agreement form and return it to Student Services. They will then send your details to the instrumental teacher, who will contact parents/carers directly.

### How do I pay?

Each term, you will be sent an invoice by the instrumental/vocal teacher for the amount owing for that term. Please send your payment directly to the teacher as we do not deal with the music fees.

### Do I still have to pay when teaching staff are absent?

In the event of a teacher being absent, they will try to make up the lesson at a later date. If this is not possible, parents/carers will receive a credit at the end of the term.

### Do I still have to pay when a student misses a lesson?

Yes. If the teacher is on site, and waiting to teach the student, we still have to pay for their professional time, therefore you will be invoiced for that lesson.

### What if my child wants to stop music lessons?

You should notify both the instrumental teacher and the Student Services team who organise the timetables. Students will not be able to come off lessons once the term has started and parents/carers will be responsible for the payment for the teacher's time for the rest of that term.

### For families in receipt of benefits.

For families in receipt of benefits, we are aware that paying for music lessons may present some difficulty, and we may be able to offer a reduced rate for the lessons. Further information can be obtained from the Student Services team.

### And finally ....

Learning to play a musical instrument requires a huge commitment, not only from the students themselves, but also from our parents/carers. At Uppingham Community College, we try to match that commitment by giving high standards of tuition and opportunity to all of our students, whether they wish to pursue a musical career, or simply develop their musical talent as a skill for life.

I hope that this booklet has answered some of your questions about the lessons, yet should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to ask.

**Carly Nicklin**  
**Head of Music**

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