



July 2020

Dear Parent/Carers

Music Tuition lessons - September 2020

We are writing to communicate how we will be offering instrumental and vocal tuition to Backwell pupils in September 2020. We hope to be able to deliver lessons as normally as possible (in twos, threes or individually with a specialist teacher on site). If this is not the case, we will be enabling lessons to continue remotely (please see attached guidance, from North Somerset Music Service for more details)

With effect from September 2020 we shall again be collecting music tuition fees via ParentPay, the school's online cashless payment system.

The fees will be due in three instalments, on **28 September 2020, 11 January 2021 and 19 April 2021**. Payments should be made via www.parentpay.com. If you have any problems accessing the service, please contact the Finance Team on 01275 465941.

Students will receive 30 instrumental lessons per academic year, either individually (25 minutes at £18.50 per lesson), in pairs (30 minutes at £11.50 per lesson) or in groups of three (30 minutes at £7.50 per lesson), depending on their level of study.

Please note that the number of instrumental lessons received each two terms varies per year. For example, this current academic year, students will receive 12 lessons in Terms 1 and 2, 9 lessons in Terms 3 and 4 and 9 lessons in Terms 5 and 6.

The payments for music tuition from September 2020 will be as follows (the rate appropriate to your son/daughter is indicated):

25 minute individual lesson	Annual cost £555
30 minute shared lesson in a group of 2	Annual cost £345
30 minute shared lesson in a group of 3	Annual cost £225

Please note that if a student wishes to cancel music tuition, both the Finance Office and the students' music teacher, must receive two terms' written notice.

We will assume that all learners are continuing with their instrumental lessons. However, if you do not wish to continue with lessons from September 2020, then please let us know by Thursday 16 July at the very latest.

Backwell School currently offers instrumental tuition to nearly 300 students. We are proud of the standards they achieve and thank you as parents/carers for your continued support of Music Department events.

Yours sincerely,

V Cooper and N Gumm
Head of Music and Business Support Manager
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Guidance from North Somerset Music Service on peripatetic lessons in September 2020

The positive impact of music making on young people's wellbeing, the transferable skills to other subject areas and general intellectual development it enhances, are greatly beneficial in these unprecedented times. If young musicians can continue with their instrumental, or vocal lessons, this will benefit them greatly. This of course, is in addition to the musical progress they will make, further developing their skills.

Enabling these lessons to happen, however, is a challenge. As a school we have to risk assess face to face delivery of music lessons and decide whether, for example, by using portable screens between teacher and pupil, maintaining social distance rules in adequate teaching spaces, lessons can be delivered safely. Where the risk is too great, perhaps because rooms are too small or unventilated, the Music Service is offering to stream lessons into practice rooms.

In this scenario the pupils attend their lessons according to the rota we display in the normal manner, but their music teacher delivers the lesson over the internet. These lessons will be monitored remotely, and 'audio' recorded to ensure they are reviewable. The Music Service has been delivering lessons online throughout lockdown and the approach is working well.

We encourage you to book your child's music lessons in the usual way for September. If safe to do so, their lessons will be delivered face-to-face with appropriate distancing and PPE if needed. If face-to-face cannot be accommodated, lessons will be delivered in school remotely over the internet.

If the school decides children will attend on a rota basis in Term 1 2020, then so long as families agree to the Music Service's Terms and Conditions for online lessons, they can be taught online in their own homes during the normal school day, on the days they are at home.

Should schools not open fully in September, due to the 'R' number rising significantly or other factors, then online lessons can also be delivered to pupils in their homes in line with the published terms and conditions during normal school hours.

We believe that whichever scenario unfolds in September, our young musicians should be able to receive lessons in one form or another and so encourage you to book.