



Archdiocese of Birmingham
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy
Principal: Mrs S Rathbone, BA (Hons) NPQH
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Dear Parents/Carers,

Extra- Curricular Instrumental Lessons

This letter contains information for optional **extra-curricular** instrumental lessons with a specialist teacher.

This is **not** the Year 4 Class String and Brass lesson programme which is offered to all year 4 children as part of their music curriculum.

To register interest in extra-curricular lessons starting from September 2026, or to **continue** current small group lessons please complete the form on Scopay.

From September there are spaces available for learning the following instruments:

Violin, Viola with Mrs Amison – Year 3, 5/6

Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, with Mrs Farrington - Year 3, 4, 5 & 6

Trumpet / Cornet, Trombone with Mr Farrington – Year 3, 5/6

Lessons are 20 minutes in small groups and there will be a minimum of 35 lessons per year. Where a teacher misses a lesson, they will make every effort to catch up time missed in the scheduled catch-up weeks. If a child misses a lesson, this will be caught up if possible, but there is not an obligation on the teacher to do this.

There is an annual charge of £150 for instrumental lessons, which equates to less than £4.50 per lesson, thanks to the continuing school subsidy. Lessons for children in receipt of Targeted free school meals are fully subsidised. Payment is due by 1st September, although there is an option to pay by standing order of £15 per month for 10 months, from September to June, payable on the 1st of the month.

Your child will need an instrument to learn and practise on, which can be loaned from school or the City Music Service. If you are thinking of buying an instrument for your child, please contact Mrs Amison as there are various schemes to assist in purchasing new instruments, and she can advise on what size or quality to look for in a second-hand instrument.

For school violins, the loan fee is £20 per year paid on Arbor.

For Woodwind and brass instruments your teacher will advise on loan charges, if applicable.

You may be asked to provide books and small consumables such as rosin, reeds or valve oil. There are some pre-loved books available to borrow from school, please ask Mrs Amison if the correct one is available. As your child progresses, there is the option to be assessed for ABRSM medals and exams. These have payable fees, but support can be sought from the Friends of Staffordshire's Young Musicians organisation. The application process takes about 2 months, so please contact Mrs Amison early on, if you wish to apply for funding for exams.

Thank you for all your patience and encouragement at home, especially the positive praise you give every time your child practises. Parental support and regular practice are essential to overcoming the challenges in creating initial sounds, setting the foundation for future progress and success.

Please complete the form below and return it to school by Monday 6th July.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Rathbone
Executive Principal

Child's name _____

My child would be interested in learning/continuing to learn the _____.

I wish to pay the lesson fee of £150 via;

☐

Arbor full payment by 1st September 2026

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Via standing order, commencing 1st September 2026

Signed _____ Date _____



St Gabriel
the Archangel
Catholic Multi-Academy Trust