



1 July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As a Music Specialist Academy we want to encourage all students to play an instrument. We would like to offer you this scheme which sits apart from normal instrumental lessons and is devised to fast-track students into taking up an instrument. What's available:

From the School

Your Commitment

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| Term 1: A free instrument, 10 large group lessons (30mins) and a music book | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A £35 sign-up fee • Instrument insured by yourself |
| <i>Alternative remote plan = individual 20min <u>weekly</u> lessons (via Google Meet/Skype/Zoom)</i> | |

If you want to continue after this initial trial:

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| Term 2: Smaller group lessons. Free instrument. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £45 for 10 small group lessons |
| <i>Alternative remote plan = individual 20min <u>fortnightly</u> lessons (via Google Meet/Skype/Zoom)</i> | |

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| Term 3: Smaller group lessons. Free instrument. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £45 for 10 small group lessons |
| <i>Alternative remote plan = individual 20min <u>fortnightly</u> lessons (via Google Meet/Skype/Zoom)</i> | |

Payment for Term 1 can be made by cheque, with the **pupil's name** and "**Trailblazers**" clearly labelled on the back. Following that - all payments must be made on ParentPay via www.parentpay.com.

At the end of the academic year (July 2021) the instrument needs to be returned and we may be able to offer various ways of purchasing/hiring a similar instrument if your child wishes to continue next year. Lessons would then be booked through the school under the regular system in liaison with the Music Administrator.

The **TRAILBLAZERS** scheme applies to the following instruments:



If your child would like to become a **TRAILBLAZER**, please read the details on the attached sheet. We would like a few sentences from your child explaining which instrument they want to learn and why. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will not be a taster session on these different instruments before September. The instrumental teachers have, however, prepared short demonstration videos on each instrument to help in your decisions so please do take time to watch these.

[Trailblazer introduction Video](#)

When ensembles resume, students who opt to take up the **TRAILBLAZERS** challenge are expected to attend 'The Noise' - a starter ensemble held before school on Wednesdays (8:30am until 9.00am).



If you have any questions regarding this initiative, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me: the best way is by emailing Mrs Charlotte Lee (Music Administrator: clee@bristolcathedral.org.uk). Please also get in touch if you feel the £35 sign-up fee excludes your child from the scheme. This scheme is designed to enable students to engage with music regardless of background, race, ethnicity, gender, or economic status. If your child is interested, we want to make this happen!

You must complete the [BCCS Trailblazer Request Form](#) by **Monday 13th July** at the latest please as we will be placing orders for instruments that week. Unfortunately, we are not able to guarantee that late entrants will be able to have a place on the scheme.

Let the fun commence!

Best wishes,

Mr Andrew Nicholls

Andrew Nicholls
Director of Specialism
Bristol Cathedral Choir School
Cathedral Schools Trust

TRAILBLAZERS

Encouraging our students to learn an instrument

THE OFFER

1. The school will lend an instrument to a pupil in September on receipt of £35 payable via Parent Pay. (If this fee excludes you from the scheme, please contact Mrs Lee on clee@bristolcathedral.org.uk to discuss financial support).
2. Please note instruments will only be allowed off the premises when confirmation of insurance is received.
3. Students will be offered one of the instruments mentioned previously in this letter, however, this will be subject to availability.
 - i. If a student cannot be offered their first choice of instrument, they will be offered an alternative. If this is not available/acceptable, students can opt out of the scheme and will have their sign up fee of £35 refunded.
4. Students will attend 10 group lessons and 'The Noise' (a starter ensemble on Wednesdays before school). Failure to attend either of these without a valid reason will result in the student being removed from the scheme with no refund of the sign up fee.
5. At the end of Term 1 (Michaelmas), students have the option to keep the instrument for Term 2 (Lent) and Term 3 (Trinity) if they pay for small group lessons at a fixed rate of £45 per term. Usually these groups are about four people but this will depend on demand per instrument.
6. The instrument must be returned to as soon as the child ceases participation in the scheme. Normal instrument wear and tear will be expected (what constitutes 'normal' will be decided by the Director of Music). Loss or damage outside of this will need to be paid for by the parent/carer.
7. Instruments are the responsibility of the student. They must not be changed, altered, swapped, lent or used by other people in or outside of the school community.
8. 'Extras' for instruments (reeds, oils, etc.) will need to be replaced by the student.

TRAILBLAZERS

Encouraging our students to learn an instrument

Please complete the [BCCS Trailblazer Request Form](#) **Monday 13th July 2020**