

# MVCi Programme

2024 - 2025



## Passionate about Music

Please return the completed form from the back of this brochure to the school office.

## **Our History**

Since September 2011 the college has sourced its own instrumental tutors rather than employing the services of Cambridge Music. This has allowed us to;

- expand the teaching hours when required
- abolish waiting lists
- explore greater flexibility of teaching hours

## **Instrumental Music Tuition**

At Melbourn Village College we are always delighted when a student wants to take the opportunity of learning a musical instrument or wishes to take their playing further. We believe that this is the opportunity to explore a lifelong interest in Music.

New Year 7 students will be joining our current instrumentalists who increasingly excel in college concerts and wider music performance opportunities.

## **Benefits**

Adults often remark “I wished that I had learnt to play at school” and it is true that starting playing at KS2 or KS3 is the ideal but in truth playing music is good for you whatever age you are! Some students will, after studying GCSE Music, want to take A level Music and see where their talents lead them but for many students it is an excellent hobby because;

- learning to play will alert a quickening of the perceptive faculties through exercises particularly in concentration
- it encourages correct breathing and good posture
- it is a vehicle for self expression and self discipline
- musicians have to work to public deadlines and are encouraged to regularly review their progress. Performance work accelerates progression.
- where appropriate Musicians use examinations to increase their rate of progression

At the college we are committed to ensemble playing for as many students as possible. Group music making is particularly valuable because;

- it is a social activity
- it requires team work and fosters leadership
- it prepares for regular performances that engender self confidence
- it is an active and creative aspect of musicianship
- it stimulates imagination and aesthetic appreciation

## What MVC Instrumental provides

Over the whole academic year, thirty lessons are provided at the college. This may involve receiving more than ten lessons in a long term and slightly less in a shorter term. As we guarantee thirty lessons over the year ½ termly fees will always be charged for the cost of five lessons.

Year 11 students will receive 20 lessons over the course of the Autumn and Spring Term. Any additional lessons required for the Summer Term can be requested by parental letter near the end of the Spring Term and Mr Thomson will seek to make special arrangements.

Instrumental tuition takes place within the school day on a rota basis. We seek to provide a reasonable rotation to avoid repeatedly missing the same lesson, whilst working within the time that each instrumental tutor is employed at the college.

## Pricing

At the college 20 minute or 30 minute lessons are offered and for Grade 8 students there may be the option of longer lessons where appropriate. We are hoping that this academic year the tutors will bill you directly instead of the college each half term. Fees will be required to be paid half termly in advance directly to the tutor. Once the payment has been received instrumental lessons can commence. We hope that parents understand that it is unfair that either the tutor or the college should be left with the responsibility for unpaid fees.

### **20 Minute Individual Lessons (£120 for a ten lesson term = Two £60 payments)**

These short lessons are appropriate length for Grade 1-4 standard musicians. Naturally arriving on time with the instrument, reed and music already set up will maximise the musical learning opportunity.

### **30 Minute Individual Lessons (£180 for a ten lesson term = Two £90 payments)**

Grade 5-8 students would benefit from the individual attention besides providing the time to tackle the demands of more complex music and the rigours of advanced practical examination work.

**GCSE Musicians** are eligible for free instrumental tuition for their **main** instrument or voice. Additional instruments/voice will be charged at the appropriate rate. Students entitled to **free school meals** should request special consideration by writing to Mr Thomson.

## Additional Costs

1. There is an annual **£15 registration** fee to cover the additional expenses that arise from running ensembles, purchasing suitable music and for providing administrative support to enable MVCi to function. Payment to be made via ParentPay, our online payments system. This charge also applies to GCSE Music students. All registered students will be put on the instrumental rota for the start of the Autumn Term.
2. Tutors will from time to time request the **purchase of music** for their individual or group lesson.
3. Reed players naturally need a supply of **good reeds** to ensure that they can make a sound that best reflects their ability—the tutor will advise.

## Tuition Termination

In order to recognise the commitment shown by our instrumental tutors we will require a **term's notice** for lesson cancellation. If a student leaves **before half-term** there may be a further charge to cover the unwanted instrumental time that has been booked for the remainder of the term.

## Absence

If an instrumental teacher is absent, the missed lesson will be made up by the teacher over the course of the academic year. The tutor guarantees to teach your child thirty lessons over the course of the academic year.

We expect **students to be proactive** with regards to **known absence**. If they know they are going to miss a lesson due to e.g. planned absence from school, subject test or formal examination, **it is their responsibility** to seek to rearrange their lesson. The instrumental tutor needs to be informed a week in advance in order to rearrange the lesson. If this is not possible, students should speak to Mr Thomson. **We will always try to help but with short notice this may not be possible.**

For **unexpected absences** the tutor is on site prepared to teach and such lessons cannot reasonably be made up under the 30 lessons per year agreement.

The instrumental tutor will contact you if your child has missed more than two lessons and seek to find out if there are particular reasons for this.

## Ways to encourage good lesson attendance:

- students should regularly check the Music Department notice board
- students should put their lesson times in their planners
- once the rota has stabilised at the start of term, lesson cards will be issued
- some students need to get a friend to remind them of their lesson times
- students should remember to pack their instrument and music the night before school

## Communication

Can I encourage parents to write their main email address on the application form on the last page of this brochure. If I have your permission I will pass on your email to the tutor who will then be able to communicate with you during the year. This is particularly important as most MVCi tutors are now responsible for invoicing you directly. Parents have fed back to me how they have appreciated being able to communicate directly with the tutor through email.

## Instrumental Storage and Insurance

The instrumental cupboard is situated next to the Performing Arts office but this can only be classed as **semi-supervised**. During school hours students continuously need access to the store for their lessons. Therefore the store is only locked at the end of school each evening. Although the department is alarmed we would prefer that students take their instrument home, on the same day as their lesson, to practise after instrumental tuition.

We cannot as a college accept responsibility for any loss or damage whilst on college premises. It is critical that parents insure their child's instrument under their **home contents policy**. Please make sure that your child's name and tutor group are attached to the music case to aid identification.

## Student Happiness

It is really important that students enjoy their lessons with their instrumental tutor. It is of course natural that students respond to different styles of teaching/learning and individual staff differently. It needs saying that lessons are more fulfilling when;

- the student is preparing for lessons by daily practice—beginners 15 minutes per day
- the student has clear targets to work to besides a personal passion for music

Should your child not be enjoying their lessons please contact us and we will seek to resolve the situation as quickly as possible.

## FAQ's

### What instrument should my child play?

The obvious answer is to follow your heart but there are two important factors to also consider:

1. Whether your child is physiologically suited to a particular mouth piece or the fingering the instrument demands
2. Whether your child should play clarinet, flute, trumpet or guitar when so many others do.

In addition parents and students should think about:

- would it be more 'individual' to play something different
- playing a 'rare breed' instrument might open wider playing opportunities in the future

### Can we apply for instrumental tuition part way through the school year?

Yes, we are always delighted that more MVC students want to play and increased flexibility is one of the advantages of the change in system.

### Will my child miss the same lesson every week and what about missed work?

We do all that we can to maximise the time between missing the same lesson on the rota. This of course depends on the number of students a particular tutor has. Students need to catch up as much as they can from a reliable friend in their class including any homework that is set. To exit a subject lesson students should leave five minutes before their instrumental lesson begins. All MVC staff understand that students do need to leave their lesson from time to time. Staff should have access to the MVCi instrumental timetable in the college staff room.

### Reporting on progress

During the Summer Term parents will receive a formal MVCi report that will give the opportunity to give written feedback. We also hope that tutors will email you from time to time.



# 2024-2025 Application Form for Instrumental Tuition

Please return this form school office. The teachers will then put your child on the instrumental rota once the £15 registration fee has been paid via ParentPay.

Name of Student ..... Tutor Group .....

Address: .....

.....

Post Code ..... Tel No: .....

E-mail Address: .....

Does your child have an instrument to start lessons in September? If not please email Mr Thomson.

I give/do not give my permission to pass on my email address to my child's instrumental tutor.

Which instrument(s) would you like to receive tuition on:

**Instrument 1/Voice** .....

**20 Minute Individual Lessons**

£120 for a ten lesson term = Two £60 payments

**30 Minute Individual Lessons**

£180 for a ten lesson term = Two £90 payments

**Instrument 2** .....

**20 Minute Individual Lessons**

£120 for a ten lesson term = Two £60 payments

**30 Minute Individual Lessons**

£180 for a ten lesson term = Two £90 payments

I have read this document and accept the conditions for tuition therein and I have paid the annual registration fee of £15.

Signed .....

Dated.....

Thank you for reading this document and we look forward to your child's developing musicianship during 2024 - 2025 and beyond.

Johny Thomson