# woodfarm High School

# Faculty of PERFORMING arts

# MUSIC department

# Instrumental tuition booklet 2017-18

# Introduction

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# The provision of instrumental tuition at Woodfarm High School is a crucial element in providing an experience of Music to pupils. This booklet serves to answer some of the questions you may have about the service and how it works at Woodfarm High. We will also highlight some of the opportunities that are available to your child throughout the year.

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# The aims of the service are:

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 To ensure that as many children, as resources and time will allow, can benefit from the opportunity of learning to play a musical instrument and realise their musical potential through the playing of a musical instrument.

 To enable children to learn such skills in the playing of a musical instrument as will enable them to participate in and enjoy group music making in the school, the Council and eventually in the wider community and for the rest of their lives.

 To introduce specialist instrumental skills which can be integrated into the pupils’ music curriculum and enhance development work within the subject.

***Attendance***

The instrumental timetables are available for staff a term in advance to allow for planning of assessments. However, on occasion the class teacher may request for a pupil to remain in class. This can be done a week before through your child’s instructor and Mr W. Morrow to ensure there is time for alternative arrangements to be put in place.

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***Extra-curricular activities***

There are a variety of extra-curricular activities available to pupils who are interested in Music at Woodfarm High School. These include:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Day | Activity | Time | Staff |
| Monday | String Group | 12.40-1.05pm | Mr. G Doherty |
| Thursday | Musical showcase | 3.35pm – 5pm | Miss Fenton /Mr W Morrow/  Mr Selbie/Mrs Mander |
| Friday | WFH Concert Band | 12.40-1.05pm | Ms Garvie/Mr. N McAlistair |
| Various | Supported Study | 3.35pm – 4.45pm | Mr W Morrow/ Mrs Mander |
| Wednesday | Choir | 12.40-1.05pm | Mrs Mander |

There are also opportunities to get involved with religious observance events at Christmas and Easter, parents evenings, showcase events, recital evenings, community events, competitions and departmental trips.

*NB - Lunchtime passes are available from Mr Selbie. These will allow your child to go to the front of the lunch queue in the canteen on the day of their band/group rehearsal.*

***Saturday Music Centre***

At Woodfarm, we believe that all pupils who have interest in an instrument should have the opportunity to develop and share their talent. We would therefore encourage all pupils who attend the Saturday Morning Centre to get involved with the activities on offer at Woodfarm.

***Practising at home***

Your child is provided with a practice diary and we would encourage you to read and sign this every time your child practises. Your child will be given advice on how long they should be spending on practice from their instructor. Regular, consistent and focussed practice is a crucial factor in improving.

***Reports***

There will be two reports provide by your child’s instructor during the school year. The first will be provided in December and the second in May. These will be posted out to you directly. We would ask that you read the report carefully, and then sign and return the tear off slip at the bottom of the report with any comments or questions you may have. Your child should return this slip to their instructor within one week of receiving the report.

***The service in our school***

All instrumental staff in Secondary schools in East Renfrewshire come under the direction of the Head Teacher. In Woodfarm High School, **Kevin Selbie, Principal Teacher of Performing Arts** has responsibility for the day-to-day running of the service.

***Storage of instruments***

Pupils should bring their instruments and store them in the Music Practice Rooms at the start of the day. These rooms are kept locked when not in use. All instructors and Music staff have keys. Pupils should approach staff for access and always return the key promptly as instructed.

***Instructors***

We are very fortunate at Woodfarm to have excellent instructors, providing a positive experience for all of our pupils. Our instructors for this year are:

Monday Strings Mr Doherty

Wednesday Guitar Mr Hallam

Thursday Percussion Mr Edwards

Friday Brass Mr McAllister

Friday Woodwind Ms Garvie

***Lessons***

Pupils are entitled to a 25-minute lesson each week and therefore will either attend for the first 25-minutes (1A, 2A etc) or for the latter 25-minutes (1B, 2B etc). As time allows, pupils should not miss the same class more than once every 4-7 weeks, however this can vary depending on the allocation of hours each Instrumental teacher has been given to Woodfarm High School.

Pupils receiving a lesson during the first half of the period (1A) should register first with their teacher and then immediately go to their lesson which takes place in the Music Instrumental Rooms in the Technical corridor. Pupils should return to class after a 25-minute lesson.

Pupils receiving a lesson during the second half of the period (1B) should tell their teacher at the beginning of the period and not return to class, but will go straight to their next class.

In the event of a fire drill, it is the Instrumental Teachers responsibility to ensure they escort the pupil out the building, via the West Wing lower front door and report to the Fire Warden. Pupils should then re-join their class on the pitches.

PE lessons - if your child has PE when they also have a lesson, they should ask their PE teacher prior to the lesson for arrangements regarding access to changing facilities.

***Timetables***

Instrumental timetables are available on the Music Department website under the section Instrumental Service. These will be updated for the session August to January and January to June.

The website address is:

**https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/WFHMusic/instrumental-instruction/**

Your child should be provided with a copy. We also post the timetables on a notice board in the Music corridor. Pupils should always check the board on the day of their lesson for any changes or messages.

***E-folio***

As part of Curriculum for Excellence, all pupils will be completing a folio of achievements for their years in the Broad General Education. We would encourage all pupils to note their musical progress, involvement in extra-curricular or whole school activities playing as part of bands, orchestras or groups, and input these when requested by the school

***Parents meetings***

There will be an opportunity to meet with your child’s instructor during the school year. We hope to have this meeting early in the New Year 2018. We will provide further information closer to the time as to how you can make an appointment. Should you have any concerns before this, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Selbie at the school.

***Lesson times***

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| --- | --- |
| Period | Time |
| 1A | 8.45 – 9.10 |
| 1B | 9.10 – 9.35 |
| 2A | 9.35 – 10.00 |
| 2B | 10.00 – 10.25 |
| INTERVAL | |
| 3A | 10.40 – 11.05 |
| 3B | 11.05 – 11.30 |
| 4A | 11.30 – 11.55 |
| 4B | 11.55 – 12.20 |
| LUNCH | |
| 5A | 1.05 – 1.30 |
| 5B | 1.30 – 1.55 |
| 6A | 1.55 – 2.20 |
| 6B | 2.20 – 2.45 |
| 7A | 2.45 – 3.10 |
| 7B | 3.10 - 3.35 |

***Concerts***

We propose to have a number of recital evenings for year groups. These will talk place on Thursday 1st and 15th February prior to the SQA external exams.

All of this information will be available on the Music Department website.

I look forward to a very successful and productive musical year ahead.

K. Selbie

Principal Teacher of Performing Arts