

VISITING MUSIC TEACHER (VMT) MUSIC LESSONS – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How have music lessons at Tiffin Girls' been adapted in the light of COVID restrictions?

Our lessons are taught online; our students receive their lessons in a school practice room, as would usually happen but the visiting music teachers (VMTs) themselves are offsite. We anticipate that this will remain the case until Christmas 2020 at the earliest. There are clear guidelines in each practice room with regard to logging on to Google Meet, the hygiene of instruments, computers and keyboards, and some troubleshooting tips in case of technical issues. There is a Chromebook in each room; alternatively, students may connect their own device to the school wifi and use that instead.

How do I apply for music lessons for my daughter?

Application is online; there is a link from the Music department main webpage. You will receive an email receipt of your application and a member of the department will be in touch thereafter.

How much do the lessons cost?

Lessons cost £19.50 per 30 minute individual lesson, payable termly in advance to the VMT directly on receipt of their invoice, which will be sent just prior to the start of any term. Parents would be notified one term in advance of any increase in fees. Music Theory lessons are sometimes paired, in which case the cost would be £9.00 per pupil per lesson.

Who provides the instruments?

Pupils must provide their own instruments where these are portable. Pupils receiving piano or drum kit lessons should have access to an instrument at home for practice.

How are the lessons timetabled? Will my daughter miss subject lessons?

Pupils in Years 7 to 9 have music lessons during school time and will therefore come out of subject lessons to attend. Times are rotated wherever possible to avoid missing the same lesson more than twice a term. Pupils in Years 10 to 13 have music lessons during breaks, before or after school, or during private study periods, as far as this is practically possible.

When will my daughter receive her timetable?

Timetables will be emailed to pupils before the start of each term's lessons and a hard copy of all VMT timetables can be viewed on the Music department noticeboard, opposite the office. We expect that a PDF of timetables will be available online by Christmas 2020.

Will my daughter be collected to attend her music lesson?

It is the pupil's responsibility to ensure that she attends her music lesson at the correct time each week. She will not be collected by her VMT.

What happens if my daughter misses her music lesson?

No action is taken for one missed lesson. If a pupil misses two lessons in a row the VMT will contact parents to let them know.

Will missed lessons be rearranged or refunded?

Lessons missed due to the VMT's absence will be rearranged or refunded, to be determined by the teacher. Lessons missed due to the pupil's absence (e.g. if she was ill or forgot to attend her lesson) cannot be rearranged or refunded. Lessons cancelled as a result of emergency school closure (e.g. due to inclement weather) will be rearranged or refunded, to be determined by the teacher.

What happens if my daughter has an appointment or school trip on the day of her music lesson?

Pupils should notify the VMT and the Music Secretary as soon as possible and preferably two weeks in advance. A swap with another pupil will be arranged where this is possible and in some cases pupils may organise this themselves, with the approval of the VMT. If insufficient notice is given, the VMT is not obliged to make up the missed lesson.

Can my daughter take an exam in school?

The school hosts a special visit from an ABRSM examiner in the Christmas, Spring and Summer terms for instrumental and vocal exams. Music Theory pupils will take their exams online for Grades 1-5 and can apply to a public Centre for exams at Grade 6-8 level. Parents' consent will be obtained before entering a pupil for an exam.

How do I cancel my daughter's music lessons?

One full term's notice, i.e. one school term as per the school calendar, must be given in writing to the VMT and copied to the Music Secretary. Notice should be given no later than the first lesson of the term in which music lessons are to stop. If insufficient notice is given, the next term's fees will be payable.

My daughter will be starting in Year 7 in September. What happens if she changes her mind about music lessons?

In the case of new Year 7 pupils only, if your daughter changes her mind after lessons start in September she should let the Music Secretary know by October half term to avoid being charged for the following term's lessons.

If you have any further queries regarding music lessons, please contact the Music Secretary via email at music@tiffingirls.org for assistance.