



MARLING  
SCHOOL



## Instrumental Music Tuition Information for Parents 2025/26

*Raising Aspirations, Inspiring Excellence, Succeeding Together*

## AIMS

It is the intention to provide an Instrumental Tuition Scheme that:

- offers instrumental tuition to as wide a range of students as possible
- reflects the different needs of students who are at different stages of learning and experience

## INSTRUMENTS OFFERED

		Teacher
Brass		Mr Phillip Storer
Drums		Mr Nicholas Twilley
Drums & Percussion		Mr Dan Hayward
Guitar	acoustic / electric	Mr Tristan Watson
	bass	Mrs Saffron Young
Singing & Piano		Mr Seb Field
		Mrs Vicki Field
Piano		Mrs Lyndsay Wyer
		Mrs Lisa Stoten
Flute		Mrs Debbie Davis
Saxophone/Clarinet		Ms Alice Cubbin
Oboe, Bassoon & Recorder		Mr Liam Fleet
Strings (upper)	violin / viola	Mr Jonathan Trim
Strings (lower)	cello	Ms Caroline Simpson
	double bass & bass guitar	Mrs Saffron Young
Theory		Mrs Lyndsay Wyer
		Mrs Saffron Young

The above is a comprehensive list of all peripatetic instrumental staff from Marling School.



## **Double Bass / Bass Guitar /Theory – Saffron Young**

Saffron is an enthusiastic teacher offering lessons on Double Bass and Bass Guitar from beginner to Grade 8, as well as theory. She tailors her lessons to suit the musical development of the individual, offering a wide range of repertoire from classical and orchestral, to current popular music, and most styles in between. She is able to prepare students for the performance aspects of GCSE and A-Level courses, as well as for ABRSM, Trinity and Rock school grade exams, and offers music theory lessons for ABRSM Grade 5.

She has been teaching in Gloucestershire for 10 years, having previously taught in London for 15 years. Saffron is involved with many group projects, including tutoring on "Bandit", the Cotswold Music Tutors Jazz Course, Gloucestershire Youth Jazz Academy and Five Valleys Music Centre and shares the running of a community Big Band. Saffron is an experienced and versatile performer. After studying at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, she performed in numerous West End shows over 17 years, including The Lion King, We Will Rock You, Les Miserable, Guys 'n' Dolls, Mamma Mia, Phantom of the Opera and many others. TV and radio credits include 'Goldeneye', breakfast TV with Michael Ball, 'Top of the Pops' with Seal, 'Woman's Hour' with Ivy Benson, and 'Jazz Notes' with Chrissy Lee. She is an experienced jazz and big band performer and has performed with the BBC Big Band, The Glen Miller Orchestra and has toured extensively with Helen Shapiro, Russell Watson and G4 and numerous theatre shows.

Contact details: (email only) [saffyoungmusic@gmail.com](mailto:saffyoungmusic@gmail.com)

## **Singing & Piano - Mr Seb Field**

Seb Field has taught in Gloucestershire schools for 20 years. As well as Marling and Stroud High, Seb currently teaches at The King's School, Gloucester. He offers tuition in singing (all grades) and piano (to Grade 5).

He teaches a wide range of styles including pop, musical theatre, classical and traditional, and is familiar with all major exam boards. Seb believes in a collaborative approach, working with both pupils and parents to ensure lessons are not only productive, but enjoyable too.

As a performer, Seb has sung with several leading choral societies across the UK and worked with ensembles such as the John S Davies Singers and The Proteus Ensemble. Alongside his wife Vicki, he is a member of the professional vocal consort Gaudeamus. Together they run the GLOW Music Festival and a number of choirs and recital series.

Contact Details: [sfieldmusic@gmail.com](mailto:sfieldmusic@gmail.com)

## **Singing & Piano – Vicki Field BA(Hons), DipMus,MISM**

Vicki Field is an experienced teacher of singing and piano. She is skilled in a wide variety of styles, from classical and folk to jazz, pop and rock, and works with students from all starting points. She has an excellent record of results across all the main exam boards and their requirements.

In addition to her work at Marling and Stroud High, Vicki teaches at Ribston Hall High School in Gloucester. She is active in the city as a vocal amateur, recently leading singing projects with local primary schools for the Jubilee and the GLOW Music Festival, which she co-directs with her husband Seb. She also directs the Ecclesiastical Insurance Staff Choir and the City of Gloucester Community Choir, both of which play an active part in the city's civic life.

Vicki directed Gloucester Cathedral Junior Choir for 12 years and previously led the Cathedral Outreach Project and Junior Voices concert series. She has delivered workshops across the UK, including both Liverpool cathedrals.

As a soprano, she has performed with several leading choral societies in the South West and sings with professional groups such as Gaudeamus, The Proteus Ensemble, and the John S Davies Singers.

Contact details: 07812 669870

[vfieldmusic@gmail.com](mailto:vfieldmusic@gmail.com)

## **Piano / Music Theory – Lyndsay Wyer**

BA (Music & Maths); LGSM (Piano); DipABRSM

As a very experienced piano teacher with excellent results, Lyndsay has been teaching at Marling and other Gloucestershire schools for over 25 years. Lyndsay prepares pupils for both the ABRSM (generally grades 1-5) and Trinity College (all grades)

exam boards and will help with all areas of exam preparation, as well as the exam entry. Lyndsay also really enjoys just exploring music with her pupils irrespective of whether they chose to take exams. We look at many different styles and genres of music, using sheet music, chord sheets and the huge amount of resources which are available online. This will be from classical and jazz style pieces through to pop, musicals and video game music.

Lyndsay is very proactive in designing schemes of work to suit each pupil, and also liaises closely with students to see what their aims are and what they would like to be playing. She is also keen to communicate as often as is needed with parents/guardians and will keep them informed of any significant achievements or concerns.

All lessons are conducted in a relaxed and happy atmosphere, with plenty of laughter included in the hard work.

Contact details: [lwmusic14@gmail.com](mailto:lwmusic14@gmail.com)  
07903 750548

### **Piano - Lisa Stoten**

BMus, MMus, LTCL, UTLM

Lisa brings over 25 years of experience in teaching piano, accompanying, and class music instruction. She has worked with students in various schools across London, the South East, and the South West of England.

Currently, she is a Music teacher at Marling School, where she teaches Key Stage 3, GCSE, and A level lessons. Her passion for the piano began at age 10, when she played her grandmother's piano during a summer holiday visit from South Africa to Scotland. Upon returning home, she started piano lessons and never looked back.

Lisa earned both a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Music degree, majoring in Piano Performance. She feels incredibly fortunate to have had the opportunity to study with esteemed piano teachers and concert pianists worldwide, including Fabio Bidini, Dorian Lejak, and Lamar Crowson. Lisa strives to inspire students of all abilities to discover the vast potential of the piano, promoting well-being, enjoyment, achievement, and self-expression.

Contact details: [lisastotenteachespiano@gmail.com](mailto:lisastotenteachespiano@gmail.com)

### **Flute – Debbie Davis B.Ed (Hons)**

Debbie is an experienced teacher who, after gaining a Bachelor of Education degree with first class honours, spent thirteen years as a classroom teacher, specialising in Music. Her love of inspiring students to make music led her to focus on instrumental teaching, and in 2007 she joined the Gloucestershire Music Service.

Debbie's approach to teaching is flexible, depending on the needs of the student, but her lessons are always relaxed and friendly. She develops sound technique and good musicianship from the very first lesson, whether students wish to take exams or not. For students that do want to take exams, Debbie is happy to work with ABRSM and Trinity College syllabuses, in classical or jazz flute. Debbie enjoys teaching all abilities from beginner to grade 8 and above. Debbie provides opportunities for her students to attend ensemble sessions which can either lead to performances at school concerts or ensemble performances for GCSE and A level. She also encourages her students to perform solo at informal concerts wherever possible. Debbie is an able pianist and prefers to accompany her own students in concerts and exams, as it helps them to feel confident. In her spare time Debbie enjoys playing flute and piccolo in local orchestras, which include Gloucestershire Symphony Orchestra, Stroud Symphony Orchestra, Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra and the Cheltenham Cantilena Orchestra.

Contact details: 07818 676859  
[DebbieandLeeDavis@gmail.com](mailto:DebbieandLeeDavis@gmail.com)

### **Saxophone – Alice Cubbin**

Classical and Jazz (also Pop/Rock) Saxophone (all sizes), Jazz/Improvisation (to students experienced in other instruments)  
– Alice Cubbin BMus (Hons), ISM, CMT

As an experienced teacher and instrumental workshop leader AI has been teaching in the South West for nearly 20 years. With a BA(Mus) she graduated top of her class in the teaching, jazz performance and composition programmes.

A passionate teacher AI mentors students from beginner level to graduate standard; having always wanted to work in teaching she is passionate about music education. She believes in covering a wide range of music from classical to jazz, that

enjoyment of music is the route to success, and that all students will benefit from the opportunity to perform with others, whether just as a duet with a parent or friend or as part of a band or orchestra.

She has worked professionally as a musical theatre orchestral musician and has been lucky enough to study under some of the country's best saxophonists. Al has had commercial success playing in the horn sections of various bands and has been a member of acclaimed Jazz Factory based at Wiltshire Music Centre where she has run a saxophone technique focus class. As a composer she has written numerous works with performances ranging from Bath Guildhall to the Birmingham Arts Festival and Shrewsbury Folk Festival amongst others.

Contact: 07988 883586  
[alcubbin.music@gmail.com](mailto:alcubbin.music@gmail.com) (email preferred).

### **Oboe, Bassoon and Recorder - Liam Fleet**

Liam Fleet is a bassoonist, oboist and recorder player specialising in historically-informed performance. As a freelance player, he has performed with some of the country's leading period instrument ensembles including the Musical and Amicable Society, Instruments of Time and Truth and Ensemble La Notte. He is also a founding member of both the English Wind Consort and the Perula Collective, chamber ensembles specialising in playing Renaissance and Baroque repertoire (respectively) on period instruments. Since November 2022 he has been a committee member of the British Double Reed Society and has an administrative role in organising the annual Gloucestershire Double Reed Day.

Liam graduated with first-class honours from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, where he studied historical bassoon with Andrew Watts and modern bassoon with Nikolaj Henriques. During this time he also pursued studies in contrabassoon with Gareth Twigg, historical oboe with Gail Hennessy, modern oboe with Jenni Phillips and recorder with Annabel Knight. He also studied at the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague with Wouter Verschuren, Donna Agrell and Bram van Sambeek as part of the Erasmus+ programme in 2022. A passionate advocate for all things double reed, Liam is an active instrumental teacher in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, working to inspire the next generation of bassoonists, oboists and recorder players to reach their full musical potential.

Contact: 07880807619  
[liam.bassoon@gmail.com](mailto:liam.bassoon@gmail.com)

### **Violin / Viola - Jonathan Trim BMus**

Jonathan has many years' experience of teaching violin and viola in Gloucestershire, including Marling and Stroud High School, with success with pupils ranging from beginners to post grade 8 level. He also conducts the joint Senior Orchestra and the Senior String Ensemble for both schools. He studied Music at Birmingham University and studied violin and piano with leading musicians including Jeremy Ballard and Piers Lane. Jonathan has played in and led orchestras in the southwest and has coached violins for the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain for the past few years.

Jonathan also conducts Stroud Symphony Orchestra and Capriol Chamber Orchestra and composes orchestral music which has been performed by various ensembles. He directs string workshops in Gloucestershire and beyond including the annual Big String and has worked with renowned soloists including Michael Bochmann, Tasmin Little and Nicola Benedetti. He has worked with young musicians for many years in county ensembles and is currently a conductor of the Gloucestershire Youth Orchestra.

Jonathan is comfortable with playing and teaching a wide variety of styles ranging from classical to jazz, popular and folk. Emphasis is given in lessons to developing technical skills and musicianship within an enjoyable and supportive framework, using the exam syllabus where appropriate for each student. Several of Jonathan's pupils continue violin and music studies at university or Music College and beyond. Above all Jonathan hopes to foster a life-long love of music making and music playing in his students.

Contact details: 01453 731522 / 07710 426545  
[jontrim@btinternet.com](mailto:jontrim@btinternet.com)

## **Cello – Ms Caroline Simpson**

Caroline has gained many years' experience of teaching the cello to students of widely varying ages and abilities and believes in making lessons accessible and enjoyable for anyone who wants to learn. She has a BA (Hons) degree in music, a PGCE in instrumental teaching, and an ATCL cello performance diploma which she passed with distinction. Caroline has also studied Music Therapy, gaining a diploma in this from Bristol University and believes strongly in the therapeutic nature of learning an instrument and making music. A long-standing member of the European String Teachers Association (ESTA), Caroline regularly attends summer schools, chamber music courses and workshops. These help her to remain current and become a better and more informed string teacher and player. She plays in several local ensembles and enjoys performing solo repertoire with piano accompaniment. Caroline aims to help people play with ease and confidence whether they are taking exams or playing on their own or in ensembles and teaches and plays with an awareness of Alexander technique. She is interested in people and the craft of cello playing and will suggest and source music which stimulates and motivates students to develop their expressive/technical skills in a progressive way. She encourages students to play with and without printed music and also to improvise.

Contact details:

01453 760086 / 07435 569589

[carolinesimpsoncello@gmail.com](mailto:carolinesimpsoncello@gmail.com)

## **INSTRUMENTAL TUTION SCHEME**

During the academic year, a minimum of 30 lessons will be available. Lessons are normally 30 minutes long and are offered either individually or in groups of two, but there are some variations depending upon the choice of instrument and individual circumstances; these have to be agreed with the individual teacher. The choice depends equally upon:

- educational need
- the pressure on teaching time
- parental choice

The lessons are divided into three modules. However, because of the different length of the terms, the autumn term will consist of approximately 12 lessons, the spring term 10, and the summer term 8. For all instrumental staff, **arrangements will be made in direct negotiation between parent and instrumental teacher**. This means that within a 40-week academic year the effect of unforeseen events such as school closure or teacher absence should not affect the availability of the 30 lessons offered.

## **CHARGES**

Please contact instrumental staff directly to enquire about their charges for tuition.

In cases of financial hardship, please see 'Bursaries' section below.

## **OTHER COSTS (Examinations)**

The school will continue to enter your son for ABRSM, Rock School and Trinity Guildhall practical examinations, as appropriate, when instructed by his instrumental teacher. Additional charges will apply and notification of these will be provided prior to entry for examinations.

## BURSARIES

As with all activities parents can apply for support from the school. Bursaries are available to students regardless of who teaches their instrument. For further information on our bursaries please contact [finance@marling.school](mailto:finance@marling.school)

### GCSE & A Level Students

A bursary is available for students commencing GCSE and AS/A2 music courses (excluding A level Music Technology). Please be aware that it is only possible to apply for one bursary per student even if they are studying two instruments. Please contact Miss Bryony Swinger for further information.

Bursaries are subject to change at the discretion of the governors of Marling School.

### WHO CAN APPLY FOR LESSONS?

All students may apply for lessons directly with the teaching staff and wherever possible their request will be met. However, it must be realised that neither teaching time nor teaching space is limitless, and where lessons are oversubscribed, instrumental staff may need to place a student on their waiting list. Other factors such as the size of a student's hands may affect the choice of instrument and teachers will advise a student if they are likely to encounter difficulties in pursuing their choice. Teachers may consider teaching in groups of three in special circumstances, but this will need to be agreed with the instrumental teacher concerned.

### PROVISION OF INSTRUMENTS

It is the responsibility of the student/parent/guardian to provide an adequate instrument to learn on; if the request is for piano lessons then ready access to a piano / suitable keyboard at home is essential. Instruments may be hired from the Gloucestershire Music Service at Colwell Arts Centre (Gloucester), but parents/guardians and students would be well advised to seriously consider purchasing their own instrument. Should you need to return an instrument for repair or no longer require the instrument, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to arrange for its return to Colwell Arts Centre. For further information and a Gloucestershire Music Instrument Hire application form, please contact Miss Bryony Swinger.

There are now many schemes offered by music shops that are of a hire-and-buy nature and which do not attract interest charges. Details are available from the Music Department if you wish to consider this course of action.

### EXPECTATIONS

#### Attendance

In preparing instrumental timetables allowance will be made for known school events that appear on the school calendar. It is obviously not possible to foresee every school visit or informal test that takes place during the school year. However, as students are informed about these in time to prepare themselves, it is assumed that they also have time to **inform instrumental teachers** as well. Wherever possible an alternative time will be arranged but this may not always be feasible unless a gap has arisen elsewhere. Students are not to arrange lesson swaps with another student without informing their instrumental teacher.

**Absence** from a lesson on the part of the student will **not** normally be made up, but absence on the part of the teacher will normally be made up or a refund will be made at the end of the year. Any long-term absence due to illness should be discussed with the teacher immediately.

**Attendance registers** for instrumental lessons will be kept by teaching staff. If there are two consecutive, unexplained absences, or if the pattern of their son's attendance is causing concern, parents will be contacted directly by the instrumental teacher concerned so that the best possible course of action can be pursued.

### **Preparation**

The expectation is that a student will attend their instrumental lesson with their instrument, music and practice regularly. If a student is not properly equipped or prepared, they will be sent back to their curriculum lesson where their time can be more profitably spent. By looking at the timetables posted in the music block and their own individual copy of the timetable, students will be able to see in advance when their lessons are. Students should keep staff informed if there is a clash with an important event such as a test in a curriculum subject so that alternative arrangements can be made. **It is also expected that students will support school extra-curricular musical activities** in order to maximise their progress and experience.

**All classwork missed due to an instrumental lesson must be made up and homework collected.** It is the students' responsibility to find out what work or homework has been missed due to their attendance at an instrumental lesson. The student must make sure that this missed work or homework is completed. If a student is told not to miss an academic lesson due to GCSE Controlled Conditions or an important assessment, the student must check to see if their instrumental lesson clashes. With sufficient notice, it may be possible to change the instrumental lesson and arrange a swap with another student. Please contact either the instrumental teacher direct or the Head of Music.

### **Reports**

An instrumental report will be issued by the appropriate instrumental teacher direct to parents at the end of the academic year.

Contact information: Bryony Swinger <a href="mailto:BZS@marling.school">BZS@marling.school</a>
--