



Skipton Girls'
High School



Musical Instrument Tuition

SGHS Music Tuition Service

Aims and Ethos

Here at SGHS, we believe that learning a musical instrument provides valuable opportunities, skills and enjoyment which translate into all areas of our students' lives.

Learning an instrument improves focus, organisation, mathematical and language skills, gross and fine motor skills, coordination, communication skills, responsibility, and the ability to work independently and as a team. It provides opportunities to meet new people, to travel, communicate with people of a wide range of ages and experiences and to perform in a variety of venues and situations.

In addition, instrumental and music theory exams passed at grade 6 or above attract UCAS points.

The Music Department at SGHS is very fortunate to have a team of talented, dedicated, inspiring and experienced visiting instrumental teachers, who provide lessons during the school day. Students can take graded examinations if they wish and work towards both individual and group performances and competitions.

Instrumental Specialisms

We make every effort to meet the needs and requests of individual students. If the instrument they wish to learn is not listed below, please contact the Music department.

Instruments currently taught in school::

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|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| ● Violin | ● Banjo | ● Oboe |
| ● Viola | ● Ukulele | ● Clarinet |
| ● Cello | ● Voice (singing) | ● Saxophone |
| ● Acoustic guitar | ● Piano | ● Drum kit |
| ● Electric guitar | ● Flute | |

Ensembles

Taking part in ensembles provides additional opportunities for performances, social interaction, team work and travel. It also plays a vital role in developing and applying the skills learnt in instrumental lessons. We expect students learning an instrument to take an interest in at least one school ensemble. We are always happy to hear from students who would like to set up their own ensemble, or have ideas for additional ensembles.

Current ensembles:

- Ukulele Club
- Orchestra (in conjunction with Ermysted's Grammar School)
- Swing Band (in conjunction with Ermysted's Grammar School)
- String Ensemble (in conjunction with Ermysted's Grammar School)
- Concert Band
- Flute Choir
- Band Session
- Clarinet Ensemble
- Recorder Ensemble
- Choir (in conjunction with Ermysted's Grammar School)

Performance Opportunities

Regular performance experience gives those learning an instrument the opportunity to show off their talents and gives them something to work towards in between/in place of exams. It also provides opportunities for staff and students to hear a variety of music during the school year.

As well as the more formal summer and winter concerts, we also run a Music Festival each year in the Spring Term where students compete to be the best in their class.

Cabaret Night collaborates Music, Dance & Drama with an evening bursting with numbers from the Musicals.

Students are also invited and encouraged to perform at the beginning and end of Gatherings each week, either as soloist or in pre-rehearsed ensembles.

In addition, student-led/organised concerts and joint musical productions with Ermysted's Grammar School provide performance opportunities for our students.

Wherever possible, we encourage students to perform alongside professional musicians, including their teachers, where they can learn important rehearsal and performance skills.

Music Theory and Aural Training

Many students working towards higher grades wish to take Grade 5 theory. Student learning an instrument in school will be eligible to attend additional lessons towards their ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory exam.

Students will also be given the opportunity to attend sessions in aural training, which is an important element in achieving the highest marks in graded examinations.

Instruments

In most cases, good quality student instruments are readily available for rent and can also be purchased both new and second hand. New instruments can be purchased through the school VAT free and music staff or instrumental tutors will happily advise regarding suitability and purchase price.

Tuition Costs

Individual tuition includes 30 instrumental/vocal lessons over the academic year 2026-2027. Payments for individual lessons are £600.00 per full academic year. For easier management this will be broken down into 3 termly payments on your Arbor account. These can be paid in instalments throughout the term.

Individual 30 minutes currently £60.00 per month

You will be billed termly and pay via the school system or you can pay for a year/ term in advance.

We regret that refunds or lesson credit cannot be given for lessons missed by students.

Lesson Times

Lessons take place during the school day. We try to ensure that no student misses the same lesson two weeks in a row and in most cases, lessons are spread out considerably more than this. Students will not miss PE or Food Technology lessons, due to the practical nature of the lessons. As curriculum lessons are one hour in duration students should never miss the whole lesson but will be supported to catch up on any work missed.

Instrumental Tutors

Mrs Wills

Sarah Wills started playing the piano, as well as flute and viola, at primary school in Edinburgh and has been teaching the piano in Skipton since 2008. In 2017, Sarah graduated with distinction from the Piano Teachers' Certificate course of the European Piano Teachers' Association, and believes in keeping a love of music making at the heart of teaching. She is passionate about helping students to find music that inspires them to play, and includes composition, arranging and improvisation into lessons. Sarah has been involved with Skipton Music Festival for a number of years, most recently as Treasurer, and enjoys playing regularly in a chamber music ensemble.



Mr Giudici

Marco Giudici studied clarinet both in Italy and in Germany, where he obtained his Postgraduate Certificate in Music Performance with a distinction. He then freelanced both in Italy and England, performing with orchestras such as the National Italian Radio Orchestra, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company.



Many of his students have become members of prestigious youth orchestras, including the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain, National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain and Hallé Youth Orchestra. Some were also offered places to study at the Royal College of Music, RNCM, Birmingham Conservatoire and Leeds College of Music.

Mr Flockton

Mr Flockton studied music at Leeds and Sheffield at both under and post graduate level. He has taught music, specialising in the guitar for over 15 years, teaching across many age ranges and abilities. His instrument is the guitar, electric, acoustic, classical and he also plays banjo and ukulele. He has won two most inspiring teaching nominations. His teaching approach is based on encouragement to enjoy learning within a structured, progressive framework. He is also a professional performer, writing, performing and collaborating across a wide range of musical settings, projects and genres.



Mrs Jones

Louise was born in Hartlepool, and at fifteen pursued her studies with Diana Cummings of the Royal Academy of Music in London, before undertaking her degree at the Royal Northern College of Music. Her years in Manchester included a period of combining teaching and playing with ensemble management roles at the RNCM.



Louise is a founder member of Skipton Camerata, leading on occasion. Performances include Brandenburg Concerto solos on strings and wind. As well as freelance playing in Yorkshire, Louise maintains a private teaching practice.

Mr Smout

Josh Smout studied music at Leeds College of Music. Josh has been both performing and teaching for 15 years. He has performed at many of the countries most prestigious venues such as Birmingham Symphony Hall, Royal Festival Hall and First Direct Arena. Some of Josh's notable performances include playing for Soft Cell's Marc Almond as well as performing in BBC's Stan and Ollie remake of Laurel and Hardy alongside Steve Coogan and John C Riley.

Josh is involved in many bands and projects up and down the country, this allows him to tailor lessons around the students' needs through his wealth of knowledge of a number of different genres of music.

Ms Bowman

Stacey Bowman is a singing teacher and vocal coach specialising in adolescent and young voices singing musical theatre, commercial and pop genres. Stacey holds the Estill Master Trainer certificate with Estill Voice International, making her one of only 61 Estill Master Trainers in the UK. The qualification is one of the most recognised and sought after in the industry of voice pedagogy. Alongside her peripatetic teaching at Skipton Girls High School Stacey is an Associate Lecturer of Singing at Performers College, Birmingham, teaching technical singing skills to the students on the B.A Musical Theatre and Dance course and teaches locally from her home studio in Bentham.



Stacey educates, empowers, and engages young performers, guiding them towards reaching their full vocal potential and actively encourages her students to use their skills in performance environments outside of their lessons.

Next Steps

If you would like your child to begin instrumental lessons at school, please complete the online Music Tuition Expression of Interest form, detailing your preferred instrument. Lessons will commence once a space becomes available and the first instalment of fees has been paid.

You will be sent an application form and informed of when your lessons can begin. You will also be issued with a contract of terms and any further information you need.

For any further questions, please contact the Music department.

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