



## Langley Grammar School Music Department Instrumental Tuition



Learning to play a musical instrument is a life-enhancing skill and has been shown to impact various cognitive functions in a very positive way. It is also great fun!

A wide range of vocal and instrumental lessons are offered at Langley Grammar School alongside the music curriculum. Prices vary depending on the teacher and length of lesson - details are given on the application form. Lessons offered include string instruments, brass, woodwind, keyboard, Indian music, and singing. You can download an application form from the website which gives a complete list of available instruments.

If your son or daughter would like to have lessons, complete an application form and lessons can start as soon as there is space in the timetable - students do not usually have to wait until the start of a new term.

Lessons take place throughout the school day. The times change every week so that the same subject is not missed two weeks in a row. Lessons can be individual or in a small group, with one or two other students.

If you have any questions please speak to the Director of Music, Mr Wilkinson, or any of the music team.

### Brass Instruments

**Trumpet, French horn, Trombone, Tuba**  
Teacher: Ashton Smith

Brass instruments are made out of brass and have a cup-shaped mouthpiece into which the player buzzes with the lips to produce a sound.

**Trumpet** – The trumpet is the smallest and highest member of the brass family of instruments.



**French horn** – The French Horn is often just called the “horn”. It makes a very rich, and beautiful sound.

**Trombone** – Whilst other brass instruments change pitch using valves, the trombone is unique as it uses a slide.



It is a very noble, and powerful instrument.



**Tuba** – The tuba is the lowest and largest member of the brass family.

### Piano and Keyboard

Teacher: Thuy Hoang, Demis Valsecchi

**Piano** – This is a percussion instrument that can play chords as well as melodies. It is a powerful solo instrument, but is also valuable in its accompanimental role.



### Lower strings

**Double Bass, Cello**  
Teacher: TBC

Lower Strings are essential in providing bass lines, harmonies and vital rhythm, as well as solos.

**Cello** – It combines playing bass notes, harmonies and rhythms with important solos. It plays a higher range of notes than the double bass. It's played mostly with the bow, but the strings can also be plucked.



**Double-Bass** – It's highly adaptable to almost any kind of music or group. It plays the bass line in an orchestra but is also a fine solo instrument. It is also used in jazz, when it is usually plucked. It's very big, but some quite short people play it well, and smaller sized Basses can be bought.

**Bass Guitar**

Teacher: Andrew Fleming

Usually an 'electric' instrument which needs an amplifier. Mostly used to provide the bass in groups but can also play melodic solos.



### Indian Classical Instruments

**Sitar, Tabla,**  
Teacher: TBC

These instruments are used for traditional Indian Classical Music. LGS offers lessons for the Sitar and the Tabla.



**Sitar** – Plucked string instrument used to play complex melodies [often improvised within a formal pattern] over a drone.

**Tabla** – Percussion instrument consisting of a pair of hand drums with different pitches.



## Woodwind

**Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone (soprano, alto, tenor, baritone)**  
**Teacher: Martin Dunsdon**



**Flute** – This has a high pure tone, the sound is produced by blowing across the mouthpiece.

**Clarinet** – This has a slightly larger range than the Flute. Its rich sound is produced by blowing on a mouthpiece with a single cane reed attached to it. Wonderful in classical music and great for jazz.



**Oboe** – This has a bright and distinctive tone created by blowing through a double reed pressed between the lips.



**Saxophone** – Another ‘reed instrument’, the Saxophone works on the same principle as a clarinet, but is made of metal. Saxophones come in different sizes : soprano, alto, tenor, baritone. Most people choose the alto saxophone to start with. One of the great jazz instruments!



## Drum Kit

**Teacher: George Jones**

**Drums** – A drum kit is a set of percussion instruments that is played with drumsticks. Drum kits are in demand in many types of musical group as they maintain the beat and emphasize the rhythm of a piece.



## Upper Strings

**Violin, Viola**  
**Teachers: Mark Kelly**

Upper strings can play melodies and harmonies, and are either bowed or plucked. They are great solo instruments, but are equally at home in an orchestra.

**Violin** : It has the highest pitch range of the string family. It is played with a bow but the strings can also be plucked.



**Viola** : Its pitch range is a little lower than the violin. Violas have their very own clef; the alto clef!

## Guitar and Ukulele

**Teachers: Andrew Fleming**

Guitars can play melodies and harmonies, and are either plucked or strummed.

**Guitar** : A quite large string instrument with a big range. It has 6 strings and can play chords and melodies. It is a great solo instrument, but is also superb in a band.



**Ukulele** : This is a smaller, four-stringed version of a guitar. It plays at a higher pitch.

## Voice

**Teacher: Margaret Probyn-Fish**

The voice is wonderful musical instrument which you do not have to go to the trouble of buying or hiring. Vocal lessons will develop your instrument and enable you to sing with confidence and control in a wide variety of styles.



## Finding an instrument

There are hire schemes available in many music shops. Go along to your nearest one or look them up on the internet. If you’re considering buying your own instrument, it’s best to buy from a shop because of the after-sales services offered. The instrumental music teachers can advise you on the best place to go. In some cases instruments can be bought VAT-free through the school under something called the Assisted Instrument Purchase Scheme. This is particularly useful if it is an expensive instrument.

## Practising

When learning any instrument, you have to spend a few minutes practising every day. Most people find it quite difficult at first, and it can take a little while to make a good sound. After a while, you will notice that you can play things better and it becomes more and more satisfying. Hopefully, by the end of your first term, you will already be able to play several tunes.

## Joining a Band or Group

As you can see from the list below, LGS offers a wide range of music groups and clubs. When you feel ready/confident enough, you can choose one or more to match your musical taste and experience.

- Orchestra
- \*Junior Orchestra
- Choir
- Jazz Band
- Flexemle
- Indian Classical Music Ensemble
- Guitar Club
- Starting Strings
- Trumpet Club
- Woodwind Club
- Tech Club

\*The Junior Orchestra was founded six years ago and is open to all year 7-10 students, no matter how new they are to playing an instrument. It is an excellent way to begin to experience the fun of making music together. It also offers more experienced students the opportunity to try out a new instrument.

Interested students are encouraged to speak to any of the music team to find out which group would be best for them.