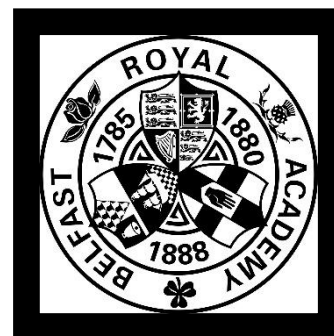


**BELFAST
ROYAL
ACADEMY**

Belfast Royal Academy

Music Department

Instrumental Lessons 2021/22



The Music Department is a bustling and exciting place at BRA where students of all ages and abilities are encouraged to strive for musical excellence.

Our Music Department is housed within a modern, bespoke building comprising of large classroom spaces, recording studios, an apple-mac computer suite and a range of practice rooms. Around 150 pupils receive instrumental and vocal musical tuition each week delivered by a talented team of peripatetic music teachers. We also hold a long-established association with the City of Belfast School of Music where a large number of our pupils are current members. We are proud of the many BRA musicians who have gone on to study Music at universities and conservatoires throughout Ireland and the UK.

Lessons take place throughout the day and after school, and operate on a rotating timetable; although the teaching day remains the same each week, your lesson will be at a different time. Most pupils aim to take a practical exam each year. We currently enter pupils for ABRSM, Trinity Classical and Pop, Rock School and London College of Music exams.

Our team of peripatetic teachers offer lessons on the full range of orchestral instruments singing and piano.

Instrument	Tutor	Teaching days in BRA
Piano & 'Cello	Ms. Rachel McGinley	Wednesday & Thursday
Flute & Oboe	Mrs Georgina McChesney	Friday
Clarinet & Saxophone	Dr Gerard McAtasney	Wednesday
Brass	Mr Nathan Moore	Wednesday
Upper Strings	Mrs Tammy Surginor	Thursday
	Ms Maebh Martin	Thursday
	Mrs Lauren Bingham	Monday & Tuesday
DoubleBass/Bass	Mr Thomas Alford	Wednesday
Guitar		
Guitar	Mr Colin Boyd	Monday, Wednesday – Friday
Percussion	Mr John Gillen	Monday
Voice	Mrs Amy Fitzsimmons	Monday

Pricing

Lessons cost £14.50 for a 30 minute lessons. The tutor will bill you directly and you can pay them with cash/ cheques or via bank transfer. Bills are issued at the start of every term and should be paid as soon as possible.

If your child is ill and will therefore miss their instrumental lesson you should contact the instrumental tutor or the Music Department to let them know - otherwise you will still be charged for the lesson. If you child simply forgets to turn up to their lesson (occasionally this happens!), they will be given a warning to ensure that they check the noticeboard where the instrumental timetable is posted. If they continue to forget, the instrumental teacher may allocate their place to another pupil and you may still be charged for lessons. We usually find that Form I pupils take a couple of months to get themselves into a routine and we adjust our expectations accordingly!

The Thomas Devlin Fund

Money has been made available to the Music Department from the Thomas Devlin Fund. We have decided to use the money towards encouraging pupils to take lessons on less commonly played instruments. Lessons on the following instruments will receive a 25% deduction on their termly bill:

Viola
Double Bass
Oboe
Bassoon
French Horn
Trombone
Tuba
Organ (50% deduction)

Buying/Hiring an Instrument

There are a couple of options if you wish to rent or purchase an instrument for your child. The Arts Council NI (<http://artsCouncil-ni.org/the-arts/performing-arts1/take-it-away>) can provide an interest-free loan. They can help you get your hands on the musical instrument of your dreams from as little as £10 per month. Take it away (Northern Ireland) works by letting you spread the cost of your new musical instrument over 10 months, making it more affordable to get playing. You'll need to pay a deposit and then pay the rest back in 9 monthly instalments – completely interest free.



Matchetts Music, Belfast (www.matchettsmusic.com/pages/rent-an-instrument) will hire saxophones, cellos, flutes, trombones, clarinets, trumpets and violins for £10 - 50 per term.

What do I do now?

To start instrumental lessons at BRA simply fill in the personal details sheet and sign the instrumental contract and return to the Music Department. I will pass your details onto the relevant instrumental tutor and they will be in touch with you soon after. You can contact me via my school email: mmcmullan298@c2ken.net or phone the Music Department on 90 740423 if needed.

Extra-Curricular Music

All pupils are welcome to join any of the extra-curricular music group regardless of whether they take music lessons inside or outside of school. The groups are relaxed and informal and are a sure fire way of meeting new friends and having a bit of banter! Pupils can eat their lunch before the rehearsal starts in the music classroom. Groups have performed/competed at the School Prize Day, Carol Services, Open Nights, Ballymena Festival, Derry Choral Festival, Radio Ulster School Choir of the Year and the Spring Concert in Ulster Hall. To start any group simply turn up to the first rehearsal in September.

Day	Time	Group	Year Groups
Monday	Before School Lunch	Chamber Choir Senior Choir (Tenors & Basses) Junior Strings	V – M6 (auditioned) IV – M6 I - III
Tuesday	Before School Lunch	Chamber Choir Senior Choir (Sopranos & Altos) Intermediate Choir	V – M6 III & IV (boys in Form IV should sing in Senior Choir)
Wednesday	Before School Lunch After School	Chamber Choir Senior Choir (SATB) Junior Choir Senior Trad	I & II IV – M6
Thursday	Before School Lunch After School	Chamber Choir Wind Band Big Band	I – M6 Grade VI and above
Friday	Before School Lunch After School	Chamber Choir Senior Strings Junior Trad Orchestra	III – M6 I - III III – M6 (brass and woodwind by audition)