



e: luke@lukepickettmusic.co.uk

w: lukepickettmusic.co.uk

f: [lukepickettmusicteaching](https://www.facebook.com/lukepickettmusicteaching)

t: [@lpickettmusic](https://twitter.com/lpickettmusic)

March 2021

Instrumental lessons when your child moves to secondary school

When your young musician moves to secondary school you will face a number of decisions regarding music lessons and possibly buying an instrument. This letter aims to answer questions that may arise and give you plenty of time to decide what to do.

School lessons

- If your child wishes to continue having school lessons in secondary school, make sure you get their name added to the school's list promptly.
- Please inform the Head of Music at the school as soon as possible and they will give you information about cost and organise lessons on the relevant instrument. They may ask you to contact the relevant teacher directly.
- Depending on which school your child will go to it may be possible to stay with the same teacher, but this is not always possible.
- At secondary schools, instrumental lessons usually run on a rotating timetable so that pupils do not miss the same academic lessons each week. This is dependent on the number of pupils learning with the same teacher. Pupils can be provided with a copy of the timetable to help them remember their lesson times. Lessons are usually on an individual basis, but sometimes paired lessons can be accommodated.
- If you are unable to make a decision about lessons until September, your child may need to be placed on a waiting list.

Instrument loans and ensembles

- If your child is currently hiring an instrument through the Wiltshire Music Connect Instrument Hire Scheme you will need to return this at their last lesson in July, unless you instruct the instrumental teacher at the secondary school to request hire again before 14th May 2021, and you then pay for hire and agree to the terms and conditions before 21st June 2021. Further details on this will be sent out in April.
- If your child currently plays in a Wiltshire Young Musicians ensemble and uses one of their instruments you can keep the instrument, provided your child returns to the ensemble in September.
- It is strongly encouraged to play in an ensemble because it is excellent for improving sight reading and musicianship skills, as well as a good way to make new friends.
- For more information on ensembles please visit wiltshireyoungmusicians.org.uk or lukepickettmusic.co.uk/Ensembles
- Withdrawing from lessons and ensembles will mean returning the instrument, which you should do at the last lesson in July.

Buying an instrument

- If you are considering buying an instrument it is best to contact me for advice as to which make and model of instrument to buy and possible suppliers
- Don't rush into buying an instrument: get your child to try a few before deciding
- Please avoid eBay and similar sites, unless you really know what you are looking for. The second hand market can be a very tricky place.
- Should you decide to buy a new instrument from a music shop, the Assisted Instrument Purchase Scheme enables schools to purchase the instrument on your behalf. This avoids paying VAT (because an instrument is an educational aid to learning) and can result in quite a saving. Further details are available at lukepickettmusic.co.uk/AIPS

Research has shown that learning an instrument greatly helps children's ability in all other areas of their schooling so I strongly urge you to encourage your child to continue with their music lessons at secondary school. I would be grateful if you could confirm with me which school your child will attend, and whether you would like them to continue with their instrumental lessons, no later than **Friday 14th May 2021**. If you have any questions about any of the above please contact me at luke@lukepickettmusic.co.uk.

Yours faithfully



Mr Luke Pickett
Peripatetic Teacher