



22 September 2026

Dear Families

Music Department Opportunities 2026

Last year we enjoyed an excellent year in music, with exciting performance opportunities and some fabulous music-making. As we look ahead to the next, I would like to take this opportunity once again to remind families and students of the many ways they can get involved in the music department at Sackville. The start of a new academic year, whilst busy, is a great time to take on new challenges, and learning an instrument or joining a music group is one of the best challenges of all. Music-making is an excellent way to meet new friends and enrich children's engagement with the school community, but also encourages skills such as resilience, independence and creativity, which can be so beneficial to students as they develop into young adults. I am mindful, particularly as a father myself, of the cost of extracurricular opportunities – please do explore the pricing options, including group lessons, as these are a good way of getting started on an instrument.

Instrumental Lessons

We offer a wide range of peripatetic lessons in the music department for all our students from Year 7 to Year 13. The lessons take place during or after the school day and can be up to 30 minutes long – teachers generally operate a rota system to avoid missing the same school subject lessons.

For the following lessons, please find further details and apply at

<https://www.westsussexmusic.co.uk/make-music/music-lessons/>:

- **Singing** - Pop, classical, musical theatre and more - Rebecca Redfern
- **Brass** - Trumpet, trombone, cornet, horn, etc. - Ben Whitcher
- **Drums** - Russell Gills
- **Woodwind** - Clarinet, flute, saxophone, etc. - Sarah Furnell
- **Violin** - Hannah Teasdale

For the following lessons, please apply via the Sackville application form [here](#) - you will then be contacted by the individual teacher for further details and to arrange lessons

- **Piano** - Denise Robinson
- **Cello** - Anna Ryder
- **Guitar** - Acoustic, electric, classical, electric bass - Jak Chantler

I am pleased to let you know that this year we are also able to offer *taster sessions* free of charge in a range of instruments for students and families who are not ready to make the commitment to regular lessons. If your child has expressed an interest in learning an instrument, then please do consider this opportunity. Please note that spaces on taster sessions are limited, and do not guarantee a regular lesson slot – but most teachers currently have spaces or a short waiting list. To apply for a taster session in singing, brass, drums, woodwind, violin or piano, please complete the following form [here](#). All peripatetic teachers have undertaken an enhanced disclosure in order to work in school, and lessons will take place in our five purpose-built practice rooms. In general, you will need to provide an instrument if your child would like to have lessons - there is a locked cupboard where they can be stored throughout the day to which only students storing instruments

are permitted access. Some instruments are available to loan from westsussexmusic.co.uk; please contact them through their website for more information.

There is a cost for each instrumental lesson, and this varies slightly from teacher to teacher, and various lesson lengths are sometimes available. Please note that you will be required to pay for peripatetic lessons at the beginning of each term, and you will need to provide a term's written notice to cancel lessons.

We never want cost to be a barrier preventing members of our Sackville Community from our culture of belonging or from being able to take part in trips and events. We will work closely with all families to ensure that every child has equitable access to opportunity during their time at Sackville School. If any families would like their child to take part in this opportunity and would need financial assistance, we invite families to get in touch with us to discuss what may be available. Please speak to your child's community team. Please do not hesitate to contact me on awebb@sackvilleschool.org.uk.

Extra Curricular Groups

As well as individual and small group lessons, we offer a varied programme of groups during the week at Sackville; please see the autumn term timetable below. These groups are open to all students who wish to participate (other than production - details on auditions to follow), either on voice or their own instrument, and I look forward to seeing lots of our talented musicians joining us for rehearsals over the next few weeks.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 Production Singing Rehearsals (P01) 	 Ukulele Group Lunchtime (E03)	 Sackville Singers 3.00pm - 3.45pm (E05)	 KS5 Band 3.00pm - 4.00pm (E06)	 Classical Ensemble Lunchtime (E03)
		 Music Tech Club 3.00pm - 4.00pm (E03)	 Coursework Catch Up 3.00pm - 4.00pm (E03)	 KS4 and 5 Band 3.00pm - 4.00pm (E06)

I look forward to sharing details of upcoming events and opportunities throughout the year, and to seeing what our wonderful musicians produce this year. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

Mr Alastair Webb
Curriculum Leader of Music