

St. Malachy's College
36 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 2AE



May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Peripatetic Music Lessons 2024-25

Contained in this letter are details of how your son can sign up to the Instrumental/Vocal lessons, which are provided through the College's Peripatetic Music Service.

Since September 2017, the annual fees for Peripatetic Music Lessons have remained comparatively low, which was important during and after the Covid-19 pandemic, to aid with the financial burden to families and to retain pupil numbers. However, fees must now be increased to reflect rises in public and private sector pay, inflation and the increasing cost of living.

Enclosed are Enrolment and Payment forms for Peripatetic Music Lessons from September 2024. The cost of 28 individual lessons is now **£420**. Shared lessons are also available at half the cost. Boys who are not beginners should aim to take individual lessons, if this is feasible, to ensure adequate progress when playing at higher grade levels.

NEW YEAR 8 PUPILS

During Year 8 Music lessons, we aim to give pupils opportunities to try a range of instruments. However, if your son has been learning an instrument already, either in his primary school or privately, he is able to continue with his instrumental lessons at St. Malachy's College. We have an excellent team of Peripatetic Music Teachers who provide lessons on the full range of orchestral, traditional and rock instruments, and singing.

CURRENT PUPILS

New **Enrolment** and **Payment** forms must be completed for each new academic year.

Parent(s)/Carer(s) and students will accept the following conditions when enrolling for Peripatetic Music Lessons:

TIMETABLE

Lessons commence in early September and your son will be reminded by his form tutor to go to the Music Department to check his lesson times. His lesson will be on the same day each week, but the time of the lesson rotates to a different time every fortnight. Each lesson is 30 minutes long. If a boy needs to reschedule or change a lesson time e.g., in the case of a medical appointment or a class test, he must try to inform his teacher or the Head of Music in advance so that the lesson can be changed in good time.

FEES

28 x weekly lessons (one-to-one) £420	28 x weekly shared lessons (two pupils sharing) £210
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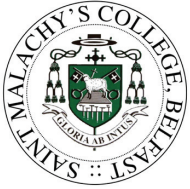
Fees can be paid by cheque or via the College Standing Order form, which is attached to the Enrolment form. This involves **ten** monthly payments of £42 p/m (individual lessons) or £21 p/m (shared lessons) from September 2024 finishing in June 2025. One Annual Report and one Practice Diary are included in the fees.

PRACTICE

Boys should understand the importance of, and place value on, regular practice in order to make good progress in lessons. **Four practice sessions** should be timetabled each week, starting at 25 minutes per session for beginners, and increasing by 5 minutes per grade. Boys can practise in the College Music Department from 8am, including at break and lunch, and after school, as well as at home.

Principal: Mr Paul McBride MA, MEd, B.Mus, PGCE, PQH (NI)

Tel: (028) 9074 8285 Fax: (028) 9074 1066 Email: correspondent@stmalachys.belfast.ni.sch.uk Website: www.stmalachyscollege.com



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EXAMINATIONS

We strongly encourage all pupils to enter external practical examinations (ABRSM, Trinity, RockschooL, London College). Graded examinations provide excellent achievement targets for pupils to work towards, and the expectation is that pupils will aim to achieve at least one grade per year.

INSTRUMENTS

The College maintains a large stock of instruments. If pupils do not own an instrument, one may be provided if it is available. Some instruments are available to loan from the College although our stock varies year on year. Instruments are allocated on a first come, first serve basis. If an instrument is not available, the student must provide their own.

All College instruments must be cared for and maintained to a high standard. Boys must not leave instruments in the Storeroom overnight; they must be taken home for practice. If a student repeatedly leaves a College-loaned instrument in the Storeroom, it will be withdrawn and he will have to buy his own instrument. It is expected that College-owned instruments will be maintained and taken care of. The student will take responsibility for the general upkeep of his instrument, including any reasonable costs of maintaining it e.g. buying his own strings, reeds etc.

ACTIVITIES

All boys who take lessons in or outside of the College are expected to join an ensemble and/or choir and take full advantage of the opportunities and experiences that our extraordinary Music Department can offer them. There are a wide variety of instrumental and vocal ensembles for all ages. For boys who take lessons at the College, it is a requirement that, when they are ready and able to, they join a College ensemble.

TIMETABLING

Lessons will not be timetabled until fees are paid. Lesson timetables are displayed in the Music Department and through the Tutor's Google Classroom. In the event of online lessons, the normal timetable may be followed or a new time agreed between the parent/carer and the Peripatetic Music Tutor.

CANCELLATION OF LESSONS

Notification of cancellation of lessons must be made in writing or by email directly to the Head of Music. **One complete half term's notice is required** e.g., if you indicate in January (first half of Spring Term) that you want to quit, you are liable to pay for lessons for the second half of the Spring Term too.

SHEET MUSIC and MOBILE PHONES

The student will purchase all relevant music and books recommended by their teacher. Students are not allowed to use mobile phones in Music Lessons for any reason.

If you wish your son to avail of Instrumental/Vocal lessons at the College from September, please complete the Music Lesson **Enrolment** and **Payment** forms and submit them to the main office **before the start of term**, so that lessons can begin promptly in early September. I am very happy for you to contact me via email dstrange376@c2ken.net about any aspect of your son's musical education. We look forward to welcoming him in September.

Yours sincerely

Mr David Strange
Head of Music

Principal: Mr Paul McBride MA, MEd, B.Mus, PGCE, PQH (NI)

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When this form is completed please return to St Malachy's College