

HUNTINGTOWER

Early Learning to Year 12 Co-Educational School



Music Department

Instrumental Music Tuition
Information Booklet



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Introduction

Music at Huntingtower

The Music Department at Huntingtower School invites you to become part of a wonderful and rich tradition. Music lessons are an important part of the overall education we provide to students and our aim is to enrich the lives of young people through the love of music and instrumental practice.

Huntingtower has a strong tradition of musical excellence. Through individual lessons and ensemble playing, students enjoy and excel not only in music but in many other disciplines offered by the school.

By starting an instrument at an early age, students are introduced to a lifelong appreciation and love of music. Music is an integral part of our culture, past and present. It helps students understand themselves and relate to others and forges important links between home, school and the wider world. Discipline, enthusiasm, perseverance and creativity will also help ensure your child has the option to study Music Performance for their VCE.

Parents will be impressed by the progress their child makes, even after a couple of lessons. Success in music not only depends upon private lessons and personal attention from our music staff, it also requires disciplined learning and home practice. Another important factor is the learning that takes place in groups through ensemble playing (ensembles, bands, orchestra and choir). This challenges the student to progress rapidly and strive for excellence.

Learning an Instrument Enhances:

- Mathematical/analytical skills
- Musical and creative skills
- A proven increased learning capacity
- Whole school academic achievement
- Commitment, critical assessment, communication, time management





Ensembles

Participation in Ensembles

Taking part in an orchestra, band or choir is an essential part of the instrumental curriculum offered by the school.

Once students reach the required level of proficiency on their instrument, they are expected to take part in at least one ensemble relevant to their instrument. Students undertaking classical or contemporary voice lessons are expected to join a choir in accordance with the recommendation of the Head of Choral Music. Students learning the guitar or piano are encouraged to join a choir to develop their aural skills, or percussion in an orchestra or band.

Strings Pathways

- **Years 3–6:** Junior Strings
- **Years 7–9:** Middle School Strings
- **Years 10–12:** Senior Strings
- **Years 8–12:** Senior Symphony Orchestra

Voice Pathways

- **Junior School:**
 - Little Choir
 - Junior School Choir
 - Junior School Chamber Choir
- **Years 7–9:** Middle School Choir
- **Years 10–12:** Senior Choir

Woodwind, Brass & Percussion Pathways

- **Years 6–9:** Middle School Concert Band
- **Years 10–12:** Senior Concert Band
- **Years 8–12:** Senior Symphony Orchestra
(subject to vacancies)

Extra Groups by Invitation / Audition

- Middle School Chamber Choir
- Senior Choir
- Sotto Voce Chamber Choir
- Cantabile & Graziosa Chamber Choir
- Jazz Band
- Brass Ensemble
- Guitar Ensemble
- Percussion Ensemble

Please note: Middle School students may request to join a senior ensemble if of a suitable standard



Music Tuition

The Best Age to Start Music Tuition

There is no optimum age to commence music tuition. Generally, strings are started as early as possible with

violin, cello and piano beginning from Foundation, and other instruments introduced depending on the student's physical development.

Although brass and woodwind instruments may be started from Year 4 onwards, some students can start successfully with instruments such as trumpet, clarinet and flute as early as Year 3. Brass, woodwind and percussion instruments can be achievable and successful for students in Year 7 and above.

* Please Note

Students taking piano lessons must have a piano at home on which to practice.

Foundation – Year 2

Instrumental tuition on an individual basis is available

for students in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 on the following instruments:

- Violin
- Cello
- Piano*

Years 3 and 4

Instrumental tuition on an individual basis is available to students in Years 3 and 4 on the following instruments:

- Piano*
- Violin
- Viola
- Cello
- Double Bass
- Flute
- Clarinet
- Trumpet

Years 5 and 6

Instrumental tuition on an individual basis is available to students in Years 5 and 6 on the following instruments:

- Piano*
- Voice
- Percussion
- Violin
- Viola
- Cello
- Double Bass
- Flute
- Clarinet
- Oboe
- Bassoon
- Alto Saxophone
- French Horn
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Tuba
- Euphonium

Years 7 – 12

Instrumental tuition on an individual basis is available to students in Years 7 and 8 on the following instruments:

- Piano* (contemporary and classical)
- Voice
- Percussion
- Guitar
- Violin
- Viola
- Cello
- Double Bass
- Flute
- Clarinet
- Oboe
- Bassoon
- Saxophone (alto tenor and baritone)
- French Horn
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Euphonium
- Tuba



Cost of Tuition

Music Tuition Fees

Fees are outlined in the table below and are based on **32 lessons per year (16 lessons per semester)**.

Fees will be charged to your school account per term and are subject to an annual review.

The following lesson lengths are recommended by the Australian Music Examination Board (AMEB) and act as a guideline only:

- Preliminary to Grade 2 AMEB
30 minute lessons
- Grade 3 AMEB and higher
45 minute lessons

Length	Cost per lesson
30 minutes	\$55 per lesson
45 minutes	\$82.50 per lesson
60 minutes	\$110 per lesson

Billing Procedure

Semester 1 (Terms 1 & 2)

16 lessons for Semester 1 will be billed in 8 lesson blocks at the beginning of each term, plus instrument hire.

Semester 2 (Terms 3 & 4)

16 lessons for Semester 2 will be billed in 8 lesson blocks at the beginning of each term, plus instrument hire.

Adjustments & Credits

Additional lessons arranged at parent's request are billed each term when termly fees are invoiced. Credits for excusable missed lessons (eg, notification of absence with sufficient time/scheduled school events) will be credited at the end of each Semester.

Reeds & Strings Cost

There will be an additional cost for reeds (oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon) and strings. These items (over time) will need to be replaced. The cost of these items will be added to your account.

Additional Lessons

Additional lessons (more than 32 per year) can be scheduled in consultation with your child's instrumental teacher.

If your child would like to receive additional lessons outside of the scheduled 16 per semester, please advise in writing to music@huntingtower.vic.edu.au.



Terms & Conditions of Tuition

Commencement of Tuition Procedure

To commence tuition, please complete the Music Tuition Application Form available on the website, [here](#). Tick the box for instrument hire (if applicable). Once the form has been received, parents will be contacted with details of their teacher and lesson timetable access.

Lessons are provided with the expectation and understanding that it is a full year commitment. Teachers will aim to provide 32 lessons over the year, ideally made up of 16 lessons per semester.

Due to exams and an earlier finish in Term 4, Year 12 students will be given the choice of nominating the number of lessons they would like to commit to in their final term.

Continuation of Tuition into the Following School Year

In order to continue the individual instrumental lessons in which your child is already enrolled for the next year, you do not need to do anything. Your enrolment will automatically continue until you send us notification in writing that you wish to cease lessons.

If you wish to alter the lesson format in any way, such as change from 30 minute lessons to 45 minute lessons, please contact the music department by email at music@huntingtower.vic.edu.au.

Tuition Cancellation

If you wish to cancel your child's tuition, please notify the Head of Music and the music teacher in writing a **minimum of two weeks** prior to the end of a semester.

Lessons will be considered ongoing into the following semester or year until the required notification of cancellation has been received (at least two weeks before the end of a semester).

If a student withdraws part-way through a semester, the full semester's fees will still be payable for that semester.

Requests received for tuition cancellation due to extenuating circumstances, prolonged illness or injury will be referred to the Head of Music for resolution.

Trialing an Instrument

Limited trial lessons with one or a few of our instrumental teachers on an instrument(s) of the student's choosing can be arranged at the standard lesson rate. Billing for trial lessons is processed via the student's school account.

If you are considering trying a new instrument, please speak with the Head of Music directly.



Communication with Instrumental Staff

If you would like to discuss your child's progress with an instrumental teacher, please contact the teacher via their Huntingtower email. Please note that our instrumental staff work limited hours due to commitments in other schools.

If an urgent matter arises, please contact the Head of Music.

Timetabling of Tuition

Lessons are taught on the basis of a rotating timetable during school hours (this applies to all students learning one or more instruments). Each fortnight, in most cases, students are allocated a different time in order to minimise disruption to the same academic class.

Students cannot request a time outside of school hours, recess or lunch. The only exception is for students in Year 11 and 12 and in consultation with the instrumental teacher.

Students cannot request that the timetabling of instrumental lessons occurs out of core subject lesson times (English, Maths, etc). It is the responsibility of the student to check their music timetable in order to minimise disruption to the same classes/subjects. In most cases students will not miss out on the same subject more than twice per term.

Online Music Lesson Timetables

All our instrumental lessons are timetabled online and visible to both students and parents through the students HT Connect Calendar. It is the student's/parent's responsibility to communicate any changes with the teacher directly.

A notification reminder is system generated when a lesson has been scheduled. Once lessons are scheduled they will appear on the students HT Connect calendar (co-curricular). If you cannot see the lesson time, please ensure your filters include Music & Co-curricular. It is the student's responsibility to identify any conflicts/tests that would lead to them being absent from their lesson and request a reschedule within a 48 hour timeframe.

If there is a change of lesson time you will be notified of a new time by an email from the system. Please be aware that due to school activities and events, instrumental music timetables are subject to change at any stage during the term/semester.



Change of Lesson Times

When Lessons Will Not Be Made Up

Lessons will not be made up and usual charges will apply if a student:

- Is sick on the day of his/her lesson with less than 24 hours' notice
- Misses their lesson because of forgetfulness
- Misses their lesson because of an appointment during school hours
- Misses their lesson because of an unnotified excursion/incursion or test (unless notification has been given to the teacher at least one week prior to the excursion/incursion and 48 hours for a test/exam/assessment)
- Misses their lesson because of involvement with a co-curricular sporting activity (e.g. Athletics)
- Misses their lesson due to family/private holidays that are taken during the term

It is the responsibility of the student/parent to notify the instrumental teacher at the earliest possibility of any tests or other activity that clash with an instrumental lesson.

When Lessons Will Be Made Up

Lessons will be made up during the current semester if:

- Public holidays or student free days occur during the term on the day of the lesson
- The teacher is absent on the day of the lesson
- The teacher was notified in advance (one week) of an excursion/incursion or test (change of lesson time for this reason will occur)
- The student has been ill or has an injury for a prolonged period of time (parents should consult with the Head of Music).

If a student is absent from school on the day of their lesson, parents are to notify the **music teacher directly via email** in order to alert the teacher of your child's absence.

How to Contact Us

If there are any concerns regarding lessons it is best to contact the instrumental teacher directly. A list of instrumental teachers and their email addresses is available [here](#).

You can contact the music department for other enquiries at music@huntingtower.vic.edu.au

The Head of Music can be contacted at dmowat@huntingtower.vic.edu.au



Hire of School Instruments

School Instrument Hire

A limited number of stringed, brass and wind instruments are available for hire from the school.

The fee for instrument hire is \$80 per term. The school insurance policy covers against loss or accidental on-site damage only. Damage or loss by negligence is not covered by school insurance. Parents will be required to pay for full replacement of any damaged/lost instrument. Parents are advised to include sufficient cover under their own insurance.

From time-to-time hire instrument repairs may be required. Payment of costs are dependent on the nature of the required repairs and can be discussed with the Head of Music or the music administrative officer.

If an instrument cannot be hired through school we can offer guidance on arranging personal hire. The cost will be charged by the hire company and is not the responsibility of the school.

If you wish to hire an instrument, please complete the Music Tuition Application Form online [here](#), tick the box for instrument hire and return the form to the Music Office. If you would like to know more about our hire option, please contact the Music Office on 9831 9470.

If you wish to discontinue instrument hire you are required to put that in writing to the Music Office. Instruments must be returned directly to the Music Office and be receipted by a staff member.

Owning Your Own Instrument

Please consider purchasing your own instrument for long-term usage. Benefits of owning an instrument are:

- Commitment to music practice
- Excitement, motivation and responsibility
- Financially viable





Reports & Examinations

External Assessment

External assessment is available to students wishing to enroll in examinations conducted by the Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB).

Parents will be notified by their child's instrumental teacher about the suitability of such an examination or parents may contact the teacher to discuss this option. Undertaking such an examination requires a clear agreement between the parent, the teacher and the student. A student can only be enrolled for an AMEB exam at the discretion of the teacher and must have reached the required level of preparation to enter for an examination.

The teacher, in consultation with the student, will organise an accompanist and rehearsal times for the examination. Information about accompanying fees and suggested accompanists is available from the music administration office. Payment of accompanist fees are arranged directly between parents/teacher and accompanists.

In order for a student to be enrolled in an AMEB exam, parents must authorise the student's registration in writing via email which clearly approves the cost for the examination. Once received, the enrolment cost is to be passed on via your school account. Requests for enrolment authorisation will be provided to you via the Music Administration Office.





Know Thy True Self

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