

## Year 7 Music

One of the special opportunities of a place in Year 7 at Nicholas Chamberlaine School is the entitlement to receive three years of free tuition on an orchestral instrument. This is provided through our partnership with the Music in Secondary Schools Trust (MiSST) and the Warwickshire Music Hub. This is only available in eighteen schools in the whole of England, and we are very proud to be the only school in the Midlands providing this. A short video detailing the work of MiSST can be viewed on this link: <https://youtu.be/Oj2yFa8LOs8>

A special extended feature about our instrumental tuition programme was televised on BBC Midlands Today in October 2019. This can be viewed on the “Videos” tab of the school’s Facebook page:

Your child will be provided with their own instrument for at least the next three years, for which they are personally responsible. Tuition will be provided in small group settings of 6 - 8 students as part of their weekly music lesson. In between lessons, your child will be expected to take their instrument home and undertake regular practice to develop their skills, as part of their homework routine.

Through learning an instrument, your child will experience a much wider range of benefits than simply becoming a musician. Research has shown that children who learn an instrument have increased self-confidence, higher levels of resilience, greater concentration, and improved academic attainment. This is why we, at Nicholas Chamberlaine believe and invest in this programme.

However, we also believe that learning an instrument should primarily be fun and fulfilling. During their time at Nicholas Chamberlaine your child will therefore experience a range of concerts, visits and workshops that will enrich their lives forever.

Your child has a choice of seven different instruments to learn. Please discuss these choices with your child and watch them being played on You Tube videos to get a better idea of what they look and sound like. Please bear in mind that the larger instruments are not so easy to carry home, so if your child has a long way to walk, or comes to school on a bike, then the Cello or Trombone is not the best choice for them.

The instruments available are as follows:

- Violin: A four string instrument that is light and easy to carry.
- Viola: slightly larger string instrument and more mellow sounding than a violin, but also easy to carry.
- Cello: A lovely rich sounding string instrument; not heavy, but quite large so best suited to students who travel to school by car or bus
- Flute: small and easy to carry; a wind instrument that has a sweet clear sound.
- Clarinet: Also small and easy to carry; a wind instrument with a rich mellow sound.
- Trumpet: A brass instrument that is small and easy to carry. This can be noisy!

- Trombone: a larger brass instrument; long, but not heavy to carry. Longer arms are required for this as the notes are changed by extending a slide. Nice deep sounds and the ability to play “comic” effects!
- Tenor Horn: a brass instrument that is slightly larger than a trumpet, but also easy to carry. Less noisy than a trumpet!

### **What you have to do now**

You are asked to help your child select a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice preference. We will endeavour to meet one of your child’s preferences, but we are restricted to the numbers of each instrument that we have available, so this may not always be possible.

**Please email your child’s preference to the following email address by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021:**  
[year7music@nicholaschamberlaine.co.uk](mailto:year7music@nicholaschamberlaine.co.uk)

**Please provide:**

- **your child’s name**
- **your contact details**
- **the preferred choice of instrument (rank ordered from 1 to 3).**

Children who do not express a preference will be allocated an instrument by the Music Department in September.

If your child already has lessons (for example on Drum kit, or Guitar) at primary school, we still require you to make a choice from the seven instruments available. Should your child wish to continue on another instrument in addition to those offered above, there is the option to pay the Warwickshire Music Hub direct for these extra lessons and the instrumental teacher will visit the school at a different time to deliver this. Further details are available on request.

If you have any further queries, or require further advice about the instrument provision at Nicholas Chamberlaine School, please email

- Chris Small (c.small@nicholaschamberlaine.co.uk)

Kind regards



Mr C Small  
**Teacher of Music**