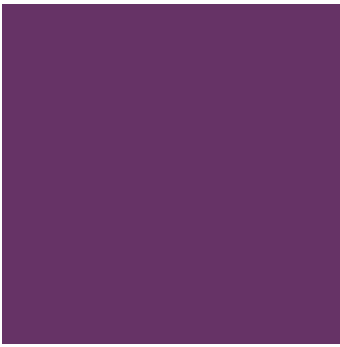


Guide to music lessons at Dane Court Grammar School





Introduction:

What does Dane Court Offer?

Learning an instrument at Dane Court is the perfect way to compliment your academic work. Dane Court offers the following lessons:

Piano/Keyboard

Classical/West End Singing

Pop Singing

Strings (*Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass*)

Woodwind (*Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone*)

Brass (*Trumpet, Cornet, Euphonium, Trombone Tuba,*)

Classical Guitar

Rock/General Guitar

Drum Kit

Theory

Instruments can either be purchased via the Instrumental Purchase Scheme where you do not pay VAT, or you can arrange to rent via your instrumental teacher or speak to your instrumental teacher about the best place or shop to get an instrument.

Pianos and drum kits are available to use within the school at lunchtime and after school.

Please contact Mr Mason, Head of Music, should you have any questions :

mason@danecourt.kent.sch.uk



Understanding grades

Graded examinations are an important part of making progress on an instrument. Although not all students take grades, most do. Here is a brief outline of when you should be gaining these grades in the years that you are at Dane Court. (This is if you come into the school with Grade 1.) Sometimes grades can be missed out but this depends on the work level and ability of individual students.

Note: To go past Grade 5 in Associated Board Performing Grades you will need to pass Grade 5 Theory. The school currently runs a Grade 5 Theory group for these students. For rock School and some other exam boards, Grade 5 Theory is not required.

Grades vs Year Groups

Grade 1 – Year 7
Grade 2 – Year 8
Grade 3 – Year 9
Grade 4 – Year 10
Grade 5 – Year 11 + Grade 5 Theory
Grade 6/7 – Year 12
Grade 7/8 Year 13 + Grade 8 Theory

Approximate Practice Times

20 – 30 minutes (3 – 4 times a week)
30 – 40 minutes (3 – 4 times a week)
20 – 40 minutes a day
30 – 40 minutes to 50 mins a day
1 hour a day
1 hour a day minimum
1 - 1½ hours a day minimum

UCAS points

As a result of this accreditation, students with ABRSM qualifications at Grades 6 and 8 benefit from UCAS (University And Colleges Admission Service) points which can be used as part of a university or college application in the UK.

	Grade 6			Grade 7			Grade 8		
	Pass	Merit	Dist.	Pass	Merit	Dist.	Pass	Merit	Dist.
Practical	25	40	45	40	55	60	55	70	75
Theory	5	10	15	10	15	20	20	25	30



The benefits of learning an instrument

Students who can balance their academic life and learning a musical instrument to a high standard develop a high level of intelligence that is sought after by Universities and in the professional world.

Other than developing your mind and your intelligence, learning an instrument also:

Improves your social life

Relieves stress

Builds confidence

Teaches patience

Fosters creativity

Improves memory

Develops discipline

Is fun!



Groups and music activities at the school

Wind Band (beginners to experienced) 4-5 pm Wednesday in B9.

Strings Orchestra (beginners to experienced) 3.30 to 4.30 pm Wednesday in H7.

Jazz Band (Grade 3+) 3.30 to 4.30 pm Thursday in H7.

PopChoir Monday 1.45 to 2.15 pm in H7.

Senior Choir Wednesday 1.45 to 2.15 pm in H7 .

Show Choir (audition only) Thursday lunchtimes and Monday after school when needed in H7.

Grade 5 Theory (for students who are working through Grades 1 to 5 theory books Monday 1.45 to 2.15 in H8

Events where students are required to perform: Carol Service, Christmas Concert, Dickens Festival, Summer Concert, Awards Evening, other local and regional events, Music Tour.

Groups to aim for: Benenden Summer Music School, Kent County Youth Groups (choir, wind band, orchestra), local groups, National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, National Youth Choir.



Dane Court Grammar School

Form of Agreement for Instrumental Music Tuition

Please fill out one form per instrumental lesson required. You should read the 'Guide to Music Lessons at Dane Court Grammar School' pack in conjunction with this application form. Please sign the acceptance letter below and return to the school office.

Terms and conditions:

1. Fees vary dependent on the individual teacher from £8 for 20 minute shared lesson to £20 for 30 minutes with a Kent Music Service Teacher. Lesson prices will be fully discussed with you by the teacher before the lessons start so that you can determine if the cost of lessons are appropriate and you wish to set up lessons.

Fees are to be paid immediately following the first lesson of each half term. Lessons may only be discontinued after 5 weeks' notice has been given to the instrumental teacher in writing. If this notice is not given, 5 lessons' fees in lieu of notice will be charged. A recovery cost will be incurred should a parent not agree to pay the 5 weeks owed or any overdue fees.

2. Missed lessons. Lessons missed through a student's non-attendance will be charged for. Students must be aware of when their lesson time is during the day and should check the main music notice board regularly, especially at the start of the day on the morning of their lesson. Students should then let their normal class teacher (e.g. French or PE) know that they have a music lesson, and they must be responsible for catching up on missed work.

Only one lesson per half-term can be cancelled by the student and to do this please give at least 24 hours' notice to the instrumental teacher. Contacting them directly is the best way of doing it as the teacher will always give you their number to contact them. Lessons can only be cancelled in exceptional circumstances, for example, illness from school or a school trip.

3. Participation in school activities. It is important to understand that the music lesson is only half of what is needed to develop a student's musicality. It is therefore expected that students having private music lessons at the school will regularly attend ensemble or group rehearsals for choir, band or orchestra.

Yours sincerely

Peter Mason
Head of Music

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Dane Court Grammar School

ACCEPTANCE to be completed and signed by the parent or guardian:

I hereby accept the offer of tuition on the terms and conditions set out on this form of agreement for instrumental music tuition, and agree to be bound by those conditions once lessons have started.

Parent/Guardian name and address: _____

_____ Telephone number: _____

Email: _____ Instrument: _____

Student's name: _____ Form group: _____

Previous standard reached or grades passed (write 'beginner' if your child is new to the instrument): _____

Signed: _____ Parent/Guardian Dated: _____



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