Penwortham Girls' High School

Music Tuition Handbook 2026 - 2027

Welcome to the Music Department Handbook

This handbook contains the necessary information about the music provision at Penwortham Girls' High School in addition to the lessons provided for delivery of the National Curriculum in years 7-9 and the GCSE courses in years 10-11.

"Instrumental music holds great educational value for children. It develops listening skills, co-ordination and improves the powers of concentration.

Students who learn to play an instrument learn discipline, a sense of responsibility and how to interact with others. They also have something interesting and pleasurable to do throughout their lives."

Provision

An experienced and well-qualified team of teachers from the Lancashire Music Service and the locality offer a variety of instrumental tuition so that students can achieve their musical potential. Tuition may be arranged during the school day, with every effort being made to ensure minimal disruption to lessons, or after school.

In order to continue and develop musical activities previously undertaken in the classroom and encourage participation in school and in the community, ensemble activities are provided to enhance students' musical experience and develop group music making skills, and these are considered to be a necessary follow on from the instrumental lesson. **Participation in at least ONE of these activities is necessary for all students receiving instrumental tuition.**

Attendance

Students receiving tuition are **expected to attend lessons and ensemble activities regularly and promptly**. Parents are also responsible for transport arrangements to and from school when lessons occur out of school hours.
If a student does not attend a lesson we will endeavour to inform you via parentmail. Peripatetic staff will not get students from lessons as this is disruptive to the rest of the class and they do not have time to do this.

Practice

All students receiving tuition will be set tasks to complete each week. If the teacher and Head of Music feel less than satisfactory progress has been made, parents will be contacted so that the matter may be discussed. If you have a query for the teacher please note it in the 'Practice Diary' and ask your daughter to alert them to it during their lesson.

Reports

Student progress is monitored and an annual report from the instrumental teacher will be sent to parents at the end of the summer term.

Tuition

Group tuition within and beyond the school day is provided in:

String
Violin/Viola/Cello/Double Bass

Woodwind
Flute / Oboe / Clarinet / Bassoon / Saxophone

Brass
Trumpet / Cornet / Trombone / Horns

Singing

Guitar

Drums

Piano / Keyboard / Theory

Lessons

There will be 32 lessons in the school year. If ever the teacher is not available we will endeavour to provide another lesson during the year. **Fees are not refundable if the student is unable to come on a particular occasion, for whatever reason, as the charge is not payment for individual lessons, but a contribution towards the service.**

In order to provide the best learning experience for students they will be grouped with students of similar instrument and ability. If you would like your child to have an individual 20 minute lesson we can arrange this but the fee would be £165 per term.

In order to avoid continued disruption to the same lesson at the same time students will follow a timetable on a rotation basis. Please ensure your daughter is aware of the time of her lesson each week. Timetables will be given to each student at the beginning of the year and will be available on the Music Noticeboard should she lose her copy.

Fees

£82.50 per term, per instrument; £247.50 per year for 32 lessons a year.

All payments need to be made through the ParentPay system. The payment can be made for the whole year or can be broken down into £82.50 at the beginning of each term by the following deadlines 30th September 2026, 30th January 2027 and 30th April 2027. Requests for payment will be made via Parentmail prior to the start of each term. If you have concerns regarding this, please contact Mrs Muncaster in the school office.

Students in receipt of Free School Meals or those who have been on Free School Meals in the last 6 years are able to receive tuition in one discipline free of charge.

The same fee is required whatever the time of day the lesson is taken.

If you would like your child to have an individual 20 minute lesson we can arrange this but the fee would be £165 per term.

If your daughter decides at any point in the year she no longer requires tuition, please note that we require **an emailed notice half a term in advance**, to finance@penworthamgirls.lancs.sch.uk to enable us to make the necessary changes to our tuition service. For example, if your daughter decides at February half term she does not wish to continue, you would need to inform us by email and would still be required to pay till the end of the Spring term.

Examinations

All students are regularly entered for the graded examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music when the teacher considers they have reached the required standard. Students will then need to attend a subsequent aural session and accompaniment session in order to prepare fully for the examination. Fees will be payable for the extra tuition. Information concerning consent, fees and procedures will be set to parents prior to entry.

Instruments

It may be possible for school to loan an instrument to students wishing to begin tuition. This is dependant on demand and availability of the instrument cannot be guaranteed. We can, however, recommend hire schemes from the shop below if required.

The Music Cellar
12 Fox Street
PRESTON
PR1 2AB
Tel: 01772 251407

An Assisted Instrument Purchasing Scheme operates from school, which enables students having lessons in school to purchase musical instruments without paying VAT. Information can be gained from the shop named above or by contacting school.

School Ensembles

All students receiving tuition will be invited to join a group activity when able to do so. Participation in ensembles is considered necessary follow up from tuition and is excellent preparation for entry to the Lancashire County Bands and Orchestras.

Concerts and productions are regularly held during December, March/April and July. The department provides music for many school events and is often invited to perform at local community establishments and primary schools. Opportunities are made available for those students who wish to participate to perform.

We regularly run an Orchestra, Choir, Brass and Woodwind group however smaller groups are arranged as required.

All days subject to change – check the music noticeboard.

Lancashire Central Ensembles

As students become more accomplished musicians they can aspire to become a member of one of Lancashire's Central Ensembles. Opportunities to play in prestigious concerts and represent the county in competitions and take tours abroad then become available.

There are two levels in the central ensembles

Level 1 (Preparation for main ensemble)

Lancashire Schools' Symphony Orchestra
Lancashire Schools' Jazz Orchestra
Lancashire Schools' Brass Band
Lancashire Schools' Concert Band

Level 2 (Main Ensemble)

Lancashire Youth Symphony Orchestra
Lancashire Youth Concert Band
Lancashire Youth Jazz Orchestra
Lancashire Youth Brass Band
HONK! Lancashire Youth Street Band

For Information on the above ensembles use the following link:

https://www.lancashiremusichub.co.uk/site/parents/music-centres-and-groups/

We hope that you have found this handbook helpful. If you wish to take advantage of any of the opportunities outlined in this booklet please complete the online form using the following link:

Music Tuition Registration 2026/27 – Fill out form

Please do not hesitate to contact the music department if you require more information.

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