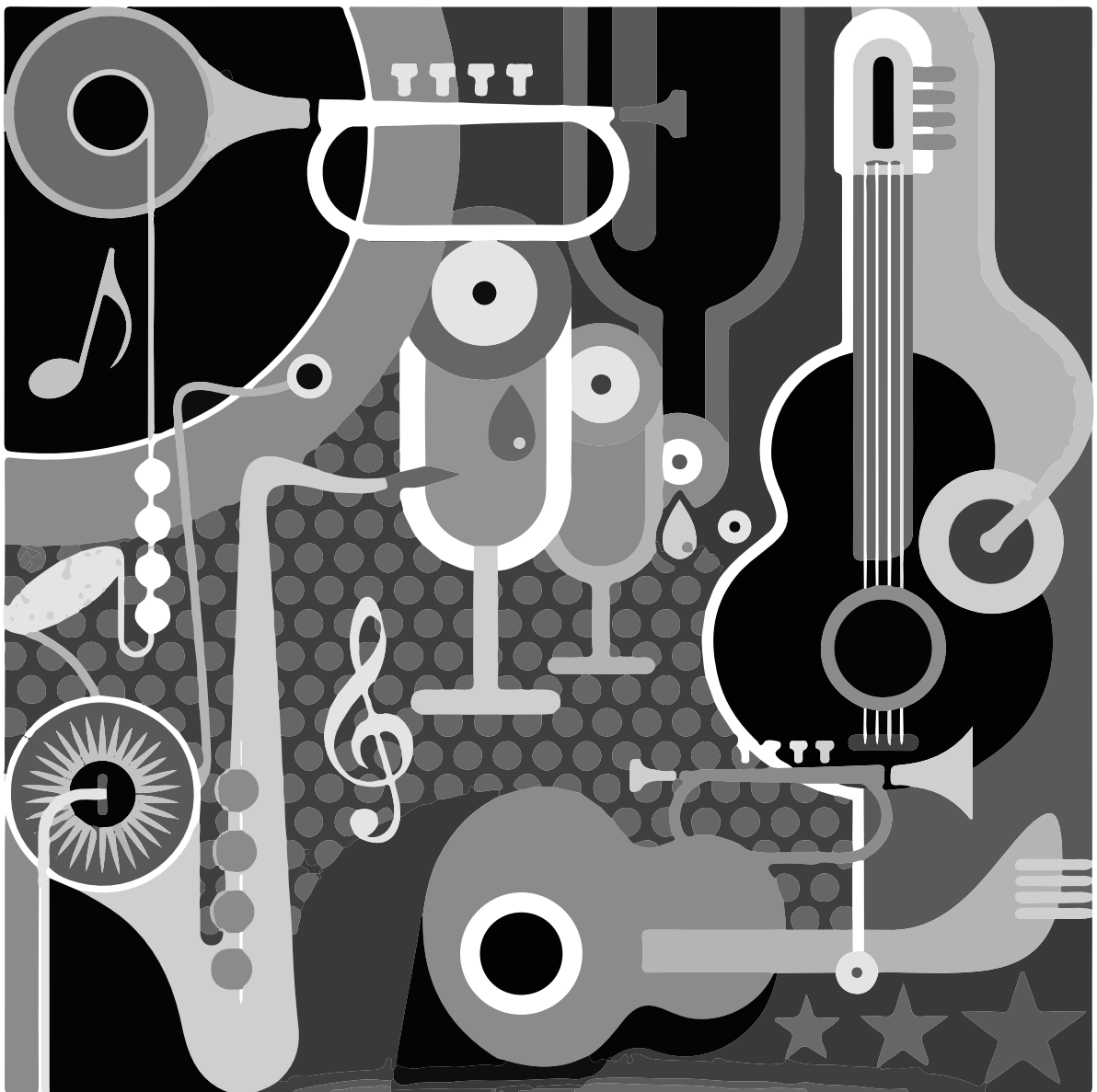


DIXONS CITY ACADEMY

PERIPATETIC PROSPECTUS



2020 - 2021

Contents

Contents	1
The Music Staff	2-3
Introduction to the Peripatetic Service	4
Lesson Fees	4
Extra-curricular Music	5
Owning your own instrument	5
Purchasing of Music	6
Attitude towards lessons	6
Provision of Supported lessons	7
Missed lessons	8
Music Theory Lessons	9
How to Terminate Lessons	9
Examinations	9
The Peripatetic Tutors	10-12
Anna Hamilton – Woodwind Tutor	10
Richard Quarmby – Keyboard Tutor	10
Jane Bryan – Flute Tutor	10
Dave Brons – Guitar Tutor	11
David Hogan – Clarinet Tutor	11
Stephen Bradnum – Brass Tutor	11
Alison Rignall – Violin Tutor	12
Mark Lewalski – Percussion Tutor	12
Alison Eastwood – Voice Tutor	12
Concerts and Performance opportunities	13
Concert Photographs	13-14
Acknowledgements	15

The Music Staff

Dawn Lowther

**Dawn Lowther Ph D, BA (Hons), PGCE (OU), LTCL
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A Note from the Head of Department

At Dixons City Academy we have a wide range of groups and ensembles ranging from beginners and intermediate to advanced performance levels. In addition to this many of our ensembles and soloists participate in local and national external music festivals and competitions. Each year the department receives funding through the Academy Trust. This, coupled with the parental contributions we receive annually, enables us to provide a Peripatetic Service of exceptionally high standards.

The Music Department is housed in 'A' block where we have three large classrooms adequately equipped with technology which can be utilised in lessons, including exciting music software and Interactive Whiteboards. In addition to this, we have seven smaller practice rooms where our peripatetic staff teach throughout the week and a state of the art Performing Arts Theatre where we do our concerts and performances.

There are lots of opportunities available for students to participate in the Music Department and with nearly 140 students taking part in peripatetic lessons and regular rehearsals, we feel it is essential for you to know what is on offer as you venture into your life at the Academy. To that end, this prospectus has been designed as an introduction to the Peripatetic Service in the Academy and should provide you with all the essential information you require whilst considering whether or not you would like to take up instrumental lessons including;

- How to register for lessons.
- Extra-curricular music activities.
- Information on concerts.
- Information on the Peripatetic Staff.

Our commitment is not just to the individual peripatetic lessons but also to the delivery of high quality ensemble musical experiences that equip our students with valuable life skills as well as the essential music making skills required of a professional musician.

I hope you will find the prospectus interesting and informative and that it will help you and your child in the selection of an instrument.



Dawn Lowther Ph D, BA (Hons), PGCE (OU), LTCL
Head of Music

The Peripatetic Service

What is a Peripatetic Teacher?

A peripatetic music teacher is a person who is an expert in one instrumental area. Generally, these include Brass, Guitar, Voice, Keyboard, Percussion, Strings and Wind Instruments. The person is often a freelance professional musician who travels to different schools and colleges to teach a selection of students the instruments which fall into their expertise.

There are, at present, nearly 140 students receiving instrumental lessons at Dixons City Academy. The instruments studied here are Trumpet, Cornet, Trombone, Euphonium, Saxophone, Flute, Clarinet, Voice, Classical and Electric Guitar, Drums, Violin, Keyboard/Piano and Bass Guitar. There are currently ten part-time peripatetic teachers who visit the Academy each week.

Lesson Fees

Student Standard	Time allocated per week (individual lessons)	Parental contribution per term
Beginner to Grade 3	20 minutes	£73.00
Grade 4 & 5 or GCSE Music Student	30 minutes	£86.00
Grade 6 or above + A Level Students	40 minutes	£100.00
Grade 7 or above + A level Students	50 minutes	£110.00
Theory Students	30-minute on line small group lesson*	£30.00*

****Due to the current year group bubbles and not wishing to break those we are currently delivering theory lessons to small groups via Microsoft Teams remotely. When it is possible to go back to live lessons then we will revert to previous (2019 –2020) pricing of offering an hour-long lesson for £50 per term***

In addition to the above individual lessons, we also offer some paired lessons. This would mean that you would share a lesson with someone of a similar standard and could also potentially work on duets. Obviously individual lessons are going to help a student progress faster on an instrument because they will get more individual attention and the lesson really can be tailored specifically to their needs; the paired lessons may be suitable for new starters who are unsure of whether they will settle into lessons and would like to minimise the initial cost of lessons until a time when they feel they have fully settled into lessons and would like to make faster progress.

Beginner to Grade 2	Paired 20 minute lesson	£45.00
Grade 3 & 4	Paired 30 minute lesson	£50.00

It is recommended that once students are working towards Grade 5 or GCSE that they consider switching to individual lessons. This can be discussed with their peripatetic tutor or the Head of Department.

Paired lessons will be subject to the availability of another student of the same/similar standard to pair up with. If this is not possible then it may be required for students to go onto a waiting list until such time as a pairing is available, or receive a slightly shorter individual lesson.

Extra-Curricular Music

It is a requirement that, if a student is learning an instrument, then he/she must attend the ensemble appropriate to his/her particular instrument at a time when the tutor feels that the student is at a level in which he/she may benefit from this. It is expected that all vocal students will attend a vocal ensemble at school. These ensembles are run by the full time music staff and peripatetic tutors, they include: Guitar Group, Sax Group, RnB Vocal Group, Clarinet Group, Key Stage 3 Band, Swing Band, Concert Band, Choir, Samba Band/Percussion Group and Musical Theatre Group.

These activities take place before and after school between 3.40 pm and 5.00 pm. These groups incorporate students from each year group within the Academy. So far they have proved extremely beneficial to the students. Firstly, it increases the student's confidence on their instrument and secondly it allows students from all years to come together and benefit from ensemble work as opposed to solo work. Additionally, it trains the students for the major concerts which are held during the course of the year.

****NB at present the extra-curricular offering is reduced and timings are modified due to the current staggered timetable and start and end to the day***

Owning Your Own Instrument

The first major policy, which has been in effect since the Academy opened, is that if your child wishes to take an instrumental lesson, unless they came in on a Performing Arts place, then he/she must own an instrument to practise on. Due to the high cost of lessons at present, the Academy only has a small selection of free instruments for students to use.

There are many ways around owning an instrument. Firstly, you can buy the instrument from a Music shop. This can prove costly, and if your child changes his/her mind about continuing to learn the instrument at a later date, then you have the responsibility of selling the instrument, or losing the money spent on it.

Secondly you can buy a second hand instrument. These are advertised in the local newspapers, on the internet or details can be obtained from most Music shops.

Thirdly, you can enrol on a hire/purchase scheme, again available at most Music shops. This allows you to rent the instrument for a period of time. If your child wishes to continue to learn the instrument after the initial rent period, then you have the opportunity to buy the instrument. The money which has been spent on the hire of the instrument is deducted from the final cost. If your child no longer wishes to continue to learn the instrument you return it to the shop and only lose the hire money.

If you have fully decided that you would like to buy or hire an instrument, I would strongly advise that before doing so, you discuss this with the appropriate peripatetic tutor. An opportunity to do

this will be available to you later on in the year, at a Peripatetic Lessons Parents Meeting, at the next Intake Evening. (Details will be sent to you about this in due course).

If you would like to apply for the use of a free school instrument, please make it known at the time when you sign up for lessons so that we can let you know whether we currently have one available or not.

Purchasing of Music

As the students learn their particular instrument, they will need various different books and music to assist in their studies. Since it would be impossible for the Academy to provide the great variety of books required, it is the Academy Policy that if a student learns an instrument then he/she must purchase his/her own music with which to study. The tutor for the particular instrument will give guidance on the most appropriate books and music to buy.

Attitude towards Lessons

Due to the high cost to the Academy and parents of these lessons, it is required that students who are privileged to have a lesson adopt the appropriate attitude. Along with the students who are timetabled for a lesson there is often a waiting list of students who would be happy to take up a lesson if the opportunity arose.

If your child does have lessons, it is required that he/she undertakes a certain amount of personal practise as set by the specific tutor. Obviously, instrumental practise should not dominate the student's life, but regular daily practise is essential. The amount of time devoted to this practise varies according to the instrument being studied. The tutor will advise the students on the most appropriate amount of time to be spent in practise.

If your child is timetabled for a lesson, then he/she must ensure that they turn up on time with the correct equipment and books. Students are to also ensure that they know at what time their ensemble begins and turn up at the correct place, on time. The lessons are timetabled during curriculum lesson time. This means that your child will have to come out of an Academy lesson in order to attend the instrumental lesson. The lessons are organised on a ROTA SYSTEM. This ensures that your child does not miss the same curriculum lesson each week. Please see the chart on page 4 for details of the length of lessons.

NB: All lesson allowances are awarded at the Head of Department's discretion.

Due to the fact that the students miss essential curriculum work, it is very much a requirement that they catch up with any missed work and complete any of the homework that has been set. If the student fails to meet the above requirements, or if a teacher within the Academy is not sufficiently satisfied that missed work and homework is being completed, then I will review the privilege of the instrumental lesson. If, after discussions with the student, an undesirable attitude continues, discussions with the Head of Year will take place, which may lead to the termination of the lessons. This will allow another student who is on the waiting list to take advantage of the lessons on offer.

Provision of Supported lessons

We are fortunate enough to be able to support Performing Arts entrants on free music lessons. Under this provision, we will supply weekly paired lessons, a free instrument and access to participating in high quality ensembles. In order to maximise the outcomes from this provision we would expect all students accessing these lessons to show the appropriate attitude towards lessons. This will include; regular attendance at lessons, regular practice at home and attending an ensemble as and when indicated by their peripatetic tutor that they are ready to do so. This expectation will be monitored by the Head of Department and failure to meet the desired level of attendance and practice or an unwillingness to participate in ensembles will result in withdrawal of the free lesson provision.

Missed Lessons

The current policy makes no charge for missed lessons, but works on the premise that if a student misses three lessons in any academic year, without previously informing the Music Department that they are unable to attend the lesson, the contract between Dixons City Academy and yourselves will terminate, and the student's lessons will cease immediately. This system will ensure that the most enthusiastic and committed students will be receiving lessons.

The system will run as follows:

One Missed Lesson	Letter home to inform parents.
Two Missed Lessons	Letter home to parents to remind them that one more missed lesson will result in the termination of the peripatetic contract.
Three Missed Lessons	Letter home to inform you that your child is being removed from peripatetic lessons.

If you know in advance that your child will be unable to attend a music lesson e.g. due to a trip out of school, a dentist appointment etc., please write a note which your child should give two or three days in advance, to either their peripatetic tutor or Mrs Lowther. If your child is off school ill, please state that they have a music lesson when you inform the Academy of their absence.

If you do inform us in advance, you will not receive one of the above letters. If, however, your child misses a lesson without prior notice then the above system will be put into operation.

We will aim to make up lessons for your child under the following circumstances:

1. If their peripatetic teacher is absent from the Academy due to unforeseen circumstances (i.e. illness, transport problems).
2. If the Academy is closed for a Bank Holiday.

Lessons will not be made up if the student does not turn up without having given prior notice, or if the peripatetic teacher is present on a day when the student is absent, as follows:-

1. If a student is absent from the Academy due to illness or bad weather (in the case of the latter if the school is open but the students does not attend).
2. If a student is absent from the lesson due to a school trip, family holiday or medical appointment and has not informed the Music Department.

With reference to point two, it is possible for lessons to be rearranged in advance if the peripatetic teacher concerned is advised the week before. Under these circumstances, I would expect the student to attempt to swap their lesson with another student of the same instrument so that they don't miss a lesson. If there are any difficulties in swapping lessons, students should see Mrs Lowther so that she may assist them with this procedure.

In addition to this it will not be possible for peripatetic staff to re-arrange lessons at short notice due to circumstances beyond their control, such as if the Academy is closed due to an emergency situation (e.g. adverse weather conditions). With reference to this we guarantee 31 lessons per year, but your child may receive up to 33 lessons if there are no such circumstances as mentioned above.

Music Theory Lessons

Music theory lessons are entirely optional and are run by the Peripatetic Tutors after the school day. Theory lessons are available to students in Year 7 – 13.

The aim of these classes is to provide students with support for their instrumental lessons. Students are unable to progress further than Grade 5 Associated Board practical in their instrument, unless they have achieved a Grade 5 theory qualification – this is an Associated Board requirement.

How to Terminate Lessons

If your child has lessons and no longer wishes to continue with them, we require notice three weeks before the end of term, in writing, that you wish to terminate your child's lesson. This will allow us to contact other student's parents on the waiting list and then offer them the lesson, enabling them to have plenty of time to purchase or hire an instrument.

Examinations

The students are encouraged to take external examinations on their instruments, although these exams are not compulsory. They are fully trained for these exams by their teacher during the lesson time. When entering students for exams teachers consider the repertoire offered by different exam boards and the interest of the students.

Instrument	Associated Board	Associated Board – Jazz	Trinity/Guildhall	Rock School
Clarinet	*		*	
Saxophone	*	*	*	
Flute	*		*	
Piano	*	*	*	*
Keyboard			*	
Tenor Horn	*		*	
Cornet	*		*	
Trumpet	*		*	
Trombone	*		*	
Electric Guitar				*
Acoustic Guitar	*			
Bass Guitar				*
Voice	*		*	
Violin	*			
Cello	*			
Percussion			*	*

If students take an examination, the parents must meet the cost of the exam. The cost of exams varies as the level increases. In addition, parents must meet the cost of the accompaniment fees. This is where a student who learns perhaps the Flute, needs a pianist to accompany. In this case the Academy accompanist will accompany the student.

The cost per student of accompanist fees varies according to the level of Grade. If the student is successful in the examination, then the certificate is presented by the Head of Year at the next major celebration assembly. This year, we have had many successful students who have taken exams. Many have achieved Distinctions and Merits.

Meet the Peripatetic Tutors

As mentioned previously, each tutor has different expectations of the students. The prospectus will now give you the opportunity to learn a little about each of the tutors who visit the Academy, and also about what students will learn in a lesson and rehearsal.

Anna Hamilton BMus (Hons) – Woodwind Tutor



I am in my fifteenth year of teaching the Saxophone at Dixons City Academy. As a former pupil at the school I have fond memories of a thriving Music department which offered tremendous support to students, helping them realise their potential as young musicians. I was therefore pleased to join the peripatetic staff after gaining a degree in Jazz, Popular and Commercial Music.

Richard Quarmby BMus(Hons) MA PGCE – Piano/Keyboard Tutor



I very much enjoy working as part of the instrumental teaching staff in such a vibrant and busy department. As well as teaching at Dixons, I teach piano at Titus Salt School in Baildon, and piano and singing at Trinity Academy, Halifax. I also work for Sing and Discover which has given me some amazing opportunities to conduct choirs and to play the piano and organ around the world, including in the Royal Albert Hall, London, and St Peter's Basilica, Vatican City. Even if you are not a piano or keyboard pupil you may well meet me as I accompany many of the instrumentalists and singers in concerts and exams throughout the year as well as working with the choir.

Jane Bryan CT ABRSM, LRSM – Flute and Theory of Music Tutor



As well as teaching the flute and theory of music at Dixons, I also teach at Bradford Grammar School and Malsis Independent School. I have been teaching for over 20 years and previously worked at Woodhouse Grove School, Ilkley Grammar School, Beckfoot and Salt's Grammar Schools. I am currently principle flute with the Yorkshire Wind Orchestra and also work as a freelance musician for various local ensembles. I also teach privately at home and I teach at St John Fisher Catholic High School in Harrogate.

Dave Brons BA (Hons) – Guitar and Bass Tutor



Dave Brons teaches modern rock guitar, or "stunt guitar", as he likes to call it. He composes and tours with the B3 Guitar Virtuoso group. He also runs a Guitar tuition Youtube channel and the "Guitarist Survival" Blog. For full details of Dave's music and news go to www.davebrons.com

David Hogan - Clarinet Tutor



At DCA I teach clarinet as well as direct ensembles and deliver tutorials in composition, typically for GCSE and A-level students. In addition to this, I write musical arrangements for the school's bands; namely for the KS3 band, the concert band and smaller ensembles. I am a brass and woodwind specialist and teach, record and perform on a broad range of instruments. Recent teaching posts include the University of Huddersfield in which I tutored composition and conducting. I regularly perform throughout the UK and Italy with a variety of musical acts and groups.

Stephen Bradnum BMus PGCE – Brass Tutor



I am enjoying my nineteenth year of teaching here at Dixons. I graduated in 1999 from the University of Huddersfield where I was awarded the Harry Mortimer Trust Award: 'Brass Student of the Year 1999'. I have worked as a classroom teacher at Dixons, Salt Grammar and the Cathedral School. I am also the lower Brass tutor at Rastrick High and brass teacher at Moorfield. I work at two Stagecoach schools as a singing teacher in Ripon and Bradford and am musical director of the Stagecoach North East Regional Choir. I also teach singing at Holmfirth High and Shelley College. I conduct the community band 'Hot Aire' based in Cottingley.

Alison Rignall B.Mus(Hons) LRAM – Violin Tutor



Since I was appointed tutor of violin at the Academy in 2011, I've built up a thriving group of violinists in the department. I have been teaching the violin for over twenty years with experience of teaching from beginner to degree level. I am also the upper string tutor at Bingley Grammar School. Also, I have a busy performing career, being a member of the Ariana String Quartet and I play freelance with various professional orchestras.

Mark Lewalski – Percussion Tutor



I have enjoyed an extensive career as a musician over the last 11 years performing a wide variety of styles including rock and pop, jazz, funk and musical theatre. In this time, I have toured the UK, conducted at The Royal Albert Hall, and currently have recordings featured regularly on Radio and TV in the UK and USA. I have enjoyed many great experiences over the years and have worked with many amazing musicians, writers and producers. I have been providing lessons in schools over the last 10 years and look forward to sharing my experiences with my students.

Miss Alison Eastwood BA(Hons) PG DIP ALCM(TD) ATCL - Vocal Coach



I am an “in demand” vocal coach teaching across the Dixons Trust schools as well as being the senior music department member at Batley Girls High School. As a trained opera singer, gaining both BA & Post Graduate qualifications from Leeds College of Music, I have a vast experience of performing - from lead opera roles, to premierés in Kazakhstan, to work for Yorkshire Television - as well as directing various choirs and ensembles.

I teach a vast number of styles and abilities, from beginners to degree standard, and utilise a number of different exam boards. I am also very proud of my 100% pass rate for all my students.

I constantly keep both my musical knowledge and teaching techniques up-to-date and always strive to ensure that students leave their lessons as enthused about music as I am.

Concerts and performance opportunities at the Academy

The Music department stages a wide variety of performances each year in order to give Students in all year groups the opportunity and experience of performing in different styles and different settings. This can range from smaller scale sharing of GCSE work to a small audience in the drama studio through to KS3 concerts just for Year 7 and 8 students or full scale whole school concerts and musicals staged in the Lord Kalms Theatre to packed audiences. We also provide music for the whole school assemblies twice per year in the sports hall.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank all the following tutors and staff for their help in preparing this prospectus:

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Mark Lewalski

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Alison Rignall

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Mark Lewalski

Aaron Newland-Bentley

Wendy Beaumont – Administration

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I hope that this document has been of use. Please do not hesitate to contact either myself or any of my colleagues if you have any questions.

We all look forward to meeting you.



**Dawn Lowther
Ph D, BA (Hons), PGCE (OU), LTCL
Head of Music**



**Tamsin Rafnsson
BA (Hons), LTCL, ALCM, Post grad Cert.,
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