

Andrew Dimond BA(Hons) PGCE

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Dear Parents,

RE: Woodwind lessons at Haddenham Junior School

Your son or daughter has the opportunity to learn a woodwind instrument. They will have the opportunity to play for ABRSM exams, or simply for enjoyment. It will be necessary for your child to have their own instrument, and this can usually be achieved surprisingly inexpensively, possibly even through second-hand or rental. Exams will be undertaken only when we are confident it will be a positive experience, and all parties are keen. You will be required to purchase music occasionally- for complete beginners you should look for a copy of *A New Tune a Day* for your instrument. You should try to come to your first lesson with these, if possible. Also, *Music Theory for Young Musicians- Grade 1*, by Ying Ying Ng.

It's important to practice regularly, and homework is set every week. The homework is always achievable with relatively little work, but just enough to ensure that you are playing regularly. With a bit of effort, woodwind playing can become a deeply rewarding hobby and an asset to every CV, and with a bit more work it can become a lifestyle! Students are welcome to study classical or jazz and blues- so long as they throw themselves into it. I am, of course, happy to teach a style according to the student's enthusiasm, and with the understanding of the parents.

There will be 33 lessons- usually one a week, subject to timetable- over the course of the year, at a cost of £396. This is payable by 3 cheques for £132 dated 1st September 2020, 1st January 2021 and 1st April 2021. Total number of lessons for each term may vary slightly, however total for year will not. If you are starting mid-year, please make contact first before writing any cheques. Lessons operate on a rolling timetable to avoid missing the same classes each week. Timetables are issued at the beginning of term, for your on-going reference. Please bring your book and your instrument every lesson- this is very important. You will also be given a little note book to note homework in, and for any parent-teacher communications. There will also be occasional opportunities to play at concerts, should you wish!

For advice on purchasing instruments, either your first, or an upgrade, please contact me directly. There are a number of trusted specialist woodwind suppliers locally, namely Prozone of Chesham, where Adrian will be very happy to help, or Dawkes in Maidenhead, where there are specialists for each instrument. Insist that you try a number of instruments. Always consider second hand, and also ask me first!

Regarding COVID 19 and September 2020 start: due to timetable changes within HCJS there are a finite number of slots available for start in September 2020. Continuing students will be prioritised and should all get places. Students entering year 3 are encouraged to complete and return their form and cheques as soon as possible in order that you may secure one of the remaining slots. It appears likely that some students will have to be turned away, and in this scenario, I will consider other options depending on how long the list is, such as group lessons. Some lessons may continue via Skype if this is deemed necessary. In the event of another school closure, all lessons will continue via Skype.

To discuss further the possibility to taking lessons and to sign up, please complete the form below and return, or email any queries you have before doing so.

Being a musician is an immensely rewarding occupation, even as an amateur, and I really look forward to helping you appreciate that.

Sincerely,

Andrew Dimond

Woodwind Lessons Enrolment Form

Student's name:

Date of Birth:

Instrument, inc. make/model if possible:

Experience or grade, if any, so far:

Known and relevant special educational needs that you are comfortable disclosing:

Year group and class as of September:

Parent's name:

Email address:

Telephone number:

House address:

By signing, you understand the following:

- That you are purchasing 33 lessons in advance, and that you must therefore advise me directly in advance of the beginning of a term any reasons your child may not be able to attend a lesson in that term if you wish to reschedule it;
- If your son or daughter misses a timetabled lesson, e.g., she/he is ill, forgets and can't be found, or is on a trip that I was not made aware of, it is likely that the lesson will be forfeited at your expense, subject to my discretion;
- If you would like to stop lessons permanently, you must give notice before half term to cancel the following term's lessons;
- If for some reason I am not able to be available for 33 lessons, I will re-arrange lessons, or the cost of missed lessons will be refunded pro rata.
- If your child is clearly and visibly suffering an illness known to be infectious when sent to a lesson, the lesson will be cancelled without notice or refund, and the child returned to their school lesson.
- It is the responsibility of you and your son or daughter to ensure they get to their lessons on time (timetables are displayed in the music room, held in the department or office, and distributed to parents to help with this!)
- That payments made by bank transfer are accepted but must for the entire annual sum of £396 and that with this method of payment no refunds will be offered to facilitate termination mid-year. Please make payments to sort code 070116, account number 32248647
- In the event that an ABRSM exam day clashes with scheduled lessons, the lessons will be replaced.
- Your lessons require your child to be fully and properly equipped for them to be a success, this will require expenditure on your part, and I will happily advise endlessly on this! Minimum requirements: a working instrument; reeds where appropriate; a book of appropriate level; a music stand for use at home; neck strap if necessary.

Parent Printed name:

Parent Signature:

Date:

What next?

Complete the form and send with three cheques- **please double check the dates, spelling of my name and the amounts**- please send to my postal address.