

# Felsted School Music Department

## Orchestral Instrument Scheme

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Each year fewer and fewer people are playing orchestral instruments whilst the popularity of guitar, drums, voice and piano continues to grow. This is not unique to Felsted, it's a national statistic and concern. If left unaddressed, we run the very real risk of not having an orchestra at school and yet we hear orchestral music every day; TV, film, radio, advertisements, computer games and marketing. Orchestral music is everywhere.

The orchestra is divided into four families of instruments:

Strings	Woodwind	Brass	Percussion
Violin <b>Viola</b> Cello <b>Double Bass</b>	Flute <b>Oboe</b> Clarinet <b>Bassoon</b>	Trumpet <b>French Horn</b> Trombone <b>Tuba</b>	Timpani Marimba Xylophone Cymbals etc.

The instruments highlighted above in bold are in danger of dying out all together and yet they provide the backbone of the orchestra. It's also worth noting that although the Saxophone is a woodwind instrument, it does not feature regularly in a standard orchestra.

Schools, colleges and universities in the UK and abroad are crying out for orchestral instrumentalists and many offer substantial financial packages in terms of scholarships and fee-remissions. Oxford and Cambridge Universities offer Instrumental Scholarships for all of the above instruments. Just imagine, you could get help with fees to study medicine just because you play the bassoon.

Felsted school would like to encourage you to take up the challenge of playing an orchestral instrument. We have a dedicated staff of visiting musicians who are professional specialists on the above instruments. This is at a time when many schools offer no music tuition whatsoever. This means that the pool from which Universities are selecting is getting smaller year upon year.

The social, cognitive and well-being benefits of playing in an orchestra have been widely publicised so we really do encourage our pupils to consider this. Apart from anything else... it's fun and cool.



## How the scheme works

Choose **one** of the orchestral instruments from the box below. You will then have ten, thirty-minute, one-to-one lessons with one of our visiting music teachers on your chosen instrument. **Everyone** will be working on the **same piece(s)** so that they can all come together to perform as an orchestra at the end of the Summer Term 2018. We'll create an orchestra from scratch. What a great idea!

Places are limited to just **TWO PER INSTRUMENT** and preference will be given to those who DO NOT already take individual lessons on an orchestral instrument. Other than that, we will operate on a strict first-come, first served basis. The scheme is open to pupils in years 4 to 11. Instruments will be provided.

Strings	Woodwind	Brass	Percussion
Violin <b>Viola</b> Cello <b>Double Bass</b>	Flute <b>Oboe</b> Clarinet <b>Bassoon</b>	Trumpet <b>French Horn</b> Trombone <b>Tuba</b>	This will cover all orchestral percussion (NOT drum-kit).

The cost of taking part in this scheme is just £125, half the usual cost of a course of ten lessons. At the end of the scheme, there is no obligation to continue and you simply return the instrument. However, we really do hope that you decide to continue with lessons in the Autumn Term.

Don't worry if you miss out on a place this time around; if this is a success, then we hope to run the scheme again next term.

We're very excited as this could generate an orchestra of 26 players overnight.

PGB and OCR

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Name of child .....

Year Group .....

Preferred Instrument #1.....

Preferred Instrument #2 .....

I agree to the terms set out in this letter and agree that £125 may be added to the school bill .

Name of Parent: ..... Signature: ..... Date: .....

(Please return form to PGB)