

DISCOVERY BAY  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
愉景灣國際學校

Discovery Bay  
International School

# Year 5 - 8 Instrumental Programme

12th February 2025

## Aims of the Session:

- Information for Parents
- Instrument Demonstrations
- Student Instrument Fair

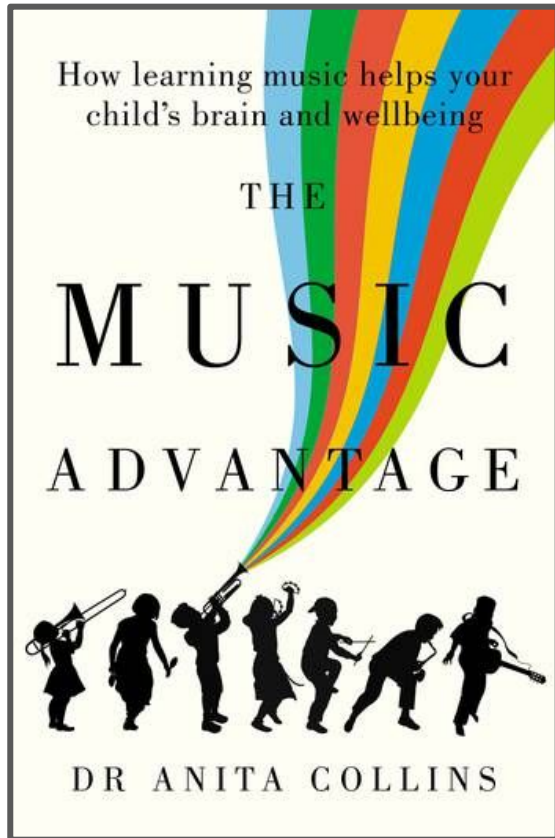


As we develop the Year 5 - 8 Curriculum at DBIS, the Music Department will be launching the Year 5 - 8 Instrumental Programme in August 2025.

Students will learn an orchestral instrument throughout the four years, to equip them with the skills to access the GCSE Music Curriculum and to enable them to play in ensembles together.



# Benefits of learning an Instrument



- The benefits of learning to play a n instrument are widely reported and a quick Google search will bring up lists of hits explaining the benefits on the brain and emotional state.
- Dr Anita Collins was inspired to write her book ('The Music Advantage') because when working as a music teacher, she noticed that the majority of students going on the stage to win subject awards were also music students.

# Music Life at DBIS

- Music plays an important integral role in DBIS daily life. Assemblies are filled with performances and singing, and many children take part in numerous music ensembles, including Concert Band and String Orchestra.
- Music forms many of the highlights of the school year - Remembrance Service, Concert on the Pitch, Chinese New Year, DBIS Live, Food Fair, Spring Concert, Awards and Graduation Ceremonies and we travel overseas two or three times each year for FOBISIA Festivals.
- Currently we have 52% of Year 4 pupils already involved in a music extra-curricular activity.
- We wonder what a Year 6 Graduation performance could sound like - perhaps a Year 6 Orchestra?

# Weekly Instrumental Lessons



- **Weekly, 30-minute small-group** instrumental lessons with specialist peripatetic teachers on top of weekly whole-class music lesson.
- Chosen instruments will be loaned from the school, with students and parents responsible for bringing the instrument into school for both lessons and servicing.
- Students will learn the same instrument for four academic years to ensure for high proficiency.

# Programme Expectations

- Home learning will be set by peripatetic teachers each week, with expectation to practise at home. We ask parents to be supportive of home practising.
- Students to play at a level that allows access to GCSE programme by the end of Year 8.
- Students will be given feedback at every half-term from their peripatetic teacher.
- Children's progress and attainment in these lessons will be reflected in their EoY reports for music.



# Instrumental Contract

- The school is making a considerable investment in terms of staffing and providing instruments. Over the course of the next few months we will be sourcing instruments that will be loaned to students for the duration of their time in Year 5 - Year 8.
- Parents will be required to sign a digital instrumental contract, and you will have the responsibility for your child's loaned instrument.
- The school will have a trained technician to service and undertake minor repairs caused by general wear and tear.
- Parents are liable to cover costs of broken, damaged or missing instruments and their parts.
- Parents may choose to make their own arrangements for an instrument if they wish, especially as the children make progress on their instrument and emerge out of the 'beginner' stage.



# Instruments Offered

## **Stringed Instruments:**

- Violin
- Viola
- Cello

## **Brass Instruments:**

- Trumpet
- French Horn
- Tenor Horn
- Trombone

## **Woodwind Instruments:**

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Alto Saxophone

## **Plucked Stringed Instruments:**

- Ukulele
- Acoustic Guitar
- Bass Guitar

If your child already learns one of the above instruments, they should select a different instrument, or can choose to have small group vocal lessons.

# Instrument Selection Process

- With your child, please fill in [this form](#) for first, second and third choice of instruments.
- Accounting for preference, your child's music teacher will allocate an instrument.



Form Deadline:  
**12th March 2025**

They will not be able to use these lessons for an instrument that they are currently learning or have previously learnt; all groups will be targeted beginner groups.

# Violin - Strings



The violin is the highest pitched instrument of the string family, and is often featured with the main melody in classical repertoire. It also forms the largest part of an orchestra. Violins come in different sizes to suit individual student size. It is a very popular choice for first time instrument.

Maybe consider the violin if:

- You already play a stringed instrument.
- You were quick and accurate at changing chords during the ukulele unit.

# Trumpet - Brass

The trumpet is a high pitched instrument in the brass family. It is mostly used for classical music and jazz music. It is played by blowing a 'buzzing' into the mouthpiece, and then there are three keys called valves that change the pitch of the note. It is probably the most common brass instrument for young learners.

Maybe consider the trumpet if:

- You have good breath control, maybe you're a good runner or sportsperson.
- You have good finger coordination on your right hand but the left hand isn't as good.





# Tenor Horn - Brass

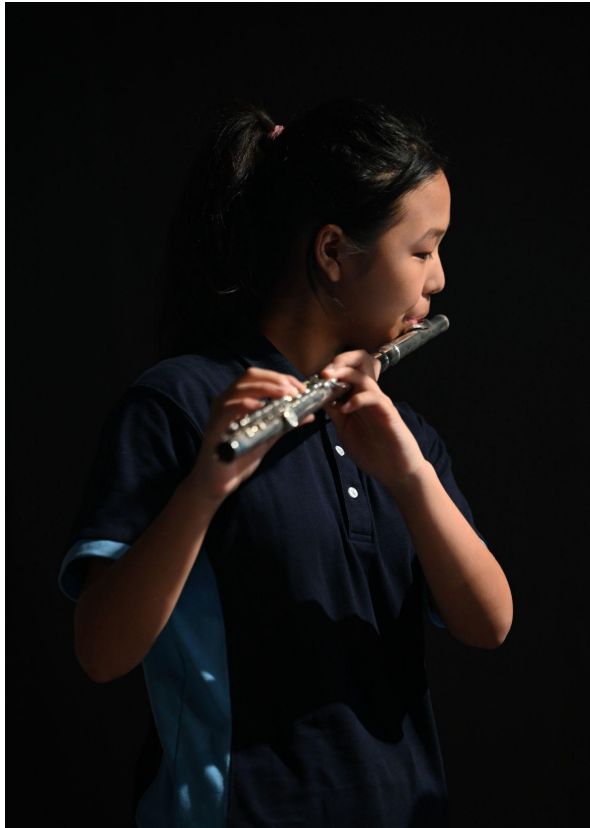


The tenor horn is part of the brass family and looks like small tuba or baritone. Within the brass family, it often shares the stage with brass band instruments where its range of notes sits in between the high sounding trumpets and low sounding tubas. Sound is made by buzzing air into the mouthpiece.

Maybe consider the Tenor Horn if:

- You have good breath control.
- You think you may like to play the Tuba when you are a bit older.

# Flute - Woodwind



The flute is one of the woodwind instruments, but flute is made of metal. It was made of wood a long time ago. It doesn't need lip vibration like brass instruments. Flute players hold it flat, and make a sound by blowing their breath over the edge of the hole of flute's head. Flautists can change the pitch by pushing buttons - these buttons are called keys.

Maybe consider the flute if:

- You live far away from DB - it can fit in your backpack!
- You showed good finger and breath control when learning the recorder.

# Viola - Strings

The viola looks very similar to the violin, but it is in fact slightly larger, meaning that it sounds lower in pitch (but still higher than the 'cello). Like the violin, there are different sizes for beginners. It is mainly used for classical music, but also in pop music as part of a string quartet.

Maybe consider the viola if:

- You already play the violin.
- You would like an instrument that is slightly different (more opportunities!).



# Trombone - Brass

The trombone is a brass instrument. It is like a large trumpet, except the player pushes and pulls on its slide to change the length of the tube. Together with vibrations from the player's lips, the trombone can play a wide range of notes. It sounds deeper than a trumpet and the music is normally written in the bass clef. The trombone is a popular instrument in an orchestra, marching band, concert band or brass band.

Maybe consider the trombone if:

- You have good breath control.
- You have long arms!





# Acoustic Guitar - Plucked Strings



The acoustic guitar is an instrument that makes the sound acoustically, as opposed to an electric guitar that relies on amplification. The main source of sound in an acoustic guitar is the string, which is plucked or strummed with the finger or with a plectrum.

Maybe consider the acoustic guitar if:

- You excelled in the Ukulele module.
- You live in DB - it is one of the larger instrument to carry around.

# 'Cello - Strings

The 'cello is the second largest in the string family. Because of its larger size it is placed on the floor with a spike instead of being played like a violin or viola. It has many uses: as a solo instrument, in chamber music and also in orchestras. It is also occasionally used by pop musicians, e.g. by The Beatles, Björk and Jamiroquai.

Maybe consider the 'cello if:

- You already play a string instrument.
- You live in DB - it is the largest instrument to carry around.



# French Horn - Brass



The French Horn is an orchestral instrument belonging to the brass family, and is used either to add sonority and richness, or to provide the hunting call sound. Unusually, it is the only instrument that uses the left hand for the valves.

Maybe consider the French Horn if:

- You have good breath control.
- You want to have a more unusual instrument (more opportunities).
- You are left handed.

# Clarinet - Woodwind

The clarinet is a woodwind instrument. It has one reed usually made of bamboo. Blowing through the mouthpiece makes the reed vibrate, and therefore creates the sound. The body of the clarinet is a cylindrical tube with holes. The holes are covered by the fingers to make musical notes. The clarinet is used in classical music, marching bands and jazz.

Maybe consider the clarinet if:

- You have good breath control and excelled in the recorder unit.
- You would like a compact instrument.





# Bass Guitar - Plucked Strings



A bass guitar is a string instrument which is related to the electric guitar. The bass guitar is shaped like an electric guitar, but it is longer than an electric guitar. However, the bass guitar produces lower tones than the electric guitar. The bass guitar is used to play low musical sounds called "bass lines" in many styles of music such as rock, pop, country, jazz fusion and many more.

Maybe consider the Bass Guitar if:

- You excelled in the ukulele unit.
- You may like to progress to the Double Bass instrument when you are older.

# Saxophone - Woodwinds

The saxophone makes a sound in a similar way to the clarinet (with a single bamboo reed). It is featured in lots of jazz repertoire, and can play in ensembles such as a big band, or a concert band.

Maybe consider the saxophone if:

- You are confident on the recorder, as the fingering is the same!
- You already play the clarinet.



# Ukulele - Plucked Strings

The ukulele is a musical instrument with four strings. It is also called the *uke* for short. Ukuleles are part of the guitar family of instruments. The ukulele was invented in the 19th Century in Hawaii, where people got the idea from small guitar-like instruments known as cavaquinhos brought to the island by Portuguese sailors.

Maybe consider the ukulele if:

- You would like more practise on the instrument after the ukulele module in class.
- You would like a compact instrument

