



# DOWNSEND SCHOOL

## FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

September 2013

Dear Parents

Every child in the school enjoys one period of music per week in the school timetable. In addition, we have a recorder group in the Lower School as well as an orchestra and choir. We also run choirs and orchestras in the Upper School, which are open to all who play (both inside and outside school) and practice takes place either before school or morning break, or during the lunch hour. The children perform regularly at our morning assemblies and at school concerts throughout the academic year. We also run a flute choir, recorder group and a brass band, which also perform at various concerts. In addition there is a Chamber Choir which consists of singers from across the school. They are chosen by the music department and perform at outside events and large assemblies.

We have a large team of peripatetic music teachers, who visit the school to take individual music lessons for the following instruments:

*Piano, violin, viola, harp\*, flute\*, recorder, singing\* (those taking singing lessons are expected to be members of the choir), acoustic guitar, clarinet, electric guitar\*, oboe\*, bassoon\*, saxophone\*, trumpet, trombone\*, French horn\*, double bass\*, music theory, drum, percussion and cello\*.*

Lessons cost approximately £185 for a series (term) of 10 lessons, which are usually 30 minutes in length. They are timetabled each week on a rotational basis. Pupils in Year 8 are given a set time outside the academic timetable. Fees should be paid by the second lesson of the series. **A term's notice should be given in writing** to the teacher and Director of Music for the cessation of lessons.

Some instruments are available to hire from the school or from a recommended shop. If you are interested in your child starting or continuing an instrument, **please contact me by email** on [Timothy.Slack@downsend.co.uk](mailto:Timothy.Slack@downsend.co.uk) with the subject heading Music Lessons, and include the information below.

Child's Name:

Year Group:

is interested in learning the (insert instrument) from September 2013

Your telephone number:

Your preferred Email contact address:

\* Please note that instruments marked with an asterisk are only suitable from Year 3 or Year 4 due to the physical stature of the child and the instrument.

I look forward to meeting you all soon.

Yours sincerely

**Tim Slack**  
Director of Music