

Outside of the scheme, boys can also take individual one-to-one instrumental lessons (fee applies) in piano, singing, violin, cello, double bass, saxophone, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, flute, trumpet, euphonium, trombone, guitar and percussion.

Please contact the music department for an application form.



Year 3 Music Scheme



Cumnor House offers every Year 3 student the opportunity to trial a wide variety of instruments with specialist instruction from our Peripatetic Music staff. This is a wonderful way for boys to experience the joy of music making and take an informed choice in Year 4.



Beginning instrumental instruction at a young age has great academic, social and self-development benefits as well as being good fun.

The Process

The boys participate in the Music Scheme on Tuesdays each week. They also continue to have curriculum Music as a class once a week.

At first, the boys will be put into small groups and learn about each instrument for two weeks. They do not take the instrument home at this stage but some teachers may give information sheets or related work to look at for the following week. This process takes approximately 12 weeks to complete and is scheduled to finish at the end of the autumn term.

Which was the most difficult to play?

Which instrument was the easiest to hold? Then the boys will answer a questionnaire on their experiences and we, the teachers, will discuss the progress of all the individuals within each group. At this point a single instrument will be selected and your boy will focus on this until the end of the academic year.

Which instrument did you like listening to?

Finally, there will be an afternoon concert in the Summer Term in which all the boys will play and you are invited to attend. This is a fun, informal event in which boys will perform in groups and occasionally a few may perform solo items if their progress has been exceptional.

At Cumnor House we are rightly proud of the Year 3 Scheme. Offering a whole year group instrumental tuition with specialist teachers and allocating each boy an instrument which he is able to take home for practise is, to our knowledge, unparalleled in any local schools. Cumnor enjoys a reputation for strong musical ability with many of our music scholars developing their talents as a result of this scheme. Boys are able to join one of our numerous ensembles which cater for boys at the various stages of their musical career and encourage social development and team spirit in addition to the opportunity for public performances.



The end product of the Year 3 Music Scheme is that over 80% of boys are 'inspired' to continue learning a musical instrument with many playing two. On occasion, boys do not continue with the instrument that they have focused on but freely select another, such as the piano.