



ST ALBAN'S RC HIGH SCHOOL
The Park, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 6XG

YSGOL UWCHRADD GATHOLIG SAIN ALBAN
Y Parc, Pontypwl, Torfaen, NP4 6XG

Headteacher: Michael Coady BSc.

8 September 2016

Dear Parent or Guardian,

For over 20 years we have been in a position to provide free musical instrument tuition. While we have been forced to make cuts elsewhere the governors have fought to keep the music subsidy. Unfortunately, severe budget cuts have meant that the governing Body is in longer in a position to provide a music subsidy. Last year we reduced the subsidy and asked parents to make a small contribution and this year the financial position is so difficult we have had to remove the music subsidy almost entirely. We will continue to pay for music tuition for those students entitled to free school meals and we can make special arrangements for those students following a music course where the study of a musical instrument is essential for the course.

We are still determined to get the best music tuition for our young people that we can. To that end we have re-engaged the services of Gwent Music to provide music tuition in the school for the coming academic year 2016-17. We have secured a good deal which compares favourably with the music tuition fees students in other schools will pay. We are very pleased with the quality of the Gwent Music support service and are delighted that our students will have access to the same tutors and have the same opportunities to join local and regional orchestras as before.

As part of our agreement we have arranged for Gwent Music to take direct payments from you, instead of you paying the school and these arrangements will apply for all music tuition in the new academic year starting in Autumn term September 2016.

- Children will continue to be taught in groups of between 2 and 4 children for around 30 minutes each week depending on numbers and the mix of standards and instruments.
- 34 sessions will be delivered over the school year.
- The cost for **small group tuition** is payable in instalments of **£57.00** per term.
- Options for individual tuition are:
 - a. 11 lessons per term of 20 minutes at a cost of £118.80 per term
 - b. 11 lessons per term of 30 minutes at a cost of £178.20 per term
- These charges apply for the academic year 2016-17.
- It may be possible, subject to availability, for your child to borrow a Gwent Music instrument for up to a year.

If your child has been receiving tuition in the current year and would like to continue next term, or would like tuition next term, please enrol your child and make the first payment as follows:

1. Go to **www.gwentmusic.co.uk/parent**.
2. If you already have a Gwent Music Parent Portal account then login as usual otherwise click the Register button and enter your contact details.
3. Click on "Enrol for an Activity"
4. Click Music Tuition and select ***St Albans RC High School*** then click Next.
5. Select the instrument your child learns, or would like to learn, from the list of lessons then click Next and complete your child's details.



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6. You will finally be taken to the Newport City Council payments web page to make the payment.

Starter Guides for a range of instruments are available at <http://www.gwentmusic.co.uk/hints-tips/>

You can find more details of Gwent Music's services and activities at <http://www.gwentmusic.co.uk/> or by emailing gwent.music@newport.gov.uk.

If you have any further queries in relation to this please contact Gwent Music on 01633 210800 or Mr Cook at the school.

Yours sincerely

MICHAEL COADY
HEAD TEACHER