

MUSIC LESSONS AT HOLMER GREEN SENIOR SCHOOL 2026/27

CLASSICAL GUITAR LESSONS:

I'm Catherine, and I've taught classical guitar at HGSS since 2011. I've been teaching at schools all over Buckinghamshire for over 25 years, and my love of classical guitar started when I had lessons right here at HGSS, where I was a former pupil!

There are lots of different types of guitar and different styles of playing, so I hope the information below about classical guitar is helpful when deciding what to go for.....

What is the classical guitar?

'Classical guitar' (also known as the Spanish Guitar) refers to the way the guitar is played and the type of guitar. Classical guitars have a lovely mellow, clean sound, and the nylon strings are smooth and really comfortable to play, which is great for beginners. They come in 5 different sizes so there is always a classical guitar out there to suit all ages. Chances are, if you played the guitar at primary school, you would have used a classical guitar.

The classical guitar is played 'finger-style' which means individual notes and chords are picked out with the right-hand fingers and thumb to create a wonderful sound where the guitarist is playing a tune, a harmony part and a bass line all in one.

What do classical guitarists learn?

Classical guitarists learn to read standard musical notation and take on the fundamentals of music theory. This allows classical guitarists to gain a musical knowledge that is equal to those who learn to play orchestral instruments. Beginners learn basic technical skills and then have a choice of whether they want to go down the route of taking graded exams (not compulsory) or learning and making progress but without exams. Genres and styles of music covered will include Rock, Pop, Blues, Jazz, Classical, Flamenco, Baroque, Latin and Musical Theatre.

Pupils can use their classical guitar skills to help with GCSE and A level Music practical work, or as part of the Skills section of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. School concerts and local area music competitions also provide performance opportunities. All classical guitarists will have the chance to join an ensemble at High Wycombe or Amersham Music Centre, and the most dedicated pupils who reach a high level can audition for the prestigious National Youth Guitar Ensemble.

Lesson Information and Costs

All prospective new pupils receive one free 30-minute taster lesson, and those who decide to continue beyond the taster lesson will receive their first two lessons free of charge.

Individual 30 minute lessons are charged at £21 each and there are up to 32 lessons per academic year.

Purchasing A Guitar

A good quality new entry level classical guitar can be as little as £80. Second-hand classical guitars are easy to come by and some music shops offer rental schemes. In addition to the guitar, beginners also require smaller items such as a music book and guitar tuner. Full information about this will be provided after taster lessons have taken place.

Where will lessons take place?

Lessons take place in school, or you can arrange to have after-school lessons at my house which is a 5-minute drive from HGSS. Those having lessons out of school will still be included in school concerts and other musical events. To find out more or to book your free taster lesson, please contact me at any time:

cwellsuitar@gmail.com

I look forward to hearing from you and meeting potential new classical guitarists soon!



VIOLIN, VIOLA, TRUMPET AND TROMBONE

Welcome to viola, trumpet, violin and trombone lessons at HGSS. My name is Mrs Good and I am a professional viola and violinist, playing trumpet and trombone mostly for fun. Which instrument would suit you? Violin and viola is terrific for us left handers. Violin appeals to my showy, clever, 'give me the tune' side. Viola to my: be different; valuable, every orchestra is desperate to persuade me to play for them; dark, deeper voice side. Practising trumpet is excellent revenge when someone in the family has annoyed you. Trombone is very zen, let's let other instruments struggle with the fast and high notes. There's only you and I in your lessons so they are a lovely half an hour oasis where you don't have to try to catch up or keep up with the rest of the class. If you want or need a technique repeated 10, 100 or 1000 times or conversely to go faster we'll do that. I think the most important thing is finding something you enjoy playing and we have made space in lessons for Anime, Chinese scale patterns, church music, the band Queen, tv theme tunes, and helping you with your orchestra part. Lessons are at a different time each week, so you don't miss the same lesson.



From the parent perspective, lessons at school spare you being a taxi service and hanging around of an evening. While there is no pressure to sit Music Grades, a previous Head of Music at HGSS said that my super skill was getting the most unlikely children through exams. A number of my students have taken advantage of only 40% of GCSE music being a formal exam, some going on to A level and the highest instrument grades entirely on lessons at school.

Contact: Shirley.good@talktalk.net

PIANO WITH ASH



Ash is the owner of Rise Up Music and has been working with students of all ages for over 12 years. His focus is on creativity and building a complete and well-rounded approach to music. Alongside standard instrumental lessons he has worked extensively with additional needs classes and delivered music therapy workshops across a variety of settings. As well as teaching, he has written a guitar tutor book and created a board game to help children learn music. Lessons are all about helping young people build confidence and express themselves while forming a solid and comprehensive level of musicianship and theory.

VOCALS WITH ROSS



Ross is an established songwriter, producer and mixer from London. Previous clients include James Morrison, Carrie Underwood, One Direction. Ross has had music featured on the UK Top 10, Radio 1, Suits, Lucifer and Love Island. With such a strong ear for music, he will be able to bring out the best of any student, whether it's playing purely for fun or working through the grades.

Lessons with Ash or Ross are £16 for 20 minutes or £24 for 30 minutes. Contact: contact.riseupmusic@gmail.com

ELECTRIC GUITAR AND DRUM LESSONS



Tomi Spasevski is a lifelong musician and multi-instrumentalist with over a decade of teaching experience and a master's degree in percussion from the Music Academy of Zagreb, Croatia. He enjoys teaching and playing the guitar, percussion, drums and piano. He has participated in numerous music competitions and performances with different ensembles and orchestras in Croatia and all over the world. Tomi appreciates and teaches a wide variety of music genres and grade books. Some of his favourite drummers are Carter McLean and Gene Hoglan. Fees are due in advance of each complete term.

Contact altraloth@gmail.com or 07599 602 354