

Siân Headley

Piano Teacher

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the lesson length?

Lessons are 30 minutes each. For students Grade 6 and over, I would recommend hour-long lessons.

How much do lessons cost and how do I pay?

Each half hour lesson is charged at £22, sold in school term-time blocks of 10-12 lessons depending on the term length. You will be invoiced electronically shortly before the start of each term for payment for the term ahead. For new pupils, we will usually start with a one off trial session (charged at £22 for the half hour) before committing to a block of lessons.

What ages and abilities do you teach?

Both children and adults from beginner to intermediate level. I wouldn't recommend starting to learn the piano until Year 3 (Year 2 if a child shows real musical aptitude). This is because, prior to then, children often don't have the hand-span, motor skills, finger strength or prolonged concentration required to play the piano confidently.

Can I study for piano exams with you?

Yes, whether you wish to study for music exams (such as ABRSM or Trinity), or simply play for pleasure, I will be able to tailor your lessons especially to your musical preferences. Whilst many people like to have a target, such as an exam, to work towards, if that's not for you, that's fine.

Will I need to practise between lessons?

Practice makes perfect! Yes, you will be expected to practise a little each day in order to progress from lesson to lesson.

Do I need access to a piano to have lessons?

If I am coming to you for your piano lessons you will be required to have access to a weighted keyboard such as a piano or electronic equivalent. Please note that I am unable to teach you on an electronic keyboard with unweighted keys, and no pedals.

Where will the lessons take place?

On Saturday mornings, I will travel to you and the cost of my travel to you is free of charge. At the time of writing, I only serve pupils in the Long Ditton area of Surbiton, due to travel times from my home. I also teach from my home after school on Mondays and Tuesdays from 15.30-17.00, and Wednesdays from 13.20-14.10. I also teach from home, during school hours, for adult pupils.

What is your cancellation policy?

If you are unable to make a lesson due to illness or any other unforeseen circumstance, I require 24 hours notice to be able to rearrange your lesson time. With at least 24 hours notice, I will do all I can to re-accommodate the lesson. When this is the case I will work with you to suggest several alternative lesson times. Should none of these be suitable, you will be required to pay for the missed lesson. Cancellation with less than 24 hours notice will be charged and not made up. Half a term's notice is required should you wish to cease lessons with me.

Arrival and Collection for each lesson at my home - a polite request

If you are attending lessons at my home, please bear in mind that I may be teaching other pupils immediately before or after your session time. Because of this, I kindly ask pupils to wait outside and I will come to the door to welcome you, so as not to disrupt other pupils' lesson time.

What are your musical qualifications?

Junior student at the Royal Academy of Music - 2 years

Grade VIII ABRSM Piano - Distinction

Grade VIII ABRSM Clarinet - Distinction

Grade I ABRSM Classical Guitar - Distinction

Music A-Level - A

BA(Hons) degree in Music - Bristol University 2:1

PGCE in Secondary Music Education - Roehampton University

Head of Music at various secondary schools in Surrey and South West London - 15 years experience

Private Piano Teacher - 6 years experience

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by emailing me

robinsbobbins@yahoo.co.uk