



Valley Music
PROFESSIONAL MUSIC TUITION

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Newsletter

May 2014

Payment of Fees:

All fees are now overdue.

(If you have not yet received an invoice please let us know)

June Practical Exams (Official Notice pending)

Date: Saturday 21st June 2014

Venue: Conservatorium of Music

Times: will be sent to exam students

Theory Exam Dates for 2014 (invoices will be sent to applicable students)

Written Theory : 20th August :Closing Dates 6th June

CONCERT DATES:

Singleton Conservatorium Student Concert: Wednesday 25th June 6.30pm

All UHCM Piano students are expected to perform as part of their tuition.

MUSIC JOURNALS:

All students are issued with a Music Journal. Not only is this a reminder for both student and teacher as to what is learnt and to be practiced each week, it is also a means for parents to track their child's progress. Have you read your child's journal lately??

Having trouble with kids not practising or wanting to give up too soon ...?

It is completely normal for kids to go through peaks and valleys in terms of their motivation on the piano. One of the things about learning an instrument is that it requires long-term commitment. It's not an activity that you do short-term, gain an easily-learned skill and then move on. It requires months and years to get real results. Kids aren't often exposed to these kinds of activities; it's an experience that is (unfortunately!)

new to them. It's easy to quit piano because it's easy to not have to put work into something. It's almost impossible for young kids to think long-term about how they may actually want to be able to play the piano later in life. Kids think in the here and now, and we now live in a world of instant gratification. No longer do kids understand how to wait or work towards getting their success – they want it all now!

Piano lessons are one of the only extra curricular activities that require children to take responsibility on their own at home. With sports you can show up and practice or play a game. **Piano is different in that it requires a sense of self-discipline**, and it can be hard for kids to see the benefits this (of which there are many).

Self-esteem and confidence come from conquering difficulties and reaching goals. **If we let children quit** when things get difficult, then they lose those opportunities to prove to themselves that they can do it; that they can work through an obstacle and come out on the other side better than they were before. If we leave the decisions up to them all the time their “kid-ness” takes over and they choose the easy route because that's what feels good in the moment. We don't know if they actually chose to stop for reasons that might otherwise be easily remedied (i.e. it's the end of the year and they're getting a bit burnt out, they enjoyed the freedom of holidays, peer pressure from others).

I have never ever met someone who said *“I'm sure glad my mum let me quit piano lessons.”* In fact, I hear the opposite from people constantly!

So encourage your child to put in the effort and they will be rewarded with a life time skill!