



Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust

Inspire • Nurture • Excel

October 2025

Dear Young Guitar Player and family

**Play & Stay Guitar Course: Frontier Centre, Irthlingborough
5th & 6th February 2026**

I am excited to be inviting you to attend a residential course, specifically designed for young guitar players from across Northamptonshire.

This course is for you if:

- You are in school year 4 to year 6
- You are having guitar lessons
- You are able to play the notes from open G to G on the first string and read standard musical notation
- You want to develop the skills you have already learnt, play with other like-minded young people, and become a better player yourself
- Higher standard guitarists are very welcome to attend and will be given music that reflects their ability

During the course, you will have the opportunity to play in a massed ensemble, with all the other course members, as well as spend time in smaller groups to concentrate on a range of musical skills. There will also be time to relax, with games and activities, whilst getting to know your fellow course members.

After the course, you are also invited to be part of NMPAT's Guitar-stravaganza concert! This will take place on Sunday 8th February at Cripps theatre from 3pm. The concert will feature the 'Frontier Guitar Ensemble' (players from the Play and Stay course) alongside our County Guitar Ensembles and NMPAT Centre Guitar groups. Please indicate on the online form if you would like to participate, and further details will be shared in due course.

The cost of the course is £175, and you will need permission from your head teacher to be absent from school for two days. If you would like to attend, please see the reverse of this letter for more details, and complete the online application form, linked on page 2, by **Thursday 27th November**.

More information about the Frontier Centre can be found on their website, linked on page 2. It is a fantastic place to stay, and I know you will have a great time.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions or queries.

I hope to see you there!

John Draper
Head of Guitar



Play and Stay Guitar Course

Venue: Frontier Centre, Irthlingborough, NN9 5UH (more info: [Frontier Centre - Rock UK](#))

Dates: 5th & 6th February 2026

Arrival: please arrive from 9.00am on Thursday 5th. There will be a welcome meeting for students and staff, with the Frontier Centre team, at 9.30am, and it is important that all course participants are present.

Collection: the course will finish at 3.30pm on Friday 6th February.

There will not be a performance to parents, due to lack of space, and we will hope to see lots of you at our planned concert, on 8th February.

Absence from school: you must request permission for your child to be absent from school to attend the course. You may complete and submit the online form before obtaining the necessary permission, providing the absence has been authorised before the start of the course.

We can provide a letter supporting your request for absence, if needed. Please contact the NMPAT Office if you would like a supporting letter: office@nmpat.co.uk

Cost: £175, to include all meals and activities, accommodation in shared rooms, with en-suite bathrooms, and tuition from NMPAT staff.

Financial support may be available to those in need. More information can be found on the application form.

50% of the total cost must be paid by 28th November to secure your child's place on the course and the final payment is due by Wednesday 28th January 2026.

Please do not make a payment until you have received confirmation of your child's place on the course.

Confirmation: on submission of the online application form, you will have the opportunity to save and / or print a copy of your response. Please keep this for your own records.

Confirmation emails will be sent out, from office@nmpat.co.uk, from Monday 10th November. Students are accepted on a first come, first served basis so please submit your online application form as soon as possible.

Once you have received a confirmation email, please make payment on the ParentPay Shop: www.nmpat.co.uk/parentpay

Application: please complete the online form by Friday 28th November:

<https://bit.ly/PS26GK>



More from NMPAT... Saturday Music and Arts Centres

NMPAT runs open access Saturday morning Centres across Northamptonshire, including Youth Theatre on Saturday afternoons, where ensembles and activities are designed so that every student can be involved in something they enjoy. If you've never been to a Centre before, you can try it out, for a whole term, free of charge! For more information and to find your local Centre, go to www.nmpat.co.uk/centres