



Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust

Inspire • Nurture • Excel

October 2025

Dear Young Strings Player and family

**Play & Stay Strings Course: Frontier Centre, Irthlingborough
3rd & 4th February 2026**

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

This course is for you if:

- You are in school year 3 to year 6
- You play a strings instrument (violin, viola, cello, double bass)
- You can play open strings and first finger, and have a basic understanding of note reading
- You want to develop the skills you have already learnt, play with other like-minded young people, and become a better player yourself

During the course, you will have the opportunity to play in a large 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 Strings Spectacular! This will take place on 7th February at St Matthews Church, Northampton. The concert will feature the 'Frontier Strings Ensemble' (students from this residential course) alongside our County String Ensembles. 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**.

Some 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!

Beth Gifford
Head of Strings



Play and Stay Strings Course

Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust

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

Dates: 3rd & 4th February 2026

Arrival: please arrive from 9.00am on Tuesday 3rd February. 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 on Wednesday 4th February, with a short performance to parents. You are welcome to arrive from 2.45pm and we expect to finish at 3.30pm.

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 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 Friday 28th November to secure your child's place on the course and final payment is due by Wednesday 28th January. 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/PS26Strings>

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

