



Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust

Inspire • Nurture • Excel

October 2025

Dear Young Woodwind Player and family

**Play & Stay Woodwind Course: Frontier Centre, Irthlingborough  
26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

I am excited to invite you to attend a residential course specifically designed for young woodwind players from across Northamptonshire.

This course is for you if:

- You are in school year 4 to year 8
- You play a woodwind instrument (flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, recorder)
- You can play a good range of notes (around an octave) on your instrument
- You want to have fun, develop your skills and make music with other young people

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 Wind Band Spectacular. This is a major concert that will take place on **Sunday 15th March 2026**, at Derngate Theatre in Northampton. The concert will feature the County Junior and Training Wind Orchestras, the County Youth Concert Band, and the 'Frontier Wind Ensemble' (players from the Play and Stay course...this means you!). The Frontier Wind Ensemble will join forces with existing County musicians to perform music from the course as part of the concert, so it's a great opportunity to perform on a professional stage!

The cost of the course is £175, and you will need permission from your headteacher 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!

Andy Kirkwood  
Head of Woodwind



## Play and Stay Woodwind Course

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

**Dates:** 26<sup>th</sup> & 27th February 2026

**Arrival:** please arrive from 9.00am on Thursday 26th 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 Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 application 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](mailto: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 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](mailto: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](http://www.nmpat.co.uk/parentpay)

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

<https://bit.ly/PS26BW>



**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](http://www.nmpat.co.uk/centres)