

# Instrumental Update



## Brass



Hi everyone.

Just a brief note to keep you updated with what is available to keep you motivated in your practice.

There are general hints and tips to help you keep developing as a brass player and a musician.

If you have any questions about your practice you can email the Musica office and they will pass it on. One of the brass tutors will do their best to answer them.

Also if you would like to send us a video of your playing you can send it as a direct message to the [Musica Mirfield Facebook page](#) [#musicakirkleesathome](#). It would be lovely to see how you are all

Different players have different ideas for what makes a good warm up but it is an important part of your practice routine. Check out the Musica Kirklees website for some great ideas. <https://www.musicakirklees.org/resources-for-small-groupindividual-tuition#w>

Try to include some long notes, some little scalic or arpeggio patterns starting quite low and gradually going higher. This will prepare your embouchure for the practice session ahead.

**WARM UP!**



Don't forget there are lots of great resources on the Musica Kirklees website, there's something to suit everyone.

<https://www.musicakirklees.org/>

Doing lip slurs, or lip flexibilities, for a few minutes each day will help you to develop embouchure control and strength allowing for great control and range.

Lots of places to find these exercises including Team Brass and there are some excellent suggestions for ideas on the Musica Kirklees website:

<https://www.musicakirklees.org/resources-for-treble-clef-brass>

<https://www.musicakirklees.org/resources-for-bass-clef-brass>



You may be at the stage where you need some new repertoire, but you are not sure where to start.

Exam board websites are a great place to look first, you can find pieces that are appropriate for your standard.

<https://gb.abrsm.org/en/our-exams/>

<https://www.trinitycollege.com/qualifications/music/grade-exams/brass/>

Both boards do Jazz exams. Why not give some of those pieces ago to expand your repertoire.

Alternatively, have a chat with your teacher. They will certainly be able to suggest repertoire that will challenge you.

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Try to include the following in your practice sessions:

- Warm Up
- Scales – I know they can be a bit boring but make them interesting by using different rhythms.
- Sight-reading – Just open one of your music books and pick a random piece to play.
- Lip flexibilities.
- Work on your pieces.

### Final Challenge

If you are missing playing along with someone there are loads of 'Play-a-long' tracks on YouTube. Just type in '*playalong trumpet/trombone/horn*' and you'll be spoilt for choice. Here's just one example:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORH9MgShUkE>

Mr Brown has also put some great stuff on the Musica Kirklees website, why not have a look?

Find a track you like, practice playing along then why not record yourself with the track and send it in to Musica Kirklees for us to have a listen to.





**Keep playing.  
Keep enjoying music.**