

Care of your MYMS woodwind instrument

Your MYMS instrument case must be clearly labelled with your name, telephone number and / or address.

Assembling and dismantling your instrument

Great care should be taken in assembling joints which have a connecting mechanism. Cork joints should be lightly greased so that they slip together easily. Avoid using a twisting action between mechanically linked joints.

Cleaning your instrument after use

Always remember to wipe the moisture from the bore with the appropriate mop after playing, leaving the case open for a while for the instrument to dry out.

Flutes

Metal flute head – wipe regularly with a dry tissue or with water if the head joint is sticky. Do not interfere with the screw stopper at the end of the head joint. Do not use the lip plate as a handle when putting the head joint on or taking it off. The body of the flute can be gently wiped with a cotton cloth, taking care not to touch the pads or screws. A fine paintbrush can be used to dust the inaccessible parts.

Clarinets

Wash the mouthpiece regularly with mild disinfectant and cold water, taking great care with the facing where the reed rests. Do not put the instrument together until you have been shown how to do so.

Bassoons

Do not assemble before being shown. Crook care: this can be washed in mild soapy water and pipe cleaners with their metal ends folded over so as not to scratch can be pushed through to remove dirt. The crook should ALWAYS be removed before moving the bassoon to avoid injury and misshaping it. When inserting the crook into the bassoon, avoid pronging the pad with the parts that stick out.

Oiling

Moving parts require lubrication. Please ask your teacher for advice. ONE DROP of fine oil (ie sewing machine oil - not bore oil sold for clarinets) on each pivot point once every term should be adequate. Do not use an oil can – a fine needle dipped in oil will release one drop when placed against the pivot point. Take great care to keep oil away from pads.

Inspection

Regularly inspect the instrument for signs of pivot screws working loose. DO NOT adjust screws that control pad openings or connecting mechanism. Please speak to your teacher or the MYMS Instrument Secretary before adjusting screws.

Storage PLEASE DO NOT

- Leave your instrument (either in or out of its case) near a radiator, hot car or in direct sunlight
- Leave your instrument where it could be damaged on a chair or on the floor. Be careful not to catch the mechanisms in loosely knitted garments
 - Leave the instrument in the reach of young children

ALWAYS store the instrument in the case when not in use.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT YOUR TEACHER OR THE MYMS INSTRUMENT SECRETARY