

Welcome to.....



A short introduction to the band.

You Tube



www.1stclassbrass.org

Who are 1st Class Brass (1CB)?

1CB is a band for brass players of all ages and abilities and was set up in October 2013. 1CB aims to provide members in Colchester and the surrounding area with safe, secure and affordable access to ensemble music whilst furthering the traditions of the brass band movement. 1CB works to achieve the highest standards of musicianship, in a relaxed environment and contributing to community life.

What does 1CB do?

As a member of 1CB you will perform in an end of term concert three times a year as well as performing at other concerts / engagements that the band has been booked for. There is also the chance to attend day events which are held during the school holidays.

Who is the person in the middle?

The Musical Director of 1CB is Anne Ruddock. Anne is an instrumental music tutor for Essex Music Services and works in schools in Colchester and the surrounding area. Anne has played in Brass Bands since the age of 8 and graduated in 2000 from Colchester Institute with a BA (Hons) in Music. Anne is also the Musical Director of the Essex Youth Brass Ensemble, as well as being the principal cornet of the Boxted Methodist Silver Band.

How are band members looked after?

1CB has a Safeguarding and Well-being Officer (SWO) and a Health and Safety Officer (HSO). The MD and SWO along with several other adult band members all hold valid DBS checks and the bands Child Protection Policy can be viewed at any time and is issued to all new band members. Several band members are also first aid trained.

Do I have to commit to joining the band straight away?

No, 'Visiting Players' are welcome to play in up to 2 rehearsals (non-consecutive if they wish) free of charge, after which they must agree to regular weekly payments to carry on playing with the band.

What should I do if I can't make a rehearsal?

If possible, please contact Anne to let her know you will not be able to be at the rehearsal.

How should I pay my subs?

The £4 subs should be paid by bank transfer into the band bank account.

The details are:

Bank Account Name: 1st Class Brass

Sort Code: 23 05 80

Account Number: 44742225

Please note: when setting up a new payee, our account details above, although correct will not be recognised.

Subs are due every week that 1CB rehearses, even if you are unable to attend, as the band needs to be able to cover its financial commitments. You can pay per ½ term or per term, whatever suits you best.

What should I wear for concerts?

The current uniform is a polo shirt & fleece embroidered with the band logo worn with black trousers / skirts and black socks and footwear. Please see Anne to get your polo shirt & fleece.

What should I do if I don't know what is happening?

Don't worry, we appreciate that the first few rehearsals are sometimes a little confusing. If you need anything or are unsure what to do, please just ask one of us.

Are there any online forums / sites that I can join?

Yes! On Facebook we have a closed group for band members and their families – “1CB Internal Stuff” and a public page “1st Class Brass” for anyone to follow. 1CB also has an X account, Instagram account and a YouTube channel.

Our website www.1stclassbrass.org is updated on a regular basis.

How will I be told what is happening with the band?

Updates are sent via e-mail (and sometimes posted on the Facebook page too) and for band members under the age of 18, updates are e-mailed to parents / carers. Please make sure Anne has your correct e-mail address.

1st Class Brass**Anne**

Musical Director, Chairman &
Deputy Safeguarding and Well-being Officer.
07880 591757 anne@1stclassbrass.org

Rev Kate

Safeguarding and Well-being Officer
Health and Safety Officer

Maria

Treasurer

1stclassbrassinfo@gmail.com

Rehearsal Details (term time only):

St John's & Highwoods Community Centre,
Highwoods Square, Colchester, CO4 9SR

Fridays 6:30pm – 8pm

www.highwoodscommunitycentre.co.uk

Created: 15th April 2021

Last updated: 20th August 2026