



February 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Would Your Child Like to Learn to Play an Instrument?

As many of you will know, St Aidan's has a long tradition of excelling in all areas of music. We have over 200 young people from years 7-13 participating in at least 13 different ensembles each week, playing a huge range of instruments. Many of our pupils take music lessons in school with our peripatetic music teachers and progress to become extremely competent musicians. The benefits of participating in music are extensive and the opportunities that students have at St Aidan's is exceptional - both to play locally, nationally and internationally.

However, we are also aware that many children have not had the opportunity to experience playing an instrument and therefore we are launching a new scheme, 'Start the Music' which will enable students to try an instrument over the course of a year. SAMA (St Aidan's Music Association) have raised enough funds to support six pupils for 1 year in 1 instrument - with the hope that they would then continue to play and develop. The scheme is aimed at years 7 -9 and full details and eligibility criteria will be available on the school website. The scheme will also provide an instrument for at least the first year.

We are very excited to announce that the Royal Northern College of Music will be supporting the scheme and a wind quintet from the RNCM will be performing on our launch evening of the **20th February 2019**. We will also have pupils from St Aidan's music ensembles present who will be available to talk about their experiences of being involved in music and demonstrate their instruments.

Pupils will be given the opportunity to apply formally to participate in the scheme and a committee of SAMA members (including teachers) will choose the pupils to participate. If you and your child are interested in the opportunity please come to our launch event on **Wednesday 20th February at 7pm in the Main Hall**.

If you are interested in supporting the scheme, we would also love to hear from you. There are two main ways you could offer support - through a financial donation (please contact Liz Hawkes, Treasurer of SAMA, liz@magnorth.co.uk) - a gift of just £20 will pay for 1 lesson or if you have any instruments that you could lend or donate, we would also be delighted to hear from you.

We very much hope that through this scheme more young people will be able to have the opportunity to learn an instrument and participate in bands and ensembles at school.

With kind regards,

Liz Hawkes

Start the Music

Vicki Elliott

Vocal and Instrumental Studies Manager