

Dear Musicians, Parents and Carers

After a long absence we are delighted to announce the return of live, 'in-person' music-making at St Aidan's in a measured way from Monday 19th April. It has been great this week to welcome back into school our team of peripatetic vocal and instrumental teachers to deliver individual lessons live after a year of online lessons, and we have enjoyed hearing live music ringing around the music department again!

Over the last year we have kept things 'ticking over' with frequent online performances, some online rehearsals and remote, collaborative performances on our <u>YouTube channel</u> which can still be viewed. We have considered the current Covid guidance within our particular context and have completed rigorous risk assessments, and are confident that we can proceed with a somewhat reduced programme compared with the usual scale of musical activity that we are used to at St Aidan's.

From Monday 19th April we offering a programme consisting of Years 7/8 Wind Band, Years 7/8 String Ensemble, Year 7 Singers, Year 8 Singers, Year 9 Singers, Year 13 Swing Band and Year 12/13 Chamber Choir. We are sorry that at the moment we are not able to run ensembles for other year groups, but we are closely monitoring developments in the guidance from the Department for Education regarding extra-curricular music and will be exploring creatively during this term how we might cater for other musicians. We sincerely hope that from September we will be allowed to offer the accustomed full range of musical activity. The information letter for each of these ensembles can be found via these links:

Swing Band Letter
Chamber Choir Letter
Year 9 Singers Letter
Year 8 Singers Letter
Year 7 Singers Letter
Year 7 & 8 Strings Letter
Year 7 & 8 Band Letter

We very much hope that all instrumentalists and singers will take their courage (and their instruments!) in both hands and come along to help to make St Aidan's resound to student music again, especially Year 7 for whom this will all be quite new. It is hoped that we might be able to put on some kind of performance later this term.

Please contact us on music@staidans.co.uk if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely Mr C M Pallant Director of Music

