



April 2021

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 two years ago we introduced a new scheme, 'Start the Music' enabling students to try an instrument over the course of a year. This has proved to be very successful and we are delighted to be able to offer this scheme again as the Music Association have raised enough funds to support six pupils for one year to learn an 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 are available on the school website (music section). The scheme also provides an instrument on loan for at least one year. For further information, click [here](#) for an introductory video.

To support this year's scheme, we are delighted to be working once again with the Royal Northern College of Music. A wind quartet, Chameleon, have created a video especially for Start The Music, which can be viewed by clicking [here](#). Please visit the [Chameleon Quartet YouTube channel](#) for more of their work.

This year's deadline for receipt of applications is **Friday 7th May at 3.30pm**. Late entries will not be accepted. Please follow the links below to complete your application, ensuring you apply for the correct Category:

[Category 1 Application Form](#)

[Category 2 Application Form](#)

If you are interested in supporting the scheme, we would be delighted to hear from you. There are two main ways you could offer support - through a financial donation (please contact me, Liz Hawkes, Chair of Start The Music, liz@magnorth.co.uk - a gift of just £20 will pay for one 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