



PARMITER'S SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1681

Headmaster: Mr M Jones BA MEd

September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to music!

It has been fantastic to see so many students in our Music Department again. We are all very aware that the last few months have been difficult for everyone, for a myriad of different reasons, and know that music, indeed all the arts, have been a source of comfort for many during this time. We were delighted by how our students continued to engage with music during the period of school closure and, in particular, the number of young musicians who enjoyed being part of our fantastic Virtual Orchestra. Moving forward, please be assured that Parmiter's School Music Department holds the safety of our students and staff paramount in anything we do.

Extra-curricular music

We take great pride in offering a comprehensive and inclusive range of extra-curricular music activities at Parmiter's. This helps to inspire and stimulate students in their musical development and is always one of the joys of being a musician! Inevitably we are having to modify the opportunities we offer in line with government guidelines, the school's own regularly reviewed risk assessment and best practice guidance relating specifically to music (e.g. from Music Mark, an association for music education). Our provision will be reduced initially, but our ambition is to enable as many students to participate as we can safely accommodate.

We aim to gradually establish a programme of extra-curricular music activities starting from next week (w/c 14 September). **For the moment, all activities will take place after school from 3.30-4.00pm.** Please note there will be no bus available for participating students.

To ensure the safety of students we will:

- limit group numbers to 15
- use our largest spaces with maximum ventilation
- maintain social distancing
- ensure students follow the same hygiene protocol as for lessons
- assess the risks of specific features of each activity.

Students will be kept informed of new opportunities through the school's e-bulletin register. **The regularly updated weekly schedule will be available to everyone [HERE](#) and on Twitter (@ParmitersMusic - you do not need an account to view this).** All our activities are free of charge and students will need to have their own instruments for instrumental groups. As groups are small, some will be by invitation only while others will be via an online sign-up process accessible through the weekly schedule on a first-come, first-served basis. We will continue to explore safe opportunities for our students to perform, but we will not be following our normal schedule of concerts and events until further notice.

Instrumental and vocal lessons

We have been making music in classes already and are delighted to have welcomed back our specialist instrumental teachers to school this week. They are employed directly by the school and are subject to and are following exactly the same protocols already in place for other teaching areas. They also have the extra measure of clear protective screens to provide a barrier between themselves and their students and these are sanitised between every lesson. We are confident we have taken all reasonable and suitable precautions and our very experienced instrumental colleagues are similarly satisfied with the measures we have taken and are very pleased to be back teaching this week.

We look forward to our students enjoying many new musical opportunities during these unprecedented times and we are very grateful to you for your continued support of music at Parmiter's.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stuart Bates', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stuart Bates
Director of Music