



St John Fisher Catholic High School

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

HOOKSTONE DRIVE – HARROGATE – HG2 8PT

Head Teacher: Mr P Brockwell B.Ed

Telephone: (01423) 887254 Fax: (01423) 881056 Website: www.sjfchs.org.uk Email: office@sjfchs.org.uk



20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Students,

As you will be aware with the current COVID-19 outbreak, it is now impossible to teach peripatetic music lessons in the school environment. With over 250 students having music lessons at school, we know that keeping continuity and trying to keep a sense of school routine is going to be really important. For many of you, I know that music is going to be really important throughout our time away at school and practising may take up a lot of your time!

Over the last few days, we've been working really hard to find a solution to this and I'm pleased to let you know that we will be offering instrumental and voice lessons via video calling. The schools' office 365 subscription allows access to Microsoft teams which has an excellent video calling facility embedded within it. Students will be able to use their school email address to sign in and make contact with their teacher. Having taught and had lessons myself, I know that it works really well and the experience is surprisingly similar to a face-to-face lesson.

In the first instance, we need to know whether or not you would like to continue lessons and complete parental consent for a video calling lesson. It is really important that you reply as soon as possible so we can collate all the details and form a timetable for lessons. The deadline for applications is Friday 27th March.

Lesson prices remain exactly the same as if they were at school and should be paid in the usual way on parent pay. Of course the limitations of video calling mean that group lessons can be more difficult, so those who opt for a group will receive an individual lesson once a fortnight instead. This may even be an opportunity for you to increase your lesson to pass the time at home! Please just indicate this on the form. We will not take into account any previous lesson formats so treat this as brand new. Students who have all or part of their lesson funded because they take GCSE or A Level music will be funded in the same way. Should we return before the end of the academic year, we will refund any payments in part.

To keep things simple, I've included a link to a google form where you can select your lessons and give parental consent. Please complete this as soon as possible. I've also included instructions on setting up Microsoft teams over the page. It's really easy to set up.

Please follow this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeort7fWECziXSqJng4b3W5eYAJXHmIn28jYx9ua2tHHdW7rQ/vi ewform?usp=pp_url





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Setting up Microsoft Teams for Video/Audio Calling

- Log in to office 365 in the normal way at login.microsoftonline.com
- YOU MUST login using your school email address.
- You should see a list of apps in front of you. (If not, click on the box of dots in the top left)
- Click on teams.
- At the very bottom left, there's a button that looks like a download button (the screen with the arrow).
- Download teams onto your computer.
- Open it on your computer and log back in using your school email address.

Making a call

- Once Teams is open, click on calls on the left.
- Press 'make a call' at the bottom left.
- Type in the email of the person you want to call.
- Press either the phone or the video icon underneath.
- The call is then made.

Notes

- If the person hasn't downloaded teams, you won't be able to see them when trying to call.
- You can also download Microsoft teams on your iphone or other device.
- Try getting the best audio and video you can. It can sometimes be helpful to wear headphones and use a separate microphone to get the best quality.
- Your teacher will call you at the lesson time. Please log in 5 minutes before so you are ready to go.

If you have any questions whatsoever, please don't hesitate to contact me at cratcliffe@sjfchs.org.uk

With best wishes for this challenging time,

Craig Ratcliffe
Head of Music

