**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils

After the press conference given Wednesday 18March 2020 by Prime Minister Johnson and in the interests of clarity, I would like to let you all know the current situation within the Music & Arts Service:

1. All Music & Arts Service Music Centres/out of school ensembles including out of school Instrumental teaching stopped as of Tuesday 17 March 2020.
2. All teaching in schools will stop from the end of this week (Friday 20 March 2020).
3. We will be in touch as soon as we have a timescale for restarting lessons and ensembles. Please keep checking our website for further information.
4. The Annual Schools’ Proms have had to be cancelled for this year
5. After Easter we will re-assess our summer term commitments when we know more about how the situation has developed.
6. For parents/carers who pay for Instrumental/Vocal tuition or music centre membership by direct debit April is final payment for spring term, however, due to the current extenuating circumstances this will be waived. Please **DO NOT** cancel your direct debit we will only take further payments when lessons recommence. For those who have paid in full in advance for the Spring Term a pro rata amount will be moved forward to be used when lessons/membership recommence.
7. If you pay online or by credit/debit card summer invoices will only be raised when lessons recommence and will reflect the recommencement date of lessons

The situation across the country and internationally is facing a time of great concern and uncertainty. The Music & Arts Service is determined to continue to help and support as many of our students as possible. We are currently looking at ways we can do this.

Over the coming days we hope to be able to offer some regular online support for students to help them keep their instrumental/vocal practice going and focused. Please look out for updates on the website on check for more information we email once we have been able to pull this support together.

I hope you understand the reasons for the decisions we have had to make but in the meantime please stay safe and feel free to contact us at the Music & Arts Service office if you need any further clarification.

With very best wishes.

Tony Johnson - Head of Music & Arts Service