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**Date:** 14 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the announcement of schools returning on the 15<sup>th</sup> March, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on plans to reintroduce instrumental music tuition back into schools.

As was the case back in August, the decision has been taken to delay the return of instrumental staff to schools. This is to allow schools to manage the return of pupils and, an opportunity for pupils to settle back in to being in school following the recent period of home learning. We understand the past few months have been challenging, and our thanks go to you and our young musicians for your patience, understanding and resilience.

### **Week Beginning 15<sup>th</sup> March**

Music instructors will continue to deliver live video lessons to pupil's at home, working around the current blended learning models in place for secondary schools. During this period, we will be prioritising live video lessons for secondary pupils. However, to support those pupils who will not be receiving live video lessons, instrumental staff will deliver pre-recorded materials and digital resources through MS TEAMS/Google Classroom. Instrumental staff will use this period to contact secondary school pupils to arrange live video lesson times when pupils will be at home during the two weeks prior to the Easter break.

### **W/B 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> March**

As staff are only be permitted to attend one school per day, it is necessary for a two-week rotation timetable for primary and secondary schools to be in place. Instrumental staff will be in touch with schools/pupils to advise when they will be in schools.

During this two-week period, brass and woodwind staff will deliver face-to-face and live video lessons. However, due to the continuing restrictions in place for brass and woodwind instruments, the playing of these instruments in schools is still not permitted. Face-to-face lessons will take the form of talking through pupil pre-recorded videos and/or lesson preparations and other learning options. However, as was offered previously, pupils will also have the option to have a live video lesson between 4:00 – 5:00pm delivered using Microsoft TEAMS/Google Classroom most days. These should be arranged in advance with the instrumental teacher with priority given to SQA pupils.

### **From 19<sup>th</sup> April**

All pupils and lessons will now be in school full time. Instrumental staff are now permitted to attend two schools per day which will see lesson delivery return, for the majority of staff, to normal in school. The exception to this will be for brass and woodwind instruments. At this time, there is **no change** for brass and woodwind instruments in relation to playing instruments in school. Brass and woodwind will deliver face-to-face lessons in school but if possible, there may be the opportunity to deliver alternative lessons; live video lessons or perhaps lessons outside weather permitting. Staff will continue to be available for live video lessons between 4:00 – 5:00pm. These should be arranged in advance with the instrumental teacher, with priority given to SQA pupils.

### Music Service App

If you have not done so already, please download our '**School App for Parents**' from the google play or app store to ensure you do not miss out on important information, news and notifications about the music service, authority ensembles and Saturday music centre. Going forward, all information relating to the music service will be distributed through the app.

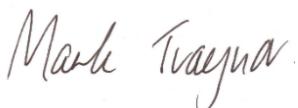
School  
App for  
Parents

To setup, click on this link [Renfrewshire Music Service App Setup](#) and follow the instructions.

Once again, we thank you for your understanding and our instrumental staff are looking forward to seeing their pupils again in the coming weeks. Please stay safe and hopefully we may soon be moving towards a period of relative normality.

As ever, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Traynor  
**Music Development Officer**