

HAMPSHIRE MUSIC SERVICE - Information for pupils and parents

Dear Colleague

What very strange times these are! I hope you're coping with whatever situation you're in and feel that things are becoming a little more settled day by day?

Our Music Service teachers have spent the last week getting a huge amount of musical resources written and uploaded onto a password protected HMS account on The Cloud, so all our instrumental and vocal pupils can access things at home to support their musical learning and to have fun with. Our curriculum leads are also sending out resources for primary, secondary and special class music work on an ongoing basis, which hopefully you've already received.

Please may I ask that you share the information in this note with all the families in your school whose children have HMS instrumental/vocal teaching? We don't have the contact details for individual parents, but after this initial link up, parents will be able to email our teachers, direct to their HMS work email address, and be given specific resources for their children to practise.

That's part one of our three-part strategy for enabling your pupils to continue making music and moving forward in their learning. With many pupils just starting on their musical journey, getting ready to take a Stage or Grade exam, preparing for GCSE/A Level music exams and perhaps even planning to study music at Higher Education, we want every pupil to keep practising, keep having fun, and hopefully continuing with some structure to their musical learning at home.

Part two:

Once the parents makes email contact with their child's instrumental teacher, we also have the facility for online, but not real-time instrumental/vocal teaching. Parents can make an audio or video recording of their child's performance, to upload to the HMS Cloud account, so the teacher can comment on achievements and areas for development and set new work as appropriate, as they would do in a usual lesson. We hope this will happen on a weekly basis and keep things ticking over until isolation finishes and schools re-open.

Part three:

At the start of next term, following advice from Mark Blackwell, the HCC LADO/Safeguarding Advisor and Sue Savory, Computing Advisor for HIAS and HCC Lead for Online Safety, we will also be in a position to offer parents real-time online lessons, via Google Meet.

It may be that some of our teachers don't have the necessary technical gear to enable this but they will certainly be able to make contact with parents and provide ongoing support through resources and videos as above.

For those who can provide a real-time lesson via Google Meet next term, parents will complete a form to accept responsibility and confirm they have read our terms and conditions. All HMS teachers have enhanced DBS checks and Google Meet is encrypted end to end and will record every lesson. For children aged <13, a parent will have to be in the room at all times. For those aged 13 to 15, the parent will have to say hello and goodbye and can stay for the lesson if they wish. For those aged 16+, an independent lesson will be possible, with the parent's consent. HMS leaders can monitor a sample of the videoed lessons on an ongoing basis and will retain the videos for 12 months should any issue arise after the lessons have taken place.

We know that many private teachers, and indeed some of our own staff who have private pupils, are already doing online teaching and we have also taken advice from other music services where this has already started.

What to do next - URGENT

Please may I ask you to add the information below to your VLE and/or website? If you have the means to email those families whose children have HMS peripatetic lessons that would be a fantastic personal touch, so all pupils have the same opportunities.

I very much hope that this situation doesn't continue for too long and we will keep adding things to the resources folders to keep pupils moving forward, so they're ready to hit the ground running again when things return to normal.

HMS Charges:

I know many schools are already asking what the position will be in terms of HMS billing and charging parents. Please may I ask for your patience on this at the moment, and please bear with me while conversations and decisions are ongoing with HCC, the DfE and the Arts Council. I will confirm the position on finance as soon as possible next term.

All of the above can then start without parents needing to worry about charges at this stage. I'm very keen to keep music alive for all pupils and the finance side will sort itself out next term.

Thank you for your understanding and patience in these unprecedented times. Please do contact me if you have any queries. My email is jill.larner@hants.gov.uk

I am very happy to talk things through if you have any queries. Please do email me and I'll reply as soon as possible. I'm very aware of term running out at a rate of knots so I'm hoping you will be able to share this information today or tomorrow please, if at all possible? Thank you for your ongoing support for your pupils musical learning and enjoyment.

The information for pupils is as follows:

Important information for parents and pupils who have instrumental /vocal lessons with Hampshire Music Service.....

HMS Virtual Learning Zone

The HMS Virtual Learning Zone will be opening for the summer term. Please go to www.hants.gov.uk/hms to log a parent email address and you will be contacted as soon as the Zone is up and running.

By logging on to the Learning Zone, you will be able to:

- *have email conversations with your child's music teacher
- *get advice and information on how to help them progress with their instrumental/vocal skills.
- *access an extensive resources section which includes video demos by HMS staff and lots of music, technical exercises, worksheets, ensemble activities etc.
- *the opportunity to upload audio or video recordings of your son/daughter playing, for a more detailed response from their teacher.

This new format for teaching will start in the summer term, although you can make contact with your teacher before the Easter holidays if you wish to. Teachers will respond at least once a week during term-time, and you will have open access to all the online resources. This provision is available for HMS students, so please do not share the password with students who will not be registered to communicate with an HMS teacher.

When the Zone is open to sign in please visit....

- www.hants.gov.uk/hms and click on 'Sign in to HMS' located in the pink bar. Then click on the blue padlock 'Sign in to Student area'.
- Follow the instructions on the 'Student secure area' page and click on the pink 'Secure area' button to continue.
- Enter the username and password which you will find in your son/daughter's practice diary, and click 'ok' (username: hmsstudent, password: learningzone).

Here you will find links to the various sections contained within the Learning Zone, along with instructions on how to contact your teacher and upload recordings of your children playing.

If you experience technical issues with the website, please email e-support@hms.hants.gov.uk

After Easter some HMS teachers will be able to offer real-time online lessons, via Goggle Meet. More details about this will be available from 20 April.

We hope you enjoy the resources and opportunities to continue engaging with our teachers and we look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

Jill Larner

Head of Hampshire Music Service