

Digital Music Lessons for Pupils and Families

Dear Parent / Carer,

Over the past month, the Music Service has been trialling options and approaches to online learning so we can continue to offer music lessons for our pupils while schools remain mostly closed or if / where visiting music teachers need to stay at home for an extended period of time. Hopefully you have already heard about this provision from your school as they have been helping us to circulate the message.

We now have an established digital offer, using Microsoft 'Teams', which we trialled with hundreds of families before the Easter break. In the Summer Term, we will be delivering to more than 1,500 pupils each week who have signed up to keep their lessons going. We are pleased to see this number continuing to grow so we can maintain a music education for young people in Staffordshire.

We are writing to you, to ask if you would like to keep your lessons going over the coming weeks and to contact us by return to arrange set up. Most of our teachers can now teach online so, in most cases, lessons can continue with the usual music teacher which we hope will be helpful for pupils. In some cases, where teachers are unable to deliver from home, we have asked another member of the team to cover the session where parents / carers would still like lessons to take place.

All music service teachers are enhanced DBS checked, receive regular safeguarding training and are meeting regularly in line management groups to discuss and review the best approaches to online learning. They have also received guidance on the appropriate use of technology for music teaching and are used to covering for their colleagues in the event of absence.

We appreciate that an online lesson is very different from face to face activity but know that the sessions we have delivered to date have been well received by pupils and families, maintaining an element of normality in these strange times.

If you would like to take part, please email us at musicservice@entrust-ed.co.uk to arrange set up of lessons. You will need a device (laptop / tablet / phone) and Wi-Fi at home. Our teachers will be in touch to arrange everything with you including a weekly slot which works for you and their new online timetable.

If you would like any further details about this teaching approach, then please just add any questions to the email enquiry and we will get back to you.

With best wishes,

Entrust Music Service Staffordshire