

# SWINDON MUSIC SERVICE

An official SMS publication 2020



## The newsletter covers the following:

- Safety and wellbeing of the workforce.
- Keeping in touch
- Furlough
- Charity donations
- Extending the music education bubble
- New remissions/bursary scheme for SMS
- Supporting Hub Partners
- Supporting Hub Partners
- Individual and small group tuition
- SYM and out-of-school tuition
- DBS

## Safety and Wellbeing of the workforce

We are aware that the **COVID** lockdowns will have had an effect on people's health and well-being. In order to assist tutors through this period of uncertainty we have launched a page on the website with some information and top tips to cope with anxiety. We intend to add to this page from time to time so do use the resource being made available to you. You can access the page by clicking on the link: [Safety and Wellbeing](#)

## Keeping in touch

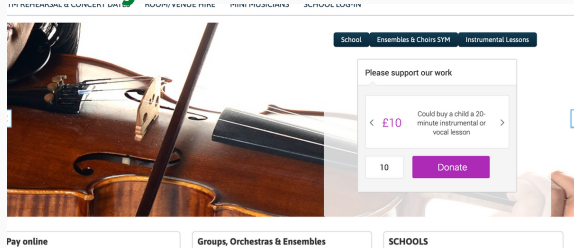
The senior leadership team will be launching our **Keep in touch** plan in the new year. What will this mean for you?

- We will schedule a 1:1 Zoom or TEAMS meeting with you on a termly timetable. Each 1:1 will be no more than 30-minute's duration. This meeting will give us and you a chance to:
  - Catch up with any developments within the charity;
  - Tell us how your delivery of services is going (both good and areas of concern);
  - Discuss workloads and any increases/decreases you may wish to be taken in consideration for the future;
  - Any personal concerns you have that you wish to highlight with us;
  - Any CPD needs on offer that may be of use to you.
- For this you will receive payment (based on our CPD rate £12.36 ph) that will be administered by the senior leadership team. Therefore, you will not need to complete anything on your eTimesheet. For clarity, this payment will only be made for these specific arranged 1:1 sessions organised by the senior leadership team and not ad hoc, routine contact generated through normal communication channels.

## Furlough

As you are aware, the Chancellor has extended the furlough scheme so that it can be used in a more flexible way until March 2021. SMS has partially furloughed our two new apprentices but we have no intentions to furlough any of the teaching staff at this point

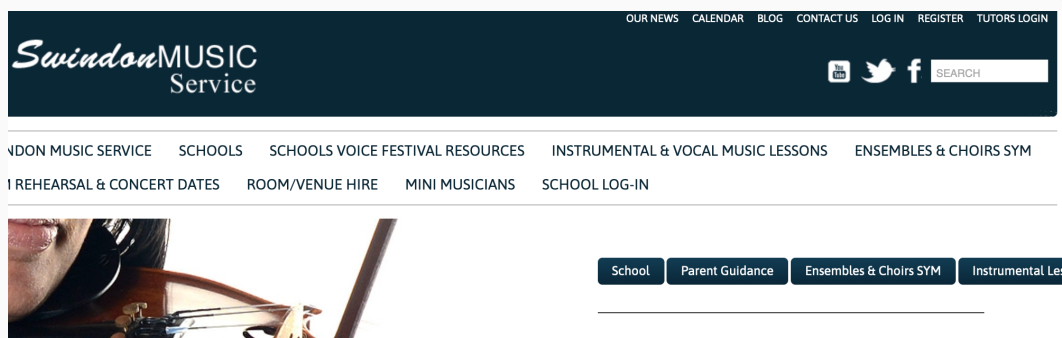
## Charity donations



We have been approved by **JustGiving** to collect donations, run crowdfunding and fundraising events for the charity and also to gain gift aid through the process. Click the picture top see the homepage.

## Tutors' Private Area of the Website

We have set up a private passworded section of the website for your use. You can access it here:  
If you would like a password log-in contact Paul or Lynn



## Remissions/Bursaries

Due to the pandemic and the insecure employment situation for many people (redundancies etc) We are anticipating an increase of applications for financial support for music learning. As a result, we have revamped our Inclusion policy in line with the government guidelines. You can view our new policy on our website by clicking here: [Music Inclusion](#)

Clearly we will have limited funds to support Music Inclusion which will be set by the board of trustees on an annual basis. This will include grants to hub delivery partners in support of the inclusion strategy. Once the funding has been spent, we will not be able to support any further applications until the following financial year. As a result, we will be monitoring the best use of this funding and those pupils who are not committed to learning may lose their funding as a result.

The aim of this policy is also to assist with supporting schools with more individual and paired tuition as follows:

### School Provision

#### METHOD 1:

Schools buy in a block of time and administers payments

- Schools, receive Pupils Premium and therefore, cannot apply directly to us for remissions grants. However, all children & young people (C&YP) will receive a free loan of an instrument for the duration of these lessons through this system.

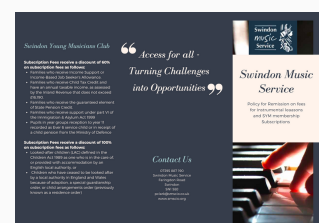
#### METHOD 2:

- **Parent/Carers apply for lessons and pay directly to the Music Service through the Parent Direct Pay but still receive their lesson in school (subject to school approval)**
- The Music Hub identifies funds to assist those children and young people who are receiving free schools meal due to family hardship or are categorised as Looked After Children (LAC) by the Local Authority, when parent/carers are applying for tuition to be undertaken at school during the school day.
- To make the application process easier, grants are offered (subject to funding from time to time) as follows:
  - **free school meals or forces premium** (due to financial hardship) reduction of fees for first choice
  - **LAC reduction of fees for first choice lessons** (not available for multiple instrument lessons).
- For first choice (instrument) lessons only FSM / Forces = £60% reduction; LAC = 100% reduction

To prevent parents having to provide further proof of receiving these benefits the school can verify this on the application form.

We have produced a leaflet to assist you when travelling around schools.

Click on the picture to Download a pdf:



## Supporting Music Hub Delivery Partners

During lockdown, we have provided grant funding to some of our partners to allow them to develop their online provision and to support those pupils from less well-off families wishing to access instrumental/vocal tuition.

The following grants have been given:

- £15k Charanga to provide all primary school hub members with free access to the eLearning platform
- £2k to JTP Trust (in support of the hub's singing strategy)
- £2k to Ultimate Tuition (in support of continuation)
- £2k to Holmes Music (in support continuation)

## Individual or small group tuition in schools

In the new year, we are looking to launch a new voucher scheme to assist you building up your individual or small group tuition in schools through the music service. This scheme is still in the development stage at the moment and more information will follow.

In particular we will be looking to build capacity to encourage pupils to take up the classical instruments with built-in incentives.

## SYM & Out-of-School tuition

As we come out of lockdown this week, the latest advice we have received from government is:

Music Mark has scanned the updated DfE guidance.

*"There are nuances to be teased out, I'm sure, but for this weekend, this basic message will suffice:*

- *Everything you are and have been doing in schools can continue **INCLUDING SINGING AND PLAYING BLOWN INSTRUMENTS from 2nd December.***
- *Out-of-school activity of all sorts can restart (as can tuition in private homes, at least where there is no alternative, which should please colleagues with private practices).*
- *Public performances should not take place in tier 3 areas. Within guidelines, they can everywhere else."*

As a result, SYM will be going back to the Platform from Saturday 5th December - Week1 of the two-week schedule.

We we also go back to the blended learning process in-line with the two-week schedule.

## DBS update

Would tutors please note that we are continuing to update your SMS DBS clearances on a rolling programme. Paul will be in touch with a small number of you soon with instructions on how to organise this update. SMS would like to take this opportunity to remind you that if you work for other organisations, or privately, that requires a separate DBS clearance to the SMS one.