



ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE JUNIOR SCHOOL

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS !

22nd August, 2016

Dear Parents

Please find below information for the new school year regarding our music programme.

NEW FOR 2016..

NEW! KEYBOARD ORCHESTRA

A new idea whereby an ensemble of keyboards come together to replicate the sound of a larger orchestra. Headed up by Mr. Kevin Walsh (one of our very experienced piano teachers and performers), orchestra scores and fun modern pieces such as Star Wars will be taken and adapted for junior keyboard players allowing students to have fun playing the respective parts of a particular instrument of the orchestra, including percussion, resulting in the sound of a full orchestra coming from a group of keyboards. The piano can be a lonely instrument to learn and this provides a way for our young pianists to come and make music together. A maximum of 6 keyboards will be available initially and the group will meet after school. We would hope on occasion to bring the keyboard and string players to perform together.

NEW! SECOND CHOIR BEFORE SCHOOL

This academic year we are delighted to launch an additional Junior School choir. Despite an already well established choir in the school, we believe that our children with specific interest in choral singing, would benefit and enjoy singing in an additional smaller choir consisting of approximately 30 children. This choir will provide an opportunity to challenge the children with more advanced techniques of choral singing and will also provide an opportunity to be involved in more performances, both socially and competitively. Entrance will be by audition. The choir will be conducted by Ms. Grace Cowman and accompanied by Mr. Kevin Walsh.

NEW! BUCKET DRUMMING

Bucket Drumming (also called street drumming) first started to take hold in the 1980s in New York and has a rich history of being used as a folk instrument. This will be a new and exciting 4 week module which we hope to introduce to all students in P3 to P6 during music class. Every student will be provided with a bucket for creating music and two pieces of dowel and will learn rhythmic ensemble playing really 'cool' pieces either standing up, sitting on chairs or on the floor sliding instruments to each other. Sounds are produced by either striking the centre, rim, side or stick click. Playing in groups like this builds confidence and gives class groups the experience of making music with each other, exploring rhythm in a fun and attention-grabbing way.

INSTRUMENT PROGRAMME

As per last year there will be a considerable demand for places on our Instrument Programme, therefore to secure your child's place learning the instrument of their choice, please complete and return the enclosed application form indicating a preference as required to Ms. Armitage by **12.30pm on Tuesday 30th August**. **WE CANNOT GUARANTEE YOUR CHILD A PLACE IF YOU DO NOT RETURN YOUR FORM ON TIME.** As some instruments are extremely popular places may be full before 30th August, or a particular teacher's slots may be filled, therefore please return your form as soon as possible. Ms. Armitage will be in Junior Reception from 8.30a.m. on Friday 26th August to accept forms and payment. Payment after that date can be left for Ms. Armitage with the Junior School secretary.

Our new instrument term begins on Monday 5th September. Payment for lessons **MUST** be received before that date. **CHEQUES ARE MADE PAYABLE TO THE SCHOOL AND NOT THE INSTRUMENT TEACHER.** If payment is not received by Friday 2nd September, 2016 unfortunately your child will not be timetabled for lessons until payment is received.

MUSIC WEBSITE

Our Junior School music website address is regularly updated by Ms. Armitage with dates of upcoming events, lyrics for songs the children are learning which can be downloaded, YouTube clips where relevant, general information and the weekly instrument schedule for individual lessons.

www.standrewsjsmusic.com

INSTRUMENT TEACHERS

We are delighted our instrument teachers - **Ms. Linsey Dempsey, Mr. Gordon Douglas, Ms. Megan Sherwood, Mr. Kevin Walsh, Ms. Rachel Du, Ms. Carla Vedres, Mr. Joe Csibi (also Mr. Bernard Kavanagh), Mr. Sam Russell and Mr. Gary Burke** will be working with us again this year.

WUNDERKEYS! **PROGRAMME FOR K1/K2**

We were thrilled with the success of our **Wunderkeys** music programme introduced last year and taught by Ms. Linsey Dempsey. Developed 6 years ago, this programme has been specifically designed for children aged 4-6 years of age (K1/K2). The programme teaches very young students, with no prior musical experience, piano skills, keyboard awareness and rhythmic understanding. Every lesson involves 5 unique and exciting activities ensuring a young child remains engaged and active involving finger dances/exercises, musical card games, counting songs and pattern activities and recognition. Lessons also include a home activity sheet with activities designed for parents (with no prior musical knowledge) to support their child's learning between weekly lessons. Early maths is also well integrated into the programme. The Wunderkeys programme successfully leads the young piano student into our mainstream piano books in P1 or late K2.

INSTRUMENTS AVAILABLE

Instrument	Class	Individual	Group
Singing	P2 – P6	✓	✓
Piano	K1 – P6	✓	n/a
Ukulele	K2 – P6	✓	✓ *
Guitar	P1 – P6	✓	✓ *
Bass Guitar	P3 – P6	✓	✓ *
Cello	P3 – P6	✓	n/a
Violin	K2 – P6	✓	n/a
Double Bass	P3 – P6	✓	n/a
Drums	K2 – P6	✓	n/a

* Subject to students being of a similar standard

Our string programme includes **violin, cello** and **double bass** group and individual lessons. Children from K2-P2 study violin and in P3 they are offered the cello or double bass as their instrument instead of the violin. There groups will be limited to small number and places will be allocated by the instrument teacher following an assessment and in consultation with Ms. Armitage. We would encourage students to take a cello or double bass home to practice if at all possible. If a child loses their instrument it must be replaced by their parent/s.

Children from P2-P6 are asked to PLEASE ensure they bring their violin AND music folder to school on the day they have their string classes.

Please find below the day your child will have their violin/cello/double bass group classes :

P1	Thursdays	P2	Thursdays
P3	Tuesdays	P4	Wednesdays
P5	Tuesdays	P6	Wednesdays

INSTRUMENT TEACHERS' CONTACT DETAILS

Piano	Mr. Gordon Douglas	gordondouglas@eircom.net
Piano	Mr. Kevin Walsh	kevireland@gmail.com
Cello	Ms. Megan Sherwood	megsherwood@hotmail.com
Guitar, Bass Guitar, Ukulele	Mr. Gary Burke	gburke@st-andrews.ie
Singing, Piano	Ms. Linsey Dempsey	ldempsey@st-andrews.ie
Violin	Ms. Rachel Du	rdu@st-andrews.ie
Violin	Ms. Carla Vedres	carla.vedres@gmail.com
Double Bass	Mr. Joe Csibi	joecsibi@gmail.com
Drums	Mr. Sam Russell	samrusselldrums@gmail.com

ORCHESTRA

As last year our orchestra will be held before school on a Wednesday from 8.30a.m. – 9.10a.m. in the Junior Hall. Orchestra will be run by Ms. Du, Ms. Armitage, Ms. Sherwood and Mr. Csibi. All children from P3 to P6 are welcome to join.

CHOIR

Our Wednesday choir meets from 12.30-1.00p.m. All children from P3 to P6 are welcome – no audition or previous musical experience is necessary. Class teachers adjust their timetables to ensure choir members do not miss important work at this time. Wednesday choir is led by Ms. Armitage and Ms. Dempsey.

MUSIC FOLDERS

Please note **all** children from P2-P6 are required to have an A4 display book with plastic pockets to hold sheet music. This ensures the music does not get damaged and sits safely on the music stand in school and at home. This folder is to be brought to every music class. The same folder can be used for choir and orchestra members and for any musical events.

PRACTICE JOURNALS & MUSIC BAGS

Every child who is learning an instrument individually as part of the instrument programme will be supplied with a Junior School Music Practice Journal and a blue music bag. If the music bag is lost parents will be expected to pay for a replacement. Please ensure the music bag is named. CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE INSTRUMENT TEACHERS ARE LISTED AT THE FRONT OF THE JOURNAL. **Parents are asked to keep a record of any practice their child has done during the week (this is very useful information for their teacher), and to use the journal to communicate with the instrument teacher as appropriate.**

RIAM EXAMINATIONS

Children have the opportunity to sit the Royal Irish Academy of Music examinations either in the pre-Christmas or post-Easter sessions. If a child commits to undertake an examination **they are required to undertake regular practice at home**. It is not a requirement of the Junior School music programme that children sit a music examination, children are very welcome to learn an instrument for pleasure if they would prefer.

COLLEGE CHOIR

Our College Choir is made up of parents from the Junior and Senior School. We meet every Tuesday in the Junior Hall from 7.45-9.00 (refreshments are available from 7.30p.m.) and is led by Ms. Karen Armitage and Ms. Linsey Dempsey (the Junior School singing teacher). The choir was set up to facilitate all standards of singers, from beginners to the more experienced and we cover a wide variety of music. We spend a short time every Tuesday warming up and learning breathing exercises before we sing a variety of music. We also aim to teach members a basic understanding of music, how to follow a part and hold a harmony line.

Members have found the choir to be de-stressing and fun! We have a great group who sing for pleasure but we would also LOVE to have new members. Our rehearsals begin on **Tuesday 13th September**.