

11<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Dear Parents / Carers

As of September the Performing Arts Department will be changing the way we deliver our peripatetic service for pupils taking instrumental lessons. Mrs Dunn and I have been working together since January, and as I will be full-time from September, we have decided that we would like to revitalise the Performing Arts at CMS.

As part of this we have decided, after lengthy consideration, to separate from Staffordshire's Entrust Music Service, and instead bring in independent instrumental teachers. Participation in instrumental lessons has fallen significantly in recent times, and a recent survey of existing users indicated overall dissatisfaction with the Service. This way we can have greater control over costs, hire of instruments, and also your child's progress.

The first thing to change is the length of lessons. These will from September be half an hour, and not the present 20 minutes. This will help to embed real progress, and is in line with what a number of other schools in the locality are doing. However we have managed to keep the cost down to £5.50 per pupil per lesson, which is no increase to you. This will be balanced out by having ten lessons per term, which then gives us the flexibility of a couple of weeks each term, should either the teacher or the pupil miss a lesson. Pupils are likely to be taught in pairs or groups of three, and payment should be made at the start of each term.

Regarding hire of instruments, as a school CMS have decided to buy in a stock of instruments, which we will hire out to pupils. This will be no more expensive than parents are presently paying for instrument hire. However the cost will vary according to instrument. Furthermore, we would like to encourage pupils to be buying their own instruments after a year of playing, in order that we can free the instruments up for new players (however please note that pupils currently playing on hired instruments will have priority use in the first instance).

Please also factor in the cost of any books your child will need to buy in order to make progress.

At the start of the new term, we would like to invite all parents and pupils to a brief meeting, where you can meet the new staff, and see what they can offer to your child.

Therefore in order to make this process as smooth as possible, we would like to know if your son/daughter is planning to continue learning to play their instrument in September. Please can we request that you complete the information below, to help us to plan as best as possible for an exciting new start. This is not contractual, but merely an indication of your intent.

Could you please return the reply slip by Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

Many thanks

**Ms B Smith & Mrs R Dunn**  
**Performing Arts Department**

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Name of pupil: \_\_\_\_\_ Tutor (this year): \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

How long played / any grades achieved: \_\_\_\_\_

My son/daughter WILL/WILL NOT be continuing playing their instrument in September.  
We WILL/WILL NOT need to hire an instrument from school.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Person with parental responsibility) Date: \_\_\_\_\_