



Update for schools – December 2014

Roll over

No, this has nothing to do with the National Lottery, but we have been informed by Arts Council England that the funding for music hubs will be extended for one further year from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016. This means that existing programmes of funded activity will continue for at least one further year. As to what happens from April 2016 onwards this will be a matter for an incoming Government to decide.

Using Pupil Premium funding to support music learning

A growing number of schools are choosing to support the instrumental learning of children entitled to pupil premium funding. There are a number of ways of achieving this, the most common being to buy in a block of time from your music service provider using pupil premium funding and then allocate that time according to greatest need. So for example in one secondary school three children have been identified in Year 7 and they are sharing a 30 minute trumpet lesson.

The school is also choosing to include a non-pupil premium child whilst asking the child's parents to make a small contribution towards the overall cost of the lesson thus making the money go further .

In Year 9 there is a very talented pupil premium child and the school has chosen to use the funding to pay for a 30 minute individual singing lesson and to pay for the girl to also attend the local music centre choir. The school recognises that her singing has transformed her life giving her a level of self-confidence previously missing and impacting very positively on her overall attitude to school and her achievements in other subjects.

Another way several schools use pupil premium funding is by commissioning provision directly from Berkshire Maestros. The children attend their group or individual lessons as if they were attending lessons paid for by the parent but instead the bill is sent to the school pupil premium co-ordinator.

For further information contact Fay Martin – fmartinfinance@berkshiremaestros.org.uk

Various courses

We are busy running a number of holiday courses over the Christmas break:

Ice Cool Christmas Guitar Grotto: Junior Guitar Course

This Junior Guitar Course will run on the **22 & 23 December**, culminating in a festive performance including popular favourites!

<http://tinyurl.com/ockqkze>

Soundstage – Guitar Construction Course

Also billed as the perfect Christmas gift for the musician in your life...

Give the gift of handmade music this Christmas with our Guitar Construction Course, a fantastic three day course with Master Luthier Graham Noden who has built guitars for world famous guitarists from Prince to Eric Clapton!

The course runs at Garth Hill College on the **2, 3 & 4 January** with participants taking away their own handmade guitar at the end of the course!

<http://tinyurl.com/kscaghv>

Special Offer:

Parent / Child package:

2 Participants, 2 handmade guitars and 2 happy customers for just £300.

Forthcoming events for secondary school music teachers

The Wokingham Federation of Schools is holding their annual conference at Wellington College on 23rd February 2015. The Federation has kindly extended an invitation **to all Berkshire Music Hub Secondary Music colleagues** who may be interested in attending at a very reasonable rate of only £50 per person for the day. The keynote speaker will be Kevin Rogers, Hampshire Music Inspector who will be focusing on sharing advice and thoughts on 'Life without Levels' and making assessment at KS3 work for the classroom music teacher. If you are interested in taking advantage of this offer, please contact the organiser Gill Waller (Wokingham Secondary Federation Manager) directly to book your place.

GWaller@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk

Primary music subject leaders and teachers

Composition workshops for non-specialist (and specialist) musicians and class teachers responsible for the delivery of music based on typical KS2 topics (such as Romans, Vikings etc) are in the pipeline. Further information on dates and booking will be available soon from dawngarside@berkshiremaestros.org.uk If you have specific requests for a musical training workshop based on a specific theme please contact Dawn Garside.

Berkshire Young Voices

Is your child an outstanding singer? Have you thought about auditioning for our gifted and talented choir: Berkshire Young Voices? Do check out the video of their rehearsal for their concert at Kings College Cambridge together with the Berkshire Youth Choir on You Tube (can be accessed from the front page of our website). For further details about auditions please contact amywhitaker@berkshiremaestros.org.uk

Advance notice

We are in the initial stages of planning the next two 'mega-hub' choral events at the Royal Albert Hall, London. Following feedback from the last event, we have decided to split primary and secondary so in 2016 we intend to put on a secondary concert - Choruses from Messiah and in 2017 a primary concert as yet untitled. As soon as we have any news on dates we will let schools know. Please do not write in about these yet.

Big Play Days

We are inviting all young budding musicians who have recently started to learn to play a musical instrument to try out our wide range of bands and ensembles at the Hub's music centres. These are a fun and interactive introduction to these activities.

Bracknell and Wokingham Music Centres	Strings	31/01/2015
	Woodwind & Brass	28/02/2015
Newbury Music Centre	All instruments	28/02/2015
Windsor Music Centre	All instruments	31/01/2015
Reading Music Centre	Brass & Percussion	07/03/2015
	Strings & Woodwind	21/03/2015

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