

Kent Music Changes to MusicPlus 2020/21



The Decision

- Face to face MusicPlus tuition involving Kent Music teachers will not start until January 2021

Why?

- Teacher and pupil safety is our main concern
 - We want to keep you safe and well and we must make some difficult decisions now, sadly without much national guidance.
- Bubbles in primary schools
 - DfE guidance says that peri's can travel between schools, but we will already have teachers potentially doing 1-1 and small group tuition and the guidance from the DfE does state that their aim is to minimize the number of contacts a pupil has during a school day. Adding whole class tuition to this as well could just make it riskier for everyone involved.
- Space to allow social distancing in primary classrooms
 - Music Mark guidance states "The 2m distance (preferably more for brass, flute and saxophone) must be maintained and groups may have to be split up". Not all schools will be able to allocate enough space for MusicPlus lessons
- Splitting of year groups
 - teaching groups with under 15 pupils in is said to be possible and schools could ask us to split their MusicPlus tuition. This would be very hard for Kent Music to achieve due to timetabling and finding the extra teaching hours needed to run extra groups.
- Some instruments deemed more risky
 - Even though this is not scientifically proven it is the message that has gone out and therefore is widely taken as gospel for most schools. Even if these riskier instruments are taught there needs to be a VERY thorough regime for cleaning the instruments after use and our teachers will not have the time to do this
- Every school has a different circumstance which is difficult for us to deliver
 - There will be so many different approaches from the 110+ schools we have MusicPlus teachers which means that a case by case approach is too hard. Therefore we have opted for a standardised approach.

What will MusicPlus teachers do instead of teaching?

TERM ONE AND TWO	
Sept 1 st - Oct 23 rd	INSET and then bespoke CPD programme including instrument upskilling programme/philosophy for music CPD programme, music technology all delivered via a new VLE
Nov 2 nd – Dec 18 th	Planning and preparation term with continued CPD programme as well as school contact between teacher and music lead to aid planning
TERM THREE AND FOUR	
Jan 4 th – 12th Feb	Start of face to face MP lessons
22 nd Feb – 1st Apr	Continuation of face to face lessons
TERM FIVE AND SIX	
Apr 19 th – May 28 th	Teaching continues
June 7 th – July 21 st	Teaching and concerts to encourage continuation

Bespoke CPD programme

The CPD programme is designed to support teachers to utilise this time effectively in preparation for January.

Topics that will be covered include assessment of pupil progress, ways of differentiating in a music class and using music technology successfully in lessons.

We will also explore the core principles of teaching music in a whole-class setting, allowing our teachers time to reflect on their practice and strategise for future teaching.

Each Kent Music teacher will have their own pathway to follow and they will be told what this is at INSET in September

Upskilling

Some teachers will be asked to get to grips with teaching the Ukulele and we will put a programme in place for them to learn the Uke.

This will also help us to place a teacher with any school who wants to swap instrument due to H&S issues - we know the Ukulele will be a popular alternative.

Teachers don't have to be a virtuoso grade 8 Ukulele player to teach MusicPlus Ukulele.

MusicPlus teaching is about learning musical skills through an instrument rather than learning an instrument in a whole class situation so the instrument is just the pathway to the musical knowledge.

The more instruments our teachers can play means more hours of teaching they can pick up.

Planning time with schools/music leads

Ultimately through this programme we want to improve our teachers all round knowledge and aid communication with our schools.

Ofsted expect whole class music lessons not to be a bolt on to school curriculums but blended in so from now on its really important that our MusicPlus teachers communicate with music leads in schools.

We will be asking our Kent Music teachers to contact their assigned schools in Term 2 and arrange meetings with the music lead. The meetings will include:

- Asking for class lists/info about the students
- How a safe working space will be established in January and adhering to the schools RA's
- What the KM health & safety guidelines are
- Finding out where the MusicPlus work fits in with the school music curriculum in line with Ofsted Music deep dive requirements
- To allow mid-term planning of lessons
- To share mid term planning with the school in case of an Ofsted visit