LMS*DigiTeach*

Parent Guide

Online lessons during the COVID-19 crisis

Contents

During school closures as a result of COVID-19 we are going on-line! Our music teachers are gearing up to deliver lessons via Google Meet/ Hangouts . During a time of great stress we feel it is important to try and retain a sense of continuity, especially regarding music progression and simple enjoyment!

We hope that giving our pupils the opportunity to receive a regular lesson with their tutor will be something to look forward to each week. And who knows, with the potential for a lot of time on their hands, we may even see some fantastic progress.

Background:

Connect: Resound is a digital music education project, which uses new technology to deliver music education and enrichment activities to children living in rurally isolated areas.

Since 2014, NYMAZ (North Yorkshire Music Action Zone) has worked with Music Education Hubs, schools, music organisations and our technical partners UCan Play to develop new teaching and business models for delivering music education online.

Following a successful pilot project in North Yorkshire, Connect: Resound expanded to work with music organisations across the country to deliver and further develop this unique approach to online music education, alongside researchers from the University of Hull, who assessed the impact and potential of an online approach to music tuition.

The project has also engaged with music education professionals across the country through training and discussion events exploring the role that online technology can play in helping children and young people to engage with music, and has reached 1000s of viewers through our programme of live music broadcasts, delivered online to schools across the country.

Thanks to funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Connect: Resound is working in partnership with a cohort of Music Education Hubs across the country to develop their approach to delivering online music education as part of their programmes.

Lincolnshire Music Service, as the lead organisation of Lincolnshire Music Hub, have been selected to provide the next stage of the pilot, and we are very excited about the opportunities that this could bring to the children and young people of rural Lincolnshire.

Learning instruments over the internet can be a really useful and engaging part of music education in schools. Pupils can learn from specialists not available on their doorstep, and transport, cost and logistics issues that can affect availability of lessons in rural schools, for example, can be overcome.

E-Safety

Understandably, the safety and well-being of children is paramount, and Lincolnshire Music Service (LMS) will do everything to ensure this is always of the highest importance. Tutors from LMS will be governed by the same, strict guidelines when delivering lessons online as they are when delivering lessons on school premises, during school time. All LMS staff have an up to date, enhanced CRB/DBS clearance. During the COVID-19 lessons will either be delivered from an assigned base or from a tutor's home. This has been given the approval of Lincolnshire County Council. from All our staff have regular Safeguarding training to adhere to strict Lincolnshire County Council regulation.

The Department for Education's statutory guidance **Keeping Children Safe in Education** obliges schools and colleges in England to "*ensure appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems are in place. Children should not be able to access harmful or inappropriate material from the school or college's IT system*"; however, schools will need to "*be careful that 'over blocking' does not lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what children can be taught with regards to online teaching and safeguarding.*" UK Safer Internet Centre, https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/teachers-and-school-staff/appropriate-filtering-and-monitoring/appropriate-monitoring

This principle is important when liaising with ICT teams, partners and colleagues about balancing the needs of young people and education in the 21st century with concerns that may arise about online tuition.

Websites such as childnet.com have excellent advice and resources for children (primary and secondary) and the professionals who work with them. The NSPCC's Online Safety resources are also extremely helpful:

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

Consent

Specific consent for receiving instrumental tuition online should be sought, in addition to any previous consent gained for video and still photography. Pupils and their parents/carers should be given information about the software being used, how video and audio data will be stored, and how and by whom it can be accessed.

Online safety awareness

The online instrumental lessons can provide an opportunity for a refresher on key issues around internet safety, and specifically on using webcams safely, how to block and report safeguarding issues on the software being used, and the importance of telling someone if a child or young person has been the subject of inappropriate approaches or messages.

Teachers and pupils should be reminded that any concerns about online abuse or the way someone has been communicating online should be reported to CEOP https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/.

What parents need to do

You need to be aware of the documents highlighted above and be aware that safety procedures will be put in place to ensure the safety of your child, during online lesson delivery. We ask that you ensure that your child is safe in their environment for the duration of the lesson, with minimal disturbances, and with an adult present in the house at all times. Lessons should NOT take place in a bedroom.

Once you are happy, please complete the booking form and confirm the above by ticking appropriate box.

Lessons are fully subsidised for pupils who already receive tuition from an LMS tutor.

Payment for lessons for new LMS pupils are partially subsidised and will be taken via the LMS ParentPay shop. The LMS Office will email you a link for payment once lessons have been confirmed with an LMS tutor.

Pupils

Pupils need to be aware that learning online is a different mechanism for learning and will learn in a different way. Pupils and teachers, will need to allow for feedback and be aware of potential latency in connection.

Connect

We will be using Google Hangouts/Meet as the video conferencing platform for delivery. Please see https://meet.google.com/ for further details.

Equipment needed to receive lessons

You will need:

- A desk for the laptop, or PC.
- Music stand and chair for the pupil
- A computer/laptop or IPad/tablet that can run Google Hangouts/Meet (An app might need to be downloaded). Most computers made in the last 5 years will be adequate but with a Webcam/camcorder attached.
- Microphone, if possible
- Good power supply
- Pencil
- Minimum 2 mB/s broadband speed.
- Adequate lighting.

Equipment used to deliver lessons from LMS

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, LMS tutors will be using personal computers to conduct their lessons from home and may, therefore, only be using the standard webcam and built-in microphone.

None of the computers or equipment will be used for the storing/recording of any video feed/lesson.

Setting Up

LMS will set up a unique Google GSuite Account for each staff user.
LMS staff member will set up a 'Meeting' and email the access code through prior to the agreed lesson time. You should not need a Google Account to access this meeting

- The Teacher will be online, at the start of the lesson time.
- Please remember to use the meeting code to enter the lesson.
- There may be a new meeting/lesson code for each lesson.

Make sure you have a telephone number handy for your music teacher in case of any connection problems.

Make sure your son/daughter has everything ready in the room for the lesson:
- music books
- practice diaries
- instrument - fully set up and warmed up already to allow learning to commence immediately.
- Please use an instrument tuner or tuner app for IOS and Android to have tuned up your instrument as best as you can.
- reeds, shoulder rests etc

Camera Set-up

Please ensure that the full head of the pupil, and the instrument can be seen within the screen at all times. It is not appropriate to be spending lesson time fixing these images.

Please also ensure that you have given permission for your device to access the microphone and webcam on your device.

There is sometimes a delay in image delivery at the start. Please allow a bit of time for the image to appear before unnecessarily re-starting the meeting.

Withdrawal of Services

The Coronavirus scenario is changing on a daily basis and Lincolnshire Music Service will constantly be reviewing the services it offers during this time. As a result, Lincolnshire Music Service has the right to withdraw this offer at any time.

Further Resources

The [Connect:Resound website](#) hosts a number of useful resources to help you:
- Informational video about online music teaching
- Three hour-long programmes featuring live performances and behind the scenes footage of rock, pop and folk musicians presented in partnership with Musicport, Grassington and Harrogate International Festivals
- Insights and case studies from the Connect:Resound team
- Useful links to support all aspects of digital music education
- Research report about our experiences of online music tuition

Contact Details

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