



Update for schools – January 2015

Schools Steel Band Festival

The second Schools Steel Band Festival will take place at St Gabriel's School, Newbury on Tuesday 3 March 2015, 5.30pm - 7pm. Following the success of the first event which saw six schools' steel bands join together to create a steel percussion orchestra of more than one hundred children for an exciting finale performance, the second event will be even bigger and better.

The event, organised by CultureMix Arts and part funded by Youth Music, will showcase Gifted and Talented children from primary schools across Berkshire in a celebration of music, dance and song.

Tickets are £2.50 each and free to children under 12 years. For more information go to www.culturemixarts.co.uk

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

Percussion Day

We have secured Kevin Hathway from the Purcell School and Philharmonia Orchestra to lead a percussion day for the Music Hub. During the day there will be a range of clinics and activities. The day will take place on 8th March from 9-30 till 5 at the Open Learning Centre, Bracknell. Further details to do with the programme of events will be circulated to local percussion teachers and their students and be available nearer the event on the Berkshire Maestros website.

Forthcoming events for secondary school music teachers

Short notice but there is a Royal Borough schools network meeting on 14th January at Furze Platt secondary School starting at 2-30. The next Reading secondary heads of music network meeting will take place at Denefield School in the music department from 3-30 to 5-00 on Wednesday 28th January. Neighbouring schools from West Berkshire and South Oxfordshire are welcome to join – a Music Hub in action! Following requests from staff the two main topics will be: starting compositions with both weak and strong pupils; and Moving A to A*. If there is anything else colleagues would like to add to the agendas please let Lynne Ellis know. This session is free.

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 2015

Why do children learn to play a musical instrument if they don't want to use it playing with others? We are launching a massive initiative to get young instrumentalists into bands, choirs and orchestras across Berkshire and not just those taught by Berkshire Maestros, but in fact any child learning an instrument. The Big Play Days will take place in the Hub's area music centres, mostly based in schools. These are a fun and interactive introduction to these ensembles and will take place as follows:

Bracknell and Wokingham Music Centres	Strings – 31/01/15 Woodwind & Brass – 28/02/15
Newbury Music Centre	All instruments – 28/02/2015
Windsor Music Centre	All instrument – 31/01/2015
Reading Music Centre	Brass & Percussion – 07/03/2015 Strings & Woodwind – 14/03/2015

To find out more, contact the relevant music centre manager. Contact details can be found from the Maestros website.

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