

July 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Opportunities to have specialist instrument or singing lessons at Helsby High School

BOOK A TASTER COURSE OF LESSONS BEFORE THE SUMMER HOLIDAY READY FOR SEPTEMBER!

If your child has been learning a musical instrument at primary school and would like to continue, or if your child has never learned an instrument but would like to give it a go, please visit www.musicforlife.org.uk/apply-now where you will find lots of information and be able to book lessons ready to start in September.

Starting a new school is about taking new opportunities. At Helsby High School, we want to offer as many students as possible the chance to learn a musical instrument. A team of specialist musicians visits the school to provide instrumental and singing lessons each week arranged by Music for Life, a not-for-profit music education organisation which works with over 100 schools across Cheshire. Children already learning with Music for Life will have received an email and a link to enable them to re-book lessons online.

Please Note:

- There is a charge for these specialist lessons but they are subsidised by school to reduce the cost. Most parents pay monthly using a debit or credit card (prepayment cards cannot be used to set up monthly payments), and the cost starts at £22 per month for a shared lesson (not available for piano) and goes to £30.75 per month for a one to one 20-minute lesson or £42.25 for the most advanced students who want a 30 minute one to one lesson.
- *You would need to book a place **before the summer holiday** to start in September.*
- You are only committed to the 12 week "taster" period, after which time you will receive a report on progress and will then be able to cancel further lessons, just paying for the 12, change course, or join the 95% of pupils who continue their courses!
- The school, where possible, does try to support families in times of financial hardship and if you feel that your current situation would prevent your child from continuing with lessons please contact the Finance Office at the school so they can assess whether further support can be provided.
- Courses currently available are: piano, keyboard, guitar, bass guitar, banjo, ukulele, violin, cornet, trumpet, trombone, baritone horn, tenor horn, euphonium, clarinet, saxophone, flute, tuba and (soon to be confirmed) oboe, bassoon and singing.
- If your child is interested in learning how to play the drums please contact the Finance Office at the school as these are delivered by one of our tutors rather than Music for Life.

Why learn an instrument in school?

- Learning an instrument in school is a great way in for Year 7 students to feel part of the community of musicians at Helsby High and to make new friends.
- Music for Life is a service with a long track record of achieving success with young people, twice judged by a nationwide process of evaluation carried out by the Department for Education to be "outstanding" offering parents "outstanding value for money".
- There is a growing body of evidence showing learning an instrument benefits a child's all round development and achievement in many other areas of school life.
- If you think your child may be interested, you can check out the following links: www.musicforlife.org.uk/facebook/musicforlife1234 - to get a better idea of what's going on and find out what others think and www.musicforlife.org.uk/videos to see students in action.

We really hope your child will get involved with music and will wish to try a course of instrumental or singing lessons with some first class, inspirational teachers in school.

Just remember to book before the summer holiday here: www.musicforlife.org.uk/apply-now

Yours faithfully



V Cross (Mrs)

Expressive Arts – Music department.
Helsby High School