

Information Letter August 2007

We are looking forward to an exciting and challenging year of music education at your school. The logistics of putting together suitable teams of tutors at the time the schools have given us have, as expected, proved formidable.

While some of the schools have yet to make a final confirmation of their times, we are reasonably confident that we have a fairly accurate picture of the times and staff for all 20 band and 20 play projects – 1200 pupils!

This letter is to provide some initial information so that you know what to expect:

Designated Class teacher/TA role

1. The LMS and the school are jointly responsible for the success of the programme – so they can share in it!
2. all adults in the room should be actively engaged – either leading, or participating. For nascent musicians, this means playing an instrument.
3. Adults (TA's, classteachers, Music-co-ordinators) who have not had any training are invited to attend a free training session on October 18th. Precise details will be sent soon.
4. Any adult who sits to the side or absents themselves from a lesson will
 - a. draw negative comments from Ofsted
 - b. send a strong subliminal message to pupils that it OK not to participate
 - c. Waste a valuable opportunity to learn a new skill and gain further respect from the pupils
 - d. Risks disrupting the lesson and undermining the authority of the person who is leading the session.
5. Teachers who are not leading can usefully:
 - a. Take a register
 - b. Fill in an assessment form – more on this later – one thing at a time!
 - c. Perform on their instrument either for or with the pupils
 - d. Take out an individual or section to help them with a particular issue, if it can't be done in situ in silence in a few seconds.
 - e. Sit amongst the pupils and sing, play an instrument or model good posture and behaviour.
6. Only one person at a time can lead the session. However, the person who is leading at any point can usefully engage the other teachers by asking them for an opinion, to play something, or to draw their attention to someone who needs help. The pupils should know there are active eyes on them from all around the room and in their midst!

Project Leader Role:

This year we have identified Project Leaders for each project. Their responsibilities will include

- Liaising with the classteacher or other designated contact person
- Acting as the contact point between the school and the LMS
- Planning the lessons
- Dealing with logistical and practical issues
- Ensuring opportunities for students to continue tuition after the project

Materials

MX Sing: Book 1 (a free book will be available for everyone, please contact LMS if you want one) Book two is in process.

MX Play: material for this book is being written now and will be available early September.

MX Band: Strings and Wind. New versions of these manuals and new material is being written now and will be available from September.

In the meantime, all the existing books are available on the LMS website teachers section as pdf's, as are the existing flashcards and backing tracks. We are working with Charanga to put interactive and even animated versions of this material on line for use in lessons – an exciting development.

Lambeth Music Service

Bonneville Primary School, Bonneville Gardens, London SW4 9LB
t: 020 8772 1504, f: 020 8772 1533
enquiries@lambethmusic.co.uk

Time Line for MX Band and Play:

Week beginning **September 10th**: meeting between team and the class teacher/Teaching assistant responsible for the project.

Week beginning **September 17th**: LMS tutors observe the class teacher teach a lesson to note the routines and behaviour management policies in place.

Week beginning **September 24th**: Demonstration of instruments and how they work in an ensemble and begin work on pulse, rhythm, pitch and singing.

Following 2-3 weeks: using disinfectant and plastic reeds, allow pupils to try out all the instruments on offer, and match instruments to pupils' interest, suitability and aptitude according to the procedures in the Manual.

By half term, each child should have an instrument allocated to them.

Instrumentation

This is what should be available at the school for each class of 30. The LMS will arrange for these to be delivered, or existing instruments to be checked and serviced before the week of 24th September.

MX Play:

- 30 recorders – one recorder for every pupil
- 10 small Djembes, one large
- 5 glockenspiel kits and 10 pairs of beaters.

MX Band (Strings)

- 22 violins (6 quarter size, 13 half size, 3 three-quarter size)
- 8 cellos (5 quarter size, 3 half size)
- (these can be swapped for other sizes if necessary)
- Accessories held at the school: rosin, strings

MX Band (Wind)

- 6 flutes
- 6 clarinets
- 2 alto saxes
- 6 trumpets
- 4 trombones
- 2 baritones (light weight gig bags are available for all)
- 4 glockenspiel kits
- Orchestra perc kit at the school: BD and beater, SD, sus CYM.
- Accessories held at the school: spare 1½ reeds, valve oil, slide-o-mix, disinfectant

Training Opportunities

We will organise a **1 day training event** on 18th October for the class teachers who were not able to attend in July. This will give us a chance to go through some of the repertoire, songs and skills for the MX Play and Band projects. All tutors are also invited to attend – details will be confirmed later.

I hope to be able to visit many of the projects during the first term.

Enjoy the Term.

Brendon Le Page
Head of Lambeth Music Service

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