

## Music at Fakenham Academy 2017-18

July 2017

Dear Students and Parents

I am writing to you to update you for next year about Music at Fakenham Academy.

There were obvious concerns raised by many students and parents when it became clear that we were saying goodbye to both Chris Brown and Sylvia Newton. This is moving out of Norfolk to become Head of Music in Chipping Norton and Sylvia is going to be working as a peripatetic music teacher and A level teacher at an Academy in East Norfolk. My best wishes to both of them.

Whilst we had two music teachers in reality we only had one timetable to cover as both Chris and Sylvia were part time and also taught other subjects. We have been able to replace them with a full time music teacher called Ian Willis. Ian has lots of experience at teaching and plays Brass and Piano and has led ensembles and bands over many years. I am delighted that he will be starting in September.

Our Peripatetic staff will all continue and the financial support the school provides for music continues at the same level. If your child has musical instrumental lessons then they can continue at the same cost of £55 per term. I have resisted financial pressures to raise the cost this year.

Our Peri staff have also been invited to take ensembles and groups next year. They will be working with Ian Willis and during the first few weeks of term these discussions will be finalised and some concrete decisions made about how the music team will work over the year. I realise this is not perfect, but I do need to allow Ian and the team to get to know one another and time is important in this regard.

I cannot tell you exactly how the concerts and soirees will look next year but by the end of September this should be finalised and we will be able to go public on this.

GCSE music and A level music will continue to be offered next academic year and if GCSE attracts sufficient numbers [it really needs a minimum of 10 students to be viable as a course] then we will run the course. A level will be taught as Year 12 and 13 combined as we do with many other courses here. This is not ideal, but it will enable the subject to continue as our resources will allow for this as a combined group but not as two separate groups.

So in summary the changes will have to happen, but I am confident that with your patience, support and flexibility we will over the course of the next couple of years have a very good offering for music. Losing the two staff who are so experienced cannot but fail to have an impact, but I hope you will agree that we are doing our best to ensure music here is still dynamic and contributes to the overall success of students at the school.

If you wish to contact me please do so.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Parr-Burman

Principal  
Principal **Matthew Parr-Burman**