Great Chesterford
C of E Primary Academy

School Orchestra

from 28 September 2021

Tuesdays from end of school to **4.15pm**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

You will be aware that Great Chesterford's School Orchestra has been dormant for the last four terms – but we are delighted to be re-launching it this term in a new format that takes account of Covid safety. The School Orchestra will be run by Janet Wheeler and Kathryn Middleton.

Who can join?
This is available initially to students in Years 5 and 6 who already play an instrument (inside or outside school) or children in Years 5 or 6 who are planning to take up an instrument in the very near future. Pianists are encouraged to bring an alternative instrument where possible – e.g. recorder – or to play percussion.

Rehearsal timing – from Tuesday, 28 September
The sessions will run on Tuesdays from the end of the school day until 4.15. We will use a combination of venues in the school, including the junior playground (when weather permits), the STEM Hub and the hall.

Content of sessions
All activities will be planned to maximise children's musical learning and enjoyment without compromising safety. Players (particularly wind and brass players) will remain well-distanced whenever playing indoors. It is likely that the whole orchestra will only play together outdoors initially.

Through musical games and orchestral activities, players will enjoy developing these musical skills:

- memorising musical ingredients and structure
- improvising and composing with increasing confidence
- developing aural skills (melody, harmony, rhythm etc)
- increasing instrumental confidence on their own instrument

Performing opportunities

We will identify these as soon as possible – either opportunities for live performance or when necessary for recordings – possibly assembled from music recorded in smaller groups or individually.

Fees
The fee for this activity is £50 per term for one child and a further £10 per term for each additional child from the same family. In cases of need, the school may be able to help with these fees. Please discuss this in confidence with Mrs Mitchell or Mrs Sargeant.

Parental help
For the club to run smoothly, we would ask for some parent volunteers to support groups of musicians whilst playing. Face masks would be required to be worn by volunteers and they would also need to complete the school's Covid visitor form. Please do let the school office or me know if you are able to help.

If you have any queries about any aspect of orchestra, please feel free to email me on janet.wheeler@cantab.net.)

Mrs Middleton and I are very much looking forward to re-launching the orchestra and to welcoming a new group of players.

If your child wishes to join the orchestra, please register and pay on SCOpay, then complete and return the accompanying form to the school office by Monday, 27 September.

Your sincerely,

Janet Wheeler

SCHOOL ORCHESTRA ENROLMENT 2021-22

- Child's Name:
- School class:
- Instrument(s):
- How long learnt:
- Any grades taken:
- Home email if available:
- Home phone number:

Payment
I confirm that I have given consent and made payment on SCOpay.

Potential Help available from parent/guardian (when we are able to take it up)
If you have a musical background and are willing to help out please give brief details here:

Collection from school
I am happy for my child to travel home independently Yes/No
My child will be collected by me/us or by

---------- or ----------

Parent's/Guardian's signature:

We hope very much to have a place for all who want to join, but if we are oversubscribed, we may need to place some children on a waiting list. Priority will be given to children learning an orchestral instrument.