

## **Music at Secondary School – Support & Advice**

*This document supports your thinking around music in secondary schools only, and is not a substitute for documents provided by your school or the borough website.*

- **Research**
  - Every school is different, and there will be a lot to consider when applying to secondary school. A school may have a website or social media presence for its music department, which is a good place to start. This will give you insight into some of the learning, events and activities on offer. School music events and activities are often celebrated in local press or websites, so a search online for these may help too.
  
- **Instrumental lessons**
  - Although Music Masters will continue to work with you and your child after Year 6, instrumental lessons are only offered from Music Masters at primary school. It is important to think ahead so that your child has consistent teaching.
  - Research what instrumental lessons, if any, are available at school. You should find out if they cost anything, how regular/long lessons may be, whether they are one to one etc. You should also find out if there is a waiting list or additional sign-up form online, which may only become available later on in the year.
  - Don't forget to look up what other instruments are taught at the school. Your child may wish to explore something new, instead of or as well as carrying on with their violin or cello lessons.
  - Remember that your child will have the opportunity to take their instrument at a reduced price, which will enable them to continue playing.
  
- **Open Days**
  - Secondary School Open Days usually take place in September and October, and this year may require booking in advance. If you're there, ask to see the music facilities or speak to the music teaching staff or instrumental teachers.
  
- **Contact Schools**
  - Consider contacting the school or music department directly. You can often find relevant email addresses on the school websites, or by simply calling up.
  
- **Scholarship Auditions & Exams**
  - If you're applying for a music scholarship or bursary, then there may be additional requirements such as a musical assessment, audition or interview. Music Masters can support this with additional lesson time if needed, so please speak directly with your child's teacher, or ask your child to do so, for more information.
  - You can find information on any auditions on school websites or by contacting the school. These usually require a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) or additional form, often with a deadline earlier than the overall application process.

- **Ensembles & Activities**
  - Try and find out what ensembles and music activities are available in secondary schools. Remember to look for a wide range of musical styles and forms, not just traditional ensembles like orchestra.
  - Ensembles may be available at different musical abilities, or they may only be available to those playing at a specific level. Try and find this out if you can.
  
- **Outside of School**
  - Remember that secondary school is not the only place to access music-making. If the school your child is accepted into doesn't have what you were hoping for, think about what might be available elsewhere. Saturday music schools, music clubs, arts charities and organisations may well have what you need. Music Masters can provide some guidance on where you might want to look, so get in touch.
  - Alternatively, if it's a possibility, you may wish to find a private teacher. You can always ask your current teacher for support and advice on this.
  
- **Music Masters & Champions**
  - As a graduate of Music Masters, your child becomes a Champion. Through this, they will have continued access to high quality music-making across various events and projects, as well as taking a bigger role in representing what we do as a charity.
  - Through Champions, you and your child will have continued support with their music making and our team will always be available to help where we can.
  
- **Personal responsibility**
  - Starting secondary school is hard and you will most likely not be able to support your child's music making in the same way as you have in primary school.
  - It's important that your child prepares themselves for this and is ready to take ownership of their music beyond primary school. Champions activities in Year 6 will help them to start thinking about this, and their violin or cello teacher will also encourage them to take responsibility in their learning and preparation even more.

*For further support and advice, please contact Daf Evans, Senior Learning Manager at Music Masters via [daf@musicmasters.org.uk](mailto:daf@musicmasters.org.uk) or 07801 529734.*