

Nick Howdle

Subject: IMPORTANT - releasing subsidy for Music Tuition and First Access in current academic year

Importance: High

Dear Colleagues

We're contacting you because your school has received* our subsidy for **First Access and / or Instrumental / Vocal tuition** for disadvantaged learners provided by our [Associate tutors](#).

Obviously, in these unprecedented times, the welfare of your school community (of which the tutors are a part) must come first and so we understand that subject to advice from Public Health England and Government, tuition may have to be put on hold at some point in the coming weeks. These tutors (for whom we are neither employer nor agent) are the lifeblood of music education and *we're very concerned* for their financial welfare at this difficult time. As freelancers and small organisations, they're in a *very vulnerable* place, one which isn't likely to have been given much consideration in Government's provision for small businesses and the self-employed.

Because of this we have decided the following:

Where requested by relevant tutors, our subsidies can be released to them - even if delivery of their tuition is delayed until later this or into next academic year, provided that you are satisfied that a tutor can honour this and will come up with a plan to 'catch up' at the appropriate time.

One method of 'catching up' could be for the tutor to provide online lessons, videos and / or resources.

We'd encourage you NOT to withhold these subsidy payments for any longer than necessary, even if the tuition becomes disrupted. If you want to release it immediately - that is fine with us.

We are only in a position to sanction this in relation to work we are subsidising for our Associates but would hope schools can be sympathetic to other Associates' and freelancers' circumstances at this difficult time.

You can see the amounts of subsidy we've sent you and the tutors (but not pupils) to whom that relates by clicking [here](#) and selecting your school's name from the dropdown list. Obviously, we don't know the amounts that you may already have released to tutors.

Please note that this facility has been set up in the interests of expediency and support – we'd prefer that the link and its contents remain confidential wherever possible.

**If you've not yet seen the money in your account it is already on its way.*

With very best wishes to you and all your colleague

Wiltshire Music Connect.

Nick Howdle

Leader for **Wiltshire Music Connect** Music Education Hub