# Tuesday 21st July 2020

# Dear Parents and Carers

**Music Lessons at Sidmouth College in September**

There are a number of temporary changes that we have had to make due to the ongoing situation with COVID-19 and the impact of risk mitigation in the learning environment. However, I want to encourage you that ensuring a safe, secure and stimulating environment in which your child can learn is of the utmost importance across all subjects. I am writing to inform you how we will be delivering music lessons in the new term.

Music lessons, as before, will be largely practical in nature, and will involve students engaging in high quality learning on well-maintained and clean equipment, in line with the relevant government guidance. Composition, performance and listening tasks will be delivered through the use of specialist music equipment and computer workstations in order to ensure that music can continue to be taught musically with an emphasis on practical work.

Year 7 students will start by studying keyboard skills and how to operate a professional digital audio workstation to record their performances and compositions. In the second half of the term they will learn about the instruments of the orchestra and how to listen to and understand more extended compositions.

Year 8 students will be building upon keyboard skills and furthering their understanding of written music before exploring popular music production techniques using Ableton and our specialist hardware controllers after the half term break.

Year 9 will start by looking at ‘3 Little Birds’ by Bob Marley, looking at chords and syncopated rhythms and will re-create a recording of it instrumentally before moving on to learning how to compose music in other contemporary styles through analysis and practical exploration.

Finally, both year 10 and year 11 will be working on the first unit of the RSL Music Practitioner qualification.

Whilst the equipment will, as previously mentioned, be cleaned and maintained, it is strongly recommended that students provide their own earphones or headphones where possible. Please just ensure that they have a 3.5mm jack plug, **not** the larger 6.35mm jack plug (sometimes referred to as ¼ inch jack plug). Please also note that wireless headphones, or headphones that use Apple’s [Lightening connector](https://www.apple.com/uk/shop/product/MMTN2ZM/A/earpods-with-lightning-connector) are **not compatible** with any College equipment. Please do not buy expensive headphones for this purpose, I would recommend [THESE headphones](https://www.amazon.co.uk/RIJAHO-Earphones-compatible-Smartphones-Black/dp/B07YFXDH5W/ref%3Dsr_1_26?dchild=1&keywords=IEM&qid=1595247474&s=electronics&sr=1-26) which cost £6.99.

We will be able to provide headphones for those students who do not have their own and these will be kept within year group bubbles.

If you have any questions about what to buy, I am more than happy to offer further advice or clarification if you email me at rmorgan@sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk.

Yours faithfully

Richard Morgan

Teacher in Charge of Music