



# SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

Oakleaze, Gloucester

## Instrumental and Singing Lessons September 2020

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Dear Parents

Following the DfE Guidance for return to school in September updated on 7 August 2020, we have been examining the implications for one-to-one singing and instrumental teaching in school.

I know that many of our pupils have continued to attend online lessons and we have asked our peripatetic music teachers to continue to teach your child in this way in September.

To give you some context, from September, STRS pupils will be in bubbles, with staggered start and end times to the school day, lessons, breaks and lunchtimes. Visitors to the school must be kept to a minimum with social distancing in place in order to comply with the system of controls set out to prevent and respond to infection. The DfE guidance suggests there may be an additional risk of infection when singing, chanting, playing wind or brass instruments. This applies even with social distancing. Therefore, singing, wind and brass playing cannot take place indoors.

Consequently, all singing and instrumental lessons must continue to take place online and, in order to facilitate catch-up following school closure, lessons will take place outside curriculum time. Please also bear in mind that with regard to online lessons, the arrangement to continue individual instrumental lessons will be a private one made between the parents and the singing or instrumental teacher. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to facilitate this arrangement but it does hopefully allow progress to be made. However, pupils studying A Level or GCSE Music or who are in receipt of the Pupil Premium can approach me directly if they need support in arranging lessons.

We will review this arrangement fortnightly and if the guidance changes. Rest assured that our plans will be based on effective provision of Music whilst maintaining the health and safety of our staff and young people.

Please contact me via email at [pyj@strs.org.uk](mailto:pyj@strs.org.uk) if you have any queries or wish to start singing or instrumental lessons.

Pauline Jones

Head of Music

## SIR THOMAS RICH'S

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