



17 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Virtual Christmas Concert 2020

It is with great disappointment that I must inform you of the cancellation of our planned Christmas Concert on Wednesday 2 December. Although we had hoped it could go ahead, lockdown restrictions render this impossible and even if we were to delay it, there is no way we would be able to put on a concert of the scale and quality we are capable of.

However, I am very pleased that in its place, we will be having a Virtual Christmas Concert, which will be streamed live on YouTube on Wednesday 16 December at 6pm. A link to the concert will be sent to all parents and carers in advance of this and I do hope you can join us. Many of our talented musicians, as well as every Year 7 student and the vast majority of our GCSE and A-Level Music students will feature; a letter will be going out separately to Year 7 parents confirming more specific details.

In addition to this, there will be a variety of slots available for soloists and ensembles, all of which will need to be recorded from home due to the current suspension of extra-curricular activities. Due to lockdown rules, ensembles will need to be recorded virtually. Our technician Mr Mackie, based in the Performing Arts office, is able to provide more specific advice to students on how to do this. A sign-up sheet is now available in the music corridor. We expect to be oversubscribed, therefore it is likely a random draw will take place to determine which soloists and/or ensembles have been successful.

Thank you very much in advance for your support for what is an ambitious but exciting and worthwhile project. At such a challenging time, it is more important than ever that we keep the arts alive and this concert is the perfect way to do so.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me via phone or e-mail at mharris@st-martins.essex.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Harris
Head of Music

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