

GETTING THE BAND BACK TOGETHER!

Dear City of Leeds Youth Training Orchestra Parents, Carers and Members,

The continuing COVID-restrictions and uncertainty around when they will be lifted have meant we have had to keep making and unmaking plans for this term. Unfortunately as a result of the delay to the final restrictions being lifted, it will not be possible to arrange an end of term concert at a suitable venue. If the guidelines allow us to, we would love to give an informal end of term outdoor performance for parents and we will give you more information on this in the next couple of weeks.

It has been fantastic to get back to rehearsing face-to-face over the past few weeks in our bubbles and the good news is that we are now in a position where we can rehearse as a whole orchestra again, starting this Friday. As we will need to continue to socially distance, there is a restriction to the capacity of the rooms we use at Pudsey Civic Hall, meaning that the Ballroom is the only space which can accommodate an orchestra of our size, whilst maintaining social distance. Leeds Schools' String Orchestra (LSSO) will also need to use this space so we will rehearse after they have finished, from **7:45 – 8:45pm**.

This change will have the biggest impact on those who are in Leeds Schools' Brass Ensemble (LSBE) and those in Bubble A, who have been coming to the earlier rehearsal. For those that are in LSBE, we realise that it would be impractical for you to leave and then come back again so we will use the time to do a little bit of rehearsing and some other musical activities, as well as ensuring that the children get a supervised break.

Can you let Ralph know urgently if your child has been in Bubble A and there is any problem making the new rehearsal time.

We are sorry but we will no longer be able to run the online session and we very much hope that those attending online will be able to rejoin us as soon as you feel ready.

We can't wait to see the whole group together and to meet some of the students face-to-face for the first time. It will be our first face-to-face rehearsal for over 15 months and it makes us emotional thinking about it!

Kind regards,
Ralph Tong, Megan Swinchin and Thomas Shone

