



dark peak music trust

.....a bright musical future

Dear Players and Parents,

The summer is behind us we are looking forward to starting our new season next week, with some players now progressing up into higher level groups, and welcoming new players into the Dark Peak family.

The music centre has been far from dormant since the end of last term. The Concert Band in particular has been very busy, performing in Birmingham Symphony Hall, one of Europe's greatest concert halls, and just returning from a highly successful concert tour of the Czech Republic (all the photos on the Facebook page).

Enrolment and Membership Fees

I have pleasure in enclosing your enrolment form, pre-populated with all the information we currently hold. Please check that the details are correct and fill in any gaps.

One of the most time consuming administrative jobs is enrolment and retrieving subs. Prompt payment (and preferably paying in one lump sum) saves us an enormous amount of time and stress, so I would ask if you could be as helpful as possible with this and deal with it immediately. Enrolment forms will be sent out by post next week and we would appreciate these being completed within the first 3 weeks of term.

Membership fees are staying the same as last year (£100 Senior and £80 Junior), although players taking part in the orchestra will pay at the Senior membership rate.

Monday Evenings

One of the big new developments this year is Monday evenings. This has been extended into a full evening of musical activities which now includes the opportunity for younger players to play in a full symphony orchestra alongside the senior players. Junior Strings will remain as before, but Intermediate and Senior level string players will now have two hours of ensemble experience structured as follows:

5-6pm: Junior Strings and Intermediate Strings

Break: (with tuck-shop)

6.15-7.15pm: Orchestra (All Intermediate and Senior Strings, plus invited wind, brass and percussion)

Break:

7.30-8.30pm: Senior chamber music training (various ensembles including brass quintets, wind octets and string quartets, to be announced)

The Orchestra will be starting on Monday with some really exciting repertoire, including "Pirates of the Caribbean" and Dvorak's Slavonic Dance.

**Dark Peak Sinfonia ♦ Orchestra of the Peaks ♦ Dark Peak Concert Band ♦ Dark Peak Intermediate Wind Band
Dark Peak String Orchestras ♦ Glossop Junior Wind Band ♦ Chinley Junior Wind Band**

Patron Timothy Reynish ♦ **Principal** Musical Director Jeff Snowdon
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National Concert Band Festival

Another very important event this year will be the Intermediate Band taking part in the National Concert Band Festival in November.

Schedule

I have attached a provisional schedule for the year. Please note that this is subject to change as the year progresses and there are still a few things to be added (including a concert in March which has yet to be finalized) so please keep a close eye on the website for updates.

The Schedule and Ensemble Lists are both on the website.

PLEASE NOTE: The Winter Concert is now on Sunday 11th December (Not 4th as on the provisional schedule sent by email last week.)

Ensemble Lists

I have enclosed a list of ensembles for the coming year. Look to see which groups you have been offered a place in. In some cases you will have been promoted as an "apprentice" and we would recommend continuing for a while with your current group as well.

NB. It is particularly important that all members of the Intermediate Band continue until after the NCBF performance in November.

Please note that ALL members of the Intermediate and Senior Strings will be taking part in the orchestra which will now run alongside the string orchestras on Monday nights.

If for any reason you are UNABLE to accept the place offered, please could you let us know immediately as it has an impact on our planning and the positioning of other players.

Glossop Beginners Band – change of name

One small change is we have renamed the Glossop Beginners to **Glossop Junior Wind Band** in line with the other training ensembles.

Theory lessons

We still have 3 places available on the Theory Course which will run on Fridays 4.30 to 5.15 at Bradbury House. I have copied the information letter below and attached the enrolment form. Please let us know immediately if you would like to take up this really valuable opportunity to do theory at a fraction of the cost of taking it privately.

And finally....

We are looking forward very much to seeing everyone again soon for the start of another exciting year.

On behalf of all the Trustees and Ensemble Directors
Jeff Snowdon
Principal Musical Director