

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: MUSIC EXAMINATIONS

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing pandemic, we have taken the very difficult decision to cease hosting music examinations for at least this coming term. We are hoping to resume the examinations service in the Spring Term if restrictions allow, as we understand the important role that exams play in pupil development, but with the ever-evolving national situation there is no guarantee that we will be able to provide the service for the foreseeable future.

In the meantime, if you would like your child to take a music exam this term (in agreement with their instrumental teacher), we suggest that you apply directly to the examination board. This will mean that you can be in control of any changes with the exam process as a result of any localised lockdowns or additional restrictions that could potentially have an impact.

The process is quite straightforward but please do not hesitate to contact myself: anna.parker@norfolkadvisory.com if I can be of any assistance.

Please only apply *after discussion* with your child's instrumental teacher.

Here is a brief update on what the two main exam boards are offering:

ABRSM offer 2 separate practical exams:

PRACTICAL GRADES (traditional practical exams...pieces and supporting tests)

Exam period: **9 November to 19 December 2020**

Booking period: **28 September to 12 October 2020**

A reduced number of public venues will be offered. A list of venues will be published in advance of the booking period. This may be subject to change, depending on local and government guidance. Please click on the following link to enter on ABRSM online: [booking:https://gb.abrsm.org/en/exam-booking/](https://gb.abrsm.org/en/exam-booking/)

PERFORMANCE GRADES (these are the new remotely-assessed performance grades)

Exam session: **19 October to 7 November 2020**

Booking period: **28 September to 5 October 2020**

Performance Grades are remotely assessed exams available at Grades 1 to 8. When you book an exam you can select an exam submission date from a list of options available during the exam session. This will be the latest date by which you must upload and submit the exam recording.

In brief:

A video recording is required which includes a continuous, unedited performance of the 4 pieces/songs. Three pieces are selected from the relevant syllabus and the pupil chooses their own fourth piece. No other supporting studies are required. The exam can take place at any appropriate location ie. school, home. An accompanist is required.

Here is a link to key information for the performance grades (syllabuses can be found on this page too):

<https://gb.abrsm.org/en/our-exams/performancegrades/key-information/>

Here is a link to the guidance for the performance grades:

<https://gb.abrsm.org/media/64845/guidance-for-remotely-assessed-performance-grade-exams-final.pdf>

Please click on the following link to enter for a performance grade on ABRSM online: [booking:https://gb.abrsm.org/en/exam-booking/](https://gb.abrsm.org/en/exam-booking/)



TRINITY

Trinity are not going to offer face-to-face exams this term. They are looking at a digital alternative but are yet to confirm what will be required. I would suggest that parents/teachers contact me directly if they are interested in this option and I can inform individuals of the requirements when they are released.

Unfortunately, Norfolk Music Service will be unable to provide an accompanist so a private accompanist will have to be organised should you wish to enter for an examination. If you need any help with this, please ask your child's instrumental teacher or contact myself.

Many thanks for your understanding during this time. We really hope that exams can resume soon and will keep you updated as soon as we have any further information or guidance.

Best wishes,

Anna Parker (anna.parker@norfolkadvisory.com)

Norfolk Music Service, Examinations Co-ordinator