

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you are well and looking forward to the Easter Holidays! In all my years teaching I've never known such a hickledy-pickledy half term with teacher strikes, snow days, etc. Hopefully we'll settle into a normal routine after Easter!

CALLING PLANET EARTH

I was delighted to see such a big turnout at our recent trip to the Reading Hexagon Theatre on Friday 17th March. We went behind the scenes with Calling Planet Earth, an 80s New Romantics touring show. The band were so generous with their time and were great with the kids. We got to watch them perform a song and we got to go on stage to meet the band and look at their instruments. The event raised £100 towards Cancer Research. Thank you for your generous donations! The feedback from everyone has been amazing and the band all commented on how nice the children were.



Photos courtesy of Bryan Eastwood.



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EXAM SUCCESS

We've had some amazing exam success this half term with James A, Simon S and Ollie E taking their Debut drum exams. (This is the second book out of ten!). James A and Simon S scored a Distinction. This is the highest mark you can get! (We are awaiting Ollie's results). I've been so impressed with their attitude towards learning and their hard work and effort. They're all excellent students. A particular mention to James A who scored the highest score I've ever received in all my years teaching. Of course, James being James he was very cool about it. A very humble and mature student for his age. A very well done to them all!



INVOICE & DATES

Now for some admin. Firstly can I apologise if I've sent you any wrong emails, etc. I must admit I've been sat in Starbucks typing away at the laptop and I think my brain has gone to mush staring at the screen! That aside, you should have an email with next half terms invoice and lesson dates. Any problems please give me a shout. I'll send you email confirmation that your payment has been received. I've also sent new timetables.



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ROLLING AGREEMENT

With lots of new starters a common question I’ve received is whether we continue lessons? Rightly or wrongly, I don’t have a contract in place with you and it means it is a rolling agreement between us every half term. I’ve flirted with the idea of direct debits, termly payments, etc. But I like to keep it ‘old school’ and send out half term invoices, paid upfront in advance. This keeps it simple, and we can easily keep track of missed lessons, etc.

PROGRESS REPORTS

You should all have a progress report for your child, which has been emailed to you. This is a paragraph about your child’s learning. What’s going well, and what they need to improve on. FYI as their tutors we are looking at these areas for students:

Approach/attitude	<i>Do they take a positive approach to lessons?</i>
Behaviour	<i>Are they polite and well behaved?</i>
Concentration	<i>Can they maintain their concentration for extended periods?</i>
Cooperation	<i>Do they treat us with respect?</i>
Communication	<i>Do they listen carefully to the instructions?</i>
Contribution	<i>Do they contribute their own ideas to discussions?</i>
Homework	<i>Do they complete their practise at home?</i>

Please lookout for another progress report at the end of the Summer Term.

GOODBYE CHRIS



We say goodbye to DWA tutor Chris Buck who leaves us with our full blessings. Chris has gotten extremely busy with his gigging and other commitments and can’t commit to regular teaching each week. He will be sorely missed by his students at St James’ C of E School in Emsworth. In the meantime, I will cover for Chris. I’m excited to jump-back-in. It’s a wonderful school and I can’t wait! Longer term we will find a replacement tutor for September. Thank you to Chris for your help and support. We will miss you and we wish you well for the future!



EASTER HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

I'm delighted to host the first ever Drum With Alex workshop this coming Monday 3rd April. Lots of students have registered and I'm delighted that Jack (DWA tutor) and one of my older students Alfie will be helping. We will have a round-robin format, with three rooms and three drum kits setup. I'm sure it'll be lots of fun and lots of good learning will take place. I will let you know how it goes as I would love to host another one in the future!

FINALLY

Thank you for your support and encouragement with your child's learning this term. They couldn't do it without you! And I hope you'll join me in saying a massive thank you to our amazing DWA tutors: Andy, Sion, Steve, Chris, Richard, and Jack.

Have a wonderful Easter Holidays and speak to you soon!

Alex



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