

Westmead PS – TSA Band Program – Term 2 Update

09 April, 2020

Dear Parents and families,

TSA would like to thank you all for your support during the past month.

We have now temporarily transitioned to a 100% online and distance learning structure. We are still uploading new content to the **Online Resource Library** (ORL) every day and will continue to do so until this pandemic is over. If you have trouble accessing it please contact tsaoffice@teachingservices.com.au.

Whilst the content in this library is certainly worth looking through yourself, its effectiveness is magnified with some guidance from one of TSA's experienced teaching staff. If your child's tutor/conductor has not already established **regular contact** with you please let us know and we can put you in touch.

We are also pleased to confirm that our early trials of **video lessons (via Zoom)** have been overwhelmingly successful and we will be rolling them out to all of our schools in term 2.

- Weekly Zoom lessons (see separate letter attached for details)
- Online Resource Library (ORL) (<https://students.teachingservices.com.au>)
- Regular contact and guidance from your child's teacher (see ORL for your teacher's email)

We are confident that at least one of these three options will provide a suitable way for your child to continue learning during this time. Should you wish to take advantage of *two* or *all three* you are most welcome. We encourage parents to use whatever mix of these options best suit their circumstances.

Please remember that we are here to help. TSA staff will be hosting large group webinars for students and parents on a variety of topics, we are developing an initiative we call 'Music Central' where students can meet daily for advice and help and we will continue creating units of work and programs. If you or your child get stuck on anything at all please contact their tutor or TSA office and we are glad to provide a response or new content tailored to your needs.

Fees

Despite the additional staffing and resources we have put into developing our ORL and remote learning we are aware that this transition has been disruptive for most students. To acknowledge this disruption TSA are reducing group sizes and discounting fees for all our students.

- **Band & Tuition Fees** - \$160 per term

We will be waiving the term 2 **Resource Levy**. TSA is also able to assist with bursaries for students of parents who have lost their job/income due to COVID-19. Please contact our office to arrange a confidential discussion.

Performance And Collaboration Opportunities

A large part of the reason we run our school band programs is to give students the opportunity to perform and collaborate. This becomes even more important during these potentially isolating times.

TSA will be hosting a variety of events, challenges, projects and other initiatives with the aim of helping students reach out from their isolation and continue making music together. Check out our ANZAC project in the ORL and keep your eyes peeled for future collaborations. We will vary them throughout the term so that there is something for everyone; senior, junior...even the drummers!

Your Teachers

Whilst we can't be at school we are still here for you. We still have the same experience, knowledge and skills to share and will still be delivering the same content and setting the same learning goals.

We are still keen to perform for you all at presentation day, the school Christmas concert or end of year band evening. We can only do this if you keep playing at home and join with us to learn online.

We will also be using these circumstances to our advantage. Not only do you still have access to your regular teacher, you now have access to 30+ TSA staff. All these tutors have different and amazing skills and we will be happy to collaborate with each other to give our students the best learning opportunity. Whilst you are at home why not try a private lesson with one of our senior specialist tutors? Or perhaps you might be interested in doing some composing, theory or high school prep?

What if it all gets too much?

We realise that many of you will be juggling school work and working from home so if you feel the weekly learning goals being sent home are too much please do not feel you have to complete every task assigned every week. If there is anything you need help with please contact your child's band director with a written question, a short audio recording or video demonstrating the troublesome passage or task.

If your child would like *extra* materials, get in touch with your band director and they will sort you out.

What if I'm still not sure?

Many of you will still be uncertain whether or not this online learning style will work for your child. We are confident that we can provide a meaningful learning experience and so TSA is offering a **Satisfaction Guarantee**. Join us for the first two weeks of term 2 and if you are not satisfied with the learning process we will waive our minimum notice period (1 Term) and you can withdraw and only pay for the two weeks.

Contact TSA

Please note that TSA office will be running with a reduced staff and our admin team have been working remotely since Monday March 30. Whilst our office phones are unanswered we will still be able to answer your questions via email. The best contact for all inquiries is tsaoffice@teachingservices.com.au.

Your band director and tutors will still be available via their regular email contact details and will be in touch across the holidays with further information about the term ahead.

Thank you all again for your patience and overwhelming support so far. Stay well, stay positive and most importantly stay *together*.

Regards,



Steven Lavis
General Manager – Teaching Services Australia