

Dear Parents/Legal Guardians,

We have been asked to send out the following information-

### ****Music Partnership North's ensembles are now online!****

"My child loved being able to play with other musicians despite Covid restrictions!"

"It really helped my daughter feel less isolated.  Music is her only extra-curricular activity and these groups were wonderful for her mentally!"

"Honestly, it's the best Christmas present anybody could have given us. THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts"

These are just a few of the comments we received from parents following the autumn ensembles project Unity Through Music online concert.  With over 1700 views so far, we are delighted at how well it has been received.  Please follow the link to watch the video:  [**Unity Through Music Online Concert**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3Dru83_DxN1qk&data=04%7C01%7CFiona.Johnstone%40northumberland.gov.uk%7C141a93a9ac654eb94cd308d8a278fa16%7Cbb13a9de829042f0a980dc3bdfe70f40%7C0%7C0%7C637437987760144212%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=PoESqEZq5NPQzufX%2FI4lv3aH%2FCD5s464CWPXwnNrR2c%3D&reserved=0)

Music and the arts are a fantastic way of coming together, even online, and after the success of last term we are now arranging the next two terms activities for the ensembles. If you would like your child to be involved in one of the ensembles below, please watch the video and get in touch.

**The Northumbrian Ranters** – fiddle, flute, Northumbrian Pipes, cello, harp, accordion, percussion, concertina, guitar and keyboard play traditional/folk music 

**Northumberland Youth Ensemble** – suitable for strings, brass, woodwind, or percussion. 

**Hoolies** - for singers/vocalists of all ages and abilities.

**Young Pipers Group** – any Northumbrian small pipe player is welcome to join and play traditional tunes and have fun. 

**Bedlington Community and Youth Brass Band** – Students or adults playing cornet, flugelhorn, tenor horn, baritone, euphonium, trombone, or tuba are welcome to join this group and make music together. (*FREE* to children, as subsidised by The Bedlington Community Band)

How the sessions work?

* 6 rehearsals over the next two terms taking place in the evening
* 90-minute per rehearsal max
* Everyone in each ensemble coming together at the beginning of rehearsals
* Breaking down into smaller groups and them coming back together in rehearsals
* All rehearsals will be recorded and available for people to access if they wish, through a secure channel
* All music will be sent to students in advance
* Each session will be led by one of our tutors
* Sessions will start at the end of January

What do I need to do next to be involved?

1. Please follow this link to sign up [**Online Application Form**](https://online.northumberland.gov.uk/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=Ensemble_AppForm)
2. Read the attached documentation and complete the [**parental consent form**](https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Child-Families/Music%20partnership%20North/Ensemble-Parental-Consent-form-for-Online-Sessions_1.pdf), scan, and return to [**Rachel.Robbins@northumberland.gov.uk**](mailto:Fiona.Johnstone@northumberland.gov.uk)
3. Follow [**this link**](https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Music-Service/Pay-for-music-Services-online/Pay-for-music-services-online.aspx) and select pay ensemble fees of £75 per student, per ensemble**.** (Bedlington Community and Youth Brass Band is *FREE* to children)
4. Look out for the email from your ensemble leader with the rehearsal dates and times!

Financial support is available for families by following this link [**MPN Charity**](https://mpncharity.com/)

Please note students will be recorded and shown on social media so please take this into account when making your decision to be involved in the ensembles.  If you would like to discuss this in more detail, then please get in touch with [**Rachel.Robbins@northumberland.gov.uk**](mailto:Fiona.Johnstone@northumberland.gov.uk)

Regards

Caroline Kennedy

Office Manager