

Dear Parent/Carers and Students

20 October 2020

It is with regret that I am writing to you with the news that we have decided to postpone the June 2021 Music Concert Tour until June 2022. We have been in constant contact with The Castle School Leadership team and the tour operators Club Europe and there are two reasons for this decision.

Firstly, the Department for Education released a statement last week that the GCSE examination season will start 3 weeks later than normal. This change of dates impacts on ten Year 11 students that will not be able to come due to the clash.

I am deeply disappointed that our talented and loyal Year 11s won't be able to have one last music tour. I would like to take this early opportunity to thank them for Christmas Concerts, Community Concerts, Grease and School of Rock musicals and other highlights of our collaborations over the last 4 years. They really are fantastic role models for music and the school.

Secondly, we had considered moving the tour to July 2021, but with the rising cases of Covid-19 in the UK and Europe, decided that to defer into the next academic year was the safest and most responsible thing to do.

I don't think you will be surprised at this news and hope that Year 7-10 musicians are still excited and wanting to come.

We intend to learn some of the repertoire we hoped to play in Germany from January onwards and showcase this to you in a format that is appropriate (whatever that may look like!) this coming summer after GCSEs are completed.

What to do next?

- If you are a Year 11 student, and you have paid a deposit and/or some instalments you will have a refund asap.
- If you are a Year 11 student, we would still love to have you attend rehearsals for orchestra and choir when they start.
- If you are a Year 7 - 10 student, you can cease payments of instalments for the time being if you like.
- If you are a Year 7 - 10 student, we very much hope that you are still excited and will attend orchestra and choir rehearsals as soon as we are able to get them up and running again and look forward to coming on the Music Concert Tour in 2022.

Please do not hesitate to get in contact for any reason regarding this letter. I will be available throughout half term via email nadams1@castle.somerset.sch.uk

Very best wishes



Mr Adams, Head of Music