



the music education centre

WHILING AWAY THE WINTER HOURS

The second term of the year can often be one of the most productive for making musical progress. With a few simple techniques, it can be easy to reap the full benefits of what you can achieve while the colder weather sets in.

When the wind and the rain seem to be constant, and darkness falls every earlier, the instinct is to wrap up warm and sit under a blanket, and perhaps putting off much needed music practice. Instead, the extra time at home is a perfect opportunity to really take control of the skills learned in the first term of the year and build up on them. The trick is all in the planning.

Routine makes a huge difference for students – especially younger ones. An ideal time to practice can be before dinner. Children come home from school, do their homework and extra-curricular activities, by which time parents tend to focus on getting a meal onto the table. Students, whose parents ask them to come and play to them while dinner is being made get in to the habit of regular practice, often enjoy the opportunity to show how they are improving. Perhaps more importantly, because mum or dad is listening there is an extra voice of encouragement when things are getting tough or just not going the way the student wants.

Usually by the second term, goals for the year are well established and the new concepts introduced after the summer holidays are usually familiar enough to become a foundation of other music making. Exam entries for the mid-year exams are usually due around this time, and the pressure of end of year school exams is still a long way away.

As part of focusing on music it can be helpful to break pieces down into planned manageable chunks. Something far more achievable than taking on a whole pile of new material. Spending some lessons time with your teacher mapping our targets to achieve throughout the term is time well spent planning towards the overall longer term goals.

Above all, keeping expectations realistic is the most important thing. If it is difficult to get excited about sitting down and working on music for extended periods of time each day it doesn't matter. Planned and regular practice (even a little bit) will really make the difference. The majority of progress happens in lessons so just make sure that you everyone is on the same page with their expectations (parents, teachers and students) and enjoy the warmth of making and sharing music with others!



EMAIL STATEMENTS

An increasing number of parents have been requesting email statements. As a result, we will be **switching over to email statements** for all students from the **end of July**. Please make sure we have your correct email address. If you can please check it with your teacher at your next lessons this will help ensure that the transition to electronic statements will go smoothly.

If you prefer to continue receiving your billing information by mail, please contact Mina in our office so she can make a note on your account accordingly.

0800 89 39 39

REMEMBER TO FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK – facebook.com/musiceducation.co.nz

MUSIC EXAMINATIONS

The Music Education Centre and teachers encourage all students to sit examinations. For many years students on piano and other orchestral instruments have traditionally been put forward for exams from some of the world's most highly regarded examination bodies, including ABRSM and Trinity.

For young students, the Music Education Centre is proud to be the New Zealand Administrator for the Australian "Foundation of Music Education" examinations. Entries for the July sitting of these exams close in early June and teachers will be asking parents of potential candidates for entry forms in the coming weeks.

Also, this year, the Music Education Centre has been granted a seat on the Advisory Board for the Australian Music Examinations Board running Rockschoool exams in this country. The AMEB is the largest music examination organisation in Australia (far more than any of the UK based exams there) and is taking over the organising of the Rockschoool exams in New Zealand from this year.

The new entry system is being refined, but in the meantime, we are still able to help collate entries before they close on the 30th June for the mid-year exam tour scheduled to take place in early August. If you have questions about Rockschoool exams please contact the centre Manager, Lionel Reekie on 0800 89 39 39.



ORATIA DISTRICT SCHOOL COLOURING COMPETITION

The Music Education Centre is proud to help promote music in local primary and intermediate schools.

As part of our recent interactive musical workshop presentation at Oratia School we were also ran a popular colouring competition.

Congratulations to Brooke Lane for her entry winning a \$50 iTunes gift card.

MISSED LESSONS

In the winter months, colds and flu can mean lessons sometimes need to be missed. The centre has a policy to allow up to 4 lessons to be credited each calendar year to make allowance for this type of situation. It is worth noting that some students have already used their full allocation of credits for 2017 and therefore future missed lessons will still need to be paid for.

If you are going to be away, and are entitled to a credit, please let both your teacher know and also advising the office can be helpful to make sure we can keep your lessons account accurate and up to date.

If you need contact details for your teacher please contact our office on 0800 89 39 39 so we can supply them to you.